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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 238.

BAHAMAS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 193.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*September 1898.*

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1898.

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### COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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No. 238.

## BAHAMAS.

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1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 193.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. CARTER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Nassau,

6th August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith one copy of the Blue Book Returns relating to the Bahamas for 1897, together with a Report from Mr. Hesketh Bell, the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. Mr. Bell's report is an interesting one, and indicates an advance in the material prosperity of the Colony, notwithstanding the fact that the revenue for the year was about £2,000 less than that for 1896. He appropriately points out, however, that it is more than £6,000 in excess of the amount collected in 1895, and nearly £14,000 more than the revenue for 1894.

3. I may anticipate so far as to say that this healthy condition of affairs continues, the improvement this year being still more accentuated; while the revenue collected up to the end of July 1897 amounted to £38,670, that up to the same period in 1898 realized £46,012 3s. 5d.

I have, &amp;c.,

G. T. CARTER.

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## REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

### FINANCIAL.

It will be noted with satisfaction that the financial condition of the Colony gives no cause for alarm.

The revenue collected in 1897 amounted to £62,754, and though about £2,000 less than the sum received in the preceding year, it was, nevertheless, more than £6,000 in excess of the amount collected in 1895, and nearly £14,000 more than the revenue for 1894. The decrease in 1897 lay in the Customs receipts, and had been anticipated in the Estimates. A severe drought in 1896 had caused failure of the provision crops in many of the islands, and had consequently encouraged large importations of food-stuffs which were liable to duty. Last year the crops were above the average, and the heavy importations of flour and hominy were correspondingly reduced.

The expenditure amounted to £63,405, which included £1,775 paid out of the Surplus Monies carried forward from 1896. The expenditure on account of the Public Debt exceeded that of 1896 by £1,290, and amounted to a total of £8,384. This excess was due to a new liability incurred for the liquidation of the Treasury debentures amounting to £6,000, which were issued in 1896 and are extinguishable in October 1906. There was also an increase of the expenditure on the Charitable Institutions entailed by the appointment and travelling expenses of an English trained nurse.

The expenditure on Public Works amounted to £6,644, exclusive of monies specially appropriated out of the Surplus Funds of 1896, and considerable improvements were effected in several of the islands.

### PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony stands at £119,000. The two small loans raised in 1894 and 1896, amounting to £5,000 and £6,000 respectively, are being very rapidly extinguished by large annual instalments. The Sinking Fund for the Cable Loan now amounts to £3,839.

### LEGISLATION.

The annual session of the Legislature produced 38 Acts, most of which were amendments of existing Statutes, and none of marked importance.

## POPULATION.

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The census of 1891 gave a total population for the whole Colony of 47,565. It is calculated that the population increases at the rate of about 800 each year, so that the present inhabitants of the Bahamas probably number over 52,000. No distinction is made in registering the white and coloured population, but the dark-coloured inhabitants may be estimated to outnumber those of European descent in the proportion of 6 to 1. The average birth-rate is 45 per 1,000, and the death-rate 24·7 per 1,000. The infant mortality is high and unduly raises the death-rate.

The climate of the Bahamas is very healthy and particularly conducive to longevity. Yellow fever has not been known for twenty years, and malarial fever is comparatively rare.

The Colony is remarkably well provided with places of worship, there being no less than 274 churches, chapels, and meeting houses scattered among the various islands. The Wesleyans and Baptists largely predominate.

## EDUCATION.

The usual grant of £4,500 was expended by the Board of Education. There are 43 Government Board Schools, with 2,956 boys and 2,821 girls; total, 5,777 on the rolls. The average attendance was 3894·1. There are also 11 private schools receiving Government aid to the extent of £168, and with 958 scholars on their rolls. In addition to these, 2,472 boys and girls receive tuition at private schools, of which 31 are connected with the Church of England.

In his report for 1897 on the Government Board Schools the Inspector made the following remarks :—

“ The schools are conducted as nearly as circumstances will permit on the same lines as those of the British and Foreign School Society.

“ The qualifications of the teachers and the results produced are gradually improving, but the comparatively large number of small schools and consequently small salaries, the isolation and lack of intelligent supervision of many of the teachers, and the long distances and rough roads, often rendered impracticable by rain, which many of the pupils have to travel, are unavoidable hindrances.

“ The cost of buildings, furniture, materials, and administration is not included in the sums set down for the several schools. During 1896 the grants paid to the Board of Education, and the salaries of two officers not paid out of

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“ these grants, amounted to £4,800, which gives 14s. 3d. for each pupil on the rolls, or £1 1s. 1½d. for each one in average attendance, including the grant-in-aid schools.”

## TRADE.

### IMPORTS.

The total imports into the Colony in 1897 were valued at £186,010, of which £131,000 worth came from the United States of America, £46,000 from the United Kingdom, £4,400 from British Colonies, and £4,400 from various foreign countries.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom comprised cotton, woollen, linen, and silk goods ; earthenware, hardware sugar, rice, preserved meats, and machinery. From the United States the Colony obtained chiefly flour, cornmeal, butter, cattle, kerosine oil, lard, lumber, and shingles. There were also very large importations from America of cotton and woollen goods, earthenware, glassware, and furniture. It is, however, very satisfactory to note that the trade with the Mother Country has increased in a much higher ratio than that with the United States. During the last seven years the importations from America have only increased by £1,143, in a total value of £131,000, while there was an increase of £6,428 in the same period in the value of the imports from the United Kingdom, on a total of £46,000. The main increase in the British trade lay in the importation of rice, soap, machinery, and textile goods. The American manufacturers, however, appear to be competing strenuously in the supply of cotton stuffs, and show a much keener desire to supply showy goods, which catch the public taste, than is apparent among the English makers.

In spite of a popular desire for increased traffic both in Canada and in the Bahamas, the trade with the Dominion is very insignificant. In 1897 it only amounted to a value of £198. Tentative negotiations have been made with a view to an interchange of preferential duties, but they have, so far, only reached an initial stage. Though Canada could supply at slightly cheaper rates a large number of products at present imported from the United States, the absence of direct steam communication acts as a bar to the transfer of trade.

The importations of rum, gin, and other spirits amounted in 1897 to a total of 25,000 gallons. No intoxicating liquor is manufactured in the Colony. Rum comes entirely from Jamaica, while gin is imported from Holland.

There is reason to believe that the smuggling which was formerly carried on to a considerable extent between some of the islands and Jamaica has been reduced, and that the 25,000 gallons, shown by the Customs returns, may be taken to represent fairly accurately the total consumption of intoxicating spirits by the inhabitants of the Colony. Estimating the population to number 52,000, we find that the average consumption of spirits per caput per annum is barely half a gallon. This very moderate proportion is probably the lowest to be found in any sub-tropical Colony. It is the more noteworthy from the fact that, owing to the low duty levied under the Customs tariff, the retail price of spirits is probably less in the Bahamas than in any other place in the West Indies. The duty here is only 5s. per proof gallon, while in Jamaica, for instance, it is 12s. 6d. per gallon. A pint of rum or gin may be brought in the Bahamas for 1s., and spirits are consequently within easy reach of the labouring classes. Drunkenness, however, is less frequently seen in these islands than in the towns of Great Britain, and there is reason to conclude that, even setting aside the zealous influence of temperance societies working in the Colony, the coloured native of the Bahamas is quite alive to the evils of an excessive consumption of spirits and is well able to take care of himself in such matters.

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#### EXPORTS.

The exports from the Bahamas in 1897 were valued, locally, at £149,000, being £10,000 in excess of the value reported in 1896.

Of the total exports, a value of £114,000 went to the United States, £13,600 to Great Britain, £6,900 to Holland, and £10,600 to France. The principal products were sponges, pine-apples, sisal-fibre, oranges, grape-fruit, turtle-shell, salt, and various kinds of timber.

#### *Sponge.*

In spite of periodical alarms concerning the alleged exhaustion of the sponge beds, the fishery continues to be a flourishing industry. Prices in 1897 ruled high, and the various kinds exported, weighing 1,228,000 lbs., were valued locally at £90,000. During nine months in the year, the sponge fishery provides employment for large numbers of men and boys, and over 500 small schooners are engaged in it. The vessels are usually owned by capitalists, and the proceeds of a voyage are divided into a number of shares which are distributed, in varying proportions, between owner, captain, and crew. A voyage usually lasts from six to eight weeks, and is frequently very profitable to all parties. Small schooners

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— have been known to come into port after a six weeks' voyage with sponges worth from £300 to £400. The sponges are sold by auction in an Exchange at Nassau, and are chiefly purchased by agents for firms in New York. The processes of clipping, trimming, and packing sponges finds employment for a considerable number of males and females in Nassau.

The use of dredges or diving apparatus is forbidden by law, and the fishery is consequently restricted to those shallow banks where the sponges, growing on the bottom, can be reached by a long pole furnished with an iron hook. It is probable that at greater depths the yield would be much richer and the sponges of finer texture.

#### *Sisal or Bahamas Hemp.*

The shipment of this product during 1897 amounted to a little more than 402 tons. Very low prices ruled in the American and English markets, and the new industry was in danger of a complete collapse. Two of the most important enterprises, wherein very large capital had been invested, came to a termination, and others showed signs of a speedy dissolution. Towards the close of the year, however, the price of sisal-fibre advanced very considerably, and the improvement has since been maintained. A fresh impetus has been given to the industry, and there is every reason to believe that while the very sanguine anticipations made at the commencement will have to be considerably modified, the Colony will ultimately benefit largely from the cultivation and manufacture of sisal.

#### *Fruit.*

The shipments of fruit were more valuable than those of many previous years. The severe frosts, which in 1895 had desolated the orange groves of Florida, still showed their effects in the diminished output of the Southern States. In spite of the heavy protective rate levied on imported fruit under the McKinley tariff, the productions of the Bahamas showed themselves still able to compete with the crops of Florida, and owing to a marked improvement in the packing of oranges and other fruit, the prices realized in 1897 were very satisfactory to the Bahamas growers. Though still inferior to the finer varieties produced in Florida and California, the oranges grown in these islands have a very good flavour and could easily be improved by greater care in cultivation. The climatic conditions of the Bahamas and their coralline soil would appear to be particularly favourable to the successful cultivation of all citrus fruits. Many of the adversities against which the Florida orange planters have to contend are not to be encountered in these islands. Frost is unknown,

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excessive droughts are rare, insect pests and diseases may be kept within bounds, while the price of land and the rates of labour are much below those current in the Southern States. If the hundreds of young Englishmen who have had such disastrous experiences with orange groves in Florida had made their experiments in the Bahamas, there is good reason to believe that their fate would have been very different. Unfortunately for them and for the Colony, the possibilities of these islands in the direction of fruit growing have never been "boomed" at the proper moment, and by means of an extraordinary amount of judicious advertising, Florida attracted to herself a vast amount of British capital which has, for the most part, been a complete loss to the unfortunate investors.

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The Bahamas still possess hundreds of thousands of acres of land thoroughly suited to the cultivation of citrus fruits, and young energetic men with small capital might do much worse than consider these islands as an encouraging locality for the speedy development of a moderate investment. Dr. Morris, C.M.G., the Assistant Director of the Gardens at Kew, who visited this Colony in 1895, and gave a series of lectures on its agricultural resources, expressed himself very hopefully concerning the favourable prospects of orange growing in the Bahamas. Persons interested in the subject may refer to the printed reports of Dr. Morris's lectures which contain much valuable information.

In addition to two and a half millions of oranges which were exported in 1897, the Colony also sent to the markets of New York over six hundred thousand grape-fruit. This fruit, sometimes known as the *Pomelo* or "forbidden fruit," has suddenly sprung into much popularity in the United States. It is a variety of the citrus family, somewhat larger than an orange. Its bitter-sweet flavour is very refreshing, and the juice is considered to have a remarkably good effect on the digestive organs. A few years ago grape-fruit was almost unsaleable, while it now fetches from sixpence to eighteen-pence apiece in the New York markets. Considerable groves of grape-fruit trees are now being established in Florida, Jamaica, and in these islands, and the output will shortly be considerable. Owing, however, to the increased frequency of severe frosts in Florida, the British sub-tropical Colonies ought to have the advantage over their American competitors, and prospects are therefore encouraging.

*Pineapples.*

After sponge, the most important productions of the Bahamas are pineapples, of which no less than nearly five millions were shipped to the United States in 1897. They are chiefly grown on the islands of Eleuthera, San Salvador, and Long Island, but

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nearly every island of considerable size possesses soil which is suited to the cultivation of pineapples. The species produced is known as the "Scarlet" or red Spanish, and is of inferior quality. It is, however, a good traveller, and four-fifths of the output of these islands go to the canning factories at Baltimore. The methods of cultivation are shockingly primitive. As many as twenty thousand plants are crammed into an acre of more or less rocky ground, and it is only during the last three or four years that chemical fertilizers have been used on these fields.

In most cases, the pineapples are grown on the *metayer* system, the owners of the large tracts of land sharing with the cultivators the crop of fruit. These proprietors make advances in cash or provisions to the labourers until the reaping of a crop, and the cultivator is precluded, under an agreement, from selling his share to any other than the landlord. The price to be paid for the fruit varies from one shilling to one and sixpence a dozen, according to the date of production, and as the cultivator does not receive more for a fruit weighing 6 lbs. than he does for one that is only half that size, quantity and not quality is the object of his labour. From 18 months to two years must elapse between the planting and the reaping of a crop of pineapples, and in that interval the cultivator will have required so many advances in cash and provisions for the maintenance of his family that his account with the landlord in the shipping season is very often on the wrong side. This system is open to much objection. Apart from the unsatisfactory transactions in truck, the method acts as a bar to any improvement in cultivation and tends to the elimination of any independence on the part of the labourer.

When ripe the pineapples are cut and carried on the heads of men and women to the beach nearest the plantation, where they are shipped in large American sailing vessels. It will hardly be credited that in most cases the fruit is shipped in bulk in the ships' holds, and as a large schooner will carry from 75,000 to 150,000 pineapples, the condition of the fruit in the lowest layers when it arrives in Baltimore, after a 10 days' passage, may be better imagined than described. In spite, however, of these intensely primitive methods, the pineapple cultivation in the Bahamas is one of considerable profit and importance to the Colony, but there is every reason to believe, if more care were taken and a superior grade of fruit cultivated, the results would be manifestly more profitable to every one concerned. Tentative efforts are now being made to encourage the cultivation of the finer varieties of pineapples, and there seems to be no reason why the London market, which is now principally supplied by the Azores and the Canary Islands, should not provide a profitable outlet for Bahamas fruit of a superior grade.



Factories for the canning of pineapples have lately been established in Nassau and in Eleuthera, and in 1897 they shipped more than 20,000 cases of preserved fruit.

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#### *Salt.*

The salt industry cannot be said to be flourishing. The output during the last seven years has decreased by one-half, and in 1897 amounted to barely 100,000 bushels. The heavy protective duty imposed by the United States Tariff has almost proved a death-blow to the trade, and the only markets now open to Bahamas salt are those of Canada and Jamaica. The islands principally interested are Inagua, Rumcay, and Exuma. Excellent salt can be produced in the pans there, but the industry is unfortunately handicapped by the entire absence of shipping facilities and the want of capital.

#### *Turtle Shell.*

The shallow seas around the Bahama Islands abound with turtles; and turtle shell, valued locally at £5,600, was exported last year from the Colony. The creatures are generally caught in nets, and any specimen of fair size produces shell to the value of £2 or £3. Those which produce this valuable commodity are not edible, and are locally known as the "Hawks-Bill." The edible turtle is known as the "Green" one, and is also plentiful in these waters. When small ones are caught, they are deposited in large ponds known as "Crawls," where, after having been branded with their owner's mark, they are left to feed upon a particular kind of marine grass until they have attained a marketable size. Turtle meat sells in the local markets at 3d. per pound of live weight, and it is probable that an enterprise for the preparation of a concentrated form of turtle soup, such as has recently been established in Jamaica, would prove a profitable undertaking.

#### *Woods.*

The output of various kinds of valuable woods has of late years considerably decreased. During 1897 the quantities of lignum vitæ, mahogany, satin wood, braziletto, and log-wood barely amounted to £100. The denudation of the forests near the sea-board and the difficulties of transport from the interior of the islands are probably the causes of this reduction in exports.

#### *Cotton.*

Cotton, which was formerly the staple product of these islands, has practically ceased to be a production of this Colony.

**BAHAMAS.** Several efforts have been made to re-establish the cultivation, but all experiments have failed owing to the presence of an insect pest, which apparently cannot be eradicated.  
**1897.**

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of persons who suffered imprisonment in 1897 was 1,783, as compared with 1,997 in the preceding year. Of these, however, only 12 were convicted in the Superior Courts, the remainder being punished for minor offences. It is to be regretted that in spite of the prevalence of prædial larceny in the Colony, the number of convictions for that offence amounted to only 33.

#### HOSPITALS.

261 males and 166 females were admitted to the hospital in Nassau during the year, of whom 83 died. The diseases most prevalent were phthisis, rheumatism, syphilis, ulcers and abscesses, malarial fever, and intestinal complaints. 30 cases of accidents were treated.

The lunatic and leper asylums are still connected with the general hospital—an arrangement which is open to much objection. In the leper wards 16 cases were segregated and treated during the year, and two of the patients died.

12 males and 8 females were admitted into the lunatic asylum, while three males and three females died during the year. The average daily number of inmates was 29.

On the 22nd June, His Excellency Sir W. F. Haynes-Smith laid the foundation stone of a new male lunatic ward, to be erected at a cost of £1,500 in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. The building has been almost completed and is a handsome and commodious structure.

Owing to the appointment of an English trained nurse the internal administration of the hospital has been considerably improved.

In addition to those who receive medical or surgical treatment in the hospital, a number of infirm and aged persons, of both sexes, are cared for as destitute paupers. Prescriptions are also given gratis to out-patients, and food is distributed to a considerable number of pensioners in Nassau and the out-islands.

The total cost to the Colony of the hospitals and asylums now exceeds £5,000 per annum, being no less than one-twelfth of the public income. Each year, the Commissioners of the New

Providence Asylum apply for larger grants from the Legislature, and while the general prosperity of the Colony appears to be making marked progress, the calls upon public charity seem nevertheless to increase annually. In 1890 a sum of £1,676 was found to be sufficient for the maintenance of the hospital and asylum, while in 1897 the Legislature was asked to vote no less than £3,597 for the up-keep of the institution in addition to salaries, &c.

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There is reason to believe that free medical aid is taken advantage of by persons who could afford to pay for professional care, and that many of the infirm and aged who have been maintained in the asylum are the parents of children who are well able to support their relatives. Many of these undutiful sons and daughters have emigrated to Key West and other places in America, where they are beyond the reach of claims, and they leave their aged parents in a destitute condition under a comforting assurance that a paternal Government will not allow them to starve.

#### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The temperature of the air varied from the maximum of 90·5 in August to the minimum 56·0 in February. The mean temperature for the year was 79·4.

The rainfall was slightly over the average and measured 62·27 inches. There were no hurricanes or severe storms, and the general climatic conditions of the Colony were very good.

#### SAVINGS BANK.

The Savings Bank attached to the General Post Office continues to make satisfactory progress. The depositors on the 31st December numbered 1,051, and the total amount to their credit was £9,523 5s. 4d.

#### POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The postal revenue of 1897 amounted to £2,452, and the expenditure to £5,445. The Colony paid in subsidies for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony the sum of £3,650. The department during 1897 dealt with 173,068 letters, 3,483 post-cards, 59,842 newspapers, 53,614 book-packets, and 2,639 parcels.

The telegraph cable worked in a satisfactory manner and there were no serious delays in the transmission of messages. 2,503 cablegrams were dealt with, in addition to a considerable amount

**BAHAMAS** of press news supplied every day for the information of the  
**1897.** public. The receipts, however, compared unfavourably with  
those of 1896, being less by nearly £200.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

It may be reported, in conclusion, that the Colony is, generally speaking, in a flourishing state, and that its condition has improved very materially during the last five years.

Within that short period the revenue has risen from £47,000 to over £62,000. Instead of constant disparity between revenue and expenditure, and frequent necessity for increasing the public indebtedness of the Colony, an equilibrium has at last been established in the finances, and there is every reason to hope that the Customs Tariff may in the near future be safely reduced. An import duty upon almost all manufactured goods, amounting to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, together with heavy specific rates levied on several important articles of consumption, would seem, at first sight, to entail a heavy rate of taxation on the community. It should be remembered, however, that direct taxation barely exists in the Bahamas, and that five-sixths of the revenue are derived from the import duties. There is no tax on land, while the rates on house property only amount to a shilling in the pound of rental, from which the tenements of the labouring classes are entirely exempt. The average taxation per head of the inhabitants of the Bahamas only amounts to about 24s. per annum, and this rate compares favourably with that of any other sub-tropical Colony of similar size and importance.

The marked improvement in the local conditions may, I think, be mainly ascribed to the following causes:—Higher prices realised for their products by the fruit growers, who have benefited by the damage caused by repeated frosts to the orange groves of their competitors in Florida; the increased value of sponge, which is the main product of the Colony; the recent establishment of a winter mail service with Florida, which has resulted in bringing a vastly increased number of American tourists and visitors to Nassau; and, lastly, the almost continued presence in our port during the troubles in Cuba, of at least one of Her Majesty's ships of war, whose officers and crews necessarily place a certain amount of money in circulation.

As far as can be judged at present, the prospects of the Colony are very encouraging. The sisal industry is being invigorated by the recent rise in prices, and the 20,000 acres now under cultivation will shortly multiply ten-fold the Colony's output of fibre. The peasant proprietors are planting out numbers of small orange groves and fields of pineapples, and are turning their attention to the provision of early vegetables.

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for the winter markets of the north. Land and houses have risen considerably in value, and negotiations are now in favourable train for the immediate erection in Nassau of a great hotel, which will contain not less than 340 bed-rooms, and which will form the latest extension of the remarkable system of palatial hotels that are connected with the Florida East Coast Railway. It is estimated that no less than 100,000 tourists travel every winter from the Northern States to Florida, and by means of the handsome mail service which the Colony has subsidized to run three times a week during the season between Nassau and Miami, it is hoped that a portion of this wealth-distributing stream may be diverted to the Bahamas, where the climate and natural attractions are far superior to anything offered by Florida.

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1897.

HESKETH BELL,

*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

July 28th 1898.

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No. 262.

**BARBADOS.**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 231.)

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249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	West African Frontier Force... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



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No. 262.

**BARBADOS.**

**BARBADOS,  
1898.**

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 231.)

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GOVERNOR SIR J. S. HAY TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
26th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith six copies of the Annual Blue Book of the Colony, together with a copy of a letter from the Colonial Secretary covering his Report thereon, for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,  
J. S. HAY.

---

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Barbados,  
26th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose my Report upon the Blue Book of the Colony of Barbados for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,  
RALPH WILLIAMS,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

His Excellency,  
Sir J. S. Hay, K.C.M.G.

BARBADOS,  
1898.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I. FINANCIAL.

(a.) *Revenue and Expenditure.*

*Revenue.*—The total actual revenue of Barbados for the year 1898 was £182,682. The estimated revenue was £180,894. Thus actual revenue exceeded estimated revenue by £1,788.

The revenue for 1897 was £184,706. Thus the revenue for 1898 was less than the revenue for 1897 by £2,024.

A reference to the comparative statement of revenue will shew that very few points need comment, the evenness of receipts from the various sources of revenue in respect to 1898 and 1897 being very remarkable.

(1.) *Customs; Warehouse rent.*—The increase shewn of £184 is due to the greater storage of kerosine oil.

(7.) *Fees of Office* shew an increase of £349. The fees formerly received by the Prothonotary and forming part of his emoluments are now paid into the Treasury.

A full explanation of this point appears in this report under the head of the "Office of Colonial Secretary" in the remarks on the expenditure of that office.

(14.) *Interest* shews a decrease of £843. The interest received is annually less as the capital sum of Waterworks Loan is reduced by the expenditure of such Loan on the continued waterworks construction.

(15.) *Special Receipts.*—This decrease of £1,331 is due to several causes, (a) lesser receipts at Glendairy Prison for cooperage. The cooperage work hitherto carried on at Glendairy having been found unremunerative has been discontinued. (b) Lesser receipts from Dodd's reformatory for plantation products. (c) Receipt of a smaller amount in respect to estate duties.

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The following are the receipts under the principal heads of BARBADOS, revenue for the past five years :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs ... ..	94,244	82,529	104,191	106,880	106,709
Port and Harbour ... ..	4,234	3,239	3,787	4,235	3,972
Excise ... ..	29,422	25,666	27,461	32,226	32,461
Licences ... ..	6,473	6,012	5,569	5,622	5,385
Police Tax ... ..	3,619	3,603	3,880	3,893	4,050
Fees and Fines, and Fees of } Office ... ..	5,624	4,671	5,547	5,111	5,297
Post Office ... ..	6,732	6,594	7,218	8,048	8,190
Miscellaneous ... ..	10,276	7,734	9,952	9,169	7,042
Waterworks ... ..	—	6,267	10,327	9,522	9,576
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>160,624</b>	<b>146,315</b>	<b>177,032</b>	<b>184,706</b>	<b>182,682</b>
Temporary advance from Waterworks Loan Fund ... ..			8,500		
				185,532	

*Expenditure.*

The total actual expenditure of Barbados for the year 1898 was £185,840. The estimated expenditure was £180,284. Thus actual expenditure exceeded estimated expenditure by £5,556.

The expenditure for 1897 was £172,551. Thus the expenditure for 1898 exceeded the expenditure for 1897 by £13,289.

The following details in respect to the comparative expenditure of 1898 and 1897 will best explain this increase.

(2.) *Colonial Secretary's Department* shews a decrease of £598.

BARBADOS,  
1898.  
—

In order to make this matter clear I will associate with this head of expenditure No. 12 "Registration Office," and will quote verbatim from the Auditor General's report.

"It is explained with regard to the decrease of £598 in the Colonial Secretary's Department, and £960 (increase shewn) the cost of the Registration Office, which appears for the first time, that these two offices should for purposes of comparison with 1897 be taken together in 1898, inasmuch as, by the change which was effected on the 31st of December 1897, the Record Branch of the Colonial Secretary's Department was withdrawn from his supervision and erected into a separate office, known as the Registration Office, wherein are also performed the duties which until then were carried out under the Prothonotary, Clerk of the Crown and Registrar in Chancery, an officer whose emoluments consisted of a salary of £100 supplemented by fees. It has already been shewn under revenue, paragraph 13 of this report (Auditor General's report), that there was an increase of fees in this connexion of £349.

"£100, the salary of the Clerk of the Crown, is also saved, so that while there is an increase of expenditure, taking the Colonial Secretary's Office and the Registration Office together, of £362, the revenue is benefited otherwise to the extent of £449.

"There is thus a net gain to the Treasury of £87, notwithstanding an adjustment of fees to the advantage of the public."

(9.) *Public Market* shews an increase of £113. The increase here shewn is due to a greater consumption of, and partly in respect to higher charges for, gas and water.

(11.) *Lighthouses* shews an increase of £169 due to general repairs which were needed.

(12.) *Registration Office* shews an increase of £960 (*see* remarks on (2) Colonial Secretary's Department).

(13.) *Inland Revenue* shews a decrease of £152, due to the reduction of an officer.

(17.) *Prisons* shew a decrease of £235, mainly due to lesser purchases of cooperage material.

(23.) *Medical Departments* shew a decrease of £604, due mainly to saving in provisions for the lunatic asylum and lazaretto, and to smaller payments for guarding vessels in quarantine.

(25.) *Waterworks*.—This shews a heavy increase of £1,072 and is mainly due to repairs of water boats, as well as to a new boiler for the steamer "Florence."

In this connexion I am sorry to say that much of the money thus spent has been altogether lost consequent on damage sustained by the hurricane, the "Florence" having been so damaged as to be practically a dead loss.

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(26.) *Pensions.*—The increase of £528 shewn is mainly due to pensions to the Prothonotary and to Dean Clarke, late of St. Michael's. BARBADOS,  
1898.

(27.) *Interest.*—The decrease in interest of £166 is due to the fact that only one month's interest was paid in 1898 on the loan of £8,500, which the revenue had borrowed in the year 1896 from waterworks funds and repaid on the 31st of January 1898.

(29.) *Miscellaneous.*—This heavy increase of £8,703 is principally due to the repayment by general revenue in January, 1898, of the loan of £8,500 made from waterworks to general revenue in 1896.

	£
<i>Hurricane Relief Fund</i> ... ..	1,486
<i>Hurricane Repairs Fund</i> ...	1,985

Both the above items of expenditure were of an entirely extraordinary nature, and were incurred in respect to relief of distress and repairs to Government buildings in connexion with the hurricane of the 10th of September.

*To summarise—*

	£
Expenditure for 1898 was ... ..	185,840
Revenue for 1898 was ... ..	182,682
Shewing an excess of expenditure over revenue of ... ..	3,158

But inasmuch as I have shewn that £8,500 of old debt to waterworks was paid off, and that large sums had to be paid for extraordinary expenditure consequent on the hurricane, it will be seen that the Colony has paid its way fairly, and that its normal revenue is sufficient up to the present to meet its normal expenditure. I trust it may continue so.

The total expenditure for the last five years was as follows :—

1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
£	£	£	£	£
161,278	152,039	184,020	172,551	185,840

BARBADOS,  
1898.

(1.) (b) *Taxation.*

No change in taxation has been made within the year 1898.

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.*

	£
Assets on the 31st of December 1898 } amounted to ... .. }	17,893
Liabilities amounted to... ..	1,257
	<hr/>
Shewing balance of Assets of ... ..	16,636
	<hr/>

(d) *Public Debt.*

The public debt on the 31st of December 1898 was £414,000, being £375,000 for waterworks loan, and £39,000 for public works.

The increase of the loan on account of public works amounted to £4,850, which was borrowed during the year for the continuation of wharf wall work, and for the prospective purchase of a new dredger, under the authority of "The Public Works Loan Act, 1881."

The amounts to the credit of sinking funds on the same date were:—

	£
Waterworks Loan ... ..	13,374
Public Works Loan ... ..	17,803

(e) *Currency.*

English money is in general use and all Government accounts are kept in sterling.

The merchants and the public, as a rule, keep their accounts in American currency.

There is only one Bank, namely, a branch of the Colonial Bank, at which all Government accounts are kept.

(f) *Public Works.*

No new works were carried out.

The renewal of wharf walls was continued during the year, but no dredging was done.

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The total expenditure, not including hurricane expenditure, amounted to £9,847. **BARBADOS, 1898.**

The construction and extension of the waterworks system has been continued at a cost of £28,602 in 1898.

It is confidently hoped that the entire waterworks construction scheme will be completed in 1899, when Barbados will be supplied throughout with a complete water system.

*(g) Public Works—Hurricane.*

The sum of £1,987 appears as spent on repairs to public buildings damaged by the hurricane.

This amount was spent out of general revenue on the authority of two resolutions of the Legislature.

*(h) Pensions.*

The total amount of pensions paid to public officers since retiring amounted in 1898 to £3,653, as compared with £3,105 in 1897. The reasons for this increase have been dealt with under the general head of Expenditure.

There has been a further amount spent in 1898 amounting to £2,171, which is in respect to premiums on insurances effected by public officers, and in respect to payments into the Savings Bank on behalf of public officers, in the terms of the Pension Act, 1890; which Act was passed to change the existing system of pensions, and to substitute a system of insurance and compulsory thrift in lieu thereof.

I notice that previous reports have omitted these latter payments when dealing with the head of Pensions, but they should undoubtedly be dealt with as money paid in respect to pensions.

The total amount of pensions is therefore £5,824.

**BARBADOS, 1898.** II. TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(a) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

*Imports.*

The total imports of the Colony in 1898 amounted to £1,058,885 (as compared with imports valued at £1,008,699 in 1897), of which £428,063 came from the United Kingdom, £205,232 from British Colonies, and £425,590 from Foreign Countries. Thus there is an increase of £50,186 in total value of imports.

Food stuffs shew a large increase.

Salted meats, bran, bread, coffee, corn meal, flour, grain, rice, and oilmeal shew an increase in value in the aggregate of £72,166.

Cement, machinery, manures, oats, lumber, and staves shew an aggregate increase of £30,784; while coal, cottons, iron and steel, leather, hoops, woollens, and goods manufactured shew an aggregate decrease of £50,738.

The following is a comparative table for the five years from 1894 to 1898 inclusive:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	1,279,335	507,534	227,514	544,287
1895 ...	956,921	391,434	184,154	381,333
1896 ...	1,048,887	467,649	181,644	399,594
1897 ...	1,008,699	474,622	182,829	351,248
1898 ...	1,058,885	428,063	205,232	425,590



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By this table it will be seen that while the general volume of imports has, as I have said, been increased, the result is not entirely satisfactory, inasmuch as :—

	£
Imports from the United Kingdom shew a falling off as compared with 1897 of ...	46,559
Imports from British Colonies shew an increase compared with 1897 of ... ..	22,403
Imports from Foreign Countries shew an increase as compared with 1897 of ...	74,342

BARBADOS,  
1898.  
—

First with regard to the falling off of trade with the United Kingdom :—

The following articles from the United Kingdom shew an aggregate decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 of, approximately, £60,000, namely :—Bacon and hams, books, coin (gold and silver), butter, carriages, chinaware, cottons, iron and steel, boats, woollens, coal, iron nails, leathers, spirits, and wood-hoops.

While the following shew an increase in 1898 as compared with 1897 amounting to £13,600, namely :—Cement, machinery, wines, manures, rice.

As against this aggregate falling off of trade with the United Kingdom, it is satisfactory to note the increase in trade with British Colonies of £22,403, which increase is mainly due to trade in lumber from British North America, and in rice from Calcutta.

The increase in trade with Foreign Countries amounting to £74,342 is due to the increasing tendency to get all supplies from the United States of America.

*Exports.*

The total value of exports in 1898 was £769,231, of which £542,483 was produce of the Colony, and £226,748 was British, Foreign, and other produce in transit and through bond, as compared in 1897 with a total value of exports of £736,162, of which £555,394 was produce of the Colony, and £180,768 was produce in transit and through bond.

Thus there was an increase in 1898 of the total value of exports amounting to £33,069, but a decrease of value in exportation of Barbadian Colony products amounting to £12,911.

The general increase in value of exports is satisfactory as indicating briskness in trade, but the falling off in value of our own Colonial produce, consequent on a lesser production of sugar and on low prices, is to be regretted, as it is by our local exports of sugar and molasses that the Colony lives.

It will be seen by the following analysis that the loss is due to sugar, rum, manjack, and some other products, there having been a gain on molasses, although the quantity of molasses exported was less.

BARBADOS, Thus, to analyse—there were 52,009 tons of muscovado sugar  
1898. exported in 1898 as compared with 56,397 tons exported in 1897 ;  
— there were 1,566 tons of dry sugar exported in 1898 as compared  
with 2,203 tons of dry sugar in 1897.

	Tons.
The falling off of tonnage of muscovado sugar exported in 1898 being ... ..	4,388
The falling off of tonnage of dry sugar in 1898 being ... ..	637
Shewing a total falling off of tonnage of sugar in 1898 amounting to ... ..	<u>5,025</u>

The total value of muscovado sugar exported in 1898 was £416,072, as compared with a value in 1897 of £422,977, and the total value of dry sugar exported in 1898 was £18,792 as compared with £24,453 in 1897 :—

Thus, there was a loss of value of muscovado sugar in 1898 as compared with 1897 amounting to ... ..	£ 6,905
and— a loss of value of dry sugar in 1898 as compared with 1897 amounting to ... ..	<u>5,661</u>

or—

a total loss of value in sugar in 1898 as com- pared with 1897 amounting to ... ..	<u>12,566</u>
---	---------------

But with molasses it was otherwise.

There were 34,123 puncheons of molasses exported in 1898 as compared with 37,432 in 1897, shewing a falling off of 3,309 puncheons in 1898 as compared with 1897 ;

But—	£
The value of molasses exported in 1898 was ...	92,416
While the value of molasses exported in 1897 was ... ..	86,094
Shewing a total gain in the value of molasses in 1898 of ... ..	<u>6,322</u>

Deduct this gain on molasses from the loss on sugar and we have as under .—

Loss on sugar ... ..	£ 12,566
Gain on molasses ... ..	<u>6,322</u>

and the result is a loss in connection with sugar  
and molasses of ... .. 6,244

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	£	BARBADOS, 1898.
The total loss in Colonial produce having been shewn to be ... ..	12,911	—
and—		
deducting loss on aggregate of sugar and molasses of ... ..	6,244	
	6,667	
we shew losses from other sources of local Colonial produce amounting to ... ..	6,667	

The other items of Colonial exports, forming in the aggregate this decrease of £6,667, are principally manjack, manures, building lime, and goods manufactured (such as carpenters' work, potteries, &c.).

The balance is made up of various smaller items.

The following table shews the destination of the exports of the products of the Colony (now mainly sugar and molasses, although in former years rum was an important item) for five years from 1894 to 1898 both inclusive :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	114,311	166,944	490,747	772,002
1895 ...	64,794	107,866	221,931	394,591
1896 ...	33,521	132,794	411,052	577,367
1897 ...	26,515	100,414	428,466	555,395
1898 ...	12,761	126,856	402,866	542,483

This shews that in 1898 a value of £12,761 was exported to the United Kingdom, a value of £126,856 to British Colonies, and a value of £402,866 to Foreign Countries.

It will be seen that the export to the United Kingdom is trifling; that to British Colonies increasing, and that to Foreign Countries (*i.e.*, the United States) slightly decreasing.

The following table shews the total trade (import and export) with the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, and Foreign Countries from 1894 to 1898 inclusive :—

Table shewing Total Trade (Import and Export) with the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries from 1894 to 1898.

Year.	With the United Kingdom.			With British Colonies.			With Foreign Countries.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894	507,534	127,444	634,978	227,514	319,269	546,783	544,286	537,798	1,082,084
1895	391,435	69,760	461,195	184,153	262,991	447,144	381,332	254,547	635,879
1896	467,649	38,520	506,169	181,644	274,813	456,457	399,594	444,895	844,489
1897	474,622	33,972	508,594	182,829	231,839	414,668	351,248	470,352	821,600
1898	428,063	35,207	463,270	205,232	288,117	493,349	425,590	445,906	871,496

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*(b.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.*BARBADOS,  
1898.*Mines.*

The only mines at present working are those of the manjack or glance pitch, a bituminous substance which is being worked in various parts of the Colony.

The export of manjack in 1898 amounted to 1,160 tons as compared with 1,880 tons in 1897.

This falling off is, I believe, due to a flooding of some of the works consequent on the hurricane, but there are no laws compelling mining returns, and I have been unable to obtain any reliable information on the subject.

*Manufactures.*

There are eight rum distilleries at work in the Colony, distilling in the aggregate 268,485 gallons of rum, of an approximate value (exclusive of duty) of one shilling per gallon.

Nearly the whole of this rum is consumed in the Colony.

There is a sulphuric acid factory on a moderate scale in the parish of St. James, as to which I have no details.

There are two manure factories in Bridgetown, doing, I am informed, a good business.

There is one tobacco and cigar factory on a small scale.

There are two ice factories.

I will endeavour in another year to ascertain greater details on these points, but nothing is officially furnished to me, and it has not hitherto been the practice to include these matters in a Blue Book Report.

*Fisheries.*

There is a large flying fish and general fishing industry carried on solely by the poorer classes, in which approximately 250 boats are employed, giving a livelihood to approximately 1,250 people; but the whole of the fish taken are locally consumed.

There are two very small whale fishing industries, the joint exportation of which in 1898 amounted to 193 barrels of oil.

**BARBADOS,**  
1898.

(c.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL  
STATION.

The only agricultural industries are those for the production of sugar cane, and cereal and root crops for local consumption.

I am dealing with the question of the sugar industry in my "General" remarks.

The question of the Botanical Station also forms a part of my "General" remarks, as all botanical matters are closely connected with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, with which I have dealt in that part of my report.

(d.) LAND GRANTS, &C.

There are no land grants. The general value of the land is too fluctuating for it to be possible to deal with it in a few words. The question as a whole is treated in my "General" remarks.

(e.) SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels which entered and cleared during the year 1898 is shewn in the following table, which gives a comparison of 1898 and 1897 :—

*Entered.*

Year.	Sailing Vessels.	Tons.	Steam Vessels.	Tons.	Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1897	812	92,760	376	576,507	1,188	669,267
1898	779	92,339	354	568,470	1,133	660,809

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*Cleared.*

BARBADOS,  
1898.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.	Tons.	Steam Vessels.	Tons.	Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1897	819	90,188	376	576,507	1,195	666,695
1898	771	90,735	354	568,470	1,125	659,205

The above is the Customs return of vessels actually "Entered" and "Cleared," but as vessels have 24 hours given them before they need "enter" it happens that a far larger tonnage really visits Carlisle Bay than appears above.

The details of this will be found in the Harbour Master's return on page X 17 of the Blue Book, which shews a total arrival of 1,840 vessels with a total tonnage of 1,023,825 tons.

The following table gives a comparative statement of shipping entered and cleared for the last five years :—

*Entered.*

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	850	118,913	337	495,928	1,187	614,841
1895	739	84,938	329	499,768	1,068	584,706
1896	798	89,430	354	542,119	1,152	631,549
1897	812	92,760	376	576,507	1,188	669,267
1898	779	92,339	354	568,470	1,133	660,809

BARBADOS,  
1898.

*Cleared.*

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	852	121,477	337	496,094	1,189	617,571
1895	736	84,777	330	500,418	1,066	585,195
1896	800	89,340	355	543,127	1,155	632,467
1897	819	90,188	376	576,507	1,195	666,695
1898	771	90,735	354	568,470	1,125	659,205

### (3.) LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Acts were passed in 1898, of which one was a consolidation of the Acts relating to Public Health. One Act, namely, that dated the 16th of December, to amend the Fire Brigade Act of 1891, was disallowed by the Secretary of State.

### (4.) EDUCATION.

The total expenditure on education in 1898 was £16,360, as compared with £16,730 in 1897, of which £10,999 was spent on elementary education. In addition to the Government grant the Elementary School teachers collected £1,090 in school pence.

The schools consist of first grade, second grade, and elementary schools.

The first grade schools are Harrison College, The Lodge School, and Queen's College, the latter being for girls only.

The second grade schools are Combermere School, Coleridge School, Parry School, Alleyne School for boys, and the Alexandra School, and the Victoria School for girls only. At the end of 1898 there were 172 elementary schools.

The number of children on the roll of elementary schools in 1898 was 27,776, as compared with 28,757 in 1897; with an average attendance of 14,734 in 1898, as compared with 15,556 in 1897.

The falling off in the average attendance of 1898 is due to the greatly diminished attendance in the fourth quarter of the year, when school work was interrupted by the hurricane in all the elementary schools, and in some schools work was hardly resumed after the September vacation.



## (5.) INSTITUTIONS.

BARBADOS,  
1898.

## (a.) &amp; (b.) Hospitals and Asylums.

The General Hospital is subject to the General Hospital Act of 1890, and is under the control of a body of Directors of whom the Governor is *ex officio* one.

Although many members of this body are Directors in right of their appointments, it is not under the direct control of the Executive, nor are its officers and servants appointed by the Executive.

I am unable therefore to furnish any details of the working of the establishment from my personal knowledge as Colonial Secretary. The annual report of the Board is laid before the Legislature, and is published in the official gazette of the Colony.

The Lunatic Asylum is directly subject to the Executive.

It is a modern building of 1891, and is admirably managed by the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Field.

The Lazaretto is also directly under the Executive. It is an ill-constructed collection of houses of the bungalow character.

The Superintendent, Mr. Winter, does all that is possible, but new buildings are greatly needed, and the Institution can never be satisfactory until the present buildings are done away with and new ones erected.

The expenditure on the General Hospital, the Lunatic Asylum, and the Lazaretto for 1898 as compared with 1897 was as under :—

	1898.	1897.
	£	£
General Hospital ...	6,999	7,002
Lunatic Asylum ...	5,129	5,401
Lazaretto ... ..	2,548	2,675

I append a statistical table for 1898 :—

	Discharges.	Deaths.	Daily average.
General Hospital ... ..	3,537	281	211
Lunatic Asylum ... ..	39	50	336
Lazaretto ... ..	—	18	115

BARRADOE,  
1898.

(c.) *Poor Houses.*

The poor houses are in no sense Government Institutions. They are under the direct control of the vestries. There are eleven in all, one in each parish.

I have, by the courtesy of the vestries, visited nearly all of them, and so far as the means at the disposal of the vestries allow, they seem to be well and carefully managed.

The St. Michael's poor house is a fine and well arranged building, and is admirably conducted.

The total expenditure on parochial institutions and poor relief in 1898, as taken from the Poor Law Inspector's report, was £17,274, as compared with £16,032 in 1897.

The admissions into the parochial institutions in 1898 were 3,029, as compared with 1,849 in 1897.

I see by reference to my report for 1897 that I quoted the figures then as being 1,755, but the figures as now given are correct.

(d.) *Reformatory.*

The cost of this institution in 1898 was £1,598, as compared with £1,566 in 1897.

The number of boys was 116 as compared with 121 in 1897.

Efforts are being made to get boys indentured to employers in other Colonies, but the prejudice felt against "Reformatory" boys has so far prevented any success in this direction.

(e.) *Savings Bank.*

The number of depositors on the 31st of December, 1898, was 12,859, having an aggregate sum of £220,831 to their credit, as compared with 12,278 depositors in 1897, having £213,984 to their credit.

The assets of the Savings Bank on the 31st of December, 1898, amounted to £234,410, consisting for the most part of investments in high class stock, but including investments to the amount of £9,774 in mortgages on landed property in Barbados.

The assets on the same date for 1897 amounted to £220,659.

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The valuation of assets is here taken at the price paid and not at market price, which latter valuation would be considerably higher. BARRADOS,  
1898.

(6.) JUDICIAL STATISTICS

(a.) Police:

The subject of the police is dealt with in a special report by the Inspector, and it is not necessary to deal with it at length here.

The force consists of an inspector, a sub-inspector, two sergeant-majors, 12 sergeants, 24 corporals, and 315 constables.

The total cost of the force was as under in 1898 :—

	£
Salaries ... ..	17,572
Premiums under Pension Act ... ..	33
Pensions ... ..	1,073
Other expenditure ... ..	5,342
	<hr/>
Giving a total of...	24,020
	<hr/>

(b.) Prisons.

The total cost of Glendairy Prison in 1898 was £5,159, as compared with £5,404 in 1897.

The number of prisoners in 1898 was 3,538, as compared with 3,267 in 1897.

The estimated value of the labour of males is :—

	£
Outside ... ..	860
Inside ... ..	200
Inside, estimated savings on bakery ... ..	602
	<hr/>
Being a total of...	1,662
	<hr/>

	£
The estimated value of female labour is ... ..	162
	<hr/>
Shewing a grand total of...	1,824
	<hr/>

BARBADOS,  
1898

## (7.) VITAL STATISTICS.

## (a.) Population.

The census for 1891 shewed a population as under :—

Whites.		Total Whites.	Coloured.		Total Coloured.	Total Population.
Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		
7,339	8,274	15,613	73,766	92,927	166,693	182,306

My report for 1897 estimated the population to be about 190,000, and as a rule there is a regular increase in the population, but the following figures will shew that in 1898 the tendency was the other way.

The total number of registered births in 1898 was 7,159 (of which 3,226 were legitimate, and 3,933 illegitimate), *i.e.*, a birth rate of 37·67 per 1,000, as compared with a total of registered births in 1897 of 7,197, *i.e.*, a birth rate of 37·87 per 1,000.

It will thus be seen that there were 38 fewer births in 1898 than in 1897.

The total number of burials (there is no death registration) in 1898 was 7,415, *i.e.*, a death rate of 39·02 per 1,000, while the total number of burials in 1897 was 4,963, *i.e.*, a death rate of 26·12 per 1,000.

It will thus be seen that there were 2,452 more burials in 1898 than in 1897, while there were 256 more burials in 1898 than there were births in 1898.

The unusual condition of things shewn is mainly due to the effect of the hurricane.

It was pointed out at the time that the actual deaths by accident in no sense represented the true mortality consequent on that disaster. The terrible exposure both at the time and during the period following on the hurricane tried the vitality of all, and especially of the very old and the very young, and the consequence is seen in the disastrous figures here shewn.

I am informed by the Poor Law Inspector, Dr. Hutson, that there were a very unusual number of still-births during the fortnight following the hurricane.

## (b.) Public Health.

Up to the 10th of September, the date of the hurricane, the health of the Island was excellent, and the Colony was free from any epidemic.

From the 10th of September to the end of the year dysentery and diarrhoea were generally prevalent, and in two parishes typhoid also. BARBADOS,  
1898.

(c.) *Sanitation.*

The sanitation of the Island is primarily controlled by the Central Board of Health, appointed by the Governor, which is given large powers under the Public Health Act. Practically the detailed working is carried out, in accordance with approved sanitary bye-laws, by local boards of each parish appointed by the vestries. Generally speaking the work is carefully carried out.

(d.) *Climate.*

The climate is as a rule very healthy; this is mainly due to the health-giving trade winds; the porous coral formation, the complete cultivation, and the entire absence of bush and swamp. It is also in large measure due to the very perfect Government water supply, which provides abundant pure drinking water to all classes.

(1.) *Rainfall.*—The total rainfall of 1898 as taken at the Botanical Station was 64.55 inches, with 205 wet days, as compared with 65.09 inches and 213 wet days in 1897.

(2.) The mean barometrical pressure was 29.919.

(3.) The mean temperature was 78.6.

(4.) The mean velocity of the wind was 9.0 miles an hour. The prevailing winds are the North East Trades.

From observations taken at the Botanical Station it appears that the wind was E. by S. for 97 days, E. by N. for 107 days, E. for 81 days, S.E. for 14 days, E.N.E. for 12 days, E.S.E. for 26 days, N.E. for 8 days, and the other days in other quarters.

(8.) (a.) *POSTAL SERVICE.*

The revenue of the Post Office in 1898 was £8,190, compared with a revenue in 1897 of £8,048.

The expenditure in 1898 was £9,712, as compared with an expenditure of £9,770 in 1897.

In 1898 expenditure exceeded revenue by £1,522.

This loss on the postal service is due to the great cost of conveyance of mails abroad. The Colony paid in 1898 to the General Post Office, London, and to the Post Offices of other countries a total sum of £4,157 in respect to conveyance of mails, of which £2,160 was paid in respect to the West India Mail Contract.

**BARBADOS**  
**1898.**

The Colony adopted the penny postage on the 25th of December 1898, but the time was too short to judge what effect this may have on the postal revenue.

The sum of £21,142 was paid in the Colony on money orders from other British West India Islands.

This money was for the most part money sent by Barbadian labourers, working elsewhere, to their families in Barbados.

*(b.) Telegraph Service.*

There is no inland telegraph service.

The only cable company directly connecting with Barbados is the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, which company draws a subsidy from the Colony of £2,500 annually. The present contract terminates on the 31st of December 1899.

*(c.) Telephone Service.*

There is an excellent telephone service throughout the Island in the hands of a private company, with an approximate length of wire in use of 600 miles.

**(9.) MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.**

Barbados is still a Military Station of the Empire, the garrison usually consisting of Headquarters and five Companies of a British Regiment, and of four Companies of a West India Regiment, the whole under the command of a Major-General, whose military command also includes St. Lucia.

It is now beyond doubt that the troops will, within the next three years, be removed to St. Lucia, where buildings are being erected to receive them.

The total amount paid in 1898 by the Imperial Government for the garrisons of Barbados and St. Lucia was £102,646, of which £51,996 was expended on the upkeep of troops in Barbados.

Much of this money was actually spent in Barbados, and the loss to the Colony on the removal of the troops will be severely felt.

**(10.) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.**

The number of friendly societies on the register as shewn in the Official Registrar's half yearly report on the 31st of December 1898 was 154, as compared with 152 in 1897. The Registrar

reports that much damage was done to the buildings of many of the societies by the hurricane of the 10th of September.

BARBADOS,  
1898

## (11.) ECCLESIASTICAL.

The total cost of ecclesiastical establishments in 1898 was £11,379, which was allocated as follows :—

	£
Anglican Establishment ... ..	10,229
Wesleyan           "           "	700
Moravian           "           "	400
Roman Catholics ... ..	50
	<hr/>
	11,379
	<hr/>

During the year Dean Clarke of St. Michael's resigned after having held the Rectory of St. Michael's for fifty years, and was succeeded both in the Deanery and Rectory by Dean Phillips.

## (12.) ESTABLISHMENTS.

During the absence of Governor Sir J. S. Hay on leave from the 29th of October to the 25th of December the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Ralph Williams, administered the Government. Mr. Greaves, the Attorney-General, acted as Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Goodman, the Solicitor-General, as Attorney-General.

Mr. H. S. Seon, one of the Police Magistrates of Bridgetown, retired on a pension.

Mr. M. J. Berkeley, Police Magistrate of District "D," was appointed to succeed him, and Mr. F. Stanley Smith, Barrister, was appointed to succeed Mr. Berkeley at District "D."

Mr. C. J. Lawrance, Inspector of Police, died of typhoid fever on the 13th of November, and Mr. Chancellor, Sub-inspector, acted for him during the remainder of the year, Mr. Mandeville acting for Mr. Chancellor.

By the death of Mr. Lawrance the Colony lost the services of a capable and zealous public officer, and the Governor of a useful adviser.

During the absence of Mr. E. T. Grannum, the Auditor General, on leave, Mr. Bailey, the Registrar, acted as Auditor General, Mr. W. Lindsay Haynes acting as Registrar. Mr. S. S. Phillips, of the Audit Office, acted as Governor of Glendairy Prison in January 1898.

BARBADOS,  
1898.

(13.) COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES.

The personnel of the Legislative Council remains the same.

The House of Assembly was deprived of the services of its Speaker, by the murder of Mr. Archibald Pile, C.M.G.

Mr. Pile was the victim of a dastardly attack on a lonely road while driving from Bridgetown to his country house, and after a lingering illness died on the 2nd of September, to the universal sorrow of all classes.

By his death the Executive and the Legislature lost a most distinguished member, and the people a useful and honoured public servant.

Mr. Pile's place as Speaker of the Assembly was filled by the election of Mr F. J. Clarke as Speaker.

(14.) FOREIGN CONSULS.

The only changes are that Mr. N. E. Parravicino was appointed Consul for Austro-Hungary, and Consular Agent for Italy, and General Vicente Perez Leon was appointed Consul for Venezuela.

(15.) POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

The qualifications necessary for the franchise are detailed at length in the annual Blue Book (*see* page "L"). The total number of electors on the register was 1,922 as compared with 2,208 in 1897, and with 2,341 in 1896.

I am informed by the Revising Officer that the falling off in the number of electors is mainly due to increased carelessness on the part of qualified persons in neglecting to register themselves.

Depression in trade and business losses are also partly responsible for the falling off.

(16.) GENERAL REMARKS.

(a.) During the year 1898 the Colony had to cope with a great disaster, having, on Saturday the 10th of September, been visited by a severe hurricane.

It may safely be taken that no storm of equal severity has occurred in Barbados since the great hurricane of 1831.

About 18,000 labourers' huts were blown down.

Many plantation buildings used for the manufacture of sugar were destroyed, and much live stock was either killed or disabled; 85 persons were killed, and approximately 260 injured; 27 others are known to have been drowned in a local passenger boat.



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Four barques were blown out to sea and all are known to have been lost, although the crews of three were saved, and several smaller vessels were lost. BARBADOS  
1898

Speaking generally, nearly every house received more or less damage, and the aggregate cost of repairs must have been enormous.

The two principal Government bridges in Bridgetown were so injured as to be rendered for the time, and until re-construction can be effected, practically useless, and Government property was destroyed to the extent not far short of £20,000, besides much movable private property being lost or damaged.

In addition to this, the sugar cane plants were so bent and broken by the hurricane, and the soil so scoured by the flood of water which followed, that it is feared that in many parts of the Island the canes have not recovered, and that the result will be a short crop, which, with the present narrow margin of existence left to the planter, promises to be a serious matter.

The actual aid given to Barbados was £18,000 from the Mansion House Fund, and £40,000 as a grant from the Imperial Government, as well as about £7,362 from other sources.

In addition to this, there is good reason to hope that £50,000 will be advanced to the Local Government by the Imperial Government for the purpose of granting loans to planters on easy terms for the restoration of buildings &c., on sugar estates.

Much criticism has been applied to the aid given to the Colony. On the one hand the public of England has been found fault with for being lacking in generosity in connexion with the Mansion House Fund, and on the other hand the Imperial Government has been taxed with undue liberality where it was neither needed nor deserved.

Neither of these representations is correct. Public subscription, supplemented by the most generous Imperial Grant, has sufficed to meet the occasion. The entire damage bill has not been paid, and there was no reason that it should be paid, but the aid given has sufficed to put a good shelter over the heads of all those most in need of it, to find food for the destitute, and generally to provide funds to enable the Colony to tide over its difficulties. It will also in a large measure enable some of the most pressing public works repairs to be carried out without trenching upon the depleted revenues of the Colony. In fine, money in sufficient, but not in excessive, amount has been promptly placed at the disposal of the Colony to meet its wants.

I have seen statements even in the greatest of the English journals dealing with the damage done by the hurricane, and with the methods employed in administering relief, in which both St. Vincent and Barbados are referred to.

BARBADOS,  
1898.

It is not my place to speak of St. Vincent, although I know of the immense and most successful efforts made in that Colony. But of Barbados I can speak, and can most thoroughly testify to the ungrudging labour and most scrupulous care given by the Vestries, which were the distributing bodies (subject to the Executive) of all relief granted. It cannot but be that, in the tens of thousands of cases relieved, some unevenness occurred, but the best proof of the general contentment with the arrangements made has been the perfect order which has prevailed.

When it is realised that in the face of this great disaster, not one single case of organised disorder has occurred amidst a crowded population of nearly 200,000 souls, despite the utter financial depression of the Colony, it will be seen how quickly and how completely the local bodies carried out the extraordinary duties so suddenly imposed upon them.

The policy of the Government from the first has been to aid and not to pauperise. Where work was available, aid, except of an essentially temporary kind, was withheld, although in all cases shelter, first temporary and then permanent, was provided for the very poor.

The result has been satisfactory, and the Government is now in a position to say that, except as regards the probability of a short crop, and the repairs to Government property still to be carried out, the difficulties of the hurricane of 1898 have been disposed of.

(b.) The railway company, recently in liquidation, has changed hands, and the new company is making an effort to restore the permanent way and to replace the rolling stock.

A narrow gauge is taking the place of that hitherto in use, and smaller and lighter engines and carriages are being introduced.

An extension of the existing line is also under consideration.

I hope that the efforts now brought to bear upon the work by the new General Manager will result in a revival of the passenger and goods carrying industry, and that the railway may soon become lucrative to its owners and an aid to the resources of the Colony.

(c.) The question of emigration is one which is frequently placed before the Legislature, but so far without practical results.

The people will not emigrate. They will, from time to time, go away, but emigrate, in the large sense of the term, they will not, that is to say, in numbers sufficient to solve the population question.

Whether they would take advantage of it if an emigration bureau was established, and satisfactory arrangements made for settling numbers of families permanently on land granted to them.

in other Islands, has yet to be proved; but I confess to much doubt whether anything short of absolute starvation will induce any emigration on a large scale.

BARBADOS,  
1898.

The pressure brought about by the hurricane was considerable, but, with every effort, only a few hundred persons consented to go to British Guiana, and none to Trinidad.

It is often stated that the planters oppose emigration because by overcrowding they obtain cheap labour. This contention I do not believe; every sensible man knows the desirability of encouraging emigration, and is cognisant of the difficulties which must arise unless it is carried out. The failure is due to the temperament of the people, who, as a rule, prefer low wages and their own homes to higher wages and separation from their island.

There is a grave difficulty impending, unless the sugar industry improves, in respect to the future of the young men and young women of the better classes.

Government retrenchment has closed many avenues of work, and plantation economies have wiped out others. The sons and daughters of formerly well-to-do people have but slight provision to look to under the altered circumstances, and I view with considerable apprehension the future in their respect unless a revival of our industry takes place.

(d.) There is nothing, I think, in connexion with the Barbados labour market or rates of wages which can in any degree be a matter of interest to the Emigrants' Information Office.

Wages are extremely low, all labour is local and coloured, and there are no openings for white labour, or for any class of white emigrants, in any direction. The cost of living to those who are content with such things as fish, rice, and sweet potatoes, is very low. To those who want the usual European surroundings it is fairly moderate.

(e.) The important question of Central Factories is still practically undealt with.

There is a fairly general feeling that in the future the agricultural and manufacturing processes necessary to the raising of sugar must be in different hands.

The old methods are not suited to modern competition, and will have to go.

Several capitalists have made suggestions in the direction of factories, but nothing tangible has yet come of it.

The local feeling is that the promoter wants too large a share for his aid. The planter is in such straits that he would willingly accept an offer if he could see his way to do it without ruin.

In all cases the price suggested to him for his canes has been so low that he feels that he cannot accept it. As he works it

BARRADOS,  
1898.

out, he actually gets more to-day than he would under the suggested improved conditions, so he has been compelled to refuse it. Because of this refusal, he is represented as a stiffnecked obstructionist, who will not take a good offer when it is made to him. This is not the case. The planters, who are represented on their agricultural bodies by intelligent and capable men, do most earnestly and fairly work out every scheme laid before them, but they are stopped, as I have said, by the one fact that, in their opinion, the canes cannot be produced in Barbados at the price offered by the promoters, and that ruin would follow the acceptance of such terms. The planters very rightly regard the schemes put forward by capitalists as being a pure matter of business, and in no sense philanthropic.

Promoters argue that the cultivation in Barbados is unduly costly, and that it can, and must be reduced; and in this, I think, they are probably right.

It is fair to state that the planters are fully sensible of their condition, most thoroughly appreciate the necessity of improved machinery, and are willing and anxious to fall in with any offer which will, in their opinion, enable them to remain on their estates and cultivate them with a fair prospect of a moderate return.

I have heard it stated that a local planter, aided by a considerable capitalist, is about to erect on a small scale, in time for the crop of 1900, the most modern machinery on his own estate, the machinery being capable of crushing, and designed to crush, not only his own canes, but also those of many of his neighbours; the situation of the plantation being in all respects favourable to the trial.

If this scheme is carried out, as I hope it may be, unfettered by liabilities and worked by independent capital, unhampered by mortgages, debts, and commission agencies, it would probably be a success. At all events, it would be an excellent test of the effect of modern methods.

If the crushing shewed better results, and the undertaking was not too costly, it would in all probability be the death blow of antiquated machinery.

It would, too, practically demonstrate the situation.

It would encourage other capitalists on a small scale to put down modern machinery, and would shew the planter what he could get and what he could afford to take for his canes. It would in point of fact shew who could hope to get his head above water again, and who was ruined beyond hope of salvation.

Properties would then have a chance of resuming their normal value (whatever that value might be), and the industry would at all events be on an assured basis.

This is of course assuming that foreign bounties will not be increased in proportion, and that the American Colonies cane

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sugar industry does not induce the United States to penalise British Colony sugar. Either of these events would be a burden too heavy for our sorely stricken industry to struggle against. BARBADOS,  
1898.

(f.) A most important move was made in 1898 by the appointment of an Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies with Dr. Morris C.M.G., late of Kew Gardens, at its head.

The whole expense is being borne by the Imperial Government ; the object being to improve the class of canes used, to indicate better and cheaper methods for their cultivation, and, if possible, to encourage a more technical education bearing upon the industry by which so many of the West Indian Colonies live.

The department will also largely encourage the raising of articles other than sugar, where this may be profitably done, and will deal with the question of peasant proprietorships where it is to the interests of the Colonies that such methods should be introduced.

So far as Barbados is concerned, I think that it is generally admitted that sugar and sugar alone must be its staple commodity. It is therefore a vital necessity that the present doubt as to canes should be dispelled, and authoritative results demonstrated.

(g.) The question of peasant proprietorships need not trouble us in Barbados. The overwhelming population renders it in all respects undesirable. We have no unoccupied lands which it is necessary to bring into cultivation. The acreage of the land might yield barely sufficient to furnish the present population, as peasant proprietors, for a time with the bare necessaries of life, but it would leave no margin for the raising of products for exportation ; and the result of any wide-spread movement in that direction would be to throw the Colony back centuries in civilisation.

(h.) Yet with all our difficulties we have paid our way, and so far our revenue has exceeded our expenditure.

Visitors to Barbados are struck with the busy aspect of the place. All is business, bustle, and stir, none of that dreary apathy of the people, or of melancholy grass-grown streets (so familiar a scene in some of the other islands), is apparent here.

One naturally asks where does the money come from ?

In part perhaps it comes from the capital expenditure on waterworks ; in part from the large military expenditure, but in the main it comes from the capital resources of the planters, from the last remaining values attaching to the land and its products.

Each year it is more difficult to get, but so far, each year it is got, and the land is still cultivated. But this, under present conditions, cannot last.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

BARBADOS,  
1898.

Under newer and better conditions it may not only last but be increased greatly in value, and I hope and think that those conditions are now not far off.

Unless cane sugar is to become extinct, driven out by beet, it seems impossible that this fertile Island, teeming with cheap labour, should be unable to compete.

I do not think the colonists of Barbados want charity, nor do they want exceptional treatment. All they ask is security for their industry and a reasonable prospect that, if they can once more attract capital to their Island and bring their production and manufacture into line with modern conditions, their efforts will not be rendered nugatory by a continued acceptance of a system which, while giving infinitesimal advantages to those at home, will ruin once and for ever, a most valuable branch of British industry abroad.

RALPH WILLIAMS,

*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Barbados,  
26th May, 1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 255.

**BASUTOLAND.**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896-7, see No. 224.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*January, 1899.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
225	Jamaica ... ..	1896-97
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zuluiland ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



No. 255.

## BASUTOLAND.

(For Report for 1896-7 see No. 224.)

GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MILNER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
Cape Town,  
20th September 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner of Basutoland enclosing the Annual Reports on the territory for the year ended 30th June last.

These reports do not appear to require much comment by me, more especially as the principal matters referred to, arising out of the conduct of Masupha, have already been dealt with in separate despatches.

The trade of Basutoland has been seriously affected during the year by drought, rinderpest, and internal disturbances; but it is satisfactory to find that in spite of these calamities the revenue collected has exceeded that of any previous year.

The harvest prospects of the coming year are not very encouraging, but I trust that the early break up of the drought which at present exists may prevent actual scarcity or distress.

I have, &amp;c.,

A. MILNER,  
Governor and High Commissioner.

**BASUTOLAND** From the RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, Basutoland, to the  
1897-8. HIGH COMMISSIONER, Cape Town.

Resident Commissioner's Office,  
Basutoland,  
5th August 1898.

SIR,

IN transmitting Your Excellency my report and enclosures for the year ended 30th June 1898, I have the honour to state that it has been politically eventful.

Whilst we were struggling hard against the ravages of rinderpest, and had scarcely emerged from the troubles which a section of the tribe, led by Lerothodi's sons, had brought upon the country by arousing superstitious fears concerning inoculation and other preventive measures, a serious disturbance, organised by Masupha, broke out in Berea district, involving the loss of six lives.

For many years these annual reports have revealed the story of vital opposition to the Paramount Chief Lerothodi headed by Masupha, an opposition always passive and sometimes dangerously active. He has sought every opportunity to dispute and impair the paramountcy, at times taking the initiative prominently, at other times supporting those who were put up to play the game. There is good reason to believe that the Berea disturbance was intended by Masupha as a prelude to something greater. Plans were laid for it. Certain chiefs like Maama were looked upon as active adherents; others, whose power was material, as neutrals. But it failed of the development anticipated, for a reason characteristic of the Basuto which marks their discrimination and intelligence.

It is well known that the old chief Moshesh, having constructed the tribe, divided the inheritance amongst his four principal sons, *i.e.*, Letsie, Molapo, Masupha, and Majara. Majara died early, bequeathing his portion to his son Leshoboro. During the "Gun War" of 1880-1881, Masupha acquired prestige and power that enabled him to swallow up certain rights adjoining his own and to encroach at pleasure upon others. The rights of Majara during the minority of Leshoboro offered a fair field, which was taken advantage of. In 1885-1886 the late Paramount Chief Letsie was so incensed at these encroachments that he twice took the offensive with armies—once to protect and redetermine the rights of Ramanella, secondly in support of Leshoboro. My predecessor was associated with both these movements. The respective boundaries were pointed out and duly recorded. Masupha never recognised these settlements. His attitude year after year led to disturbance and conflicts.

In the disturbance under review, the immediate cause was an attempt by Leshoboro, with Lerothodi's moral support, to appropriate land properly awarded to him. This was resisted by Thebe, a restless son of Masupha. Leshoboro adopted questionable tactics in retaliation, sustained a reverse, and bloodshed ensued. Pursuing the constitutional course, I summoned the parties to Maseru for the purpose of dealing with the case in council. Masupha, relying upon the countenance of certain other chiefs disaffected towards Lerothodi, notably Jonathan and Maama, objected to attend the court or to allow his son Thebe to attend.

**BASUTOLAND**  
1897-8.

After exhausting all reasonable means of persuasion, during which process Lerothodi and a large body of chiefs and people were kept loitering at Maseru, I announced to Masupha that the court would sit immediately whether his son, whose presence was required, was present or not. Masupha appeared at once with his son. He came, however, in a demonstrative way, attended by a large body of men whose weapons were, according to later intelligence, concealed beneath their blankets. The case proceeded. The combatant chiefs Thebe and Leshoboro were each found at fault for the bloodshed, were fined, and the boundary records were read out and affirmed in open pitso. Masupha then indulged in angry recrimination with Lerothodi, whom he treated defiantly, and the pitso broke up in some confusion after angry passions had been aroused. The fines were duly paid.

There is no doubt that Masupha calculated upon being able to command such tribal sympathy as would fortify him in resisting the attendance of his son at court, as well as compliance with any order, boundary delimitation, or settlement, not congenial to his own ideas, with which Lerothodi was connected. But the sense of the large tribal council associated with me was emphatic. They refused to aid or encourage Masupha in any action directed against previous judicial settlements. Seeing this, he submitted sullenly to my decisions, at the same time venting his spleen against Lerothodi in no measured language.

Subsequently, Lerothodi, with my approval, supported Leshoboro whilst the latter ploughed the fields he was entitled to, though it entailed the presence in reserve of 1,500 armed men. This occurred in August 1897. It will be seen that the evil day of open opposition on Masupha's part was foreshadowed and only postponed.

Early in December, a junior son of Masupha, named Moiketsi, followed into the Orange Free State a Mosutu woman who had run away from her husband with another man, and, on failing to secure their return to Basutoland quietly, adopted forcible measures of a rough and ready nature, in the execution of which he was apprehended by the Free State authorities, tried, and sentenced there with a band of followers to lashes and imprisonment. He escaped from lawful custody (whether through

**BASUTOLAND** carelessness of guards or what) together with another criminal  
1897-8. named Maboka, and fled successfully to Basutoland. The Orange Free State applied for extradition. As an escaped convict, Moiketsi might have been liable to surrender under a protocol to the Extradition Treaty signed by the High Commissioner and Acting President of the Orange Free State. But this protocol remained unratified by the Orange Free State Volksraad, and had become for all reciprocal purposes inoperative. His surrender as a convict was therefore refused, and the fact of his being domiciled in Basutoland precluded his surrender, under the provisions of the Treaty regarding domicile, upon any other charge. The other refugee was extraditable upon its appearing that his domicile was the Orange Free State.

The usual course was pursued of sending to Masupha for the arrest of his son, whom it was necessary to place upon trial for prison breaking, under a clause of our regulations providing that "any person domiciled in Basutoland who shall commit any offence in any place out of Basutoland may be dealt with in like manner as if such offence had been committed in Basutoland."

Had Masupha complied the affair would have been a minor one. This was explained to him. He knew it; but he again relied upon the sympathy of other chiefs in what he deemed to be a more popular resistance to authority, and, scenting in Lerothodi's remonstrances a chance of rupture with that chief, refused compliance.

Again recourse was had to all reasonable persuasion but without success. Finally, I had no alternative but, with Your Excellency's sanction, to call upon the Paramount, whose privilege it is to assert in the tribe the authority of the law when directed to do so, and whose prayer it had been to be allowed to do so without foreign help. Lerothodi, who had previously done his best to guide matters into a working channel, responded loyally by calling out his people and assembling them near Thaba Bosigo, where Masupha resided. Before taking any positive action he appealed to the latter through the agency of weighty councillors. Masupha responded by gathering his clans and sympathisers, and retiring to a stronghold overlooking his village adjacent to the Putyatsana river.

It was now clear that armed resistance was intended. The Paramount Chief, who feared the defection of Jonathan and some of his brothers, collected his full strength, anticipating a keen struggle for the supremacy which had been so often threatened. He had acted rightly so far, and I gave him every encouragement and moral support.

At this juncture Masupha, seeing the drift of things, handed over the convict Maboka, saying that was all he intended to do, his idea being that by doing so he would deflect the course of events. The refugee was brought to Maseru on December 30th

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and placed in gaol. Simultaneously, Jonathan Molapo, who with a large force had given Masupha confidence while affecting to support Lerothodi, suddenly went home, leaving all parties compromised equally by his presence and retirement. He had neither helped Masupha nor Lerothodi materially, and taught both to mistrust him. He had erred by stultifying his professions in support of law and order, and had unguardedly given hope of help to those in revolt. He had tried to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds—a course in which his betters have failed, and he too in recent times.

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1897-8.

On January 3rd Lerothodi made his first demonstrative movement by marching in strength through a part of Masupha's country to the north of Thaba Bosigo.

No serious opposition was offered. On the 7th he occupied Masupha's deserted village and, on advancing towards the latter's stronghold, was fired upon. A general action ensued. Lerothodi lost three killed and five wounded. The first shots were fired by Masupha.

Being now certain that the Paramount Chief had lent himself genuinely to the duty entrusted to him I aided him with a limited amount of ammunition.

Hostilities proceeded. A cordon was gradually drawn round Masupha's stronghold, his supplies and water cut off. The siege was protracted by reason of the inaccessibility of the stronghold, of swollen rivers which prevented communications, and of procrastinating overtures from Masupha. During this period, the number of killed were—on the side of Lerothodi, who attacked in the open, 31; on the side of Masupha, who was mostly behind walls, 24.

On the 17th January Moiketsi was surrendered and brought into Maseru personally by Lerothodi, who was informed that the evacuation of the stronghold by Masupha and the destruction of his late village were regarded as essential conditions of that chief's capitulation. Swollen rivers again delayed matters.

On the 27th January I sent an officer with Lerothodi to see if the conditions were carried out. This officer, Mr. C. Griffith, returned on the 29th January, reporting the destruction of the village and evacuation of the stronghold.

On the 1st February a court was held, my native assessors being almost the entire roll of chiefs and councillors of the nation. Moiketsi was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment. Masupha was deprived of the district chieftainship which had conferred authority over other than his own family. He was forbidden to re-occupy his old village, was fined 200 head of cattle or equivalent, and deprived of certain lands and tenements he had by courtesy enjoyed for many years.

The fine was paid and other orders carried out. A few attempts to evade them met with unconditional negatives by Government and the Paramount Chief.

**BASUTOLAND** In chronicling these unhappy events it is to be hoped that  
1897-8. good may come out of evil. It was impossible that the system  
of working through a paramount chief could continue satisfactorily, if the balance of national power was not visibly on his side.

Masupha had courted this balance for years and in the final struggle staked all he knew on it. But he failed, and Lerothodi, for the first time, enjoyed the chieftainship he inherited.

Taken altogether it may be considered that the sense of the nation moved more rapidly than, according to precedent, might have been expected. It has rarely happened that the majority have been led to perceive in time the necessity of coercing a recalcitrant minority, or, having perceived it, have followed it up. Matters must, in order to enter the soul of a tribe, go through the process of circumfusion.

The distances and difficulties of propagation are great. Any electric conception of ideas is as much beyond the compass of their minds as it is beyond the compass of conveyance. Were natives indeed capable of rapid understanding they need not be in their present subordination to civilized thought and government. A sudden ultimatum is calculated to have the effect that shock has upon keener nerves, and to produce the paralysis of desperation that leads to wrong impulses.

While advancing these remarks as a plea for patience in critical dealings with natives, I must gratefully record how much the exercise of patience was fortified by the strength derived from Your Excellency's resolution should all reasonable efforts at adjustment fail. It was no less a strength to me than a manifestation to the natives, who began perhaps to realize for the first time in recent years that constitutional orders would be carried out by force if persuasion failed, and that the advice of the Queen's representative was intended to be obeyed.

For years the Basuto have quarrelled with each other, as they naturally always must do. They have, however, seriously at times disturbed the peace, have been warned that, in view of liability to complications, it could not be tolerated by Her Majesty's Government, and have treated such warnings with composure. They ought now to have learned that such warnings have a meaning.

Whatever advantage may result from late events—and from every point of view the firmer establishment of the Paramount Chief must, with its alternative evils, be deemed of advantage—is therefore due to Your Excellency's determination to insist upon respect for law and order, and to support the Paramount Chief in all constitutional ways. This was the determining factor. It enabled me to give the Paramount the assurance and confidence he required and eventually believed in.

There has been no change in the policy by which the Basuto <sup>BASUTOLAND</sup> enjoy a fair measure of self government under certain restrictions. But there has been a change in which Her Majesty's Government has brought home the necessity of taking up its obligations. <sup>1897-8.</sup>

Allusion was made in the previous paragraph to certain alternative evils. By this may be understood that the firmer establishment of the Paramount Chief and the tribal power it confers upon him and his sons are elements that have to be reckoned with in future. The predominating power of Lerothodi's family, some of whom are none too wise, cannot be deliberately counterbalanced. Like all native chiefs he and they may soon forget from whom his real power was derived, and may be expected to give the trouble that a shrewder logic would avoid.

Apart from the principal incidents above mentioned there were the usual number of tribal disputes that required treatment, in which the factions submitted themselves happily to quiet settlements by the magistrates or by appeals.

The subject of rinderpest occupied a large portion of last year's report. The disease ran its deadly course through the country, yielding fairly to gall inoculation where accepted, and proving fatal where superstitious objection to it prevailed.

Though we were led to believe that gall immunity would only extend to a few months, the more permanent value of it is so far established, as regards Basutoland, by the fact that there has been no recrudescence of the epidemic for 18 months.

The most attractive feature of the year, which will be marked as an historical landmark, was the visit and enthusiastic reception of Your Excellency in the territory. This visit was regarded from its length and thoroughness as one of great import, inasmuch as the High Commissioner was known not only to have seen the masses and the country, but was seen of many who knew of him only as the emblem of unseen power.

It is almost impossible to indicate from year to year any specific national progress. Individuals display it; there is a demand for technical education, and many natives are to be seen working throughout the country at useful trades which a few years ago only trained white men were capable of.

Lurking behind the veneer of civilization, which consists in a great measure of wearing smart European clothes, there is, of course, deeply rooted superstition that will take generations to eradicate. Reference to the records of a dozen years ago reveal a marked change in the demeanour of chiefs and people generally. Their characteristic energy and desire to become wage earners is illustrated by the returns of passes issued during the 12 months to those in search of foreign labour, which give the number of 30,274 men. This represents more than three-fifths of the male population. Many who go to the mining centres

**BASUTOLAND** become handy workmen. At the same time they contract the  
**1897-8.** vices easily acquired from contact with low whites, and learn  
readily such civilized accomplishments as clever house-breaking  
and the like. This must be expected.

In co-operating for the suppression of crime and facilitating the ends of justice the chiefs have as a rule behaved well. Though conforming to the regulations, they contravene them by stealthy introduction of liquor and guns whenever they can evade police patrols, which is possible enough along an open 200 mile boundary. So long as an unprincipled class of low whites tempt them by carrying on such trade over the border it is hard to stop it, and harder still to secure convictions, to defeat which both buyers and sellers combine. The borders of all native territories are infested with illicit dealers whose professions offer high profits.

The season's crops were, owing to drought, miserable on the whole. Leribe district alone produced a marketable quantity. In other districts there is scarcity of food which may develop into want if we do not have a good and early spring.

Wheat, which of late years formed a great trade commodity, entirely failed, many having lost even their seed reserve. To remedy this a public spirited movement by the Chamber of Commerce to supply seed met with the hearty co-operation of Government, the result being that over 6,000 bags have been distributed on the easiest practicable terms.

In consequence of the failure of crops, trade suffered materially, as the statistics will show, and the Customs duties fell off proportionately.

It remains to be seen whether the new tariff, if it comes into operation, will sensibly affect Basutoland.

Crime statistics compare favourably with other years. The loss of cattle by rinderpest has probably conduced to more stealing than formerly. Otherwise serious crime is not conspicuous.

Culpable homicides spring rather from undue beer drinking than from malice.

The native police continue to do their work well.

Hospital work, as recorded in the reports of medical officers, is well maintained. The doctors would all be encouraged were it practicable to give them a higher standard of buildings, appliances, and nurses.

The general revenue is in excess of any previous year. Hut tax was well paid, continuing its upward tendency in proportion to the rise of population. Masupha failed in many ways last year. His tax was worse than usual. As a last resource it was necessary to send appointed messengers with the Paramount Chief and collect it summarily in Berea district. This was successful.



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Education under the hand of the various Mission Societies progresses favourably. There is no undue attempt to reach unnecessarily high standards, but rather to keep the teaching within useful limits. It is proposed, with Your Excellency's approval, to have an examination of the principal schools by an Inspector kindly lent by the Cape Government.

**BASUTOLAND**  
**1897-8.**

Missionary enterprise, encompassed as it is by difficulties and re-action, is nevertheless a prominent feature of the country, the French Protestant Society being, as heretofore, highly conspicuous.

I beg to bear hearty testimony to the good service rendered by the Government Secretary and officers of the administration as a body. Their *esprit de corps* and desire to promote the best interests of the country are as commendable as they are valuable.

I have, &c.,

G. Y. LAGDEN,

*Resident Commissioner.*

His Excellency the High Commissioner, &c.,  
South Africa.

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BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT  
1897-S. SECRETARY, BASUTOLAND, FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 30TH JUNE 1898.

FINANCE.

The revenue collected in Basutoland during the past year is as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Colonial contribution ...	18,000	0	0
Hut Tax ... ..	23,438	10	0
Post Office ... ..	1,619	17	2
Licences ... ..	1,506	0	0
Fines ... ..	589	8	8
Ferry Tolls ... ..	224	3	3
Fees of Court ... ..	118	2	10
Miscellaneous ... ..	1,059	5	7
Total ...	£46,555	7	6

Of the Hut Tax paid, the amount of £1,267 10s. was arrear tax paid by defaulters of previous years. At each collection there are a number of men absent from their homes at the various labour centres and other places. The amount of tax paid for the current year was £22,171, as against £21,750 collected during the previous financial year.

Tax has been paid on 45,236 huts.

A refund to the Cape Government of £1,757 16s. 8d. has been made. The amount actually contributed by the Cape Government towards Basutoland expenditure therefore stands as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Drafts paid to Basutoland Government ...	18,000	0	0
Customs Dues on Imports to Basutoland ... ..	10,699	19	6
Refund ... ..	1,757	16	8
		12,457	16 2
Net amount of Colonial contribution ...	£5,542	3	10

The total expenditure during the year under report was **BASUTOLAND** £44,797 10s. 10d. This includes the large and abnormal **1897-8.** expenditure of £1,375 on rinderpest, and, as Public Works, the cost of a new and commodious gaol at Mafeteng, and a new water supply for Maseru, which promises to meet in a satisfactory manner a much felt public need.

## TRADE.

The amount of dutiable goods imported into Basutoland during the year ended 31st March 1898, was—

	£	s.	d.
From Cape Colony ... ..	48,696	0	0
From Orange Free State ...	51,584	0	0
Total ... ..	£100,280	0	0

The imports of the previous year ended 31st March 1897 amounted to £135,560. It was only to be expected that rinderpest, drought, and internal disturbances would have this effect upon the trade of the country. The Customs Dues credited to Basutoland, (being 85 per cent. of the total duties upon the above Imports) were:—

	£	s.	d.
By Cape Colony ... ..	5,269	12	7
By Orange Free State ...	5,430	6	11
Total ... ..	£10,699	19	6

The Customs earnings have suffered by the operation of the tariff which came into operation on 1st July 1897, under which the ad valorem rate on imported goods was reduced from 12 to 9 per cent. On the other hand, the proposed new tariff, when in operation, may be expected to add considerably to the amount to be credited to Basutoland, woollen and cotton manufactures (upon which the new rate of 20 per cent. is to be imposed) constituting a large proportion of the Basutoland imports.

The following is a comparative return of exports from Basutoland for the year ending 31st December 1895, and for the years ended 30th June 1897 and 30th June 1898. The returns for the two latter years have been compiled for the period covered by our financial year for the purpose of uniform comparison with revenue and other returns.

Articles.	Year ended 31st December 1895.		Year ended 30th June 1897.		Year ended 30th June 1898.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Muids.	£ s. d.	Muids.	£ s. d.	Muids.	£ s. d.
Wheat ... ..	151,077	74,475 4 0	58,951	52,599 7 6	19,984	17,450 4 7
Mealies ... ..	82,429	33,857 9 8	64,576	42,424 11 0	99,352	52,590 14 3
K. Corn ... ..	3,681	1,675 14 6	4,746	4,273 13 3	14,739	8,760 6 0
Meal ... ..	4,037	4,529 0 0	1,060	1,663 12 6	1,876	2,813 11 0
Mealie Meal ... ..	1,361	832 14 0	40	44 0 0	17	13 0 0
Wool ... ..	Lbs. 1,116,999	15,988 0 2	Lbs. 854,879	10,234 0 2	Lbs. 1,992,131	24,989 15 4
Mohair ... ..	83,657	3,499 7 2	72,672	2,567 2 2	128,067	4,448 2 2
Cattle ... ..	427	1,348 5 6	227	932 5 0	711	3,959 1 0
Horses ... ..	409	1,964 19 6	1,336	9,892 19 6	1,986	12,628 12 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	—	1,325 1 5	—	279 11 10	—	10,846 0 5
<b>Total ... ..</b>	—	139,495 15 11	—	124,911 2 11	—	138,499 6 9

The miscellaneous exports for the last year, amounting to **BASUTOLAND** £10,846 0s. 5d., consisted principally of hides, a testimony as to 1897-8. 1459  
the mortality that has taken place among the cattle.

The diminished export of wheat during the past two years is remarkable. The severe drought of last year caused the loss of most of the wheat sown in the spring, and it has been necessary to supplement by Government aid the praiseworthy efforts of the mercantile community to supply the Basuto with seed wheat for the coming year.

Consequent upon the loss of most of the ploughing cattle by rinderpest, it was advisable to encourage the Basuto to use their horses for agricultural work. A number of sets of simple horse harness adapted for this purpose were distributed on loan throughout the country, and the natives have eagerly availed themselves of the privilege, and have thereby been induced to adopt horse ploughing to a considerable extent.

In response to a request, the Director of the Bacteriological Institute at Grahamstown was good enough to supply a quantity of fungus for locust destruction, and whether from this treatment or from the severe cold of the winter, the large swarms of "voetgangers" that were threatening the country have almost entirely disappeared.

Licences to trade were granted to 141 general traders and 74 hawkers. Seventy-five free licences were issued to burghers of the Orange Free State and others for the purpose of permitting them to barter produce and purchase grain for food.

#### METEOROLOGICAL.

The following are the results of observations carried on at the different stations in the country for the calendar year 1897 :—

Average rainfall	...	...	22·23
Daily range of temperature	...	48	(approximate)
Minimum registered	...	...	18
Maximum registered	...	...	99

#### LABOUR.

The country has been visited by a number of labour agents employed in recruiting for the various companies at the gold fields. The Basuto, however, appear to prefer, as a rule, to make their own way to Johannesburg, and to engage themselves to employers without the intervention of agents.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

*Comparative Return of Passes Issued.*

	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Labour ... ..	28,115	11,778	30,274
Other purposes ... ..	41,286	19,521	45,516
Total ... ..	69,401	31,299	75,790

POLICE AND CRIME.

The Basutoland Mounted Police consists of—

European officers ... ..	10
European constables ... ..	8
Native officers ... ..	6
Native sergeants ... ..	7
Native corporals ... ..	9
Native privates ... ..	204

who, in addition to much political employment, have done the following police duties :—

Number of patrols ... ..	1,085
Estimated distance travelled ... ..	51,009 miles.
Arrests under Pass Law ... ..	129
Arrests under Liquor Law ... ..	47
Arrests for other offences ... ..	60

*Return of Criminal Convictions.*

Assault ... ..	8
Customs Regulations, (breaches of) ... ..	8
Contempt of court ... ..	1
Culpable homicide ... ..	10
Escape from custody ... ..	5
Fraud ... ..	1
Firearms (smuggling) ... ..	7
Housebreaking ... ..	7
Liquor Laws, (breaches of) ... ..	42
Carried forward ... ..	89

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	Brought forward ...	89		BASUTOLAND
Pass Laws (breaches of) ...	...	109		1897-8.
Public violence ...	...	3		<u>        </u>
Resisting police ...	...	13		
Rape ...	...	1		
Minor offences ...	...	32		
Theft ...	...	61		
	Total ...	<u>308</u>		
Civil cases heard ...	...	<u>37</u>		

No floggings were inflicted in Basutoland during the year. 230 prisoners were received into gaol, and 91 remained in gaol on the 30th June 1898.

*Return of Lost Stock Reported.*

Stock.	Reported lost.	Definitely traced to Basutoland.	Not so traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ...	76	40	36	43	33
Cattle ...	58	35	23	34	24
Sheep and goats	1,188	34	1,154	34	1,154

In some cases the stock reported as lost, but not traced into Basutoland, has been subsequently reported as recovered in neighbouring territories.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC.

The Postal Revenue for the year was £1,619 17s. 2d.

The following figures are extracted from records kept and from returns for the year furnished by the courtesy of the Postmaster General, Cape Town:—

Letters posted in Basutoland ...	150,875
Post cards ...	4,137
Newspapers ...	25,800
Book and sample packets ...	8,009
Parcels ...	2,456
Total ...	<u>191,277</u>

<b>BASUTOLAND</b> <u>1897-8</u>	Letters received ... ..	138,708
	Post cards „ ... ..	4,347
	Newspapers ... ..	53,575
	Book and sample packets ... ..	14,028
	Parcels ... ..	5,376
	Total ... ..	<u>216,034</u>

	£	s.	d.
Money Orders issued ... ..	7,307	16	5
Money Orders paid ... ..	4,383	19	1
Deposits in savings bank ... ..	1,443	4	11
Withdrawals „ ... ..	564	17	3
Telegraph messages sent (Maseru and Mafeteng) ... ..	5,059		
Telegraph messages received ... ..	4,374		

I have the honour to submit the Reports of the following officers :—

The Assistant Commissioner, Leribe.  
 The Officer in Charge, Butha Buthe.  
 The Medical Officer, Leribe.  
 The Assistant Commissioner, Berea.  
 The Assistant Commissioner, Maseru.  
 The Principal Medical Officer, Maseru.  
 The Assistant Commissioner, Mafeteng.  
 The Medical Officer, Mafeteng.  
 The Assistant Commissioner, Mohale's Hoek.  
 The Medical Officer, Mohale's Hoek.  
 The Assistant Commissioner, Quthing.  
 The Medical Officer, Quthing.  
 The Acting Assistant Commissioner, Qacha's Nek.

H. C. SLOLEY,  
*Government Secretary.*



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ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—LERIBE DISTRICT. BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

The past year has been an eventful one for this district owing to the Masupha disturbance in January.

The chief Jonathan was then called out by the Paramount Chief to assist in vindicating the authority of the law. He went, but at a critical moment returned home leaving the work incomplete, and by his defection aggravated the trouble, as no doubt thereby he indirectly encouraged Masupha in his resistance. The Paramount Chief showed his very natural resentment in the usual native way. Threatening letters and messages were sent by him to Jonathan, and orders were sent to Jonathan's younger brothers and other minor chiefs in his district to disregard his authority, and report their matters direct to the Paramount Chief. Rumours were industriously circulated to the effect that Jonathan intended to help Masupha, and certain chiefs in this district, disaffected to Jonathan, excused themselves from helping Lerothodi by saying that if they did Jonathan would fall upon them. These rumours and excuses I knew to be quite without foundation, and indeed the sequel showed them to be so. Jonathan deserted the Paramount Chief when he had great need of him in the Government Service, and therein he was very blameworthy, but his fault ended there. He gave many excuses for his defection, but the true reasons were probably a sort of sentimental veneration for Masupha, who is his father-in-law as well as his uncle, and distrust of Lerothodi caused by unredressed grievances, the principal ones being probably the cattle post questions which have been alluded to in Leribe Annual Reports for several years by my predecessors and by me, and which are still unredressed.

In March, Jonathan sent humble messages of apology to Lerothodi, in which he confessed his fault, and, so to speak, threw himself on the mercy of the court, and the very light fine of ten head of cattle was inflicted upon him by Lerothodi. The fine was paid, and accepted in professedly final settlement of the matter. The intriguing, however, still continued, and towards the end of May it took an alarming shape. There is in this district a small chief called Motsweni. He is the eldest son of Jonathan's eldest brother Joseph who, owing to his being a lunatic, has never been in a position of authority.

Motsweni, therefore, by his birth should be chief of Leribe, and I believe was in his infancy indicated by Moshesh as the future Paramount Chief of Basutoland. His character, however, is such as to render him quite impossible for the position, and this was fully recognised by the late chiefs Letsie and Molaypo.

**BASUTOLAND** Without being absolutely mad like his father he is very weak-minded. In his normal condition he can speak and act reasonably enough, but if he is in the slightest degree checked, or if anything is said or done that he does not like, he at once loses all control over himself.

1897-S.

To this man Lerothodi addressed a letter harmless enough in itself, if rather injudicious, considering to whom it was addressed, instructing him to stand between Jonathan and anyone whom he was oppressing, and inform him and the court about it.

On the strength of this letter, Motsweni gathered all the malcontents in the district around him, who, of course, were quite ready to use him for their own purposes, and proclaimed himself chief over Leribe. A dangerous cabal was formed and reports of their doings, no doubt in many cases exaggerated, caused grave anxiety in the district, and might very well have led Jonathan into committing himself with Government by taking up arms. This no doubt was just what those who started these intrigues wanted, but I am happy to say that, acting on my advice, he kept quiet, and, though very much provoked, contented himself with reporting matters and rumours to me as they occurred or came to his knowledge.

Finally, Lerothodi and Jonathan were called together by the Resident Commissioner and a *modus vivendi* arrived at between them. Jonathan wants to place out his son Tau, and in this he requires Lerothodi's support; indeed he cannot do without it. I hope he is wise enough to see this.

An understanding having been arrived at between Lerothodi and Jonathan, I was able to bring about the collapse of the local conspiracy by securing the withdrawal of Joel and Khetisa from it, so that the outlook for next year is considerably better than it was.

Affairs at Makhoakhoeng are in much the same state as they were last year, the cause being probably that Lerothodi and Jonathan have never been in accord. It is Lerothodi's way of showing Jonathan that he cannot do without him.

One case of "eating up" by chief Tlasoa was brought to my notice. I called him before me, and on his failing to show sufficient cause for his action I ordered restitution to be made, which has now taken place.

I attach a return of revenue in this district. The Hut Tax was paid well, and shows an increase on last year.

			£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	5,625	0	0
Licences	...	...	457	0	0
Fines	...	...	99	11	6
Fees of court	...	...	4	16	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	128	1	3
Total	...	...	£6,314	9	3

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The amount of arrear Hut Tax collected is £234 10s. Tax BASUTOLAND  
has been paid on 10,936 huts. 1897-8.

There are forty-three licensed general traders in the district. Forty-one hawkers' licences have been issued, of which twelve were free.

I append a return showing the results of action taken in the matter of tracing and recovering lost stock.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ... ..	21	19	2	19	2
Cattle ... ..	13	11	2	10	2
Sheep ... ..	3	3	—	3	—

It will be noted that in every case except one where stock has been traced to Basutoland it has been recovered. The exception was a case in which a stolen cow had been slaughtered by the thief.

The following is a list of cases tried in my court :—

Civil actions ... ..	9
Theft ... ..	16
Housebreaking ... ..	3
Infanticide ... ..	1
Homicide ... ..	3
Fraud ... ..	1
Escape ... ..	1
Resisting police ... ..	11
Contravening Pass Law ... ..	67
Contravening Customs Regulations ... ..	3
Contravening Liquor Regulations ... ..	6
Contravening Law relating to Firearms ... ..	6

The harvest was scanty, but, still, in this district there was a crop, and I do not anticipate any famine. Indeed, grain in considerable quantities is being exported to the districts where crops have entirely failed.

**MASUTOLAND**  
1897-8.

The following is a list of prices paid for produce :—

Wheat ... ..	25s. per bag.
Mealies ... ..	12s. „
Kafir corn ... ..	14s. „
Ponies ... ..	£4 to £10 each.
Cattle ... ..	£3 to £7 „
Sheep ... ..	15s. to 20s. „
Goats ... ..	10s. to 20s. „
Wool ... ..	3d. per lb.
Mohair ... ..	8d. per lb.
Forage ... ..	25s. to 30s. per 100 bundles.

The wheat crop of Leribe has up to now been inconsiderable, but this year a large quantity of seed wheat has been issued to natives on credit by an arrangement between Government and the Chamber of Commerce which, if the crop is successful, should add greatly to the purchasing power of the people. 20,332 passes have been issued during the year, of which 7,505 were to persons in search of work.

The following is a return of patrols performed by my police :—

No. of Patrols.	No. of Men.	Miles travelled.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Contravening Pass Regulations.	Other Offences.
387	586	12,406	6	57	15

I attach a report from the officer in charge at Butha-Buthe.

Relations with the officials of the Orange Free State continue to be of a friendly nature.

J. C. MACGREGOR.

*Assistant Commissioner.*

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—BUTHA-BUTHE SUB-DISTRICT. BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

I took over the duties of this district on the 2nd June 1898. On looking over the records of the past year, I find that the usual disturbances have taken place in Letsika's ward.

In July a dispute arose between Letuma and Malekopa, and arms were taken up, but fortunately no damage was done. Letuma was proved to be the aggressor, and he and some of his men were fined.

Dijo was building a village last March near the Phakoeng Hill, without having first obtained the permission of the chief Letsika, who despatched armed men to burn the huts, and a general fight occurred. Dijo was driven away, and fortunately there were no casualties. The case was tried by the Assistant Commissioner, and Letsika and Dijo were both fined 10 head of cattle.

Rinderpest broke out in this district last July and decimated the large cattle herds. The chief Joel was against inoculating at first, but afterwards consented, and every effort was made to carry on the inoculation, but without very good results, as nearly all the cattle herds became infected.

Large swarms of locusts appeared early in January, but did very little damage in this district.

AGRICULTURE.

The crops of mealies and kafir corn are very fair considering the severe drought we have experienced, and that most of the cattle have been swept off. In some places ploughing has been done with horses. The wheat crop was a failure.

TRADE.

There are sixteen trading stations in this district, and licences for five others have lately been applied for. Trade has been bad during the past year.

EDUCATION.

There are three Government-aided schools in this ward.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

			REVENUE.		
			£	s.	d.
Hut Tax...	...	...	1,580	0	0
Licences ...	...	...	177	0	0
Fines ...	...	...	15	4	0
Fees ...	...	...	0	11	6
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	5	0	0
Total ...			£1,777	15	6

Arrear Hut Tax amounting to £76 has been paid. Tax was paid on 3,059 huts.

#### LICENCES.

General traders ...	...	...	...	16
Hawkers (paid) ...	...	...	...	15
Hawkers (free) ...	...	...	...	2

#### RETURN OF LOST STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ...	13	13	—	13	—
Cattle ...	4	4	—	4	—
Sheep ...	3	3	—	3	—

#### CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES TRIED DURING THE YEAR.

Civil cases...	...	...	...	3
Theft ...	...	...	...	9
Housebreaking ...	...	...	...	1
Infanticide...	...	...	...	1
Escaping from custody ...	...	...	...	1
Contravention Pass Laws	...	...	...	18
Contravention Custom Regulations	...	...	...	1

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CURRENT PRICES OF PRODUCE AND STOCK.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

Wheat...	...	...	£1 5s. per muid.
Mealies	...	...	12s. "
Kafir corn	...	...	14s. "
Horses...	...	...	£4 to £10.
Cattle ...	...	...	£3 to £7.
Goats ...	...	...	15s. to 20s.
Wool ...	...	...	3d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	8d. "
Forage...	...	...	25s. to 30s. per 100 bundles.

RETURN OF PASSES ISSUED.

Seeking work ...	...	...	...	2,224
Other purposes...	...	...	...	4,932
Total				7,156

RETURN OF PATROLS.

No. of Patrols.	No. of Men.	No. of Miles.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Pass Law.	Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Other Offences.
62	109	2,641	16	—	1

E. D'A. BLYTH,

*Sub-Inspector B.M.P.*

**BASUTOLAND** ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—BEREA DISTRICT.  
1897-8.

The past year can only be described as an unfortunate one for Berea district.

In my last Report I mentioned an outstanding claim made by Masupha to some lands of Leshoboro. This claim he began to enforce in the early spring. Shots were fired, and five men were killed. The whole tribe was against Masupha's contention, and he gave up his claims.

The Resident Commissioner called a large and representative meeting at Maseru, at which the matter was thoroughly thrashed out, and both Masupha and Leshoboro were fined as being to blame for the bloodshed.

At the end of 1897, Moiketsi Masupha having followed a runaway woman to the Orange Free State, and assaulted her paramour, was arrested in the act of forcibly bringing her back to Basutoland, and was sentenced, together with his men, by the Orange Free State Court to lashes and imprisonment. He escaped from the convict gang with a Free State subject, also a convict, and took refuge in Basutoland. The Free State demanded his extradition, which was refused. Masupha refused to surrender Moiketsi for trial by this Government according to law, but after much delay and under considerable pressure he gave up the Free State man. Lerothodi was then ordered to arrest Moiketsi, by force if necessary. He called together a considerable force and marched by way of Swilswili to Moiketsi's village. Moiketsi was not found, and the village was burnt. Lerothodi then returned to Thaba Bosiu and commenced regular operations against Masupha, who had made all preparations to resist and had occupied a strong position near Khamolane store. On Lerothodi's forces crossing the Phutiatsana river and approaching the fortified position they were fired upon by Masupha's men, and during the fighting which ensued for the next three weeks, some forty or fifty men were killed and wounded on each side. Surmon, a minor son of Masupha, was shot dead in a cavalryskirmish, and Mojela Letsie was severely wounded. Masupha eventually surrendered his stronghold at Khamolane and gave up Moiketsi.

The Resident Commissioner held a pitso at Maseru, at which Marthinus represented his father Masupha. Moiketsi was sentenced to fourteen months hard labour for his misdeeds; Masupha was fined, was ordered to leave Thaba Bosiu village, which together with the defences of his stronghold was destroyed, and was deprived of his chieftainship of Berea district.



All border lines were examined, and were readjusted where it was found that Masupha's people had encroached on other men. The district then settled down in quiet for some months.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

It is remarkable that throughout the fighting both sides showed a moderation hardly to be hoped for in semi-savage warfare. Flags of truce were respected, neutral buildings were spared where it was possible to do so, and on several occasions the winning side was restrained by its chiefs, where a free hand meant annihilation for the defeated men.

In April, His Excellency the High Commissioner visited Berea, but having already met all the chiefs at Maseru no political meetings were held.

Marthinus the eldest surviving son of Masupha died suddenly when starting to meet His Excellency at Maseru. For the present, Fako, his younger brother, has been appointed by Masupha, with my concurrence, to look after his ward and family.

Masupha, who is getting very old and broken, is feeling severely the want of trustworthy sons to guard his interests and those of his grandson and heir, who is still a schoolboy.

At the beginning of June, Masupha on the plea of harvesting went down to Thaba Bosiu, but refused to come back on its completion. He had no sympathisers, and finding himself deserted, at length realized that the Government decision was final, and without force being used returned to his own district. I am of opinion that this satisfactory result was to a great extent due to Jonathan Molapo's personal influence. No harm was done, except the creation of a general scare among Masupha's people in Berea.

Rinderpest during the winter and spring played havoc in Berea. Opposition to and delay in inoculation gave the disease a chance which it did not get in other districts, and the result has been disastrous. About 4,000 cattle (most'y infected) were inoculated by Government after the opposition of Masupha and others was withdrawn.

Severe epidemics of dysentery and typhoid followed the rinderpest, and caused a big death-rate among the native population.

The number of passes issued during the past year amounts to 4,787 as under :—

For labour	...	...	...	...	2,300
Other purposes...	...	...	...	...	2,407

This may be taken as about half the number issued in an ordinary year.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

Owing to Masupha's old age and habitual dilatoriness in the matter, and in a lesser degree the circumstances of the past year, there has been even greater trouble than usual in getting in the Hut Tax. Eventually, the Resident Commissioner sent the Paramount Chief to personally assist in the collection of the outstanding part. Owing to these measures the collection has been enabled to reach that of last year, and I have great reason to expect that the remaining arrears will be soon paid up. It must, however, be expected that the Hut Tax in Berea will show a permanent decrease for some time to come. The direct and indirect consequences of Masupha's late line of conduct have been so unpleasant that the loyalty of his followers has given way, and they are leaving the district in large numbers for other chiefs.

The following is the revenue for the last year in detail of heads of receipts :—

				£	s.	d.
Hut Tax	...	...	...	2,500	10	0
Licences	...	...	...	279	7	6
Fees	...	...	...	4	1	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	42	14	0
Total	...	...	...	£2,826	12	6

Of the Hut Tax £284 were paid for arrear Hut Tax.

The police force in this district consists of :—

European officer	...	...	...	...	1
Native sergeant	...	...	...	...	1
Native corporal	...	...	...	...	1
Native lance-corporal	...	...	...	...	1
Native privates	...	...	...	...	22
Total	...	...	...	...	26

also four men temporarily lent by Maseru for special duty.

The following was the patrol work done by the detachment :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	113
„ „ men	...	...	...	330
„ „ miles	...	...	...	3,547
Arrests for Liquor Law	...	...	...	11
„ „ Pass Laws	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous offences...	...	...	...	5

A detachment of 10 men has been stationed on the Caledon <sup>BASUTOLAND</sup> river, opposite Lady Brand, to cope with the smuggling trade <sup>1897-8.</sup> which has been lately rampant on the border.

A list of lost stock reported at this station is shown :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Re-covered.	Not traced.	Not re-covered.
Horses ... ..	4	1	1	3	3
Cattle ... ..	12	10	10	2	2

The following cases were heard in this court during the year :—

Homicide ... ..	1
Assault ... ..	2
Theft ... ..	3
Public violence ... ..	3
Escape from custody ... ..	2
Liquor Laws ... ..	15
Pass Laws ... ..	5

There are 22 licenced trading stations in the district.

During the year there were 15 hawkers' licences issued, of which 11 were free and 4 were paid.

The roads are in fair order. Much damage was done by the very heavy rains of January, following on the protracted drought of the spring.

The crops, though much damaged by drought and locusts, were not bad as a whole, more damage being done by neglect during the disturbances than by want of rain. The wheat crops, however, failed completely. The natives not having even got their seed back, arrangements have been made for them to obtain seed-wheat on credit, to be paid back at harvest time.

There is no immediate danger of hunger in the district, although many people at Christmas sold their reserve of grain to prevent its capture.

L. WROUGHTON,  
*Assistant Commissioner.*

**BASUTOLAND** ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8—MASERU DISTRICT.  
1897-8.

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The peace of the district was undisturbed for the first five months of the year, but the attitude of the chief Masupha, in disregarding the demand of the Paramount Chief for the surrender of his son Moiketisi, who made his escape from gaol in Lady Brand, threw the district into a state of intense anxiety and unrest. Lerothodi, acting on instructions from Government, found it necessary to take active measures, and was loyally supported by all the chiefs in the district, excepting Maama, who declined to take the field against Masupha, who is his uncle and father-in-law, and it was obvious that he wished to join Masupha, but his movements were closely watched by Lerothodi and frustrated. He was punished for this conduct.

After the loss of many lives on both sides the sons of Masupha realized their inability to hold their own against Lerothodi, and persuaded Masupha to surrender Moiketisi. Operations then terminated. Masupha was tried, and amongst other things was ordered to leave his village at Thaba Bosiu, which is in the Maseru district.

During the present month Masupha was permitted to come to Thaba Bosiu to reap the crops he cultivated before the row. After doing so, once having returned to his old village, he was reluctant to leave again and expressed his intention of not going away. Jonathan Molapo came to the rescue, and, using his good offices, prevailed on Masupha to abide by the Resident Commissioner's orders.

The inoculation of cattle in this district as a preventative against rinderpest was concluded in July. The operation on the whole has proved highly satisfactory, and I am pleased to report that in no instance in this district has the disease shown itself again.

A severe drought was experienced during the spring months, and as a consequence the harvest of wheat, mealies, and Kafir corn, comparatively speaking, proved a total failure. Locusts visited the district during the months of November and December, but owing to the paucity of the crops did not remain any length of time. Large swarms of vœtgangers which appeared in March were destroyed by locust fungus, which was obtained from the Grahamstown Bacteriological Institute.

His Excellency the High Commissioner was pleased to visit Basutoland, and on the day of his arrival here was met by a large gathering of chiefs and people to extend to him their expressions of loyalty and welcome.

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COMMERCIAL.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

There has been a marked falling off of trade, accounted for by the failure of the crops. Those fortunate enough to reap even a small harvest of mealies have realized good prices.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The roads in the district are in fair order, and all Government buildings are in good repair.

POLICE.

The district detachment is efficient and consists of—

Sub-inspector	...	...	...	1
European constables	...	...	...	4
Native sergeant	..	...	...	1
Native corporals	...	...	...	2
Native privates	...	...	...	46

The following particulars are of patrols performed by the detachment during the year :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	30
Number of men employed	...	...	...	127
Number of miles patrolled	...	...	...	3,800
Arrests for contravening Liquor Laws	...	...	...	6
Other offences	...	...	...	3

Since the removal of the restrictions necessitated by rinderpest regulations the border has been once more opened to illicit traffic in liquor, and I regret to say that it has been considerably on the increase of late.

In suppressing crime and facilitating the maintenance of law and order the chiefs have rendered the usual assistance.

The following return shows action taken in the matter of lost and stolen stock :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not Traced.	Re-covered.	Not Recovered
Horses	23	—	23	3	20 <sup>c</sup>
Cattle	16	6	10	6	10
Sheep	95	—	95	—	95

<sup>c</sup> Four recovered in Orange Free State.

LICENCES.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

General traders	...	...	...	26
Paid hawkers	...	...	...	11
Free	...	...	...	14

BASUTOLAND 1897-8.	The following cases were tried in my court :—	
	Theft ... ..	7
	Housebreaking and theft ... ..	4
	Contravening Gaol Regulations ... ..	1
	Contravening Police Offences Act ... ..	3
	Rape and theft ... ..	1
	Concealment of birth ... ..	1
	Contravening Customs Regulations ... ..	4
	Contravening Master and Servant's Act ... ..	2
	Contravening Liquor Regulations ... ..	6
	Attempting to escape from gaol ... ..	1
	Escaping from custody ... ..	1
	Contravening Pass Regulations ... ..	2
	Assault ... ..	1
	Loitering ... ..	1
	Contravening Hut Tax Regulations ... ..	1
	Contempt of Court ... ..	1
	Civil actions ... ..	13

## REVENUE.

The revenue for the twelve months amounts to :—

	£	s.	d.
Hut Tax ... ..	3,984	10	0
Licences ... ..	272	0	0
Fines ... ..	49	5	0
Ferry tolls ... ..	117	19	9
Fees ... ..	9	11	4
Miscellaneous ... ..	216	3	7
Total ... ..	£4,649	9	8

Tax was paid on 7,673 huts. Arrear tax collected amounts to £396.

## PASSES.

Passes were issued to—

Seeking employment ... ..	6,398
Other purposes ... ..	4,112
Total ... ..	10,510

Relations with Border States continue to be friendly.

C. GRIFFITH,  
*Assistant Commissioner.*

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MAFETENG  
DISTRICT.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

Mr. Kennan, Assistant Commissioner for the district, left for England on leave on February 21st, 1898, and on March 10th I arrived and took over charge from Sub-Inspector Murray.

In December, 1897, the trouble caused by Masupha broke out, and all the principal chiefs of the district left to join Lerothodi. There was, of course, considerable anxiety throughout the district, but, from what I can learn, the excitement was, on the whole, less than might have been expected.

I am sorry to have to report that the crops in this district last season were very bad indeed. There is at the present time great scarcity of food all through the district.

The following is a return of the police patrols during the year :—

Number of Patrols.	Number of Men engaged.	Estimated Distance travelled.	Arrests.		
			Liquor Laws.	Pass Laws.	Other Offences.
184	494	10,146	19	8	9

Two men are constantly stationed at each of the three gates— at Sephapo's, Van Rooyen, and Tsupane's.

The strength of the detachment is as follows :—

Sub-Inspector	...	...	...	...	1
European constables	...	...	...	...	2
Native constable	...	...	...	...	1
Native officer	...	...	...	...	1
Sergeant	..	...	...	...	1
Corporal	...	...	...	...	1
Privates	...	...	...	...	31

The following is a return of lost and stolen stock reported at this office during the year :—

Description.	Reported.	Traced to Basutoland.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses	7	4	3	4	3
Cattle	12	4	8	4	8*
Sheep	134	12	122	12	122

\* Four of these were found by owner in Free State.

**BASUTOLAND** I am glad to be able to report that since my arrival in the  
 1897-8. district every help has been given by the chiefs in the matter of  
 tracing stolen stock.

Licences issued during the year were as follows :—

General traders	...	...	...	...	23
Paid hawkers	...	...	...	...	8
Free hawkers	...	...	...	...	32

The following cases were tried in the court during the year :—

Civil cases	...	...	...	...	8
Contravening liquor laws	...	...	...	...	7
Thefts	...	...	...	...	13
Homicide	...	...	...	...	1
Concealment of birth	...	...	...	...	2
Other crimes	...	...	...	...	14

The revenue collected was :—

				£	s.	d.
Hut tax	...	...	...	3,835	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	238	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	113	12	0
Fees	...	...	...	10	1	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	279	13	0
				<u>£4,476 6 0</u>		

Number of huts on which tax was collected, 7,523 ; arrears of tax collected, £99 10s. 0d.

The number of persons to whom passes were issued was—

Seeking employment	...	...	...	6,996
Other purposes	...	...	...	10,443
Total	...	...	...	<u>17,439</u>

Relations with the Free State officials have been very satisfactory.

W. BOXWELL,  
*Acting Assistant Commissioner.*



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ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MOHALE'S HOEK DISTRICT. BASUTOLAND 1897-8.

The early part of the past year will be long remembered in this district as a period of the severest drought experienced for many years. By many old inhabitants it was considered quite as severe as the great drought of 1862. Owing to the severity of this drought, the wheat crop in the district was practically a failure ; what little was reaped was of a light and inferior quality.

In July I left my station and proceeded to the mountains at the request of the Chief Griffith Lerothodi and others, who wished for inoculation against rinderpest. I was away up to the end of August, and during that period inoculated 4,050 cattle with very satisfactory results.

Nothing of any political importance occurred until October, when the National Pitso was called by the Resident Commissioner, and many chiefs and people proceeded to Maseru to attend. It was there notified that Hut Tax collecting would commence on November 1st.

On the 1st of November the work was started, and proceeded with vigour. So well did the people respond that by the end of the month the bulk of the tax was in, and by the end of December practically finished.

In November and December much trouble was caused by persons who illicitly incited natives to leave Basutoland for labour purposes without paying their Hut Tax or obtaining passes. This illicit practice was the cause of much delay in the collection of the Hut Tax. Prompt action was at once taken to prevent a recurrence of this malpractice.

In December the young chief Griffith made a raid on the village of Mocheko, chief of the Baphuti, and looted the place ; the cause of this was of long standing. It appears that Mocheko had slaughtered a stray ox, the owner of which found this out and complained to the Paramount Chief, who ordered that Mocheko was to be fined. He was called by Griffith, who was instructed by the Paramount Chief to try the case, but refused to attend court ; the summons was repeated from time to time with the same result. Griffith became exasperated and took matters into his own hands and raided his village. Mocheko fled through Quthing district to Herschel.

In January Mr. Mansel, who was then on leave at Maseru, was sent to Herschel to fetch back Mocheko, who refused to return,

**BASUTOLAND** saying that he feared for his life. After some trouble Mr. Mansel succeeded in bringing him back. The matter was investigated by the Resident Commissioner, who ordered Griffith to restore the property taken at the raid.

1897-8.

During this month the rain that commenced in December continued and flooded all streams. The Cornet Spruit again overflowed its banks and caused a considerable amount of damage in the vicinity.

A good number of persons proceeded to Matsieng during the month, being called by the Paramount Chief to assist in suppressing the Masupha rebellion.

In February a Free State burgher, named Raats, was arrested in Basutoland for gun smuggling. He was convicted, and a Free State Government Mauser rifle, found in his possession, confiscated.

During the month the Paramount Chief sent messengers to fine all chiefs and people who did not respond to his call in January to enforce the surrender of Moiketsi Masupha.

On the 22nd of this month I received an alarming letter from Mocheke to the effect that his life was in danger from Griffith Lerothodi. I immediately proceeded to the spot and investigated the matter, and found that Mocheke's pretended alarm was without foundation. This further convinced me of his utter unreliability, which has so often and plainly shown itself.

In March a large pitso was held here, when the quarrel of Griffith and Mocheke was investigated by the Paramount Chief, with whom I was associated by order of His Honour the Resident Commissioner. Mocheke made a very poor defence, and it was apparent to me that through his weak and vacillating policy he had brought his troubles upon himself. He complained that his property, taken by Griffith at the raid, had not all been restored. The Paramount Chief gave instructions that the whole was to be restored at once, and messengers were sent to see the order carried out. In the first week of June the chief sent five horses to be handed to Mocheke to make up for any loss he might have sustained.

In April great rejoicings and satisfaction were experienced by the inhabitants of the district owing to the visit of His Excellency the High Commissioner. His Excellency was met throughout his journey by the various clans, and much loyalty and satisfaction shown.

Owing to the severity of the drought the natives were unable to cultivate, and very little grain was sown until December, when too late for certain harvest. In consequence of this very little food was grown, and grain of sorts became dear and very scarce, seed wheat especially so. Nevertheless, a fair quantity has been sown, and should rain fall in time a fair harvest may be looked forward to.

My relations with the neighbouring States continue satisfactory. **BASUTOLAND** 1897-8.  
 Illicit traffic in guns and liquor continue, but a considerable check is put upon it through the vigilance of the police, especially in Basutoland, and also in the Free State.

Education is being promoted. I have received good reports from the Rev. Marzloff of Maphutsing. I intended inspecting the school on my return from leave, but found the schools closed for the holidays. I am arranging for an inspection early in August next.

Owing to the scarcity of food many have left, and are still leaving, for labour markets in order to obtain money to supply their wants, and a great many passes have been issued.

The roads, which were much damaged in January by the heavy and continuous rains, have been repaired and are now in good order. Road parties, under European overseers, are maintained.

The stock in the district are in good condition, and the pasturage is good owing to the large number of cattle that died from rinderpest during last year and the early part of this. For the past few months there has been a large demand for slaughter stock, and good prices are paid for fat animals. Ponies also have been in demand and fair prices have been obtained.

Below will be found a schedule of the various returns.

PASSES ISSUED.

Labour ... ..	4,128
Other purposes...	2,677
Total ... ..	6,805

RETURN OF PATROLS AND ARRESTS.

Number of Patrols.	Number of Men.	Miles travelled.	Arrests.		
			Contravening Liquor Regulations.	Contravening Pass Laws.	Other Offences.
121	198	8,866	4	12	8
			<div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 100%;"></div> 24		

LOST STOCK.

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ... ..	4	1	3	1	3
Cattle ... ..	1	—	1	—	1
Sheep ... ..	210	16	194	16	194

**BASUTOLAND** RETURN OF CASES TRIED IN THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S  
 1897-8.  
 COURT DURING THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1898.

Civil cases ... ..	4
Contravening liquor regulations ... ..	3
Contravening pass laws ... ..	20
Perjury ... ..	1
Theft ... ..	9
Contravening custom regulations ... ..	1
Assault with intent... ..	1
Gaol breaking ... ..	1
Gun smuggling ... ..	1
Minor offences ... ..	2
Total ... ..	43

## LICENCES.

General traders ... ..	13
Hawkers (paid) ... ..	16
„ (free) ... ..	4
Dam licences ... ..	2
Total ... ..	35

## REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax ... ..	3,774	0	0
Licences :—			
General trader's licence ... ..	130	0	0
Hawker's „ ... ..	16	0	0
Dam „ ... ..	3	0	0
Ferry tolls ... ..		17	0
Fines ... ..	63	17	6
Fees ... ..	3	17	6
Miscellaneous... ..	116	2	6
Total ... ..	£4,107	14	6

Arrear hut tax ... ..	£168	10s.
Number of huts paid on ... ..	7,404	

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The above table shows an increase of £332 19s. 3d. on last year's <sup>BASUTOLAND</sup> revenue, Hut Tax alone being £326 10s. in excess of that year. <sup>1897-8.</sup>  
 This result is all the more satisfactory when the recent ravages of rinderpest and the exceptional drought of last year are considered. During the last few years the influence of Chief Mocheko in the Baphuti ward has been gradually decreasing, while that of the Chief Griffith Lerothodi is being steadily but surely made more apparent.

This gradual change induced me this year to associate myself more definitely with Griffith in the matter of Hut Tax collection, and I think that the improvement indicated by the above figures is greatly due to this policy.

A further cause of the increase is undoubtedly the prompt measures which were taken during the year to suppress the action of unauthorized and unscrupulous labour agents, who had been in the habit of assisting large numbers of natives who had not paid Hut Tax to leave the territory without passes. I believe that still more satisfactory results would be effected by adopting a system of permanent police outposts along the Cape Colonial border.

Below are the current prices of stock and produce :—

				£	s.	d.
Wheat, per bag	...	...	...	1	15	0
Mealies, „	...	...	...	1	0	0
Kafir corn, per bag	...	...	...	1	0	0
Barley, „	...	...	...	10	0	
Oats, „	...	...	...	10	0	
Cattle, each...	...	...	...	6	10	0
Horses „	...	...	...	6	0	0
Sheep „	...	...	...	12	6	
Goats „	...	...	...	10	6	

J. W. BOWKER,

*Assistant Commissioner.*

**BASUTOLAND** ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—QUTHING DISTRICT.  
1897-8.

Nothing of consequence has occurred in this district during the last twelve months beyond the usual petty bickerings as to rights to land, pastures, thatch grass, &c., consequent upon the natural stress caused by a rapidly expanding population. Some excitement was, of course, prevalent among the Baphutti of this district during the incident between Griffith Lerothodi and Mocheko Letuka in the adjoining Mohale's Hoek district.

Many of the men of the district took part, under their Chief Nkwebe, in the movement against Masupha during January and February last.

Agriculture has been practically a failure during the past year. Many fields have gone out of cultivation owing to ravages of rinderpest. The drought, which lasted until January, retarded and destroyed the crops so that little grain has been harvested, and the people are likely to experience considerable want.

The phenomenal rainfall of January last, 19½ inches, caused much damage to all the district roads. These have since been put into fair order.

The police stationed in the district are fairly efficient.

The following patrols have been performed :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	130
Number of men employed	...	...	...	311
Number of miles travelled	...	...	...	4,358
Arrests, liquor regulations	...	...	...	10
"    pass	"	...	...	32
"    other offences	"	...	...	8

The police in the neighbouring territory have reported the loss of 673 sheep and 13 goats during the year. None of these have been traced to or recovered in Basutoland. It is probable that the greater number of these animals had merely strayed, and were thereupon reported to the police as having been stolen. Liquor smuggling still continues.

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There is a decrease in the number of criminal cases as **BASUTOLAND** compared with the previous year. The numbers were as 1897-8. follows :—

Contravention of rinderpest regulations ...	2
Resisting police ... ..	2
Assault ... ..	4
Theft ... ..	5
Contravention of pass regulations ...	7
Culpable homicide ... ..	2
Rape... ..	1
Contravention of liquor regulations ...	5

The total revenue is practically the same as that for 1896-7 ; Hut Tax, however, shows an increase of £93 10s., the shortfall being under the head of licences.

	£	s.	d.
Hut tax ... ..	2,419	10	0
Licences ... ..	308	4	6
Fees ... ..	4	15	6
Miscellaneous ... ..	76	2	6
Total	<u>£2,808</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>

Taxes were paid upon 4,797 huts, and arrears amounted to £36 10s.

During the past twelve months passes have been issued to 1,831 natives leaving the district in search of labour, and 2,279 for other purposes.

F. ENRAGHT-MOONY,

*Assistant Commissioner.*

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—QACHA'S NEK  
DISTRICT.

In accordance with instructions received from the Resident Commissioner, I proceeded to this station on the 12th March last, Mr. Moony shortly afterwards leaving for Quthing.

At the close of last year rinderpest had not made its appearance, but broke out in July at Sekake's village. From there it travelled slowly up the Orange river to Ledingoana's ward, where it eventually died out.

Inoculation was carried out by Mr. Moony, assisted by trained natives, with very satisfactory results. During the months of September, October, and November 10,553 head of cattle were inoculated with bile and 47 with serum, thus making a total of 10,600. A serum station was established at Qacha's Nek, as it was considered inadvisable to rely upon a certain supply from Maseru owing to the distance and difficulty of transport.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining correct returns of deaths after inoculation. It is, however, estimated that 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. is a fairly correct approximation.

Towards the latter end of December, rumours were persistently circulated in the neighbouring districts of the Cape Colony that the rebel Le Fleur, for whose arrest a warrant had been issued, was in Basutoland for the purpose of persuading the chiefs and people to assist him in carrying out his rebellious schemes in East Griqualand. The Chief Makhaola, however, voluntarily stated that Le Fleur had not to his knowledge entered the country, but had merely sent him a letter for transmission to the Paramount Chief. Makhaola returned the letter, informing Le Fleur that he did not wish to act as his messenger. Notwithstanding this assurance of Makhaola's, increased patrols were sent out and the various gates carefully watched, with the result that four of Le Fleur's following were arrested and handed over to the Colonial authorities.

On January 12th a large number of natives under Makhaola, with other chiefs, left for Thaba Bosigo, in pursuance of Lerothodi's orders calling the nation to assist him in suppressing the Masupha disturbance.

On April 1st the majority of the chiefs and people of the district left for Maseru to welcome His Excellency the High Commissioner on his visit to Basutoland. On the 15th of the same month I left for the Maletsunyane Falls, reaching them on the 18th, on which day His Excellency inspected them while camped in the vicinity.



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The uneasiness mentioned in the last Annual Report with regard to the border fence, appears to have died out among the Basuto in the district. The intention of the Colonial authorities to place two guards at five of the principal gates should have a salutary effect in checking thefts of stock and liquor smuggling, the former of which appears to be on the increase since the advent of colder weather. This is no doubt due to the wish to procure money to purchase blankets and clothing for winter use. In one case of sheep stealing it was reported that the thieves were overtaken by a snow storm, and that three of them perished through cold and exposure.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

EDUCATIONAL.

There are two Government aided schools in the district, both of which I have inspected and furnished reports on.

It is noteworthy that notwithstanding that there are two native ministers in the district only two Christian marriages have taken place during the last sixteen months.

POLICE.

The police at this station consist of a corporal and twelve men. They have during the last year patrolled as follows :—

Number of patrols	...	...	...	58
Number of men	...	...	...	81
Miles patrolled	...	...	...	5,245
Arrests, pass laws	...	...	...	2
„ other offences	...	...	...	11

PUBLIC WORKS.

The road to this station continues, with slight attention, to keep in good order. Additions to gaol, officer's quarters, and stable have been erected or are in course of erection.

AGRICULTURE.

The crops in the district were in a promising condition, but hard frosts in the beginning of April, and later on a heavy snow storm, considerably reduced the prospects of an abundant harvest.

Current prices are as follows :—

Wheat	...	...	20s. per bag.
Mealies	...	...	10s. „
Kafir corn	...	...	15s. „
Horses	...	...	£2 each and upwards.
Cattle	...	...	£5 to £7 a head.
Sheep	...	...	12s. each.
Goats	...	...	8s. „
Wool...	...	...	3d. per lb.
Mohair	...	...	7d. „

**BASUTOLAND**  
1897-8.

## REVENUE.

				£	s.	d.
Hut tax	...	...	...	1,300	0	0
Licences	...	...	...	20	0	0
Fines	...	...	...	1	11	0
Ferry tolls (nil)						
Fees	...	...	...		5	0
Miscellaneous receipts...			...	2	10	0
<b>Total</b>	...			<b>£1,324</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>

The hut tax shows an increase of £68 on last year's collection. Arrear tax collected, £48 10s. Number of huts paid on, 2,503.

## LOST STOCK.

The following is a return of lost and stolen stock, showing action taken, and results:--

Description.	Reported.	Traced.	Not traced.	Re-covered.	Not re-covered.
Horses ... ..	4	2	2	2	2
Sheep ... ..	57	—	57	—	57

## CRIMINAL.

During the year the following cases were tried at this station:—

Contravening pass laws	...	...	...	8
Theft	...	...	...	7
Perjury	...	...	...	1

No civil cases were adjudicated upon.

## PASSES.

Passes issued to men seeking work	...	1,116
"    "    " for other reasons...		3,691
<b>Total</b>	...	<b>4,807</b>

## FLOGGINGS.

No floggings have been inflicted at this station during the year.

H. R. CARTWRIGHT,

*Acting Assistant Commissioner.*

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—PRINCIPAL MEDICAL BASUTOLAND  
OFFICER. 1897-8.

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PUBLIC HEALTH.

The exceptionally severe drought experienced during the latter part of 1897 with its attendant diminished water supply, the pollution of the fountains by the decomposing carcasses of cattle which succumbed to rinderpest, the contamination of the air from the same cause, the restricted food supply which is the natural concomitant of a bad season : all these causes combined to render the past year exceptionally unhealthy.

*Typhoid Fever*, already firmly established in certain districts, has been prevalent throughout the year, and the epidemic in some wards was of a very severe and fatal character. Gradually increasing during the months of September and October 1897, the epidemic attained its maximum intensity in November. Cases were very numerous during the months of December and January, since when the epidemic has gradually declined, although sporadic cases still appear in the wards where the disease was most prevalent.

*Dysentery* of a severe type was prevalent during the early summer months, and the mortality was high. The epidemic subsided with the appearance of the summer rains.

*Small-pox*.—No cases have been reported. Vaccination is, however, enforced wherever possible.

*Varicella*.—A few mild outbreaks of this disease have been observed in most districts, and as has been formerly noticed, old people seem to have been the most frequent victims.

*Influenza* prevailed during the months of April, May, and June. The epidemic was mainly characterized by the mildness of the initial onset, and the severe and protean aspects of the sequela, which accounted for a considerable number of deaths.

*Syphilis*.—This disease appears to be decreasing in a most satisfactory manner.

*Epidemic dropsy*.—In January 1898, numerous cases of a disease hitherto, I think, unknown in South Africa, but which I believe is identical with that which has been recognized in India, and is known there as *epidemic dropsy*, came under the notice of

**BASUTOLAND** the medical staff in this country. The chief symptom of the  
**1897-8.** disease is the presence of general dropsy not due to either cardiac  
or renal disease. There is usually some fever, and in most cases  
at some period of this course some gastro-intestinal disturbance.  
Severe pains in the limbs are often complained of. In many  
cases, however, the dropsy is the only symptom which attracts  
attention. So far as our observations have extended up to the  
present time, children between the ages of 3 and 12 years are  
most commonly attacked. The disease appeared simultaneously  
throughout the country, and is still prevalent. Its severity and  
duration vary within very wide limits, from a transient oedema of  
the extremities which disappears spontaneously in a few days, to  
the most extensive general dropsy, persisting for several months.  
In one case this was so severe that sloughing of the tissues  
occurred. The mortality does not appear to be high, but death  
has occurred rapidly in some cases. Owing to the impossibility  
of obtaining post-mortem examinations in this country, the  
pathology of the disease as observed here rests in obscurity, and  
the treatment adopted has been purely empirical and eminently  
unsatisfactory. In some recent cases, however, the writer has  
obtained a fair measure of success by the exhibition of thymol,  
but they are too few to warrant any definite expression of opinion  
as to the value of this drug.

#### HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY WORK.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of both in-patients and out-patients. The maximum number of the former which the present hospital accommodation admits has been reached, and until a sufficient grant is available to enable properly equipped wards and nursing aid to be provided at the different centres, the work in this direction must necessarily be very restricted. The extra accommodation afforded in Maseru by the erection early in the year of the Jubilee Memorial Operating Room, and the provision for one nurse for the wards, has proved a great boon, and the value of having even a few properly equipped beds was amply demonstrated during the disturbances which occurred in the early part of the year, when a number of cases of gunshot injury were under treatment. In addition to the usual tables showing the number of attendances during the year, I append a table giving the number of operations performed at the different stations. The difficulty and anxiety attendant on surgical work in this country are great, owing to the fact that the medical officers have to work entirely single-handed, thus having to supervise the administration of the anæsthetic as well as operate. Partly with a view to obviate this difficulty and partly for the purpose of endeavouring to clear up certain points connected with a little known subject, experiments have been made to test the efficacy of hypnotism as a means of inducing anæsthesia, and as a therapeutic agent. Considerable success

has attended the adoption of this method in surgical work, and by its aid during the past 8 months, upwards of 34 operations have been painlessly performed by the writer in the Maseru hospital and dispensary. Demonstrations of the method of inducing hypnosis have been given to some of the other medical officers, who have likewise adopted it with some success. Up to the present time about 64 per cent. of a series of unselected cases have been found subject to hypnotic influence. The very old and the very young appear to be least susceptible.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

EDWARD C. LONG.

*Principal Medical Officer.*

TABLE showing the NUMBER of CASES treated at the various STATIONS during the year ended 30th June 1898.

Stations.	Out-patients.		In-patients.	Operations.
	New Cases.	Subsequent Attendances.		
Leribe ... ..	2,430	365	65	54
Maseru ... ..	3,991	1,589	105	140
Maleteng ... ..	2,943	1,156	96	62
Mohale's Hoek ...	1,702	281	28	16
Quthing ... ..	747	183	—	—
Total ... ..	11,813	3,574	294	272

BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER,  
1897-8.  
LERIBE.

The following table shows the number of attendances at the dispensary and hospital during the year ended 30th June 1898:—

New cases	...	...	...	...	2,430
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	365
In-patients	...	...	...	...	65
Vaccinations	...	...	...	...	2,416
				<b>Total</b>	...
					<u>5,276</u>

The attendance for advice and medicine shows an increase over last year, but the number of vaccinations have decreased considerably. This is due to a number of causes, but chiefly to the closing of the border for a part of the year, and the consequent stoppage of emigration to the neighbouring territories.

#### GENERAL.

The numbers attending for the treatment of syphilis show a marked decrease, which is a hopeful sign. Diseases of the respiratory tract were very prevalent during the year, and they seem to be on the increase, and are in all probability due to the increasing adoption of European clothing without the knowledge of its dangers.

#### EPIDEMICS.

A severe epidemic of dysentery passed over this district during November and December. There were many deaths from it amongst the old and the very young. In one week in the camp there were 6 deaths, and from reports from outside districts the disease seems to have been equally severe.

During June influenza broke out and is still prevalent. The police suffered severely at first.

There was one case of typhoid fever in the camp, but the boy came from the Free State ill. The disease did not obtain a foothold.

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There was no small-pox during the year.

**BASUTOLAND**  
1897-S.

The health of the police has been fairly good. The prisoners suffered considerably during the epidemic of dysentery.

#### HOSPITAL.

During the last half of the year the six beds in the hospital were fully occupied. A number of cases had to be turned away for want of room. Most of the 65 cases admitted were surgical. There were 4 deaths, all due to chronic diseases.

#### SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of the camp has been good. The water supply from the fountain is ample for the needs of the place if the waste water were conserved in a suitable reservoir.

#### CONCLUSION.

There has been an increase of work during the year, chiefly surgical. The small fee charged has weeded out those who came for the novelty of drinking a white man's medicine. People now come who are ill, and in this way the nature of the work has changed. They are beginning to appreciate the dispensary more and more, and to have a less dread of the hospital.

N. M. MACFARLANE, M.D.,

*Medical Officer.*

**BASUTOLAND ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER,  
MAFETENG.**

The following list gives the attendances at the hospital dispensary for treatment and for vaccination certificates, and the list of the previous year for comparison:—

	1897-8	1896-7.
New cases ... ..	2,943	2,246
Subsequent attendances ... ..	1,156	816
Hospital in-patients ... ..	96	52
Vaccinations ... ..	7,706	1,603
Total ... ..	11,901	4,717

There have been three deaths amongst the in-patients, two from phthisis and one advanced hip disease. Owing to the limited accommodation that the hospital affords many cases have been refused admission.

In the dispensary department the cases requiring treatment have been principally those suffering from dyspepsia and syphilis. Ophthalmia has been very prevalent.

In January and February there was rather a severe epidemic of dysentery and diarrhœa, and these cases were often complicated with or followed by an attack of acute nephritis; several of these cases ended fatally, especially amongst children.

The health of the Europeans and natives in the camp has been very good, and only a few cases of chicken-pox have occurred.

Although the prison has been rather crowded at times the prisoners have kept in excellent health.

The health of the police detachment has been very good.

A. LISLE WEBB.

*Medical Officer.*



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ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER, BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.  
MOHALE'S HOEK.

There has been an increase of attendances at the dispensary during the past year for both professional help and vaccination as a means of obtaining passes.

The following table will show this better :—

	1896-7.	1897-8.
New cases ... ..	1,480	1,702
Subsequent attendances ... ..	272	281
Hospital in-patients ... ..	22	28
Vaccinations ... ..	1,085	3,432
Total ... ..	2,859	5,443

The increase is general, most so in number of new cases and vaccinations, the total increase being 2,584.

Of the 28 cases admitted to hospital, 18 were cured, six more or less benefited by treatment, two died, and two still remain under treatment. A large number of these patients were admitted for some venereal disorders of one sort or another.

EPIDEMICS.

During March, April, and May there was a slight outbreak of varicella (chicken-pox), but with no fatal results; adults were, however, attacked in considerable numbers.

**BASUTOLAND**  
1897-8.

Throughout the year there have been isolated cases of typhoid fever which, however, was most prevalent during late summer months and autumn.

There were three or four deaths in the camp, and I heard of several others occurring in the district.

Influenza appeared just at the end of the year and most of the white population were attacked, although not in a severe manner, yet with a wonderful diversity of symptoms for so small a community. Natives have not taken much notice of it, and it does not seem to have caused them much discomfort or alarm, very few cases having presented themselves for treatment.

#### POLICE.

The health of the police has been good.

The sanitary arrangements of the camp cannot be complained of.

W. R. NATTLE.

*Medical Officer.*

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1897-8.—MEDICAL OFFICER, BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.  
QUTHING.

On the 22nd December, 1897, I arrived here, and on the following day commenced the duties of my office.

The number of patients attending during the 6 months covered by this report is 930, a number small in comparison with what might be, but large in comparison with what has been.

The want of any hospital accommodation detracts greatly from the usefulness of the medical work here, and not merely reduces the number of patients quantitatively, but influences the work qualitatively, bringing it down to exclusive out-patient work, and perforce excluding any but very minor surgical operations, and hindering continued medical treatment. The position of the camp on the top of a long steep hill also tends to keep away some who are afraid to try it, and it is a heavy climb for a person ill enough to seek the aid of the dispensary. Also, in spite of all civilising influences at work, there remains a large substratum of superstition in every native mind, and there is much more sickness in the district than the above numbers would indicate, which is treated by the "dollos" throwing and decoction brewing ngaka of the Basuto.

At the same time by reference to the books I find that the attendance during the six months now ended is between double and treble the attendance during any previous six months, so that although the natives do not take advantage to the full, or anything like it, of the medical advantages provided them by Government they are coming more and more, and as time goes on will turn their backs on the white and black quacks who have been exploiting them.

There are certain recommendations which I would make from a hygienic point of view.

1. That the source of the Quthing water supply be walled in or otherwise enclosed, so as to prevent contamination by cattle or other causes of impurity.
2. That the cesspool adjoining the offices be disinfected and closed up.
3. That the food of the prisoners should if possible have some variety, *e.g.*, by an occasional change in the nature of grain from which their food is made, and by a small admixture of fat of some kind, especially in the winter.

BASUTOLAND  
1897-8.

The health of the Europeans in the camp is good.

The police detachment in the camp with their wives and families have on the whole enjoyed good health.

There has been no epidemic with the exception of whooping cough, of which there were 8 cases.

The prisoners have likewise had an immunity from infectious disease, but there has been a good deal of stomach and bowel disease of a slight nature which might be prevented, I think, by slightly changing the diet occasionally.

There has been no small-pox in the district since my arrival. I have done over 1,000 vaccinations in the 6 months, mostly with glycerinated lymph, which has given very satisfactory results, removing the objection to some lymph supplies of being at first virulent and then inert. This addition of glycerine not only makes it go a much longer way but also improves the quality in the way indicated above.

If not occupying too much space I would like to subjoin a few details of the work done at the dispensary. Of the 930 patients 747 were new patients, and 183 were "repeats" or plural attendance patients. The disease bulking most largely in the work done is syphilis in its various forms and steps. The figures are most instructive. Primary syphilis, 2 cases; secondary, 27 cases; tertiary, 114 cases. These figures show that the natives do not trouble much about the first manifestation, and the secondary stage does not even prove very alarming; they come, however, when they see the terrible effects of the tertiary stage, in most cases regarding it as a new disease, not a stage of the complaint they have long suffered from in a milder form. I have seen here most extensive destruction of organs and parts, and to produce so many and so extensive lesions argues the presence of a syphilis not benign and tending to self cure, but a virulent syphilis going on to extensive and deep-rooted destruction of organ and function.

I had 8 cases of typhoid fever here (enteric fever is another name).

Uterine diseases bulk largely, more so than we would expect, as the following list shows:—Chronic metritis, 23; acute metritis, 3; dysmenorrhœa, 9; menorrhopia, 3; ovarian neuralgia, 3; tubal colic, 1; ovarian tumour, 1.

Dysentery, 24; diarrhœa, 36; gonorrhœa and gonorrhœal arthritis, 32; erysipelas, 5; diphtheria and croup, 2; ophthalmia, 28, mostly catarrhal; 3 cases gonorrhœal; corneal ulcers, 8; cataract, 3; chalazion, 1; glaucoma, 1; aneurism, 2; locomotor ataxia, 1; leprosy, 1 new case; scurvy, 1, (from Kimberley); actinomy-cosis, 1; renal calculus, 2. Of tumours

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21 various attended ; all those which it was practicable to remove I removed, others I recommended to wait or go elsewhere where there was hospital accommodation. **BASUTOLAND** 1897-8.

A large number of trifling cases of coughs and colds, amongst these, however, cases of more gravity, *e.g.*, pneumonia croupous, 2 ; pneumonia catarrhal, 15, the latter mostly amongst neglected and delicate children.

There is a good deal of scabies, which is a disease yielding at once to treatment and cleanliness, so of no importance. 23 cases of acute, and 24 of chronic, rheumatism due doubtless to exposure more or less to the weather. 1 case of tubercular phthisis came under notice about which there was no doubt. 16 cases of congenital syphilis have come under my notice in the last six months.

There is one recommendation which I would like to make and which, while not directly in the line of medical work, would be preventive in some cases of death by drowning, *i.e.*, to place at Siaka under charge of the master of the Pont two life-belts of cork. It would tend to prevent drowning, which in the last few years has accounted for 14 deaths at and near Siaka drift.

D. M. TOMORY, M.B., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer.*

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1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 259.

BERMUDA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 228.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
May, 1899.

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230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	1897
231	Barbados... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



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No. 259.

**BERMUDA.**

**BERMUDA,  
1898.**

(For Report for 1897, see No. 228.)

GOVERNOR BARKER to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Bermuda,  
23rd March, 1899.

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898, which has been prepared by Mr. Alison, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. DIGBY BARKER,  
Lieutenant-General, Governor  
and Commander-in-Chief.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Bermuda,  
22nd March, 1899.

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1898 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for the year amounted to £38,923 and the Expenditure to £39,102. Compared with 1897, the revenue shews an increase of £2,958 and the expenditure an increase of £3,398.

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**BERMUDA,** The following tables compare the revenue and expenditure for  
**1898.** 1898 with that of 1897 :—

*Revenue.*

Year.	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
1897... ..	£ 28,117	£ 7,848	£ 35,965
1898... ..	31,021	7,902	38,923
Increase	£ 2,904	54	2,958

*Expenditure.*

Year.	Personal Emoluments.	Other Charges.	Total.
1897 ... ..	£ 17,289	£ 18,415	£ 35,704
1898 ... ..	17,875	21,227	39,102
Increase	£ 586	2,812	3,398

The increase in the Revenue is nearly entirely due to the increased Customs receipts under nearly every heading. This may be accounted for in consequence of some increase in the garrison here, and the growing popularity of these Islands as a winter resort.

Compared with 1897, the following were the principal differences shewn in the disbursements :—

Colonial Surveyor's Department, an increase of	£ 2,380
Agriculture	„ 450
whilst in the—	
Gaols Department there was a decrease of	... 203

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The increase under the heading of "Colonial Surveyor" is chiefly due to expenditure on the purchase of land and erection of buildings in connection with the recent establishment of a public garden. BERMUDA,  
1898.

*Revenue and Expenditure for last five years.*

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	32,476	34,216
1895	37,830	33,606
1896	34,256	34,717
1897	35,965	35,704
1898	38,923	39,102

*Public Debt.*

\* The public debt at the end of 1898 amounted to £45,600, made up as follows:—

	£
Local Inscribed Stock ... ..	40,000
New Government House Debentures ... ..	5,600

The rate of interest on the local inscribed stock is 4½ per cent., and the average rate of interest on the Government House debentures is 4¾ per cent. Both of these loans were issued locally.

The local inscribed stock which was issued in 1893-4 is redeemable at par in 1923, and the sum of £1,000, being the third annual instalment to be paid on account of the sinking fund created in connection therewith, was remitted last year to London for investment.

II.—TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

*Imports (exclusive of specie).*

The value of the Imports (exclusive of specie, valued at £199) in 1898 was £351,274.

Compared with 1897, this shows an increase of £28,200, with 1896 of £46,379, and with 1895 of £45,800.

**BERMUDA,** The value of the imports from the United Kingdom and other countries respectively in 1897 and 1898 is shewn in the following table :—  
**1898.**

	1897.	1898.
	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	95,424	104,974
Canada ... ..	24,550	30,611
Other British Colonies ...	6,517	7,346
United States of America	195,167	205,308
Other Countries ... ..	1,416	3,035
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£ 323,074</b>	<b>351,274</b>

The principal imports from the United Kingdom in 1898 were clothing, valued at £6,310; cotton goods, £9,238; woollen goods, £15,021; oilman's stores, £6,492; sugar, £4,388; malt liquor, £20,958; and fancy goods, £2,974.

The principal imports from the United States of America were butter, valued at £11,497; flour, £19,725; groceries, £6,009; leather manufactures, £7,937; provisions, including smoked and pickled meat, £14,323; and oxen and cows, £22,482.

*Exports (exclusive of specie).*

The value of the Exports (exclusive of specie, valued at £7,799) in 1898 was £106,104.

Compared with 1897, this shews a decrease of £16,978, and with 1896 an increase of £5,041.

The following table shews the value of the exports to the United Kingdom and other countries respectively in 1897 and 1898 :—

	1897.	1898.
	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	3,519	4,041
Canada ... ..	1,640	2,138
Other British Colonies ...	1,213	1,835
United States of America	116,294	97,847
Other Countries ... ..	416	943
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£ 123,082</b>	<b>106,104</b>

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The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1898 were arrowroot, valued at £1,241 ; and bulbs, valued at £1,195. **BERMUDA, 1898.**

The principal exports to the United States were onions, valued at £58,373, a decrease compared with the preceding year of £25,739 ; bulbs, valued at £15,452, an increase compared with the preceding year of £7,372 ; and potatoes, £19,955, an increase of £426.

*Value of Imports and Exports for last five years.*

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1894	283,952	94,334
1895	305,474	103,018
1896	304,895	101,063
1897	323,074	123,082
1898	351,274	106,104

**BOTANICAL STATION.**

A public garden has been acquired since the date of the last report, and a Superintendent obtained from England, who has made considerable progress in ascertaining by experiments the causes of the various diseases which now deteriorate our crops and in determining the means to be adopted to eradicate the diseases.

Special attention has been given to the cultivation of the lily, with good results.

The garden is now under cultivation, and it is hoped good results will be obtained from its establishment.

**SHIPPING ENTERED AND CLEARED.**

	1897.			1898.		
	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ... ..	291,993	8,961	300,954	399,904	9,847	409,751
Foreign ... ..	27,025	18,559	45,584	37,446	24,759	62,205
Total ... ..	319,018	27,520	346,538	437,350	34,606	471,956

BERMUDA  
1898.

SHIPPING ENTERED AND CLEARED FOR LAST  
FIVE YEARS.

Year.	British.	Foreign.
	Tons.	Tons.
1894	272,503	21,305
1895	286,695	74,988
1896	338,312	53,163
1897	300,954	45,584
1898	409,751	62,205

III.—LEGISLATION.

The regular Session of 1898 commenced on the 30th May and was not closed until after the commencement of 1899.

Of the 26 Acts passed during 1898 the most important are : “The Pilot Act” and “The Board of Works Act.”

The first-mentioned Act is a consolidating and amending Act.

Under the Board of Works Act, the constitution of the Board is altered from a Board of from five to seven members to a Board consisting of a Chairman and nine other members, one being selected from each parish.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Inspector of Schools furnishes the following returns :—

Twenty-one aided primary schools, with 1,215 scholars (636 boys and 579 girls); School fees, £485; Government contributions, £1,136.

Three aided secondary schools, with 104 scholars (73 boys and 31 girls); School fees, £330; Government contributions, £141.

In addition to three garrison schools and one dockyard school, there are about 30 other primary schools not receiving any aid from Colonial funds.

There are four secondary schools in the Colony receiving no Government grants.

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V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

BERMUDA,  
1898.

*Lunatic Asylum.*

Eight patients (five males and three females) were admitted into the Asylum in 1898 ; three were discharged and two died.

The daily average number of patients was 44.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year was 398, an increase compared with 1897 of 62, and a decrease compared with 1896 of 64.

The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 402, of whom 218 were summarily convicted, 69 discharged for want of evidence, 95 acquitted, and 20 committed for trial in the superior courts.

Of the 218 persons summarily convicted, 148 were fined, 11 imprisoned in lieu of fine or surety, 29 peremptorily imprisoned, 3 whipped, and 27 bound over to keep the peace.

Eighteen cases were tried in the superior courts during the year, and the convictions numbered 12. Of these, nine were for offences against the person and three for offences against property.

*Gaols.*

The number of persons confined in the gaols was 92 (87 males and 5 females). Of these, 41 were committed for safe custody till trial, or for want of security, and 51 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

*Population and Public Health.*

The Registrar-General estimated the resident civilian population of these Islands at the end of 1898 at 16,291, comprising 6,239 white (3,074 males and 3,165 females), and 10,052 coloured persons (4,635 males and 5,417 females).

Compared with the figures of the last census (taken in 1891), the total population shews an estimated increase of 1,278.

BERMUDA,  
1898.

The birth-rate was 32·8 and the death-rate 19·4 per 1,000. The infants registered as born out of wedlock were in the proportion of 15·5 to 100 births.

The average strength of the Imperial forces in Bermuda in 1898 was 3,200, and the deaths numbered 18, the rate of mortality thus being about 5·6 per 1,000. Of these deaths five were due to enteric fever.

The senior medical officer in charge of the Military forces in the command reports that the general health of the troops has been good. Average strength of the garrison 1,730; number of admissions to hospital, 865; ratio of admission per 1,000 of strength, 500; number of deaths, 11; average number of daily sick, 48·02; average sick time to each soldier, 10·13 days; average duration of each case of sickness, 20·26 days; average strength of officers, 63; cases of sickness, 18; deaths, none.

The principal Naval medical officer reports that the number of cases of disease and injury admitted into the Royal Naval Hospital was 311, four less than during 1897. The most prevalent diseases were venereal affections and their sequelæ, diseases of the glandular system and connective tissue, wounds and injuries, and diseases of the digestive system.

#### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The returns from the observatory at Prospect Camp, which is 151 feet above sea level, shew as follows:—

Mean atmospheric pressure for the year, 30·114 inches; mean temperature of the air, 70·4 degrees; mean relative humidity, 77·4 per cent.; mean hourly velocity of the wind, 8·2 miles; total amount of rainfall during the year, 48·19 inches; difference of rainfall from average of past eight years, 14·62 inches less; number of days during the year on which rain fell, 207.

#### IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

The Imperial expenditure returns are as follows:—

	£
Governor's salary ... ..	2,199
Military Establishments ... ..	135,850

Compared with 1897, the latter return shews an increase of £26,318.

The expenditure on the Naval establishments is not returned.



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The average strength of the Regular Military forces at Bermuda in 1898 was 1,730; and the average strength of the Naval forces 1,470. BERMUDA,  
1898

Return of Militia :—Two companies, viz.: The Bermuda Militia Artillery, 106 officers and men; and the Submarine Miners Engineer Militia, 43 officers and men.

Return of Volunteers :—Bermuda Rifle Volunteer Corps, 319 officers and men.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

*Civil Establishment.*

In May Mr. G. A. Bishop was appointed the first Superintendent of the newly-established Public Garden.

XI.—BOARD OF TRADE STATISTICS.

The usual table prepared for the Board of Trade statistics is given below :—

*Population.*

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1897	7,618	8,480	16,098
1898	7,709	8,582	16,291

	1897.	1898.
Gross amount of public revenue ... ..	£ 35,965	£ 38,923
Gross amount of public expenditure ... ..	35,704	39,102
Customs revenue ... ..	28,117	31,021
Public debt... ..	46,100	45,600

BERMUDA, 1898.	—	1897.	1898.
		Tons.	Tons.
Total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared ...		346,538	471,956
Tonnage of British vessels entered and cleared...		300,954	409,751
Tonnage of foreign vessels entered and cleared...		45,584	62,205
Tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared...		27,520	34,606
Tonnage of steam vessels entered and cleared...		319,018	437,350
		£	£
Value of total imports (including specie) ...		323,148	351,473
Value of total imports of gold and silver, bullion and specie (so far as can be stated).		74	199
Value of imports from the United Kingdom (including specie).		95,424	105,033
Value of total exports (including specie) ...		127,703	113,903
Value of total exports of gold and silver, bullion and specie (so far as can be stated).		4,621	7,799
Value of total exports to the United Kingdom (including specie).		3,519	4,041
Amount of expenditure from loans on public works.		nil.	nil.

I have, &c.,

ARCHIBALD ALISON,

*Colonial Secretary.*

To His Excellency

Lieut.-General G. Digby Barker, C.B.,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief,

Bermuda.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 254.

CEYLON.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 218.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*December 1898.*

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1898.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
225	Jamaica ... ..	1896-97
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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No. 254.

CEYLON,  
1897.

## CEYLON.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 218.)

GOVERNOR SIR J. WEST RIDGEWAY TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya,

Ceylon,

29th September 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the usual Report on the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1897.

I have, &amp;c.,

WEST RIDGEWAY.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF CEYLON FOR THE  
YEAR 1897.

The progress of the Island during the year under review was very marked. The revenue far exceeded that of any previous year, and notwithstanding a liberal policy in Public Works the expenditure was kept well within bounds. The Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty's reign was celebrated throughout the length and breadth of Ceylon with unbounded loyalty and fervour. The public health was good, and notwithstanding its proximity to, and frequent communications with, the continent of India, the Island is to be congratulated on its entire immunity from plague.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the Colony during the year 1897 amounted to Rs. 24,006,521, and the expenditure to Rs. 21,634,377.

The figures for the last two years were:—

—		Revenue.	Expenditure.
		Rs.	Rs.
1895	...	20,982,808	20,899,713
1896	...	21,974,573	21,237,850

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CEYLON,  
1897.

*Revenue.*

2. The above figures show an increase of Rs. 2,031,948 as compared with the revenue of 1896. The rise in the revenue of 1897, amounting to considerably more than *two million rupees*, to use a popular phrase, "broke all previous records." From 1889 there has been, except in 1893, a steady rise every year of—roughly speaking—one million rupees, the figures being in millions 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, while this year it reached the unprecedented figure 24 in millions of rupees. This satisfactory increase was in nowise due to increased taxation or any unexpected windfall, but to the general prosperity of the Island, the people of which, in the year under review, imported more goods, travelled more, bought more Crown land, ate and drank more, wrote more letters and telegrams, and in general flourished more than in any previous year, to the no small gain both of themselves and of the Government.

3. The increases and decreases in revenue under the various sub-heads are explained in detail in the volume.

*Expenditure.*

4. The total increase of expenditure as compared with 1896 was Rs. 396,518. A full explanation of the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of expenditure will be found in the Blue Book.

5. The increase in the expenditure is largely due to supplementary votes due to the damage done to the roads by the great floods of December 1896.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

6. The following table showing the assets and liabilities of the Government on January 1, 1898, as compared with January 1, 1897—

Assets.		Liabilities.					
1897.		1898.		1897.		1898.	
Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
18,909,457	40	18,223,789	60	18,241,051	53	15,250,340	94½
—	—	—	—	668,405	87*	2,973,448	65½*
—	—	—	—	18,909,457	40	18,223,789	60

\* Balance of assets over liabilities.

reveals the financial condition of the Colony as being sound, as the demand for Ceylon Stock also testifies.

CEYLON,  
1897.

## PUBLIC DEBT.

7. The sterling debt of the Colony raised in London amounted on the 31st December 1897 to £3,766,000, as against £3,519,503 on the same day in the preceding year.

8. The debt of the Colony, raised in silver in Colombo, amounted to Rs. 3,365,000, as compared with Rs. 3,290,595 on the same date in 1896.

## CUSTOMS AND SHIPPING.

9. The total value of the trade of the Colony for the year 1897 was Rs. 183,127,077, as against Rs. 175,629,442 in 1896, thus :—

—	1896.	1897.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports ... ..	87,788,085 0	98,027,473 95
Exports ... ..	87,841,357 0	85,099,693 45
Total ... ..	175,629,442 0	183,127,077 40

Or, deducting specie :—

—	1896.	1897.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports ... ..	77,083,587 29	85,730,156 92
Exports ... ..	75,859,423 81	83,229,304 45
Total ... ..	152,943,016 10	168,959,460 37

10. The gross Customs revenue for 1897 was Rs. 6,278,787.49, which, compared with 1896, shows an increase of Rs. 727,815.84.

CEYLON,  
1897.

11. The principal imports and exports compare with those of 1896 as follows :—

<i>Imports.</i>	1896.	1897.
Rice... .. bus.	7,594,413	8,723,750
Cotton goods ... .. Rs.	5,992,367	7,866,099
Metals and metalware ... .. "	2,680,771	4,114,072
Coal and coke ... .. tons.	373,452	414,912
Specie ... .. Rs.	10,631,809	12,200,172
<i>Exports.</i>		
Coffee ... .. cwts.	23,122	18,604
Cinchona ... .. lbs.	1,377,180	591,136
Tea ... .. "	110,095,193	114,466,318
Cacao ... .. cwts.	33,890	35,121
Cardamoms ... .. lbs.	463,233	551,463
Cocoanut products :—		
Coir stuffs ... .. cwts.	461,761	178,162
Cocoanut oil ... .. "	399,813	488,342
Copperzh ... .. "	50,257	115,466
Arrack ... .. gals.	117,376	109,598
Cinnamon ... .. lbs.	3,182,823	3,850,005
Citronella oil ... .. ozs.	19,492,669	18,853,637
Plumbago ... .. cwts.	361,061	379,415

12. The large increase in the import of cotton goods is an unmistakable proof of the prosperity of the Island, as evidenced by the purchasing power of the inhabitants. With regard to the exports, the most satisfactory feature is the increase in the quantity and value of the produce of the cocoanut palm exported. The value amounted to no less than Rs. 13,142,621, showing an increase over the previous year of nearly two million rupees.

The value of tea exported was Rs. 46,931,190.



*Shipping.*CEYLON,  
1897.

13. The shipping returns for the Island show a decrease in tonnage :—

1896.			1897.		
	No.	Tons.		No.	Tons.
Entered ...	3,953	3,523,323	Entered ...	3,771	3,367,415
Cleared ...	3,983	3,553,355	Cleared ...	3,785	3,337,332
Total ...	7,936	7,079,678	Total ...	7,556	6,704,747

The decrease is attributable to the effect of quarantine restrictions on the trade with the west coast of India.

## COLOMBO HARBOUR.

14. The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 1,509,874-33, and the total expenditure from the commencement of the work to Rs. 16,573,146-07.

15. The whole of the staging for the north-east breakwater was completed in November 1897, in twenty months from the date of commencement.

16. The usual series of observations made over the south-west breakwater showed that the condition of the work still remains eminently satisfactory. No displacement of any kind or undue settlement has to be recorded.

17. The depth of the harbour has been maintained. Soundings taken over the harbour, with a view to determine what change is taking place, show no appreciable silting action.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

18. The expenditure of the Public Works Department for 1897 amounted to Rs. 3,958,931-74, as compared with Rs. 3,437,862-47 in 1896.

19. The expenditure may be thus classified :—

	Rs.	c.
Personal Emoluments ...	393,612	14
Annually Recurrent Works ...	1,726,669	34
Extraordinary Public Works ...	1,683,673	2
Works chargeable to Loans ...	154,977	24
Total ...	3,958,931	74

Ceylon,  
1897.

20. 3,537·10 miles of roads were maintained in 1897 in good order, and the public buildings and works of the Colony were kept in satisfactory order.

21. The Colombo foreshore reclamation has been finished as far as the coaling ground; the new roads in the Province of Uva have been considerably advanced; the Deluwala flood-outlets and the Giant's Tank and Kanukkeni irrigation works in the Northern Province have made fair progress.

The Public Works and Irrigation Departments are being thoroughly re-organized.

#### SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

22. The expenditure of the Department in 1897 amounted to Rs. 480,280·97, as compared with Rs. 447,674 in 1896.

23. The total revenue from land sales was Rs. 491,452·85, or an increase of Rs. 48,363·97 over the revenue of 1896.

24. The area of land alienated by the Crown during 1897 was 22,446 acres and 31 perches. Of these, 4,695 acres 2 roods 7 perches were sold to Europeans at an average rate of Rs. 20·82, and 17,750 acres 2 roods 24 perches were purchased by natives at the rate of Rs. 30·61 per acre. The cultivation of the cocoanut palm, which was almost entirely in native hands, has been vigorously taken up by English capitalists, and will prove a valuable stand-by in case of the possible failure of tea.

25. The operations of the Department were unusually interesting, the Department having been entirely re-organized. Topographical and cadastral surveys on a considerable scale were undertaken during the year, and the work will greatly facilitate settlements under the Waste Lands Ordinance, Forest Administration, and Irrigation.

#### FOREST DEPARTMENT.

26. In settlement, extension, and improvement of forests, useful work was done during the year. Considerable areas situated in the Province of Sabaragamuwa were reserved, and some demarcation work was also done.

27. The value of sales of timber and other produce during the year amounts to Rs. 488,956·21.

#### RAILWAYS.

28. The receipts in 1897 amounted to Rs. 7,326,916, as compared with Rs. 6,777,832 in 1896, thus showing an increase of Rs. 290,074.

29. The expenditure, including new works, rolling stock, and loss on exchange, was Rs. 3,428,900, as compared with Rs. 3,087,790 during 1896.

30. The net earnings were Rs. 2,608,364, or 4·52 per cent. on the total capital cost of Rs. 57,734,069, an increase of 50 per cent. on the amount earned in 1896.

CEYLON,  
1897.

31. The mileage of railway open for traffic in 1897 was 297 miles. No further extensions were commenced.

POST OFFICE.

32. The total revenue was Rs. 979,435.

33. The actual expenditure was Rs. 838,275.

34. The deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank rose from Rs. 1,006,971 at the end of 1896 to Rs. 1,051,632 at the end of 1897, an indication of general prosperity and of a growing habit of thrift among the natives. The number of savings bank offices at the end of the year was 140.

LEGISLATION.

35. There was little legislation of interest during the year. The most important laws passed were :—

- (1.) The Waste Lands Ordinance ;
- (2.) The Joint Stock Banking Ordinance ;
- (3.) The Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund Ordinance ;
- (4.) The Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance.

VITAL STATISTICS.

36. The annexed table shows the births and deaths per thousand of the population for the year 1897, as compared with the average of the last ten years :—

—	1897.	Average.
Births to 1,000 persons living ...	36·9	31·1
Deaths to 1,000 persons living ...	23·2	26·6

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS.

37. The arrivals of immigrant coolies amounted to 84,330, and the departures to 14,123.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

38. The general health of the people was fairly satisfactory as regards infectious diseases.

39. There were 216 cases of cholera reported during 1897, of which 124 proved fatal.

CEYLON,  
1897.

40. There was no increase in mortality from small-pox : 35 cases with 3 deaths, as against 17 cases and 3 deaths in the previous year.

41. The following table shows the total number of persons vaccinated in 1896 and 1897 :—

1896	...	...	...	165,379
1897	...	...	...	148,933

The subjoined table gives the number of hospitals and dispensaries open in 1897 :—

Civil Hospitals, including Field or Parangi Hospitals	38
Medical Aid Hospitals	...
Immigrant Hospitals	...
Dispensaries (Civil and District)	...
Lying-in Hospital	...
Asylums	...

The death-rate of the total sick population in all the hospitals and asylums in 1897 was 9·79, as against 9·66 in 1896.

42. The expenditure of the Medical Department amounted to Rs. 1,077,151.

43. The cost of working the Medical Aid Ordinance appears as under :—

			Rs.	c.
Total cost in 1897	...	...	374,938	80
Receipts	...	...	127,114	27
Export Duty	...	...	107,880	37
Deficit...	...	...	139,944	16
Total	...	...	374,938	80

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

44. The following table shows the number of cases instituted and of persons charged and persons convicted before Police Magistrates during 1896 and 1897 :—

	Cases Instituted.	Persons Charged.	Persons Convicted.
1896	64,073	101,209	24,659
1897	67,514	101,910	26,004

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45. The following table shows the number of persons convicted and acquitted in the Superior Courts for the same period :—

CEYLON,  
1897.

	Superior Courts.	
	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1896	953	800
1897	1,360	1,353

46. The results of the trials for murder and culpable homicide not amounting to murder were as follows :—

Number of persons tried for murder	...	...	72
Number of persons convicted of murder	...	...	38
Number of persons convicted of culpable homicide	...	...	45
Number of persons acquitted	...	...	9

#### PRISONS.

47. The total number of admissions for 1897 shows an increase of 1,713 when compared with those for 1896. The daily average, excluding road defaulters, increased from 1,958 in 1896 to 2,178 in 1897.

48. The expenditure for the years 1896 and 1897 was as under :—

	Rs.
1896 ... ..	426,552
1897 ... ..	463,427

49. The health of the prisoners in 1897 was very satisfactory. The daily average of sick was 8.05 per cent., against a little less than 10 per cent. in the preceding year.

#### EDUCATION.

50. During the year under review there was an increase of 8,848 scholars in schools reporting to the Instruction Department, the total number in 1897 being 184,506 as against 175,658 in 1896.

CEYLON,  
1897.

51. The proportion which the number of children attending school bears to the population of the several provinces for 1896 and 1897 is shown in the following table :—

Province.	1896.	1897.
Western ... ..	1 in 11	1 in 10
Central ... ..	1 in 25	1 in 25
Northern ... ..	1 in 12	1 in 10
Southern ... ..	1 in 16	1 in 17
Eastern ... ..	1 in 17	1 in 17
North-Western ... ..	1 in 25	1 in 23
North-Central ... ..	1 in 36	1 in 28
Uva ... ..	1 in 52	1 in 49
Sabaragamuwa ... ..	1 in 33	1 in 33
Average ... ..	1 in 17	1 in 16

52. The annexed table gives the comparative returns of attendance in Government, grant-in-aid, and unaided schools for 1896 and 1897 :—

	Number of Schools in		Total Scholars in	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
Government Schools ...	474	474	44,538	45,113
Grant-in-Aid Schools ...	1,130	1,172	94,400	102,485
Unaided Private Schools ...	2,268	2,331	36,720	36,908
Total ...	3,872	3,977	175,658	184,506

53. The sphere of usefulness and the accommodation of the Technical School, which was established in 1893, were largely extended. The area of employment has been enlarged, and embraces prospects in the Public Works, Survey, Railway, and Telegraph Departments.

54. The expenditure on education during 1897 was Rs. 716,766.

E. NOEL WALKER,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Colombo,

September 27th, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 274.

C E Y L O N .

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 254.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*October, 1899.*

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**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
247	Grenada ... ..	1897
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"
265	St. Helena ... ..	"
266	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
267	St. Lucia ... ..	"
268	Fiji ... ..	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
270	Malta ... ..	"
271	Gold Coast ... ..	"
272	Trinidad ... ..	"
273	Sierra Leone ... ..	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.



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No. 274.

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CEYLON  
1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 254.)

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR E. NOEL WALKER to  
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Queen's House, Colombo,  
Ceylon,

11th August 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the usual Report on the Blue Book of Ceylon for the year 1898, prepared by Mr. J. J. Thorburn, the second Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

E. NOEL WALKER.

REPORT ON THE CEYLON BLUE BOOK OF 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

*Revenue.*

The record revenue of 1897 was handsomely surpassed by that of 1898, the figures being Rs. 25,138,669·26 against Rs. 24,006,521·83½. The estimated revenue for 1898 was realized, with Rs. 1,727,669·26 to spare.

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3. Under each head there is an increase, except in the case of "Miscellaneous," which was unduly swelled in 1897 by an exceptional item. If this item be left out of consideration miscellaneous receipts show an increase also, and there is nothing to mar the gratifying series of progressive figures.

CEYLON,  
1898.  
—

4. The "Customs" figures show a satisfactory increase in imports and exports and contain a new item in the export duty on arrack levied under Ordinance No. 7 of 1898.

5. "Port and Harbour Dues" testify to the greater number and tonnage of steamers calling at Colombo; "Licenses, Excise, &c.," show increased consumption of salt and arrack—a combination which might in some circumstances indicate cause and effect; "Post and Telegraphs" disclose a phenomenal increase in telegraph receipts, due to the success of the 25-cent telegram; "Railways" continue to show enhanced returns; and "Land Sales" a greater extent of land sold. The year was one of steady and maintained progress unaided by any windfall or adventitious revenue.

*Expenditure.*

6. The expenditure for 1898 was Rs. 22,843,851.89, and exceeded that of any previous year.

7. The comparative statement of the expenditure of 1897 and 1898 is as follows :—

Heads of Service.	1897.		1898.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt ... ..	2,860,295	51	2,808,860	72	—		51,434	79
2. Pensions ... ..	1,013,966	30	1,032,154	39	18,188	9	—	
3. His Excellency the Governor ... ..	123,950	68	121,770	5	—		2,180	63
3a. Civil Service ... ..	—		666,281	9	666,281	9	—	
4. Secretariat ... ..	268,528	34	198,587	91	—		69,940	43
5. Audit Office ... ..	69,351	17	47,465	42	—		21,885	75
6. Treasury ... ..	56,724	45	39,337	97	—		17,386	48
7. Provincial Administration ... ..	1,100,479	6	974,979	5	—		125,500	1
8. Survey Department ... ..	467,576	23	567,796	98	100,220	75	—	
9. Customs Department ... ..	154,988	54	116,037	5	—		39,951	49
10. Port and Marine Department, Colombo ... ..	237,986	55	259,135	36	21,148	81	—	
11. Port and Marine Department other than Colombo ... ..	37,085	2	38,691	76	1,606	74	—	
12. Botanic Gardens... ..	51,297	7	51,726	6	428	99	—	
13. Colombo Museum ... ..	22,932	53	23,911	70	979	17	—	

30831-5	14	Legal Departments :—									
		Supreme Court	...	...	...	...	...	130,280 92	127,693 32	—	2,587 66
		Attorney-General	...	...	...	...	...	56,894 33	56,929 69	535 36	—
		Solicitor-General	...	...	...	...	...	12,421 54	12,001 25	—	420 29
		District Courts	...	...	...	...	...	245,620 49	148,052 35	—	97,568 14
		Courts of Requests and Police Courts	...	...	...	...	...	195,963 22	116,861 39	—	79,101 83
		Registration of Lands	...	...	...	...	...	86,808 91	77,411 72	—	9,397 19
		Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	80,182 62	97,487 13	17,304 51	—
		Fiscals	...	...	...	...	...	196,481 14	192,906 15	—	3,574 99
	Loan Board	...	...	...	...	...	5,731 99	5,695 54	—	36 45	
	15.	Police	...	...	...	...	...	697,652 11	710,953 15	13,401 4	—
	16.	Prisons	...	...	...	...	...	477,388 56	517,157 28	39,768 72	—
	17.	Medical Department	...	...	...	...	...	348,642 16	366,414 65	17,872 49	—
	18.	Hospitals and Dispensaries	...	...	...	...	...	977,340 64	1,138,644 74	161,304 10	—
	19.	Ecclesiastical	...	...	...	...	...	51,463 86	49,885 0	—	1,628 80
	20.	Education...	...	...	...	...	...	716,766 71	738,122 5	21,355 34	—
7 A	21.	Transport	...	...	...	...	...	20,387 43	20,481 46	94 3	—

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Comparative statement of the expenditure of 1897 and 1898--*continued.*

Heads of Service.	1897.		1898.		Increase.		Decrease	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
22. Exchange ... ..	241,039	75	197,751	54	—		44,188	21
23. Military Expenditure ... ..	1,824,602	5	1,900,976	23	76,374	18	—	
24. Miscellaneous Services ... ..	824,491	34	827,513	35	3,022	1	—	
25. Colonial Store ... ..	80,284	46	71,372	88	—		8,911	58
26. Crown Agents, London ... ..	2,113	30	2,733	89	620	59	—	
27. Forests ... ..	481,566	89	501,089	82	19,522	93	—	
28. Post Offices and Telegraphs ... ..	835,752	79	933,365	70	97,612	91	—	
29. Railway Department ... ..	3,333,326	14	3,635,279	98	301,953	84	—	
30. Public Works Department ... ..	372,891	79	387,609	12	14,717	33	—	
31. Public Works Annually Recurrent ... ..	1,519,439	16	1,643,771	62	124,332	46	—	
32. Public Works Extraordinary ... ..	1,353,482	19	1,420,005	38	66,523	19	—	
Total ... ..	21,634,377	94	22,843,851	89	1,785,168	67	575,694	72
					Deduct Decrease ...	575,694	72	
					Net Increase ... ..	1,209,473	95	

8. The Survey Department, Hospitals and Dispensaries, the Post Office, Railway, and Public Works met with the greatest measure of success in their claims for a share of the good things available.

9. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years is tabulated in the statement given below :—

—	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
Revenue ... ..	19,485,310	91½	20,982,808	78	21,974,573	11½	24,006,521	83½	25,138,669	26
Expenditure ... ..	20,342,899	31°	20,899,713	59	21,237,859	66	21,634,377	94	22,843,851	89
Expenditure from Surplus Funds ... ..	729,920	49	364,648	38	37,095	28	5,092	64	1,668	88
Expenditure from Balances of Votes of previous years.	289,401	70	251,905	23	—		—		—	

\* The deficit in 1894 was met from Surplus Revenue.

10. The expenditure, while increasing with the revenue, has done so at a slower pace, the increase of 1898 over 1894 being but 2½ million rupees, while the revenue in the same period has risen by over 5½ million.

11. The expenditure from surplus funds, which was Rs. 729,920·49 in 1894, fell to Rs. 1,688·88 in 1898.

#### (B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

There were no important changes in taxation during the year.

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1898.

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CEYLON,  
1898.

## (C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

1. The total assets on the 1st January, 1899, were Rs. 21,340,061·51 and the liabilities Rs. 16,005,932·70½, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of Rs. 5,334,128·79½, against which, however, must be set off the amount to be appropriated for the Northern Railway extension (Rs. 2,500,000) and the amount appropriated to meet the excess of estimated expenditure over estimated revenue for 1899 (Rs. 127,600), which reduces the excess to Rs. 2,706,528·79½.

2. On the 1st January, 1898, the excess of assets over liabilities was Rs. 2,973,448·65½.

## (D.) PUBLIC DEBT, SHOWING PROVISION FOR PAYMENT.

The balance due by the Colony on its sterling debt raised in London amounted on December 31st, 1898, to £3,470,821 6s. 3d., while the balance on the debt raised locally in silver was Rs. 3,266,212·18. The total debt is thus less than three years' revenue.

## (E.) CURRENCY.

Legal tender currency consists of Ceylon Government notes of Rs. 100, Rs. 50, Rs. 10, and Rs. 5, the Indian rupee with a subsidiary silver coinage of 50-cent, 25-cent, and 10-cent pieces, and a copper coinage of 5-cent, 1-cent, ½-cent, and ¼-cent pieces.

About half of the face value of the paper issued is held in specie by the Currency Commissioners, the remaining moiety being invested in Indian Government paper and other approved securities:—

—	Value.	
<i>Circulation.</i>		Rs.    c.
Currency notes in circulation on December 31st, 1898.	—	10,598,700    0
<i>Reserve.</i>	In Silver.	In Securities.
	Rs.    c.	Rs.    c.
By silver in the vault (8 cents copper) ...	4,984,777    48	—
By investments made by the Crown Agents	—	2,795,318    8
By investments made in Indian Government paper.	—	2,818,604    44
	4,984,777    48	5,613,922    52
Total ... ..	Rs 10,598,700	

4. The Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., the Bank of Madras, the National Bank of India, Ltd., and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation do business in the Colony.



(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC BOARDS.

Name of Municipality.	Revenue or Expenditure.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Total.
Colombo ... ..	Revenue ... ..	Rs. c. 689,622 79	Rs. c. 726,554 31	Rs. c. 786,597 49	Rs. c. 834,546 17	Rs. c. 922,189 17	Rs. c. 3,959,509 93
	Loans ... ..	—	—	—	—	50,000 0	50,000 0
	Expenditure ... ..	630,337 6	655,372 59	704,856 69	798,423 1	837,809 72	3,626,799 7
Kandy ... ..	Revenue ... ..	117,413 31	114,884 84	116,854 57	125,414 90	131,379 34	605,946 96
	Loans ... ..	—	—	—	40,000 0	103,000 0	143,000 0
	Expenditure ... ..	109,136 38	114,136 22	119,142 62	119,217 71	166,774 19	628,407 12
Galle ... ..	Revenue ... ..	77,005 28	70,723 47	68,724 98	71,080 0	80,797 16	368,330 89
	Loans ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Expenditure ... ..	73,417 68	75,572 15	66,812 43	79,321 69	83,164 72	378,288 67

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(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC BOARDS—*continued.*

Name of Local Board.	Revenue or Expenditure.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Total.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Kurunegala ... ..	Revenue ... ..	13,975 34	15,640 81	16,402 67	21,226 98	16,007 82	83,253 62
	Expenditure ... ..	15,126 3	15,854 3	17,407 12	17,424 27	19,275 19	85,086 64
Puttalam ... ..	Revenue ... ..	10,237 85	10,121 88	9,351 27	9,212 54	11,275 44	50,198 98
	Expenditure ... ..	9,436 46	9,787 78	8,787 73	10,047 90	11,889 88	49,949 75
Chilaw ... ..	Revenue ... ..	7,860 4	8,090 54	7,958 66	8,333 22	9,533 91	41,776 37
	Expenditure ... ..	7,684 60	8,446 64	7,329 21	8,620 87	10,146 65	42,227 97
Matale ... ..	Revenue ... ..	6,711 11	7,873 24	7,221 17	8,055 76	8,275 37	38,146 65
	Expenditure ... ..	5,423 27	9,194 45	6,935 80	8,832 35	7,425 8	37,810 95
Gampola ... ..	Revenue ... ..	6,174 57	4,086 29	7,106 34	8,704 65	4,743 51	30,815 36
	Expenditure ... ..	4,369 98	5,028 1	7,664 25	8,490 36	4,189 22	29,741 82
Nawalapitiya ... ..	Revenue ... ..	Established in April 1896.		2,829 78	4,323 81	7,107 66	14,261 25
	Expenditure ... ..			2,023 20	2,148 88	4,822 94	8,995 2

Badulla ... ..	Revenue ... ..	8,733 22	11,918 59	11,884 75	11,040 43	13,717 29	57,294 28
	Loans ... ..	15,200 0	4,000 0	—	3,500 0	—	—
	Expenditure ... ..	19,877 79	20,153 23	13,150 94	13,643 2	11,800 50	78,625 48
Matara ... ..	Revenue ... ..	14,841 32	15,002 57	15,267 92	13,559 77	14,466 86	74,987 58
	Loans ... ..	2,000 0	—	—	—	—	—
	Expenditure ... ..	16,051 9	15,435 15	13,533 58	13,256 26	12,025 46	70,301 54
Ratnapura... ..	Revenue ... ..	8,468 51	12,918 27	7,738 8	8,205 99	9,406 29	46,737 14
	Loans ... ..	5,500 0	—	—	—	—	—
	Expenditure ... ..	8,147 3	12,322 54	7,172 85	7,172 48	8,275 26	43,090 16
Kegalla ... ..	Revenue ... ..	Established in 1895.	740 67	4,406 96	3,787 67	3,574 74	12,510 4
	Expenditure ... ..		159 0	3,412 43	3,505 55	4,498 86	11,575 84
Batticaloa... ..	Revenue ... ..	10,274 30	13,974 30	15,323 19	14,315 32	17,124 88	71,011 99
	Loans ... ..	—	—	—	—	3,000 0	—
	Expenditure ... ..	10,583 86	14,208 56	15,328 94	13,960 15	16,865 4	70,946 55
Trincomalee ... ..	Revenue ... ..	13,105 16	12,453 54	12,798 23	13,355 48	13,184 15	64,896 56
	Loans ... ..	3,000 0	3,000 0	2,000 0	—	—	—
	Expenditure ... ..	10,724 58	11,052 86	13,472 15	15,325 89	12,754 96	68,330 44

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(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC BOARDS—*continued*.

Name of Local Board.	Revenue or Expenditure.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Total.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Negombo ... ..	{ Revenue ... ..	21,918 94	22,225 21	23,453 96	23,647 59	25,852 32	117,098 2
	{ Loans ... ..	—	—	12,000 0	—	—	—
	{ Expenditure ...	23,777 77	22,415 91	31,813 11	21,071 12	25,963 71	125,041 62
Kalutara ... ..	{ Revenue ... ..	16,128 72	12,792 38	15,637 63	13,182 53	19,587 80	77,329 6
	{ Expenditure ...	12,646 78	14,728 5	13,275 31	15,807 61	13,192 40	67,650 15
Nuwar: Eliya (Board of Improvement from 1897).	{ Revenue ... ..	27,234 25	17,917 25	23,944 12	20,543 94	22,486 6	112,125 62
	{ Expenditure ...	24,720 62	17,515 92	21,632 78	19,125 28	20,472 68	103,467 28

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(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS, SHOWING PROVISION FOR PAYMENT.

CEYLON,  
1898.

1. The debts of the various Local Boards of the Colony at the end of the year were :—

—	Rs. c.	Rs.
Puttalam ... ..	6,160 0	on the original loan of 7,000
Badulla ... ..	{ 26,163 92 800 0 }	do. 28,480 do. 1,000
Ratnapura ... ..	3,661 44	do. 5,500
Batticaloa ... ..	{ 17,600 0 } { 2,940 0 }	do. { 20,000 3,000 }
Trincomalee ... ..	7,420 0	do. 8,000
Negombo ... ..	10,000 2	do. 12,000
Nuwara Eliya (Board of Improvement since 1897)	{ 12,880 0 } { 4,800 0 } { 78,061 0 } { 9,000 0 }	do. { 14,000 6,000 78,061 9,000 }

2. These loans are repayable from the general revenue of the Boards, generally at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the original loan.

3. Full details as to the method of repayment in each case are given in the Blue Book return.

4. Municipalities are indebted as follows :—

—	Rs. c.	Rs.
Kandy ... ..	200,492 24	on the original loan of 250,000
Galle ... ..	63,939 88	do. 70,000

5. These loans are secured on the water-rates.

6. Colombo has no debt.

Ceylon  
1898.

## II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

### (A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

#### *Imports.*

1. The total imports and exports for the last five years were :—

—			Imports.		Exports.	
			Rs.	c.	Rs.	c.
1894	...	...	68,682,011	16	78,939,599	2
1895	...	...	76,543,473	23	84,496,873	40
1896	...	...	77,083,587	29	85,352,428	81
1897	...	...	85,730,156	92	83,229,303	45
1898	...	...	87,525,034	97	93,801,890	13

2. The value of the imports for 1898, including specie (Rs. 10,368,023·75), aggregated Rs. 97,893,058·72.

3. The value of the imports imported into each province was—

			Rs.	c.
Western Province	...	...	79,490,499	39
Northern Province	...	...	3,347,691	6
Southern Province	...	...	3,960,565	42
Eastern Province	...	...	726,279	10
Total	...	...	87,525,034	97

4. Arms and ammunition accounted for Rs. 52,199·17 against Rs. 28,791·56, showing an increase of Rs. 23,407·61; the value of cotton manufactures imported fell from Rs. 6,866,099·65 in 1897 to Rs. 6,856,972·81 in 1898, the duty recovered showing a diminution of Rs. 4,710·75. The decrease, which was in unbleached goods, occurred in imports from British Colonies and foreign countries, which supplied Rs. 396,676·73 worth of goods less than in 1897. On the other hand, the imports from the United Kingdom rose by Rs. 387,549·89. The duty collected on

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chemicals, dye stuffs, and tanning substances fell by Rs. 1,619·19 as against the preceding year, Rs. 1,273 of the deficit being due to smaller imports of cutch and gambier. The activity now prevailing in the building trade was demonstrated by an increase in the import of cement of 4,335 tons. Colombo imported 414,551 tons of coal and Galle 5,423 tons, against a total of 414,912 tons in 1897, made up of 411,731 tons for Colombo and 3,181 tons for Galle. The imports of Indian coal rose from 101,349 tons to 159,310 tons, due doubtless to the increasing use of Indian coal on the railway. Kerosine oil showed an increase of 143,591 gallons imported and 245,050 gallons entered for home consumption, with consequent increases of duty of Rs. 89,744·37 and Rs. 61,509·97 respectively. Food articles showed a general increase. Of rice 8,049,359 bushels were cleared for home consumption and brought in duty to the extent of Rs. 2,615,323·95, against Rs. 300,510·92 collected on other grain of all sorts. Live stock imported rose in value by Rs. 25,529, while machinery showed a decrease of Rs. 175,187·56, due probably to the wants of the tea factories having been supplied. The duty on malt liquor rose by Rs. 2,301·17 to Rs. 39,853·63; metals and metalware fell in value by Rs. 77,904·07, galvanized iron, hoop iron, and tin plates showing a considerable falling off, which is attributable to an overstocked market. Manures rose in value by Rs. 187,061·18, and oils (excluding kerosine) by Rs. 22,538·61. The import of gingelly oil more than doubled the import of 1897, but no definite reason can be assigned for this abnormal increase. Opium rose by 1,025 lb., poonac by 20,169 cwt., and the value of spices imported by Rs. 46,278·31. Spirits showed a decrease in value of Rs. 58,081·22, though an increase of 11,000 gallons in quantity. The chief fall was in the value of whisky, the poor white man's beverage. Sugar, on the other hand, showed an increase of 10 per cent. in the quantity imported. Specie showed a decrease of nearly two million rupees, the deficit being in the import of silver from India, due presumably to the tightness of money there. Silk manufactures rose in value, while tobacco and cigars declined. The value of woollen manufactures fell by Rs. 64,699·10, and of wines by Rs. 22,764.

CEYLON,  
1898.

*Exports.*

5. The value of exports in 1898 amounted to Rs. 95,097,692·13, distributed under the following heads:—

	Rs.	c.
Ceylon produce ... ..	83,288,352	57
Imports re-exported ... ..	788,467	56
Specie ... ..	1,295,802	0
Coal for use of steamers ... ..	9,725,070	0
Total ... ..	95,097,692	13

CEYLON,  
1898.

6. Ceylon produce exported increased by Rs. 7,012,878·95, aided by the phenomenal advance in the value of plumbago and larger exports of copperah, cacao, and tea. Imports exported dwindled by Rs. 321,421·97 owing to quarantine regulations necessitated by the occurrence of plague in Bombay and Calcutta, which prevented the free intercourse with the Colony of vessels less than ten days out from an infected port. The value of coal exported for use of steamers rose by Rs. 1,700,000, while specie declined by about Rs. 500,000.

7. The value of exports to the United Kingdom rose from Rs. 51,274,207·12 to Rs. 52,530,107·04. Exports to British Colonies fell from Rs. 17,919,544·09 to Rs. 16,218,067·73, while exports to foreign countries rose from Rs. 8,480,321·64 to Rs. 16,624,447·36, the increase being due to the institution of direct lines of steamers to the United States and Russia. This is shown by the fact that the direct export of tea to those countries rose by 2,084,437 lb. and 1,093,896 lb. respectively, while the total direct imports increased in the case of Russia to almost ten-fold and in the case of the United States to nearly two-fold the figures of the previous year. Copperah showed a rise in export from 50,000 cwt. to 115,000 cwt., and citronella oil exports increased by one-third. The export of tea rose from 114,466,318 lb. to 122,395,518 lb.

8. It is to be noted that in the Blue Book return foreign goods coming through London and transhipped on to a British vessel have been classified as goods from the United Kingdom; and *vice versâ*, tea shipped from Ceylon to America or Russia-in-Asia *via* China is classified as an export to China.

#### (B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

1. The principal mining industry is plumbago, the profits arising from which are now very large. Mining operations are not at present carried on on scientific principles, many of the smaller mines, or rather pits, being abandoned if water is met with. With the rise in value of this product and the advice which a geological expert, lent by the Indian Government, will be able to give, improved methods of mining will doubtless be followed ere long. The industry is now flourishing, but great development may be expected, and capitalists are evincing an eager desire to obtain land for prospecting purposes.

2. In Sabaragamuwa gem mining is carried on in 247 pits, but it is not easy to ascertain the profits arising from this pursuit.



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3. Manufactures embrace cloth, salt, oil, the numerous products of the cocoanut (such as copperah, coir, &c.), bricks and tiles, baskets, tobacco, jewellery, carpentry, &c.

CEYLON,  
1898.

4. The manufacture of salt is controlled by the Government, which has a monopoly of the sale.

5. The products of the cocoanut represent a large proportion of the total manufactures, and as the area under cocoanuts increases, and more European capital is invested in the industry, these products are likely to secure more attention in their manufacture, which is at present carried on in a somewhat primitive style.

6. *Fisheries.*—In the Northern, Eastern, and North-Western Provinces the fisheries are of great importance; but much could be done to develop them were capital invested in good fish-curing establishments, the produce of native curing yards leaving much to be desired at present. In the Northern Province the fisheries include chank and bêche-de-mer fisheries, and also the pearl fishery, which has not been held for some years past owing to a dearth of oysters.

7. It is anticipated that the extension of the railway to the north will materially aid in developing these fisheries.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

1. The chief agricultural products are paddy, tea, cocoanuts, cacao, and tobacco.

2. The area under tea and cocoanuts continues to expand, and the cultivation of the latter yields an excellent return to those who can wait, the price realized being from Rs. 30 to 40 per 1,000 nuts, while little expenditure is required after the trees have come into bearing.

3. Cacao is also a profitable product, but has unfortunately a remarkable attraction for thieves, as the pods are easily removed from the bushes.

4. Tobacco, which does well in the Northern, Eastern, and North-Western Provinces, is a somewhat delicate plant. Although the quality is good, the local growers have not yet succeeded in having it manufactured to meet the taste of the average European.

CEYLON,  
1898.

5. The hope that india-rubber might soon be added to the list of staple products has unfortunately been falsified.

6. *Botanical Stations.*—Of these the chief is at Peradeniya, where much useful work is done in introducing new plants and by publication of circulars containing instructions for the cure or prevention of disease and blight, &c., and for the identification of the numerous insect pests which are the bane of the cultivator. There is also a garden at Hakgala and some smaller experimental gardens in various parts of the Island. The latter have proved useful as centres from which to supply the villagers with new plants of economic value, and their influence is shown by the numerous village horticultural shows which have been held in recent years.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE  
OF LAND.

1. In 1898, 16,279 acres of land were alienated by sale, by grant at half the improved value, or by certificate against the right of the Crown.

2. In addition, 4,258 acres were sold under Sir Henry Ward's Minute, *i.e.*, on payment of one-fourth the purchase money and fees, the balance three-fourths being payable in three annual instalments. This easy mode of sale is confined to irrigable lands.

3. The 16,279 acres alienated realized Rs. 496,549, or say Rs. 30·50 per acre.

4. It is satisfactory to note that while more land was sold than in 1898 fewer plans had to be supplied by the Survey Department, as a good many blocks which had been surveyed in former years were disposed of.

5. The price realized for land has risen and will probably rise higher, and in the districts where plumbago is known to exist a keen competition may be expected in view of the abnormal increase in the value of that mineral.

6. The Survey Department has been very fully occupied in surveying land in connection with settlements under the Waste Lands Ordinance, with forest demarcations, and irrigation work.

7. Irrigation surveys of considerable importance were carried out in the Eastern Province, where the restoration of several large and important schemes is engaging the attention of the Central Irrigation Board.

(E.) SHIPPING.

1. The shipping returns for the Island show a decrease of 459 in the number of vessels and an increase of 377,894 tons in tonnage:—

—				1897.		1898.	
Entered	...	...	...	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
				3,771	3,367,415	3,551	3,605,706
Cleared	...	...	...	3,785	3,337,332	3,546	3,476,935
				7,556	6,704,747	7,097	7,082,641

2. The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels entered inwards and cleared outwards in 1898, exclusive of those calling to coal and for orders at Colombo and Galle, are shown below:—

—				Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
				No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Colombo	...	{	Inwards	1,451	2,914,328	590	61,950	2,041	2,976,278
			Outwards	1,292	2,518,256	601	63,203	1,893	2,581,459
		Total	...	2,743	5,432,584	1,191	125,153	3,934	5,557,737
Galle	...	{	Inwards	141	265,382	17	1,135	158	266,517
			Outwards	136	265,070	17	1,135	153	266,205
		Total	...	277	530,452	34	2,270	311	532,722

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CEYLON,  
1898.

3. The number of steamers calling at Colombo rose by 8 and the sailing ships decreased by 87, while 57 fewer steamers and 16 fewer sailing vessels put in at Galle as compared with 1897.

4. The decreases are due partly to the effect of precautionary measures against plague, but principally to the tendency to augment the tonnage of modern steamers. This tendency is well shown at (a) in the following table.

5. The nationality of vessels inwards and outwards during the year 1898 for the Island is thus made up :—

—	Entered Inwards.		Cleared Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ... ..	1,486	2,707,068	1,462	2,591,290
Colonial ... ..	1,776	169,075	1,800	171,243
American ... ..	1	2,096	1	2,096
Austrian ... ..	23	54,563	23	54,563
French ... ..	89	202,003	88	200,276
German ... ..	88	281,841	86	274,920
Japanese ... ..	28	90,040	27	84,352
Maldivian ... ..	28	1,543	28	1,398
Russian ... ..	21	73,663	20	72,783
Danish ... ..	1	2,626	1	2,626
Dutch ... ..	2	3,022	2	3,022
Spanish ... ..	7	17,663	7	17,663
Norwegian... ..	1	503	1	503

(a) Compared with the years 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897, the result inwards and outwards is as follows :—

*Inwards.*

1894.—A decrease of 300 vessels, but an increase of 395,499 tons.

1895.—A decrease of 291 vessels, but an increase of 274,936 tons.

1896.—A decrease of 402 vessels, but an increase of 79,383 tons.

1897.—A decrease of 220 vessels, but an increase of 238,291 tons.

*Outwards.*

1894.—A decrease of 277 vessels, but an increase of 321,289 tons.

1895.—A decrease of 280 vessels, but an increase of 274,936 tons.

1896.—A decrease of 437 vessels, and a decrease of 76,420 tons.

1897.—A decrease of 239 vessels, but an increase of 139,603 tons.

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### III.—LEGISLATION.

CEYLON,  
1898.

The most important Ordinances passed were No. 2 of 1898, by which the military contribution payable by the Colony was fixed at  $9\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the Colonial revenue; No. 3 of 1898, giving police magistrates in certain cases power to prohibit convicted persons from carrying knives without a license; No. 7 of 1898, putting an export duty on arrack; No. 9 of 1898, limiting the liability of Government pilots; No. 10 of 1898, regulating the branding, sale, and transfer of cattle; No. 15 of 1898, consolidating and amending the procedure of the Courts of Criminal Judicature; No. 19 of 1898, securing in certain cases the right of property in telegraphic press messages.

### IV.—EDUCATION.

#### PRIMARY EDUCATION: MAIN FEATURES AND NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

1. The total number of scholars in Ceylon was 185,035, or 6 per cent. of the total population.
2. The total number of Government schools was 479 with 46,279 scholars, showing an increase of 4 schools and 1,166 scholars.
3. There were 1,220 grant-in-aid schools with 103,951 scholars, and 2,330 unaided schools with an attendance of 34,805.
4. The cost to Government of each scholar was Rs. 5.32 in Government schools and Rs. 3.51 in grant-in-aid schools.
5. The cost of each pupil in the Royal College was Rs. 69.60, in the Technical College Rs. 307.06, in the School of Agriculture Rs. 675.25, and in grant-in-aid industrial schools Rs. 25.89.
6. Of the Government schools, 4 were English, 8 English primary and middle, and 467 vernacular.
7. Of the grant-in-aid schools, 54 were English, 72 English primary and middle, and 1,094 vernacular.
8. Higher instruction is provided in the Royal College at Colombo and the Technical College. In the latter instruction is given in civil engineering, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering.

CEYLON  
1898.

9. The University Scholarship examination and the Cambridge local examinations are the chief tests of the highest work of the schools.

10. There were 25 industrial schools in receipt of Government aid, with an attendance of 1,193.

11. In Colombo there is a School of Agriculture, to which is attached the Government dairy.

12. It has now been arranged to assign a certain number of appointments in Government Departments to students at the Technical College, but the scheme has not yet come into full operation.

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## V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

### (A.) HOSPITALS AND (B.) ASYLUMS.

1. During the year 64 hospitals and asylums were in operation.

2. In the civil and lying-in hospitals 34,352 patients were treated, in the field hospitals 3,643, in the immigrant hospitals 2,473, and in the district hospitals 12,134.

3. The Lunatic Asylum at Colombo received 104 patients during the year, and the Leper Asylum 127.

4. In all 53,564 patients were treated, of whom 5,982 died.

### (C.) POOR HOUSES.

There are no poor houses in Ceylon. The Government grants a monthly dole to a number of deserving paupers, and the Friend-in-Need Society relieves many others.

### (D.) REFORMATORIES.

The industrial school at Maggona serves as a reformatory for juvenile offenders.

### (E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

1. The Ceylon Savings Bank, Colombo, had 22,156 depositors, with a sum of Rs. 3,374,362 to their credit. The deposits for the year were Rs. 1,341,737.

2. The Post Office Savings Bank had 43,003 depositors, with Rs. 1,099,019·87 to their credit. During the year Rs. 693,181·25 was deposited.

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## VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

CEYLON,  
1898.

## (A.) POLICE.

1. The strength of the force was 1,691, including officers, and cost Rs. 690,091-22. During the year a Harbour Police was established at Galle to enforce quarantine and to isolate the plague hospital if necessary.
2. In a few cases punitive police stations were established temporarily under Ordinance No. 15 of 1896.
3. Crime statistics supplied by the police point to a decrease of crime in all provinces except the Northern and Eastern, in both of which there was a slight increase of thefts of cattle and prædial produce.
4. The total number of murders and homicides (125) was the lowest within the last five years.
5. Cases of grievous hurt fell from 657 in 1897 to 500 in 1898.
6. Burglaries decreased from 719 to 638.
7. There were 17 convictions for breaches of plague regulations.

## (B.) PRISONS.

1. The total admissions into jail were 7,051, against 7,001 in the preceding year.
2. The proportion of convictions and commitments for trial to offences reported was as follows:—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.
Offences reported... ..	18,071	20,800	15,328
Convictions ... ..	9,397	13,023	10,674

and shows a satisfactory advance.

3. The daily average in prison of convicted persons was 2,524.
4. The number of road defaulters imprisoned was only 379 against 500 in 1897, a gratifying feature in the prison report. Of these 379, 119 were released on paying the usual fine of Rs. 10 in default of payment of which they had been incarcerated. Of the balance (260) 20 were discharged on medical certificate and 30 pardoned.

CEYLON,  
1898.

5. Under the Habitual Criminals' Ordinance 157 were convicted, against 73 in 1897.
6. There were 10 escapes from jail, but the escaped prisoner was in every instance recaptured.
7. The deaths in jail were 111, against 89 in 1897.
8. The health of the prisoners in Welikada and Mutwal was not quite satisfactory, pneumonia being somewhat prevalent.
9. Eighty-seven prisoners suffered disciplinary corporal punishment.
10. There was a decrease in Sinhalese and an increase in Tamil prisoners.

#### (C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

1. The number of cases instituted in police courts was 55,879, in which 73,524 persons were accused.
2. Of this latter total 36,471 were acquitted, 34,755 were summarily convicted, and 2,298 committed for trial.
3. In the Superior Courts 1,327 judgments were entered for the Crown and 1,169 for the prisoners.
4. Of 74 persons committed for murder 29 were convicted, while out of 37 committed for manslaughter 32 were found guilty.
5. In the police courts, of 2,549 persons charged with cattle-stealing 2,084 were summarily acquitted and 70 committed for trial.

## VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

### (A.) POPULATION.

1. The population, which was 3,008,466 according to the census of 1891, was estimated at 3,448,752 in 1898.
2. During the year 131,620 births were registered and 90,256 deaths, giving a birth and death rate of 38·2 and 26·2 respectively, against 36·9 and 23·2 in the preceding year. The increase in the death-rate is due to an epidemic of malarial fever which prevailed throughout the Island, especially in the Northern and North-Western Provinces.



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(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

CEYLON  
1898.

1. There were three slight outbreaks of cholera in the Northern Province. During the first 67 died, while in the second 47 succumbed to the disease. In the North-Central Province 72 died of cholera, in the Western 19, and in the Central 29.

2. There were only 54 cases of small-pox with 12 fatalities.

3. The general health of the Island was, on the whole, satisfactory.

4. Thanks to the ample precautions taken, the Island escaped a visitation of the plague.

(C.) SANITATION.

1. The general sanitation of the Colony and of the chief towns is fairly satisfactory.

2. Of the chief towns Colombo compares favourably with many eastern cities. The drainage of Kandy, Jaffna, Kurunegala, and Badulla is defective, while Galle is the most insanitary of the municipalities.

3. In connection with the plague precautions a camp of observation for immigrant coolies was established at Ragama, which has accommodation for 3,000 persons, and at the close of the year the cooly route from India along the north road was closed.

4. The Pilgrimages Ordinance has enabled the Government to enforce sanitary measures during pilgrimages.

(D.) CLIMATE.

(1) *Rainfall.*

The rainfall varied from 156·70 inches on 229 days in Ratnapura to 37·53 inches on 78 days in Mannar.

(2) *Temperature.*

The temperature averaged 82·3° at Jaffna and 59·7° at Hakgala.

The mean daily range of temperature was highest at Anuradhapura (17·2°) and lowest at Galle (5·8°). The mean daily range at Colombo was 12·4°.

CEYLON,  
1898.

(3) *Direction and Force of Wind.*

In January, February, and March the direction of the wind is, generally speaking, north-east, and from April to October north-west.

The average movement of the air in miles per diem varied from 243·6 at Jaffna to 17·3 at Kurunegaa.

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VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

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1. The revenue was Rs. 963,000·33, against Rs. 979,435·37 in 1897, in which year the receipts were increased by a payment of over one lac of rupees on account of sea conveyance of mails for 1895, 1896, and 1897.

2. Inland money orders showed an advance of Rs. 351,302·57, and Indian money orders an advance of Rs. 967,743·91.

3. The total balance to credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank rose by Rs. 24,853.

4. Telegraph receipts increased by Rs. 20,036·32, due chiefly to the popularity of the 25-cent telegram, which is probably the cheapest in the world.

5. Four telegraph offices, three post offices, and six receiving offices were opened during the year.

6. The limit of insured value on parcels to the United Kingdom was raised from £50 to £120 from 1st December.

7. Fifty-four miles of telegraph were added during the year, and the business of the Telegraph Department showed considerable expansion.

8. The telephone branch also worked fairly satisfactorily, considering the constant interruption which must be expected during the monsoon and the deleterious effect of damp salt breezes on the wires.

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IX.—MILITARY FORCE AND EXPENDITURE.

CEYLON,  
1898.

1. The total force of regular troops was 1,668, including officers, and the volunteers numbered 1,224.
2. The expenditure was :—For regular troops, Rs. 1,788,066 ; for volunteers, Rs. 112,910·23 ; total, Rs. 1,900,976·23.
3. There is no militia or semi-military Colonial force.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(1) IMPORTANT EVENTS.

1. Perhaps the most important event of the year was the introduction of Imperial penny postage.
2. The successful efforts of Government to keep out the dreaded plague were an event of vital importance, or, perhaps more correctly, the prevention of a dire event the consequences of which it would be rash to attempt to calculate.

(2) PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure was Rs. 4,190,003·03, including Rs. 410,228·32 on account of personal emoluments. The total road mileage of the Colony is now 3,570 miles, of which 2,500 are metalled or track metalled, 579 gravelled, and 491 natural roads. The average cost of upkeep in 1898 was Rs. 377 per mile, showing an increase of Rs. 22 over the rate for 1897.

A beginning was made with the duplication of the 20-inch water main from Labugama to Colombo, and by the end of the year about one mile had been laid on the section Wagga to Hunupitiya.

Good progress was made with the construction of the new passenger jetty at Colombo.

The Nuwara Eliya waterworks scheme, which includes the laying of over 6½ miles of pipes, was taken in hand for the Board of Improvement, and an officer of the Public Works Department was seconded to secure preliminary information required for the preparation of plans and estimates for the improved sanitation of Kandy.

CEYLON,  
1898.

The Government factory expended Rs. 408,405·75 and turned out 136 iron bridges, besides doing much useful work for the Railway, Irrigation, and other Departments.

The work on the harbour was successfully carried on, the expenditure amounting to Rs. 1,700,398·12. The north-east breakwater was practically completed for a distance of 870 feet from the shore.

The railway continued to prosper and earned Rs. 7,549,620· against an expenditure of Rs. 3,605,944, showing a profit of Rs. 3,943,676, equal to a dividend of 7·43 per cent. on the original cost. The net earnings, after deducting expenses and payment of interest, yielded 4·68 per cent. on the capital cost. The extension of the railway to the north and to the Kelani Valley will give that department an even more prominent position than it already holds.

### (3) IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

During the year 80,238 immigrants arrived in Ceylon from India, and 16,347 emigrants left Ceylon for India. Of these the great majority are employed as coolies on tea estates.

### (4) FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

The future prospects of trade are, in the light of the following table of imports and exports, excluding specie, most favourable :—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	Rs.    c.		Rs.    c.
1887 ... ..	83,889,572 0	1893... ..	139,237,891 0
1888 ... ..	92,607,045 0	1894... ..	147,621,610 0
1889 ... ..	100,269,274 0	1895... ..	161,040,346 0
1890 ... ..	106,651,504 0	1896... ..	162,436,016 0
1891 ... ..	117,342,259 0	1897... ..	168,959,460 0
1892 ... ..	123,857,835 0	1898... ..	181,326,925 0

as it shows that trade has expanded enormously since 1887, rising in value from Rs. 83,889,572 to Rs. 181,326,925, and there is no ground for apprehension that this elasticity will diminish.

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(5) SUITABILITY OF CLIMATE FOR EUROPEANS.

CEYLON,  
1898.

The climate is well suited for Europeans, but the labour conditions of the Island are not favourable for white labour. Manual labour is practically an impossibility for Europeans, whose duties are confined to the supervision of labour.

(6) RATES OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The rate of wages for prædial labourers varies from 25 to 50 cents per diem ; 37½ cents is the general rate. Domestic servants earn from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per mensem, the average wage being about Rs. 12. Trade employees earn from 50 cents to Re. 1.50 a day. The cost of living varies greatly in different parts of the Island, being lowest in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and highest in Colombo, where house rent is a serious item to rich and poor. The ordinary villager can probably live in fair comfort for Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 a month.

(7) OPENINGS FOR INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL.

Cocoanut planting offers a good investment for capital where immediate return can be dispensed with. In the near future plumbago mining will probably attract capital, while tea still continues to be a favourite field for investors.

(8) SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The social condition of the people is good. Their taxation is extremely light and the cost of living relatively cheap ; and with the Island divided into a large number of small administrative districts their wants receive prompt attention from Government officials. Crime is still too prevalent, but it arises generally from hasty temper, and as education becomes more widely diffused and better assimilated there is reason to hope that this drawback to the welfare of the people will disappear.

(9) GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

The general condition of the Colony may be regarded as one of great prosperity.

J. J. THORBURN,  
*Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

Colombo,  
August 11th, 1899.

LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.  

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1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 257.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS  
ISLANDS.

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REPORT ON THE ANNUAL VISIT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 216.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

*February* 1899.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	1896-97
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
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245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
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251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
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253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
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### MISCELLANEOUS.

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1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zuluiland ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



No. 257.

**COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS.**(For Report for 1897 *see* No. 216.)**COCOS-  
KEELING  
AND  
CHRISTMAS  
ISLANDS,  
1898.****ACTING-GOVERNOR SIR J. A. SWETTENHAM to  
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.****Government House,  
Singapore,  
15th December 1898.****SIR,**

I HAVE the honour to forward six copies of a report by Mr. R. J. Farrer, of the Straits Civil Service, on his visit to Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands.

2. It appears from his report that no phosphate has been exported from Christmas Island since Mr. Justice Leach's visit in 1897, but it is to be hoped that Mr. Ross's visit to England will settle the policy of the company and enable the phosphate industry to be developed within a reasonable time.

3. Unless, however, some arrangements can be made for increasing the supply of labour, the development of the resources of Christmas Island must necessarily be slow.

4. It is satisfactory to find that neither on Christmas or Cocos Island were there any complaints made to the Commissioner, and that the inhabitants appear to be contented with the régime under which they live.

5. The indifference shown by the people to the advantages of education is hardly to be wondered at, but it must be disappointing to Mr. Ross that his efforts to maintain the school have proved so far a failure.

6. Although the number of Cocos-born inhabitants has slightly increased, the population remains nearly stationary.

7. It was unfortunate that Mr. Ross should have been absent when Mr. Farrer visited Cocos Island. Of the hospitality of the Ross family Mr. Farrer speaks warmly, and also expresses his gratitude to Commander Winnington-Ingram and the officers of H.M.S. "Daphne" which conveyed him to the Islands.

I have, &amp;c.,

**J. A. SWETTENHAM.**

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1898.

REPORT ON VISIT TO CHRISTMAS AND COCOS-  
KEELING ISLANDS.

Bukit Mertajam,

31st October 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I embarked on September 4th on board the M. M. Str. "La Seyne" and proceeded to Batavia, where I joined H.M.S. "Daphne," Commander C. Winnington-Ingram, on September 6th.

2. Owing to the festivities connected with the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands, and the consequent dislocation of the labour market, we were unable to obtain a proper supply of coal before September 9th, on which day we sailed from Tanjong Priok at 2 p.m. for Christmas Island.

3. After an uncomfortable passage, with the wind nearly straight ahead, we reached our destination on September 11th at 5 p.m. and anchored in Flying Fish Cove.

4. Mr. Andrew Ross, who is still in charge of the Island, came off to meet us, and to give Commander Winnington-Ingram the benefit of his local knowledge of this peculiar anchorage.

5. In the cove were lying at anchor the yawl "Tweed" and the yacht "Clunies Ross," both of which had recently arrived from the Cocos Islands, the former with Mr. Ross on board *en route* for England.

6. Commander Winnington-Ingram and myself landed and called on Mr. Ross. I delivered to him the presents entrusted to my charge. He expressed himself as much pleased with them, and especially with the box of seeds and Forbes's "Wanderings." We were able to give Mr. Ross the first news of the outer world that he had received since May. We returned on board H.M.S. "Daphne" for the night.

7. On the 12th we landed, accompanied by several of the officers (on pleasure bent), and after some conversation proceeded to walk up Phosphate Hill with Messrs. George and Andrew Ross.

8. The fertility of the Island has been so fully described in former reports that little need be said on this head. Mr. Ross's only complaint against the soil was that it was too fertile, and enabled some plants, such as the papayah, to multiply until they became a nuisance. The young coconut trees which are planted in ground formed of fragments of coral, and are growing along the shore of Flying Fish Cove within four or five yards of high-water mark, look remarkably healthy and seem in no way affected by the violence of the north-west monsoon, which is said to

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prevail here for six months in the year. In this respect they form a striking contrast with the trees growing on the south-east and east shores of the Cocos Atoll, which are, without exception, stunted and deformed through the violence of the wind.

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9. Mr. Ross informed me that no phosphate had been exported since the visit of Mr. Justice Leach in 1897. The truth of this statement seems to be conclusively proved by the following circumstances:—The beds of phosphate are situated at an elevation of about 1,000 feet, at a distance of some two miles from the shore. They are reached by a cutting through the jungle, which is ended at its lower extremity by a shoot perhaps 200 feet high. The clearing has been completed as far as the deposits, but for the greater part of its course is encumbered with logs and trunks of trees which have not yet been destroyed. These obstacles to locomotion entirely do away with the idea that any quantity of phosphates could be brought down to the sea with a limited number of coolies as the only means of transport. Secondly, the phosphate on reaching the lower end of the clearing would have to be dumped down the shoot on to the small level space below. This proceeding would inevitably leave its traces in the form of dust and débris of phosphate at the bottom of the shoot, and of these I could see no sign.

10. Mr. Ross's plan for working the phosphates is to construct a light railway worked by a wire hawser along the line which has been cleared. With this object in view the line has been laid out with three angles so as to give the required gradients. The phosphate being brought down in trucks to the end of the rails would be tipped down the shoot to a level space at the bottom, where it would be stored. The work of getting and storing would be pressed on during the prevalence of the north-west monsoon, when it is impossible for ships to remain at anchor near the island. During the rest of the year the loading of the deposits would be carried on by means of an artificial shoot descending from the edge of the cliff to the level of the ship's deck.

11. The dumping ground is an elevated plain about 200 yards long ending in a cliff which descends sheer into the sea. This cliff is about 40 feet high. It is, therefore, necessary for the carrying out of Mr. Ross's plan that some sort of pier should be constructed both for the support of the shoot and for the mooring of the ships.

12. One of the reasons for Mr. Ross's impending visit to England is to arrive at an understanding on the subject of this pier. Mr. Ross is in favour of a wooden jetty, the framework only of which would be left in position during the north-west monsoon. The materials for such a work are ready at hand on the Island. The London Directors, on the other hand, wish the pier to be of steel. A pier of this material, Mr. Ross maintains, would be very expensive, and could not stand the tremendous blows of the sea during the bad season, and, further, could not, if damaged, be repaired from local resources.

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1898.

13. Mr. Ross has a further point of disagreement with his co-Directors, who, I understand, tempted by the present high price of phosphates, have sent an emissary to the East with orders to charter a vessel immediately. There is, however, no phosphate ready for loading, and Mr. Ross, not unnaturally considering his recent losses, wishes to keep down the expenditure to the necessary minimum until the business begins to be reproductive.

14. It is greatly to be hoped that Mr. Ross's present visit will finally settle the policy of the Company, since the existing state of uncertainty prevents the general development of the island besides impeding the progress of the phosphate industry.

15. Apart from these differences of opinion, the chief obstacle to be overcome by the Company is the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of labour. The number of coolies that Mr. Ross has been able to obtain from Java during the past year is only

14. In addition to these he has introduced eight new Cocos boys. These, together with the nine Cocos boys left from 1897, give a total of 31 men for all kinds of labour. Mr. Andrew Ross, however, informed me that the greatest number of coolies employed in any one day on works connected with the phosphates was 16. The progress of the works cannot, therefore, be rapid under existing circumstances.

16. In spite of the scarcity of labour the clearing has been completed right up to the phosphate beds. About a quarter of a mile of it has been stubbed and levelled and is ready for ballast laying, while another quarter of a mile is in process of being levelled. At this part the bed which is being levelled is formed of marble, so that the work is of a very troublesome character.

17. The present gang of Bantamese coolies arrived in September 1897. They are on a three years' agreement and receive 8*f*.<sup>\*</sup> a month, with salt and seven bamboos of rice per week free. Their hours of work are from 6 to 11 a.m., and from 1 to 4 p.m. Each of these men received an advance of 50*f*. on engagement. All of them have repaid this advance, and some have already 15*f*. to their credit. For these facts I am indebted to Mr. Andrew Ross. Unfortunately, an examination of the books was impossible, owing to Mr. Wilkinson's absence with the keys of the store, at the time when I asked to be allowed to examine the books. This was at the close of my visit, so that there was no time to send for the keys.

18. Mr. Ross stated that each Bantamese cost him on an average 30*f*. a month, including transport, &c., but not supervision. Taking the value of the free rations at 5*f*. per mensem (paragraph 49 of Mr. Trevenen's report), the incidental expenses would amount according to this statement to 17*f*. per mensem, a sum which seems extraordinarily high considering that though drugs may be a slight expense, medical advice costs nothing.

\* COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE: The sign *f*. signifies guilder. The Dutch guilder is worth about one shilling and eightpence. The Cocos currency guilder, which is a sheepskin note, is worth five-sixths of a Dutch guilder.

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19. From Mr. Ross's remarks I gather that the Bantamese are a troublesome lot and need careful handling. They are under the supervision of the Cocos boys, each of the latter being told off to keep an eye on one man. Mr. Ross's view that the absence of crime is due to fear of consequences, and not to the natural piety of the men, is strongly borne out by the story that Mr. Wilkinson, the Engineer, had a narrow escape of being murdered or seriously injured by one of the Bantamese during the past year.

20. The permanent population at the present moment is as follows:—

Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and daughter	...	...	...	...	3
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ross and son	...	...	...	...	3
Female servants	...	...	...	...	2
Male servant	...	...	...	...	1
Cocos boys	...	...	...	...	17
Wives of Cocos boys	...	...	...	...	2
Children of do.	...	...	...	...	2
Bantamese coolies	...	...	...	...	14
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	44
					—

There have been no births or deaths during the last 14 months.

21. Mr. Ross stated that he had offered to bring the wives of the Bantamese, but that the men thought it not worth while to bring them for so short a time as three years. He added that he would be glad if there were more women on the Island, since their presence contributed to the contentment of the men.

22. It is Mr. Ross's policy to increase as much as possible the number of Cocos boys on the Island, for the reason that their living here prevents those early marriages to which he attributes the physical degeneration of the Cocos breed. (Of the 17 "boys" now on the Island 15 are from 12 to 15 years of age, the remaining two being middle-aged foremen.) The labour needs of the Cocos Islands are, however, his first consideration, and this prevents his removing Cocos boys in large numbers.

23. Since Mr. Justice Leach's visit the source of the waterfall has been discovered to be a stream flowing without much variation of volume all through the year. I was informed that the water had been examined by Mr. Andrews (of the British Museum) and pronounced to be of excellent quality. I was unable to obtain a sample, owing to the shortness of the time at my disposal. The distance of the stream from the anchorage makes it useless for the present, but in view of the probable development of the Island in the future, the discovery of a supply of good water at a distance from the shore becomes an important fact.

24. A second anchorage has been found during the last few months. This is situated on the south-east side of the Island across which a clearing has been made, so as to form a connection with it. It can be used when the Flying Fish Cove anchorage

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is closed, and only then—that is, when the wind is westerly of north-east and south-west. The new anchorage may prove a material factor in the prosperity of the Island in a few years' time, since the bottom gives a much better holding ground than that at the old anchorage, being of braincoral with a waved surface and gentle slope outwards, as compared with a violent incline downwards and a bottom in which ledges of sharp rock are too common for the safety of the moorings. Its importance will, I believe, depend on the agricultural development of the Island, not upon the export of phosphates.

25. Towards the end of my visit I had the coolies collected and tried to find out whether there were any grievances of which they might wish to complain. It could not of course be expected that they would unbosom themselves to an entire stranger, but from the heartiness with which they made answer "All is well," I was convinced that they felt at all events no serious discontent with their surroundings.

26. The Bantamese are mostly of a villainous appearance. The Cocos boys on the other hand struck me as looking stupid, and indifferent to their surroundings. A look of dulness is perhaps only a natural result of the monotony of their lives, and of the reduction of the struggle for existence to near vanishing point, but I was told that they sing and dance with much energy in the evenings, while their leisure hours of daylight are occupied by the sailing of toy-boats.

27. The Bantamese occupy one large hut, which is almost filled up by their beds and mosquito nets. The hut, however, is clean, and the air inside it fresh, the side walls being made of the mid-rib of the coconut leaf which has the merits of being easily cleaned, and of smelling sweet (at least while it is fairly new), while the air can pass freely through the interstices.

28. Owing to the immaturity of the coconut trees toddy is, strictly speaking, not yet to be obtained. The toddy drinkers are therefore driven to procuring a substitute from the katapang (a kind of filbert nut), a practice which, I understand, obtains also in Malacca.

29. The rats show no signs of dying out. While sitting in Mr. Ross's house in the evening we were informed that certain very violent chatterings were the objurgations of a rat disputing over a ripe fruit with one of the large bats peculiar to the Island. The contending parties often come to blows, or rather bites, with the result that both of them fall from the branch where hangs the prize. Mr. Ross's dogs have learnt this fact, and now on hearing a dispute scurry off and post themselves under the branch occupied by the combatants to wait for their fall.

30. A striking feature of the Island is the obesity of its *fera natura*. Rats, bats, and boobies all go to the melting pot and produce each their own kind of oil. The size and fatness of the bats may be judged from the fact that only six are required to

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make one soda-water bottle full of oil. The large crabs, too, provide an oil, extracted without any boiling-down process, which is mainly used for the preservation of metal work.

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31. The boobies, Mr. Andrew Ross stated, make a pie equal to the finest beefsteak. It may be, however, that Mr. Ross's patriotism has blunted his palate, for his statement was not borne out by those of the visitors who were privileged to taste this rare dish.

32. The healthiness of the Island has been often mentioned: two instances will here suffice, viz., the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, who arrived in very poor health, apparently a weakly baby, and is now healthy and vigorous; and a kid left some time ago for the sake of its health which has grown into a fine she-goat.

33. Owing to the fertility of the Island and its tendency to encourage any objectionable form of life, Mr. Ross is afraid of experimenting in the planting of grass seeds. He has, I think, apprehensions that a seed or two of the dreaded "alang" may have crept into the seed box.

34. The fish that are to be caught are few both in kind and number, snappers, rock-cod, and a few varieties of coral-feeding fish being the only kinds obtainable. This scarcity is probably due to the absence of any shallow water which could form a breeding ground for the adults or a nursery for the young.

35. Mr. Andrews, whose impending arrival was mentioned in last year's report, left some time ago for the Cocos Islands. According to Mr. Andrew Ross, the meteorological instruments received some damage while in his keeping, so that the records are no longer kept. I am therefore unable to give the usual table.

36. Shortly before our departure the sportsmen returned with numbers of Pergam pigeons. These birds are no less tame than in former years.

37. About 4 p.m. on the 12th September we sailed for the Cocos Islands, with the wind on the port quarter.

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#### COCOS ISLANDS.

1. After a passage of 66 hours, uneventful except for the discomfort of the last 24, we arrived at the Cocos Islands at 10 a.m. on September 15th, and anchored in the usual place under the guidance of Mr. William Ross.

2. After an early luncheon Commander Winnington-Ingram and myself landed. We were most hospitably received by the ladies of the Islands, and lodged in the bachelors' quarters.

3. Mr. Sidney Ross, the heir apparent, was engaged on West Island in superintending the storage of copra, and was unable to return until the next day.

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4. In the afternoon we walked through the Cocos village which preserves that air of cleanliness and prosperity on which comment has so often been made. The men were away at work, we had therefore no opportunity of conversing with them that evening. The children struck me as very numerous, possibly owing to their being so much in evidence with their toy-boat races along the shore.

5. The next morning, accompanied by one of the officers, I walked through the Bantamese village, and met one grumbler, whom I suspect to be the man mentioned in Mr. Egerton's report, his grievances being of exactly the same nature, except that the number of children had increased. His complaints were, in brief, that he could not save money to enable him to return to Java, and that he had no time to catch fish. Of these statements the first is disproved by a glance at the list of wages, the second by the fact that we found him engaged in smoking a pipe on his door-step at 7.30 a.m. In the course of our walk we met a girl who was suffering from some kind of paralysis of the legs, which she told me came on after child-birth. We comforted her with the assurance that the ship's doctor would visit her. With these two exceptions, the people seemed healthy and contented.

6. Later in the morning we took a second walk through the main village and spoke to a large number of persons, mostly of the female sex, the men being at work. Among others we interviewed the daughter of Pa Besar, deceased (herself, I understood, a great-grandmother), a typical instance of contented old age, who presented us with roses and polished fish eyes. During our numerous conversations both on this and subsequent occasions, I heard no word of complaint against the system of government, and though recognising the tendency of natives to conceal their feelings from strangers, I am convinced, from the freedom with which the people talked about all kinds of topics, that they would have mentioned their grievances had they felt any.

7. On visiting the school we found but one scholar, the grandson of the Imam. The others it was said had dropped off one by one, and no new recruits had presented themselves. The scholar seemed an intelligent youth, reading and writing easily and well and showing accuracy in elementary arithmetic, while he also had a fair idea of the position on the map of the more important countries of the world, including his own. This, however, is anything but a gratifying result of the trouble and expense to which Mr. Ross has been put in connection with the school and its master. (The wages of the latter are 6*f.* a week.) The attitude of indifference to education which the people hold seems to be due to their inability to see that any material advantage is to be gained by the acquisition of a knowledge of the three R's. Only a very small proportion of the Cocos people make their homes in other countries; the bulk of them do not look forward to ever leaving the Islands, where under existing circumstances the power of reading and writing adds not a cent to the



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earnings of the labourer. The fact that all the Cocos boys are anxious to go through the practical education of the workshop shows that it is not mere idleness that hinders the spread of education. The children can, of course, be reached only through the parents, and the indifference of these last to the welfare of their children would form an obstacle to the elevation of the children by education even if the advantages of study were obvious.

COCOS-KEELING AND CHRISTMAS ISLANDS, 1898.

8. From the school we went to the house of the Imam, whom we found suitably engaged in studying Mohammedan law, an occupation which would seem lacking in practical utility in view of the disregard for religion shown by his flock. He proved to be a pronounced optimist regarding the spiritual welfare of his congregation, making, among others, the astonishing statement that there was never any difficulty in obtaining the necessary attendance for the Friday service. The day being Friday and the hour of prayer being near, the total absence from view of any other male adult gave reason to doubt the truth of this statement, and I was subsequently informed by Mr. Sidney Ross the people care as little for religion as for education, being satisfied with one annual attendance at the mosque.

9. The following table, supplied by Mr. Charles Ross, shows the changes of population since the last visit :—

*Cocos born.*

—	July 1897.	Births.	Deaths.	Arrivals.	Departures.	Sept. 1898.
Men ...	93	—	2	2	—	93
Women ...	104	—	2	—	—	102
Boys ...	95	15	6	—	—	104
Girls ...	118	13	5	—	—	126
Total ...	410	28	15	2	—	425

*Bantamese.*

—	1897.	Births.	Deaths.	Arrivals.	Departures.	Total.
Men ...	62	—	5	1	9	49
Women ...	42	—	—	—	5	37
Boys ...	54	7	3	—	2	56
Girls ...	43	6	3	—	1	45
Total ...	201	13	11	1	17	187

		1897.	1898.
Total Population		611	612

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In the total 612, are included the 17 Cocos boys who are at present working on Christmas Island.

The actual population is, therefore, 595.

There have been seven marriages of Cocos persons and eight of Bantamese during the past 14 months.

The causes of death are said to be, in the case of the men, dropsy ; of the women, the effects of child-birth ; of the children, as usual, infantile complaints.

10. It is Mr. Ross's belief that the race of the Cocos-born is degenerating. The younger generation is certainly inferior in height and bone to the older, but the latter are, of course, the survivors, and presumably the pick of their own generation ; and, secondly, the exceptional physique of the older generation is probably in a large degree due to the strains of Zulu and Negro blood which flow in the veins of all the Cocos race, and which must become weaker with each successive generation when, as frequently happens, a Cocos man takes a Bantamese wife. It seems questionable whether, apart from the diminution in stature, any signs of degeneration are perceptible, for in muscular development the younger men reach a high standard and compare very favourably with those of Province Wellesley, while the women are almost invariably far taller and more powerfully built than their sisters of the Peninsula.

11. Surgeon Trythall, R.N., visited the villages on three occasions. I avail myself of his observations without further acknowledgment.

12. He treated three cases of paralysis of the lower extremities in women after child-birth, one in the Cocos, and two in the Bantamese village. This affection Mr. Charles Ross believes to be due to toddy drinking. The symptoms first appear about a month after delivery. The child of one of these women was suffering from a strumous skin disease. Surgeon Trythall also treated a case of endo-metritis, and prescribed for one of the Ross family who was suffering from slight functional disease of the liver, complicated by asthma. These were the only new cases of illness.

13. The paralysed boy Amrye is gradually regaining strength. He can now raise himself without help to a sitting position. The galvanic battery ordered for his use has not yet arrived. This is a pity, since the battery would be useful in the apparently frequent cases of female paralysis.

14. Abortives are freely used. They are obtained from one or two old women, who get their drugs from Java and keep the composition of their prescriptions secret. It is to be hoped that the knowledge of these drugs will be lost when the old wives die.

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since their use is decidedly harmful and may well be one of the causes of the high death-rate among infants.

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1898.

15. The mothers show a great lack of parental affection. The children are left very much to take care of themselves, and the infants, until the long-delayed time of weaning arrives, are fed at very irregular intervals.

16. The people greatly prefer native to European medicines, and dose themselves with concoctions which are often entirely unsuited to their complaints. This may be the reason why the women lose their looks so early. At 25 many of them look quite 10 years older.

17. The water supply has given little difficulty since the burial ground was shifted from Settlement to Burial Island. The wells are from 5 to 10 feet deep and the water is of fair quality, but this year, owing to the prolonged drought, many of them have become temporarily brackish. The Ross family obtain their drinking water from Horsburgh Island.

18. The weather during the past year has been noticeable chiefly for a prolonged drought, which lasted for over six months, and was followed by a long period during which the rainfall was below the average. This makes the second year in succession in which there has been a deficiency in the rainfall, and the result has been that Mr. Ross's vegetable garden is almost ruined. The effect on the coconuts has fortunately not been so serious, but the number and size of the nuts has diminished.

19. In February 1898, the barometer went down to 29·45° and it was fully expected that a cyclone would burst over the Island. Fortunately, however, though a cyclone must have been raging within a short distance the Island escaped untouched.

20. I give a table of barometrical readings &c. These are taken three times a day, whenever possible, by Mr. Sidney Ross :—

1897.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Prevailing Winds.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
July ...	30·05	29·91	87	76	E.S.E. S.E.
August ...	30·07	29·92	87	74	Do.
September	30·12	29·90	87	75	S.E. to N.E.
October ...	30·15	29·90	85	74	S.E.
November	30·05	29·90	86	76	S.E. E.
December	30·03	29·87	87	74	S.E.

COCOS-  
KEELING  
AND  
CHRISTMAS  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

1898.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Prevailing Winds.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.	
January ...	30·01	29·87	86	71	S.E. S.W.
February...	29·96	29·45	86	73	S.E. N.W.
March ...	29·98	29·81	86	73	S.E.
April ...	30·04	29·86	98	75	S.E. to N.E.
May ...	30·03	29·87	91	76	S.E.
June ...	30·02	29·77	87	73	S.E.
July ...	30·04	29·87	88	75	S.E. E.N.E.
August ...	30·08	29·93	87	75	E.S.E. S.E.
September	30·08	29·92	90	75	S.E. N.E.

21. A really still day is almost unknown. When the waters of the lagoon are perfectly calm the women refuse to do anything but admire their reflections in the water.

22. The copra exported in 1897-8 amounted to 826½ tons, valued at nearly £13 per ton. The bulk of the copra is made on West Island, the nuts on Settlement and the adjacent islands being, for the most part, consumed in various ways by the inhabitants.

23. The number of men permanently employed on West Island is 10, but at the present time 14 are there employed. These men usually live on the Island from Monday to Saturday, returning home for the week-end, but on the Saturday on which I visited the place there were still a number of women employed about the small settlement near the copra store, their male relations being still at work. The ground between the trees on this Island is never cleared, the husks and fallen leaves being allowed to rot where they fall, and so form manure. The result is a great accumulation of rubbish, which must add considerably to the difficulty of collecting and carrying the daily tale of nuts. Nevertheless, the labourers have no difficulty in exceeding the nominal day's task.

The usefulness of the rubbish as manure seems to be doubtful, for the deposits undoubtedly favour the reproduction of the coconut beetle, and it is admitted that the trees on West are much inferior to those on Settlement Island. The former, Mr. Sidney Ross told me, produce nuts after from 12 to 14 years, the latter after 4 or 5 years only. This difference he explained as being due to the proximity of dwelling-houses on the latter island, but such a small part of the island is covered by the houses that most of the trees must be unaffected by the proximity, so that the only apparent reason for the great difference is the fact that on Settlement Island the ground is kept clear (the rubbish being used as fuel) and the grass and brushwood are not allowed to grow up.

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COCOS-  
KEELING  
AND  
CHRISTMAS  
ISLANDS,  
1898.  
—

24. In any case, however, the area of West Island is so large as to preclude the possibility of keeping the ground clean without a great increase in the number of labourers.

25. The present gang of Bantamese coolies were engaged in December 1896. Their wages are 12*f.* per mensem, with no extras. They received an advance of 50*f.* on engagement, which they have been repaying at the rate of 2*f.* a month, so that they now owe only 8*f.* each. The repayment is made by a deduction from their wages each pay day. The Cocos men are paid week by week. A large number are employed as artisans on fixed wages, ranging from 1*f.* in the case of apprentices to 10*f.* in the case of foremen. The wages are raised as the value of the artisan's work increases. In several cases an apprentice's wages have recently been increased to 1.50*f.*

26. For the work connected with the copra industry the scale of pay remains the same as in former years, and seems very liberal. Looking over the pay-bills, which had just been made out when I was in the office, I found one for 15*f.*, on which the number of nuts husked and brought to the store was 8,020, and several cases in which over 7,000 nuts had been dealt with by a single man. One of the workers assured me that he could sail to West Island (a distance of 6 miles), husk and carry 2,000 nuts, and return to the village by 2 p.m. the same day. It was also stated that in a shelling competition for women the winner had shelled 60 nuts in 4 minutes.

27. The wages are paid by means of the pay-bills, which are exchanged when necessary for goods at the store, the surplus, after settling for the purchases, being paid in the Cocos currency.

28. The total value of the currency now in circulation is only 1,718*f.* Pay-bills, however, to the value of 17,350*f.* are still outstanding, this sum being inclusive of payments for the week just ended. The total sum to the credit of all classes is, therefore, 18,068*f.*

29. I was unable to ascertain the total indebtedness of the Cocos men owing to the books not being made up, but an inspection of the individual accounts showed one man with a debit balance of 140*f.*, and a few others with small amounts owing. The total of these is not, I should say, more than 500*f.*

30. Mr. Ross's house is still in process of building. Other works in progress are a "tongkang" and numerous boats of different kinds.

31. For a place given over entirely to the copra industry the proportion of men employed as artisans seems very large. There are numerous sheds where carpentering is constantly going on. This activity is due first to the building of the new house, and secondly to the ravages of the white ants, owing to which wood-work has to be frequently renewed, unless the wood be of the kind unpalatable to these pests.

COCOS-  
KEELING  
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ISLANDS,  
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—

32. The second night of our visit was enlivened by a dance. The hall was thronged at each end with natives, and the three dances described by Mr. Justice Leach were performed. The third of these is named "Buru-Buru-an Ayam," "The Hunting of the Fowl," a name which probably arises from the apparently inextricable confusion of the dancers. The music is of the same abominable character as that of the Straits, but the drum parts, in deference either to the feelings of Europeans or to the age of the instruments (which is more probable) are not played with such lamentable energy. The band of H.M.S. "Daphne" filled the intervals with European dances, and the saltatory performances of the visitors seemed to afford no less delight to the natives than those of their fellows.

33. Each day of our stay I went at least once through the village, talking to the people, and, with the exception of the grumbler mentioned before, I heard no word of discontent. The people seemed, without exception, contented and well to do.

34. A few of the women wore gold ornaments, and I saw one or two little girls with small gold bracelets. One girl had a George IV. guinea tied to a string round her neck and worn as a locket. Almost all the infants had a bracelet of shells round their left wrists. This kind of bracelet is supposed to act as a charm.

35. Some of the children have strange names. Three brothers rejoice in the names Raglan, Napier, and Jackson (Stonewall), respectively, portraits of these celebrities in illustrated papers having reached the father about the time of their births. We did not come across any name connected with the Diamond Jubilee.

36. On Monday, September 19th, Commander Winnington-Ingram and the ward-room officers entertained our hosts and others at luncheon on board, after which we sailed for Batavia, which we reached on September 24th. After filling up our bunkers, we sailed on the 27th, and reached Singapore on the 29th September.

37. The proverbial hospitality of the Rosses was never more fully shown than during our stay. Messrs. Sidney and Charles Ross gave me every assistance in their power. It is, however, a matter for regret that Mr. Ross himself should have been absent at the time of our visit, for his knowledge of the people and Islands would, no doubt, have enabled him to explain the education and other difficulties, and me to make this report fuller and more interesting.

38. In conclusion, I take this opportunity of recording my gratitude to Commander Winnington-Ingram and the officers of H.M.S. "Daphne" for their constant kindness and hospitality throughout the voyage.

I have, &c.,

R. J. FARRER.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 235.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 206.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*August 1898.*

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
207	British Honduras	1896
208	Sierra Leone	"
209	Grenada	"
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896-97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896-97
225	Jamaica	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.



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No. 235.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS  
1897.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 206.)

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Governor GREY WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Stanley,

16th May 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit the Falkland Islands Blue Book for 1897, together with a report by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Craigie Halkett.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON,  
Governor.

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REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1897.

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FINANCIAL.

The financial condition of the Colony is eminently sound.

There is no Public Debt and the Revenue during the past year exceeded that of the previous year by some £612.

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FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1897.

## REVENUE.

The sources of Revenue remain unaltered. The total Revenue received during the year was £12,970, collected from the following sources in order of importance :—

	£
1. Rents of Crown Land ... ..	4,936
2. Customs and other duties ... ..	3,639
3. Interest on Investments ... ..	2,147
4. Post Office Revenue ... ..	856
5. Licenses and Internal Revenue ... ..	649
6. Fees ... ..	522
7. Port, Harbour, and Tonnage dues ... ..	138
8. Miscellaneous... ..	83

The only import duties levied are upon liquor and tobacco, everything else being free, and there are no export duties.

None of the harbour dues for light, anchorage &c. which obtain elsewhere are in force here beyond a trifling rate for pilotage at Stanley of 6s. and 3s. per foot of draught, in and outwards, and in ports of entry other than Stanley a tonnage due of 1s. per ton, but in no case exceeding £10 for one ship.

Direct taxes for purposes of general revenue do not exist.

A quasi-municipal rate of 6d. per £1 of annual rent is payable by householders in Stanley for the behoof of the town itself, and the specific tax of  $\frac{1}{12}$  of a penny per acre on land outside of Stanley continues to be payable for the special object of eradicating the disease of scab in sheep.

The Revenue during the past four years stands as follows in relation to what was estimated :—

Year.	Estimated.	Received.	Excess.
	£	£	£
1894	11,900	11,958	1,058
1895	11,517	12,518	1,001
1896	12,020	12,358	338
1897	12,420	12,970	550

The excess of Revenue, £612, over the preceding year is accounted for by larger receipts under the head of Customs.

A comparative detailed statement of receipts with those of the previous year shows as follows :—

FALKLAND ISLANDS.  
1897.

	1896.	1897.
	£	£
Customs ... ..	2,805	3,639
Port &c. Dues ... ..	162	138
Licenses, &c. ... ..	440	649
Fees ... ..	646	522
Post Office ... ..	1,171	856
Rents ... ..	4,916	4,936
Miscellaneous ... ..	149	83
Interest on Investments ... ..	2,069	2,147
Total ... ..	£12,358	£12,970

Advances to the following extent over the amounts received during 1896 occurred in the items of :—

	£
Customs ... ..	834
Licenses ... ..	209
Rents ... ..	20
Interest ... ..	78
Total ... ..	<u>£1,141</u>

On the other hand, a falling off is apparent in :—

	£
Port &c. dues ... ..	24
Fees ... ..	124
Post office ... ..	315
Miscellaneous ... ..	66
	<u>£529</u>

#### *Expenditure.*

No exceptional variation has occurred in the causes for expenditure, the principal of which are the Government Staff, Public Works, and the Post Office.

As compared with the previous year, these items stand thus :—

	1896.	1897.
	£	£
Government Staff ... ..	5,846	5,889
Public Works ... ..	2,151	2,266
Post Office ... ..	3,000	2,873

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1897.

The total Expenditure during the year was £13,636, or £666 in excess of the Revenue received, and £1,646 over the estimate, as compared with £1,211 expended in the previous year in excess of receipts, and £1,591 in excess of the estimate for that year.

The various items of Expenditure during the past four years are shown in the subjoined table :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions ... ..	313	334	283	223
Governor ... ..	1,384	1,394	1,416	1,311
Colonial Secretary ... ..	1,035	1,109	1,111	1,145
Customs ... ..	183	192	99	209
Audit ... ..	56	66	55	43
Port and Marine ... ..	175	361	246	291
Legal ... ..	492	598	831	527
Police ... ..	493	568	484	511
Prisons ... ..	166	97	78	244
Medical ... ..	583	605	576	630
Education ... ..	465	513	588	677
Ecclesiastical ... ..	460	462	518	518
Transport ... ..	566	100	211	184
Miscellaneous ... ..	596	779	383	399
Post Office ... ..	2,249	2,271	3,000	2,873
Public Works ... ..	2,397	2,277	2,152	2,266
Interest on Savings Bank Deposits.	758	808	855	945
Survey ... ..	—	402	391	349
Drawbacks ... ..	24	223	292	291
<b>Total ... £</b>	<b>12,395</b>	<b>13,159</b>	<b>13,569</b>	<b>13,636</b>

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The items going to make up the expenditure of £1,646 in excess of the estimated requirements for the year are shown below.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.  
1897.

Excesses :—

	£
Colonial Secretary ... ..	87
Customs ... ..	84
Port and marine ... ..	46
Police... ..	78
Prisons ... ..	120
Medical ... ..	2
Education ... ..	20
Transport ... ..	64
Miscellaneous ... ..	25
Public works ... ..	1,296
Interest ... ..	100
Drawbacks ... ..	241
	<u>£2,163</u>

Less than estimated :—

	£
Governor ... ..	103
Audit ... ..	7
Legal ... ..	280
Post Office ... ..	127
	<u>£517</u>

	£
Deducting saving ... ..	517
from excesses ... ..	2,163
gives the nett excess ... ..	<u>£1,646</u>

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
On the 31st December, 1897, the Assets were	60,946	14	2
And Liabilities ... ..	44,203	13	6
Excess of Assets ... ..	<u>£16,743</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

The Assets comprise—

	£	s.	d.
Cash ... ..	3,431	8	11
Investments ... ..	54,994	14	2
Bills in transit ... ..	2,015	0	4
Advances due ... ..	505	10	9
	<u>£60,946</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>

Invested funds are of four classes :—

	£	s.	d.
Land Sales... ..	18,504	0	4
Savings Bank ... ..	33,041	17	7
Intestate Estates ... ..	555	4	9
Surplus ... ..	2,893	11	6
	<u>£54,994</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>

Substantial increase in Land Sales and Surplus is shown by a comparison with previous years, thus :—

*Investments.*

	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£
Land Sales ... ..	14,895	16,932	18,504
Savings Bank ... ..	33,691	34,222	33,041
Intestate Estates ... ..	—	—	555
Surplus... ..	1,041	1,441	2,893

A new fund for investment of unclaimed Intestate Estates was opened during the year.

Satisfactory progress is maintained in the growth of excess of Assets over Liabilities from year to year, thus :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£
Excess Assets ... ..	14,020	15,287	15,889	16,743

Liabilities are of the same class as before, and are made up of—

	£	s.	d.
Deposits ... ..	41,170	9	5
Post Office money orders, unpaid...	8	0	2
Subsidy ... ..	1,350	0	0
Bills on Colony ... ..	900	0	0
Bills on London ... ..	740	7	7
Pensions ... ..	34	16	4
	<u>£44,203</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS  
1897.

By far the most considerable item in Liabilities is the amount deposited in the Government Savings Bank, which has increased year by year, thus :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Savings Bank Deposits ...	£ 33,045	£ 35,661	£ 36,363	£ 39,426

Liabilities for pensions have decreased from £63 in 1894 to £35 in 1897, but those for mail subsidy have increased with an improved service from £900 in 1894 to £1,350 in 1897.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities will be found in the Appendix A.

#### MILITARY.

There are no regular forces stationed in the Colony, and no defences of a permanent nature, but a Volunteer Rifle Corps has been formed for purposes of local defence.

The present nominal strength of the Rifle Volunteer Corps, which is armed with Martini-Henry B.L.R. rifles, is 83, made up of—

Officers ... ..	6
Non-commissioned Officers ... ..	4
Privates ... ..	73

of which number 44 were returned as efficient.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

These, although confined wholly to the town of Stanley, necessitate an annual expenditure of considerable magnitude in relation to the amount of revenue, of which they absorb about a sixth.

Repairs to public buildings and to streets and roads call for continuous outlay, which could only be minimized by a very large capital outlay, in thoroughly building up the streets, first digging

FAKLAND  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

away the peat sub-soil, and in the erection of stone or brick offices and quarters in place of the wooden erections that prevail.

One public work of importance was undertaken and completed in the year, at a cost of £415,—the erection of a sea wall some 300 yards in length, required for the protection and widening of the main road running west past Government House.

The wants of those outside Stanley require, and only await sufficient funds to receive, attention in various directions to facilitate communication.

Without a wholly prohibitive capital outlay, it is useless even to think of making roads through the “camp.”

But the building of one or two necessary bridges, and the formation of guide-posts or cairns to mark the tracks between homesteads, are feasible, and as the Colony progresses will become accomplished facts.

Various circumstances militate against work being undertaken which in a country differently circumstanced would appear simple and ordinary.

First and foremost is the geological formation of the group. Again, the supply of labour is extremely limited as well as unskilled, while rates of remuneration rule high, a state of affairs that is likely to obtain until the Colony becomes opened up and its population added to.

#### LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were passed during the year, six of which were added to the Statute Book, the remaining four having been remitted back for amendment.

Ordinances Nos. 1 and 9 related to the prevention of the disease of Scab in Sheep.

Ordinances Nos. 2 and 10 provided for the financial service of the Colony.

Ordinance No. 3 consolidated the Customs legislation.

Ordinance No. 4 provided for a Board of Health on the West Falkland Island, thereby detaching that Island from the East Falkland for sanitary purposes.

Ordinances Nos. 5 and 7 related to provision for protection of Stanley and its environs against fire.

Ordinances Nos. 6 and 8 aimed at improving the existing legislation regarding dividing fences and the prevention of trespass by animals.

#### EDUCATION.

##### *Newspapers, &c.*

In the appointment of two itinerant Schoolmasters elementary education has been finally brought within reach of the most



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remote shepherd's hut, so that no further excuse exists for the lamentable condition of illiteracy in which whole families had unavoidably to be raised.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1897.

During the year a Standard Examination of the Schools in Stanley of each denomination was held for the first time, with results which amply justified its institution.

The hesitation inseparable from a new departure and a first attempt will wear off by another year, when the results may be expected to be even more hopeful.

The instruction imparted in the schools continues to be confined to the most elementary subjects.

Economic causes contribute to block the way, but these will be so modified in time as to admit of some young folks being detached from domestic duties after the compulsory school age has passed, and so being enabled to attend higher classes.

Technical instruction in trades is a matter not lost sight of, and will be instituted at the earliest practicable moment.

Watchful insistence on the provisions of the School compulsory legislation ensures the largest possible attendance in the three schools in Stanley.

Beyond Stanley, at Darwin, and in the case of the itinerant masters of the West Falkland, the conditions are so different as to render a similar insistence impossible, in spite of which, however, the attendance rolls cannot be regarded as otherwise than satisfactory.

Although the Government School Inspector happens to be the Colonial Chaplain and Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Government schools, senior and infant, are entirely undenominational.

The Roman Catholic and the Baptist schools are conducted by their own pastors, but the instruction imparted by the masters at Darwin and in the West Falklands is undenominational.

All are mixed schools, neither numbers nor facilities admitting of the complete separation of boys from girls.

The teachers of the Government schools receive fixed salaries, while the Roman Catholic and Baptist Missions receive State aid at the rate of 24s. per pupil per annum. The Corporation of the Falkland Islands Company pay their own master on their camp at Darwin.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The bulk of trade continues with Great Britain, nor do the returns of Imports and Exports disclose any important change in its volume or quality.

Country.	Imports.				Exports.			
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
United Kingdom ... ..	£ 54,500	£ 64,246	£ 62,641	£ 54,225	£. 130,071	£. 122,988	£. 132,194	£. 123,186
Germany... ..	759	720	441	642	—	—	—	—
Uruguay ... ..	1,712	3,615	1,705	2,794	—	—	—	—
Chile ... ..	4,232	3,243	5,198	5,375	1,160	—	—	1,937
Argentine ... ..	1,067	—	—	250	570	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ... ..</b>	<b>62,270</b>	<b>71,826</b>	<b>69,985</b>	<b>63,286</b>	<b>131,801</b>	<b>122,988</b>	<b>132,194</b>	<b>125,123</b>

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The Colony's exports are nearly double the value of its imports.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1897.

A review of the items which go to make up the totals of Imports and Exports is not without interest, and discloses the narrow limits within which both continue to be confined.

Taking first the most important, the *Exports*, we find far at the head

		£	
Wool	... 4,301,500 lbs.	value	107,537
Skins, sheep	72,700 „	„	9,087
Skins, seal fur	1,609 „	„	2,413
Hides	... 1,738 „	„	1,350
Tallow	... 213,880 „	„	1,782
Other articles		value	2,954.

In five years, viz. since 1892, the quantity of wool exported has increased one fourth, the number of seal skins has nearly trebled, and of hides quadrupled.

On the other hand, the export of frozen mutton has ceased, and of live stock and tallow has fallen to quite a nominal figure.

Market fluctuations from time to time largely influence the money values of exports, which, though greater in quantity, often appear as of less total value. For example, wool ruled low during the year, and tallow, owing to Russian competition, scarce commanded a remunerative price.

*Imports.*

The quantity and value of these compared with the imports in the previous year from the various countries are as follows :—

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 1897.		1896.	1897.
	From United Kingdom:—		
	Coal ... ..	£ 1,385	£ 3,242
	Wearing apparel, clothing material, including boots and haberdashery.	11,865	12,832
	Hardware, machinery, &c. ... ..	19,574	7,410
	Oilmen's stores, groceries, and provisions	14,249	12,140
	Live stock and fodder ... ..	2,668	640
	Building material, including timber ...	5,236	2,994
	Liquor, beer, spirits of all kinds ...	5,737	6,606
	Tobacco and cigars ... ..	1,329	2,657
	Specie ... ..	2,000	40
	Ship stores, cordage, &c. ... ..	6,169	4,503
	Sheep dip ... ..	2,429	1,161
		62,641	54,225
	From Germany:—		
	Groceries ... ..	254	628
	Liquor, beer, spirits, wine ... ..	86	14
	Tobacco ... ..	50	—
	Clothing ... ..	20	—
	Hardware ... ..	10	—
	Vegetables ... ..	21	—
		441	642
	From Uruguay:—		
	Cereals ... ..	980	1,833
	Fruit and vegetables ... ..	498	702
	Oil ... ..	96	175
	Fodder ... ..	105	84
	Groceries... ..	7	—
	Hardware ... ..	9	—
	Clothing ... ..	10	—
		1,705	2,794
	From Chile:—		
	Cereals ... ..	2,000	2,656
	Fruit and vegetables ... ..	406	158
	Groceries... ..	296	—
	Fencing ... ..	785	—
	Live stock and horses ... ..	1,150	145
	Building material ... ..	200	2,200
	Sheep dip ... ..	200	—
	Ship stores ... ..	60	—
	Fodder ... ..	185	150
	Liquor and wines ... ..	26	6
		5,198	5,375
	From Argentina:—		
	Horses ... ..	—	250

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No important stress is to be laid upon the total imports for 1897 appearing as £6,000 less than in 1896.

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This difference represents merely the unforeseen delay of one or other of the sailing vessels which bring cargo once or twice in the year from England.

Upon the completion of the new fences being put up in every part of the Colony, a shrinkage must become evident in the value of the Imports, which will then be confined mainly to luxuries and necessaries for personal and domestic consumption.

#### SHIPPING.

Under the conditions that obtain in the Colony, little variation occurs in the volume of shipping year by year, which rises or falls according as the weather compels vessels to put in for repairs.

The number of vessels, steam and sailing, which entered and cleared during the past three years is shown by the subjoined table:—

*Steam Ships.*

Country.	1895.				1896.				1897.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Germany ... ..	14	26,093	14	26,093	20	36,339	20	36,339	19	41,543	19	41,543
England ... ..	1	1,893	1	1,893	1	3,528	1	3,528	—	—	—	—
Chile ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1,204	6	1,204
Total ... ..	15	27,986	15	27,986	21	39,867	21	39,867	25	42,747	25	42,747

*Sailing Ships.*

Country.	1895.				1896.				1897.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
England ... ..	17	10,801	12	7,325	8	6,606	6	4,278	10	6,019	10	6,019
Germany ... ..	1	1,603	1	1,603	3	5,482	2	970	3	2,848	3	2,848
United States ...	1	60	1	60	1	1,498	3	4,782	—	—	—	—
Chile ... ..	1	358	1	358	6	1,036	5	589	2	471	2	471
Norway ... ..	1	1,382	1	363	4	1,807	3	2,885	—	—	—	—
Italy ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,711	1	1,711
Denmark ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	348	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14,204</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9,709</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16,429</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13,501</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11,397</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11,049</b>

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1897.

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FALKLAND  
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The most noteworthy feature in these returns is the preponderance of foreign vessels, which is explained by the Mail contract being in the hands of a German line, the Kosmos Company of Hamburg.

Fewer ships put in for repairs than for some years back, this being the natural result of less boisterous and stormy weather prevailing round the Horn in April and October.

#### INDUSTRIES.

As may be gathered from a glance at the exports, but one industry may be said to obtain—that of sheep farming.

Allowing for comparative poverty of the natural grass, the islands form quite an ideal sheep farm.

There are no troublesome forests to clear away, no deep and dangerous rivers to be crossed, no dingoes to harass and destroy the stock, no prolonged droughts, and, above all, no rabbits to annoy the farmer and involve his yearly output in a disagreeable uncertainty.

Bad and good seasons occur here as elsewhere, but the difference is not marked in the same degree as in other countries less adapted by nature for this particular industry.

Annual earnings are mainly influenced by the fluctuations of the wool market in London, and farmers have small cause to trouble seriously about climate, weather, or aught else.

More than one early traveller in this region, years before the experiment of sheep farming was brought to its present successful issue, gave his opinion of the possibilities of the soil of the islands for agriculture, and their capability to sustain a large population.

With this expression of opinion the matter seems to have rested, and agriculture for purposes of a livelihood has not been taken up, possibly because of the uninviting appearance of the "camp," or of the high winds that must be fatal to all but tubers of various kinds, and the scarcity and expense of labour. Such labour as happened to be present found lighter and more congenial and profitable work on the sheep farms that were started in quick succession.

The flourishing condition of the kitchen gardens in every settlement and in the town of Stanley, amply evidences the capability of the soil to reward individual labour. But between this and a paying industry there is a large difference:



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The Colony, despite its solvent and prosperous condition, affords no inducement to capitalists desirous of opening up new industries nor to intending immigrants.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.  
1897.

There is already in the Colony more than sufficient labour to meet the demand, which is stationary, and is a diminishing rather than an expanding quantity.

No land remains at the disposal of the Crown, and intending settlers must make terms with private holders.

In the quality of imports there is room for improvement, and profitable employment for small capital in the importation of fruit and fresh farm produce.

In a country where animal food is so plentiful that mutton commands but 2*d.* and beef 5*d.* per lb., the consumption of canned goods is incredible.

No fruit of any kind is cultivated, and such small and uncertain parcels as are brought by the mail steamers from Chili and Uruguay are eagerly sought after at high figures.

The high price of labour, and the difficulty of communication over the vast area of the Colony, act as effective deterrents to the establishment of home farms for the production of farm produce.

Potatoes of fair quality are grown at every settlement, as well as turnips, cabbages, beetroot, rhubarb, &c. The soil and climate of West Falkland Island lend themselves to successful agriculture far better than those of East Falkland.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

As might be expected in a country the staple product and industry of which is pastoral, crime in the severer acceptation of the word is unknown.

The following table gives the proportion of offences reported and persons convicted per cent. of the population during the past four years :—

—			Reported.	Convicted.
			Per cent.	Per cent.
1894	...	...	2.44	1.38
1895	...	...	5.47	3.53
1896	...	...	2.66	1.30
1897	...	...	2.48	2.24

**FALKLAND ISLANDS 1897.** The total number of convictions for all offences in the four years was 166, namely:—

Against the person	...	...	...	40
„ property	...	...	...	34
Other offences	...	...	...	92

With the exception of 7, that is,

In 1894, 3 against property,  
 In 1895, 2 against the person,  
 In 1897, 2 against property,

the whole were offences in the jurisdiction of the inferior courts.

It will be seen that the preponderating number came under the head of Other Offences, namely, against Merchant Shipping Act, and local Ordinances against drunkenness, for enforcing attendance at school, municipal regulations, &c.

The normal population of the Colony is law-abiding in the fullest degree, offences requiring penal punishment being confined mainly to the floating population of passing ships.

For months together the common gaol, which can only accommodate eleven prisoners at most, is untenanted, and the local gaoler, who is also Government printer, finds occupation in the duties of the latter office.

More frequent visits by H.M. ships since the establishment of a naval range have resulted in the prison being utilized somewhat more than before.

But the prisoners thus admitted are invariably under sentence for breaches of discipline only, and are not included in the foregoing returns.

#### HOSPITALS, LUNATIC ASYLUMS, CHARITABLE AND LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.

The Colony does not possess either hospital or lunatic asylum, the need for either one or other not having yet presented itself.

While cases of petty illness are inevitable, grave outbreaks of disease are happily extremely rare. Occasionally surgical cases arise through accident, and these are treated in the houses of private individuals.

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Outbreaks of lunacy are so rare that the legislation providing for removal to England of any person found to be insane has proved sufficient to meet the requirements of the Colony.

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*Charitable Institutions.*

The conditions of life have not so far called into existence any institutions for permanent relief.

Indigence is comparatively unknown, and such isolated cases as have occurred have been dealt with by private subscription.

*Literary Institutions.*

The town of Stanley possesses a lending library, on a modest scale, and without any proper location.

It is under the direction of the Colonial Chaplain, by whose kindness the books are accommodated in the vestry attached to Christ Church Cathedral.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The transactions of the Government Savings Bank show an improved and satisfactory condition of things.

On the 30th of September 1897, the last day of the financial bank year, a sum of £38,270 was shown on the books to the credit of 327 depositors ; as against a sum on the same date in the previous year of £36,718, the property of 308 depositors.

The total transactions since the opening of the bank on the 1st of April 1888 show : Total withdrawn, £57,204 ; as against deposited, £95,505.

Interest paid by Government to the credit of depositors in 1897 at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum amounted to £833, as against £1,199 received as interest on bank funds invested in consols, Colonial Government Bonds, and other securities.

Expenses of management came to £42 10s., leaving a net profit on the year's working of £273.

The balance to credit of depositors gives the very satisfactory average of £19 2s. 8d. per head of the population, as compared with £18 7s. 2d. on the 30th September 1896.

These figures, as the Treasurer, who is manager, rightly observes, after but ten years' establishment, compare most favourably with those of other colonies.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1897.

The results attained have amply justified the wisdom of forming an establishment offering complete security with a fair rate of interest in a country where no opportunity offers for local investment.

The Bank presents a direct encouragement to thrift, the extent of which may be principally gauged by the class of depositors, who are found, not among the large land owners and sheep farmers, but among the shepherds and employés and the labouring class generally.

#### FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

So far back as 1859 a quasi-Friendly Society, having for its object provision for sickness and the defraying of burial expenses, was formed under the title of the Stanley Benefit Club.

It is a private establishment, not under any Government control or supervision.

The membership is considerable, and the allowances on a liberal scale, having regard to the low rate of subscription, 1s. 6d. a month.

The age of admission is limited to 40 years.

#### CHILDREN'S PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

A private organization in Stanley called the Children's Penny Savings Bank is well patronised by school children and others. It is under the direct control of the Dean and Inspector of Schools, and banks its capital in the Government Savings Bank.

It is not formed under any law, nor subject to any Government supervision.

#### GENERAL.

The usual Governor's term of six years having expired, Sir R. Goldsworthy left the Colony in April, handing over the Administration to the Senior Executive Official, the Colonial Secretary, who administered the Government until the arrival in October of the new Governor, Mr. W. Grey-Wilson, C.M.G.

F. CRAIGIE-HALKETT,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Stanley, Falkland Islands,  
May 16th, 1898.

APPENDIX A.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

ASSETS.	AMOUNT.	TOTAL.	LIABILITIES.	AMOUNT.	TOTAL.
<b>CASH IN—</b>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Colonial Chest ... ..	936 17 11		<b>BILLS DRAWN by Crown Agents ...</b>	900 0 0	
Crown Agents... ..	2,494 11 0	3,431 8 11	" " on " " ...	740 7 7	1,640 7 7
<b>INVESTMENTS—</b>			<b>DEPOSITS—</b>		
Land Sales Fund ... ..	18,504 0 4		Savings Bank ... ..	39,426 2 3	
Savings Bank ... ..	33,041 17 7		Intestates... ..	947 11 0	
Surplus ... ..	2,893 11 6		Alien ... ..	53 0 0	
Intestates ... ..	555 4 9	54,994 14 2	Sealing &c. ... ..	47 2 0	
			Seab Ordinance ... ..	696 14 2	41,170 9 5
<b>BILLS IN TRANSIT—</b>			<b>POST OFFICE—</b>		
Savings Bank, 1,865 of 10-11-97 ...	1,000 0 0		Kosmos Company, Mail Subsidy, June to December.	1,350 0 0	
" " 1,878 of 30-12-97 ...	1,000 0 0		Unpaid Money Orders ... ..	8 0 2	1,358 0 2
Rem., Mly., Pensions of 24 2-12-97...	15 0 4	2,015 0 4	<b>PENSIONS—</b>		
			Byng, December quarter ...	9 8 10	
<b>ADVANCES—</b>			McAlister " " ...	1 0 0	
Coal and Oil ... ..	304 2 10		Watts " " ...	24 7 6	34 16 4
Personal ... ..	36 12 3	505 10 9	<b>EXCESS OF ASSETS.</b>		16,743 0 8
Board of Trade ... ..	164 15 8				60,946 14 2
		60,946 14 2			

April, 1898.

CHARLES W. HILL, *Colonial Treasurer.*

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1897.

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APPENDIX B.

Treasury,  
9th December, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Savings Bank Capital Account for the Year ended 30th September, 1897.

The transactions of the Bank from the date of its formation have been as follows :—

YEAR.	Accounts opened.	Accounts closed.	Number of Deposits.	Number of Withdrawals.	Amounts of Deposits with accrued interest.			Withdrawals.		
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1st April to 30th Sept., 1888.	32	—	60	—	4,201	1	5			
1888—1889. ... ..	67	7	150	37	13,809	8	8	2,871	5	10
1889—1890. ... ..	56	21	188	93	8,972	7	4	6,300	19	5
1890—1891. ... ..	70	30	256	182	8,577	2	2	4,760	1	6
1891—1892. ... ..	62	37	291	103	8,668	5	9	5,355	9	2
1892—1893. ... ..	60	32	250	112	11,923	1	4	6,790	3	5
1893—1894. ... ..	68	38	325	123	10,424	17	3	7,817	0	11
1894—1895. ... ..	64	32	312	148	9,355	6	4	7,620	14	11
1895—1896. ... ..	59	31	387	123	9,911	6	9½	7,609	1	5½
1896—1897. ... ..	65	48	356	150	9,662	11	1	8,110	0	2
	603	276	2,575	1,071	95,505	8	1½	57,234	16	9½

The balance in hand of £38,270 11s. 4d. is distributed amongst 327 depositors, giving an average of £117 0s. 8d. standing to the credit of each account, or £19 2s. 8d. per head of the population. These figures, after a period of ten years' establishment, compare favourably with other Colonies, where, from the late Sir R. Giffen's 60 years statistics, South Australia heads the list with £7 10s. 0d. per head of the population.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

With the absence of other means of investing locally, unmixed good therefore has undoubtedly resulted from the introduction of the Savings Bank; the majority of the shepherds and labouring classes, feeling that they can enjoy the security of the Bank, and that years of thrift will not be lost to them, have, as was anticipated, taken advantage in this way of making prudent provision for the future.

Far from throwing any charge on the public, the Savings Bank yields a profit, which is sufficient to secure the Government against any risk of loss.

The income earned during the past year was £1,199 8s. 10d., the expenses incurred were £925 13s. 3d., leaving a profit of £273 15s. 7d.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES W. HILL,  
*Colonial Treasurer.*





## APPENDIX C.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS.  
1897.Stanley,  
May, 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith a general Statistical Table for the Blue Book for 1897.

It gives the principal items of information illustrating the progress of the Colony from its foundation.

A glance at this retrospect will at once show the great success that has followed the industry and enterprise of a handful of permanent English settlers, which numbered 52 in 1843.

Approximately, without adventitious aid, one thousand men now support an equal number of women and children; they occupy some 5,000 square miles of pastoral country, possess 732,000 sheep producing 4,301,000 lbs. of wool, and conduct an external commerce of £186,600.

Such is the material result shown in the fifty-fifth year of the colonization of the Falkland Islands.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES W. HILL.  
*Treasurer.*

STATISTICAL TABLE SHOWING THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS  
 FROM THE YEAR 1842 TO 1897.

Year.	Parliamentary Grant.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports (a).	Exports (b).	Sailing vessels entered (c).		Steamers entered.	Horned cattle, wild and tame.	Sheep.	Year.
						No.	Tons.				
1842	£ 2,000	£ 363	£ 1,836	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1842
1843	2,000	1,816	4,342	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1843
1844	4,350	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1844
1845	9,812	—	5,557	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1845
1846	7,686	1,181	7,178	—	—	25	7,262	—	60,400	—	1846
1847	4,758	3,461	12,710	—	—	22	—	—	60,500	200	1847
1848	5,500	1,098	6,658	—	—	28	—	—	61,300	78	1848
1849	3,412	316	5,463	9,760	2,660	29	9,205	—	63,100	150	1849
1850	—	493	6,341	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1850
1851	6,655	366	6,544	13,000	4,500	50	15,197	—	50-70,000	500	1851
1852	4,201	520	6,102	16,132	5,800	62	22,024	—	61,000	1,000	1852
1853	4,398	758	5,565	16,862	7,428	60	25,186	—	30-61,000	2,000	1853
1854	3,328	974	5,695	13,800	6,500	55	23,728	—	20-50,000	—	1854
1855	2,612	733	5,354	—	—	53	19,793	—	20-80,000	3,000	1855
1856	2,190	884	4,685	11,300	11,800	33	10,501	—	15-20,000	3,000	1856
1857	2,430	1,514	4,955	—	—	40	18,415	—	20,000	4,520	1857
1858	6,162	711	5,819	—	—	28	8,645	—	14,000	7,650	1858
1859	3,539	654	5,138	13,890	6,892	53	22,140	—	19,000	7,912	1859
1860	3,786	1,438	5,427	26,697	4,910	47	15,909	—	19,000	10,600	1860

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1861	5,269	1,024	5,797	27,205	14,486	54	21,327	—	28,500	11,550	1861
1862	3,435	3,036	6,711	25,532	15,566	62	34,306	—	30,000	15,369	1862
1863	4,082	1,166	4,537	28,658	18,415	74	33,673	—	21,000	19,300	1863
1864	4,734	1,111	6,122	19,438	10,114	60	23,524	—	30-35,000	25,630	1864
1865	6,523	1,133	8,096	15,040	17,325	55	20,452	—	30-35,000	25,695	1865
1866	5,075	1,186	7,125	20,948	21,780	70	42,547	—	27-32,000	31,498	1866
1867	4,044	2,364	6,455	22,125	18,230	62	32,678	—	33-38,000	34,986	1867
1868	3,370	2,070	6,850	20,710	12,695	50	29,730	—	28-29,000	37,788	1868
1869	6,473	2,574	8,475	18,172	19,184	54	22,195	—	36,000	60,000	1869
1870	3,782	3,176	7,838	20,596	19,894	55	20,227	—	43,000	64,675	1870
1871	3,722	2,808	11,324	23,715	24,692	60	29,959	—	44,680	78,380	1871
1872	3,350	4,284	10,200	24,441	31,435	48	25,700	—	40,810	124,690	1872
1873	3,382	4,520	9,057	30,540	40,586	53	26,518	—	45,000	169,015	1873
1874	3,588	3,968	9,790	28,156	41,720	49	17,679	—	—	—	1874
1875	3,656	4,133	10,163	42,460	38,989	55	22,403	—	25,000	185,400	1875
1876	3,212	3,356	6,653	27,056	37,121	37	22,892	—	21,148	271,400	1876
1877	3,638	3,286	6,266	33,283	59,878	31	11,415	—	14,290	283,350	1877
1878	1,755	3,838	6,364	36,792	51,055	35	8,386	4	14,840	313,300	1878
1879	3,131	5,022	6,312	38,940	71,340	44	12,725	—	15,710	351,620	1879
1880	Nil.	4,433	5,074	33,505	88,564	38	20,475	7	16,450	410,800	1880
1881	(d) 500	7,891	8,078	40,443	87,919	29	18,942	27	—	—	1881
1882	(d) 1,000	6,681	7,565	35,429	76,931	30	20,174	20	—	—	1882
1883	(d) 1,000	7,337	8,728	52,913	84,593	23	14,238	13	11,374	428,918	1883

(a) Imports retained for home consumption.

(b) Exports of produce of the colony.

(c) As with but few exceptions, the vessels entered also cleared, a return of the latter is not given.

(d) Grant in aid of mail service.

N.B.—Where blank spaces occur no figures can be traced from official records.

PAKLAND  
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1897

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STATISTICAL TABLE SHOWING THE PROGRESS OF THE COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS  
 FROM THE YEAR 1842 TO 1897—*continued.*

Year.	Parliamentary Grant.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports (a).	Exports (b).	Sailing vessels entered (c).		Steamers entered.	Horned cattle, wild and tame.	Sheep.	Year.
						No.	Tons.				
1884	£ 500	£ 9,134	£ 7,791	£ 67,818	£ 101,338	No. 23	Tons. 16,747	No. 14	No. 11,569	No. 473,227	1884
1885	Nil.	10,438	7,598	48,314	97,846	21	11,353	15	7,934	516,975	1885
1886	Nil.	9,295	7,951	73,602	108,946	22	15,505	15	5,471	485,521	1886
1887	Nil.	8,963	9,128	66,785	107,995	35	21,535	18	6,210	562,821	1887
1888	Nil.	8,951	8,818	54,008	88,743	21	8,132	15	8,169	582,419	1888
1889	Nil.	8,628	9,720	55,716	116,102	31	12,241	14	6,521	589,722	1889
1890	Nil.	9,492	9,389	67,182	115,865	30	12,336	13	7,200	676,000	1890
1891	Nil.	11,551	13,302	67,827	130,752	26	16,766	17	6,321	667,344	1891
1892	Nil.	11,485	10,947	70,138	126,312	32	17,765	18	5,755	642,735	1892
1893	Nil.	11,450	11,388	71,126	134,872	24	10,398	18	6,200	771,305	1893
1894	Nil.	11,958	12,395	62,270	131,801	18	12,043	21	8,192	763,244	1894
1895	Nil.	12,518	13,159	71,826	122,988	21	14,204	15	6,850	791,442	1895
1896	Nil.	12,358	13,569	69,985	132,194	22	16,429	21	6,500	801,359	1896
1897	Nil.	12,970	13,636	63,286	123,186	16	11,051	25	7,343	732,010	1897

(a) Imports retained for home consumption.

(b) Exports of produce of the colony.

(c) As, with but few exceptions, the vessels entered also cleared, a return of the latter is not given.

(d) Grant in aid of mail service.

N.B.—Where blank spaces occur no figures can be traced from official records.

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**LONDON:**  
**PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,**  
**By DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.**  
**1898.**

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 263.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 235.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*July 1899.*

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**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	1897
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia .. ...	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.



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No. 263.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 235.)

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GOVERNOR GREY WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
Stanley,  
4th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Colonial Secretary's  
Report upon the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON,

*Governor.*

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1898.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total revenue for 1898 amounted to £13,039 being £69 more than for 1897, and £302 in excess of the estimates.

Receipts during the past three years show as follows :—

	1896.	1897.	1898.
Customs ... ..	£ 2,805	£ 3,639	£ 3,550
Port &c. dues ... ..	162	138	169
Licenses &c. ... ..	440	649	520
Fees ... ..	646	522	476
Post Office ... ..	1,171	856	1,159
Rents ... ..	4,916	4,936	4,998
Miscellaneous ... ..	149	83	82
Interest on investments ... ..	2,069	2,147	2,085
Totals ... ..	12,358	12,970	13,039

Revenue from the following sources exceeded that of the previous year :—

Port, harbour, and tonnage dues ...	£ 31
Post Office ... ..	303
Rents ... ..	62

The following fell below the previous year :—

Customs ... ..	£ 89
Licenses &c. ... ..	129
Fees ... ..	46
Miscellaneous ... ..	1
Interest ... ..	62

The revenue received in the past four years compares with that estimated thus :—

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

Year.	Estimated.	Received.	Excess.
1895 ...	£ 11,517	£ 12,518	£ 1,001
1896 ...	12,020	12,358	338
1897 ...	12,420	12,970	550
1898 ...	12,737	13,039	302

Although, then, the estimate has been raised from year to year, that hopeful view has been justified by results, demonstrating in a satisfactory manner the elasticity of the revenue.

The increase has been attained without the impost of any fresh taxes, duties, or charges, beyond a rise in the municipal rate on house property in Stanley for purposes of protection against fire from 6*d.* to 9*d.* in the pound on annual value.

#### *Expenditure.*

The total expenditure for 1898 was £14,278, viz. :—£1,239 beyond the actual revenue, and £2,559 in excess of that estimated to meet the requirements of the year.

The following table gives the several items during the past four years :—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions ... ..	334	283	223	223
Governor ... ..	1,394	1,416	1,311	1,393
Colonial Secretary ... ..	1,109	1,111	1,145	1,304
Customs ... ..	192	99	209	165
Audit ... ..	66	55	43	25
Port and Marine ... ..	361	246	291	258
Legal ... ..	598	831	527	358
Police... ..	568	484	511	503
Prisons ... ..	97	78	244	234

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Medical ... ..	605	576	630	565
Education ... ..	513	588	677	631
Ecclesiastical... ..	462	518	518	484
Transport ... ..	100	211	184	396
Miscellaneous ... ..	779	383	399	1,146
Post Office ... ..	2,271	3,000	2,873	3,045
Public Works ... ..	2,277	2,152	2,266	2,188
Interest, Savings Bank ...	808	855	945	1,002
Survey ... ..	402	391	349	334
Drawbacks &c. ... ..	223	292	291	24
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>13,159</b>	<b>13,569</b>	<b>13,636</b>	<b>14,278</b>

	£
Items where the expenditure exceeded estimate...	2,794
Deduct those showing a saving over estimate ...	235
<b>Net excess ... ..</b>	<b>2,559</b>

The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years is shown below :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1894 ...	11,958 11 10	12,395 19 7
1895 ...	12,518 16 6	13,159 8 4
1896 ...	12,358 1 10	13,569 9 4
1897 ...	12,969 12 2	13,636 10 0
1898 ...	13,039 1 7½	14,278 1 10

*Taxes, duties, and other sources of revenue.*

These have been modified and added to as follows :—

The rate of 6*d.* in the pound of annual value levied upon house property in the town of Stanley under Ordinances 7 of 1892 and

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1 of 1893 was by Ordinance 5 of 1897 raised to 9*d.* in the pound, and appropriated exclusively to purposes of protection against fire. A sum of £115 19*s.* 0*d.* was received under this head.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1898, for the establishment of a fire brigade, provides that Insurance Companies carrying on business in Stanley shall contribute towards the maintenance of the steam fire-engine  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum upon the capital sum assured.

A scale of charges for grazing animals within the limits of the town was put in force to run during the summer season.

For each animal for the whole season ... .. 8*s.*  
 ” ” ” per week during the season ... 1*s.*

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

This return shows at the close of the year—

	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Assets ... ..	66,782	12	5
Liabilities ... ..	68,950	8	7
Liabilities, excess ...	2,167	16	2

Assets are made up of—

	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1. Cash ... ..	1,693	8	4
2. Investments, Land Sales ...	20,304	0	4
Savings Bank ...	41,900	19	3
Intestates ...	568	16	1
3. Bills in transit ... ..	1,298	11	4
4. Advances due ... ..	1,016	17	1
Total ... ..	66,782	12	5

Invested funds show a gradual increase from year to year, thus:—

	1896.	1897.	1898.
Land Sales... ..	£ 16,932	£ 18,504	£ 20,304
Savings Bank ... ..	34,222	33,041	41,900
Intestates ... ..	—	555	568
Surplus ... ..	1,441	2,893	—

In the annual return for 1898 land sales fund appear as a liability as well as an asset.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

Entered as an asset only we should then have the total assets as £66,782 12s. 5d.; total liabilities as £48,646 8s. 3d.; excess of assets £18,136 4s. 2d.

This represents an advance on previous years, excess :—

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£
	15,287	15,889	16,743	18,136

*Liabilities.*

These comprise—

			£	s.	d.
Bills on Colony	...	...	900	0	0
„ London	...	...	625	10	8
Overpaid in London	...	...	470	17	10
Deposits, Savings Bank	...	...	43,172	14	1
Intestates	...	...	932	3	8
Aliens	...	...	48	0	0
Scab	...	...	1,111	4	3
Land Sales	...	...	20,304	0	4
Post Office	...	...	1,351	1	5
Pensions	...	...	34	16	4
Total	...	...	68,950	8	7

The deposits in the Government Savings Bank continue by far the largest item of liability and show a yearly increase :—

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£
Savings Bank ...	35,661	36,363	39,426	43,172

Liabilities for Post Office Mail Subsidy £1,350 and for Pensions £34 16s. 4d. are as in the previous year.

As mentioned above the proceeds of sale of Crown Lands, which are invested and amount to £20,304 0s. 4d., are for the first time scheduled as a liability.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Subjoined is a table showing the total Imports and Exports for the past five years :—

Country.	Imports.					Exports.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
United Kingdom ...	£ 54,500	£ 64,248	£ 62,641	£ 54,225	£ 64,992	£ 130,071	£ 122,988	£ 131,186	£ 123,186	£ 103,700
Germany ... ..	759	720	441	642	705	—	—	—	—	—
Uruguay ... ..	1,712	3,615	1,705	2,794	2,119	—	—	—	—	—
Chili ... ..	4,232	3,243	5,198	5,375	5,171	1,160	—	1,008	2,632	—
Argentina ... ..	1,067	—	—	250	—	570	—	—	687	3,284
Total ...	62,270	71,826	69,985	63,286	72,987	131,801	122,988	132,194	126,505	106,984

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FAIRLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898]

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**FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.** Details of the principal articles of import and export are given below and compared with the figures of the preceding year :—

*Exports.*

Article.	1897.		1898.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Wool ... ..	lbs. 4,301,500	£ 107,537	lbs. 4,801,222	£ 92,206
Sheep Skins ...	No. 72,700	9,087	No. 35,000	4,375
Seal Skins ...	No. 1,609	2,413	No. 571	787
Hides ... ..	No. 1,738	1,350	No. 1,800	1,000
Tallow ... ..	lbs. 213,880	1,782	lbs. 150,000	1,250
Live Sheep ...	—	—	No. 25,811	6,686

It will be seen that the output of wool has increased, whereas its total value is placed at a lower figure than in the previous year.

This is due to the low market rates that prevailed, the figures being mainly compiled from returns by the producers, who it is presumed rely in their turn upon their account sales.

So long as the land remains not fully stocked, and no adverse conditions intervene, the quantity of wool exported may be expected to show an increase from year to year. Experimental shipments to England of live sheep were made at the beginning of the year, and it is hoped that an outlet of this kind may be carried to a successful issue, and thus obviate the enormous waste which otherwise must annually recur in culling the flocks without any means offering for utilizing the carcasses.



*Imports.*

Articles.	From United Kingdom.		From Germany.		From Uruguay.		From Chili.		From Argentina.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
Coal ... ..	£ 3,242	£ 2,689	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel, Clothing material, including Boots and Haberdashery.	12,832	14,396	—	61	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hardware, Machinery	7,410	9,629	—	75	—	359	—	—	—	—
Oilmen's Stores. Groceries and provisions.	12,147	13,631	628	554	175	226	—	—	—	—
Live stock and Fodder	640	295	—	—	84	107	296	315	250	—
B Building material, including Timber.	2,994	3,124	—	—	—	—	2,260	1,981	—	—

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FAIRLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

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*Imports—continued.*

Articles.	From United Kingdom.		From Germany.		From Uruguay.		From Chili.		From Argentina.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
Liquor, Beer, Spirits, and wine of all kinds.	£ 6,606	£ 8,216	£ 14	£ 15	—	—	£ 6	—	—	—
Tobacco and Cigars ...	2,657	1,925	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Specie ... ..	40	1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ships Stores, Cordage, &c.	4,503	7,397	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
She. p dip ... ..	1,161	2,190	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit and Vegetables	—	—	—	—	702	467	158	85	—	—
Cereals ... ..	—	—	—	—	1,833	960	2,656	2,790	—	—
Fencing ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>54,225</b>	<b>64,992</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>5,375</b>	<b>5,171</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>—</b>

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LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

No land grants were made by the Crown during the year.

Practically the entire acreage of the Colony is sold or leased to some 36 farmers for pastoral purposes, the leased lands giving a total rental to the Crown of approximately £5,000 a year.

The freehold of large tracts of land was disposed of by the Government in 1890 for 3s. per acre, and at an auction of land in 1895, 4s. and a fraction per acre was bid. A plot of  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre in the outskirts of Stanley was re-purchased by Government for £74.

It is difficult to gauge the present value of land in the absence of business done.

Holder, judging from the lack of offers to sell, are not desirous of relinquishing their land, the worth of which may be estimated from the value of produce exported.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

## SHIPPING.

The year 1898 is the first for many years past during which volume of shipping entered and cleared during the past five years

*Steam.*

Country.	1894.				1895.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Germany... ..	14	23,738	14	23,738	14	26,093	14	26,093
England ... ..	1	1,893	1	1,893	1	1,893	1	1,893
Norway ... ..	6	714	6	714	—	—	—	—
Chili ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	21	26,345	21	26,345	15	27,986	15	27,986

*Sailing.*

Country.	1894.				1895.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
England ... ..	15	9,702	11	6,132	17	10,801	12	7,325
Germany... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1,603	1	1,603
United States ... ..	1	1,663	1	1,663	1	60	1	60
Chili ... ..	1	300	—	—	1	358	1	358
Norway ... ..	1	378	1	378	1	1,382	1	363
Italy ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	18	12,043	13	8,173	21	14,204	16	9,709

SHIPPING,

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.

no vessel put in to Port Stanley for repair or in distress. The is shown in the subjoined table.

*Steam.*

1896.				1897.				1898.			
Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
20	36,339	20	36,339	19	41,543	19	41,543	17	42,539	17	42,539
1	3,528	1	3,528	—	—	—	—	5	12,232	5	12,232
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	6	1,204	6	1,204	11	1,945	11	1,945
21	39,867	21	39,867	25	42,747	25	42,747	33	56,716	33	56,716

*Sailing.*

1896.				1897.				1898.			
Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
8	6,606	6	4,273	10	6,019	10	6,019	4	1,327	3	1,877
3	5,482	2	970	3	2,848	3	2,848	—	—	—	—
1	1,498	3	4,782	—	—	—	—	2	1,775	1	1,710
6	1,036	5	589	2	471	2	471	4	731	4	731
4	1,807	3	2,885	—	—	—	—	1	305	1	305
—	—	—	—	1	1,711	1	1,711	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	1	348	—	—	1	401	1	401
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	276	1	276
22	16,429	19	13,504	17	11,397	16	11,049	13	5,415	11	5,300

FAKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

### LEGISLATION, LAWS, PROCLAMATIONS, &C.

Eleven Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important of which were :—

No. 3, creating a fire brigade and otherwise providing for action in the event of fire.

No. 4, relating to jurors and trials by jury.

No. 5, relating to gaols.

No. 6, relating to coroners, and adapting the proceedings to the peculiar conditions and necessities of life in the Colony.

No. 8, relating to trading companies.

No. 9, relating to harbours.

No. 10, relating to post office.

In all the Ordinances the aim has been to simplify as much as possible the local statute book, by the inclusion into one simple Ordinance of the salient provisions of many which are repealed.

Proclamations relating to coinage and to the Spanish American war were promulgated on the 5th and 19th of May respectively.

### EDUCATION.

In the town of Stanley there are three schools :—

(1.) Government school, consisting of a senior and junior department, the former under the master, the latter in charge of his wife.

There is a mixed attendance at each school.

The senior school has on the roll 46 boys and 35 girls, or a total of 81, with an average attendance of boys 30·2, girls 25·8, giving a total of 56.

The junior or infant school numbers 37 boys and 38 girls, a total of 75, with an average attendance of 25 boys and 25·6 girls, in all 50·6.

(2.) State aided school carried on by the Roman Catholic Mission.

This school has a mixed attendance, and numbers on its roll 6 pupils, with an average attendance of 51·8.

(3.) Up to the departure in April of the Baptist Minister, a State aided school was kept up by him, having a total of some 30 boys and girls. These numbers have since diminished to the nominal figure of 13, with an attendance of 11 pupils.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS.  
1898  
—

Outside of Stanley, in the East Island camp, the Falkland Island Company maintain at their own cost an itinerant teacher on their property at Darwin. This teacher has on his books 18 boys and 16 girls, 34 in all. In the settlement of Darwin itself, a school having 24 pupils and an attendance of 17 is carried on by one of the Falkland Island Company's employees.

Education on the West Falklands is provided for by two Government paid itinerant schoolmasters who travel throughout the camp from house to house where there are children, devoting so many days or weeks to one family before moving on to the next.

Their work is one of considerable difficulty and no little discouragement, but it is fully compensated for in the knowledge that education, hitherto impossible, is brought within the reach of all parents who desire it.

Education in the Colony has been made compulsory by Local Ordinance with the best results.

#### GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The annual report of the manager shows the satisfactory state of the Government Savings Bank.

The number of depositors increased during the year from 327 to 349, and the deposits from £38,270 to £42,760, representing an average increase from £117 to £121 per depositor. Invested bank funds have increased from £33,591 to £38,077.

Deposits to the amount of £10,961 were made in 1897-98 as compared with £8,779 in the year 1896-97, while £7,713 was withdrawn as against £8,110 in the latter year.

#### JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

##### *Prisons.*

The local gaol has accommodation for seven prisoners at one time, allowing a separate cell for each.

During the year six persons were committed for short terms: two for offences against the person, three for offences against property, and one for breach of Local Ordinances.

Besides these, several men from Her Majesty's Ships were committed to gaol for breaches of naval discipline for varying periods up to 90 days.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898

## CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Number of offences reported to police	107	40	53	46
Number of summary convictions :—				
Offences against person ... ..	12	8	11	7
Offences against property ... ..	13	4	6	8
Other offences ... ..	42	14	27	28
Number of Supreme Court convictions :—				
Offences against person ... ..	2	—	—	—
Offences against property ... ..	—	—	2	—
Number of acquittals :—				
Inferior Courts ... ..	38	10	7	3
Supreme Courts ... ..	—	4	—	—

## POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Sixty-four births, being at the rate of 36 per thousand, and 27 deaths, at the rate of 15·4 per thousand, of the population were recorded during the year.

The abnormally high death-rate was caused by a boat accident wherein ten lives were lost.

A house to house visitation revealed the exact population of the town of Stanley to be 789, composed of :—Men, 185 ; women, 233 ; boys, 208 ; girls, 163.

The remaining population of the Islands, 964, is scattered among the sheep farms throughout the camp in the East and West Island.

Fourteen marriages were solemnized in the Colony during the year.

Generally the state of public health is good. Epidemics or visitations of colds and coughs of a more or less severe type recur each winter but with few fatal results.



Rainfall is not excessive. It rains often but in no great volume. The temperature is normally low, always cold, without, however, the extreme frosts, or summer heat, of England.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

The prevailing winds from W., S.W. and S. are high and continuous, and make the cold felt far more than it would otherwise be. At the same time, they contribute largely to the healthy condition that prevails in the absence of organized sanitation.

#### MAIL SERVICE.

Mail service is carried on by steamers of the German Kosmos Company, which call once every three weeks for mails, passengers, and cargo. The average time to England by the direct homeward steamers is five weeks, and by the steamers which tranship mails into the Pacific boats at Punta Arenas a little over five weeks.

From England a mail is made up every three weeks for the Falkland Islands.

This is brought alternately by the Kosmos steamers which come out direct, bringing parcels as well, and occupy 30 days on the passage, and by the Pacific S.S. Company conveying letters only as far as Punta Arenas, where they are transhipped to a Kosmos steamer for conveyance to this Port. These latter mails occupy five weeks in transit.

The Kosmos Company receives an annual payment from the Local Government under a 5 years' contract, which expires on 1st July of 1900, of £2,500.

Within the Colony, mails are distributed by a contract schooner at an annual cost of £450 upon the arrival of each Kosmos steamer.

#### POSTAL STATISTICS.

The following are briefly the postal transactions during the year :—

Revenue :—

	£
Parcels Post ... ..	86
Commission on Money Orders ...	39
Sale of Stamps, &c. ... ..	816
Insufficient postage ... ..	8
Transit Rates, triennial ... ..	210
Total ... ..	£1,159

FALKLAND ISLANDS, 1898	Expenditure :—				£
	Salaries of Staff	...	...	...	25
	Mail Contract, Kosmos Co.	...	...	...	2,500
	Mail Contract, Local	...	...	...	385
	Stores	...	...	...	85
					<hr/>
					£3,995
					<hr/>
	Excess expended over receipts	...	...	...	£1,886
	Money Orders :—				£
	Issued in Colony				
	To England	...	...	...	4,677
	To English Colonies	...	...	...	73
	To Foreign Countries	...	...	...	166
					<hr/>
	Total	...	...	...	£4,916
					<hr/>

## Number of letters carried in year :—

Ordinary	...	...	...	...	26,000
Registered	...	...	...	...	2,000
Papers, books, packets, &c.	...	...	...	...	34,000
Parcels to England	...	...	...	...	166
Parcels from England	...	...	...	...	1,039
Parcels rates	...	...	...	...	4,000
Parcels rates insured	...	...	...	...	200
Value of parcels carried	...	...	...	...	£2,200

The above figures are certain to be very largely increased during the current year, in consequence of the adoption by the Colony on the 25th December last year of Imperial penny postage letter rate, and of the reduced rates for parcels.

## MILITARY.

The military element in the Colony is represented by a Volunteer Rifle Company of six officers, four non-commissioned officers, and 75 privates, armed with Martini-Henry rifles, and two field guns, nine-pounders.

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<p>The Corps is maintained from local revenue by a capitation grant of £2 per annum for each efficient. Last year £90 was received in respect of 45 efficient. These grants go towards purchase and upkeep of uniforms, &amp;c.</p>	<p>FAULKLAND ISLANDS, 1898.</p> <hr style="width: 20px; margin-left: 0;"/>
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GENERAL.

The only modifications in the civil establishment during the year were caused by the death of the senior constable, and by the creation of a new appointment as engineer in charge of Public Works which Mr. Charles Messervy took up on the 11th of August. W. Miller, Consul for the United States, was replaced by Mr. John E. Rowen, the issue to whom of Her Majesty's Exequatur was published on the 20th of July.

Except in the town of Stanley there are no made roads. The nature of the formation of the Islands does not lend itself readily to the laying out of roads, being in the main, on the East Island at least, soft and boggy. In such ground the making of hard permanent roads would be costly beyond either the present means or needs of the Colony.

There are no railways or canals.

Prevailing conditions do not favour immigration, inasmuch as the existing population more than suffices for existing demands.

So much is this the case that in the absence of any opening, numbers of the sons of Colonists have emigrated to the wider field offered by Patagonia, either as sheep farmers or as labourers.

The future prospects of trade present no great encouragement over and above what has obtained for years past; fresh industries may and doubtless will be opened up some day, but not until the population has been augmented and opportunities afforded for the profitable investment of capital.

There can be no question of the fitness of the climate (which is very similar to that in the wild districts of the West of Scotland and Ireland) for Europeans.

As stated above no opening at present offers for the introduction of labour.

Rates of wages can only be quoted at the figures that have ruled for years past, which have suffered no material alteration nor are likely to experience any modification so long as the population remains as it is.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

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Generally speaking wages rule as follows :—

Carpenters 1s. per hour.  
Labourers 8d. per hour.  
Domestic servants £2 a month.  
Shepherds £5-£6 a month.  
Farm labourers £5 a month.

In Stanley prices rule thus :—

Bread 9d. per 4lb. loaf, or 2½d. per lb.  
Mutton 2½d. per lb.  
Beef 5d. per lb.  
Vegetables 2d. per lb.  
House rent from £1 to £4 a month.

All other articles are imported from England, and can be purchased locally at an advance of from 25 to 50 per cent. on home prices.

The social condition of the people is good, and the Colony is generally prosperous.

F. CRAIGIE-HALKETT,

*Colonial Secretary.*

Stanley,

Falkland Islands,

21st April, 1899.

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PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
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1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 244.

**F I J I.**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 217.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October, 1898.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena ... ..	1896
214	Seychelles ... ..	"
215	Mauritius ... ..	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon .. ...	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



No. 244.

FIJI.

FIJI 1897

(For Report for 1896, see No. 217.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Suva, Fiji,

18th July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1897, and to enclose copy of a report thereon by Mr. Allardyce, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &amp;c.,

G. T. M. O'BRIEN,

*Governor.*

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1897 :—

## (1) REVENUE.

The revenue for the years 1896 and 1897 has been as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
1896 ... ..	73,868	18	9
1897 ... ..	74,491	16	1
Net increase 1897 ... ..	£622	17	4

The principal increases are under the heads of Native Taxes, £1,230 18s. 8d., and Fees of Court, £808 10s. 4d. There was a decrease of £1,225 11s. 1d. on Customs Dues. Of this amount £348 7s. 11d. occurs under the head of rice and £91 4s. 5d. under that of soap, both being due to increased local production.

131. 1897. The following table shows the amount of revenue received under various heads during the past two years, with the proportion which each bears to the total revenue :—

	1897.		Proportion to Total Revenue.	1896.		Proportion to Total Revenue.
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	
Customs ...	32,994	2 1	44·3	34,219	13 2	46·3
Native Taxes ...	19,217	5 6	25·8	17,986	6 10	24·3
Licenses ...	4,262	18 0	5·7	4,087	4 6	5·5
Stamp Duty ...	745	18 11	1·0	913	1 6	1·2
Total ...	£57,220	4 6		£57,206	14 0	

The proportion of revenue derived from these heads during the years in question is thus—

1896 ...	77·4
1897 ...	76·8

and is equal to 9s. 6d. per head of population.

The revenue from other sources (amounting to £17,271 11s. 7d. in the aggregate) is equal to 2s. 10d. per head of population for the year 1897.

The proportion which the revenue from Customs Duties bears to the total value of imports (excluding produce imported for exportation, on which no duty is levied) is as follows for the past two years :—

1896 ...	14·4
1897 ...	13·5

The total amount contributed by the natives in payment of their taxes during the two years was—

	£	s.	d.
1896 ...	26,551	1	2
1897 ...	27,330	0	0

These amounts being in excess of the assessment, the following amounts were refunded to them :—

	£	s.	d.
1896 ...	8,564	14	4
1897 ...	8,459	2	2

## (2) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the past two years amounted to the following sums :—

	£	s.	d.
1896 ...	73,099	3	1
1897 ...	73,231	11	0

The excess of revenue over expenditure for these years was **Fig. 1897.**  
thus—

	£	s.	d.
1896 ... ..	769	15	8
1897 ... ..	1,260	5	1

The division of expenditure between personal emoluments and other charges for the two years is as follows:—

	1896.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal Emoluments ... ..	38,648	8	2	37,724	13	9
Other Charges ... ..	34,450	14	11	35,506	17	3

The total expenditure of the Colony is equal per head of the population to the following sums:—

	s.	d.
1896 ... ..	12	1
1897 ... ..	12	0

The ratio which expenditure has borne to the value of the exports in each of the two years has been as follows:—

1896 ... ..	1 to 5·9
1897 ... ..	1 to 5·9

### (3) PUBLIC DEBT.

The Colonial Assets (beyond Public Debt) exceeded the liabilities at 31st December, 1897, by £12,277 16s. 2d.

The expenditure on Public Debt for 1897 was £9,297 0s. 1d.

The Debt was reduced by £4,640 5s. 1d. during the year, and at 31st December, 1897, stood as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Under Debenture ... ..	115,700	0	0
Due to Imperial Government ... ..	97,556	11	9
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£213,256</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>

### (4) LOCAL BOARDS.

The Revenue and Expenditure of the Municipal and School Boards in the Colony during the year 1896 were as follows:—

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Suva Town Board ... ..	1,509	2	8	1,662	5	3
Levuka Town Board ... ..	879	1	0	994	15	7
Suva School Board ... ..	729	1	8	693	13	2
Levuka School Board ... ..	580	16	9	590	12	6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£3,698</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>£3,941</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

FIJI: 1897: The amount contributed by Government to the Municipalities was £250, and to the School Boards £689 5s. for the year.

## (5) PENSIONS.

The Pension List amounted to £1,303 17s. 2d. at 31st December, 1897, having been increased during the year by £483 6s. 8d. Of this amount the sum of £250 is paid to the children of the late Governor, Sir J. B. Thurston.

## (6) POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at 31st December, 1897, was estimated as follows:—

Europeans	...	...	...	...	3,401
Half-castes	...	...	...	...	1,231
Indians	...	...	...	...	12,025
Polynesians	...	...	...	...	2,278
Rotumans	...	...	...	...	2,143
Fijians	...	...	...	...	99,773
Others	...	...	...	...	947
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>121,798</u>

The density of population is about 15½ per square mile.

## (7) RELIGIOUS MISSIONS.

The statistics returned by the two Missions at work in the Colony are as follows for the year 1897:—

*Wesleyan Mission.*

Churches	...	...	...	...	972
Other Preaching Places	...	...	...	...	339
European Missionaries	...	...	...	...	11
Native Ministers	...	...	...	...	70
Catechists	...	...	...	...	63
Teachers	...	...	...	...	1,077
Local Preachers	...	...	...	...	2,042
Class Leaders	...	...	...	...	4,684
Church Members (English and Native)	...	...	...	...	30,652
On Trial for Membership	...	...	...	...	4,305
Catechumens	...	...	...	...	9,971
Day Schools	...	...	...	...	1,978
Day School Scholars	...	...	...	...	34,043
Day School Teachers	...	...	...	...	2,642
Sabbath Schools	...	...	...	...	1,652
Sabbath School Scholars	...	...	...	...	34,805
Sabbath School Teachers	...	...	...	...	2,666
Adherents	...	...	...	...	95,086

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*Roman Catholic Mission.*

European Missionaries ... ..	28
Churches and Chapels ... ..	64
Training Institutions (Native) ... ..	3
Native Teachers ... ..	180
European Sisters ... ..	24
Adherents ... ..	9,325
Schools for Natives ... ..	136
Schools for Europeans ... ..	3
Native Scholars ... ..	1,705
European Teachers... ..	8
European Scholars ... ..	138

(8) EDUCATION.

There are two State-aided English Schools and five English Schools conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission. The aggregate average attendance at these seven schools was 309. The Native Technical School had 73 students in residence during the year.

The particulars with regard to Native Mission Schools are given under the head of "Religious Missions."

(9) CURRENCY.

Accounts are kept in British sterling currency and in imperial weights and measures.

The estimated amount of coin in circulation is £96,000, and the amount of paper money £4,000.

(10) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

(Taken from Receiver-General's Report.)

The following table shows the value of the imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony (exclusive of bullion and specie) during the four years under review :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	£	£	£
1894	285,981	581,652	867,633
1895	241,759	332,209	573,968
1896	242,492	435,342	677,834
1897	248,748	431,860	680,608

FIG. 1897 The total trade of the Colony during the year 1897 was divided as follows:—

Country.	Imports.		Exports.		Total.		Percentage of Total Trade.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
New South Wales	196,361	2 2	103,011	13 0	299,372	15 2	43·98
New Zealand ...	34,728	18 5	216,335	8 7	251,064	7 0	36·887
Victoria... ..	207	2 3	96,474	3 0	96,681	5 3	14·204
<b>Total Australasian Colonies</b>	<b>231,297</b>	<b>2 10</b>	<b>415,821</b>	<b>4 7</b>	<b>647,118</b>	<b>7 5</b>	<b>95·076</b>
Azores ... ..	—		12,505	0 0	12,505	0 0	1·852
Canada ... ..	4,873	4 10	15	6 0	4,888	10 10	·717
Futuna ... ..	1,688	12 0	—		1,688	12 0	·247
Hawaiian Islands	—		10	10 0	10	10 0	·001
India ... ..	4,722	8 8	—		4,722	8 8	·693
Line Islands ...	30	5 7	—		30	5 7	·003
New Caledonia...	683	10 0	—		683	10 0	·100
Samoa ... ..	275	5 4	40	4 0	315	9 4	·045
Tonga ... ..	117	0 0	2,494	19 4	2,611	19 4	·382
United Kingdom	1,183	19 7	—		1,183	19 7	·172
United States ...	1,268	15 10	—		1,268	15 10	·187
Wallis Island ...	2,607	19 4	972	15 5	3,580	14 9	·525
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>£ 248,748</b>	<b>4 0</b>	<b>431,859</b>	<b>19 4</b>	<b>680,608</b>	<b>3 4</b>	<b>—</b>

Sugar, copra, and green fruit remain the three staple products of the Colony. The quantity and value of these exports during the past four years have been—

FIG. 1897.

Year.	Sugar.		Green Fruit.	Copra.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
1894	Tons. 27,265	£ 436,245	£ 49,115	Tons. 5,833	£ 57,261
1895	23,210	208,889	20,987	9,244	79,726
1896	27,334	336,929	18,488	5,487	48,950
1897	26,991	323,830	16,514	7,757	70,182

The foregoing figures show that over 90 per cent. of the total trade of the Colony was transacted with the three Australasian Colonies of New South Wales, New Zealand, and Victoria, in the proportion of 43·9, 36·8, and 14·2 per cent., respectively. But, as a matter of fact, many of the importations are of German origin, and it is noticeable that within the last few years there has been a steady increase of the following "made in Germany" articles, *i.e.*, prints, glassware, sewing machines, and enamelled ware.

#### (11) NAVIGATION.

During the year 1897, 102 steam ships and 27 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 124,128, entered the two ports of the Colony from abroad.

The Interinsular trade is carried on by a subsidised steamer and a fleet of small vessels. The Interinsular fleet comprises 73 European-owned vessels of 1,072 tons in the aggregate, and 116 Native-owned vessels of a total tonnage of 1,104 tons, outside a large number of undecked vessels. In the expression "Native-owned vessels" are included vessels owned by Fijians, Half-castes, Indians, and Polynesians. No account is taken of Fijian canoes in this statement. Daily communication exists between Suva and Rewa and Navua by means of steam launches.

#### (12) AGRICULTURE.

The acreage of the Colony is estimated at 4,953,920. The estimated acreage of cultivated land in the Colony is 45,970,

FIG. 1897. leaving an estimated acreage of uncultivated land, or of land under cultivation by natives for food purposes only, of 4,907,950.

The cultivated land, exclusive of land cultivated by natives solely for purposes of food, was under crop during the year as follows :—

						Acres.
Peanuts	...	...	...	...	...	267
Bananas	...	...	...	...	...	1,254
Pine-apples	...	...	...	...	...	45
Beans	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cocoanuts	...	...	...	...	...	19,912
Maize	...	...	...	...	...	407
Sugar Cane...	...	...	...	...	...	23,118
Tobacco	...	...	...	...	...	75
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	431
Yams	...	...	...	...	...	160
Tea ...	...	...	...	...	...	210
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	4
Kumalas and potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	21
Limes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other products	...	...	...	...	...	51
Total	...	...	...	...	...	<u>45,970</u>

The number of live stock in the Colony at the end of the year was—

Horses	...	...	...	...	...	1,832
Horned cattle	...	...	...	...	...	15,136
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	4,716
Goats	...	...	...	...	...	4,049

During the past year the Fijians in the vicinity of the Sugar Mill at Nausori and Rewa cultivated some 400 acres, yielding 7,400 tons of cane, valued at £4,233. In the Navua district they cultivated 1,084 tons of cane, valued at £391. The cultivation of sugar cane by unindentured Indian coolies has considerably increased. On the Rewa river an area of 710 acres, yielding 14,574 tons of cane, valued at £8,652, was cultivated by these people. The number of coolies settled on these 710 acres and dependent on cane growing is estimated at 250 men, 110 women, and 130 children. In the Navua district 234 unindentured Indian



coolies cultivated some 826 acres of cane. The quantity and value of cane grown by them during the past four years has been as follows :—

Year.	Tons.	Value.
1894	1,676	£ 1,129
1895	3,566	2,447
1896	10,353	5,974
1897	12,491	8,002

(13) MANUFACTORIES, &C.

There were at work in the Colony during the year 5 sugar mills, one tea factory, 13 boatbuilding yards, and 2 soap factories.

(14) METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following table gives the Meteorological conditions of the year 1897 :—

## SYNOPSIS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Month of	At 9 a.m. Local Time, being																
	Means of Attached Thermometer. Corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr. and Mean Sea Level.	Baro- meter.	Temperature.				Humidity.				Wind.		Rain.				
			Cor- rected.		Entered to Pre- vious Day.		Dew Point.	Vapour in Cubic Foot of Air.	Humidity Sat. = 100.	Elastic Force of Aqueous Vapour.	Wind. Force (0 to 12).	Cloud. Amount of Cloud (0 to 10).	Entered to Previous Day.	Estimated Duration.	Total rain for the Month.	Maximum Rainfall.	Date.
			Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.											
January ..	81	29.898	82	74	80.0	74.0	68.6	7.6	0.7	0.731	2	5	0.07	0.21	2.27	0.84	10th.
February ..	83	29.930	83	76	88.0	74.0	71.4	7.8	6.7	0.700	2	4	0.24	0.40	0.60	3.47	2nd.
March ..	83	29.859	83	78	91.8	70.0	73.0	7.7	6.6	0.816	1	4	0.24	2.23	7.42	2.40	29th.
April ..	80	29.894	80	76	84.0	75.0	73.3	8.9	8.0	0.837	1	6	0.66	5.52	10.65	3.84	10th.
May ..	79	30.022	80	75	85.0	73.0	71.1	8.2	7.4	0.761	2	5	0.15	3.52	4.67	0.89	17th.
June ..	75	30.100	76	71	80.0	72.6	69.5	7.1	7.4	0.659	2	8	0.09	2.38	2.62	0.35	10th.
July ..	74	30.086	75	70	78.9	69.0	66.1	7.0	7.6	0.651	2	6	0.15	3.10	4.61	1.08	7th.
August..	75	30.057	76	71	81.7	69.0	66.8	7.2	7.6	0.673	2	5	0.12	2.15	3.73	1.02	21st.
September ..	84	30.052	77	71	81.4	69.7	65.9	7.0	6.9	0.650	2	5	0.09	1.33	2.57	0.61	13th.
October ..	78	30.033	80	72	83.1	71.5	68.0	7.4	6.8	0.603	2	5	0.13	1.40	3.00	1.00	13th.
November ..	79	29.945	80	73	83.3	72.5	67.9	7.3	6.7	0.690	3	7	0.50	3.22	14.86	4.23	10th.
December ..	84	29.818	80	77	84.0	74.0	72.7	8.5	7.7	0.791	2	7	0.97	5.20	20.12	5.45	13th.
Means and Totals.	79.7	29.975	79	74	83.9	72.5	69.4	7.6	7.2	0.726	2	6	0.28	2.48	7.75	2.11	—

## EXTREMES FOR THE YEAR.

Highest corrected reading of Barometer—30.288 on 20th June, at 9 a.m.

Lowest corrected reading of Barometer—29.656 on 20th December, at 3 p.m.

Highest Temperature in Shade—98 on 14th March.

Lowest Temperature in Shade—62 on 2nd August.

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TAKEN AT SUVA, FIJI, DURING 1897.

11h. 53m. 44s. east of Greenwich.																		Month of	
Barometer.		Date.		Weather.						Wind.									
Highest Reading, 9 a.m.	Lowest Reading, 3 p.m.	Date of Highest Reading.	Date of Lowest Reading.	No. of Days of						No. of Observations of									
				Rain.	Thunder-storms.	Clear Sky.	Overcast.	Gales.	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm.		
29'992	29'698	9th.	30th.	25	0	0	3	0	1	9	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	January.
30'052	29'704	4th.	26th.	17	3	0	2	0	4	5	14	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	February.
30'044	29'723	23rd.	5th.	21	14	1	3	0	4	14	8	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	March.
30'012	29'690	30th.	25th.	25	0	2	14	0	2	4	17	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	April.
30'201	29'704	28th.	23rd.	20	3	0	5	0	5	3	17	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	May.
30'288	29'912	20th.	8th.	28	0	0	21	0	0	3	14	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	June.
30'198	29'909	23rd.	18th.	2	0	0	11	0	2	7	9	11	1	0	0	1	0	0	July.
30'124	29'801	14th.	11th.	17	0	1	9	0	3	0	7	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	August.
30'115	29'824	21st.	15th.	15	0	2	8	0	1	6	11	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	September.
30'119	29'848	31st.	12th.	20	1	1	6	0	0	5	15	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	October.
30'006	29'674	1st.	11th.	23	2	0	8	1	1	7	16	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	November.
29'967	29'656	6th.	22nd.	27	8	0	10	0	4	8	11	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	December.
30'101	29'775	—	—	21	31	7	100	1	27	77	149	82	17	10	1	2	0	0	Means and Totals.

EXTREMES FOR THE YEAR.

Greatest Daily Rainfall—5'45 on 18th December.

Total Rainfall for the Year—93'02.

Number of Days on which Rain fell—247.

J. D. W. VAUGHAN, F.R.M.S., F.R.G.S., &c.,  
Government Meteorologist.

Fiji, 1897.

## (15) POSTAL.

The extent of Postal communication to and within the Colony is indicated by the following statement :—

	Internal.	External.				TOTAL.
		United Kingdom.		Other places.		
		From	To	From	To	
Letters... ..	257,020	7,240	11,088	65,935	54,910	326,193
Post cards ... ..						
Newspapers ... ..	172,576	30,107	3,068	105,373	8,839	320,163
Book-packets, samples, &c., circulars.	99,084	4,282	1,152	16,563	3,798	54,879
Parcels... ..	—	311	91	572	70	1,047
Telegrams ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Including registered ...			Despatched 5,940	Received 5,589		

Money Order Conventions were in force with Great Britain and Canada. Money Orders were issued for £173 3s. 9d., and paid for £169 11s. 7d.

## (16) PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year a sum of £117 3s. 8d. was expended on opening up the mouth of the Sigatoka river in connection with the banana industry. A telephone line is in process of construction from Suva to Ba via Nausori, Viria, Vunidawa, and Nadarivatu, to be worked by the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, and the Union Steam Shipping Company. The length of the line is 100 miles.

The estimated length of tracks and bridle paths in the Colony is 1,067 miles.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE E.C.

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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 268.,

**F I J I .**

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**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.**

(For Report for 1897. *see* No. 244)

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**Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.**

*August, 1899.*

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1899.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
243	Malta ... ..	1897
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"
265	St. Helena ... ..	"
266	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
267	St. Lucia ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.



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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 268.

FIJI.

FIJI  
1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 244.)

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GOVERNOR SIR G. T. M. O'BRIEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
Suva,  
28th June, 1899.

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two copies of the Fiji Blue Book for the year 1898, and to enclose copy of a report thereon by Mr. Allardyce, the Assistant Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,  
G. T. M. O'BRIEN.

---

3454\*—75—8/99 Wt 21935 D & S—5 (B)

F.I.J.  
1898.

### BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1898.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898 :—

#### I.—FINANCIAL.

##### (A.) *General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following statement shows the amount of revenue received, under various heads, for the years 1898 and 1897 :—

Head of Revenue.	1898.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs ... ..	45,300	10	3	32,094	2	1
Port, Harbour, Wharf, and Lighthouse Dues.	3,944	4	8	4,254	8	2
Native Taxes ... ..	18,923	0	6	19,217	5	6
Licenses, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	8,051	0	9	7,298	3	10
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimburse-ments in aid.	8,840	5	10	6,846	13	11
Post Office ... ..	2,555	12	10	2,686	6	1
Rent of Government Property ...	544	16	7	561	8	0
Interest ... ..	373	2	4	0	12	0
Miscellaneous Receipts... ..	5,545	10	9	503	19	3
Land Sales and Premia on Leases ...	86	11	0	128	17	3
Total ... .. £	94,164	15	6	74,491	16	1

The following is a statement of the expenditure for the years 1898 and 1897 under the various heads:—

FIG. 1.  
1898.

Head of Expenditure.	1898.			1897.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	9,290	5	1	9,297	0	1
Pensions ... ..	1,546	4	8	873	4	2
The Governor and Legislature ...	2,652	4	11	2,515	4	0
Colonial Secretary's Department ...	1,060	1	10	1,130	5	3
Government Printing Office ... ..	1,756	4	6	1,522	7	8
Audit Department ... ..	712	0	7	723	15	0
Postal Department ... ..	2,542	10	8	2,664	6	1
Provincial Department ... ..	5,776	7	0	5,738	14	2
Treasury... ..	4,006	14	11	3,760	4	5
Customs Department ... ..	2,709	13	6	2,688	6	6
Port and Marine Department... ..	1,647	6	1	1,464	9	4
Immigration Department ... ..	6,333	17	1	7,336	12	10
Judicial and Legal Departments ...	8,894	1	4	8,693	5	0
Police Department ... ..	2,842	5	0	2,989	1	1
Armed Native Constabulary ... ..	2,108	15	3	1,836	6	1
Prisons Department ... ..	3,467	2	2	2,975	7	4
Medical Department ... ..	4,332	18	2	4,547	7	5
Hospital and Lunatic Asylum ...	2,305	19	8	2,240	0	6
Education ... ..	1,534	6	4	1,595	1	1
Transport ... ..	1,318	0	9	1,434	8	5
Transport—Special Expenditure (on account).	84	18	7	—		
Miscellaneous ... ..	1,627	19	5	1,165	15	8
Lands, Works, and Survey Department	1,706	1	7	1,670	6	11
Public Works Annually Recurrent ...	2,088	5	0	2,488	0	9
	72,574	4	1	71,349	9	9
Public Works, Extraordinary ...	3,320	4	5	1,832	1	3
Deposit for Expenditure on Public Works in 1899.	11,700	0	0	—		
Total ... £	87,594	8	6	73,231	11	0

Fiji.  
1898.

The total revenue and expenditure during the past five years is as follows :—

Year.			Revenue.			Expenditure.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894	...	...	80,053	19	0	72,203	15	4
1895	...	...	78,240	5	9	76,204	3	11
1896	...	...	73,868	18	9	73,099	3	1
1897	...	...	74,491	16	1	73,231	11	0
1898	...	...	94,164	15	6	87,594	8	6

The increased revenue has mainly accrued under the heads of "Customs" and "Miscellaneous." The increase under the latter head is due to an extraordinary receipt of £4,229 from Return Passages Fund on account of hospital fees of destitute Indians.

The surplus of revenue over expenditure, after placing £11,700 on deposit for expenditure on public works during 1899, amounted to £6,570.

(B.) *Important Changes in Taxation.*

The increase in the amount of Customs dues is due chiefly to the new tariff which came into force on the 10th March, 1898. Of the total increase of £12,300 in Customs dues some £9,800 may be attributed to this cause, and £2,500 to improvement in trade. The principal alterations in the Customs tariff consist of the increase of the *ad valorem* duties on hollowware, furniture, and galvanised manufactures from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent. The following articles, previously admitted free, are now dutiable, viz., breadstuffs, meats, and sugar. The duty on certain lines of drapery has also been altered from an *ad valorem* to a specific rate.

(C.) *Assets and Liabilities.*

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Colony at 31st December, 1898 :—

<i>Assets.</i>			<i>Liabilities.</i>		
<b>PUBLIC TRUST ACCOUNT—</b>					
Fixed Deposits at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£19,395	15 3			
Invested in Stocks through the Crown Agents for the Colo- nies ... ..	9,978	8 5			
Bank of New Zealand: Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	2,598	19 11			
Revenue paid into the Bank in January, 1899, but brought to account in December ...	170	14 9			
			32,145	18 4	
<b>INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN-PASSAGES FUND—</b>					
Invested in Stocks through the Crown Agents for the Colo- nies ... ..	£37,021	8 8			
Bill sent to Crown Agents for investment (maturing) ...	3,000	0 0			
Carried forward ...	£40,021	8 8	£32,143	18 4	
					32,143 18 4
			Carried forward	...	£32,143 18 4

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Est.  
1898.

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(C.) *Assets and Liabilities—cont.*

<i>Assets.</i>	£ s. d.	<i>Liabilities.</i>	£ s. d.
Brought forward ... £40,021 8 8	32,143 18 4	Brought forward ...	32,143 18 4
INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN PASSAGES FUND— <i>cont.</i>		INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' RETURN-PASSAGES FUND—	
Bank of New Zealand : Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898      723 12 3	40,745 0 11	Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898...      ...      ...      ...	40,745 0 11
DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT—		DECEASED IMMIGRANTS' SUSPENSE ACCOUNT—	
Fixed Deposit at Interest ...      £150 0 0		Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898...      ...      ...      ...	221 0 6
Bank of New Zealand : Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898      71 0 6	221 0 6	INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—	
INTESTATE AND VACANT ESTATES ACCOUNT—		Cheque Unpaid, 31st Decem- ber, 1898 ...      ...      ...      £4 0 0	
Fixed Deposit at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...      £400 0 0		Amount to Credit of above Ac- count on the 31st December, 1898 ...      ...      ...      619 9 3	623 9 3
Bank of New Zealand : Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898      223 9 3	623 6 3		

3461	INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND—			INDIAN IMMIGRANTS' INTRODUCTION FUND—		
	Fixed Deposit at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£5,180 0 0		Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1898 ... ..	£96 14 9	
	Amount brought to account in December, 1898, but paid into Bank in January, 1899	92 12 0		Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898 ... ..	6,631 14 10	
	Bank of New Zealand: Credit Balance, 31st December, 1898	1,234 14 0				
	Emigration Agent, Calcutta: Credit Balance, 30th September, 1898 ... ..	221 3 7	6,728 9 7		6,728 9 7	
PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT—				PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT—		
	Fixed Deposits at Interest with the Bank of New Zealand ...	£6,887 8 5		Cheques Unpaid on the 31st December, 1898 ... ..	£1,638 18 11	
	Remitted to Crown Agents for investment (Bill maturing)...	4,200 0 0		Amount to Credit of above Account on the 31st December, 1898 ... ..	11,349 19 0	
	Credit Balance at Bank of New Zealand ... ..	1,901 9 6	12,988 17 11		12,988 17 11	
	IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.—Amounts due to the Department ... ..	5,800 19 7		DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.—Amounts payable ... ..	36 3 4	
	ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable ...	17 10 0		RETURNING POLYNESIANS.—Amount payable ...	40 5 5	
B	Carried forward ...	£99,269 6 1		Carried forward ...	£93,527 5 3	

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F. 11.  
1898.

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(C.) *Assets and Liabilities—cont.*

<i>Assets</i>	£ s. d.	<i>Liabilities.</i>	£ s. d.
Brought forward ...	£99,269 6 1	Brought forward ...	£93,527 5 3
CROWN AGENTS.—Bills remitted on Public Account (maturing) ... ..	13,000 0 0	Capital Sum, proceeds of the sale of Native Lands, on which interest at 3 per cent. per annum is paid by the Crown to the Native Owners ...	2,734 13 4
WORKS ADVANCE ACCOUNT— Amount recoverable ... ..	156 18 4	PUBLIC ACCOUNT.—Cheques Outstanding on the 31st December ... ..	6,225 1 5
Amounts placed on Fixed Deposit with the Bank of New Zealand on Public Account ... ..	10,000 0 0	Overpayment into the Bank in December ...	0 0 8
ROTUMA ADVANCE ACCOUNT.—Amounts recoverable ... ..	201 0 2	CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES: Debit balance on the 31st December, 1898 ... ..	1,098 9 6
Revenue paid into Bank in January and February, 1899, belonging to and brought to account in December, 1898 ... ..	2,819 14 1	PUBLIC WORKS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT.—Amounts payable ... ..	11,700 0 0
PUBLIC ACCOUNT.—Credit Balance with the Bank of New Zealand ... ..	7,063 2 9		115,285 10 2
Total ... £	132,510 1 5	Excess of Assets ... .. £	17,224 11 3
		Total ... £	132,510 1 5



(D.) *Public Debt.*

The public debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1898, amounted to £209,216 6s. 8d. Of this, £96,516 6s. 8d. is an Imperial advance, without interest, which is being repaid at the rate of £1,040 5s. 1d. per annum. The remainder represents £112,700 debentures bearing interest at 4½ per cent. A sum of £1,500 per annum is applied to the redemption of these debentures. The interest on debentures so redeemed is applied to the further reduction of the debt.

FIJI.  
1898.

(E.) *Currency.*

The legal tender currency, and the only coin in circulation, is British sterling. The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at £70,000. The Bank of New Zealand has two branches in the Colony, one in Suva and one in Levuka.

(F.) *Municipal Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the last five years of the Suva and Levuka Town Boards and the Suva and Levuka School Boards:—

Year.	Suva Town Board.		Levuka Town Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1894 ...	£ 1,684	£ 1,581	£ 961	£ 977
1895 ...	1,670	1,537	1,155	980
1896 ...	1,680	1,506	1,238	1,129
1897 ...	1,509	1,662	879	995
1898 ...	1,603	1,600	980	976

  

Year.	Suva School Board.		Levuka School Board.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1894 ...	£ 679	£ 814	£ 518	£ 518
1895 ...	742	723	632	612
1896 ...	719	678	552	567
1897 ...	729	694	581	591
1898 ...	726	722	542	520

3454\*—5

B

FIG.  
1898.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) *Imports and Exports.*

The following statement shows the value of the principal items of import during the past two years:—

Nature of Import.	1897.	1898.
	£	£
1. Bacon and hams ... ..	1,254	1,200
2. Bags and sugar-mats ... ..	6,862	7,145
3. Beer ... ..	3,059	2,872
4. Books ... ..	982	779
5. Boots and shoes ... ..	3,241	3,009
6. Breadstuffs and biscuits ... ..	23,085	22,366
7. Butter ... ..	2,580	3,403
8. Coal ... ..	14,274	11,954
9. Cordage ... ..	1,195	1,279
10. Cutlery ... ..	1,321	1,403
11. Drapery ... ..	49,254	45,134
12. Drugs ... ..	2,467	2,805
13. Fish ... ..	2,225	1,966
14. Furniture ... ..	1,467	1,189
15. Galvanised iron and goods ... ..	3,039	3,448
16. Glassware and crockery ... ..	1,737	1,820
17. Hardware ... ..	12,807	14,776
18. Iron—bar, rod, sheet, rails, and pipes ...	3,564	2,502
19. Jewellery ... ..	1,373	1,445

## (A.) Imports and Exports—cont.

F111.  
1898.

Nature of Import.	1897.	1898.
	£	£
20. Leatherware ... ..	1,247	1,708
21. Live stock ... ..	4,457	5,607
22. Machinery ... ..	10,710	4,082
23. Machinery—agricultural ... ..	1,326	1,586
24. Manure ... ..	7,390	4,156
25. Meats ... ..	9,234	9,202
26. Oils ... ..	6,227	6,591
27. Oats ... ..	486	—
28. Pickles and oilstores ... ..	3,017	936
29. Paints ... ..	1,470	1,482
30. Produce ... ..	8,541	2,119
31. Rice ... ..	11,205	8,730
32. Ship chandlery ... ..	1,841	1,427
33. Soap ... ..	714	637
34. Spirits ... ..	2,829	3,180
35. Stationery ... ..	2,698	2,571
36. Sugar ... ..	4,088	2,663
37. Timber... ..	4,280	5,262
38. Tobacco ... ..	1,702	1,923
39. Vegetables and green fruit ... ..	3,063	3,880
40. Wines ... ..	1,479	1,264
41. Woodenware ... ..	1,730	530

Fiji.  
1898.

The following table shows the value of the total imports and exports during the past five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1894 ... ..	285,981	581,652
1895 ... ..	241,759	332,209
1896 ... ..	242,492	435,342
1897 ... ..	248,748	431,860
1898 ... ..	234,850	534,105

The bulk of the goods imported into this Colony come from Sydney, and there is no means of telling whether they are of British or foreign manufacture. As far as can be ascertained, there has been a slight increase in the importation of foreign drapery and enamelled goods.

The staple products of the Colony are sugar, copra, green fruit, and colonial distilled spirit. The quantity and value of these exports during the past five years have been :—

Year.	Sugar.		Copra.		Green Fruit.	Colonial Distilled Spirit.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	£	Gallons.	£
1894	27,265	436,245	5,833	57,257	49,115	133,971	16,746
1895	23,210	298,889	9,244	79,726	20,987	—	—
1896	27,334	336,929	5,487	48,950	18,488	78,890	10,163
1897	26,991	323,830	7,757	70,182	16,514	15,041	1,180
1898	34,156	409,884	6,474	63,140	25,478	111,088	13,886

The export of green fruit has increased. Large areas have been planted by the natives under agreement. The natives have also planted considerable areas with cocoa-nuts, and it is therefore probable that there will, in course of time, be an increase in the production of copra.

(B.) *Manufactures.*

There are at present at work in the Colony 5 sugar mills, with a nominal daily output of 204 tons of dried sugar; 1 tea factory, with a nominal daily output of 400 lbs. of dried tea; 16 boat-building yards; 2 soap works; and 2 saw-mills.

(C.) *Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.*FIG.  
1898.

The principal agricultural industry in the Colony is the cultivation of sugar. The Colonial Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., owning three mills in this Colony, are the largest producers. The total area under sugar-cane cultivation is estimated at 22,078 acres, from which was produced 342,998 tons of cane.

The following statement gives the particulars available as to the cultivation of sugar-cane by Fijians in the vicinity of the various sugar centres during 1898:—

District.	Area.	Quantity.	Value.
	Acres.	Tons.	£
Rewa ... ..	422	6,653	3,811
Ba ... ..	71	1,533	893
Navua ... ..	92	694	390
Labasa ... ..	137	1,575	830

The cultivation of cane by Indian coolies who have completed their term of indenture is increasing. During the past year they cultivated, at Rewa, 848 acres, producing 16,408 tons of cane, valued at £8,909. At Navua, during the same period, they cultivated 1,565 acres, producing 24,594 tons of sugar-cane, valued at £14,876.

With a view to inducing Indian immigrants whose terms of indentures have expired to remain in the Colony, Government has acquired three blocks of land, aggregating some 4,000 acres, which is being leased to these people on easy terms. Two of the blocks are situated in the Labasa district and are suitable for the cultivation of sugar-cane, &c., and for grazing cattle. The third block consists of a strip of land half a mile wide on either side of the road now being formed between Suva and Rewa. It contains some 1,800 acres, part of which has been blocked off and will shortly be offered for lease.

There is a botanic station at Suva. Economic plants, as coffee, cacao, ramie, &c., are raised and supplied to planters free of cost.

(D.) *Land Grants and General Value of Land.*

Only one Crown grant was issued during the year, for 1 acre 2 roods 5 poles.

The total area of Crown land in the Colony does not exceed 7,000 acres. The area of land held by Europeans under Crown grant is 423,018 acres.

Land may be leased from the native owners, through the Crown. The rental varies from 3s. to 15s. per acre per annum.

(E.) *Shipping.*

The following statement shows the number and tonnage, and nationality, of the steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the past two years at the two ports of entry :—

Nationality.	Description.	Entered.				Cleared.			
		1897.		1898.		1897.		1898.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ... ..	Steam ... ..	102	113,472	103	126,228	100	112,731	104	125,653
" ... ..	Sailing ... ..	17	6,576	12	3,074	17	1,951	12	2,922
American ... ..	" ... ..	3	703	2	680	3	703	2	680
Norwegian ... ..	" ... ..	5	2,965	7	2,857	6	3,544	6	2,599
Russian ... ..	" ... ..	—	—	1	399	—	—	1	399
French ... ..	Steam ... ..	1	358	—	—	1	358	—	—
German ... ..	Sailing ... ..	—	—	1	468	—	—	1	468
Tongan ... ..	" ... ..	1	54	1	46	—	—	1	46

The following is a comparative statement of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the past five years :—

FIG. 1898.

Year.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
1894 ... ..	128,662	130,251	258,913
1895 ... ..	118,533	116,869	235,402
1896 ... ..	115,470	115,586	231,056
1897 ... ..	124,128	123,887	248,015
1898 ... ..	133,752	132,767	266,519

The increase shown above is mainly in British shipping, and is accounted for by the increased trade with the Australasian Colonies.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

The following are the principal Ordinances passed during 1898 :—

I. The Customs Duties Ordinance.—A more uniform tariff is enacted and the Customs dues are slightly increased.

IV. To amend the law relating to Perjury.—By this Ordinance a summary penalty is provided for perjury in certain cases.

VIII. To amend the Native Lands Ordinance, 1892.—Facilitates the leasing of small areas of native lands by doing away with the necessity for survey by a surveyor.

X. To provide for the establishment and regulation of a Volunteer Force.—This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a volunteer force for the purpose of repelling invasion or quelling local disturbances.

### IV.—EDUCATION.

The Public Education Ordinance, 1890, provides for the election of School Boards within constituted districts (at present only Suva and Levuka are so constituted). The expenses of the Boards are paid out of the "School Fund" of each district, consisting (1) of an annual grant on the average attendance, on a scale fixed by the Governor in Council, and (2) of a contribution from the rating authorities of the amount required for school purposes beyond the Government grant. Education is free to

Fiji.  
1898.

children within the school districts between six and fourteen years of age. The ordinary subjects of an English education are taught.

There are two common schools under these School Boards, one in Suva with 4 teachers and 94 scholars, and one in Levuka with 2 teachers and 59 scholars. There are also 5 Roman Catholic schools for Europeans, with an attendance of 149.

There is a Government technical school where 70 native youths are instructed in primary education (including English), carpentry, boat building, planting, and the care of stock.

The Wesleyan and Roman Catholic missions provide entirely for the education of the natives throughout the group. The former have 1,926 scholars, with 2,723 teachers and 33,369 scholars. The latter have 146 schools, with 178 teachers and 1,815 scholars.

#### V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

##### (A.) *Hospitals.*

There is a hospital at Suva, maintained by Government. It is under the charge of a resident medical officer assisted by two European nurses. During 1898 there were 1,177 patients admitted, including 82 Europeans. The revenue for the year amounted to £2,181 5s. 3d. and the expenditure (exclusive of salary of medical officer) to £1,825 16s. 4d.

##### (B.) *Asylums.*

The lunatic asylum at Suva is under the charge of an European warder. The chief medical officer is superintendent. There were 9 admissions during 1898. Revenue, £52 5s. 3d.; expenditure, £480 3s. 4d.

#### VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

##### (A.) *Police.*

The police force in the two towns of Suva and Levuka consists of 1 European inspector, 1 European sergeant, 1 native inspector, 2 native sergeants, 3 native corporals, 1 Indian and 25 native constables, under the control of the Superintendent of Police. In addition to the above there are the rural police, consisting of 3 European sergeants, 13 native sergeants, and 34 constables under the control of the magistrats in the various districts.



(B.) *Prisons.*Fiji.  
1898.

There are two gaols, one at Suva and one at Levuka, under the charge of the Superintendent of Prisons. There are also gaols attached to the various magistrates' stations. All prisoners serving sentences exceeding three months are sent to Suva Gaol. The total number of prisoners committed to Suva and Levuka Gaols during 1898 was 765. Prisoners are employed on public works, roads, and as boats' crews and office messengers, &c.

(C.) *Criminal Statistics.*

During 1898 the total number of offences reported to the police and magistrates was 7,760. Of these 969 were offences against the person, 478 were larceny, 314 were offences against property, and 5,999 were other offences—being principally breaches of the Labour Ordinances. Of the 7,760 offences reported, 69 were committed to the Supreme Court, 5,121 were summarily dealt with, and 2,570 were dismissed.

## VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following statement shows the population as estimated at 31st December, 1898, compared with the figures of the census of 1891:—

Class.	Census of 5th April, 1891.			Estimate on 31st December, 1898.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Europeans ...	1,273	763	2,036	2,444	1,483	3,927
Half-castes ...	529	547	1,076	615	623	1,238
Indians ...	4,998	2,470	7,468	8,293	4,027	12,320
Polynesians ...	1,923	344	2,267	1,772	302	2,074
Rotumans ...	1,056	1,163	2,219	1,034	1,131	2,165
Fijians ...	56,445	49,355	105,800	52,656	46,298	98,954
Others ...	143	171	314	431	629	1,060
Totals ...	66,367	54,813	121,180	67,245	54,493	121,738

There has been a large decrease in the Fijian population. For 1898 the births amongst this class were estimated at 3,481 and the deaths at 4,300, thus showing a decrease of 819 for the year.

**FIG. 1898.** It is hoped that the steps now being taken to improve the condition of the natives will check the heavy mortality.

*Public Health.*

The general state of health in the Colony during the year was good. In August a case of measles was detected in Suva, the first which has occurred beyond the limits of the quarantine station since 1884. The epidemic proved to be of an exceedingly mild type and no death resulted, although nearly 200 cases were notified in the ensuing three months. Quarantine for measles has now been discontinued.

The Colony possesses probably the most healthy tropical climate in the world. Malarial fever is practically unknown. The death-rate among Europeans is exceptionally low, as will be seen from the following table :—

Year.	European Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1878 ... ..	2,000	43	21·5
1881 ... ..	2,671	45	16·84
1884 ... ..	3,567	59	16·54
1887 ... ..	2,105	31	14·72
1890 ... ..	2,059	35	16·99
1893 ... ..	2,474	25	10·1
1894 ... ..	2,666	31	11·63
1895 ... ..	2,872	31	10·79
1896 ... ..	3,292	31	9·41
1897 ... ..	3,401	30	8·82
1898 ... ..	3,927	30	7·64

*Sanitation.*

There are only two European towns in the Colony, neither of which have any system of drainage beyond that naturally provided by their being situated on hills near the sea.

The heavy tropical rains, by washing the surface and carrying off impurities, do much to preserve the health of the Colony. Scavenging is done on the dry earth system.

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*Climate.*

The total rainfall for the year was 109·62 inches, the greatest daily rainfall being 3·97 inches. The highest temperature in the shade was 93·2° on the 14th May (phenomenal for the cool season), and the lowest 61·5° on the 27th October. The prevailing winds are south-easterly and easterly.

Fiji.  
1898.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The particulars as to the postal service of the Colony are contained in the following statement :—

—	Internal.	External.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	
*Letters and post cards.	267,755	9,048	10,546	72,280	56,312	415,941
Newspapers ...	160,665	35,681	3,205	109,009	9,813	318,453
Book packets, samples and circulars.	30,586	3,852	1,111	13,455	4,092	53,096
Parcels ...	—	364	104	711	91	1,270
Telegrams ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
			Despatched.	Received.		
		*Including Registered	6,162	6,447		

Money orders were issued and paid in the Colony as follows during the year :—

—	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
United Kingdom ...	£ 411 7 7	£ 274 4 9
Other Colonies and Foreign Countries	1,164 7 5	254 7 7
Total ...	£ 1,575 15 0	528 12 4

Fiji.  
1898. On the 25th December the penny postage system with the United Kingdom and various Colonies came into force.

A telephone line is in course of construction between Suva and Ba, a distance of some 120 miles. The work has been undertaken by the Government in conjunction with the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. and the Union Steamship Co.

#### IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

##### *Volunteers.*

A volunteer force was established during the year, numbering 205 officers and men. A grant of 300 rifles and 150,000 rounds of ammunition was received from the Imperial Government.

##### *Constabulary.*

In addition to the above mentioned force there is a body of armed native constabulary numbering 120 officers and men.

#### X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

##### *Means of Communication.*

Beyond the municipal boundaries of Suva and Levuka there are few roads fit for wheeled traffic, though bridle paths exist everywhere. The construction of a properly formed and metalled road from Suva to Rewa, a distance of some 14 miles, has been commenced. Owing to the insular nature of the Colony, the principal means of communication is by water. Much improvement has been effected of late in this direction, by small steam launches running up the rivers and inside the barrier reefs. There is now daily communication between Suva and the sugar-growing districts of Rewa and Navua, and a bi-weekly service from Suva to Levuka and weekly to Ba, another sugar district. Communication between the various islands is also maintained by a steamer and a fleet of 285 small sailing vessels.

##### *Immigration.*

Indian immigration was commenced in 1879 for the purpose of supplying labour for the planters. During 1898 573 immigrants arrived in the Colony and 393 returns left for Calcutta. There are at present some 12,320 Indians in the Colony of whom 4,810 are serving their first indenture.

*Public Works.*FIG.  
1898.

The total expenditure on public works for 1898 (exclusive of establishments) was £4,888 0s. 10d. Of this amount some £2,600 was expended in maintaining and constructing various Government buildings; £100 was expended on a sea wall, Levuka; and £100 on removing obstructions at the mouth of the Sigatoka river. Amongst other measures adopted for the improvement of the condition of the native race, steps have been taken for the improvement of water supplies. Water was laid on to the town of Tupou, Lakeba, at a total cost of £297, mainly contributed by the natives. In the province of Kadavu three towns have been supplied with water brought some two miles in a 3-inch pipe. The estimated population of the villages supplied is 370. The total cost was £570, of which £230 was paid by the Government.

*Future Prospects of Trade.*

At present the four products sugar, green fruit, copra, and distilled spirit make up 96 per cent. of the total exports. The following table shows the value of the principal minor exports of the Colony :—

Export.	Quantity.	Value.
Cocoa-nuts ...	7,834 sacks	£ 1,749
Peanuts ...	163 tons	2,615
Tobacco ...	2 tons 5 cwt	258
Vanilla ...	—	600

It will be seen from the foregoing figures that there is room for considerable extension in the cultivation of such products as coffee, cocoa, vanilla, limes, ginger, maize, &c. A report by the Kew authorities spoke in very high terms of samples of Fiji grown ginger submitted to them. There is a market obtainable for all the above mentioned products in the neighbouring Australian Colonies. For persons possessing the necessary experience in tropical agriculture, and a certain amount of capital, there is undoubtedly an opening in the cultivation of the above named and like products.

FIJI.  
1898.

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The climate, though warm and moist, is not unsuited for Europeans. Manual work is for the most part performed by coloured labour, Europeans being employed for skilled labour and as overseers. The following are the average rates of wages:—  
Carpenters, painters, coopers, blacksmiths, 14s. per day; Overseers, £80 to £200, with quarters.

W. E. ALLARDYCE,

*Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 264.

GAMBIA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 229.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*August, 1899.*

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony &c.	Year.
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	West African Frontier Force... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics.



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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 264.

GAMBIA.

GAMBIA,  
1898.  
—

(For Report for 1897, see No. 229.)

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ADMINISTRATOR SIR R. B. LLEWELYN to  
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
Bathurst, Gambia,  
26th April 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of the Blue Book  
and my Report thereon for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,  
R. B. LLEWELYN,  
Administrator.

GAMBIA,  
1898.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR  
THE YEAR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the Colony amounted to £43,717, an increase of £4,300 above the revenue for 1897, and the largest sum ever collected.

During the year some premises in Bathurst that the Government had purchased a few years ago, when a site for a public wharf was required, were sold for £3,000, which raised the total receipts to £46,717, and as the total expenditure only amounted to £29,035, the Colony was able to increase its surplus by over £17,000, and there was thus, on the 31st December 1898, an available surplus of £29,000. I therefore can briefly state that the financial position of this small Colony, without any debt, was most satisfactory.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

2. The comparative table of revenue shews the steady increase year by year since 1896 of the receipts from the Protectorate, and from the passenger and freight traffic on the Government steamer "Mansah Kilah" on her weekly journeys up and down the river to M'Carthy Island.

The revenue from the Protectorate has risen as follows :—

	£
In 1896 ... ..	1,666
„ 1897 ... ..	2,540
„ 1898 ... ..	3,165

and from the "Mansah Kilah"—

	£
1896 ... ..	329
1897 ... ..	612
1898 ... ..	971

from the export duties on ground nuts—

	£
1896 ... ..	18,625
1897 ... ..	29,736
1898 ... ..	33,761

3. The expenditure amounted to £29,000 and calls for no special comment as only the ordinary services were provided for.

4. During the year the old pilot service at the entrance of the river was abolished, and an improved plan of "buoyage" has been adopted.

The entrance to the River Gambia is not near any high land, and is often out of sight of the low-lying coast. The Fairway bell-buoy is 21 miles from Bathurst, and without all the appliances for lifting buoys it is difficult to maintain them in perfect order; but it is hoped that the buoys will be managed easier than a pilot cutter and be quite as effective. Being less costly to maintain the dues on shipping were reduced at the end of the year, and are now only five shillings per foot (draught measurement).

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1898.

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5. The comparative table of imports gives the value of the cotton goods imported during the year as £60,787, an increase of £3,800 on the previous year, and £25,000 more than in 1889. This is a large increase, and practically all came from Manchester.

The patterns of the native cloths or pagus are now closely imitated by the manufacturers in England. Personally I should be sorry to see the native clothmaker, with his primitive loom, entirely disappear from the villages, but probably, though not in my time, the day will come when native bandy cloth will be a curiosity and the art of making it a forgotten one.

The "home-made" cloth will die hard, for it is far more lasting than the shoddy material made in Europe.

The old natives often tell me that the white man does not send them such good cotton as formerly. It is cheaper, but some would prefer to pay more and get better articles. The merchant buys only the cheapest and commonest, and keeps up the highest price he can as long as he can, and only gradually reduces it when forced by competition.

The imports of tobacco in 1898 were a little larger than in 1897, but the quantity of spirits doubled.

The quantity of kola nuts imported was 33 per cent. less, but owing to the rise in the price caused by the disturbances in Sierra Leone, where all the nuts came from, the value was the same—nearly £22,000.

These kola nuts are consumed entirely by the natives, especially the Mahomedans, and they are offered to a friend when visiting in the same way that a European tenders a cigar or refreshment.

The most remarkable feature in the imports was the very large increases in rice and sugar. Rice rose from 1,432 tons in 1897 to 3,960 tons in 1898. This is abnormal and partly to be accounted for by the plague of locusts which destroyed the corn and home-grown rice. Also the farmers found it paid better to plant ground nuts, which fortunately the locusts do not seem to care for, and purchase rice with the cash they obtained for their nuts.

The importations of sugar were more remarkable. In 1889 the total imports of this article were 1,083 cwt., of which 486 cwt. came from France; in 1897, 1,607 cwt.; and in 1898, 2,911 cwt., of which 2,393 cwt. came from France and which cost there 2*d.* per

GAMBIA,  
1898.

pound in small loaves. The import duty on sugar is 1*d.* a pound, and it is retailed in Bathurst at 6*d.* a pound.

There must be an increasing demand for sugar in Africa as the country gets opened up, for the native African has certainly a sweet tooth, and it seems to me that there is an opening here for West Indian sugar.

As the crop of ground nuts in 1889 was about the same as in 1897, I give below for comparison the quantities of ground nuts exported in the three years 1889, 1897, and 1898, and the value or quantities of the principal imports in those years:—

—	1889.	1897.	1898.
<i>Exports:—</i>			
Ground nuts ... <i>Tons</i>	19,636	20,279	33,078
<i>Imports:—</i>			
Cotton goods ... <i>£</i>	35,857	56,983	60,787
Rice ... <i>Tons</i>	906	1,432	3,960
Sugar ... <i>Cwts.</i>	1,082	1,610	2,921
Salt ... <i>Tons</i>	691	1,605	1,192
Spirits ... <i>Gallons</i>	40,108	20,576	40,319
Kola nuts ... <i>£</i>	21,211	21,885	21,639
Tobacco ... <i>lbs.</i>	296,978	272,580	292,472

It will be seen from the above, comparing the crops of ground nuts which are entirely grown by natives with the imported articles which they specially consume, that the taste for spirits and tobacco is proportionately decreasing, and for kolas increasing, for the value of the latter would have been far more in 1898 if the kolas had been procurable, whilst the consumption of sugar has increased in a marvellous manner as referred to above, and rice owing to special causes.

No Muscovado sugar is imported, but I am sure it would be appreciated by the natives to mix with their "pap"—a preparation of pounded corn—if it could be obtained in handy packages. Sugar packed in bagging gets moist in this damp climate in lightly constructed native huts; but I think if it could be put up in tins or kegs, which could be retailed here at a dollar or two dollars a package, it would take.

The merchants here would expect to get double their invoice price—Could ten pounds of good clean Muscovado sugar be packed in tins or small kegs and delivered here for one shilling and eight-pence?

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I may, perhaps, also mention, as a requirement in Africa, salt— which one small English colony in the West Indies produces of an excellent quality. The salt at present imported here is made by solar evaporation in the Cape Verde Islands. It is not to be compared with Turks Islands salt for purity, and I believe the latter could be sold as cheap or cheaper.

GAMBIA,  
1898.  
—

What is wanted, is to connect the West Indies and the West Coast of Africa by direct steam communication.

Many common articles of food in the West Indies, such as salt, fish, and cornmeal, would, if they were introduced on the West Coast of Africa, be as popular there as they are with their kinsfolk in the West Indies.

I believe, too, in the course of time the inhabitants would pass to and fro, as they would not on the voyage have to leave a tropical climate, which many now dread. Such a steam service would not pay at first, but it should in a reasonable time, if carefully managed.

Great advantage, too, would accrue if some of the better mechanics, such as engine drivers for steam launches, men who have been trained in the working of machinery on sugar estates, carpenters, masons, painters, blacksmiths, and even schoolmasters and native clerks could be induced to come to the West Coast of Africa; and I think they would if transport was easy and cheap, for they could cross as deck passengers in a voyage that would be entirely performed within the tropics. Perhaps all the colonies in the West Indies as well as those on the West Coast of Africa might for a few years contribute a small subsidy to a steamship company.

*Exports.*

The staple export, ground nuts, are almost exclusively shipped to France, although a few cargoes now go to Holland; and I cannot understand why there is no manufactory of oil from these nuts in England, for the business must be profitable.

The following figures are, I believe, fairly reliable:—

30,000 tons of nuts could be delivered annually from this Colony in England at a cost of £6 per ton. A ton of nuts gives 80 gallons of oil, which is worth from 2s. to 3s. per gallon.

In addition there is a large percentage of oil-cake for cattle fodder—briefly, nuts worth £180,000 give oil worth £300,000, and give cake worth value not known. I am unable to give the cost of the necessary machinery and factory required, but it looks like, and I understand it is, a profitable business to manufacture ground-nut oil, which resembles olive oil, and is I am informed used in the manufacture of butter and cheese.

I close these remarks on trade with comparative tables of the principal Exports and Imports for the years 1897 and 1898, and total Imports and Exports for the last five years.

COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1897 AND 1898.

*Imports.*

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton Goods ... ..	3,352 pkgs.	3,336 pkgs.	£ 56,983	£ 60,787	£ 3,804	—
Tobacco ... ..	272,580 lbs.	292,472 lbs.	6,110	7,190	1,080	—
Kola Nuts ... ..	834,441 lbs.	520,366 lbs.	21,885	21,639	—	246
Spirits ... ..	20,576 galls.	40,319 galls.	2,344	4,373	2,029	—
Wine ... ..	14,488 galls.	14,310 galls.	1,728	1,911	183	—
Sugar ... ..	1,619 cwts.	2,921 cwts.	1,409	2,583	1,174	—
Salt ... ..	1,605 tons	1,192 tons	1,526	997	—	529
Gunpowder ... ..	411 brls.	610 brls.	746	970	224	—
Rice ... ..	28,642 cwts.	79,208 cwts.	13,529	38,223	24,694	—
<i>Exports.</i>						
Ground Nuts ... ..	20,279 tons	33,078 tons	126,605	200,309	93,704	—
Rubber ... ..	423,103 lbs.	481,020 lbs.	23,457	30,468	7,011	—
Palm Kernels ... ..	145 tons	145 tons	1,145	919	—	226
Wax ... ..	53,375 lbs.	42,859 lbs.	1,914	1,833	—	81
Hides ... ..	1,651	1,528	180	311	131	—

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RETURN SHEWING TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE ~~THE~~ GAMBIA,  
LAST FIVE YEARS, 1894 TO 1898.

*Imports.*

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie ... ..	11,177	13,432	19,262	36,515	59,030
Other Articles ...	119,172	83,967	91,062	139,812	187,062
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>130,349</b>	<b>97,399</b>	<b>110,324</b>	<b>176,327</b>	<b>246,092</b>

*Exports.*

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie ... ..	7,226	4,490	543	2,272	2,722
Other Articles ...	141,917	89,047	116,438	163,622	245,110
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>149,143</b>	<b>93,537</b>	<b>116,981</b>	<b>165,894</b>	<b>247,832</b>

**MUNICIPALITY.**

The only Public or Municipal Board in the Colony is that known as the Board of Health of Bathurst, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance 4 of 1887. It derives its revenue from the rates (fixed annually) on houses and land within the

GAMBIA, town, and fees collected at the Slaughter House; and the  
1893. Government gives an annual grant of £200 in lieu of all rates on  
Government buildings.

The total revenue collected is between £700 and £800 per annum, which is expended in cleaning the streets, attending to the drains, lighting the streets, and generally looking after the sanitation of the town.

The Board had £248 to its credit at the end of the year, which is now being spent in providing additional and better lamps in the town. I believe the town of Bathurst is kept as neat and clean as any West African town can be.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Nothing has yet been done to develop or improve the agricultural resources of the Colony.

A botanical station was started four years ago, and a number of orange and other fruit trees planted and distributed throughout the Protectorate. Orange trees bear remarkably well in Kommbo, but are slow of growth at first. I hope, however, that in a few years time the supply of this fruit will largely increase, and some may then be shipped to the drier regions in the neighbourhood, such as Senegal, or up the river to the interior where fruit is scarce but always very acceptable to the natives residing there.

Attempts are being made to introduce ploughing with oxen, and the Government has two pairs of oxen broken in at the botanical station which are used for ploughing and drawing a cart, and as the cattle are now, after the disease of 1892, beginning to increase again, it is hoped the natives, seeing what can be done by the Government plough and cart, will soon adopt the same course.

Coconuts, which grow well on the sandy shore near Bathurst, have been planted and should give some good returns in a few years; but it is most difficult to get anyone here with capital to think of anything but trading.

One firm has just imported machinery for the purpose of extracting piassava from a plant which grows in profusion up the river, and if the enterprise succeeds it will add an export to the Colony.

I believe that pita, sisal hemp, could be cultivated here in the dry tracts of now useless land; but this requires capital.



Land can be obtained from the Government for agricultural purposes on easy conditions on payment of 2*d.* per acre per annum for 21 years, and capitalists would do well here if men with practical knowledge were employed to work the land by planting what is suited to the soil and climate. At present none have attempted it.

GAMBIA,  
1898.

### SHIPPING, FREIGHTS, &c.

English vessels are still doing the greater part of the carrying trade of the Colony. The river is open to the navigation of vessels of all nationalities and nearly every nation has had some steamer here to take away produce.

The rates of freight for cargo from England by the mail steamers are very high (42*s.* 6*d.* a ton plus 10 per cent.).

I cannot obtain from the agents here any printed tariff of charges, but I believe, generally speaking, the rates are considered unnecessarily high for this port. Unfortunately, the Company has a monopoly, and so can fix its own terms, which must check commerce. Outward freights from Marseilles or Bordeaux in French steamers are less than half what are charged by the English mail boats from Liverpool, which are continually raising their rates.

The mail steamers get privileges and facilities everywhere, and although not subsidized an improvement in speed, comfort, and punctuality are much wanted. Remonstrance is useless against a powerful monopoly, but there is no doubt this Colony is very badly served by the mail steamers running here.

Ground nuts are carried in bulk in steamers to Marseilles for about 20*s.* a ton. Some of these tramp steamers have good passenger accommodation, and travel quite as fast and even faster than the English mail steamers.

### SAVINGS BANK, FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There has been an increase in the number of depositors and amount of deposits during the last five years. The balance left on the 31st December last was £2,562.

The natives in the Protectorate are being told of its existence, but at present all their savings are being spent on cattle to replace those they lost seven years ago by disease.

There are 27 Friendly Societies or Burial Clubs in Bathurst, which had £727 (the greater part in the Savings Bank) to their

GAMBIA,  
1898.  
— credit at the end of the year. The rules for the management of these Friendly Societies have to be first approved of by the Legislative Council, and, generally speaking, they are practical; but I have been amused sometimes at the grandiose titles of the office bearers, which include a “mistress of the robes,” who is to see that persons attending funerals are properly attired according to minute regulations. Yet, for all this, the main idea is charity! and I believe these clubs do good in their way.

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS, PRISONS, &C.

The Criminal Statistics of the Colony shew that there is very little crime.

The Native Courts in the Protectorate are steadily improving, and are doing useful work in maintaining order. Crimes of a serious nature are dealt with by the travelling Commissioners in the Protectorate or by the Supreme Court in Bathurst. There are now about six prisoners from the Protectorate in the gaol in Bathurst.

#### VITAL STATISTICS, CLIMATE, &C.

I regret to say that the death-rate in Bathurst last year rose from 365 in 1897, to 439 in 1898, being an average of 29·26 per thousand. One-sixth of the total number of deaths occurred amongst young children, who here, as elsewhere in tropical countries, seem to die in large numbers, probably from ignorance and neglect on the part of their parents. It does not appear that there were any special causes for the larger mortality amongst the adults.

The deaths amongst the Europeans numbered four, including two cases of Blackwater fever. The rainy and unhealthy season for Europeans lasts for four months, July to October, but as business is then at a standstill, nearly all the Europeans leave the Colony for Europe, and this sensible arrangement reduces the mortality rate considerably. The natives suffer also from fever in the rainy season, and in addition, contract consumption and chest affections during the months of December and January when the winds are sometimes very cold.

There are great variations in the climate here. The thermometer in Bathurst sometimes varies 30 degrees in a day—68° to 98°—and it is always 20 degrees, or more, warmer up the river than near the sea coast. I believe the climate in Bathurst between July and October is as bad as the worst season on any part of the West Coast, but, fortunately, few Europeans are then

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here. During the remainder of the year it is fairly healthy, but it is necessary always to be careful and remember you are on the West Coast of Africa.

GAMBIA,  
1898.

The average rainfall is about 50 inches, which falls entirely between July and October, and for the rest of the year, except a few days in May and June, there is a perfect drought. In December and the following months up to March the hot Harmattan wind blows from the East. In the interior this is very trying, coming as it does in hot blasts over miles of dry land or sand. In Bathurst it is fresher, as it blows across the water at the entrance of the river.

In April, the pleasantest month of the year in Bathurst, the sea breeze blows. In May the calm weather commences, being the precursor of the rainy season, when the days and nights, except during tornadoes, are perfectly airless.

Bathurst is a clean town, barely above high-water mark, but with wide streets and careful sanitary supervision, I believe it is as healthy as the natural surroundings will allow.

#### POLICE.

*(Armed Force.)*

There are no troops now stationed in Bathurst, but the police force consists of two European Officers and 100 men who are armed and drilled.

The force has also three seven-pound field-pieces, and is considered to be sufficiently trained and equipped to suppress any small disturbance that might occur.

The police force is kept entirely in Bathurst, with the exception of a few men at M'Carthy Island and other places in the Colony. The Protectorate is policed by the natives, and the men are designated "messengers."

They are vested with the authority and protection of a police-constable when wearing their badges, and are employed for summoning or arresting persons who may be wanted. The headmen and headchiefs give them their orders and badges, and the system is working satisfactorily.

A case occurred when one of these native messengers was assaulted in the execution of his duty, and the trial and imprisonment of the offender has had a salutary effect. An occasion presented itself for showing a little force in the Jolah country, and

GAMBIA,  
1898.

fifty of the police who were sent on this mission acquitted themselves creditably. Otherwise peace and order prevailed everywhere, and the police force was only wanted for ordinary civil duties in the town of Bathurst.

#### GENERAL.

The trade of the Colony was unprecedented, and although with a single staple trade is naturally liable to great fluctuations, yet I consider that the improvement that has been effected in the administration of the Protectorate during the past few years diminishes the chances of any serious sudden decrease in the trade such as formerly often occurred owing to the little native wars that constantly, almost permanently, were going on.

The river Gambia, the best waterway in this part of Africa, must always attract trade to its banks; and the encouragement of traffic on the river is the object to be aimed at.

The little steamer, "Mansah Kilah," started four years ago to run up and down to M'Carthy Island every week, has fully justified this scheme. It is hoped that by next year a steamer will be running in connection with it right up to Yarbutenda; and this should lead to further traffic from the interior.

A depot and lodging house at Yarbutenda will be established, and I think will draw traders.

Factories or "depots" with wharves are increasing up the river. At Ballangar, 100 miles up, there are now three short wharves, at each of which quite recently three large steamers, over a thousand tons each, were lying at the same time taking in ground nuts. This cheapens freight. Steamers go up the river to load for an additional 2s. 6d. per ton, whereas it used to cost 20s. a ton to bring nuts to Bathurst in cutters. I think at last this magnificent waterway is being put to some use.

The social condition of the natives is, I hope, advancing.

Mahomedanism is increasing, and with it temperance and decency. It is pleasing to note that the women are sometimes averse to marrying drinking men, and more than one case has come to my knowledge where would-be suitors have become Mahomedans so as to gain a wife.

There have also been two or three cases where a woman has applied for a separation from a drunken husband and succeeded in her case. Judicial separations and divorces are more easily and cheaply managed amongst the natives in the Protectorate—but they are quite as effective—than they can be in civilized countries.

7/3  
1

Christianity is not making any advance in the interior, and I fancy is remaining stationary in Bathurst, where fully half of the population are Mahomedans.

GAMBIA,  
1898.

Several English men-of-war have lately visited and remained at Bathurst for some time. The facilities for landing and drilling, and the drier climate during the winter months are, I believe, considered to be beneficial to the crews.

The year 1898 was a record one for trade, and I am sure all the old-established merchants had prosperous seasons, which prosperity filtered through to all classes and gave general contentment.

I can close this report by happily being able to state that this year so far promises even to be better than the two last years which have been record ones.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LLEWELYN,

*Administrator.*

26th April 1899.

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1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS--ANNUAL.

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No. 248.

GIBRALTAR.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 202.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

November 1898.

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1898.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
221	Labuan ... ..	1896
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



No. 248.

## GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR,  
1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 202.)

GOVERNOR SIR R. BIDDULPH to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Gibraltar,

12th October 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Blue Book for 1897, together with a report on the same by the Colonial Secretary.

2. The Revenue and Expenditure returns are, on the whole, satisfactory. The former exceeded the latter by 121,000 pesetas, and the actual expenditure was 38,855 pesetas less than had been estimated.

3. The shipping returns show a slight increase, being nearly 60,000 tons better than in 1896. The increase has, however, been wholly in foreign ships, British shipping continuing to show the decline which I noticed in my last Annual Report.

4. The progressive fall in the value of the currency, which has been brought to notice during the last six years, continued during 1897, but any comment upon it is superfluous in view of the currency crisis which has taken place during 1898, and which will probably occupy a prominent place in the next Annual Report on Gibraltar.

5. It is with real satisfaction that I invite your attention to the small amount of crime in Gibraltar, an amount which shows an annual decrease, as appears from the number of offences reported to the police during the last four years, viz :—

1894	...	...	...	...	1,709
1895	...	...	...	...	1,450
1896	...	...	...	...	1,336
1897	...	...	...	...	1,104

**GIBRALTAR,** 1897. There were but twelve persons tried in the Supreme Court, of whom two were acquitted. The daily average number in prison is less than 19, and not more than one-third of the prison population are natives of Gibraltar.

6. The general cleanliness and good order of the town and its inhabitants is a matter of common notoriety. It is no more than ought to be the case in a fortress, but it is not the less creditable to all classes, and to the officials who supervise them, in a place where many of the conditions are very adverse to such a result.

I have &c.,

ROBERT BIDDULPH,

*General and Governor.*

## REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

### REVENUE.

The following comparative statement shows the Revenue collected in 1896 and 1897:—

	1896.	1897.
	Pts.	Pts.
Customs ... ..	295,773	316,656
Port Dues ... ..	338,046	338,098
Licenses, &c. ... ..	140,534	136,403
Fees of Office, &c. ... ..	255,634	271,429
Post and Telegraph Office ...	343,515	259,320
House and Ground Rents ...	193,961	190,461
Interest on Investments ...	10,591	11,252
Miscellaneous ... ..	3,731	129,162
Total Pts. ...	1,581,785	1,652,781

The net increase was therefore 70,996 ptas. over the revenue for the previous year.

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Customs show a small increase, as the consumption of wines, spirits, and malt liquors, which were the only dutiable articles in 1897, depends in some measure on the labour market, and during the past year there was ample employment for labour of all kinds. GIBRALTAR,  
1897.

Licenses show a small falling off, the number of tavern licenses being slightly reduced.

Fees of office show a slight increase. Under this head are included Savings Bank profits and Hospital fees, both of which exceeded the amounts collected on those sub-heads in 1896.

Post Office receipts show a rather marked decrease, due wholly to large sales in 1896 of stamps of denominations about to be withdrawn from circulation. The general Post Office business has increased.

“Miscellaneous” includes the sale of “The Grange” property to the War Department, and other special receipts which make up the excess over the receipts under the same head in 1896.

EXPENDITURE.

The Expenditure from General Revenue in 1897 varied very little from that of the previous year, as will be seen from the following table which distinguishes between the ordinary expenditure and the special expenditure, which is only incurred when means allow.

—	1896.	1897.
	Pts.	Pts.
Ordinary Expenditure :—		
1. Establishments ... ..	1,143,566	1,175,178
2. Pensions ... ..	66,571	57,770
3. Ecclesiastical ... ..	25,220	25,220
4. Public Works, annual ...	47,015	49,275
5. Miscellaneous ... ..	59,815	61,140
Total Pts. ...	1,342,187	1,368,583
Special Expenditure :—		
1. Public Works, special ...	114,131	163,201
2. Miscellaneous ... ..	52,387	—
Total Pts. ...	166,518	163,201
Total Expenditure Pts. ...	1,508,705	1,531,784

GIBRALTAR, 1897. The small apparent increase under head of Establishments is not due to creation of fresh offices, but to the slight increase inevitable where so many salaries rise by annual increments, and also partly to balances of salaries undrawn in 1896 having been paid up in 1897.

In special expenditure the increase in special public works is caused by a larger amount having been contributed to the new drainage works. There was no other special expenditure chargeable to ordinary Revenue, but a considerable sum, amounting to 514,077 ptas., was advanced from Revenue funds towards the cost of installation of the electric lighting. This, however, is capital expenditure, and has since been repaid from a loan raised for the purpose, and is therefore shown in the Blue Book under the head of Advances.

**SHIPPING.**  
*Vessels Entered and Cleared.*

Vessels.	Number.		Tonnage.		Crews.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
British Steam Ships ... ..	5,442	5,291	6,688,261	6,630,465	188,423	184,452
Do. Sailing Do. ... ..	330	265	30,560	24,528	1,821	1,143
Total British Ships ...	5,772	5,556	6,718,821	6,654,993	190,244	185,595
Foreign Steam Ships... ..	2,007	2,177	1,866,428	1,991,603	74,112	79,058
Do. Sailing Do. ... ..	747	745	75,682	73,573	4,993	4,773
Total Foreign Ships ...	2,754	2,922	1,942,110	2,065,176	79,105	83,831
Grand Total ... ..	8,562	8,478	8,660,931	8,720,169	269,349	269,726
	48 Decrease.		59,238 Increase.		377 Increase.	

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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GIDE VTPAR,  
1897.

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**GIBRALTAR,**  
1897.

The above return may be regarded as satisfactory inasmuch as, though there is a small decrease in the number of vessels, there is an increase of tonnage, so that there is no real falling off in the shipping trade. The Blue Book for 1896 showed a decrease of 628 in the number of vessels, with a decrease in tonnage of 417,325 tons as compared with 1895, in which year the number of vessels was 1,087 less than in 1894 and the tonnage 762,751 tons less. Last year's returns not only show that this falling off has been arrested, but are also more satisfactory since the arrest may fairly be attributed to the increased facilities given to vessels calling either for coal or for orders. It may be reasonably hoped that the year marks a fresh start, as, since the close of 1897, port dues have been materially reduced, and the works on the Commercial and Coaling Mole, which were begun in the latter part of 1897, have been pushed forward so rapidly that a portion of the new wharves will shortly be opened to traffic. The facilities afforded by the new works for coaling alongside a wharf in sheltered waters, at any hour by day or by night, will be unsurpassed anywhere, while the reduction in the port dues already effected, which makes Gibraltar as cheap a port as any in the Mediterranean, adds to its advantages as a port of call for orders or for coal. Besides the works directly intended for the improvement of the shipping facilities, others to increase the supply of drinking water are making good progress, and, before long, the plentiful supply of fresh water for the shipping will greatly add to the advantages of the port. It is encouraging to note that during 1897 the number of steamers calling for bunker coal was 49 more than in 1896, the number of tons supplied being 280,586, or 20,591 tons more than in 1896.

#### EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY.

The financial condition of Spain led to a still further depreciation of the currency of that country, which was also throughout 1897 the sole legal tender currency of Gibraltar. The value of the sovereign, which had averaged 29.80 pesetas in 1896, had reached 33.25 pesetas by the end of 1897. The rise in the value of gold led to a corresponding rise in the prices of all imported goods, since the importer who had to pay in gold and to sell for silver, was forced to fix his silver prices at a figure which seemed likely to cover all possible fluctuations. Owners of house property began to fix their rents in sterling, and the cost of living generally increased with startling rapidity. All business was unsettled, and the way was prepared for the crisis which followed upon the opening of hostilities between Spain and the United States of America in April of the present year. The complete disorganisation which then ensued still further raised prices, and forced on the change in the currency which has since been:

introduced, but which is outside the scope of this report, since it was effected after the period covered by the Blue Book.

GIBRALTAR,  
1897.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

The installation of electric lighting continued to make good progress, though the supply of the machinery was unfortunately delayed through the engineers strike. The works will be running before the close of the current year. The new main sewer has been finished, and is being taken over by the Sanitary Commissioners. The only other works, beyond the ordinary maintenance of public buildings, were the alterations to the additional premises taken over for the Colonial Secretary's Office, and the remodelling of the Treasury and Port Department Offices, so as to provide separate accommodation for the two Departments, which were reorganized at the close of the year.

#### LEGISLATION.

One Order in Council and six Ordinances were added to the Laws in 1897. The Order in Council amended former Orders so as to allow of all fees, duties, and charges payable to Her Majesty being collected in British sterling money, instead of in Spanish currency, which had been sole legal tender since the Order in Council of 1881.

Of the Ordinances passed, those of chief public interest were the following:—

No. 3. "The Merchant Shipping Amendment Ordinance," which provides for the examination of, and issue of certificates of competency to, masters, mates, engineers, and pilots.

No. 4. "The Shipping Master's Fees Ordinance" to provide for the payment of fees similar to those charged under "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894," for the engagement and discharge of seamen.

No. 6. "The Larceny Ordinance" which is a transcript of the "Larceny Act, 1896," and provides for persons in Gibraltar in possession of property stolen outside the Colony being dealt with by the local courts in the same manner as if the property had been stolen in Gibraltar.

#### CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

In August 1897, Mr. Ralph Williams, Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Revenues, and Captain of the Port, was appointed

GIBRALTAR, Colonial Secretary of Barbados, and the departments were  
1897. separated, Mr. Alfred Craven Greenwood being appointed  
Treasurer and Collector, and Commander Lionel Barnes-  
Lawrence, R.N., Acting Captain of the Port, an appointment  
which has since been confirmed. Colonel M. H. Purcell, R.E., who  
had been Acting Colonial Engineer since February 1896, left the  
station in December 1897, and Colonel W. H. Rathborne, Com-  
manding Royal Engineer, took over the duties of the acting  
appointment.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The Colony maintained its reputation for good health in spite of a slight prevalence of measles and of a good many cases of diphtheria. The death-rate per 1,000 was only 20·64, while there was a birth-rate of 24·42.

#### EDUCATION.

The reports received for 1897 are not wholly satisfactory. The number of children on the books was 1,622, with an average attendance of 1,213, the number in 1896 being 1,656, with an average of 1,267. The unaided private schools have sent in very incomplete returns, which show 565 children on the books, the whole number under tuition in aided and unaided schools in 1897 being thus 2,187, as against 2,291 in 1896. The Hebrew schools, which were completed as far as the edifice was concerned, at the time of my last report, remained closed throughout 1897, but they have since been opened.

Although there is some falling off in the number of scholars, it is satisfactory to note that the Inspector reports most favourably on the manner in which the schools are conducted, and that the standard of efficiency is steadily rising.

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police in 1897 was 1,104, of which 1,085 were brought to trial. This compares very favourably with the previous year, when 1,336 cases were reported and 1,321 brought to trial. Of the cases brought to trial 687 were summarily convicted as against 897 in 1896, and 15 were committed for trial before the Supreme Court, 19 cases having been committed in 1896. Of the summary convictions only 133 were punished by imprisonment, and of these only 3 sentences were for over 3 months.



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The absence of serious crime and the general good behaviour of the people is very noticeable, and it must be borne in mind that a considerable proportion of the persons brought to trial do not belong to Gibraltar, but are among the large crowds of aliens entering the gates daily. GIBRALTAR,  
1897.  
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The average number of prisoners in the gaol daily was between 18 and 19. The prison was maintained in a high state of efficiency, and the health of the prisoners was excellent.

H. M. JACKSON,

*Colonial Secretary.*

Gibraltar, 7th October, 1898.

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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 276.

G I B R A L T A R .

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REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 248.)

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	1897
251	Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"
265	St. Helena ... ..	"
266	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
267	St. Lucia ... ..	"
268	Fiji ... ..	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
270	Malta ... ..	"
271	Gold Coast ... ..	"
272	Trinidad... ..	"
273	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
274	Ceylon ... ..	"
275	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1898-99

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.

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No. 276.

GIBRALTAR.

GIBRALTAR  
1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 248.)

No. 1.

GOVERNOR SIR R. BIDDULPH to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

[Answered by No. 2.]

Gibraltar,  
16th September 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Blue Book for 1898, together with a Report by the Colonial Secretary.

2. Without entering more particularly on the statistics for 1898, which have been put very clearly by Sir Henry Jackson, it may be of interest to draw attention to the general state of Gibraltar, as shown by the reports of the past five years.

3. During each of those years the revenue has exceeded the expenditure by sums varying from £2,000 to £7,000, and amounting in all to £21,210. This surplus has enabled us to defray not only the charge due by the Government on account of the new main drainage, but also a large portion of the capital sum involved in establishing electric light works, the cost of which up to the 31st December 1898 (£26,186) has been met by a loan of only £15,000, the remaining £11,186 having been provided out of current revenue. Our cash balances have increased from £2,403 to £4,608, and the balance of assets over liabilities from £8,638 to £29,795\*. These figures are especially satisfactory because the revenue of Gibraltar is not of a nature which is likely to show expansion, and care is consequently needed to prevent some unforeseen expenditure involving the Government in a deficit.

4. But whilst the same necessity for providing a sufficient revenue to cover the necessary local expenditure exists for Gibraltar as for the other foreign possessions of the Crown, Gibraltar differs from all the others in being unable to augment its financial resources by encouraging an increase of population and trade. The whole territory being comprised within the fortress, Gibraltar is in the position of a fortified city with a large population, but which has no adjoining territory for an outlet or for suburbs.

\* The assets for 1898 would have been £21,795 but for the sale to the Admiralty of a property which had been bought in 1892.

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5. In the early part of the century it was also the policy of the British Government to make use of Gibraltar as a commercial base, and consequently the population was allowed to increase by the grant of permits of residence to persons who were not British subjects, but whose descendants have acquired British nationality by birthright. Accordingly each decade during the present century has shown a progressive increase in the number of the inhabitants, notwithstanding that for many years past aliens have not been allowed to settle in the territory. To combat this increase has been the more recent policy of Her Majesty's Government, as the congested state of the town of Gibraltar creates a danger to the fortress, whether in time of peace or of war.

6. The difficulty of effecting a reduction of the population in time of peace is naturally very great. To bring it about it is necessary to act in two directions :—

1st. By causing the actual removal of a portion of the population.

2nd. By taking measures to prevent an increase in the number of persons who would acquire a right of residence by being born in Gibraltar, or whom, owing to a lifelong residence in Gibraltar in a dependent position, it might ultimately be found impossible to remove from motives of humanity.

7. For the first of these objects the following measures are taken :—

(a) The prevention of all building which would have the effect of increasing the accommodation available for residence.

(b) The enforcement of the sanitary byelaws which deal with the overcrowding of tenements.

The Governor has statutory power which enables him to carry out the former measure. The latter is one of considerable difficulty, because it cannot be carried out in its entirety without removing persons from British territory, a measure for which there is no power in the case of persons possessing British nationality. In such cases it is only by exercising patient and steady pressure that the object can be attained.

8. Lately several blocks of buildings, which contained a considerable number of persons, have been cleared away, with the object of rebuilding either official or private residences, and this has caused a reduction of the inhabitants to the extent of forty or fifty persons at a time. These opportunities are, however, of rare occurrence, and the experience of the past shows that it is by the taking of measures to prevent the introduction of persons who may acquire a right of residence that the future increase of the population may be controlled to some extent.

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9. A consideration of the powers possessed by the Governor under the Aliens Order in Council will show that permission given to aliens to reside in the territory need not, under certain conditions, be prejudicial to the objects in view. Such persons can be summarily removed from British territory at any moment. Meanwhile they occupy house room which would otherwise be occupied by British subjects whom there is no power to remove. GIBRALTAR,  
1898.  
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10. The admission of such aliens has, however, to be very carefully dealt with, and the conditions of their residence closely watched. Men who are required as servants, labourers, shop assistants, &c., can with safety be allowed to reside, if their masters undertake to house them, but they cannot be permitted to have wives resident in British territory, or if that is specially allowed in the rare case of a person who is a householder, it is stipulated that his wife shall not be allowed to give birth in British territory to a child which would thus acquire British nationality. A violation of this rule is visited by fine and expulsion under the Aliens Law. For the same reason aliens living in concubinage are expelled from Gibraltar. The admission of women to act as domestic servants is allowed under certain conditions, but steps are taken to prevent, if possible, their acquiring British nationality by marriage.

11. The admission of other persons of either sex is as a rule objectionable. All sorts of pretexts are put forward with this end, and each case has to be considered on its merits with a view to the possible results hereafter. In time past this was not done, and consequently there are many families now resident here who would not have acquired British nationality if their cases had been originally dealt with from this point of view.

12. It is, therefore, with much satisfaction that I invite attention to the facts stated in the Colonial Secretary's Report, which show that there has been a marked decrease in the native population since the last census, a decrease which is the more remarkable inasmuch as there is an increase in the number of Maltese and of natives of the United Kingdom.

13. A considerable number of British subjects, unable any longer to find accommodation in Gibraltar, have established their residences at Linea, which has within the last generation become a large town depending mainly on Gibraltar, to which it acts as a suburb. Thirty years ago Linea is stated to have contained about 500 inhabitants. In January 1894 it contained about 14,000 souls. It is now said to contain over 40,000. The late rapid increase has been caused by the demand for labour in Gibraltar in connection with the military and naval works now in progress, which demand has caused a large influx of men from other parts of Spain, who have brought their families and settled in Linea. The number of persons who enter Gibraltar daily from Linea is about 10,000.

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14. The want of space on shore, and the extremely limited amount of wharf accommodation, has led in time past to the establishment of hulks in the bay, which were used as depôts for coal and merchandise. For coal they are at present an absolute necessity, but it is evidently desirable to reduce their numbers as much as possible, as they crowd the anchorage and make it difficult for merchant vessels visiting the port. When, therefore, it was decided to lengthen the New Mole for the use of Her Majesty's ships, it was proposed that by a similar extension from the end of the Old Mole wharfage accommodation should be provided, which would give facilities for merchant ships, and would also form a closed harbour. The completion of this commercial mole will enable us to abolish the hulks. Their number has already been largely reduced by measures which have been found advisable, such as the forbidding of storage of wine and tobacco in hulks. The former gave improper facilities for the crews of ships to obtain liquor, and the latter facilitated smuggling, which it is the object of the Government to check. Accordingly the number of hulks, which was 46 on the 1st of January 1894, was only 28 on the 1st January 1899.

15. The formation of the commercial mole entails a heavy expenditure on the Local Government, which has undertaken to bear four-sevenths of the cost, estimated at £700,000. Accordingly the Local Government is liable for £400,000, equal to about eight years' revenue. This sum will be advanced as required from the Imperial treasury, repayment of capital with interest being made by an annual payment of 3½ per cent. until the debt is extinguished.

16. The importance of Gibraltar as a naval base makes it essential that every facility should be afforded for merchant ships as well as for ships of war to obtain supplies of coals, water, and stores. When the commercial mole is completed merchant ships will obtain these facilities to an extent not less than that offered by any port in the Mediterranean.

17. The provision of fresh water for ships has always been a matter of difficulty, as there exists no public supply in excess of that required for local needs. Indeed, after an exceptionally dry season there have been apprehensions of a water famine. With a view to maintaining a supply of water, which shall be sufficient both for local use and for shipping, four large reservoirs have been constructed in the interior of the rock, where they are perfectly secure from external injury. These reservoirs, which will contain 5,000,000 gallons, will be ready to receive water during the next rainy season, beginning about November 1899. This work has been carried out by the Sanitary Commissioners, and reflects credit upon their engineer, Mr. Copland, by whom it has been designed and executed.

18. I would here take the opportunity of alluding to the good work performed by the Sanitary Commissioners, under whose



supervision the sanitary work of Gibraltar is carried out. GIBRALTAR,  
1898.  
This work includes the charge of the roads, lighting and cleansing, together with the enforcement of proper sanitary measures in dwelling houses, and the provision of a water supply. That their work is carried out efficiently is visible in the results shown, among which may be mentioned the death-rate of Gibraltar, which for 1898 was only 17·79 per 1,000.

19. One of the most noticeable facts in connection with the health returns is the small amount of Mediterranean fever, and it is to be observed that, if taken in time, the cases that occur are quickly cured. The long, obstinate cases which are sometimes seen are nearly always traceable to neglect in the early stage, or to want of care when approaching convalescence.

20. In concluding this my sixth and last Annual Report on Gibraltar, I wish to place on record my appreciation of the services of the Government officials of all grades, whose loyalty and industry are most marked. I would also draw particular attention to the general good behaviour of the inhabitants. My former reports have shown how small is our prison population, and what a small proportion of these are natives of Gibraltar. The year 1898 was no exception, since there were only eight natives of Gibraltar in prison on the 31st December 1898. The orderly behaviour of the somewhat crowded population of the fortress is an important matter, and affords ground for great satisfaction.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT BIDDULPH,

*General and Governor.*

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REPORT ON THE GIBRALTAR BLUE BOOK  
FOR 1898.

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I.—FINANCIAL.

*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following table gives the Heads of Revenue and Expenditure for 1898 as compared with 1897. Up to April 1898, the Government accounts were kept in pesetas and centimos, and since that date they have been kept in British sterling. For purposes of comparison, all amounts given in pesetas in former Blue Books have in the Returns in this Report been converted to sterling at the average official quarterly rate of the year to which they refer:—

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Revenue.	1897.	1898.	Expenditure.	1897.	1898.
	£	£		£	£
1. Customs ... ..	9,942	12,229	1. Establishments :		
			Personal Emoluments ... ..	26,839	27,603
			Other charges ... ..	9,943	10,860
2. Port Dues and Wharfage ... ..	10,615	7,053	2. Pensions ... ..	1,314	1,628
3. Licenses and Internal Revenue ... ..	4,283	4,085	3. Ecclesiastical Grants ... ..	792	821
4. Fees and Reimbursements in Aid ... ..	8,583	7,004	4. Public Works—Ordinary ... ..	1,547	1,797
5. Post and Telegraph Offices ... ..	8,142	12,143	5.    "    "    Extraordinary ... ..	5,124	2,646
6. Rents of Government Property ... ..	5,980	5,039	6. Crown Agents ... ..	115	88
7. Interest on Investments ... ..	353	350	7. Charges on Debt ... ..	—	224
8. Miscellaneous ... ..	3,869	8,068	8. Miscellaneous ... ..	1,915	2,463
9. Gain on Exchange ... ..	125	48	9. Loss on Exchange ... ..	5	808
Total ... .. £	51,893	56,019	Total ... .. £	48,094	48,878

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In addition to the above there was a Capital Expenditure amounting on the 31st December 1898 to £26,186, which was met by advances from General Revenue Funds. Of this £15,000 was repaid in 1898 by a loan of £15,000 from Savings Bank Funds, leaving £11,186 still due to General Revenue.

GIBRALTAR,  
1898.

The principal variations in the above table are due to the following causes :—

*Customs Receipts.*

The increase in 1898 is due partly to the introduction of a tax on tobacco, and partly to a large importation of wine to make up deficient stocks.

*Port Dues.*

A considerable decrease, the port dues having been lowered from the 1st of April.

*Post and Telegraph Offices.*

An increase, due to sales of stamps to dealers, the issue charged in Spanish currency having been withdrawn in 1898.

*Rents.*

A decrease, owing to loss of rent on property sold to the Admiralty.

*Miscellaneous.*

The variations between 1897 and 1898 are due almost entirely to sales of land to the War Department and the Admiralty.

The apparent increase in ordinary expenditure in 1898 is mainly due to the adoption of sterling on the 1st April, when the charges on general revenue were re-assessed at pts. 30 to the £, while in the comparative statement the expenditure in 1897 has been converted at pts. 31.85, the average official rate of the year.

In Public Works Extraordinary there was an expenditure on the New Drainage Works of £3,903 in 1897, and £1,839 in 1898.

The heavy loss on Exchange is due to the revaluation of outstanding balances quarterly, with a steadily falling rate of exchange.

GIBRALTAR. The following was the total Revenue and Expenditure in the  
 1898. last five years :—

—	1894.	1895	1896.	1897.	1898.
Revenue ...	£ 51,146	£ 54,514	£ 53,080	£ 51,893	£ 56,019
Expenditure ...	49,073	48,777	50,620	48,094	48,878

*Changes in Taxation.*

By the Revenue Ordinance, 1898, which came into operation on the 1st April, a new tax of 1*d.* per lb. was levied on tobacco, and the Port dues were lowered and were regraded on a scale calculated to reduce this source of revenue by one half. The return from the tobacco was not large during the past year, as the Ordinance did not come into force until the 1st of April, and the importers had time to fill up their stocks beforehand. Tavern and wine licenses, of which there had been only two rates, were regraded on a sliding scale according to the rateable value of the premises licensed.

*Assets and Liabilities.*

The Assets and Liabilities on 31st December 1898 were as follows:—

Assets.						Liabilities.					
Rents Outstanding ... ..					£ 2,169	Personal Emoluments ... ..					£ 20
Invested Funds ... ..					10,668	Pensions ... ..					170
Interest Due on Invested Funds ... ..					156	Deposits ... ..					360
Savings Bank Profits, 1897 ... ..					2,053	Public Works ... ..					100
Advances, viz. :—						Due Drainage Works ... ..					251
Electric Lighting ... ..				£26,186		„ Consulting Engineer (Electric Lighting) ... ..					125
Drainage Works... ..				681		Electric Lighting Loan ... ..					15,000
Sundry ... ..				265		Transit Postage due to Foreign Countries ... ..					879
					27,132	Telegraph Rates „ „ ... ..					283
Asylum Fees due ... ..					23	Overdraft, Anglo-Egyptian Bank ... ..					20
Due Egyptian Parcel Post ... ..					5						17,208
„ for Telegrams sent ... ..					112	Balance Assets over Liabilities ... ..					29,795
„ for Cost of Special Police in Admiralty Works ... ..					77						47,003
Cash balance in hand ... ..					4,608						
						Total ... ..					£ 47,003
					£ 47,003						

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GREAT BRITAIN,  
1898.

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GIBRALTAR,  
1898.

*Public Debt.*

The only Public Debt of Gibraltar is the loan from the Savings Bank of £15,000 for the installation of the electric light. It is repayable in 30 years by half yearly payments from General Revenue Funds for interest and sinking fund.

*Currency.*

Under an Order in Council of 1872, as amended and continued by an Order in 1881, the legal tender currency of Gibraltar from 1872 up to October last, was that of Spain, but the financial condition of the latter country led of late years to such violent fluctuations in the value of the peseta, that the situation, which had been growing yearly more acute, as a reference to former Blue Book reports will readily show, became intolerable as the Cuban revolution progressed and the danger of war with the United States seemed more imminent. In the meantime the Government of Gibraltar had assumed a heavy gold liability for the construction of the Commercial and Coaling Mole, and as the Spanish currency became more depreciated the necessity became more urgent for the public revenue of Gibraltar to be collected in a less unstable medium. The situation had been foreseen and provided against, as by an Order in Council passed in July 1897 the Currency Order in Council of 1881 was amended, and it was provided that where any fees, duties, or charges payable under any enactment in force, or which should thereafter become in force in Gibraltar, were assessed in denominations of the lawful money of the United Kingdom, such money should be the only lawful tender in payment thereof. Accordingly the Revenue Ordinance of 1898 was passed on the 30th March with effect from the 1st April, and in it all Customs duties, fees for licenses, port dues, and other charges were assessed in British money. This was followed by the Revision of Fees Ordinance passed on the 31st March 1898, by which all enactments under which fees, other than those provided for in the former Ordinance, were collected, were amended and the fees assessed in British money. The stability of the Government revenues was thus assured, but Spanish money still remained the legal tender of Gibraltar in private transactions, and fines inflicted by the different Courts were still paid in pesetas, as penalties, whether recovered under law or under rules passed under authority of any law, were not included in the terms of the Order in Council of 1897. The declaration of war between Spain and the United States in April 1898 was speedily followed by a heavy depreciation in the value of the currency of the former country, and in May, on the Madrid Exchange, gold rose to a premium of 120 per cent. The effect on business in Gibraltar was disastrous, as importers who purchased their goods with gold were selling them for depreciated silver, and were forced to put their prices at a figure which would enable them

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to cover their liabilities should the dollar fall to its metallic value. The inconvenience was accentuated by the publication in Spain of a Decree prohibiting the export of silver, and the desire became general among all classes in Gibraltar to put an end to the risk and uncertainty attending all business transactions. With a view of obtaining the fullest possible information, and of ascertaining what was the wish of the majority of the business community, the Secretary of State sent out the Right Honourable Sir Ralph Thompson to conduct an enquiry on the spot. The result left no doubt as to the necessity for a change, and in August 1898, Orders were passed by the Queen in Council repealing the Currency Order of 1881, under which Spanish currency had been continued as the legal tender currency of Gibraltar, and making British money the legal tender in Gibraltar, and declaring certain portions of the Coinage Act, 1870, to be in force here. These Orders were to take effect from the date of proclamation by the Governor, and they were duly proclaimed on the 1st October 1898. On the same day the Gibraltar Laws Revision Ordinance was passed, adapting to the altered currency all those enactments which had not been affected by the Order in Council in 1897, and revised rules were also published providing for the recovery of penalties in British money. British money is thus now the sole legal tender in Gibraltar, except in payment of liabilities incurred before the proclamation of the above Orders, and except as provided by Section 6 of the Coinage Act, 1870, which allows contracts to be made in the currency of some other part of Her Majesty's dominions or of some foreign state. Spanish money, however, continues to be freely current.

GIBRALTAR,  
1898.

*Revenue of Public Boards.*

There is no Municipality in Gibraltar, the charge of the streets and roads, the water supply, lighting and drainage, and the general sanitary control being vested in the Sanitary Commissioners, a Public Board selected partly from a panel of ratepayers presented by the Grand Jury, and partly from the Civil, Military, and Naval Officials serving in Gibraltar. The revenue and expenditure of this Board for the last five years (including loans) is as follows :—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Revenue ...	£ 26,460	£ 26,152	£ 56,320	£ 34,964	£ 67,860
Expenditure ...	24,527	23,940	55,368	34,746	68,702

GIBRALTAR, 1898. — The heavy expenditure in the last three years has been mainly attributable to the New Drainage Works, two-thirds of the cost of which has been paid from Sanitary Funds. In 1898 a large sum was expended in the construction of new reservoirs.

The following table gives the debt of the Sanitary Board for the last five years :—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
	£ 42,233	£ 41,268	£ 70,328	£ 62,222	£ 81,000

Under the provisions of the Sanitary Loans Ordinance, 1896, the repayment of loans is secured under debentures, issued for terms not exceeding thirty years, and the payment of the interest thereon is made a charge on the Sanitary Rates.

## II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

There is but little information in the Blue Book under this head, since there is no regular trade in Gibraltar, except the supply of coal and other stores to passing vessels, and no returns of this are furnished to the Government; there is no land to cultivate, and no local industry which gives employment to any number of workmen except the manufacture of tobacco. No returns of imports and exports have ever been collected except of dutiable articles, a comparative statement of which for the last two years is given below.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
Wine ... .. Galls.	139,827	200,897	29,262	27,179
Spirits... .. „	78,599	71,648	38,290	27,481
Malt Liquor ... .. „	676,305	622,543	—	—
Tobacco ... .. lbs.	5,499,424	5,142,519	2,289,728	1,903,945



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Tobacco is imported into Gibraltar mainly in the leaf from the United States, and from Manila, and a large quantity, amounting to nearly half the declared export, is reshipped to Algiers and to Morocco ports for manufacture there. The remainder is made up in Gibraltar and is sold to vessels and to visitors passing through. There is a considerable trade with ships and passengers in Havana and Manila cigars, as the low duty enables the importer to sell at a low price.

GIBRALTAR,  
1898.  
—

*Land Grants and Value of Land.*

There is no land available for grants in Gibraltar, the Crown property being confined to houses and to land occupied as public gardens. Crown leases are granted for 21 years or for shorter terms, but land is never alienated from the Crown, though the Naval and Military Departments obtain from the Civil Government land required for the purposes of the Departments.

SHIPPING.

The following comparative tables give the nationalities and tonnage inwards and outwards for the last two years, and the total shipping for the last five years :—

*Steam Vessels.*

Nationality.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1897.		1898.		1897.		1898.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ... ..	2,652	3,319,162	2,767	3,562,171	2,639	3,311,203	2,742	3,555,563
Spain ... ..	266	164,825	241	137,289	260	164,325	238	136,236
Germany ... ..	203	383,632	206	358,392	201	378,636	204	356,012
Sweden and Norway ...	242	133,375	202	145,443	235	130,872	201	145,688
France ... ..	177	125,058	156	114,048	177	125,058	155	112,343
Holland ... ..	55	39,002	67	46,672	55	39,474	67	46,672
Denmark ... ..	44	35,757	46	38,513	44	35,757	46	38,513
Austria ... ..	34	42,372	33	39,279	34	42,372	33	39,279
Russia ... ..	16	11,401	25	19,291	16	11,401	25	19,291
Italy ... ..	26	21,444	20	22,935	26	21,444	19	22,604
Belgium ... ..	5	7,078	14	18,313	4	6,328	14	18,313
Greece ... ..	25	32,164	13	18,605	24	30,520	13	18,605
Others ... ..	4	4,704	4	524	4	4,704	4	524
Total... ..	3,749	4,319,974	3,794	4,521,475	3,719	4,302,094	3,761	4,509,643

*Sailing Vessels.*

British ... ..	134	12,315	111	12,648	131	12,213	109	12,279
Spain ... ..	255	11,354	199	9,243	226	8,896	191	9,079
Portugal ... ..	60	3,370	53	2,366	22	1,870	24	1,459
Sweden and Norway ... ..	38	7,663	30	5,561	34	7,173	28	5,290
Italy ... ..	16	5,213	13	7,163	13	4,625	14	7,714
Denmark ... ..	11	1,255	10	1,078	13	1,512	10	1,078
Russia ... ..	1	244	5	2,067	3	615	5	2,067
France ... ..	12	766	5	492	10	673	5	170
Holland ... ..	5	360	4	179	1	117	4	179
Austria... ..	4	2,020	3	1,294	4	1,413	3	1,294
Germany ... ..	2	2,053	1	316	2	2,053	1	316
Others ... ..	6	4,719	—	—	7	5,789	—	—
Total ... ..	544	51,332	434	42,347	466	46,949	394	40,125
Grand Total ... ..	4,293	4,371,306	4,228	4,563,822	4,285	4,349,043	4,155	4,550,563

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1898.

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Comparative statement of total shipping entered and cleared within the last five years :—

Nationality.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ... ..	6,787	7,595,769	6,444	7,322,549	5,772	6,718,821	5,556	6,654,993	5,729	7,142,661
Foreign ... ..	3,464	2,245,238	2,720	1,755,707	2,754	1,942,110	2,992	2,065,176	2,654	1,971,729
Total ... ..	10,251	9,841,007	9,164	9,078,256	8,562	8,660,931	8,478	8,720,169	8,383	9,114,390

Last year was on the whole satisfactory, as there was an increase in the total tonnage of 394,221 tons, and in the British tonnage of 487,668. It was in 1895 that the keen rivalry of Algiers as a coaling port first began to be seriously felt, and the coaling firms there have spared no effort to make their port more attractive, and to reduce the expenses for vessels calling for bunker coals only. Latterly, however, Gibraltar has been able to offer increased advantages, as in 1897 all restrictions on coaling by night were removed, and in 1898 the port dues were lowered over 50 per cent. A still further advantage will shortly be added, as the new reservoirs, now nearing completion, may be expected to afford an ample supply of pure water available for shipping, and when the enclosed harbour and coaling moles are ready, Gibraltar will have no reason to fear competition with any Mediterranean port in the facilities it will be able to afford to shipping. The charges on shipping have since been further reduced by the abolition of the light dues formerly collected by the Trinity House Board.

## III.—LEGISLATION.

GIBRALTAR,  
1898.

The only measures of general interest enacted during the past year were those providing for the collection of the revenue in British sterling, and those making British money the lawful money of Gibraltar, and the object and scope of these have already been described in the remarks on currency.

A Pharmacy Ordinance was also passed on the lines of the Imperial Pharmacy Act, as there was before no legislation controlling the sale of poisons in Gibraltar.

## IV.—EDUCATION.

There are in Gibraltar 13 State-aided Schools for primary education. Five of these, with 986 boys on the books, are conducted by the Christian Brothers, and four, with 500 girls and infants, are conducted by the Sisters of different religious Orders. The Hebrew community has two day schools, and a night school in the same building, with 177 on their books, and there is an undenominational public school for girls, with 155 on the books.

There is accommodation in these schools for 2,019 children, and there are only 1,818 on the books, and the average attendance is 1,442, so that there is ample provision for the wants of the place.

The conditions under which schools become eligible for grants from public funds are defined in an Education Code, framed by the Governor and approved by the Secretary of State, and an Inspector of Schools is appointed to see that they are strictly complied with, and also to examine the scholars periodically. The conditions are briefly:—

- (1) That the school is a *bonâ fide* school for the primary education of the poorer classes.
- (2) That it is managed solely in the public interest and not for any gain or profit.
- (3) That no aliens are admitted until all British children have been provided for; and no child of wealthier parents is accepted if there are applicants for admission from among the poorer class; and
- (4) That the school is opened at least a certain number of times in the year; that not less than 1½ hours of each attendance are devoted to secular instruction given in the English language; and that the buildings, teachers, books, and appliances are such as to satisfy the Inspector.

GIBRALTAR  
1898.

In 1898 the grant earned was £1,467.

In addition to the State-aided schools there are small private schools affording accommodation to about 400 children, and the orphan children who are inmates of Gavino's Asylum are taught in that Institution.

#### *Secondary Education.*

The provision for this, as regards boys, consists of a large and remarkably well conducted school kept by the Christian Brothers, the pupils of which have done well at the examinations of the College of Preceptors and other public examining bodies.

For girls there is a secondary school at the Loretto Convent, which is attended by children of all denominations.

There are no industrial, technical, or agricultural schools in Gibraltar.

### V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

#### *Hospitals.*

There is a Colonial Hospital, making up 82 beds, with a segregation block for infectious diseases making up 18 more, and a Lock ward with 11 beds. The Hospital is managed by a Board of Commissioners, and the wards are in charge of a surgeon and assistant surgeon, both of whom are resident, and are assisted by a staff of nursing sisters from the London Hospital. The number of cases treated during the year was 676, and the daily average in hospital was 57. There is also a branch hospital at the North Front for smallpox cases. It can accommodate 15 cases, and is in charge of an assistant surgeon, subject to the general supervision of the surgeon of the Colonial Hospital.

#### *Asylums.*

There is a lunatic asylum, supported from public revenue, which had in 1898 a daily average of 39 inmates. The building is remarkably well adapted for the purpose, and is bright and airy, and stands in grounds laid out as gardens, affording exercise for the patients.

It is in charge of a resident Superintendent, and is visited daily by the surgeon, and frequently by the police magistrate, who is in general control of the Institution.

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GIBRALTAR,  
1898.*Poor Houses.*

There are no Government Poor-houses, but there are two excellent institutions supported by private bodies, one by the charity known as Gavino's Trust, and the other by the well-known religious community of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

*Savings Bank.*

The Government Savings Bank, which was started in connection with the Post Office in January 1882, had, on the 31st December 1898, deposits amounting to £4,262, and ptas. 4,440,026, standing to the credit of 3,879 depositors.

After the change of currency in October 1898, Spanish currency was no longer accepted on deposit, but in the last quarter of the year £4,383 was deposited. The interest paid is a halfpenny a month on each completed 20s., or 2½ per cent. per annum.

In addition to the Government Savings Bank, the Anglo-Egyptian Bank has opened a Savings Bank in which Spanish currency is accepted, and there are many benefit societies not under Government control.

## VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

*Police.*

The good order maintained in the town leaves little to be desired, and the steady diminution in the number of offences reported to the police bears witness to the law-abiding disposition of the inhabitants. The small amount of crime is the more remarkable when it is remembered that, in addition to a resident population of about 24,000, the number of aliens entering Gibraltar daily now averages about 10,000. The number of offences against the person was rather larger than of late years, but the list was swelled by assaults which occurred during a strike.

*Prison.*

The Gaol well maintained the high standard of order and discipline to which it has been brought by the very capable Keeper. The average number of prisoners in confinement was 27, the total number of persons sentenced to imprisonment during the year being 143, of whom 128 were for periods of under three months. Of these, 7 were women. Of the 15 sentences exceeding three months duration, 12 were for terms of under one year; 1 was for twelve months, 1 for two years, and 1 for ten years. On the 31st December there were 28 prisoners in gaol—26 men

GIBRALTAR, and 2 women. Of the former, 8 were natives of Gibraltar, 5 of the United Kingdom, 8 of Malta, and 5 of Spain. Both female prisoners were natives of Spain. The whole of the prisoners are confined in separate cells at night, and in the daytime are worked in association but in silence.

The following table gives the criminal statistics for the last five years:—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Offences reported to the Police... ..	1,709	1,450	1,336	1,104	895
Persons apprehended or summoned ... ..	1,664	1,431	1,321	1,085	870
Summary convictions for :—					
1. Offences against the person ... ..	43	48	57	52	69
2. Prædial larceny ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
3. Offences against property... ..	37	23	24	38	44
4. Other offences ... ..	1,323	1,063	1,044	794	622
Convictions in the Supreme Court :—					
1. Offences against the person ... ..	4	7	3	7	10
2. Prædial larceny ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
3. Offences against property... ..	2	3	2	3	2
4. Other offences ... ..	2	—	—	—	9
Acquittals... ..	258	290	190	189	120

Among “other offences” tried in the Police Court, a very large proportion of the cases are for breaches of the Aliens Order in Council, and a considerable number for offences against the Tobacco Ordinance, usually of a very trivial nature.

## VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

### *Population.*

An impression prevails in many quarters, even among persons who have lived here for some years, that the native population of Gibraltar is steadily increasing, but the reverse is the case. The Police books, which are carefully checked every month, give the number of the people in every house on the Rock, and a more



accurate comparison can thus be made of the actual population in Gibraltar, as compared with former years, than is possible in most communities. GIBRALTAR,  
1898.

The following is a summary of the population as shown by the census of 1891 and the police returns on 31st December 1898. The former figures include visitors at the hotels and boarding-houses and the latter do not; but from returns furnished periodically by these establishments it is found that the average number of visitors at a time is considerably under 100 :—

Population.	1891.	1898.
Civil :—		
British subjects other than Maltese ...	16,064	15,122
Maltese living in Gibraltar ... ..	695	1,091
<b>Total British subjects ...</b>	<b>16,759</b>	<b>16,213</b>
Foreigners on Permit ... ..	2,341	1,942
<b>Total civil population ...</b>	<b>19,100</b>	<b>18,155</b>
Military in Gibraltar ... ..	5,896	5,938
<b>Total population ... ..</b>	<b>24,996</b>	<b>24,093</b>

When it is borne in mind that the staff and artificers employed in connection with the extensive harbour works, and their families, are included in the resident British subjects, and have come to the Rock since 1891, it is evident that there is a marked decrease in the native-born population.

#### *Public Health.*

The general public health of Gibraltar in 1898 was satisfactory, the death rate being only 17·79 per 1,000. The Health Officer reports the year as being on the whole a very satisfactory one, and that there was no epidemic, except an outbreak of diphtheria at Catalan Bay. The case mortality in this disease was most favourable, and is attributed to earlier recognition of the disease, and its prompt treatment by antitoxin. The following table

GIBRALTAR, shows the mortality from diphtheria in 1898 as compared with 1898. former years :—

Year.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	Percentage.
1894... ..	21	9	42·8
1895... ..	8	2	25·0
1896... ..	29	13	44·8
1897... ..	65	18	27·6
1898... ..	31	5	16·1

The Health Officer remarks that of the five deaths in 1898, three were practically moribund on admission to hospital, and there was no chance for treatment.

#### *Sanitation.*

The sanitary charge of Gibraltar is entrusted to the Board of Sanitary Commissioners already referred to, and proper sanitation is enforced by regular house to house visits by sanitary inspectors. Full power is vested by law in the Commissioners to compel their requirements to be complied with by house owners and occupiers, and a higher standard of sanitation is being steadily enforced. The limited space in Gibraltar has the inevitable effect of creating a very dense population in some parts of the town, while the demand for accommodation and the consequent high rents cannot fail to cause overcrowding, but the Sanitary Commissioners do all in their power to check the evil.

#### *Climate.*

The climate of Gibraltar is excellent, bright and cool during the winter, while in the summer months the heat is usually tempered by a cool breeze. The rainfall for the year was 33·08 inches, the average rainfall for the five years ending 1897 being 35·11 inches. The mean temperature for the year was 64·0°, the mean maximum being 70·3° and the mean minimum 57·7°. The absolute maximum was 94° which was attained on the 28th July, and the absolute minimum 31·8° on the 12th January. The prevailing wind is easterly, though it frequently blows in the winter and spring from S.W. to N.W. It was not registered as being from the north at all during the year, and only three times from the south. The force is not given in the returns, which are from observations at the military observatory, 53 ft. above the sea level.

## VIII.—POST AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

GIBRALTAR,  
1898.Comparative statement of post office business for the five years  
ending 31st December 1898 :—

Number dealt with.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Letters and Post Cards.	1,638,788	1,470,160	1,431,345	1,625,698	1,753,768
Newspapers ...	536,708	443,560	504,868	481,728	498,206
Book packets ...	84,708	84,564	82,888	95,624	85,488
Parcels ...	17,118	17,757	19,181	20,815	22,093
Money and postal orders issued.	£ 27,394	£ 26,746	£ 24,904	£ 23,642	£ 31,067
Do. paid...	4,873	4,856	5,622	4,994	6,294

The rate of postage is  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  per  $\frac{1}{2}oz.$  locally, and  $1d.$  to Spain and Morocco and to all parts of the British Empire, except Australia and New Zealand, and  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$  to other countries.

The post office has a telegraph line connecting it with the Spanish telegraph system, and it is chiefly resorted to for telegrams to that country, but the delays and frequent mistakes made in repeating the messages in transit through the Spanish offices tend to throw the business for other countries into the hands of the Eastern Telegraph Company, which has two stations in Gibraltar, and has direct cables to Great Britain and to Morocco and eastward. The telephone service is in the hands of a private company.

## IX.—MILITARY.

The garrison of Gibraltar consists wholly of the regular forces of the Crown, there being neither militia, volunteers, nor armed constabulary. The military expenditure in 1898 is returned as £256,552.

There is a considerable naval force constantly at Gibraltar, but no returns of the number or cost is furnished to the Blue Book. The Channel Squadron visits Gibraltar twice and the division of the Mediterranean fleet once during the year.

GIBRALTAR,  
1898.

### X.—GENERAL.

The event of the year 1898 which most seriously affected the interests of Gibraltar, although it had no connection with the place, was the war between Spain and the United States of America. The disastrous effect upon the financial condition of Spain of the reverses sustained by the Spanish military and naval forces has already been alluded to in the remarks on currency. The local effect was to force up the prices in Spanish money of every necessary of life, even of those of local production. Exchange has since returned to a more normal rate, but there has been, so far, no corresponding reduction in prices or in the general cost of living.

The chief public works of general importance were those in connection with the naval docks and the enclosed harbour, the north end of which is formed by the commercial and coaling moles, four-sevenths of the cost of which is borne by general revenue funds.

The contract for these works was taken up in the autumn by Messrs. Topham, Jones, and Railton, who already held a contract with the Admiralty for the extension of the new mole. The contractors took over charge of the whole of the works in December 1898, but the Admiralty had already been actively engaged for over two years, and rapid progress was made during the past year.

Another important work, which was finished during 1898, was the new main sewer, which conveys the whole drainage of the Rock to an outfall at the southern end below the Europa Point lighthouse, whence it is carried away to the open sea by the strong current in the Straits. Before this was opened the main outfall led into the bay at Rosia on the western shore, about half-way between the north front and Europa Point. The drainage of the northern end of the town, which lies at too low a level to be taken to the Rosia outfall, had its outlet into the bay at the northern end of the town just south of the markets, and several other subsidiary drains led directly into the bay just outside the ramparts enclosing the town. The old system led to much inconvenience when the wind was light and westerly, and it was settled in 1893 to alter the outfall to Europa Point. What was then decided on as a sanitary improvement became a matter of pressing necessity when Her Majesty's Government decided to enclose the waters lying west of the town, and form an important dockyard and a safe harbour for the fleets. The works were opened in November 1895, and in November 1898 the drainage of the town was turned through the new outfall, and there is now no sewage discharging into the waters in front of the town. The system is gravitation assisted by flushing, the sewage of the low-lying district north of the town being raised by Shone's ejectors and discharged into the head of the main sewer opposite the old northern outfall.

Another important public work brought to practical completion in 1898 was the installation of electric lighting, which is now exclusively used in all military buildings formerly lighted by gas and in all the buildings of the Civil Government. The lighting of the streets by electricity is about half finished, and the light is already supplied to some private houses, and is being extended as rapidly as the staff available will allow of.

GIBRALTAR,  
1898.

The main changes in the establishment were the appointment in June of Commander L. A. W. Barnes Lawrence, R.N., to be captain of the port, a post in which he had been acting since June 1897, and the appointment in November of Mr. John Porral to be registrar of births and deaths.

The general observations on the growth of the community and the prospects of trade, which form the most interesting part of the Blue Book Reports of most British Colonies, find no place in that of Gibraltar, where the size of the place fixes an arbitrary limit on the population, and there is no room for expansion, and consequently no opening for immigration and but little for investment of capital. The natural limit thus placed upon the working population ensures that it shall not exceed the number which will be able to find employment in the coal trade or in the public and military and naval works which the growing importance of the station as a naval depôt will always entail, so that their condition will contrast agreeably with that of the people in many less-favoured of the British possessions.

H. M. JACKSON,

*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Gibraltar, 14th August, 1899.

GIBRALTAR  
1898.

No. 2.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to GOVERNOR SIR R. BIDDULPH.

Downing Street,  
26th September 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 16th instant\* transmitting the Annual Blue Book for 1898, together with a Report by the Colonial Secretary.

I have read with much interest and satisfaction the remarks which you make in this despatch on the general state of Gibraltar during the six years of your administration of the Government, and I avail myself of this opportunity to place on record my appreciation of the valuable services which you have rendered during that period both to Her Majesty's Government and to the local community.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

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\* No. 1.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 249.

GOLD COAST.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 220.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
November, 1898.

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**COLONIAL REPORTS.**

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
245	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar... ..	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



No. 249.

**GOLD COAST.**

**GOLD COAST,  
1897.**

(For Report for 1896, see No. 220.)

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**GOVERNOR HODGSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.**

Government House,

Accra,

July 2nd, 1898.

**SIR,**

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a Report by Mr. Haddon Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, upon the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,

F. M. HODGSON,  
Governor.

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**REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE  
GOLD COAST FOR 1897.**

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**REVENUE.**

1. The Colony is at present in the position of having no Public Debt. On 31st December 1897 the amount of surplus funds invested was valued at £30,000. No sales or investments were made during the year under review, the stock being the same as that reported on 31st December 1896.

753\*—75—10/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

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**GOLD COAST, 1897.** 2. The revenue collected during the year was £237,857 being £397 in excess of the previous year.

3. The subjoined statement shows the years in which the revenue exceeded the expenditure, and the amount of such excesses.

					£
1890	...	...	...	...	38,549
1891	...	...	...	...	52,614
1892	...	...	...	...	24,970
1893	...	...	...	...	22,848

4. The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for the last two years classified under the principal heads :—

Items of Revenue.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Wines, spirits, tobacco, guns, &c., (specific duties).	162,819	158,382	—	4,467
General merchandise ( <i>ad valorem</i> duty).	42,126	42,606	480	—
Liquor licences ... ..	6,596	8,002	1,416	—
Stamps, (postal, telegraph, and revenue).	11,448	11,899	451	—
Other items ... ..	14,449	16,968	2,519	—
Total revenue ... ..	£ 237,458	237,857	4,866	4,467

#### EXPENDITURE.

5. The expenditure for the year 1897 amounted to £406,369, being £124,091 in excess of the year 1896, and £85,200 in excess of the amount originally voted by the Legislature for the services of the year. The excess is, however, due to expenditure on account of the Ashanti Expedition of 1896 being brought into account in 1897, amounting in all to £147,587.

6. The deposits for which the Colony was liable amounted to £155,470 as against £26,865 on 31st December 1896. The large increase of £128,605 is principally owing to the sum of £97,768, which is due to the Imperial Government on account of the Ashanti Expedition of 1896, having been placed during the year to the credit of the War Office in the books of the Colony.

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7. The following table shows the years in which the expenditure GOLD COAST  
has been in excess of revenue :— 1897.

	£
1887 ... ..	17,092
1888 ... ..	35,660
1889 ... ..	13,614
1894 ... ..	8,670
1895 ... ..	35,213
1896 ... ..	44,817
1897 ... ..	168,512

The expenditure in 1897 included £147,587 paid on account of the Ashanti Expedition.

#### GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

8. The deposits show a decrease of £3,575 as compared with those of 1896. The deposits for the year under review were £3,674 as compared with £7,249 for the year 1896, while the withdrawals (including interest) were £5,637 as compared with £7,286 for the previous year, leaving an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £1,963. Interest taken out of the general revenue of the Colony and credited to depositors amounted to £106. The total amount credited, including interest, during the year was therefore £3,780 and the withdrawals £5,637. The largest decrease has been at Accra, the capital of the Colony. This is not surprising, owing to the establishment of the Bank of West Africa during the year 1897. At the same time, though the number of depositors has increased at the outstations, the amount of deposits has considerably fallen off at most stations, especially at the two important trading stations of Cape Coast and Axim.

9. The total amount at the credit of the Savings Bank in the books of the Colony on the 31st December 1897 was £3,812, as compared with £5,668 at the same period in the previous year. The whole of the £3,812 has been invested.

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

10. There has been an increase of the trade of the Colony for the year under review, although the country beyond Ashanti has been in anything but a settled state. The total value of imports in 1897 was £784,188, and the value of the exports £857,793, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £1,641,981, an increase of £71,861 on the year 1896.

**GOLD COAST, 1897.** 11. The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last seven years :—

Year.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	Total.
	Paying duty.	Admitted free.		
	£	£	£	£
1891	464,188	201,593	684,304	1,350,086
1892	422,026	175,068	665,064	1,262,158
1893	475,346	243,006	722,106	1,440,460
1894	518,163	170,303	850,343	1,538,809
1895	563,290	231,691	877,803	1,672,784
1896	552,968	225,041	792,111	1,570,120
1897	562,418	221,770	857,793	1,641,981

Notwithstanding the disturbed state of the country as alluded to above, it will be seen from the above table that the value of trade in 1897 has only been exceeded by that of the trade in the year 1895.

12. The principal articles of trade are :—

*Imports.*—Cotton, woollen and silk goods, spirits, hardware, rice, flour, provisions, tobacco, building materials, and wearing-apparel.

*Exports.*—Palm oil, palm kernels, rubber, gold dust, timber, and minor industries, such as coffee, cocoa, monkey skins, and kola nuts.

13. The following comparative tables shew that the greater proportion of the trade is with the United Kingdom :—

*Imports.*

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1892	407,038	9,925	180,132	597,095
1893	524,037	8,719	185,597	718,353
1894	504,255	12,068	172,143	688,466
1895	539,718	81,897	173,366	794,981
1896	569,828	282,520	179,661	778,009
1897	526,411	69,787	196,990	784,188

*Exports.*GOLD COAST,  
1897.

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1892	471,219	2,054	191,791	665,064
1893	530,300	27,016	164,790	722,107
1894	608,258	29,765	212,320	850,343
1895	586,415	38,211	253,177	877,803
1896	535,106	37,471	218,534	792,111
1897	581,904	35,667	240,222	857,793

14. The Customs receipts during the year at the principal ports of the Colony were as follows :—

Port.	Imports, exclusive of Spirits, Gunpowder, and Guns.	Spirits.	Gunpowder.	Guns.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Axim ... ..	6,330	9,944	233	108	16,615
Cape Coast ... ..	18,819	21,717	1,926	440	42,902
Saltpond ... ..	6,519	16,586	1,731	207	25,043
Winneba ... ..	2,363	13,688	258	53	16,362
Accra ... ..	14,436	27,969	1,428	214	44,047
Adda ... ..	3,483	8,524	57	67	12,131
Quittah... ..	2,998	8,997	1,252	103	13,350
Other stations ... ..	4,193	24,675	448	41	29,357
Totals ... ..	£ 59,141	132,100	7,333	1,233	199,807

**GOLD COAST** 15. The following statement shows the general classification  
**1897.** of all imports and exports :—

*Imports.*

Articles.	Value in Sterling	
	Of imports in detail, excluding expenses.	Total value, excluding expenses.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	£ —	£ 193,029
II.—Raw materials :—		
(a) Textile ... ..	—	
(b) Metal ... ..	2,911	
(c) Other ... ..	15,513	18,424
III.—Manufactured articles :—		
(a) Textile ... ..	281,790	
(b) Metal ... ..	55,077	
(c) Other ... ..	140,456	477,323
IV.—Coin and bullion... ..	—	95,412
	Total ... £	784,188

*Exports.*

Articles.	Value in Sterling		
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Totals.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	£ 17	£ 1,016	£ 1,033
II.—Raw materials :—			
(a) Textile ... ..	—	464	464
(b) Metal ... ..	84,867	14	84,881
(c) Other ... ..	738,754	143	738,897
Carried forward ... ..	823,638	1,637	825,275

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Exports—continued.

GOLD COAST,  
1897.

Articles.	Value in Sterling.		
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Totals.
Brought forward ...	£ 823,638	£ 1,637	£ 825,275
III.—Manufactured articles :—			
(a) Textile ... ..	44	2,313	2,357
(b) Metal ... ..	—	628	628
(c) Other ... ..	47	5,556	5,603
IV.—Coin and bullion... ..	—	23,922	23,922
Total ... .. £	823,729	34,056	857,785

16. The supply of the staple articles, palm kernels and palm oil, has not been satisfactory, but the export of rubber shows a considerable improvement.

The following figures show the trade in the three important exports for the last three years :—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£
1895	4,338,627	231,415	15,559	93,384	4,022,385	322,070
1896	2,394,563	126,857	13,046	85,349	3,735,439	313,817
1897	2,021,716	107,737	10,836	69,818	4,957,016	419,813

**GOLD COAST, 1897.** 17. The following statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Colony to the undermentioned countries during 1897 :—

Countries.		Quantity.	Value.
		lbs.	£
United Kingdom	...	4,595,696	391,106
Germany	... ..	361,031	28,691

In 1896 the shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 3,307,685 lbs. valued at £283,044, and to Germany 424,093 lbs. valued at £30,398.

18. Rubber is becoming one of the prime necessities of civilisation. The last few years the use of pneumatic tyres for cycles and solid rubber tyres for carriages, has considerably increased the demand for rubber. It is believed that, if the output of rubber could be doubled in one year, so many new applications of the material would arise that the supply would not be sufficient, and consequently rubber would still retain its price. In any of the swampy regions of this Colony, where vegetation grows rank and sappy, there are certain to be found the trees or vines which produce rubber. Rubber is one of the chief sources of wealth in this Colony. No cultivation is needed, very little skill, and not much work.

19. The great fear as regards this industry is the destruction of the trees by the natives ; they are not satisfied only with tapping, but the trees are cut down so that they may obtain as much milk as possible. To ensure the preservation of the trees it may become necessary for the Government to intervene and preserve the forests by requiring natives to take out licences for working the rubber trees. The Germans in the neighbouring Colony of Togoland have such a system in force.

20. Another disadvantage that the rubber trade has to contend with is that the regions which produce rubber are precisely the regions most deadly to Europeans, and, again, when the rubber is collected it has to be brought to the port of exportation on the heads of carriers, which so increases the cost of transport that it often does not pay to export this special product.

21. The export of timber is steadily increasing ; the port of Axim in the Western District is practically the only port of



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shipment, the logs being floated down the river Ancobra. The GOLD COAST, following statement will serve to show the trade of this industry 1897. for the last six years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Feet.	—£
1892	2,130,216	36,394
1893	3,407,226	50,428
1894	5,012,670	69,345
1895	3,587,337	28,245
1896	6,063,381	52,234
1897	15,236,216	90,569

22. Shippers and buyers should beware of the defective timber which is often thrown upon the market. The defective woods are stated to be the following, which are enumerated under the following technical headings :—“Hollow portion,” “Shakes” “Star Shakes” “Wormed.”

The dimensions of mahogany logs most in demand are 16 to 30 feet in length and 24 to 36 inches square.

23. The cultivation of coffee and cocoa is still on the increase, though the shipment of the former has decreased during the year 1897 as compared with 1896 ; at the same time a number of new plantations, especially in the Akwapim district, have been started. Coffee cultivation in this Colony is greatly handicapped. Those who have plantations near the coast have great difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of fresh water, while those whose plantations are far removed from the port of shipment have the cost of transport to contend with.

24. The following table shows the shipment of cocoa, coffee, and other products for the last five years :—

Year.	Cocoa.		Coffee.		Copra.		Guinea Grain.		Kola nuts.	
	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	Packages.	Value.
1893 ...	3,460	£ 93	21,437	£ 630	248,304	£ 831	183,224	£ 621	979	£ 25,116
1894 ...	20,312	546	41,488	1,265	649,600	1,940	174,412	1,186	1,202	28,511
1895 ...	28,906	470	51,755	1,753	482,608	1,712	154,693	580	2,352	30,565
1896 ...	86,754	2,275	141,836	4,065	273,840	852	26,594	193	3,156	33,278
1897 ...	156,672	3,196	102,146	3,068	272,272	803	22,873	229	4,278	37,870

25. The number of monkey skins shipped in 1897 amounted to 14,438, valued at £811. This trade has considerably fallen off and can no longer be considered as one of the important exports of the Colony. In 1894, 168,405 skins, valued at £41,001, were exported, whereas in 1896 the number of skins fell to 67,660, valued at £8,662, and in the year under review the decrease again is very marked. This no doubt is owing to the distance hunters have to go to procure their victims.

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26. The gold mining industry is carried on chiefly in the <sup>GOLD COAST,</sup> Western District—in Wassaw and Appolonia. Three or four <sup>1897.</sup> companies are doing steady work. The gold reefs of the mining district have been declared by experts to be similar to those of Johannesburg, and there is no reason why gold mining in this Colony in a very short space of time should not prove a decided success. The industry up to the present has been hampered owing to the serious difficulty of transporting the necessary machinery from the coast to the mines; but the Government is constructing a railway from the coast to the mining districts in the neighbourhood of Tarquah, and, when this is completed, it is confidently anticipated that the gold industry will receive an impetus which will result in the larger investment of capital for the development of existing mines and the opening of new ones. On the other hand, it cannot be expected that investors will risk their money in this part of Africa unless they are assured that they will have proper security as regards the land which has been conceded, and the Government has under consideration a Lands Bill, one of the objects of which is to afford such security.

27. The following table shows the weight and value of gold exported from the Colony during each of the last five years.

Year.	Weight.	Value.
	Oz.	£
1893	21,972	79,099
1894	21,332	76,795
1895	25,416	91,497
1896	23,941	86,186
1897	23,555	84,797

28. Considering the large extent of country that has been opened up during the last two years, the increase of spirits imported into the Colony is very small. The figures do not seem to shew that the demand for spirituous liquors is spreading among the native population.

GOLD COAST, 1897. 29. The following table gives a comparison of the importations of wines and spirits into the Colony during the years 1896 and 1897 :—

Description of Liquor.	Quantity Imported.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1896.	1897.		
Rum ... ..	Old Wine Gallons. 833,135	Old Wine Gallons. 878,052	Old Wine Gallons. 44,917	Old Wine Gallons. —
Gin and Geneva ... ..	330,804	335,163	4,359	—
Whisky ... ..	11,432	12,987	1,555	—
Brandy ... ..	822	760	—	62
Wines ... ..	22,177	18,969	—	3,208
Ale and Porter ... ..	26,220	23,388	—	2,832
Liqueurs ... ..	2,189	1,297	—	892
Totals ... ..	1,226,779	1,270,616	50,831	6,994

## SHIPPING.

30. There is little change in the number or tonnage of vessels to record during the year under review. The figures for the years 1896 and 1897 are as follows :—

Nationality of Vessels.	Sailing Vessels.				Steamers.			
	1896.		1897.		1896.		1897.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
United Kingdom ...	1	105	3	315	254	366,857	247	361,742
Germany ... ..	4	1,540	3	1,385	87	108,168	90	108,029
France ... ..	—	—	—	—	50	65,870	70	92,449
United States ...	9	4,670	10	4,882	—	—	—	—
Other Nations ...	2	559	—	—	9	19,199	8	18,059
Totals ... ..	16	6,874	16	6,582	400	553,794	415	580,277

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31. The mail service with England remains the same, the voyage taking, on an average, from Liverpool to Accra, a distance of 3,920 miles, 21 days. The mail service from the Colony to England still continues most irregular, and there is no competition.

GOLD COAST,  
1898.

LEGISLATION.

32. During the year 1897, the Legislative Council passed 23 Ordinances, of which the following are the most important :—

Ordinance No. 3 amends the Spirit Licence Ordinance 1887. It raises the half yearly and yearly licences from £2 10s. and £5 respectively, to £5 and £10 respectively, for every store situated in a place to which the Ordinance of 1887 originally applied. It prescribes the duties of £2 10s. for half yearly licences, and £5 for yearly, payable for every store situate in a place to which the Ordinance of 1887 has been applied, or shall by section 3 thereof by the Governor by proclamation be declared to apply. It imposes on every chief of a particular locality the duty of reporting every breach of the Ordinance in that locality that comes to his knowledge to the District Commissioner within whose jurisdiction the locality is situated.

Ordinance No. 4 increases the summary criminal jurisdiction of District Commissioners. Every District Commissioner is given jurisdiction to hear and determine besides the offences under Book II of the Criminal Code, misdemeanours and certain felonies under Book III of the Code, also attempts to commit, and conspiracies in respect of, any of the said offences. He is, however, restricted as regards the punishment he can inflict. He cannot impose a fine exceeding £50, or a term of imprisonment exceeding 6 months, except where under the Code or any other law a larger fine or a longer term of imprisonment is given.

No. 6, "The Peace Preservation Ordinance, 1897," suppresses the assembling together of armed men for unlawful purpose; and, for the preservation of the peace, empowers the Governor in Council by proclamation published in the Gazette to declare it unlawful to carry arms or ammunition within any specified part of the Colony, but reserving the right to impose conditions and regulations under which the carrying of arms and ammunition may be licensed, and to make provision for the persons who may grant licences to have or carry arms or ammunition. Provision is made for a District Commissioner himself to search or to direct a search warrant to any person to enter and search any house, buildings, or places in the proclaimed district for any arms or ammunition suspected to be there in contravention of the Ordinance. Power is given to the Governor in Council to fine, not exceeding £500, under certain circumstances, any chief in a

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**1897.**  
proclaimed district, and provision is made, where additional constabulary or police has been sent to a proclaimed district, for the costs thereof to be paid by the inhabitants.

Ordinance No. 20, "an Ordinance to amend the Customs Ordinance," besides amending certain sections of Ordinance No. 10 of 1876, prevents any master, without the consent of the Comptroller or other proper officer of Customs, from discharging or permitting to be discharged, unless included in the declaration or being intermediate goods are declared to on transire, (1) any cargo, or (2) any articles or things comprised in the Victualling Bills made under sections 126 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876, or (3) any ship's stores wherever taken on board, or (4) any other article or thing, by whomsoever taken on board or shipped that is likely to contribute to general average. It vests in the Governor in Council the power to make, vary, and revoke rules to determine the fees payable under section 14 of Ordinance No. 10 of 1876, the duties of the Comptroller as Shipping Master, and to declare in respect of such duties the persons by whom fees shall be paid, and the deductions, if any, which may be made from wages by the master in respect thereof.

Ordinance No. 21, "an Ordinance to amend the Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder Ordinance, 1892," provides for the depositing of flint guns with unrifled barrels in private warehouses at seaports and their removal therefrom, and for the issuing by the Comptroller at Accra and a District Commissioner at out-stations licences for such private warehouses.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH.

33. The general health of the Colony shows a slight improvement on the two previous years, though the death-rate still remains exceptionally high. It must be remembered that the Europeans in the Colony are for the most part men in the prime of life, as there are no European children in the Colony and a man of 50 years of age is an exception. The following table shows the death-rate among Europeans for the year under review, also the number who have been invalided from the Colony:—

	Population.	Died.	Invalided.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Per 1,000 Invalided.
Government officials ...	160	6	31	37·5	137·50
Non-officials ... ..	362	34	47	93·92	129·83

In the year 1896 there were 41 deaths among the Europeans and 58 were invalided.

34. The health of the officers employed in Ashanti and the Northern Territories is far better than that of those employed on the Coast, and, considering the hard life that many of these have to lead and that they are often away from the usual comforts of life, the conclusion to be drawn is that the climate of the "hinterland" is far healthier than that of the Coast.

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1897.

35. It will be noticed from the foregoing table that the death-rate among the official class is less than that among the mercantile community. This may perhaps be attributed to the leave arrangements of the Government service whereby all European officials are permitted to proceed to Europe on leave after twelve months residential service on the Coast, and to the houses occupied by Government officials being away from the thickly populated part of the town. This is no trivial matter, for climatic conditions are such that what is at most an inconvenience in more temperate climates is a veritable calamity to the European resident in West Africa. Much of the comfort of life depends on attention to its minutiae, and this is pre-eminently so in a country such as the Gold Coast.

36. Facilities for hospital treatment at Accra have much improved, and the arrangements in the Colonial hospital are as complete as possible. The introduction of European nurses has proved a great boon, and no doubt the extra nursing has saved many lives during the past year.

#### RAINFALL.

37. The following table shows the rainfall for the different months of the year at the most important towns of the Gold Coast Colony :—

Month.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Aburi.	Axim.	Adda.	Cap: Coast.	Quittah.
January ... ..	0.83	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.00
February ... ..	0.52	5.93	2.82	0.11	6.91	0.76
March ... ..	1.39	2.88	8.25	0.71	6.58	1.33
April ... ..	3.13	3.89	4.88	4.75	4.37	1.87
May ... ..	11.63	9.46	21.31	10.84	18.61	7.34
June ... ..	3.65	3.38	15.51	2.95	9.40	2.59
Carried forward	21.15	25.99	52.77	19.36	40.65	13.89

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GOLD COAST,  
1897.RAINFALL—*continued.*

Month.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Abari.	Axim.	Adda.	Cape Coast.	Quitah.
Brought forward	21.15	25.99	52.77	19.36	40.65	13.89
July ... ..	0.14	3.60	1.06	0.63	2.45	0.00
August ... ..	0.31	0.87	1.40	0.14	0.85	0.12
September ... ..	1.54	5.29	0.25	12.03	1.14	1.67
October ... ..	3.19	8.46	7.17	2.96	5.96	5.84
November ... ..	0.34	3.10	4.85	1.00	0.34	0.00
December ... ..	0.64	1.55	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.72
Totals ... ..	27.31	48.86	67.50	36.13	51.39	22.24

## PUBLIC WORKS.

38. The fort at Kumassi has been completed, also a number of minor works, such as officers' quarters, offices, magazines, &c.

The most important works undertaken have been the construction of roads from chief coast centres to the interior. The following roads have been undertaken :—

From Accra to the Akim district, 25 miles.

From Tinkranku to Kpong, total length 190 miles. Work started in July, 25 miles completed up to 31st December, 1897.

From Axim to River Ankobra, 3 miles; work almost completed.

From Bansa to Tarkwa, total 12 miles; 2 miles completed: work exceptionally heavy.

From Danoe to Dogplata, total length 23 miles, work completed.

The main roads, the bridges, and the public buildings throughout the Colony have been maintained in good order, and many improvements have been effected.

## EXPERIMENTS FOR WATER SUPPLY.

39. A sum of money was specially set aside for carrying on investigations in the valley immediately behind Accra, with a view



to collecting water under ground into a well or wells to be pumped up into a reservoir on the high land adjacent. Special officers were sent out to make the necessary surveys, and to do the necessary borings and sinking of pits; but up to the end of the year the results were unsatisfactory, as the bulk of the water encountered was saline. The investigations are still being continued.

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1897.

#### RAILWAYS.

40. Two railway surveys which were commenced in 1896 were completed in 1897; one from Accra to Kumassi *via* Insuaim, and the other from Takoradi Bay to Tarquah. Arrangements have been made for the construction of a line from Sekondi to Tarquah. This line will go through the mining and timber districts, and work was commenced early in 1898.

#### POST OFFICE.

41. There is not much change in the working of this department as compared with previous years. The gross revenue of the department for the year under review amounted to £4,009 4s. 6d. as against £4,285 11s. 5d. in 1896, showing a decrease of £276 6s. 11d.; the falling off is attributable to the money order transactions and the decrease in the sale of stamps. The establishment of a bank at Accra has undoubtedly curtailed the progress of the money order business. Money orders of the value of £12,974 7s. 3d. were issued during the year, as compared with £34,207 5s. 11d. issued during the year 1896.

Year.	No. of Letters, &c. posted.	No. of Registered Articles dealt with	Total amount of Money Order transactions.			Total amount of Postal Order transactions.			No. of Parcels.
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1893	335,112	15,956	13,313	4	9	1,231	3	6	2,762
1894	386,028	18,068	13,271	8	3	2,021	7	6	3,224
1895	390,502	17,474	17,076	14	11	2,150	13	6	3,518
1896	545,824	19,324	34,207	5	11	2,489	9	6	3,563
1897	584,216	23,942	12,974	7	3	2,549	15	6	3,907

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GOLD COAST, 42. 4,311 bags were brought to the Colony, and 3,673 bags  
1897. were despatched from the various Post Offices in the Colony  
during the year, as against 3,890 received and 3,678 despatched  
during the year 1896.

#### TELEGRAPHS.

43. During the year 1897 the permanent telegraph line to Kumassi was completed. On this line hardly any poles are used, the wire being supported by trees. A line was put up between Kumassi and Kintampo a distance of 100 miles. This line should work satisfactorily as it is beyond the forest range. Owing to the increase of traffic it has been found necessary to erect a duplicate line between Accra and Cape Coast; this extra line was nearing completion at the close of the year.

There are 26 Government telegraph stations in the Colony : 17 on the coast line, and 9 in the interior.

44. The total number of messages dealt with during the year under review was 84,580 compared with 79,901 messages, showing an increase of 4,679 over the previous year. Out of the total number 84,580, Government messages amounted to 41,757, leaving the revenue to profit by 42,833 messages which brought in revenue amounting to £2,322 8s. 9d., being a decrease on the year 1896 of £206 4s.

45. The following table shows the number of messages sent, also cash received for the last five years :—

Year.	No. of Offices.	Miles of Line.	No. of Messages.	Cash receipt.
1893	18	368	60,031	£ 1 822
1894	20	375	73,776	2,293
1895	21	415	81,681	2,509
1896	24	512	79 901	2,538
1897	26	626	84,580	2,333

46. Interruptions have not been so frequent during the year 1897 as in previous years. Cases of theft of telegraph wire

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or the destruction of telegraph property have considerably decreased. This is no doubt owing to the legislation which placed the responsibility for the maintenance of the line on the Chief through whose district it passed.

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1897.

#### EDUCATION.

47. Fair progress has been made in the cause of education during the year 1897, though not at the same rate as in the preceding year. The total number of schools inspected during the year 1897 was 117, an increase of two. There is, however, a very considerable increase of new and as yet unassisted schools. This is owing to the pioneer work mainly done by the Basel Mission in the Ashanti district, and many of these schools will be shortly on the assisted list. Some of the Roman Catholic Mission Schools have been closed, and this accounts for a smaller number of scholars in average attendance.

48. As yet little has been done for the higher or secondary education of the Colony except the establishment of Government scholarships awarded on the result of the Cambridge senior local examination held in December of each year. Up to the present no candidate from this Colony has succeeded in satisfying the examiners. The Basel Mission, however, and the Wesleyan Mission have established high schools with some satisfactory results. The higher education is in some measure confined to the training of teachers, and the Basel Mission, as well as the Government schools at Accra and Cape Coast, have started giving suitable instruction to their pupil teachers.

49. *Industrial Instruction.*—Owing to the action of the Government in the matter of grants in aid for this subject, industrial work is receiving great attention at the hands of the managers of assisted schools. Nearly all the schools of any size are starting plantations for coffee, cocoa, and other products of the soil, and most of those with very fair success. Besides these, there are nearly forty schools to which are attached departments for carpentry, smith work, and book-binding. The most notable move in this direction is the building and furnishing of technical departments at the Government schools at Accra and Cape Coast. These will be completed early in the New Year, when a course in carpentering, &c. will be started.

50. The elementary subjects, reading, writing, and arithmetic, are taught in all schools, and the older scholars in most of the schools learn geography, history, book-keeping, shorthand, and needlework.

GOLD COAST, 51. The following tabulated statements will show the present  
1897. state of elementary education in this Colony :—

A.—Totals for the year 1897.

Schools.	No. on Books.	Average attendance.	Teachers examined.	Grant earned.
119	11,638	8,798	100	£ 3,600

Since 1896 six new schools have been opened.

B.—Classification of the Scholars.

Denomination.	St. VII.	St. VI.	St. V.	St. IV.	St. III.	St. II.	St. I.	SS. II.	SS. I.	Infants.
Basel Mission ...	36	47	55	61	147	163	208	283	310	776
Wesleyan ...	38	96	184	279	380	454	516	480	545	1,730
R. Catholic ...	3	19	42	93	101	124	163	163	223	636
Government ...	9	40	43	59	83	86	110	143	116	371
Totals ...	86	202	324	492	711	827	1,057	1,067	1,194	3,513

This gives a decrease of 202 scholars as compared with 1896. The decrease is mainly to be observed in the sub-standard and infants.

BOTANICAL.

52. A quantity of Indian jute (*corchorus capsularis*) has been grown, and allowed to seed, and 112 packets of seeds have been distributed to the Missionaries and Chiefs with instructions as to

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sowing, &c. The results are at present unknown. Jute growing GOLD COAST;  
is not popular with the natives, the mode of extracting the fibre 1897  
necessitating hard work.

*Theobroma cacao*.—About 3,000 trees have been planted in the Government gardens. During the year 9 bags containing 1 cwt. each were shipped to England and obtained a very fair price.

*Arabian coffee* does not do well in this Colony, but Liberian coffee gives every satisfaction; in the year under review there were 3,400 trees in the Government gardens, and out of this number 2,300 were bearing fruit.

*Cinnanomum zeylanicum*.—The experiment of growing this cinnamon has not been successful, but further trials are to be made.

A quantity of the best white *Egyptian cotton* has been planted; the fibre obtained is rough and strong but dull in colour, owing to the moist atmosphere.

A large quantity of arrowroot (*maranta arundinacea*) which was planted in 1896 was taken up in 1897; though this plant grows well, it will never pay, owing to the high wages for labour, to grow it either for local consumption or for exportation.

Samples of fibres have been prepared from *furcræa gigantea*, *aguce rigida*, var. *sisalana*, and jute. The two former produce a good strong fibre from 5 to 7 feet long; the latter is very poor, only being about 30 inches in length and is of a very dull colour and without any gloss.

53. The great curse in the agricultural districts of this Colony is a small insect commonly known as "the borer." To which class of beetles it belongs is uncertain, but it has been ascribed to the genus *herpetophygas* of which the only species hitherto known is said to have been found in Kaffraria; it enters near the bottom and makes a hole rootwards, thereby doing fatal injury to the tree. Every effort has been made to try and exterminate this pest. The soil all over the garden has been loosened to a depth of 8 or 10 inches, trees infested have been tarred, and a piece of steel wire pointed and barbed at one end has been inserted into the holes caused by the borer so as to kill them in the young stage.

GENERAL REMARKS.

54. The year under review, in which Her Majesty the Queen completed the 60th year of Her reign, was an eventful one in the history of this Colony. The Ashanti Expedition of 1895-96 having opened up the way into the interior, there devolved upon

**GOLD COAST,** the Government the duty of taking steps to establish British  
1897. authority in the countries beyond Kumassi in which treaties had  
— already been made with the various Chiefs during the years 1892  
and 1894.

55. Captain Donald Stewart was accordingly despatched by the Governor of the Gold Coast from Coomassie on the 27th of November, 1896, to occupy Gambaga, and Lieutenant F. B. Henderson, R.N., was sent to occupy Bona and Wa.

56. The French had previously sent from the Senegal an expedition under Lieutenant Voulet, who occupied Wagadugu in September 1896 and then made a treaty in the Gurunsi country with a Chief named Amrahia; while the Germans under Dr. Grüner had made their way through Salaga and Yendi in the Neutral Zone to Sansanné Mango.

57. Captain Stewart reached Gambaga on the 24th of December 1896, and hoisted the British flag. On the 3rd of January 1897 a German officer, Baron von Massow, arrived at Gambaga, and wished to hoist the German flag by the side of the British one; but Captain Stewart refused to allow it, and Baron von Massow returned to Sansanné Mango.

58. Captain Stewart then proceeded on his way to Wagadugu, leaving a detachment to hold Gambaga. At Tenkrugu, half-way between Gambaga and Wagadugu, he was met by messengers from the King of Mossi, who had been driven out of Wagadugu by the French and appealed to him for protection in virtue of the treaty concluded with Mr. Ferguson in 1894. On the 7th of February 1897 Lieutenant Voulet also arrived at Tenkrugu. In order to avoid a conflict, Captain Stewart arranged with Lieutenant Voulet that the British mission should retire within the boundaries of Mamprusi, and the French mission should at the same time retire beyond the boundaries of Tenkrugu, and this arrangement was carried out.

59. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Henderson, proceeding to the westward, had, on the 2nd of January 1897, arrived at Bualé, where he found the Sofas in great force. The attitude of the Sofas was not unfriendly, but they would not let him go to Bona. They had occupied Bona and killed the king, and had established communication across the Gold Coast "Hinterland" with the Germans at Kraki. Wa was also held by the Sofas; but Mr. Henderson pushed on and hoisted the British flag there on the 9th of January, the Sofas retiring when he came. Samory himself was at Jimini in French territory. From Wa, Mr. Henderson went in February into the Gurunsi country, where he saw Amrahia, with whom the French had made a treaty, and ascertained that there was no King of Gurunsi, but that the country was split up into small portions, with five of which Mr. Henderson concluded treaties. On

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returning to Wa, he received a deputation from Bona and Lobi, who reminded him that they had made a treaty with Mr. Ferguson, and asked for protection against the Sofas. Bona had already been raided by the Sofas, but Lobi was still untouched. Mr. Henderson, therefore, went to Dawkita, or Dokta, an important town in Lobi, about 20 miles north of Bona, and there on the 16th of March made a treaty with the new King (Kampa) of Bona, which was also signed by Danwa-Massa, Chief of Bona and Governor of Lobi.

GOLD COAST  
1897.

60. The effect of Mr. Henderson's occupation of Dokta was to prevent the Sofas from raiding Lobi, and it appears to have been owing to their being otherwise unable to obtain food that they attacked him at Dokta on the 29th of March. After holding Dokta for four days with only 43 men against a force of Sofas estimated at 7,000, Mr. Henderson was compelled to retreat to Wa. This he did with a loss of two men killed and eight wounded, while the Sofa loss was estimated at 400 men.

61. The Sofas followed Mr. Henderson to Wa, where he was joined by a detachment of the Gold Coast Constabulary under Captain Cramer and for three days successfully resisted the attempts of the Sofas to drive him out; but, owing to the cowardice or treachery of the King of Wa, the British force ran short of water, and Mr. Henderson decided that the place must be evacuated. Before leaving, however, he attempted to parley with the Sofa leader, and went alone into the Sofa camp for that purpose. There he was detained by the Sofas, who said that he must go to Jimini to see Samory. Before leaving he arranged that, if he was detained, the British force should leave Wa the same night. Captain Cramer accordingly, after unsuccessfully attempting to obtain Mr. Henderson's release, and receiving a note from him to the effect that he did not think that the Sofas would do anything to him beyond keeping him a prisoner, left Wa on the 5th of April. The column was thrown into confusion by a panic among the carriers, but ultimately, after falling in with a French party under Captain Seal, Captain Cramer succeeded in joining Captain Stewart at Yariba on the 20th of April. In the course of the retreat Mr. Ferguson, who had been previously wounded, was abandoned by his carriers and was killed by a party of Sofas. Mr. Henderson was taken by the Sofas to Jimini. There he saw Samory, who appears to have been, on the whole, friendly, although intensely suspicious. With regard to the attack on the British force, Samory would only say that it came from God. After being detained for a few days at Jimini, Mr. Henderson was sent back to the coast, and arrived at Accra on the 14th of June.

62. Before this, the French under Captain Seal, having espoused the cause of Amrahia, against Barbatu, another Gurunsi raider, enabled Amrahia to defeat Barbatu, who took refuge with

**GOLD COAST,** Captain Stewart at Yariba. Captain Stewart refused to give Barbatu up to the French; and on the 22nd of April he made with Captain Scal a "provisional agreement to prevent any conflicts or collisions between the French and English subjects in territories that are in dispute." A temporary boundary was agreed upon, which left Mamprusi and Dagarti in British occupation, and Gurunsi and Mossi in the occupation of the French.

63. Shortly afterwards another French expedition under Captain Hugot arrived on the scene from the north, and, upon the excuse that Barbatu, for whose conduct Captain Stewart had made himself responsible, had raided across the provisional boundary, proceeded to occupy Wa, which had been evacuated by the Sofas after the capture of Mr. Henderson.

64. The commencement of the rainy season made further operations difficult at this time, and it was arranged, on the recommendation of Sir W. Maxwell, that an officer should be sent out specially to take the command of the Colonial forces in the "hinterland" as soon as the rains were over. Major H. P. Northcott was selected for this duty, and left England on the 16th of October to take up the command, with the title of Commissioner and Commandant in the Northern Territories.

65. Pending Major Northcott's arrival, Major Jenkinson was in command of the Colonial forces; and in November, hearing that Bona had been evacuated by the Sofas, Major Jenkinson pushed on with great promptitude and effected the occupation of the town on the 17th of that month.

66. While these events were taking place on the north and west, reports kept coming in regarding the activity of German officials in the Neutral Zone, and on the 2nd of July the German Government were asked by Her Majesty's Government for an assurance that they would abstain from any operations against Yendi, to which a German expedition was said to be then advancing. It was pointed out to the German Government that the terms of the agreement of 1888 could not be disregarded by one of the parties to it without giving the other the right to secure its interests in such way as it might consider best, irrespective of that agreement. No answer was received from the German Government, and on the 2nd of August the Governor of the Gold Coast was ordered to occupy Salaga, which was done on the 21st of that month. At the close of the year, the British forces were still in occupation of Salaga. But, subsequently, assurances were received from the German Government that they had given orders for the withdrawal of any German troops which might be in the Neutral Zone, and Her Majesty's Government agreed to withdraw the British troops from the Zone with the



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reservation that any infringement of the agreement by either party in the future would give the other the right to send troops again into the Neutral territory. GOLD COAST,  
1897.

67. On the 14th of December 1897 the Colony suffered a severe loss by the lamented death at sea, on his way to England, of His Excellency Sir William Maxwell, K.C.M.G., the Governor of the Gold Coast. The illness to which he succumbed was induced by the hardships he had undergone in the "hinterland," where he had been engaged during the unhealthiest season of the year in dealing with the various difficult questions that had arisen in connection with the movements of the French and the Sofas. To quote from the despatch of the Acting-Governor to the Secretary of State when reporting the late Governor's death, "His whole life was centred and absorbed in the work which his position cast upon him," and his death occurred at a very critical time in the history of the Colony, when the energy and devotion to duty which he displayed could ill be spared.

G. B. HADDON SMITH,

*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Accra, Gold Coast,

12th June, 1898.

LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

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No. 271.

GOLD COAST.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 249.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*September, 1899.*

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#### ANNUAL.

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243	Malta ... ..	1897
244	Fiji ... ..	"
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9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No 271.

**GOLD COAST.**

**GOLD COAST,  
1898.**

(For Report for 1897, see No. 249.)

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ACTING GOVERNOR LOW to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Accra,

1st July 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a Report by Mr. Haddon Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, upon the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

Wm. Low,

*Acting Governor.*

GOLD COAST,  
1898.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE  
GOLD COAST FOR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

The following table shows the heads of revenue and expenditure for the year 1898 as compared with those of the preceding year:—

*Revenue.*

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs ... ..	200,988	225,766	24,778	—
Light dues... ..	1,129	1,111	—	18
Licences and material ... ..	10,499	12,496	1,997	—
Revenue not otherwise classified }				
Fees of court or office payments } for specific services, and Reimbursements in aid... .. }	16,221	15,852	—	369
Post Office ... ..	424	460	36	—
Rents of Government property...	11	24	13	—
Interest ... ..	1,081	1,017	—	64
Miscellaneous ... ..	7,502	2,096	—	5,406
Grant in aid of Northern Territories.	—	45,000	45,000	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>237,855</b>	<b>303,822</b>	<b>71,824</b>	<b>5,857</b>

2. The total revenue during the year, exclusive of the grant in aid of £45,000, amounted to £258,822 as compared with £233,179 the preceding year, showing an increase of £25,643.

3. The increase under the head of Customs is owing to the improvement in trade, and the reasons of this are dealt with more fully under the heading of Imports and Exports of this report.

4. The cost of licences for the sale of liquors having been doubled during the year on the coast towns, and the system of requiring rum shops in all parts of the Colony to be licensed, will account for the increase under the head of "Licences."

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5. The parliamentary grant of £45,000 was made in aid of <sup>GOLD COAST</sup> expenses of operations in the Northern Territories of this Colony. 1898.

(6.) *Expenditure.*

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions and gratuities ...	4,607	5,198	591	—
Governor and Legislature ...	5,143	4,446	—	697
Colonial Secretary's office ...	4,822	4,306	—	516
Ashanti ...	13,723	4,304	—	9,419
Native affairs ...	3,612	2,799	—	813
Treasury department ...	5,116	4,913	—	203
Customs ...	12,799	12,273	—	526
Volta river preventive service ...	3,400	6,303	2,903	—
Printing office ...	1,585	1,639	54	—
Audit department ...	1,298	1,448	150	—
Lighthouse and signal stations ...	445	605	160	—
District commissioners ...	10,021	9,074	—	947
Supreme court ...	5,885	5,640	—	245
Law officers ...	1,490	1,566	76	—
Ecclesiastical and cemeteries ...	1,034	1,024	—	10
Constabulary department ...	31,932	35,665	3,733	—
Police department ...	11,545	12,864	1,319	—
Volunteers ...	682	760	78	—
Prisons department ...	6,684	6,186	—	498
Medical and sanitary ...	20,074	20,939	865	—
Education department ...	6,555	6,817	262	—
Botanical stations ...	857	1,016	159	—
Transport ...	13,080	14,780	1,700	—
Military expenditure ...	4,026	—	—	4,026
Carried forward ...	170,415	164,565	12,050	17,900

GOLD COAST,  
1898.

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ... ..	170,415	164,565	12,050	17,900
Rent, and purchases of land and houses.	3,131	1,750	—	1,381
Miscellaneous services ... ..	12,728	9,849	—	2,879
Special services ... ..	2,023	2,916	893	—
Post and telegraph offices	10,326	10,572	246	—
Public works ... ..	60,162	66,695	6,533	—
Ashanti special expenditure ...	147,588	603	—	146,985
Northern Territories ... ..	—	121,022	121,022	—
<b>Totals ... ..</b>	<b>406,373</b>	<b>377,972</b>	<b>140,744</b>	<b>169,145</b>

7. This gives a decrease in the expenditure of the Colony in the year of £28,401 as compared with the preceding year.

8. The increase in the cost of the Volta preventive service was caused by an increase in the European staff, which had been found necessary in order to keep down smuggling on this river.

9. The increase under constabulary is owing to salaries for 1897 due to officers and men who were serving in the Northern Territories being paid in 1898.

10. Under the heading Ashanti special expenditure in 1897 is included an amount of £97,769, the expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government in connection with the expedition to Kumasi in 1895 and 1896.

11. The cost of the operations in the Northern Territories in 1897, amounting to £24,034, does not appear in these accounts, as it was treated temporarily as an advance.

12. The following comparative table shows the revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894 ...	218,261	226,932
1895 ...	230,076	265,289
1896 ...	237,460	282,278
1897 ...	233,179	401,692
1898 ...	303,822	377,976



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13. Although the Colony has no public debt, it is under an obligation to refund to Army funds an amount of £98,075, expended for the Ashanti expedition, and it has also to repay to the Imperial Treasury an amount of £24,870 which has been advanced to cover the cost of the extension of the telegraph line in the Northern Territories, in addition to the advances, amounting to £109,067, obtained for railway works.

GOLD COAST,  
1898.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

*Imports and Exports.*

14. The total value of imports in 1898 was £960,336, and the value of exports £992,998, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £1,953,334, an increase of £311,353 on the year 1897.

15. The following table shows the general classification of all imports :—

Articles.	Value in Sterling	
	Of imports in detail, excluding expenses.	Value, excluding expenses.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	£ —	£ 200,519
II.—Raw materials :—		
(a) Metal ... ..	2,550	
(b) Other ... ..	6,257	8,807
III.—Manufactured articles :—		
(a) Textile ... ..	291,646	
(b) Metal ... ..	51,111	
(c) Other ... ..	169,569	512,326
IV.—Coin and bullion... ..	—	238,684
	Total ... £	960,336

GOLD COAST, 1898. 16. The customs receipts during the year at the principal ports of the Colony were as follows:—

Port	Imports, exclusive of Spirits, Gunpowder, and Guns.	Spirits.	Gunpowder.	Guns.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Accra ... ..	14,934	29,906	1,512	186	46,538
Addah ... ..	3,798	9,034	154	26	13,012
Axim ... ..	6,925	11,094	644	85	18,748
Cape Coast ... ..	20,335	28,171	2,537	905	51,948
Quitta ... ..	3,025	8,424	1,572	75	13,096
Saltpond ... ..	7,169	20,534	1,703	568	29,974
Winneba ... ..	2,880	16,174	793	157	20,004
Other stations ... ..	4,646	26,152	554	46	31,398
Totals ... ..	£ 63,712	149,489	9,469	2,048	224,718

17. The following comparative table shows that the greater proportion of the import trade is with the United Kingdom:—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals
	£	£	£	£
1894	504,255	12,068	172,143	688,466
1895	539,718	81,897	173,366	794,981
1896	569,828	23,520	179,661	768,009
1897	526,411	60,787	196,990	784,188
1898	726,197	43,101	191,038	960,336

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18. The increase in the value of exports in 1898 over that of GOLD COAST, 1898. the preceding year amounts to £135,205.

19. From returns received from Ashanti it is shown that from 70,000 to 90,000 lbs. of rubber pass weekly, during the season, through Kumasi to the coast. There are other roads to the coast by which rubber is carried in large quantities from west and east; the main supply, however, from the west and north of the Colony now goes through Kumasi, as being the safest road to travel. Given improved transport, the output of rubber from this Colony could be trebled, considering that the whole of this rubber is at present brought down to the coast on the heads of carriers, that the cost of each carrier from Kumasi to Cape Coast is at the minimum 10s., and that it takes 1,400 carriers to bring down 70,000 lbs. of rubber, bringing the total cost to £700 for transport alone for an eight days' journey, to say nothing of the employment of human beings who could be far more profitably employed for the benefit of trade were they not made to perform the duties of beasts of burthen, owing to the want of railways throughout the Colony. Rubber is one of the chief sources of wealth in this Colony; the trees and vines which produce it are found in the many swampy regions of the Colony, and as no cultivation is needed, very little skill, and not much work, there is no difficulty in getting the natives to collect it. Moreover it is known that if the output of rubber could be doubled in one year, so many new applications of the material would arise that the supply would not be sufficient, and, consequently, rubber would still retain its price.

20. Timber, another of the most important products of this Colony, is handicapped as regards export owing to want of proper transport. It abounds in the forests of Ashanti, but cannot be used for trade purposes until a railway is run through the country.

21. Where there is water transport the timber trade is largely on the increase. Formerly, the port of Axim, in the Western District, was practically the only port of shipment, the logs being floated down the river Ancobra; but, during the year 1898, timber has been brought down the river Volta and shipped at Ada, a port in the Eastern District.

22. The different kinds of woods suitable for building purposes are stated to be odum, mahogany, and cedar.

Odum is a magnificent wood which withstands the ravages of that pest the white ant.

Palm oil still holds its own as one of the chief exports of this Colony.

**GOLD COAST, 1898.** 23. The following table shows the general classification of all exports :—

Articles.	Value in Sterling.		
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture	Totals.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	£ 181	£ 698	£ 879
II.—Raw materials :—			
(a) Metal ... ..	63,838	—	63,838
(b) Other ... ..	895,701	—	895,701
III.—Manufactured articles :—			
(a) Textile ... ..	48	2,667	2,715
(b) Metal ... ..	—	388	388
(c) Other ... ..	66	2,224	2,290
IV.—Coin and bullion... ..	—	27,187	27,187
Total ... .. £	959,834	33,164	992,998

24. The following table shows the trade in three important exports for the last three years :—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.
1896	2,394,563	£ 126,857	13,046	£ 85,349	3,735,439	£ 313,817
1897	2,021,716	107,737	10,836	69,818	4,957,016	419,913
1898	2,145,138	114,288	9,732	66,378	5,984,984	551,667

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25. The following statement will serve to show the trade of **GOLD COAST** the timber industry for the last five years :—

1898.

	Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	1894	Feet. 5,012,670	£ 69,345
	1895	3,587,337	28,245
	1896	6,063,381	52,234
	1897	15,236,216	90,569
	1898	13,620,965	110,331

26. The following comparative statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Colony to the under-mentioned countries during 1898 :—

Countries.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
United Kingdom ... ..	lbs. 4,595,696	lbs. 5,380,755	£ 391,106	£ 495,502
Germany ... ..	361,031	600,800	28,691	55,910

27. The following comparative table shows that the greater proportion of the export trade is with the United Kingdom :—

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
1894	£ 608,258	£ 29,765	£ 212,320	£ 850,343
1895	586,415	38,211	253,177	877,803
1896	536,106	37,471	218,534	792,111
1897	581,904	35,667	240,222	857,793
1898	713,335	41,667	237,996	992,998

GOLD COAST, 28. The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—  
1898.

Year.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	Total.
	Paying duty.	Admitted free.		
	£	£	£	£
1894	518,163	170,303	850,343	1,538,809
1895	563,290	231,691	877,803	1,672,784
1896	552,968	225,041	792,111	1,570,120
1897	562,418	221,770	857,793	1,641,981
1898	599,508	360,828	992,998	1,953,334

29. It is gratifying to be able to report that articles of British manufacture hold their own in the markets of this Colony, the only foreign article which is imported in greater quantities than from England being what is known as "trade gin," and this spirit is solely obtained from Hamburg.

30. The mining industry in this Colony is very largely on the increase, and, although the year under review has been employed chiefly in the development of the mines, at the same time some work resulting in more immediate profit has been done. Several companies have been started during the year with the intention of commencing mining operations in this Colony, and it is some satisfaction to know that the promoters of these companies are not only experienced men with scientific knowledge, but are also possessed of the necessary capital to undertake the work with success. The gold industry of this Colony is likely to prove one of its most solid and valuable assets. Experts who have gained experience in the Transvaal gold fields assert that the banket reefs in this Colony are not only similar to but of higher grade than those in the Transvaal. In the Western Province of this Colony it is estimated that there are about 20 miles of banket formation, and if this land were treated in the same way as similar land is in Johannesburg, it is estimated that it would contain 13 million tons of banket reef from which about £40,000,000 worth of gold could be extracted by ten years

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operations with 1,350 stamps and the cyanide process, yielding an annual profit of fully one and a quarter millions sterling per annum. This would necessitate an initial investment of £2,000,000, and the area of land would allow 40 companies to work, each returning a profit of £3,000 a month, provided the necessary capital was put in.

GOLD COAST,  
1898.

31. It will be impossible for any of the mines to be worked at the profit above mentioned until the railway in course of construction is completed, and this is felt by most of the companies, who are simply waiting for the completion of the railway to commence operations on a large scale. At present the cost of transport ranges from £18 to £50 per ton, and the impossibility of getting up suitable stamps and other machinery prevents the proper working of the mines; this serious obstacle would disappear with the opening of the railway.

32. Notwithstanding the great difficulties which have to be contended with at the present time in consequence of the inadequacy of the machinery, it will be of interest to know that one mine in the Wassaw District had an output in 1897 of 6,880 ozs. 14 dwts. which realized £27,757 19s. 7d., and in 1898 the same company had an output of 4,433 ozs. realizing £17,588 16s. 3d.; another company in the same district in 1897 had an output of 2,479 ozs. valued at £9,307, and in 1898 an output of 4,368 ozs. realizing £16,480. In addition to this, one company has given an average during the latter half of the year under review of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. to the ton, another 1 oz. to the ton, while one company is stated to have produced gold so pure that 84s. per oz. was offered for it.

33. In consequence of the low market price for coffee the natives of the eastern or agricultural province of the Colony have devoted their attention more to the cultivation of cocoa, which during the year under review increased £6,420 per export as compared with 1897. An impetus has been given to this industry through the adoption of a scheme introduced by the Governor of the Colony (Sir F. M. Hodgson), whereby planters bring their coffee or cocoa to the Government Botanical Station which is situated in this district, and the Government pay upon the produce brought half its supposed market value, less a small sum to cover freight and other charges; the coffee or cocoa is then sent by the Government to England for sale, and upon receipt of the sale returns from England, the balance of the money is paid to the producers. In this way they not only receive full value for their coffee and cocoa, but by the Government paying them the estimated half value on delivery, the planters are enabled to continue their work instead of having to either sell to shippers on the coast at a low price, or to await the return of their money from the bankers in England.

34. The Government Curator has during the year visited the plantations in the district, and instructed the different planters as

GOLD COAST, 1898. to the best methods of cultivating cocoa and coffee, and also as to the picking and preparing the pods and seeds so as to procure the best market price, and the efforts of the Government have met with hearty response and grateful appreciation.

35. The encouragement now given to the natives by Government will, no doubt, be the means of establishing a greater number of small plantations, but the Curator reports that "to make much headway with crops, expensive machinery is necessary to prepare them for the market." At present the preparation is done in the most primitive fashion.

36. The Government Botanical Station at Aburi is doing good work, in not only affording practical instruction in agriculture to the people but also in distributing useful and economic plants. During the year the following specimens of fruit trees have fruited for the first time in the garden, viz. : Star apple (*choyso-phyllum cainito*), sapodillo plum (*achras saponta*), and cherinoyer (*anona cherinolia*) ; the two first are natives of the West Indies and the third is Peruvian.

37. One hundred plants of a new variety of banana raised from seeds received from the Botanical Gardens, Trinidad, have been planted out, and are growing most successfully, and are preferred by the natives to the tasteless kind usually grown by them.

38. The following species of coffee have been grown at the Gardens and have proved a success :—*Coffea stenophylla* (Sierra Leone coffee), *liberica* ; of this last kind there are 3,750 plants, covering about 12½ acres of ground.

39. Fibres as well as rubber plants are receiving a trial at the Gardens, and the Curator expects satisfactory results from them.

40. At the Botanical Station there is a system of apprenticeship, where boys receive daily instruction from the Curator in the theory and practice of gardening. After serving one year in the Botanical Gardens, they are sent at Government expense to Jamaica to undergo a further course of instruction for three years in the Botanical Gardens of that Island, and after that course they go through a final course of one year at Kew Gardens prior to their return to this Colony.

#### SHIPPING.

41. During the year 1898, as compared with 1897, there was a decrease of sailing vessels entered of 3,409 tons, and of those cleared a decrease of 1,144 tons.

There was also a decrease during the year 1898 of 7,466 tons of vessels entered, and 23,992 tons of those cleared, as compared with the preceding year.



42. The following table shows the comparative statement of GOLD COAST, total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :—

1898.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1894 ... ..	24	9,025	395	511,967
1895 ... ..	14	5,008	399	534,051
1896 ... ..	16	6,874	400	553,794
1897 ... ..	16	6,582	415	580,277
1898 ... ..	9	3,173	390	572,811

43. The mail service with England remains the same, the voyage from Liverpool to Accra, a distance of 3,920 miles, taking, on an average, 21 days. Although the service has not been accelerated during the year, there has been a decided improvement in the class of boat. With regard to the English lines, the mail service from the Colony to England is not as regular as it might be, and the homeward voyage even occupies more time than the voyage from England. The German line, by strict adherence to the time table and by completing the voyage to England in 16 days, is proving a serious competitor to the English Shipping Companies.

#### LEGISLATION.

44. During the year 19 Ordinances were passed. Whilst none of the Ordinances were of first rate importance, those with respect to loans and railways point to a new factor in the development of the Colony. The following are the most important Ordinances passed during the year :—

##### *Criminal Procedure—(No. 2 of 1898).*

45. By the Criminal Procedure Amendment Ordinance, 1898, the number of jurors required to sit in criminal trials was reduced from 12 to seven. It had been a long standing complaint with the business part of the community at assize towns that their frequent attendance as jurors interfered with their trade, and in these circumstances they pressed for remuneration for their services as jurors. The Government, holding that in the gratuitous performance of jury service lay the germ of public

**GOLD COAST, 1898.** spirit in the Colony, declined to grant remuneration. At the same time it was recognised that merchants and others had a real grievance, and whilst in a previous Ordinance the assizes were made less frequent, by the present Ordinance it was enacted that juries should consist of seven jurors instead of 12 as heretofore. By these means jurors are summoned less frequently than formerly, whilst a smaller panel is required.

Advantage was taken to amend the law as to criminal procedure in other minor respects, the most important amendment being with regard to the procedure in cases where a person accused of crime was suspected of being a lunatic, the English procedure being adopted.

*Travelling Commissioners—(No. 3 of 1898).*

46. The Travelling Commissioners Ordinance in 1898 in five short sections gives definite judicial powers to officers appointed by the Governor as Travelling Commissioners. For some years officers styled Travelling Commissioners have travelled about the interiors of the Colony settling disputes between tribes, obtaining information for the Government, supervising the working of native courts, at times acting as officers of the Supreme Court; and in the outlying parts of the Colony they were in the habit of exercising jurisdiction on the ground that they were commissioners of the Colony. To remove any doubt as to the exercise of these last mentioned powers the Travelling Commissioners Ordinance enacts that any officer appointed by the Governor to be a Travelling Commissioner shall in any district, without further appointment, have the powers and jurisdiction of the District Commissioner of such district, but practically limits the exercise of these powers to cases in which such District Commissioner is, for one reason or another, unable to act. This empowers a Travelling Commissioner in criminal cases to impose a fine of £50 and to inflict imprisonment up to 10 months, and gives him civil jurisdiction up to £25; at the same time it subjects all his criminal decisions to summary review by the Chief Justice.

47. The Railway Loan Ordinance, 1898 (No. 6 of 1898), empowers the Governor to borrow £220,000 by the sale of inscribed stock for the construction and equipment of the Secondee-Tarquah railway. The sinking fund begins three years from the first issue of stock.

*Railways—(Nos. 7 & 17 of 1898).*

48. The Railway Ordinance, 1898 (No. 7 of 1898), is a short enactment providing for the establishment and maintenance of Government railways in the Colony. Provision is made for the acquisition of lands, and the usual powers of entry on land are given. Power is vested in the Governor and Legislative Council to make regulations for carrying out the purposes of the Ordinance, and various offences relating to railways are created.

The provisions of the above mentioned Ordinance as to the entry on and the acquisition of land were amended and simplified by the Railway Amendment Ordinance, 1898 (No. 17 of 1898). GOLD COAST,  
1898.

*Customs Tariff*—(Nos. 12 & 19 of 1898).

49. Under Ordinance No. 5 of 1887, the only dutiable articles were wine, beer and spirits, tobacco, and firearms with their adjuncts. Two years later, by Ordinance No. 25 of 1889, a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty was placed on 22 of the chief articles of import and on all unenumerated articles; but there was an exemption list of 97 articles, most of them of small value from a fiscal point of view.

These two Ordinances applied to the whole of the Colony originally, but, subsequently, in 1892 and again in 1894, the application of the above-mentioned enactments was limited to those parts of the Colony west of the Volta river, those parts of the Colony east of the Volta being made subject to a special and much lower tariff.

In 1896 was passed the Weights and Measures Ordinance, introducing into the Colony the imperial gallon as the standard measure of capacity; but, under the first-mentioned Tariff Ordinance, No. 5 of 1887, the duty on liquors was to be computed on the old wine gallon. To avoid the inconsistency of using the old wine gallon as the basis of computation of the liquor duty, and to allow traders to bargain on the basis of a measure which could be lawfully used in sales and contracts, it was necessary to amend the law. The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1898 (No. 12 of 1898), was accordingly passed, substituting the imperial gallon as the measure by which spirits &c. were to be measured for the purposes of duty. At the same time the opportunity was seized to reduce the free list, and the articles exempted from the port duty were reduced from 97 to 33. The present Ordinance now supersedes the Ordinances of 1887 and 1889, but only applies to those parts of the Colony to the west of the Volta.

On the last day of the year the tariff underwent another change. By the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1898 (No. 19 of 1898), the duty of 3s. per gallon on spirits was raised to 4s. 6d. per gallon. This increase of duty on the principal article of importation was necessary in order to meet the cost of the railway, the Accra breakwater, and other large public works on hand or in contemplation.

*Adulteration of Palm Kernels*—(No. 18 of 1898).

50. For years the question of legislation to prevent the adulteration of native produce has been before the Local Government, but, mercantile opinion being almost equally divided on the point, no action was taken. One section of the leading community quoted the example of the neighbouring Colony of Lagos, where an Adulteration Ordinance has been in force since 1889. To

**GOLD COAST,** 1898. **—** this it was replied that the conditions of trade on the Gold Coast differed from those at Lagos, and that governmental action would tend to divert trade to one of the adjoining Colonies. Finally, the question was taken up by the merchants at home, principally in connection with rubber, and the Government thereupon appointed a committee of the Legislative Council to take evidence and report. After obtaining a large amount of evidence, the committee reported that there were practically only three articles which were subject to adulteration, viz. :—rubber, palm oil, and palm kernels. The committee further reported, that, as to rubber, merchants were able to and did safeguard themselves to a considerable extent against adulteration, and, further, that it would be unwise in any way to interfere with the rubber trade; that, as to palm oil, there was no sufficient case for legislation, whilst legislative interference would probably result in injury to the Kwitta palm oil trade; that, as to palm kernels, there was ample evidence to show that adulteration was systematically practised and that preventive legislation was likely to benefit the trade. In these circumstances, the Adulteration Ordinance, 1898, was passed, prohibiting under a penalty the purchase or sale of palm kernels soaked or otherwise adulterated. Up to the present date there have been very few prosecutions under the Ordinance, but its effect has been to produce a cleaner article at the chief palm kernel centres. There have been three or four prosecutions at Prampram—none elsewhere—and I understand from the District Commissioner at Prampram that the kernels are now much cleaner.

#### EDUCATION.

##### *Primary.*

51. Under the agency of the three missionary societies, viz. :—The Basel, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic, elementary education has been rapidly spreading. In 1898, 112 schools of these societies were inspected and received grants. The efforts of the Basel Mission are chiefly directed to the interior, and their schools are to be found all over the eastern half of the Colony, from the coast to the verge of the Hinterland. The Roman Catholic Mission stations are not numerous, and are confined to the larger towns on the coast. The school management in the case of these two missions is European. The Wesleyan Mission extends along the entire coast line, and has only a few stations in the interior. The management is chiefly native.

52. There are also Government schools at Accra, Cape Coast, and Insuaïm, and the total number of schools, assisted and not assisted, at the end of the year was 208. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught at all these schools; in the advanced classes, history, geography, grammar, and, in a few cases, book-keeping and drawing are part of the curriculum.

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*Secondary.*

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1898.

53. With the exception of the small Wesleyan High School and one private school at Cape Coast, and the Teachers' Training College, under the Basel Mission, at Akropong, nothing is done to forward higher education. The Government scholarship, for natives who passed the Cambridge senior local examination, has been abolished by the Governor, as there was no likelihood of any candidate being successful.

The want of trained teachers is generally felt, and Government has not yet followed the example of the Basel Mission in establishing a training institution. Instruction is supposed to be given to Government teachers by the headmasters, but the frequent absence of these officers on other employment, has prevented the spasmodic effort in this direction from being of service.

*Industrial, Technical, and Agricultural.*

54. Plantations are attached to all the larger Basel Mission schools, to most of the Roman Catholic and to a few Wesleyan stations. Owing to the difficulties of transport, agriculture does not pay, except near the coast, and without such encouragement, lasting results cannot be expected. Technical instruction in handicraft, such as carpentry, smithwork, &c. is rare. It is to be regretted that industrial training is not made the principal aim of the educational system, especially in the Government and Wesleyan schools, which, by their position, have more facilities for this object. A small school in carpentry has recently been attached to the Government school, Accra, under a European master, and a similar arrangement may be made at Cape Coast. The Accra school is showing very good results.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

55. There are Government Hospitals at the following places in the Colony:—Accra, Cape Coast, Elmina, Axim, and Kwitta, although only at Accra and Cape Coast is there suitable accommodation for Europeans. The hospital arrangements at Accra, the capital of the Colony, are as complete as possible, and during the year the demand that has been made for better hospital accommodation at Cape Coast has received attention. The Secretary of State has approved of the Government bungalow which had been erected on Connor's Hill for the use of the Governor being converted into a hospital. The building affords ample accommodation for both native and European wards, and the site is an admirable one. Cape Coast is now in possession of a hospital which should meet the requirements of the large European mercantile community residing there.

56. The following return will show the number of admittances to the hospitals during the year under review:—

Town.	Number admitted.	Native.	European.
Accra ... ..	903	862	41
Cape Coast... ..	279	271	8
Elmina ... ..	117	116	1
Quitta ... ..	121	121	—
Axim ... ..	52	52	—
Total ... ..	1,472	1,422	50

*Asylum.*

57. There is only one Lunatic Asylum in the Colony and that is at Accra. The following return shows the number of inmates for the last three years:—

	1896.	1897.	1898.
Entered ... ..	21	18	27
Released ... ..	9	7	16

58. Poor Houses do not exist in the Colony, and I am pleased to say that there is no need for their establishment; poverty in the proper meaning of the word is unknown, and it is an exception to see a beggar.

59. There are no Reformatories, at present, in the Colony; but in view of the number of juveniles in the Prison it is a question whether their introduction has not now become a necessity.

*Savings Bank.*

60. The deposits for the year amounted to £4,914, the withdrawals including interest £3,722, leaving an excess of deposits on withdrawals of £1,192. The interest taken out of the general revenue of the Colony and credited to depositors amounts to £105. As compared with the previous year there is an increase of deposits, including interest credited, of £1,137. This cannot, however, be taken as indicating any rapid growth, as the deposits including interest credited in the year 1896 amounted to £7,377. There is no doubt that the establishment of the Bank of British West Africa at Accra has been the cause of the decrease in the amounts of the deposits. The following table shows the amount

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of deposits at the principal stations in the Colony for the last two GOLD COAST, years :— 1898.

Station.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Accra ... ..	1,781	1,364	—	417
Addah ... ..	222	206	—	16
Axim ... ..	99	256	157	—
Cape Coast... ..	580	2,072	1,492	—
Chama ... ..	8	22	14	—
Elmina ... ..	163	78	—	85
Quitta ... ..	350	12	—	338
Saltpond ... ..	385	92	—	293
Tarkwa ... ..	21	75	54	—
Winneba ... ..	165	737	572	—
Total ... ..	3,774	4,914	2,289	1,149

There was a decrease of withdrawals in the year under review of £1,914.

61. The following table shows the synopsis of deposits, from which will be seen that deposits under £5 continue to increase, which is a healthy sign, and shows the reliance placed in the Bank by the poorer classes :—

Year.	No. of accounts under £5.	From £5 and under £10.	From £10 and under £20.	From £20 and under £50.	From £50 and under £100.	From £100 and under £200.	Over £200.	Total.
1896 ...	307	24	24	28	13	8	7	411
1897 ...	324	27	32	15	11	6	3	418
1898 ...	360	26	34	27	8	3	6	469

62. In 1897 the amount deposited by the natives of the Colony amounted to £1,748, while the amount deposited during the year under review was £3,478 ; this increase is an indication that the native of the Gold Coast is beginning to realize the value of a Government Savings Bank.

63. The Savings Bank of this Colony was established in 1888 ; it has, therefore, in the year under review completed ten years of its existence ; consequently the following comparative statement of the transactions for the eleven years 1888 to 1898 should be interesting :—

Year;	Balance.	Deposits.	Interests due on Deposits.	Total.	Amounts Withdrawn.	Interest paid on Withdrawals.	Total.	Balance
1888 ...	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. 993 19 0	£ s. d. 7 4 4	£ s. d. 1,001 3 4	£ s. d. 51 13 0	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. 51 13 0	£ s. d. 949 10 4
1889 ...	949 10 4	2,663 10 0	40 14 2	3,653 14 6	439 9 0	1 2 7	440 11 7	3,213 2 11
1890 ...	3,213 2 11	1,665 6 8	45 19 11	4,924 9 6	2,705 6 6	3 13 3	2,708 19 9	2,215 9 9
1891 ...	2,215 9 9	3,212 11 2	64 1 7	5,492 2 6	2,331 7 8	9 2 3	2,340 9 11	3,151 12 7
1892 ...	3,151 17 7	3,144 2 8	88 3 0	6,383 18 3	2,865 4 2	9 6 0	2,874 10 2	3,509 8 1
1893 ...	3,509 8 1	3,112 5 6	83 10 9	6,705 4 4	2,776 11 0	4 5 10	2,780 16 10	3,924 7 6
1894 ...	3,924 7 6	5,999 19 7	104 6 11	10,028 14 0	4,860 5 4	6 6 10	4,866 12 2	5,162 1 10
1895 ...	5,162 1 10	4,564 11 9	110 13 1	9,837 6 8	4,251 18 11	6 14 9	4,258 13 8	5,578 13 0
1896 ...	5,578 13 0	7,249 13 9	127 7 0	12,955 13 9	7,277 3 0	9 13 3	7,286 16 3	5,668 17 6
1897 ...	5,668 17 6	3,674 1 1	106 8 9	9,449 7 4	5,613 4 10	23 19 1	5,637 3 11	3,812 3 5
1898 ...	3,812 3 5	4,812 5 4	105 18 10	8,730 7 7	3,716 11 1	5 19 9	3,722 11 10	5,007 15 9



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JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

GOLD COAST  
1898.

64. The sanctioned strength of the Police Force is 394, at the end of the year under review the strength of the force was 377. The number of recruits enlisted during the year was 164, an increase of 18 on the year 1897. The men enlisted are natives of the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Lagos, and West Indies.

65. The force is armed with the Martini Henry carbine; and is put through an annual course of musketry.

66. The efficiency of the force is retarded by the want of proper barrack accommodation. As long as the men are compelled to live among the inhabitants of a town the force will never attain to a high standard of efficiency.

67. The criminal returns show a decrease in 1898 of 145 crimes for the whole Colony as compared with 1897.

*Prisons.*

68. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during the year was 312, as compared with 309 the previous year.

69. The following table shows the number of convictions for the last five years :—

—	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
1894	1,550	74	20	1,644
1895	1,859	101	46	2,006
1896	2,044	273	38	2,355
1897	1,879	220	51	2,150
1898	1,850	189	34	2,073

GOLD COAST,  
1898.

70. There are 14 prisons in the Colony, and the buildings used for the accommodation of prisoners are the forts erected by the Dutch and which are found at almost all the coast towns. They are unsuitable for prisons, and it is difficult to maintain the necessary discipline, since there is no system of solitary confinement. It is contemplated to erect a central prison.

71. In the prisons at Accra and Elmina the prisoners are employed as carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, and coopers. These trades have been carried on in the prison during the year with success. At the prisons in the other stations of the Colony the prisoners are employed exclusively on Government work as labourers and scavengers.

72. There were 17 escapes during the year, as compared with 15 in 1897, not one of the 17 being recaptured.

73. Ten prisoners received corporal punishment, as compared with 15 in 1897 and 22 in 1896.

74. New dietary rules were introduced during the year, the scale being on comparatively modern lines and extending in the classification of prisoners as regards diet.

75. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past three years was respectively as follows :—

Year.	Daily Average Number in Custody.
1896	330
1897	309
1898	312

76. The following are statistics of crime for the last five years :—

	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
I. Offences against the person ... ..	1,067	961	1,187	986	1,089	552	556	667	601	593
II. Offences against property ... ..	784	782	730	744	846	383	427	411	416	492
III. Other offences ... ..	4,762	4,612	5,263	4,073	4,165	4,035	3,504	4,274	3,469	3,136
Totals ... ..	6,613	6,355	7,180	5,803	6,100	4,970	4,487	5,352	4,486	4,221
I. Murder, including infanticide, manslaughter, cutting and wounding, common assault.	46	34	78	47	38	18	25	45	21	21
II. Burglary and housebreaking ... ..	63	70	56	11	46	30	34	21	6	22
III. Arson ... ..	—	11	6	8	5	—	11	2	4	3
Totals ... ..	109	115	140	66	89	48	70	68	31	46

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GOLD COAST,  
1898.

VITAL STATISTICS.

77. It is impossible to give any accurate figures regarding the population, as there is no proper system in force of registering births and deaths.

78. The general health of the Colony has shown an improvement during the year under review as compared with that of previous years; this is especially marked amongst the Europeans. The chief reason of this is no doubt the improvement which has taken place in the dwelling-houses of the Europeans, both officials and non-officials, the houses now being erected away from the crowded and native quarter of the towns. Facilities for hospital treatment have very much improved of late years, and at Accra the advantage of European nurses has been much felt and appreciated.

79. Although the health generally has improved the death-rate still remains high, especially so when it is remembered that the European inhabitants are men who are in the prime of life, and who have been selected as physically fit for service in the Colony. At the same time, given improved dwelling-houses and better sanitation, there is no reason why the mortality should not diminish in this Colony as in many other Colonies which a few years ago had an equally bad reputation for unhealthiness.

80. There can be no doubt that the health in the Hinterland or away from the coast is better than that enjoyed in the coast towns and, as an instance of this, a number of officers have been actively employed during the year in the Hinterland and, notwithstanding the hard life which many of them have had to lead, there has only been one death.

81. The following table shows the death-rate among Europeans for the year under review, also the number who have been invalided from the Colony:—

	Population.	Died.	Invalided.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Invalided, per 1,000.
Government officials ...	122	8	19	65·57	155·73
Non-officials ... ..	230	17	24	73·91	104·34

In the year 1897 there were 40 deaths among the Europeans and 78 were invalided. In a constantly changing population it is out of the question to keep accurate statistics. The above figures do not include European officials employed in the Northern Territories, who number at least 25, neither does it include prospectors who are constantly moving about the Colony and adjoining territories.

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82. The health report of this Colony would be incomplete if reference was not made to the establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine in London. Considering how common malarial fever of a most malignant type is in this Colony, and the number of lives that are lost annually by the disease, it is worth all the expense and trouble involved that every medical man before being appointed to this Colony should have received a practical training in the microscopic diagnosis and the intelligent treatment of this fever. The need of this has been greatly felt for some years, and speaking personally as a resident of over 12 years, I have often noticed the want of reliance on the part of patients when being attended by newly appointed Medical Officers with no previous experience of tropical diseases, and the remark has often been heard that patients are far better able to attend themselves in cases of tropical fevers than the newly appointed Medical Officer, who lacks experience in these particular cases. The scheme is of such vital importance that the Legislature of this Colony unanimously voted a sum of money to support it.

GOLD COAST,  
1898.

83. Improvement has been made in the various towns in the Colony as regards sanitation, and the Government have had drains made, wells constructed, and public latrines built, and where swamps exist the land is being drained. There are two great difficulties to contend with in carrying out any efficient system of sanitation, viz. (a) the inadequate water supply, (b) the filthy and lazy habits of the very large majority of the native population. The people, who are too lazy and naturally dirty, will not use the public latrines supplied for them, but make every yard and street in the native quarter of the town into a virtual cesspool. The law is put into force, but I am afraid it will take some years before the native of this Colony becomes impressed with the necessity of cleanly habits as a safeguard to health.

84. The following table shows the rainfall for the different months of the year at the most important towns of the Colony :—

Montl.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Aburi.	Axim.	Ada.	Cape Coast.	Quitta.
January ... ..	—	2·61	0·60	—	0·22	0·03
February ... ..	—	0·62	0·52	—	0·36	0·25
March ... ..	1·72	3·28	3·85	2·40	0·83	0·73
April ... ..	5·66	6·85	2·75	7·34	6·07	7·35
May ... ..	2·53	4·83	9·05	5·91	7·90	2·72
June ... ..	4·88	7·78	34·01	6·89	10·47	7·37
July ... ..	2·74	5·26	15·33	1·47	2·95	1·28
Carried forward	17·53	31·23	66·11	24·01	28·80	19·73

GOLD COAST,  
1898.

Month.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Aburi.	Axim.	Ada.	Cape Coast.	Quitta.
Brought forward	17.53	31.23	66.11	24.01	28.80	19.73
August ... ..	1.56	3.72	0.90	2.09	0.57	1.27
September ... ..	4.69	6.16	3.00	3.35	2.12	2.93
October ... ..	3.41	8.52	7.98	5.65	1.41	8.23
November ... ..	—	6.16	2.12	0.17	0.22	—
December ... ..	1.33	2.33	2.03	0.06	0.95	0.02
Totals ... ..	28.52	58.12	82.14	35.33	34.07	32.18

85. Referring to the temperature, the Chief Medical Officer in his report under meteorological conditions states, "The first quarter of the year was very dry and cool; the Harmattan wind began to blow very early and continued until nearly the beginning of the rainy season."

"The second and third quarters were also exceptionally cool, the sea breeze was strong and steady, the rains began earlier than usual, were more prolonged, and the rainfall was considerably above the average."

"The fourth quarter was warm and dry."

During the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, October, and November the prevailing wind was N.W., in September it was W., and the month of December it was N.E. by E.

#### POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

86. The following comparative table will show the working of the Postal Department during the year 1897 and the year under review :—

Year.	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Registered Articles dealt with.	Total amount of Money Order transactions.	Total amount of Postal Order transactions.	No. of Parcels.
1897 ... ..	584,216	23,942	£ 12,974 7 3	£ 2,549 15 6	2,928
1898 ... ..	756,973	23,995	12,843 17 9	2,761 0 6	2,909
Increase...	172,757	53	—	211 5 0	—
Decrease	—	—	180 9 6	—	19

87. The continued decrease in the Money Order transactions as compared with the previous year is traceable to the establishment of a bank at Accra, which has become in a large measure the remitting medium between the Colony and other places with which the inhabitants have business relations. GOLD COAST,  
1898.

88. It may interest stamp collectors to know that the amount received for philatelic purposes has decreased during the year under review to £154 14s. 6d., as compared with £368 14s. 2d. for the year 1897.

#### *Telegraphs.*

89. During the year 60 miles of telegraph line was erected north of Kintampo, in the Northern Territories of the Colony. For a year's work this may not seem much, but, considering the difficulties and obstacles which have to be encountered in the way of food and labour, the progress cannot be considered unsatisfactory. At date of writing the telegraph line has reached Bolé, a town 160 miles from Kumasi. On this line trees are used as much as possible in place of poles.

90. The work of construction of the line from Nkoranza to Attabubu was commenced, but owing to sickness among the European staff work was delayed.

91. At the commencement of the year 1898 the rate on telegrams was reduced to  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  per word with a minimum charge of 6d. inclusive of address, whereas it had formerly been  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  per word with a minimum charge of 1s. This change has not only brought an increase in the number of telegrams but also in the revenue. The total number of telegrams dealt with during the year was 119,242, being an increase of 34,662 over the previous year. The revenue derived was £2,585 15s. 2d., an increase of £253 6s. 5d. on the year 1897.

92. The number of messages handed in at Government offices for transmission by the African Direct Telegraph Company (Cable) amounted to 1,954, as compared with 1,357 in the previous year; the number received from the African Direct Telegraph Company for transmission over the inland line was 1,265, as compared with 991 in the previous year. The increase is a clear indication of the growing interest which is being taken in the development of the Colony. The number of cablegrams sent from and received at Accra are not known, as they are handed in direct to the Cable Co.

93. During the year there has been a decided decrease in the number of telegrams passing between the German Colony of Togoland and Europe. In 1897 the number of telegrams despatched from Togoland to Europe was 70, and the number received for the German Colony 60, whereas in the year under

**GOLD COAST,** review the numbers were 12 and 36 respectively. This falling off  
1898. may be attributed to the utilisation of the alternative French land lines in Dahomey.

94. Interruptions in the telegraph line continue to be frequent. This is specially the case on the line between Cape Coast and Kumasi, but considering the dense forest country this line passes through, damage to the wire can hardly be unexpected.

95. There has been a steady increase in the mileage of the telegraph line during the last five years. In 1893 there were 368 miles of telegraph line in the Colony, whereas at the close of the year under review the mileage amounted to 700, and, considering that the transport of material increases considerably the further the line gets from the coast, the result must be considered satisfactory.

#### *Telephones.*

96. Telephones are chiefly used between the Government Offices, and that only at Accra. Three mercantile firms are also connected.

#### MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

97. There are no Imperial troops stationed in the Colony, although, owing to the employment of the local Constabulary in the Northern Territories, it was necessary to obtain a portion of the 2nd Battalion West India Regiment for garrison duty at Cape Coast and Kumasi for a few months of the year.

98. There is no Militia Force in the Colony.

99. The following table shows the strength of the Volunteer Force on 31st December 1898 :—

Officers.	Warrant Officer.	Ser-geants.	Cor-porals.	Privates.	Sig-nallers.	Band.	Total.
12	1	16	20	141	11	37	238

The force is recruited chiefly from the Government and mercantile clerks. The men enlisted are of a good class and the force with a little trouble and encouragement should be a valuable addition to the defence of this Colony. The whole force is put through an annual musketry course and the performance of the members is decidedly fair.

The expenditure of the force is estimated at £811.



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100. The authorized strength of the constabulary or semi-military colonial force, commonly known as the Hausas, is 1,500. **GOLD COAST, 1898.**

The force is armed with the Martini Metford carbine and has Maxim guns as well as 7-pr. M.L.R.

The estimated cost of the force for the current year is £51,639.

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

101. The most important event which has occurred to this Colony in the year under review is the occupation of the country north of Kumasi, which is officially designated as the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast.

102. The operations in the Northern Territories have been conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel H. P. Northcott C.B., who held the position of Commissioner and Commandant. Large tracts of the territory have been surveyed, and a permanent trunk road has been constructed for about 50 miles. The tribes whose country had been devastated by the Sofas are rebuilding their towns and villages and trade has revived; and a small revenue, encouraging as a beginning and cheerfully contributed to by those concerned, is being raised. The establishment of Government stores in the Northern Territories, in order to give the people a taste for articles of merchandise, and also to accustom them to the use of money as the medium of exchange and to pave the way for the establishment of trading houses by mercantile firms, has been a successful experiment. It should be stated that spirits are excluded from these stores and from the Northern Territories generally.

103. The state of Ashanti is satisfactory. The Resident in his report states "Most of the kings have done their work willingly and I have had no great trouble in getting the orders of the Government obeyed. Taking Ashanti as a whole, the country seems contented and prosperous, a pauper being unknown." Considering the state of anarchy that existed in this country previous to the expedition of 1896, this report is most encouraging, if only to prove that the gain to humanity has justified the annexation of the country by Her Majesty's Government.

104. The work on the first railway in this Colony, viz. the line from the coast to the mining district of Tarquah was commenced during the year under review. The work during the year has been largely of a preliminary character, and apart from survey has been principally confined to the neighbourhood of Secondee, which is the starting point of the line, and where the works are relatively heavier than at any other point on the line.

105. The first members of the railway staff arrived at Secondee on the 17th February and began the survey of the line and the erection of quarters for the officials.

**GOLD COAST,**  
**1898.**  
—

106. Until the end of August work was considerably delayed by the uncertainty regarding the final adoption of Seccondee as the starting point of the railway, and by the phenomenally heavy rainfall in June and July. In the month of August the number of the railway staff was largely increased, and from that date the survey and construction work has been pushed on as fast as circumstances in this part of the world will allow.

107. The Engineer-in-Chief furnishes the following information as regards the work done up to the end of December 1898 :—

“ 10 miles of the railway were permanently staked and the route was located for a further distance of 20 miles. The road to Tarquah had also been accurately surveyed. Clearing—the line was cleared ready for earthwork for a distance of 5 miles. 38,000 cubic yards of earthwork were completed, extending over the first two miles of the line. Rail-laying was commenced. Permanent culverts in masonry had been completed along the first mile of the line. The buildings erected include 9 wooden bungalows for offices and quarters, and an iron workshop and running shed. The passenger station building at Seccondee was well advanced and the erection of a hospital had been begun. Materials and stores to the amount of 2,500 tons were landed. A temporary timber jetty was built, furnished with cranes, and connected with the station yard by rail. The largest surf boats are able to unload at this jetty at low water.”

The Governor laid the first rail on 18th December.

108. In addition to the line of railway which is at present under construction, the Government have had surveys for lines of railways made between Accra and Insuaim, between Accra and Appam, between Appam and Insuaim, between Insuaim and Kumasi, between Tarquah and Kumasi, and between Accra and Kpong. The first five will tap the mining districts, and that from Accra to Kpong will tap the rich oil producing and cocoa districts of Akwapim and the Krobos and gather up the trade which comes down the Volta from the interior.

109. The one thing absolutely necessary to develop the country is railways; and, as stated above, until railway communication is established it will be impossible for the different mines to open up their works in a satisfactory manner. There are a large number of mines awaiting the opening of the Seccondee-Tarquah railway so as to enable them to transport their necessary machinery for the successful working of the mines. At present, as materials can only be transported in loads on the heads of carriers, it is impossible to carry weights greater than 50 lbs. The impossibility of getting up sufficiently heavy machinery is a serious obstacle to the successful working of any mine, but this would disappear with the opening of the proposed railway lines. When it is considered that with the present cost of transport, ranging from £18 to £50 per ton, an average of 5,000 people cross the River

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Prah weekly and that out of that number quite 4,000 carry loads, some idea may be formed as to whether a railway from the coast to Kumasi should be a success or not. GOLD COAST,  
1898.

110. The opening up of the country by means of roads has received the special attention of the Government during the year under review. The main roads and bridges in the Colony have been maintained in good order.

111. There is no system of immigration in the Colony and if the labour question continues to remain in the same satisfactory state as it has been during the year 1898, there is no reason why the opening up of this important Colony should not be successfully undertaken by its own people and without the introduction of inhabitants from other parts of the globe.

112. Emigration from the Colony is very small. A few continue to leave for work under the Congo Government and railway, but even this number is on the decrease, and, as the demand for labour increases, it will be found that the Gold Coast native will not leave his country.

113. The New Hausa Cantonment, which is situated about three miles from the town of Accra was completed during the year so far as the officer's quarters, magazines, armoury, and offices were concerned, the quarters for the men now only remaining in order to complete the work.

114. On account of the expenditure which the Colony has had to incur in connection with the acquisition of Ashanti and the Northern Territories, some of the public works which it was contemplated to undertake in 1898 had to be postponed. A number of minor works have been undertaken, and the public buildings throughout the Colony have been maintained in good order.

115. There has been no change in the constitution of the Colony.

116. The principal changes in the public service of the Colony were:—

Mr. F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, succeeded the late Sir William Maxwell, K.C.M.G., as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony.

Mr. W. Low, late Commissioner of the Island of Tobago, succeeded Mr. F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G., as Colonial Secretary of the Colony.

Mr. W. Clark, late Police Magistrate of Sierra Leone, succeeded Sir William Geary, Bart., as Attorney General of the Colony.

The Inspector General of the Constabulary, Major General Sir Francis Scott, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., was transferred to Trinidad as Commandant of the local forces of that Island.

**GOLD COAST,** Captain G. Aplin, Inspector of the Constabulary, was transferred to Lagos on promotion to be Inspector General of the Constabulary of that Colony, and,  
1898.

Mr. J. R. Holmes, a District Commissioner, was transferred to Cyprus on promotion to a Judgeship in that Island.

117. Now that the Colony is in a tranquil state the prospects of trade are most hopeful. As will be seen from returns in another part of this report the export of both oil and rubber has considerably increased, shipments of cocoa are also increasing, the disturbing influences which were prevalent in 1897, namely, Samory's hordes and the unrest in Ashanti, do not now exist, and the inhabitants of the interior have been able to continue their work in the rubber and palm forests. The consequence is that, during the year, there has been an increase in the amount of produce brought down to the coast, and there is a good prospect of an augmentation of trade.

The most important consideration in this question of increasing the trade zone is the provision at the earliest possible date of railways. Much of the good result of occupying the interior depends upon the rapidity with which internal transport can be carried out. An opportunity now occurs of founding a considerable market for British goods, but, unless the present means of transport be greatly improved, this opportunity will be lost, and it will be impossible to obtain the full benefit of the richness of the land.

118. The climate of the West Coast of Africa is not generally recognised as suitable for Europeans, but, given good physique and constitution, there is no reason why many Europeans should not preserve their health as well as they do in many other Colonies which are supposed to possess a healthier climate; but moderation in all things, especially as regards spirituous liquors, is absolutely essential.

119. The openings for white labour are few. The mines require miners and the mercantile firms need assistants, but all these men are sent out by appointment from England, and it is useless as well as hopeless for Europeans to come to this Colony on the prospect of obtaining employment.

120. The wages given to the labouring class are exceptionally high, when it is considered that the Government have to pay a carrier 1s. 3d. a day for transporting material weighing 40 lbs., and that that carrier can live well on 2d. a day or at most 3d. Two things are clearly shown, first, the carrier makes a large profit, and secondly, the Government are put to an enormous expense annually in connexion with transport, especially when it is considered that each ton of goods sent to Gambaga, the headquarters of the Northern Territories, costs £135 and the transport of each officer costs £108 annually.

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121. During recent years the financial condition of the Colony **GOLD COAST,**  
has been disturbed by two events, both of which were unavoidable **1898.**  
and both of which cost large sums of money. The first of these  
was the expedition to Kumasi and the occupation of Ashanti in  
1896, and the second, the operations in the Northern Territories,  
rendered necessary by the raids committed upon tribes under  
our protection by Samory and his Sofas. Now that these two  
disturbing influences have been dealt with, the people are regain-  
ing confidence, towns and villages which had been destroyed are  
being rebuilt, and farms are being replanted. There is a demand  
for markets, and the importation of goods is steadily on the  
increase, and trade will push on to Ashanti and the Northern  
Territories.

122. The mining industry, which has been referred to elsewhere  
in this report, has considerably developed during the past year  
and has attracted an increased amount of capital to the Colony.  
There is every prospect of the trade of the Gold Coast increasing,  
and, as soon as the railways are constructed, the general condition  
of the Colony will improve. The possibilities of the Gold Coast  
as a market are not yet realised, nor its great produce capabilities.  
In addition to its great mineral wealth, there are forests of timber,  
all of which are capable of development if the necessary capital  
is forthcoming, and as soon as the country is opened up by  
railways and good roads.

G. B. HADDON SMITH,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office.  
Accra,  
16th June 1899.

LONDON:  
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1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 247.

**GRENADA.**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 209.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*November 1898.*

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**COLONIAL REPORTS.**

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
219	Lagos ... ..	1896
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



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No. 247.

GRENADA,  
1897.

GRENADA.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 209.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. MOLONEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,

13th September, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report of the Colonial Secretary on the Blue Book of the Colony of Grenada for 1897.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,

Governor.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT ON BLUE BOOK

FOR 1897.

FINANCES.

As in the preceding year, the accounts of the Colony closed in 1897 with a deficit, which had increased in amount from £1,183 at 1st January to £4,040 at 31st December. Special causes contributed to this result, the value of the Public Works Stores (including their estimated depreciation in value), £1,616, having been written off the colonial assets, and an abnormal expenditure for consolidation of the laws, and for surveys and preliminary expenses in 1892-3 in connection with a scheme for lighting St. George's by electricity, having been brought to account during the year. It should here be noted that 1896 was the first year since 1883 in which there was a deficit.

*Revenue.*

2. The revenue collected amounted to £56,973, which was £698 more than in 1896 and £1,134 less than the average of the

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GRENADA  
1897.

five years 1891-95: it failed to reach the estimate by £4,113. This latter result is attributable to a too sanguine forecast of the receipts from import duty, and to the revision of stamp duties at the end of 1896, combined with the suspension of certain court fees pending the enforcement of fresh legislation under the new edition of the laws, which was completed later in the year than was anticipated.

3. Much difficulty was experienced in collecting the Land and House Tax. Owing in part to laxity of the collecting officers, and in part to "tightness" of money consequent upon the general financial depression, a large proportion of these taxes fell into arrear for two years, and it required careful and tactful supervision on the part of the Government to secure that, without unduly pressing the peasantry, this important branch of the revenue was collected in 1897. It is satisfactory to record that these efforts were attended with a large measure of success, and the concomitant enquiries having disclosed many defects in the system and also some unfairness in the incidence of the House Tax, important changes were introduced towards the end of the year which are having their effect in the current year.

#### *Expenditure.*

4. £58,549 were expended in 1897, being £1,974 less than in 1896 and £917 less than the average of the five years 1891-95. Notwithstanding supplementary votes, and the abnormal charges referred to in the first paragraph, which were not provided for on the estimates, the disbursements were so carefully controlled that the original estimate of expenditure was not exceeded. As compared with 1896, the only items of interest are the decreases of £1,423, due to the amalgamation of the Treasury and Post Office and reductions in the combined department, and of £987, caused by the working of the new Education Code.

#### *Public Debt.*

5. No change was made in the amount of the Public Debt during the year, £127,770, of which £123,670 is held in 4 per cent Inscribed Stock, and £4,100 in 4½ per cent Debentures. Towards the redemption of this in due course sinking funds of £4,446 and £87, respectively, had accumulated at the end of 1897 in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies as Trustees.

6. The Colony is also liable for the repayment in March 1903 of a loan of £1,000 made for the St. George's Water Works in 1879. The present Town Board of St. George's are laying by a proper sinking fund in the hands of the Government for this payment.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

7. As 1897 was the third year in which the imports and exports of the Colony were correctly classified and the cost of usual charges added to their value, it is possible to institute a comparison between the three years, and tables are appended accordingly.

8. In the first table are shown the volume and direction of the trade for the three years :—

	IMPORTS.						EXPORTS.		
	1895.	Percentage of Total.	1896.	Percentage of Total.	1897.	Percentage of Total.	1895.	1896.	1897.
United Kingdom ...	£ 78,079	44·43	£ 66,485	43·06	£ 78,893	48·00	£ 140,736	£ 169,499	£ 138,656
British Colonies ...	42,151	23·99	42,504	27·52	40,126	24·41	5,616	5,790	4,283
Foreign Countries ...	55,482	31·58	45,416	29·42	45,337	27·59	25,668	8,594	11,500
Totals ...	175,712	—	154,405	—	164,356	—	172,020	183,883	154,439

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GRENADA  
1897

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GRENADA  
1897.

9. In the year under review the Colony's trade was affected by three important factors—(1) the exceptionally low prices received for cocoa and cotton; (2) the consequent unwillingness of capitalists to advance money to cultivators on the usual scale, and (3) the almost entire cessation of expenditure by the Government on extraordinary public works and on reconstruction of roads from loan funds. Fortunately, towards the close of the year, a marked and satisfactory change took place in regard to the price of cocoa, which from the lowest point it had yet reached in the London market rose rapidly to a price which placed it on a footing with Trinidad cocoa, hitherto at the head of the market for West Indian cocoa. The last quarter of the year, therefore, saved the situation, or the record of 1897 would have been a gloomy one.

10. It will be seen that in 1897 48 per cent. of the imports came from the United Kingdom, 24½ per cent. from British Colonies, and 27½ per cent. from Foreign Countries. This is the result as exhibited by the import returns, but, so far as Foreign Countries are concerned, it is misleading, as the bulk of the imports from British Colonies comes from Barbados and Trinidad and consists chiefly of foodstuffs from the United States of America. 88 per cent. of the imports from British Colonies in 1897 came from these neighbouring islands:—Barbados contributing £25,311, and Trinidad, £10,212: the corresponding figures in 1885 were £38,300 and £16,654. Since that year the direct import trade with the United States of America has increased, under the stimulus of a good service of steamers, from £17,325 to £44,529, but at the out-ports of Grenville and Carriacou, whither goods imported to the chief town direct from New York still have to be transported by water after being landed at St. George's, it is evidently still found convenient to import by small sailing vessels, which bring their cargo direct to those ports from the neighbouring islands.

11. While it is probable that, if the returns disclosed with accuracy the country of origin of all goods, the imports from Foreign Countries would appear on an equal footing with those from the United Kingdom, it is clear that Great Britain is the consumer of by far the larger portion of the Colony's produce, as £158,656 (or about 90 per cent.) of a total value of £154,439 was sent there, the United States of America coming next with £8,106, and France and her colonies after that with £3,026.

12. The second table exhibits the value and direction of the trade with Foreign Countries according to the returns.

Average value 1890-94, £13,678—1895 abnormal.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
United States of America...	54,735	44,873	44,529	4,687	6,300	8,106
France and French Colonies	404	264	381	20,664	2,107	3,026
Holland and Dutch Colonies	110	168	67	—	—	9
Danish Colonies ... ..	23	21	360	—	—	—
Venezuela ... ..	201	89	—	278	146	59
Italy ... ..	4	1	—	—	—	—
Germany ... ..	—	—	—	39	41	300
Totals ... ..	55,482	45,416	45,337	25,668	8,594	11,500

GRENADA  
1897.

The beginning of an export trade with Germany, chiefly in cocoa, is a feature of these statistics.

13. The next table divides the imports and exports for the triennial period into the usual four classes, and a further examination of Class I of the imports in 1897 discloses that 78 per cent. of the imports from the United States of America, and 45 per cent. of those from the United Kingdom belong to that class, which comprises live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.

	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	85,115	71,043	76,598	162,944	175,647	148,907
Raw materials ...	17,089	11,410	10,656	7,705	6,458	4,314
Manufactured articles.	73,508	71,952	77,102	1,171	599	274
Coin and bullion ...	—	—	—	200	1,179	944
Totals ...	175,712	154,405	164,356	172,020	183,883	154,439

**GRENADA,  
1897.**

14. The value of the principal products of Grenada exported in the three years is given in the fourth table :—

	1895.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£
Cocoa ... ..	138,520	159,519	132,642
Spices ... ..	20,984	12,424	13,503
Cotton and cotton seed ...	4,563	4,474	2,720
Live stock ... ..	1,385	1,304	1,230
Firewood ... ..	466	538	605
Fruit ... ..	584	890	540
Poultry ... ..	204	235	226
Turtle and turtle shell ...	265	291	270
Kola nuts ... ..	133	180	88
Coffee ... ..	66	217	283
Logwood ... ..	1,733	372	302

and the countries to which the leading staples, cocoa, spices, and cotton, were sent in those years are given in the next.

7374-5

	COCOA.			SPICES.			COTT N. AND COTT N SEED.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
United Kingdom ... ..	£ 115,734	£ 152,725	£ 124,172	£ 19,435	£ 11,064	£ 10,616	£ 4,561	£ 4,474	£ 2,715
British Colonies ... ..	160	66	5	218	71	17	—	—	5
United States of America	3,874	4,752	5,164	566	1,276	2,858	—	—	—
France ... ..	18,752	1,948	3,001	765	—	12	2	—	—
Germany ... ..	—	28	300	—	13	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	138,520	159,519	132,642	20,984	12,424	13,503	4,563	4,474	2,720

B

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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GRENADA,  
1897.

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**GRENADE,**  
1897.

15. It is believed that the exports to France, as shown in the 1895 statistics, are incorrect, being quite abnormal and without known cause. The error may perhaps be due to the fact that cocoa is sometimes shipped for Havre with the option of being taken on to England if so desired, and it is possible that such shipments may in 1895 have been booked as exported to France, whereas a large proportion is always carried on to England.

16. The trade with the sister colonies of the Windward Islands Government, which has never been extensive, appears, from the following figures, to be steadily dwindling :—

	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
St. Vincent ... ..	£ 2,247	£ 1,470	£ 1,229	£ 265	£ 177	£ 84
St. Lucia ... ..	103	52	101	420	38	36



*Shipping.*

1897

17. The subjoined table compares the figures of the last three years, and shows that there was but a slight decrease in 1897 in the tonnage entered and cleared as compared with the preceding year, although there was a marked falling off when contrasted with 1895. In that year, however, the number of steamers entered and cleared was abnormal, because of 22 steamers having coaled at the then newly established coaling wharf of Messrs. Otway Brothers, the work of which has since been suspended.

NATIONALITY.	ENTERED.						CLEARED.					
	Tonnage of Steamers.			Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.			Tonnage of Steamers.			Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.		
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1895.	1896.	1897.
British ... ..	239,494	210,740	209,922	11,159	9,887	9,563	239,699	213,647	213,421	11,453	9,956	9,457
Foreign ... ..	594	—	—	3,730	768	694	594	—	—	3,431	730	751
Totals. ... ..	24,088	210,740	209,922	14,889	10,655	10,257	240,293	213,647	213,421	14,884	10,686	10,208

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

11

GRENADA,  
1897.

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GRENADA,  
1897.

AGRICULTURE.

*Cocoa.*

18. The weather of the year was on the whole favourable to agriculturists, the rainfall being average, and the crop of the chief staple, cocoa, for the year ending 30th September reached a total of 54,597 bags, being the largest since 1893-4, when the record crop (55,666 bags) was gathered. Unfortunately for the planters, the London market, although in the end highly satisfactory, showed such varying results during the year that the full pecuniary advantage of this fine yield was not experienced. The year commenced with a good demand, but with poor prices, which fell in the spring to the lowest point yet reached. At this juncture an extraordinary increase of consumption appears to have taken place in the United Kingdom, (the Board of Trade returns show an increase of 13 per cent. in *raw cocoa alone*), and the stock being unequal to the demand, prices steadily rose until at the end of October from 15*s.* to 17*s.* more per cwt. than in April was realised, and, as has been already remarked, Grenada cocoa attained the same position in the market as that of Trinidad.

Many improvements are taking place in Grenada in regard to both the cultivation and the curing of cocoa. It is being borne in upon the peasant proprietor by degrees that he must fork, drain, and manure his cocoa patch in order to secure the best results and keep pace with the large estates in his neighbourhood. If it were possible to devise some practical arrangement whereby he could ferment and dry the beans as successfully as his better equipped neighbour, there is no reason why a sensible diminution in quantity of the "common" grade of Grenada cocoa which now finds its way into the market should not take place.

*Spices.*

19. Although it is well known that a large area of young nutmeg cultivation is gradually reaching the bearing stage, the returns do not disclose the increase of output which might be expected in the circumstances. The quantity of spices (chiefly nutmegs and mace) exported in the last five years was as follows:—

Year.	Cwt.
1893	2,086
1894	1,916
1895	3,639
1896	2,516
1897	2,505

The nutmeg crop of 1895 was altogether exceptional, 3,220 cwt. being exported; that of 1897 was about an average crop, and prices in the London market were not so good as in preceding

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years. Nutmeg cultivation is chiefly carried on by large proprietors in Grenada, and much care and attention are bestowed on all details.

GRENADA,  
1897.

*Coffee.*

20. The area of land under cultivation in coffee, although not accurately known, has undoubtedly much increased of late years, and, as a large proportion is consumed locally, the actual output cannot be traced. In 1897 only 31 cwt. were imported, while 63 cwt. were exported, and this in face of an exceptionally bad market abroad, prices falling so low that it was possible to import coffee from Brazil via New York and sell it in Grenada cheaper than the local product. This state of affairs has unquestionably discouraged cultivators from further efforts, and it is to be hoped that it may not be permanent, as the Colony is well suited to the growth of coffee, especially Liberian.

*Sugar Cane.*

21. No sugar left the Colony in 1897, and this, coupled with the fact that 91,892 lbs. of muscovado sugar were imported as against 68,946 lbs. in the preceding year, points to the conclusion that the local over-production of 1896 was succeeded by a period of comparative inaction in growth of the sugar cane in 1897. The sugar made in the island is mostly of such a low grade that it is questionable whether it would not be better for the labouring class to consume imported muscovado altogether. 57,406 gallons of rum were manufactured in the year, being an increase of 4,511 gallons on 1896, and of 13,956 gallons on 1895.

*Botanic Station.*

22. With Governor Sir Alfred Moloney's arrival in June a period of active propaganda in connection with the Botanic Station was inaugurated. The Curator was required to pay periodical and frequent visits to the out-districts with the object of visiting and instructing the peasant proprietors in proper methods of cultivation, leaflets with a similar object were freely distributed, monthly lists of plants and seeds available at the Station for sale were published, and every effort was made to induce on the one hand the local cultivators to take an interest in the work and objects of the Station, and on the other to ensure that that institution fulfils the purpose of its creation. At the same time experimental shipments of fruit and other products have been made with the view of testing the markets, and the results of such proceedings have been published widely in the Colony. The vital question of Forest Conservancy has also been taken up with vigour, and good progress made towards establishing a reserve on the Crown Lands in the centre of the island. It is perhaps too early to note any marked results from this energetic and timely action, but of the future outcome there can be but one opinion.

GRENADA,  
1897.

*Meteorological.*

23. The rainfall at the Richmond Hill Observatory was 82·49 inches, that is to say, about normal : the highest amount recorded was at the Grand Étang, 181 inches, and the lowest at Carriacou, 56 inches. At Richmond Hill the mean pressure for the year was 29·906, and the mean temperature 79·7°, the highest reading being 89·8° on the 28th March, and the lowest 69·2° on the 4th December. Rain fell there on 236 days of the year.

On the 8th November there were heavy rains in St. John's Parish, which flooded the Gouyave River and damaged the recently constructed protecting bank of boulders. Again on the 6th November, there was a heavy downpour both in that parish and in St. Mark's and St. Patrick's. On this occasion the boulder banks, both at Gouyave and Victoria, were seriously damaged, being altogether demolished in places, and the stone bridge at the mouth of the Gouyave River was nearly entirely destroyed. 1897 was, therefore, the fourth consecutive year in which destructive floods have occurred in the Colony.

*Agricultural Society.*

24. On 6th October a public meeting, Sir Alfred Moloney presiding, was held in St. George's, and that much needed body, an Agricultural Society, was formed. One or two abortive attempts to float such a society had been made in previous years, and the credit of the present so far successful movement is due to the Honourable D. S. De Freitas, endorsed by the Governor's cordial support and sympathy. There is a large field for good work open to the society in the Colony.

**ROADS AND WORKS.**

25. The only works of importance commenced in the year were two iron bridges over the rivers at Madeys and Florida, to replace stone structures irretrievably damaged by the flood of 1895. Both bridges have been satisfactorily completed in 1898. The work on the face of the Mabouya Cliff rendered necessary by the great landslip there in November 1895 was completed at a cost of £318, and the main road at its foot thereby rendered fit for traffic. The erection of a sea wall protecting the main road to Gouyave in the same neighbourhood was continued, and extensive repairs to the Jetty at Victoria, which was seriously damaged by high seas in March 1896, were successfully carried out at an outlay of £417, which was advanced from General Revenue pending final adjustment with the Parochial Board.

The reconstruction of the Colony Hospital buildings, commenced in July 1895, was completed at a cost of £3,825, and on the 18th of June the new commodious structure was formally opened by Sir Alfred and Lady Moloney in the presence of a large gathering.

## POPULATION.

GRENADA,  
1897.

26. By estimate, based on the natural increase since the Census of 1891, the population of the Colony at the end of 1897 was 61,299, or 8,090 more than at that Census. This estimate takes no account of emigration or immigration, there being no reliable records. Of the former, however, there is little of a permanent nature, and the latter has much decreased since the passing of the measure restricting pauper immigration which will be referred to in the next section.

The birth rate was 38·10, and the death rate, 22·78 per thousand. The average birth rate for the last 10 years is 44·63, so that a distinct decrease is shown in 1897, although, when compared with the 1896 rate (41 per thousand) the drop is not so marked. Since 1891 the birth rate has declined; in that year it reached 46 per thousand. The death rate was up to the average for the last ten years, but showed an increase on the figures of 1896 (19·82 per thousand), which was the lowest on record.

## CRIME AND PRISONS.

27. The following analysis of the statistics relating to crime in the last four years shows that the year under review compares favourably with its immediate predecessors :—

	1897.	Average 1894-96.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Magistrates' Courts :—</i>				
Persons brought before the Magistrates ... ..	2,628	2,697	—	69
Convictions ... ..	1,239	1,300	—	61
Acquittals ... ..	453	460	—	7
Discharged ... ..	857	896	—	9
Committed for trial in Supreme Court ... ..	49	41	8	—
Total ... ..	2,628	2,697	8	77
<i>Supreme Court :—</i>				
Number of persons tried ...	53	41	12	—
Convictions ... ..	36	25	11	—
Acquittals ... ..	15	9	6	—
Not prosecuted ... ..	2	7	—	5
Total ... ..	53	41	17	5

GRENADA  
1897.CRIME AND PRISONS—*continued.*

	1897.	Average 1894-96.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Nature of offences for which convictions were obtained:—</i>				
Offences against the person	331	335	—	4
Prædial Larceny... ..	40	47	—	7
Other offences against property ... ..	254	272	—	18
Other offences ... ..	650	670	—	20
Total ... ..	1,275	1,324	—	49

The Attorney-General remarks in his annual report :—“ The statistics do not disclose any marked variation respecting the commission of any special crime ; they also show that increase in crime is not keeping pace with the increase in population.”

28. A noteworthy feature of the prison returns for 1897 is the marked decrease in the daily average of prisoners while the number of persons committed to prison has not fallen off. The average number of committals in the four years 1893-96 is 300, and the daily average in prison for those years, 76 : in 1897, 301 persons were committed, but the daily average in prison was only 63, to which it has fallen from an average of 84 (the highest on record) in 1894. This result is attributable to the change made in length of sentences by the Supreme Court since 1895. Before that year long sentences were frequently passed by the Chief Justice ; they have now become the exception.

29. Another feature of the returns is the diminishing number of persons convicted who are not natives of the Colony : in 1895, 35 per cent. of the convictions were persons not born in Grenada ; in 1897, the percentage had fallen to 18. This is most probably due to the working of the law regulating the landing of infirm paupers and destitute immigrants which commenced to operate in 1896, and is having a salutary effect in other directions.

30. It is satisfactory to record that, from enquiry which has been made, it appears that at least 14 discharged prisoners are now earning an honest livelihood in the Colony at trades taught to them while in prison. There are probably many others, but they cannot be traced at present.

## EDUCATION.

31. The chief statistics relating to education in the Colony in 1897 are presented below in tabular form, and a comparison is made with the similar figures for 1896.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOLS.	No. of Schools.	NUMBER OF SCHOLARS ON THE ROLL.				INCOME.			Expenditure.
		Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Average Attendance.	School Fees.	Government Contributions.	Voluntary Contributions.	
Government Schools ... ..	9	925	838	1,763	925	£ 108	£ 1,338	£ Nil.	£ 1,446
Grant in Aid Schools:—									
Anglican ... ..	7	771	562	1,333	727	99	892	No returns	991
Roman Catholic ... ..	14	1,791	1,822	3,613	1,743	96	1,793	Do.	1,889
Wesleyan ... ..	4	382	292	674	437	45	590	Do.	635
Church of Scotland ... ..	2	119	83	202	111	6	170	Do.	176
Miscellaneous receipts and disbursements ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	Do.	78
Totals for 1897 ... ..	36	3,988	3,597	7,585	3,943	354	4,861	—	5,215
Do. 1896 ... ..	37	3,817	3,311	7,128	3,527	341	5,793	—	6,134
Increase in 1897 ... ..	—	171	286	457	416	13	—	—	—
Decrease in 1897 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	932	—	919

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SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOLS.	NUMBER OF SCHOLARS ON THE ROLL.				INCOME.			Expenditure.
	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.	Average Attendance.	School Fees.	Government Contributions.	Voluntary Contributions.	
Grant in Aid Schools :—					£	£	£	£
St. George's Grammar School ... ..	38	—	38	34	210	415	25	591
Girls' High School... ..	—	33	33	30	166	58	—	236
St. Joseph's Convent School ... ..	5	54	59	57	90	100	20	86
Totals for 1897 ... ..	43	87	130	121	466	573	45	913
Do. 1896 ... ..	48	106	154	134	502	591	38	1,068
Increase in 1897 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Decrease in 1897 ... ..	5	19	24	13	36	18	—	155



GRENADA,  
1897.

32. It will be observed that while an increase took place in the number of scholars on the roll and in average attendance at the primary schools, there was a marked decrease in the expenditure and in the amount of Government grant. In 1896 no less than £5,793 was contributed by the general revenue of the Colony towards primary education, but in November of that year the new Education Code came into operation, and 1897 exhibits the first year's working of that code, which has effected an undoubted improvement not only in this direction but also by raising the standard of education required of the primary schools, and in other respects.

Nearly all of the primary schools in the Colony were visited and inspected by the Governor during the latter half of the year.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

33. The principal statistics relating to hospitals and asylums in 1896 and 1897 are given below :—

INSTITUTION.	No. of Admissions.	Daily Average.	Patients discharged.			No. of Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Colony Hospital ... ..	654	80	414	161	—	55
Yaws Hospital ... ..	57	29	56	—	—	—
St. Andrew's Hospital ... ..	162	12	144	26	—	5
Carriacou Ho-pital ... ..	105	13	58	37	6	4
Total Hospitals ... ..	978	134	672	224	6	64
Lunatic Asylum ... ..	27	104	16	3	—	16
Poor Asylum ... ..	25	44	—	6	—	22
Totals ... ..	1,030	282	688	233	6	102
Total for 1896 ... ..	950	273	587	208	6	107

34. The number of admissions and daily average at the Colony Hospital increased in 1897 in consequence of the reconstructed buildings being occupied for the latter half of the year. Of these the House Surgeon reports :—“The internal condition of the building can now be characterised as excellent throughout, and though the bed area has only been increased to 100, the

GRENADA,  
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cubic space has been raised to 1,003 feet per patient, an extremely high point indeed." The patients under treatment for Yaws remained in their temporary hospital throughout the year, so that no increase was possible in the number treated: the former Yaws Hospital has been reoccupied in 1898.

35. At the St. Andrew's District Hospital there was a marked increase in the number of patients during the discharge of the Medical Officer's duties by Dr. N. S. Durrant, and 7,484 prescriptions were compounded at the dispensary, as against 5,686 in the preceding year. The accommodation at the Carriacou Hospital was increased by four beds, and the ventilation improved by a rearrangement of the interior partitions decided upon in 1896. 4,714 prescriptions were made up at the dispensary there, as compared with 3,081 in 1896.

36. The death rate at the Lunatic Asylum was the highest recorded since 1881: of this the Medical Superintendent remarks:—"One half of the number succumbed to diseases of a serious organic nature, and some of the deaths were sudden." From a return prepared by this officer it appears that since 1880, when the Grenada Asylum became the Central Asylum for the Windward Islands, the daily average has increased from 49 to 104, while the percentage of recoveries on the admissions has risen from 34.77 to 59.25. Of the number admitted (27) during the year under review, 10 were from St. Lucia, and 6 from St. Vincent; and of the 100 patients under treatment at the end of the year, 35 belonged to the former and 15 to the latter Colony. There are still in the Asylum two patients from the Island of Tobago.

#### SAVINGS BANK.

37. The improved financial conditions which manifested themselves in the Colony in the latter half of the year are evidenced in the transactions of the Savings Bank, as will be seen from the following statement of its work for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Balance at credit of Depositors at 31st December.
1893	716	£ 7,305	£ 6,394	£ 7,994
1894	959	7,307	7,893	7,602
1895	885	5,563	6,666	6,408
1896	895	4,854	5,035	6,391
1897	968	6,301	5,500	7,370

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38. The steady growth of the Savings Bank is a satisfactory indication of the progress of the Colony. Ten years ago, in 1888, the number of depositors was 277, and the deposits were of comparatively large amounts, the balance at credit of each depositor at the end of that year averaging £20·33 : in 1897 we find a total of 968 depositors with an average balance of £7·61 each, showing that the peasants are largely availing themselves of the convenience of the Bank. This growth is attributable in a large measure to the policy initiated in 1888 of establishing branches of the Bank in the out-districts of the Colony, as is evidenced by the subjoined return of depositors in the branches and the balances to their credit for each year since 1889 when they were first opened.

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1897.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Balances to Credit.
1889	81	£ 292
1890	136	814
1891	175	1,086
1892	196	1,483
1893	280	2,030
1894	279	2,379
1895	243	1,888
1896	268	2,038
1897	317	2,434

In 1897 a new branch was established in the parish of St. David's, and £111 were deposited therein during the year by 13 depositors.

LEGISLATION:

39. As the revision of the laws of the Colony undertaken in 1895 by Sir Joseph Hutchinson, Chief Justice, reached its final stage in 1897, there was much consolidating legislation passed in the year, no less than 35 Ordinances being enacted, among the most important of which were an Evidence Code, a Criminal Code, and a Code of Criminal Procedure. The new edition of the laws was brought into operation on the 20th of January, 1898.

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1897.

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

40. The general financial position of the several town authorities at the close of the year was as follows :—

Town.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Surplus Assets.	Deficit.	Loan Debt.	Sinking Fund paid up.
St. George's	£ 3,049	£ 3,021	£ 603	£ —	£ 6,961	£ 288
Grenville ...	919	829	—	2,755	13,270	19
Sauteurs ...	463	412	—	25	1,100	330
Victoria ...	270	260	10	—	1,424 <sup>o</sup>	69
Gouyave ...	557	604	—	341	3,304 <sup>†</sup>	131
Hillsborough	132	125	46	—	600	23
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>5,390</b>	<b>5,251</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>3,121</b>	<b>26,679</b>	<b>880</b>

41. While the position of some of the smaller towns is unsatisfactory, it is gratifying to note the great improvement which has been effected in St. George's by the semi-elective Board established there in 1895 in place of the former wholly elected body, which had proved a complete failure. The heavy current liabilities of the old Board have been wiped off, the finances placed on a satisfactory footing, and much good work on town improvements done. It is an interesting feature of the success of this Board, which deserves to be noticed, that while it retains full control over its finances, its officers have no direct connection with the collection and disbursement of its revenue; all details connected with cash and accounts being conducted on its behalf by Government Departments and under the scrutiny of the Colonial Auditor. Under the old system, to quote one instance of the great improvement which has resulted, the collection of arrears of rates was rarely enforced, the dishonest ratepayer being thus maintained at the expense of his neighbour who elected to pay his rates: under the new, no less than £334 of unpaid rates were collected in 1897 out of a total of £341 overdue.

<sup>o</sup> Besides an advance of £417 for Jetty repairs.

<sup>†</sup> Not including £270 due to Government for purchase of Old Court House.

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OFFICIAL CHANGES.

GRENADA  
1897.

42. Governor Sir Charles Bruce left the Colony on the 22nd January to assume the Government of Mauritius, and his successor, Sir Alfred Moloney, assumed the Government on the 2nd of June. In the interval, with two short breaks in which the Windward Islands Government was administered by the Colonial Secretary of Grenada, Mr. H. L. Thompson, Administrator of St. Vincent, administered the General Government, his place at St. Vincent being taken by Mr. Edward Drayton, Colonial Secretary of Grenada.

43. During Mr. Drayton's absence for seven months on this duty, Mr. Leslie Probyn, Attorney-General, acted as Colonial Secretary in addition to the duties of his substantive office.

44. Sir Joseph Hutchinson, Chief Justice, was absent in England on duty connected with the consolidation of the laws for ten months, his place being filled by Mr. W. S. Comissiong, Q.C., who was again appointed to act upon Sir Joseph's final departure from the Colony on 10th December to assume the duties of Chief Justice of Cyprus, to which he was transferred.

45. Mr. C. H. Collymore, Registrar of the Supreme Court, a hard-working and reliable public officer, died on 17th June, but the vacancy was not filled up during the year. Mr. H. A. Martin, Treasury Accountant, and Mr. H. B. Walcott, Audit Clerk, were promoted to offices in Ceylon and British Honduras, respectively.

GENERAL REMARKS.

46. The Colony was visited in February by the West India Royal Commissioners, and in their report, which was presented to Her Majesty in August, Grenada was classed with Jamaica and Trinidad as the islands which were found by them to be in the best position among the British West India Colonies, and they further reported that "with careful administration we see no ground for special apprehension regarding the future" of the Colony.

47. Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with enthusiastic loyalty throughout the Colony in June, two special holidays being granted, and an address from the Legislative Council, on behalf of the colonists, was presented to the Queen.

48. As will be gathered from the record of the year which has been set forth in the foregoing pages, the affairs of the Colony in 1897 began to show an improvement on the conditions which

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1897.

have obtained since 1895. There is evidence that the period of stress through which the agriculturists have passed has had a beneficial effect in the direction of enforcing economies and improving cultivation, while a distinct effort has been made by the smaller proprietors to free themselves from the burden of their mortgage debts by more punctual payments. The practical cessation of expenditure by the Government from loan funds has, of course, been keenly felt, but it cannot fail to lead to more attention being given to cultivation of the soil by the labouring class, whose efforts in this direction will no longer be distracted by an abnormal expenditure on road work.

EDWARD DRAYTON,

*Colonial Secretary.*

Grenada,  
7th September, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 242.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 207.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

October 1898.

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1898.

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**COLONIAL REPORTS.**

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena ... ..	1896
214	Seychelles ... ..	"
215	Mauritius ... ..	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica .. ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada .. ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



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No. 242.

## BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH  
HONDURAS,  
1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 207.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR NEWTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Belize,  
22nd August, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for 1897, together with the Report thereon by Mr. W. J. McKinney, C.M.G., the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &amp;c.,

F. J. NEWTON,  
*Administering the Government.*REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH  
HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

## TAXES, DUTIES, &amp;c.

As stated in the Report for 1896 the import duty on beef, pork, and flour was reimposed in 1897—beef and pork at \$1 per barrel and flour at 50 cents per barrel—and the export duty on logwood was abolished. The duty on still wines was fixed at the uniform rate of 50 cents per gallon, instead of claret wine at 50 cents and other still wines at \$1 per gallon.

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BRITISH  
HONDURAS.  
1897.

### GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total ordinary revenue amounted to \$292,454.06, being \$9,543.87 in excess of that of 1896. In addition to the ordinary revenue a sum of \$20,000 was received in silver coins from the Mint and a sum of \$1,663.61 as casual revenue (vacant estates).

The principal items of revenue were—

Customs ... ..	\$	166,618.56
Light and wharf dues ... ..		8,544.35
Internal taxation ... ..		67,942.42
Revenues of Government property ... ..		15,377.22
Court fines, fees of office, &c....		17,921.00

The total ordinary expenditure amounted to \$294,791.63, the excess over 1896 being \$35,670.34. The expenditure included—

Constabulary ... ..	\$	43,617.93
Police ... ..		24,569.59
Naval and military ... ..		15,228.14
Public health and hospitals ... ..		26,281.63

In addition to the ordinary expenditure there was an extraordinary expenditure of \$28,198.78 made up as follows :—

Public works ... ..	\$	10,707.25
Completion of railway survey ... ..		3,385.16
Telegraph survey ... ..		729.69
Cost of bullion for coinage ... ..		9,766.81
Belize Town and Harbour improvements		3,609.87

The revenue and expenditure of the several District Boards were as follows :—

District.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
Belize ... ..	\$ 23,088.29	\$ 22,901.70	\$ 22,335.82	\$ 22,534.50
Corozal ... ..	2,717.70	3,657.09	4,482.10	3,636.02
Orange Walk ... ..	3,199.68	3,492.25	2,568.98	3,340.34
Stann Creek ... ..	1,276.79	2,173.17	1,712.99	1,735.33
Toledo ... ..	739.22	699.33	698.55	910.83
Cayo ... ..	754.25	752.75	388.42	679.45

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## LEGISLATION.

BRITISH  
HONDURAS.  
1897.  
—

Forty-five ordinances were passed during the year, twenty-two of which were amending ordinances and eight appropriation ordinances.

No. 32 provides for the licensing of certain trades and businesses in Belize, and No. 38 for the constitution of a volunteer force.

## CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Governor Sir A. Moloney, K.C.M.G., left the Colony in January on promotion to the Government of the Windward Islands, and Colonel D. Wilson, C.M.G., arrived in the Colony in February and assumed the Government.

## EDUCATION.

The number of schools in operation receiving Government aid was 49, as compared with 46 in 1896 and 51 in 1895. Total number on the rolls 3,683 as against 3,567 in 1896; the average daily attendance was 2,705 as compared with 2,592 in 1896. The total Government expenditure on aided schools amounted to \$14,416.76.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of the imports in 1897 was \$1,422,097.00 as compared with \$1,462,637 in 1896. From the United Kingdom, 1897, \$486,463 as against \$523,208 in 1896. From the United States \$761,768 as compared with \$790,458 in 1896.

The total value of the exports was \$1,404,387 against \$1,571,530 in 1896. Exports to the United Kingdom \$769,867, and in 1896 \$760,522. To the United States \$238,187 against \$312,997 in 1896.

The exports included—

6,777,382 feet of mahogany.  
29,682 tons of logwood.  
356,852 bunches of bananas.  
1,824,522 coconuts.

BRITISH  
HONDURAS.  
1897.

## SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1897 as compared with 1896 :—

*Entered.*

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	391	35,882	185	132,317
1897	428	35,571	213	158,213

*Cleared.*

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	378	38,628	184	132,239
1897	421	38,258	213	158,081

## POST OFFICE.

During the year the Post Office, which previously formed part of the Treasury, was created a separate Department with a Postmaster at \$1,500 per annum.

The total revenue for 1897 was \$6,575.54 as compared with \$6,492.15 in 1896, and the total expenditure, including \$6,000 for conveyance of mails within the Colony and \$14,124.96 for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, amounted to \$22,387.12.

The total number of articles dealt with to and from abroad was 239,878, and inland 58,502.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

The money order transactions were as follows :—

BRITISH  
HONDURAS.  
1897.

Issued in Colony.		Paid in Colony.		
£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
1,043	15 4	331	1 0	United Kingdom.
226	18 4	23	5 10	Jamaica.
25	13 8	4	8 4	Barbados.
3	2 6	...	...	British Guiana.

Early in the year the agreement for a weekly mail service between Belize and New Orleans was renewed for a further period of 5 years at an annual subsidy of \$14,500.

W. J. MCKINNEY,  
*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

19th August 1898.



COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 245.

HONG KONG.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 210).

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
October 1898.

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1898.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

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### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
219	Lagos ... ..	1896
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



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No. 245.

HONG KONG.

HONG KONG.  
1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 210.)

ACTING GOVERNOR BLACK to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
Hong Kong,  
31st August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you the Blue Book for 1897, together with the subjoined report on that year.

FINANCES.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$2,686,914.70, as against \$2,609,878.94 collected in the preceding year, and as against \$1,427,485.79 collected in the year 1887: this shows an increase of revenue during the last ten years of \$1,259,428.91 (or approximating to 100 per cent.), whilst the population, during the same period, has only increased by 35,759 or 16.79 per cent.

The receipts from land sales during the year show a decrease of \$46,358.40, but this is necessarily an uncertain and, in a sense, a speculative source of revenue during any fixed period; the receipts on other more settled accounts are more satisfactory.

Under the more reliable items of revenue the following most substantial increases are shown as compared with the year 1896:—

	\$
Assessed Taxes ... ..	26,924.21
Stamps ... ..	36,699.20
Official Signatures ... ..	13,895.11
Queen's College Fees ... ..	3,512.00
Sunday Cargo-Working Permits ... ..	4,275.00
Postage ... ..	23,336.15
Leased Lands ... ..	24,516.31
Interest ... ..	4,576.84
Profit on Coins ... ..	4,819.71
Water Account ... ..	21,207.41

704\*—75—10/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

HONG KONG  
1897. — There are no very noticeable decreases to be set against the above-mentioned increases except that of \$31,683.68 under the heading "Fines," which Sir W. Robinson characterised as an unsatisfactory source of revenue; of \$3,558.45 on account of Junk Licences, which is probably explained by lower freights on river steamers; of \$5,469.62 under "Other Miscellaneous Receipts"—an ever-varying source of revenue; and the decrease of \$46,358.40 on premia from land sales mentioned above.

The net result of a comparison with the year 1896 shows an increase of revenue amounting to \$77,035.76 during the year 1897.

#### EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure during 1897 was \$2,641,409.71, a net increase of \$166,499.34 as compared with the expenditure of 1896.

The most noticeable increases on the expenditure side were :—

	\$
Public Debt ... ..	30,337.03
Pensions ... ..	22,769.51
Public Works Department ...	3,862.82
Post Office ... ..	18,799.12
Lighthouses ... ..	2,721.90
Medical Department ... ..	5,215.61
Transport ... ..	4,458.46
Miscellaneous Services ... ..	67,946.03
Public Works Recurrent ... ..	20,982.54
Public Works Extraordinary ...	58,205.40

The amount expended on Public Works Extraordinary chargeable to the Loan amounted to \$321,705.89, as against \$230,619.32 in 1896, and \$186,970.87 in 1895.

#### ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Statement of Assets and Liabilities shows a debit balance on the 31st December, 1897, amounting to \$264,649.87, of which \$262,091.95 were loan monies.

Against this apparent deficit, however, the Colony had a prospective asset of \$350,000 worth of coins which were paid for before the 31st December, but were not yet in transit on that date.

It should also be mentioned that the expenditure for the year 1897 included a sum of \$116,000 on account of Her Majesty's Jubilee Celebration.

#### LOAN.

The Balance Sheet of the Loan Account showed at the end of the year a debit balance amounting to £336,625 0s. 9d.

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MILITARY ACCOUNT.

HONG KONG.  
1897.

The amount in sterling contributed by the Colonial Government during 1897 in aid of Military Expenditure was £42,993 12s. 3d. as against an expenditure of £162,568.

LEGISLATION.

The most important Ordinances passed during the year were—

- (1) An Ordinance to declare and amend the Law of Partnership.
- (2) An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Construction of Ordinances, to further shorten the Language used in Ordinances, and for other like purposes.

These Ordinances assimilate the law of the Colony to that prevailing in England.

There was also an Ordinance passed to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Probates and Letters of Administration in this Colony.

POPULATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The population in 1887 numbered 212,951, as against an estimated population in the latter part of 1897 numbering 248,710, including members of the Army and Navy to the average number of 5,118. The European civil population during the year was estimated at 8,555.

The total number of deaths registered was 4,668 as compared with 5,860 during 1896, but in the latter year there were no fewer than 1,078 deaths from Bubonic Plague; deducting deaths from that disease, however, there has been a material reduction in the death-rate, which for 1897 stands at 18.85 per 1,000 as compared with an average of 23 per 1,000 during the previous five years (exclusive of 1894, the year of the great epidemic of Bubonic Plague).

The above statistics show an improvement in the state of the public health, which may be regarded as satisfactory; notwithstanding the fact that 293 cases of small-pox and 65 cases of enteric fever were reported during the year, the latter being chiefly confined to Europeans and the origin traceable to the milk supply.

It is only natural that a port like Hong Kong should be largely exposed, through the shipping, to epidemics of an infectious nature, and it is probably an indication of the adequacy of the Quarantine Regulations that such epidemics are not more frequent.

It is satisfactory to note that only 21 cases of Bubonic Plague were reported during the year.

HONG KONG  
1897

### CLIMATE.

As bearing on the above, the following particulars regarding the climate during the year under review may prove of interest.

The average monthly temperature was  $71\cdot7^{\circ}$  F., as compared with  $72^{\circ}$  F. during 1896. The maximum monthly temperature was attained in July when it reached  $82\cdot1^{\circ}$  F., as compared with a maximum monthly temperature in the same month of the previous year  $88\cdot1^{\circ}$  F.; the minimum monthly temperature was recorded in February, as in 1896, being  $54\cdot2^{\circ}$  F., as compared with  $53\cdot1^{\circ}$  F. The highest recorded temperature was  $91\cdot8^{\circ}$  F. in the month of September, and the lowest was  $41^{\circ}$  F. in the month of February.

The total rainfall for the year was 100·03 inches, as compared with 71·78 inches during 1896, the wettest months being August with 25·55 inches and June with 23·355 inches, whilst the driest months were December with 0·48 inch and March with 0·815 inch of rain. No rainfall was recorded on 193 days of the year, as compared with 208 days during the previous year. The largest rainfall for the 24 hours during the year was 6·03 inches on the 28th June. The relative humidity of the atmosphere throughout the year was, approximately, 80 per cent. The average daily amount of sunshine was 4·78 as compared with 4·8 hours in 1896. On 71 days only no sunshine was recorded.

### SHIPPING AND TRADE.

The shipping returns for the year are not quite so satisfactory as might be expected. The total tonnage entering and clearing amounted to 15,938,174, being a decrease of 577,779 tons as compared with the year 1896. British shipping shows an increase of 329 ships and a decrease of 489,528 tons. This numerical increase, with a tonnage decrease, is attributed to the number of small vessels which, since the opening of the West River in June last, have been plying on that route and increasing the number of entries and clearances without a proportionate increase of tonnage, whilst British ocean-going steamers show a decrease of 201 entries, aggregating 275,360 tons, the chief causes of which are attributable to the continued failure of the rice crop and the deflection of the Siamese rice trade owing to the plague and famine in India.

Foreign shipping, on the other hand, shows an increase of 263 ships, and of tonnage aggregating 280,731 tons, the shipping under the Japanese flag having been more than doubled since 1896, and showing an increase of 153,343 tons. German shipping, on the other hand, shows a decrease of 41,000 tons. Shipping under other foreign flags shows a more or less substantial increase, but there has been an appreciable falling off of vessels classified as "Junks in Foreign Trade" and "Junks in Local

Trade" which is attributable, *inter alia*, to the failure of the Hong Kong rice crop and to the increased river steamer traffic. 1897.

#### TRADE.

The trade of 1897 was on the whole unsatisfactory from a local point of view, and more especially in imports, which were adversely affected by the low rate of exchange and the scarcity of the circulating medium—factors which not only restricted business but greatly curtailed profits.

In cotton piece goods business opened dull, but improved; during the summer a healthier tone prevailed, transactions being above the average of recent years, due possibly to some stimulus derived from the opening of the West River in June, but later in the year an adverse exchange restricted demand, while at the close business came to a standstill owing to the extreme tightness of money. The result was a falling off in the volume of business as compared with 1896, and this was even more marked in the case of fancy and woollen goods.

The trade in English cotton yarns compared favourably with that of the preceding year, and is reported to have been profitable to dealers, but the margin of profit to importers was slender.

Compared with the business transacted in 1896, the trade in Indian yarns must be pronounced as unfavourable. The prevalence of plague in Bombay, the prohibition of import into Tonkin during three months of the year, the violent fluctuation in rupee exchange, and the serious fall in the dollar prices of yarn during the final quarter of 1897 combined to check the import of the Indian product and promote that of its Japanese rival.

In metals and sundries a fair business was transacted although not very profitably to importers, the fluctuations of exchange and tightness of money serving to handicap operations.

Although the import of foreign opium showed a slight increase over that of 1896, the trade in this commodity proved generally very unprofitable, chiefly on account of the unfavourable exchange between India and China. The native drug, owing to the high rates asked for the Indian product, is gradually but steadily replacing the latter in the Chinese markets.

The volume of the import of flour in 1897 was somewhat less than in the previous year (3,312,116 quarter sacks, as against 3,831,499 quarter sacks in 1896) consequent on the higher rates prevailing, but the trade was profitable to importers, who for the most part had bought forward at prices much lower than those ruling on delivery.

The trade in kerosine oil continues to show a steady increase, the import both in case and in bulk comparing favourably with that for 1896.

HONG KONG. A considerable development was apparent in the coal trade  
1897. in 1897, the import of between 700,000 and 800,000 tons being  
larger than in any preceding year. Prices rose steadily throughout the year and have continued appreciating during the current year.

Since the opening of the West River to foreign trade on the 3rd June last, regular communication has been established, and it is hoped that this new outlet will, in course of time, prove of considerable advantage to the commercial interests of the Colony.

#### PUBLIC PEACE AND GOOD ORDER.

The criminal statistics for the year may be regarded as satisfactory, although they do not compare favourably with those for 1896. Owing to the diminished population during that year on account of the plague epidemic, a comparison with 1895 is a more reliable indication of improvement in this direction.

The total number of cases reported to the police in 1895 was 13,376, and in 1897, 9,629. In the former year, however, 10,608 were of a minor nature, leaving 2,767 serious cases as against 2,896 serious cases in 1897. Whilst, therefore, the year 1897 compares more than favourably with 1895 as regard minor offences, it shows an increase of 129 cases of more serious crimes.

#### CONCLUSION.

There is but little to add to the particulars given above regarding the year 1897, which was of an exceptionally uneventful nature. In his previous despatches Sir W. Robinson has so fully reviewed the general progress of the Colony during his tenure of office—financially, commercially, and socially—that I have been content to limit this despatch within the somewhat narrow limits of statistics. I may remark, however, that during my term of office here as General Officer Commanding my observation has convinced me of the Colony's present prosperity and future possibilities.

I have, &c.,

W. BLACK, *Major-General,*  
*Administering the Government.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No 261.

JAMAICA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896-7, see No. 225.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

June, 1899.

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#### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	1897
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.



No. 261.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.  
1897-8.

(For Report for 1896-7 see No. 225.)

GOVERNOR SIR A. W. L. HEMMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

King's House,  
Jamaica,  
27th January, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1897-98.

I have, &c.,  
AUGUSTUS W. L. HEMMING,  
Governor.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1897-98.

LEGISLATION.

During the Session of 1898 the Legislative Council passed 41 laws, of which the following are the more important:—

Law 5 of 1898—The Obeah Law.—This law consolidates and simplifies the laws relating to Obeah, and provides for the suppression of Obeah literature.

Law 11 of 1898—The Stamp Duty Law, 1868.—This law reduces the stamp duty on marine policies, increases the rate of probate duty from two to three per cent., and requires agreements for leases to be stamped with the same duty as leases.

Law 13 of 1898.—The Jury Law, 1898—consolidates the laws relating to juries and makes certain amendments of the system.

Law 14 of 1898 repeals the schedule of duties to the Legacy Duty Law of 1879, and substitutes a schedule of reduced rates.

Law 15 of 1898.—The Kingston General Commissioners Extended Powers Law, the object of which is to give the Commissioners, in whom are vested the power and duties of the Kingston and Liguanea Water Works Commissioners, extended

**JAMAICA.** powers for the purpose of protecting from defilement the various  
1897-8. sources of water supply for Kingston and the plains of St.  
Andrew.

Law 16 of 1898.—The Direct West India Cable Company's Law, 1898.—This law gives legal effect to the arrangements made by the Direct West India Cable Company to extend their cable to Jamaica.

Law 17 of 1898.—This law amends and incorporates the Marine Board Laws of 1896 and 1897.

Law 18 of 1898.—The Adulteration of Food and Drugs Law.

Law 20 of 1898.—The Succession Duty Law, 1898, which imposes certain duties on succession to property.

Law 28 of 1898.—The Tariff Law.

Law 29 of 1898, which enables the Governor to raise, on behalf of the Kingston General Commissioners, a loan for the purpose of improving the supply of water to Kingston and the Liguanea Plains.

Law 34 of 1898.—The Cayman Islands Commissioners Law, which gives the Governor power to appoint a Resident Commissioner for those Islands.

Law 36 of 1898.—The Resident Magistrates Amendment Law.—This law incorporates the Resident Magistrates Law of 1887, removes the inelastic provisions of the 1887 Law, which confines the jurisdiction of each resident magistrate within the boundaries of a particular parish.

Law 38 of 1898.—The West India Electric Company's Law, 1897, Amendment Law, 1898.

Law 40 of 1898, which gives the Governor power to raise by loan a sum not exceeding £100,000 to meet the liabilities of the Government.

#### FINANCE.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to £540,509, while the expenditure amounted to £627,422, thus showing on the year a deficit of £86,913. Compared with the previous year, general revenue shows a net decrease of £51,355, and general expenditure a net decrease of £36,800.

Parochial revenues, which are devoted to parochial roads, poor relief, sanitary and other local services, and are administered by the several Parochial Boards, produced £113,527, a decrease of £3,247 as compared with the previous year. This does not, however, include advances made from general revenue in aid of these funds, which amounted to £18,440.

Parochial expenditure during the same period amounted to £126,712, or £9,130 less than in the previous year; the repayment of advances from general revenue, which amounted to £11,814, not being taken into account.

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Immigration revenues during the year amounted to £4,529, an increase of £2,848, and expenditure to £403, a decrease of £576 on the previous year. JAMAICA.  
1897-8.

The following is a statement shewing the whole revenue realised in the year under review compared with the previous year :—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, 1897-98.

General Revenue.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
<b>TAX REVENUE</b>	£	£	£	£
Import Duties ... ..	278,268	318,251	—	39,983
Harbour Masters' Fees ...	2,563	2,577	—	14
Light Dues ... ..	1,920	1,952	—	32
Rum Duties ... ..	104,730	122,524	—	17,794
Beer Duty ... ..	231	211	20	—
Licenses ... ..	627	732	—	106
Stamps ... ..	18,050	23,947	—	5,897
Education Tax ... ..	9,722	11,243	—	1,521
	416,111	481,437	20	65,326
<b>NON-TAX REVENUE.</b>				65,326
Postal Revenue ... ..	22,520	24,072	—	1,552
Telegraph Revenue... ..	4,700	5,364	—	664
Court Fees ... ..	7,368	8,284	—	916
Fines and Forfeitures ...	3,680	4,412	—	732
Interest on Securities for Sinking Funds.	—	14,199	—	14,199
Interest from Savings Bank	4,784	3,927	857	—
Interest other than above ...	5,902	4,973	929	—
Interest on Railway Second Mortgage Bonds.	—	208	—	208
Reimbursements ... ..	52,568	35,969	16,599	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	22,934	9,019	13,915	—
	124,456	110,427	32,300	18,271
			14,029	
<b>TOTAL—GENERAL REVENUE</b>	540,567	591,864		51,297

JAMAICA.  
1897-8.

Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1897-98—*cont.*

Specially Appropriated Revenue.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
<b>MAIN ROAD REVENUE.</b>	£	£	£	£
Land Tax Law 17 of 1890 ...	—	398	—	—
Draft Horned Stock do.	—	826	—	—
Holdings Tax ... ..	—	12,898	—	—
Spirit Licenses ... ..	—	13,969	—	—
Agricultural Produce Licenses.	—	3,685.	—	—
<b>PAROCHIAL ROAD RESERVED FUND.</b>				
Land Tax and Quit Rent ...	—	7,637	—	—
<b>KINGSTON STREETS IMPROVEMENT.</b>				
House Tax Laws 4 of 1883 and 31 of 1890.	—	6	—	—
Spirit Licenses ... ..	—	3,728	—	—
Other Receipts ... ..	—	620	—	—
	—	43,767	—	—
Reimbursements of Loan Expenditure.	—	3,605	—	3,605
<b>PAROCHIAL REVENUES.</b>				
Parochial Road Tax ...	35,863	37,901	—	2,038
Parochial Municipal Revenue	12,789	13,271	—	482
Parochial General Purposes	4,539	4,503	36	—
Poor Rates ... ..	38,723	39,339	—	616
Sanitary Rates ... ..	7,630	7,862	—	232
Fire Rates ... ..	1,494	1,561	—	67
Gas Rates ... ..	3,270	3,793	—	523
Miscellaneous ... ..	9,219	8,544	675	—
Advances from General Revenues.	18,440	21,122	—	2,682
	131,967	137,896	711	6,640
				5,929

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Comparative Statement of Revenue, 1897-98—cont.

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1897-8.

Specially Appropriated Revenue.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
<b>IMMIGRATION REVENUES.</b>	£	£	£	£
Immigration Revenues Law 7 of 1878.	3,402	1,476	1,926	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	1,127	205	922	—
	4,529	1,681	2,848	—
<b>SUMMARY.</b>				
General Revenue ... ..	540,567	591,864	—	51,297
Specially appropriated Revenue.	—	43,767	—	43,767
Reimbursement of Loan Expenditure.	—	3,605	—	3,605
Parochial Revenues... ..	131,967	137,896	—	5,929
Immigration Revenues ...	4,529	1,681	2,848	—
	677,063	778,813	2,848	104,598
Net Decrease ... ..	—	—	—	101,750

The large net decrease in General Revenue of £51,297 as compared with the previous year is almost entirely due to the falling off in the Imports and Rum Duties, caused by the depression in business to which allusion is made elsewhere in this report, and to the reduction of Stamp Duties under Law 27 of 1896. The only items showing increases of any importance are Reimbursements and Miscellaneous, which respectively showed £16,599 and £13,915 more than in 1896-97.

The revenue for Parochial purposes, which varies according to the rates imposed, shows very little change, there being slight increases under General Purposes Rate and Miscellaneous, and slight decreases under the other items.

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**1897-8.**

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure during the year under review :—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE, 1897-98.

General Expenditure.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges of Debt ... ..	112,650	82,417	30,233	—
Pensions ... ..	21,569	16,962	4,607	—
Administrative Departments	43,190	45,085	—	1,895
Government Savings Bank	3,462	3,275	187	—
Revenue Department ...	39,368	41,066	—	1,698
Postal Service ... ..	27,347	28,355	—	1,008
Telegraph Service ... ..	7,610	7,555	45	—
Judicial ... ..	45,763	45,478	285	—
Ecclesiastical... ..	2,561	2,927	—	366
Medical ... ..	61,052	59,307	1,785	—
Constabulary ... ..	62,411	57,122	5,289	—
Grant to Constabulary Pension Fund.	—	3,767	—	3,767
Prisons ... ..	22,876	23,288	—	402
Reformatories ... ..	4,346	4,548	—	202
Education ... ..	69,388	67,540	1,848	—
Industrial Schools ... ..	1,244	1,103	141	—
Harbours and Pilotage ...	2,320	2,742	—	422
Military ... ..	10,447	12,814	—	2,367
Coasting Service ... ..	1,708	1,800	—	92
Telegraph Subsidy ... ..	2,000	2,000	—	—
Registration Department ...	4,491	4,432	59	—
Registration of Titles Department.	1,071	1,203	—	132
Island Record Office... ..	1,566	1,410	156	—
Government Printing Office	7,756	7,989	—	233

Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1897-98—*cont.*JAMAICA.  
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General Expenditure.	1897-98.	1896-97	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Jamaica Institute ... ..	1,979	2,404	—	425
Board of Supervision ...	502	431	71	—
Public Gardens ... ..	6,329	6,484	—	155
Railway ... ..	1,310	1,587	—	277
Miscellaneous ... ..	10,277	10,982	—	705
Public Works ... ..	43,396	78,515	—	35,119
Railway Extension Track ...	3,100	1,595	1,505	—
Light Houses ... ..	1,599	1,719	—	120
Do. Construction ...	321	233	88	—
Contribution to maintenance, Kingston Improvement Works.	—	425	—	425
Queen's Jubilee Celebrations	2,556	—	2,556	—
Cattle Disease Enquiry ...	—	1,072	—	1,072
	627,605	629,632	48,855	50,882
				2,027
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION.				
Main Road Expenditure Law 17 of 1890, Maintenance.	—	31,127	—	—
Parochial Road Reserved Fund.	—	7,921	—	—
Kingston Streets Recon- struction.	—	2,421	—	—
Produce Protection Fund ...	—	53	—	—
	—	41,522	—	41,522
EXPENDITURE FROM LOANS.				
Portland Bridges ... ..	—	4,144	—	—
Public Tanks ... ..	—	292	—	—
Main Roads Law 17 of 1890	—	3,689	—	—
	—	8,125	—	8,125

JAMAICA.  
1897-8.Comparative Statement of Expenditure, 1897-98—*cont.*

General Expenditure.	1897-98.	1896-97.	Increase.	Decrease.
<b>PAROCHIAL EXPENDITURE.</b>	£	£	£	£
Parochial Roads ... ..	45,067	52,818	—	7,751
Parochial Municipal Objects	8,468	10,022	—	1,534
Parochial General Purposes	3,929	7,860	1,060	—
Relief of Poor ... ..	47,628	46,898	730	—
Sanitary Appropriation ...	11,232	9,491	1,741	—
Fire Appropriation ... ..	1,658	1,647	11	—
Gas Appropriation ... ..	3,019	3,048	—	29
Kingston Theatre ... ..	700	4,058	—	3,358
Repayment of Advances ...	11,814	17,104	—	5,290
	138,526	152,946	3,542	17,962
				14,420
Immigration Expenditure ...	403	979	—	576
<b>SUMMARY.</b>				
General Expenditure ... ..	627,605	629,632	—	2,027
Special Appropriation ... ..	—	41,522	—	41,522
Loan Expenditure ... ..	—	8,125	—	8,125
Parochial Expenditure ... ..	138,526	152,946	—	14,420
Immigration Expenditure ...	403	979	—	576
	766,534	833,204	—	—
Net Decrease ... ..	—	—	—	66,670

The net decrease in the General Expenditure was £2,027. The more important increases are to be found under the following heads, viz:—

Charges of Debt £30,233, due to the inclusion of the amount required for Sinking Fund, for interest on temporary advances, and interest on Law 27 of 1890, with increased interest by Laws 20 of 1892, 6 of 1893, and 13 of 1895, that cause an excess of £37,500 which is, however, reduced by paying off of the debt due under Law 39 of 1869, &c.; Pensions £4,607, due to grant to



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Constabulary Pension Fund being charged to this account (Law 21 of 1895); Constabulary £5,289, due to clothing, arms, &c., provided for increased number of men, and to the transport of men and prisoners consequent on the closing of certain prisons; Medical, £1,785; Education, £1,848; Railway Track, £1,505, due to settlement of more claims for land acquired than in the previous year; and £2,556, the cost of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

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PENSIONS.

During the year pensions amounting to £736 11s. 9½d. were granted under the provisions of Law 34 of 1885 and the resolution of the Legislative Council dated 23rd October 1887, while the Pension List was relieved by the death of pensioners to the extent of £1,176.

DEBT.

No new loans were raised during the year under review.

The Public Debt directly secured on General Revenue stood as follows at the close of each of the last ten years, after making allowance in each year for the Sinking Funds actually invested for the eventual redemption of debt:—

	£	s.	d.
1888	1,502,684	9	8
1889	1,506,883	6	0
1891	1,458,221	12	7
1892	1,520,088	4	3
1893	1,523,944	2	11
1894	1,672,299	14	6
1895	1,678,744	11	2
1896	1,666,177	14	3
1897	1,787,499	18	7
1898	1,993,284	4	10

The above amount was raised at varying rates of interest, and the balance at present outstanding is held—

£		
118,168	...	at six per cent.
7,500	...	at four and a half per cent.
1,553,056	...	at four per cent.
30,860	...	at three and a half per cent.
283,700	...	at three per cent.
<u>£1,993,284</u>		

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A considerable portion of the amounts originally raised by debentures has since been converted into Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Law 13 of 1885, but the present liability is divided as follows :—

	£
Debentures ... ..	635,297
Inscribed Stock, England ...	1,116,459
Inscribed Stock, Jamaica ...	123,360
Deposits, Rectors and Island Curates Fund, and Widows and Orphans Fund ... ..	118,168
	£1,993,284

The debenture debt is mainly redeemable by a one per cent. Sinking Fund, which is applied to the redemption of debentures chosen by lot at annual drawings, and the Inscribed Stock, both English and Jamaica, is to be redeemed by a cumulative Sinking Fund of one per cent. on the total amount issued, which is calculated to produce sufficient to redeem the stock at its maturity in the year 1930.

Of the total of debt on the 31st March 1898, £742,920 was on account of the purchase, reconstruction, and extension of the Jamaica Railway to Ewarton and Porus, £126,500 on account of the Rio Cobre Canal, £217,000 for the erection of new bridges, and £48,700 for debentures issued on account of the Myrtle Bank and Constant Spring Hotels, which have now been taken possession of by the Government.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The annual session of the Council commenced on the 15th March 1898; it continued far beyond the close of the year under review, and adjourned *sine die* on the 3rd August 1898.

During that period the Council held 33 meetings.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department was £138,074 6s. 4d., being £26,262 15s. less than in the preceding year. The cost of administration and supervision was equal to 12½ per cent. of the total expenditure of the Department.

The total expenditure on main roads and bridges chargeable against General Revenue was £26,081 2s. 1d. The total length of these roads was 913 miles 42 chains, being 21 miles 6 chains more than in 1896-97.

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The total average expenditure per mile for maintenance, repair, and improvement of the roads and bridges was £27 15s. 9d. This was not, however, found sufficient to maintain the roads in the good condition they were in at the beginning of the year, and they were considerably damaged by heavy rains in the months of October and November.

The total expenditure during the year for reconstruction of roads taken over under Law 17 of 1890 was £692 1s. 10d. The total length taken over to the 31st March, 1898, was 985 miles 17 chains, and the average expenditure for maintaining these roads was £16 11s. 9d. per mile.

At the end of the year there were 71 miles 46 chains of main roads, and 52 miles 76 chains of parochial main roads under maintenance by contract.

The number of separate institutions and buildings the upkeep of which devolved upon the Public Works Department was 286, the same as in the previous year, and the cost amounted to £4,047 19s., being £4,680 2s. 9d. less than the sum authorised. Owing to the depressed condition of the Colony, no work that could possibly be deferred was carried out. The expenditure was therefore kept very low, averaging about £14 per building. No new buildings were erected during the year.

The construction of bridges authorised by Law 20 of 1892 was continued, the expenditure during the year on this work was £12,621 3s. 8d. At the close of the year 89 out of the 104 bridges authorised were completed.

Considerable progress was made with the work of constructing the new Lunatic Asylum.

The enlargement of St. Catherine's District Prison was proceeded with, and the new female prison containing 66 cells was practically completed.

The lands for the extension of the Kingston Public Hospital were, with the exception of one or two lots, acquired and prepared for building operations.

Six and three-quarter miles of the second section of the mountain road in St. Andrew, under Law 13 of 1895, from Hopewell Gap to Hardware Gap were practically completed. Eight miles of the third section (12½ miles), from Hardware Gap to Silver Hill Bridge on the Buff Bay Road, were cut to full width, and the remainder was in hand at the close of the year.

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The fourth section ( $1\frac{3}{8}$ ths miles), the branch to Silver Hill, was completed, and it is now possible to drive from the "Cooperage" near Gordon Town, *via* Hardware Gap to Silver Hill, a distance of 19 miles.

The survey of the road from Gordon Town to Mavis Bank and Windsor Forest was completed, and surveys for the road from Bath *via* Cuna Cuna Pass to Moore Town were commenced.

The total expenditure on the mountain roads during the year was £15,463 2s. 4d.

The lighthouses at Plumb Point, Morant Point, Folly Point, and Negril Point were maintained and worked with efficiency and regularity throughout the year at a cost of £1,795 19s. 1d.

693½ miles of telegraph lines were under maintenance at the end of the year. The expenditure under this head amounted to £1,643 4s. 1d.

#### IRRIGATION.—RIO COBRE CANAL.

The revenue earned during 1897-98 from these works was £5,561 6s. 3d., but only £5,132 10s. 3d. was collected; the cost of maintenance and supervision was £2,413 19s. 2d., thus leaving a net profit of £2,618 11s. ; the net profit in 1896-97 was £1,975 13s. 2d.

The irrigation works continue to prove of great benefit to the cultivation of bananas and oranges; since 1893 the area under bananas in the district irrigated has increased from a few hundred acres to nearly 5,000.

#### CROWN LANDS.

The Surveyor-General reports that there were numerous sales to small settlers of Crown land in lots of from 5 to 50 acres during the year under revision; 301 applications for land to the extent of 3,431½ acres having been received. The demand for this class of land is steadily increasing.

Two bridle roads were laid out during the year giving access to the lands purchased at Adam Brandon's patent, and at Claremont, in Portland.

The Legislative Council having voted the sum of £778 in the Sessions of 1897, the Surveyor-General was enabled to construct a road, opening up the Crown lands at Troy, in Trelawny. It is gratifying to note that the settlers whose lands were opened

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up by this road, although only 9 months elapsed between the voting of the money and the end of the year under review, had at the 31st March made great strides in the cultivation of their properties. Twenty-one settlers have laid out their holdings in coffee, oranges, kola, ground provisions, &c. on a small scale, and are making strenuous efforts to increase the crops. The men seem thoroughly to appreciate their privileges of ownership; nearly all of them have either built or are building shingled houses on the land.

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During the year final judgments of forfeiture for non-payment of Quit Rents were obtained in the cases of 96 properties covering 36,066½ acres. Most of the land is suitable for cultivation.

Exclusive of four lots of land transferred to the West India Improvement Company, 3 pieces of land in Kingston, and one each in Portland and Clarendon were sold by the Government, realizing £341 13s., or an average of about £3 per acre.

A large number of lots, principally in Kingston, were leased out by the Government, realizing an annual rental of £295 12s.

Lands to the extent of 1,472 acres were transferred to the West India Improvement Company during the year ended 31st March last, making 71,828 acres granted up to the present time under Law 12 of 1889.

It is to be regretted that the cocoanut trees on the Palisadoes show signs of decay; remedial measures have been taken by the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, but without successful results.

#### LAND FOR RAILWAY TRACK.

The expenditure on account of lands for railway track to 31st March, 1898, was £81,057 0s. 9d.

The acquisition of lands for the track may now be regarded as practically completed, only £2,085 18s. 3d. of claims remaining to be paid on 31st March, 1898.

#### RAILWAY.

The records of the transactions of the Jamaica Railway Company shows that during the year ended 31st March, 1898, the gross earnings of the railway amounted to the sum of £102,170 0s. 4d., while the expenditure was £74,592 9s. 10d.; thus leaving a net revenue of £27,577 10s. 6d.

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The following is a comparison of the receipts with those of the preceding year :—

				1896-97.			1897-98.		
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Goods and cattle	...	...	...	53,200	14	0	53,424	9	6
Passengers	...	...	...	38,497	12	5	37,267	18	0
Wharf	...	...	...	5,990	14	3	5,682	9	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	790	12	3	795	2	11
Totals	...	...	...	98,479	12	11	102,170	0	4

The number of train miles run during the year amounted to 406,302, which shows the revenue to be at the rate of 5·0·35 per mile, and the expenditure 3·8·05, or a net revenue of 1·4·30 per mile. The operating expenses were equal to 73 per cent. of the receipts.

The number of passengers carried during the year shows a falling off; the total being 356,949, as against 384,611 in 1896-97.

£23,159 13s. 4d. was paid on account of Interest on Mortgage Bonds, and £3,200 on account of Sinking Fund.

#### POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total postal receipts for the year amounted to £22,883 19s. 0½d., being £1,541 12s. 1¼d. less than in 1896-97.

The telegraph receipts amounted to £5,085 12s. 6d., a decrease of £394 6s. 9d. as compared with the previous year.

The Postmaster estimates £941 of the falling off in postal receipts to be due to the general depression in trade and agriculture which prevailed throughout the year, and £600 to the abolition of the system of prepaying official correspondence by means of stamps purchased by the Public Departments from the Post Office, and reversion to the franking system from 1st January 1898, the annual value of official postages being estimated at £2,500.

A decrease occurred under the head of packet as well as inland postages, and is attributed to the same causes.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the year 1897-98, compared with the two preceding years :—

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REVENUE.

Year.	Postages.			Postal Revenue.		Miscellaneous.	Total Postal Revenue.	Telegraph Revenue.	Grand Total.
	Packet.	Inland.	Total.	Commission on Money Orders.	Commission on Postal Orders.				
1895-96 ...	£ 4,946 s. 15 d. 11½	£ 17,542 s. 1 7½	£ 22,488 s. 17 7	£ 388 s. 6 7	£ 519 s. 12 1½	£ 173 s. 0 6	£ 23,569 s. 16 9½	£ 6,156 s. 9 6	£ 29,726 s. 6 3½
1896-97 ...	£ 5,472 s. 16 2	£ 17,858 s. 10 11½	£ 23,331 s. 7 1½	£ 414 s. 5 6	£ 534 s. 3 9½	£ 145 s. 14 9	£ 24,425 s. 11 1½	£ 5,479 s. 10 3	£ 29,905 s. 10 4½
1897-98 ...	£ 4,869 s. 10 3	£ 16,984 s. 3 0	£ 21,853 s. 13 3	£ 373 s. 16 2	£ 574 s. 7 7½	£ 82 s. 2 0	£ 22,883 s. 19 0½	£ 5,085 s. 12 6	£ 27,969 s. 11 6½

EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Salaries.		Mail Conveyance.		Services.	Total Postal Expenditure.	Telegraph Expenditure.	Grand Total.
	Head Office.	District Offices.	Inland.	Ocean.				
1895-96 ...	£ 4,923 s. 16 4	£ 2,535 s. 9 0	£ 9,020 s. 2 2	£ 1,962 s. 1 1	£ 4,471 s. 15 5½	£ 22,913 s. 4 0½	£ 7,618 s. 16 8	£ 30,532 s. 0 8½
1896-97 ...	£ 5,193 s. 12 7	£ 2,681 s. 8 9	£ 9,841 s. 2 11	£ 2,289 s. 1 8	£ 5,317 s. 17 1½	£ 25,323 s. 3 0½	£ 7,556 s. 8 5	£ 32,879 s. 11 5½
1897-98 ...	£ 5,268 s. 1 4	£ 2,965 s. 2 8	£ 10,479 s. 6 11	£ 859 s. 0 3	£ 5,060 s. 17 6	£ 24,632 s. 8 8	£ 7,686 s. 5 3	£ 32,318 s. 13 11

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The total number of letters and postcards which passed through the Kingston Post Office and the several district post offices was 4,980,191, as against 4,375,374 in the previous year.

Nine new mail services came into operation and 18 district post offices were established during the year, making the total number of post offices in existence at the close of the year 160, as against 142 at the end of 1896-97.

The following figures show the money and postal order transactions for the year compared with the years 1895-96 and 1896-97:—

Year.	Money Orders.					Postal Orders.			
	Jamaica Issue.		From other Countries payable in Jamaica.		Total Amount.	Issued.		Sold.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.		No.	Amount.	Amount.	
1895-96	...	13,116	£ 47,242 s. 13 d. 0	2,194	£ 5,441 s. 1 d. 1	£ 52,683 s. 14 d. 1	151,770	£ 26,721 s. 17 d. 6	£ 26,383 s. 3 d. 0
1896-97	...	12,548	£ 43,963 s. 16 d. 8	2,711	£ 7,050 s. 4 d. 1	£ 51,014 s. 0 d. 9	171,035	£ 26,857 s. 10 d. 0	£ 26,577 s. 10 d. 0
1897-98	...	11,994	£ 40,068 s. 5 d. 1	2,770	£ 7,679 s. 8 d. 6	£ 47,747 s. 13 d. 7	175,985	£ 29,397 s. 10 d. 0	£ 28,745 s. 1 d. 0



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The earnings of the mail coaches for passenger fares and parcels amounted to £1,632 2s. 6d., or £712 19s. 3d. less than in the preceding year. The falling off is due to the extension of the railway to Montego Bay and Port Antonio.

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The declared value of parcels which passed through the parcels post was £3,289 11s. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d., against £3,273 14s. 5d. in 1896-97.

The revenue and expenditure under the head of telegraphs is shown in the statement already given.

The number of telegraph messages sent and received was 87,545, against 96,292 in 1896-97.

Sixty-nine telegraph stations were in existence at the close of the year, being the same number as in the previous year.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The depression of the year ended 31st March, 1897, continued during the following year, but the Colony was not afflicted to any extent with the drought and floods referred to in the penultimate paragraph of last year's Blue Book Report. The October rains were heavy in several parishes, and in a few parts caused some destruction of roads and private property. Speaking generally, however, the seasons were favourable to agriculture, and but for the lowered prices of nearly all the staples, even compared with the previous year, there would probably have been an appreciable increase in the value of exports. As it was, home products and manufactures (the latter a very small item proportionately) decreased very slightly compared with 1896-7, viz. :—from £1,384,278 to £1,377,826. Fruit and vegetables were more plentiful than during the preceding year owing to good seasons, and most crops were good except that of pimento, which was only about one-third of the average, though this disadvantage was somewhat counterbalanced by the unusually high prices obtained. The coffee crop was a fine one, but a very low price was secured both at home and abroad. The producer, though realizing very little cash from his sales, had a sufficiency of food from his provision ground owing to the fine seasons. In Jamaica the seasons are usually good, and there is little distress except during occasional prolonged droughts, which chiefly occur in a narrow comparatively rainless tract, made abnormally so by deforestation, which lies along the south-eastern sea-board. Further, in parishes almost entirely of the limestone formation, which covers most of the western and middle sections and part of the eastern section of the Island, the porous nature of the rock causes the water to sink until an impermeable stratum is found, usually very far below the surface, or else, where this formation

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ends near the sea at a bed of alluvium, streams gush out. The inland limestone tract has very few streams, and these usually disappear after a course of a few miles into what are termed "sink holes." A great portion of Jamaica is not, therefore, a land of streams, as the Island is usually supposed to be, and the extensive limestone districts derive their water supply chiefly from tanks and ponds. A family can thus obtain a sufficient water supply to outlast any but very dry weather from a tank or pond constructed at the expense of a few pounds, provided a sufficient catch-water area is constructed, but this is seldom done, and most of the peasantry and a good many other occupiers of property do not thus secure themselves against the rainless day, but live on from day to day in contented neglect of what the future may bring, and in times of drought look to their more provident neighbours, usually the larger proprietors, to give them water for themselves and their stock. It is no wonder, therefore, if privation and distress occur at times, as during the severe droughts of 1896-97, when the supply in Manchester and St. Elizabeth especially became too low to be any longer given away. Were tanks with a sufficient catch-water area constructed by all owners of land in limestone districts, which have usually a good rainfall, there would be comparatively little distress in country parishes. In some places public tanks or reservoirs have been constructed, and greater attention has been paid of late years to water storage and supply. The greater portion of the dry Liguanea district contiguous to Kingston has an excellent water supply for household use by pipes from the Hope River, and a few artesian wells have been sunk with success, but it is feared that the cost of boring through the usually thick stratum of the limestone districts would be too great to be undertaken.

The returns of acreage under cultivation during the years ended 31st July 1897 and 1898 show a considerable shrinkage.

The following figures indicate the declension during the five years ended 31st July 1897. The figures for 1897-98 are also given. Compared with the previous year they may serve to indicate more nearly the present outlook as foreseen by cultivators. The figures are taken from the returns of property tax, and the collecting year begins on the 1st August. The Collector-General has thus to give returns of acreage 9 months in arrear of the figures for the financial year to which his report refers.

It should, however, be understood that the only alarming shrinkage in production has been in sugar and rum, which require capital and labour in large quantities for growth and manufacture, and the decay of the industry means loss of capital and restriction in the circulation of money. The falling off in logwood, pimento, oranges, and cocoanuts represent a diminished yield from trees on which very little labour is expended, except that of reaping,

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as the logwood, pimento, and oranges grow without having been planted, and the cocoanuts, after having been once brought into bearing by cultivation, require no further expenditure. The diminished yield does not mean any failure of the source from which these products are derived. Low prices have resulted in logwood not having been reaped, but allowed to remain for further maturity pending better prices. Recently the growth of oranges has been commenced as a cultivated crop, but the groves planned out have not yet come into bearing. Substantial increases occurred in the production of coffee, bananas, cocoa, and ginger, and the only drawback has been the low prices of coffee. The apparent falling off in the acreage under cultivation is in a large measure to be attributed to taxes not having been paid on the full area under cultivation.

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ACREAGE, YEAR ENDED 31ST JULY, OF LAND CHARGED WITH PROPERTY TAX.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
I.—CULTIVATED LAND ... ..	177,497	181,295	182,668	182,489	164,644	164,307
II.—GUINEA GRASS ... ..	123,881	125,972	126,877	127,437	124,672	123,136
III.—PASTURE AND PIMENTO LAND ...	375,774	384,802	382,422	383,748	374,244	373,228
	677,152	692,069	691,967	693,674	663,560	660,671
IV.—WOOD AND RUINATE ... ..	1,268,483	1,284,477	1,260,178	1,268,563	1,218,149	1,187,909
Totals ... ..	1,945,635	1,976,546	1,952,145	1,962,237	1,881,709	1,848,580
<i>Principal Items under I.</i>						
Bananas ... ..	17,297	18,528	18,847	19,227	19,760	23,405
Canes (yielding Sugar and Rum) ...	31,555	31,284	30,971	30,036	28,764	27,123
Cocoa... ..	1,315	1,554	1,687	1,632	1,611	1,527
Cocoanuts ... ..	9,065	10,395	10,956	10,940	10,799	11,293
Coffee ... ..	22,423	23,523	23,643	25,559	22,387	22,901
Ginger ... ..	246	128	84	84	82	98
Ground Provisions ... ..	94,716	95,177	95,808	95,808	80,656	77,271

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Three staples with an export value of over £10,000 are omitted, viz., logwood growing in pasture or ruinate land, pimento in pasture land or guinea grass, and oranges chiefly in pasture. It is difficult to classify descriptions of cultivation with more than an approximation to accuracy, as, except for bananas, canes, and coffee, and one or two other products usually cultivated in large patches, a property generally contains several descriptions of produce mingled together. Thus in 1896-97 the figures for the seven articles given above total 164,059 out of 164,644 acres of all descriptions of cultivated land.

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There is no ground whatever for supposing, however, that only 585 acres represented the acreage of all other cultivated products during 1896-97, besides those tabulated. One of the tabulated articles (ginger) illustrates this clearly.

The acreage for the last few years is returned at 80 to 90 acres, while the export value, leaving out of consideration home consumption, was an average for the five years 1894-98 of £41,525, or, say, from £450 to £500 per acre, a value per acre far above that realized. The truth is that could we total the acreage of fruit, logwood, and other economic plants scattered over properties and growing around homesteads we would probably have to add many thousands to the acres shown under head I. At the same time the three heads, cultivated land, guinea grass, and pasture land, give almost the entire area of the Island made use of for the support of its inhabitants. This inhabited area, *i.e.* less than 700,000 acres out of a total estimated area of 2,692,000 acres, it will be seen, increased generally from 1st August 1892 to 31st July 1896, and has decreased by over 30,000 acres since, *i.e.* by about 4 per cent. The decrease occurs principally under cultivated land, where it has been about 10 per cent.

The most rapid decrease under this head occurs on ground provisions. For the 6 years included in the table there was but a slight difference year by year in acreage till 1895-96, since which the decline has been rapid—1895-96, 94,332 acres; 1896-97, 80,656 acres; 1897-98, 77,271 acres.

There has been a decrease generally in quantities of imported goods within the period. As ground provisions, *i.e.* root esculents, are the staple vegetable food of all classes, and are almost entirely cultivated by the peasantry, these figures seem to indicate general decrease in prosperity, when decreased importations are taken into account. In this connection it may be remarked that the agricultural holdings returned for the year ended 31st July 1896 (including those on which there were arrears of taxes) were 90,667, and in the following year only 76,585, and that all the tax returns of the last few years indicate a considerable increase of arrears. It must be borne in mind, however, that the decrease in the amount allowed by the Legislative Council for travelling by revenue officers has in all probability appreciably affected the collection of taxes, and

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while there has undoubtedly been a considerable temporary decline in the Colony's income, it is very likely not so great as some of the tax returns might lead one to imagine.

Turning now from cultivation of products to their exportation, we find the value of exported home products and manufactures in the year ended 31st March 1897-98, in both of which the total values realized were almost the same, has been about 20 per cent. less than 1895-96, or about double the decline in acreage. Besides the fact that cultivation cannot recklessly be thrown up because less quantity or value is realized in one or other period, and that therefore less fluctuation in acreage must be expected than in exports, it must be remembered that the figures for acreage are given for a period nine months before those of exports, that crops mature, and are therefore planted ahead of reaping at different periods, and also that there are no accurate data available of the quantities and therefore of the total values of articles consumed in the Island. At the same time when several years are compared it is evident that there has been a considerable shrinkage both in cultivation and exportation.

In Jamaica only a very limited number of persons have adopted improved methods of cultivation, hence the average yield per acre may fairly be taken as much the same year by year, except as affected by rains or drought. Comparing cultivation and exportation of home products and manufactures for the last five years we find exports highest in 1893-94, viz., £1,982,596, whence they declined moderately every year till 1895-96 when they leapt suddenly down from £1,775,016 to £1,384,278, falling slightly the next year to £1,377,826. Cultivated and grazing land increased or decreased generally very slowly till the same year when the acreage went down from 693,674 to 663,560, with a slight declension for the year ended 31st July, 1898, to 660,671 acres.

The details of exports are more fully given under trade, but the following figures furnish a succinct comparison with the preceding year:—

—	Value 1896-7	Value 1897-8	Price 1896-7.	Price 1897-8.
Bananas ...	£ 302,415	£ 445,866	1s. 3d. a bunch	1s. 3½d. a bunch
Oranges ...	155,554	134,674	33 to 34 a 1s.	32 to 33 a 1s.
Sugar ...	148,679	120,959	9s. 3d. per cwt.	8s. 6d. a cwt.
Rum ...	123,211	92,053	1s. 6d. a gallon	1s. 4d. a gallon
Coffee ...	210,946	165,494	63s. 4d. a cwt.	38s. 9d. a cwt.

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Details of exports—*cont.*

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	Value 1896-7.	Value 1897-8.	Price 1896-7.	Price 1897-8.
Logwood ...	£ 161,565	£ 118,215	75s. a ton	55s. 6d. a ton
Pimento ...	77,152	52,943	15s. 6d. a cwt.	27s. 3d. a cwt.
Cocoa ...	15,297	37,435	33s. 4d. a cwt.	46s. 7d. a cwt.
Cocoanuts ...	35,407	39,648	60s. per M.	68s. 9d. per M.
Ginger ...	33,041	34,984	60s. a cwt.	55s. 6d. a cwt.
Minor products and manufac- tures ...	1,263,267	1,242,171		
	121,011	125,655		
Totals ...	1,384,278	1,377,826		

There was thus a considerable increase in the export value of bananas with a slight rise in price, a remarkable rise in price of pimento, but a crop stated by the Collector-General to have been only about a third of the average, resulting in a loss of total value. A good crop of coffee made the total loss less than it would have otherwise been with the very low prices. This product and logwood suffered the most, though sugar and rum together show a serious loss to the cane industry. Happily the price of sugar has lately risen, and steps now being taken to establish an irrigation scheme in Vere, if carried into effect will, it is hoped, considerably benefit the planters, and enable a central factory to be started. The price of cocoa was excellent for Jamaica, though low as compared with that of the best Trinidad varieties. There is no apparent reason why the intelligent use of capital in the production of cocoa, combined with due care in its curing and packing, should not lead to its becoming a major product as in Trinidad. The demand for the article is not likely to decrease as its valuable qualities become more known.

Generally speaking the export value of bananas, cocoa, cocoanuts, ginger, and minor products realising £10,000, and under, very nearly set off the loss on most staples, a loss greater in value than quantity owing to generally low prices.

Stock rearing has declined as well as cultivation. Guinea grass and pasture land has not increased as much in acreage as cultivated land has, as the table of acreage shows, but stock seem

**JAMAICA.** to have sensibly decreased in number. The following figures  
1897-8. appear to indicate this.

The tax on horsekind used on public roads is 11s. each, on livery horses 7s. each.

The collection for the year 1895-96 showed 33,506 horses, and for the year 1896-97 showed 31,667 horses used on public roads (including livery horses). For the same periods we have 14,059 and 12,588 asses so used.

Returns by taxpayers for these years show :—

	1895-96.	1896-97.
Horsekind	13,322	10,541
Cattle	103,403	99,201
Asses	2,217	1,769
Sheep	14,456	13,831
Goats	8,554	6,869
Swine	24,060	20,718

The above figures are for years ended 31st July. Returns are also furnished of taxes collected on horsekind and asses for the years ended 31st March 1897 and 1898. They show in 1897 £16,896 for horsekind and £2,219 for asses, in 1898 £15,801 for horsekind and £1,914 for asses, decreases indicating a diminished use of these animals, or a failure to pay taxes on them.

The war in Cuba resulted in benefit to stock raisers. The exportation of stock in 1896-97 amounted to only 57 animals, including cattle, horsekind, mules, and swine; in 1897-98 it amounted to 1,327 animals, viz. :—1,243 cattle, 8 horsekind, 54 swine, and 22 sheep, all except the horsekind, shipped to Cuba; 3,120 fowls were also exported to that country. These exportations to Cuba realised £9,163 13s. If quarantine restrictions on Cuba are removed, with the better sanitary regulations now in force, a considerable trade in stock might spring up between the two islands, until the larger one recovers its heavy losses owing to the war.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society has done excellent work during the year in encouraging the breeding of stock, by importations of choice stallions for pens, boars, sheep, poultry, &c., by the encouragement of agricultural shows, the formation of local branches, the publication of an agricultural journal, &c. Demonstrations of the best methods of cultivating and curing products are given to the peasantry by a Superintendent of the Botanical



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Department. Model grape farms which had been established in districts of St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland have given excellent results. It is hoped that the culture of grapes for the American winter market may in time become a profitable industry. Public opinion has been awakened to the need of agricultural training as an important portion of the curriculum of teaching in a Colony depending almost entirely on agriculture for its income, and were more modern tools and methods of cultivating, curing, and packing of products resorted to, and were exporters more prudent in forbearing to glut the market at every slight indication of a rise in prices, the income of the Colony might be considerably increased. Bearing these facts in mind, and remembering that less than 700,000 of the 2,692,000 acres of land in the Colony, most of which is more or less fertile and blest with good seasons, is occupied as cultivated and grazing land, it is evident that by the exercise of prudence and skill in cultivation and exportation, the Colony would be able to support comfortably a considerably larger population.

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BOTANICAL.

The activity of the Department is indicated by the following figures :—

Plants distributed—Hope Gardens	...	135,005
„ Castleton Gardens	...	5,602
„ Resource „	...	66,699
		207,306
Total	...	207,306

besides pods, seeds, &c. About seven-eighths of the plants distributed were economic ones.

The stock in the nursery at Hope Industrial School comprises about 129,300 plants.

The visitors to Hope were 18,071, as against over 17,000 last year.

Plants are distributed at a very cheap rate and carriage free, some economic plants being priced as low as one halfpenny each, and a very large number are distributed free.

A great deal of the time of the Department, the Director states, is taken up in research and the giving of information respecting the value, properties, &c., of plants and specimens sent to the Herbarium, and in replying to enquiries from merchants and others as to whether articles they require are procurable in the Colony or would pay if cultivated. The Department is thus a valuable auxiliary to traders as well as agriculturists.

**JAMAICA.** Information is also given to the public through the monthly  
1897-8. bulletins.

Considerable attention has been paid during the year to the culture of coffee, cocoa, sugar canes, grape vines, pines, oranges, mangoes, tobacco, rubber, &c., especially in discovering what varieties best suit the soil and climate.

At what is called the Orange Garden at Resource, which has only been started within the last few years, timber trees, cassava, fodder plants, &c., are grown and experimented on, as well as oranges.

At Hope Industrial School there were 41 boys in residence at the end of the year, as against 29 on the 1st April 1897. A few of the bigger boys have small garden plots allotted to them, where they cultivate tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, cabbages, &c., which they sell to the Institution for their own consumption, besides supplying a few outside customers. In one month, 2 cwts. of vegetables were thus sold to the School. The boys are allowed to spend the money earned in this way in purchasing story books, toys, &c., and a small portion of the money rewards is deposited in the Penny Bank at the Jamaica High School. The School, it is stated, may fairly be considered a first-class one.

Mr. Cradwick, the Superintendent at Hope Gardens, has continued his lecturing tours, visiting during the year the parishes of Portland, St. Ann, Manchester, St. James, and Hanover.

He has induced many persons in dry districts of Manchester and St. Elizabeth to grow grapes, with excellent results, and finds an increasing desire shown by the people to adopt improved methods according to their resources. As an illustration, a piece of land formerly planted with ginger, and now looked upon as worthless, had been forked and manured with rotten cane trash, and with this simple treatment produced excellent ginger, thus showing that this product can be grown on land for a term of years.

#### EDUCATION.

The number of school children on the books decreased by 354 during the year, and those in average attendance by 428, as compared with the preceding year.

The amounts expended on Education in the last two years were £67,539 in 1896-97, and £69,387 in 1897-98.

There has been a falling off of 8 in the number of first-class and 18 in the number of third-class schools, but an increase of 42 in the number of those of the second-class, showing that on the whole the schools are continuing to improve in efficiency.

The total number of schools on the list has decreased by 11.

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The annual examination of Teachers and Training College Students was held in December as usual, and resulted in the passing of 5 Teachers out of 11 who went up for the examination, and 149 Students out of 183 who presented themselves, viz. :—

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—				Presented.	Passed.
1st year	...	...	...	63	57
2nd year	...	...	...	78	68
3rd year	...	...	...	42	24

The examination of Pupil Teachers and Volunteers was held in July 1897, with the result that 643 passed out of 1,671 who presented themselves, or 38 per cent.

In accordance with the expressed wish of the Members of the Legislative Council, a Commission, under Law 9 of 1873, was appointed by the late Governor to enquire into the present system of Elementary Education in the Colony.

*Training College for Girls at Shortwood.*

On the 1st April 1897 there were 29 Students; one was admitted during the year, one dismissed, two left to look for work, one died, and one was discharged on medical certificate, leaving 25 in the Institution at the end of the year. They all sat for examination in December 1897. One passed in Honours, three in the First Class, and nine in the Second, and five in the Third.

The Practising School obtained 47 marks, and was placed in the Third Class.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

*Hope Industrial School.*

There were 29 boys in this Institution on the 1st April 1897, and at the end of the year there were 41. This gives an increase in the number of boys for the year of 12, and an average increase for the past 6 years of 3·7.

The older boys were employed in work at the Hope Gardens, and the younger in keeping the buildings and grounds in order, and in other light work.

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The School was examined in August 1897 by Mr. J. Kerrich, Inspector of Schools, who states that as the School is being worked on the lines of an Agricultural Elementary School, it is hardly possible to mark it in the same manner as an ordinary Elementary School, but that it shows an improvement over last year, and may now fairly be considered a first-class one.

Lessons in the practice and theory of agriculture were given to the boys by the Superintendent of the Hope Gardens.

The health of the boys has been good.

*Belmont Orphanage.*

This school was maintained partly by public and partly by voluntary contributions.

The children were employed in washing, plaiting, &c., and in garden work, and at the Eistoddfod competition, held at the Jamaica Institute, in June 1897, one girl was awarded the prize for hats and another for baskets.

The children attended school as usual.

*Alpha Cottage.*

This is an Institution for both boys and girls, and is under the control of the Roman Catholic Church.

At the commencement of the year there were 51 boys and 40 girls, and at the end 48 boys and 40 girls.

The boys are chiefly employed in gardening and in field labour, and the girls in laundry, sewing, cooking, and domestic work, and in gardening.

Both schools retain their positions as first-class schools. The Boys' School gained one mark during the year, making 65 marks.

*Shortwood Industrial School.*

There were 35 girls in this Institution at the commencement of the year and 33 at the end, 2 of whom were out on license.

The employment of the girls consisted of mending, washing, and making of clothes, baking and housework, &c.

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REFORMATORIES.

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BOYS' REFORMATORY.

The following are the more important statistics of the Institution for the year 1897-98 compared with 1896-97 :—

GENERAL	1st April, 1897.	1st April, 1898.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Boys in Reformatory section	124	120		
„ Industrial School ...	89	77		
	213	197	213	197
Daily average number of boys	...	...	204	201
Discharged	...	...	37	55
„ during 3 years ended 1st April, 1897 and 1898, respectively	...	...	142	144
Percentage re-convicted and sent to prison (so far as known) during 1896-97 and 1897-98	...	...	15.63	2.78
On license at end of year	...	...	2	1
Deaths	...	...	1	1
Marks awarded school (making it a first-class Elementary School under the Code)	...	...	61	61

*Financial.*

	1896-97.		1897-98.		1896-97.		1897-98.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Gross Expenditure	...	...	...	...	3,857	18 3¼	3,612	8 6¼
Less—								
Earning by labour and sale of articles ...	318	13 11	555	3 5				
Reimbursement from Parishes for Industrial School children	1,211	2 0	1,406	14 9				
	1,529	15 11	1,961	18 2	1,529	15 11	1,961	18 2
Net cost	...	...	...	...	2,328	2 4¼	1,650	10 4¼

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	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross cost per head per diem ... ..	1	0	43			11 80
Net " " " ... ..			6	49		
Gross cost of superintendence per head per diem... ..			5	1		5 1
Gross cost of diet per head per diem ... ..			3	16		3
Work bringing no money return ... ..	1,119	19	6	1,092	7	7
Rewards paid... ..	31	6	0	36	15	9

The description of labour in which the boys are employed under trained superintendence fall under the general heads of garden and field labour, carpentering, tailoring, blacksmiths, masons' and bricklayers' work, cooking, and baking. It is satisfactory to note from the statistics given above that although the average number of inmates was slightly less than in the preceding year, earnings by labour and sale of articles were £555 3s. 5d. (about £2 15s. per inmate) compared with £318 13s. 11d. in 1896-97.

The health of the inmates was in the main satisfactory, but 23 cases of malarial fever occurred, and 33 of influenza; the latter was prevalent in the neighbourhood at the time the cases occurred in the Reformatory. The cases generally were of a mild character, but there was one severe case of malarial remittent fever, resulting in the only death in the Institution during the year.

#### GIRLS' REFORMATORY.

##### *Statistical Information.*

	1896-97.	1897-98.
No. of inmates at end of year... ..	26	26
Daily average number ... ..	24	27
Admissions from the Courts ... ..	9	4
Discharges ... ..	5	2
Deaths ... ..	—	2

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		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Expenditure	... ..	690	0	2	736	3	4½
Less reimbursement from Parishes for Industrial School children and work done by girls	... ..	177	0	1	214	5	11
Net cost		513	0	1	521	17	5½
Gross cost per inmate per diem	... ..		1	7		1	6
Cost of superintendence per diem	... ..			8			7½
Cost of diet per diem	... ..			3¾			3½

On the 11th March, 1898, thirty-one girls were temporarily removed to the Girls' Reformatory premises from the Industrial School at Shortwood, consequent on sanitary alterations which were being effected at the latter Institution.

The girls continued at their usual occupations of making and washing, &c., of clothes for the Institution and the Boys' Reformatory. Washing for private parties was taken in also.

The health of the inmates was not so good as usual; there were 21 cases of malarial fever (then very prevalent throughout the Island) two of which terminated fatally.

IMMIGRATION.

There were no immigrants introduced into the Colony, and none were sent back to India during the year under review.

Forty-five coolies were granted passports to leave the Colony, 29 for British and the remainder for foreign ports.

There was a great decrease in the birth-rate as compared with that of the previous year, only seven births being reported or .44 per cent., as against 1.19 per cent. in 1896 of the total number of immigrants under indenture, while the deaths numbered 30 or 1.91 as compared with 2.27 in 1896.

Although the present year has been one of great depression, causing many sugar estates to go out of cultivation, it is a matter of congratulation that no cases of distress amongst coolies were reported to the Protector. Most of the men easily found

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employment on the banana plantations, while others were able to make a living by growing rice, and otherwise working for themselves.

An increase was shown in the number of coolie depositors in the Government Savings Bank, there being 998 in 1896-97 as compared with 933 in 1895-96, the amount on deposit increasing from £21,628 17s. 1d. to £21,964 19s. 3d., or £22 per head this year as compared with £21·78 last year.

There were no murders, suicides, or other serious crimes amongst the East Indian population during the year under review.

Fifty-five coolies were undergoing treatment in the lunatic asylum at the end of the year. The Protector reports that the general condition of the East Indian population continues to be prosperous, and that the relations between employer and employed are healthy.

During the year, 616 labourers left the Island from Kingston for the Isthmus of Panama and Carthagena, and 637 returned from those places and from British Guiana and other parts of the West Indies.

#### GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the Bank have been as follows in the last ten years:—

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
1887-88	18,510	393,250
1888-89	19,444	408,213
1890-91	21,747	423,011
1891-92	22,824	428,348
1892-93	23,902	417,978
1893-94	25,533	457,924
1894-95	27,045	453,875
1895-96	28,385	464,737
1896-97	29,719	469,226
1897-98	30,660	468,199

The year under review shows an increase of 941 in the number of depositors, but a decrease of £1,027 in the amount of deposits as compared with 1896-97.



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In the above amount of deposits are included 185 deposit accounts for the following Public Funds :—

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	£	s.	d.
1 Constabulary Reward Fund ...	80	15	7
1 " Pension Fund ...	2	7	1
14 Sinking Funds ...	7,525	14	0
1 Smith and Beckford's Charity ...	100	0	0
2 Turks Islands ...	1,666	10	10
162 Chancery Fund Accounts ...	23,476	5	4
4 Other Government Accounts ...	1,770	2	8

There were also 250 accounts for trusts, charities, suits, administrator general and bankrupt estates, amounting to £23,394 0s. 11d.

The remaining accounts, 30,225, representing £410,184 0s. 8½d., are all ordinary deposits, and old Savings Bank balances £1,678, making a total of £469,878 13s. 10½d.

Of the total number of accounts open at the end of the year 19,518 were for £5 and under, while those of £100 and over numbered 1,161, being decreases of 1884 and 55 respectively, as compared with the previous year.

The assets of the Bank on the 31st March last were distributed as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Consols 2½ per cent. ...	20,404	17	3
<i>Inscribed Stock :—</i>			
Canada 3 per cent ...	27,908	0	8
Cape of Good Hope 4 " ...	47,766	6	8
Ceylon 4 " ...	24,881	5	2
New South Wales 3½ " ...	40,528	13	7
Victoria 4 " ...	32,043	1	0
Jamaica 4 " ...	9,900	0	0
Queensland 3½ " ...	14,963	8	1
New Zealand ...	15,011	9	5
Western Australia ...	498	13	4
	213,500	17	11
<i>Debentures :—</i>			
Canada 4 " ...	53,990	12	6
New South Wales 5&4 " ...	60,497	10	0
South Australia 4&6 " ...	52,431	2	6
Victoria 4&4½ " ...	47,308	12	6
Jamaica 5 " ...	3,800	0	0
	218,027	17	6
Cash in Colonial Bank ...	451,933	12	8
Cash in hand ...	17,934	0	2½
	11	1	0
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>£469,878</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10½</b>

**JAMAICA.** The deposits during the year amounted to £228,831 8s. 8½*d.*,  
1897-8. and the withdrawals to £229,773 11s. 5½*d.*

The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £15,984 19s. 7*d.*, while the revenue realised £17,307 9s. 4*d.*, leaving a net profit of £1,322 9s. 9*d.* on the year's transactions.

The revenue compared with the preceding year shows an increase of £296 9s. 2*d.*

#### TRADE.

The depression in the trade commented on in last year's report continued during 1897-98.

Compared with 1896-97 exports were £1,448,443 as against £1,470,241, and imports for home consumption £1,674,381 as against £1,864,612, a decline of £190,231. Exports will be seen to have been almost stationary in value, while imports have considerably decreased. There has been no appreciable increase in the products for home consumption, returns of rum duties, stock on pens, acreage under cultivation, &c., showing decreases generally, while, except in Kingston, where the construction of the Improvement Works on certain streets and sewers continued, there were few works affording continuous remunerative employment for artisans and labourers.

The following table shows the exports and imports for ten years :—

YEAR.	EXPORTS.				IMPORTS.			
	Home Products and Manufactures.	British and Foreign Products and Manufactures.	Coin and Bullion.	Total Exports.	Home Consumption.	Coin and Bullion.	Total for Home and Specie.	Total Imports.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
(a) 1887-88 ... ..	1,661,601	17,668	149,321	1,828,590	1,586,129	145,986	1,732,115	1,695,607
(a) 1888-89 ... ..	1,501,660	15,942	97,222	1,614,824	1,501,905	61,017	1,562,922	1,597,600
Half-year 1890 ... ..	883,965	8,094	40,483	932,546	899,001	30,415	929,416	938,153
(b) 1890-91 ... ..	1,807,084	15,290	80,440	1,902,814	2,089,836	63,343	2,153,180	2,190,746
1891-92 ... ..	1,628,777	32,109	61,210	1,722,096	1,756,150	6,849	1,762,999	1,759,890
1892-93 ... ..	1,690,637	18,944	50,226	1,759,807	1,917,278	11,279	1,928,557	1,941,482
1893-94 ... ..	1,982,596	17,342	75,751	2,075,689	2,095,037	41,076	2,136,113	2,157,795
1894-95 ... ..	1,848,877	14,700	57,844	1,921,422	2,162,188	28,525	2,190,712	2,191,745
1895-96 ... ..	1,775,016	9,553	88,537	1,873,105	2,237,787	17,850	2,255,637	2,288,946
1896-97 ... ..	1,384,278	16,411	69,552	1,470,241	1,836,849	27,763	1,864,612	1,856,378
1897-98 ... ..	1,377,826	20,246	50,371	1,448,443	1,658,632	15,749	1,674,381	1,660,668
(c) Average of ten years	1,665,835·2	17,820·5	78,047·4	1,761,703 1	1,884,179·1	41,943·7	1,926,122·8	1,934,085·7

(a) Year commenced 1st October. (b) Year has commenced on 1st April since 1890. (c) Excluding half year ended 31st March 1890.

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The considerable decrease in wealth in the last two years is apparent when increase of population is taken into account. Thus in 1887-88 the estimated mean population was 613,376, exports £1,828,590 or £1,679,269 if we exclude specie, which was taken away and imported in large quantities until the exodus to Colon came to an end. £1,679,269 divided amongst that number of persons would be £2 14s. 9d. per head. Imports for home consumption (excluding specie) were £1,586,129, or £2 11s. 8½d. per head. In 1897-98 the estimated mean population was 713,384, exports (including specie) £1,377,826, or £1 13s. 3½d. per head, and imports for home consumption (excluding specie) £1,658,632, or £2 4s. 7½d. per head.

In a tropical climate, blest in most districts with abundant rainfall and a fairly productive soil, such a temporary check to prosperity does not imply destitution except in a few isolated instances, as fruit, pulse, and ground provisions can be raised with comparatively little trouble. The pinch too is felt far less by the peasantry than by artisans and traders, and the professional classes. At the same time progress is greatly retarded, and great effort is needed to keep up the necessary competition with other countries for which the initiation of new enterprises, fostering of new products, and opening new markets is requisite, owing to the check to the cultivation of staples induced by low prices, and heavy duties at American ports. There is, however, no surplus in private hands with which to initiate new enterprises. Indeed the greater withdrawals from, than deposits in, Savings Banks of late years is one indication that the people generally are drawing on their reserve funds to meet present necessities.

The Collector-General reports that, owing to low prices in 1896-97 and in 1897-98, the Colony has lost about one-fourth of its former income from exports alone, and that the prices of produce continue flat and irresponsive with no sure indications of an immediate revival of trade. The only substantial increase compared with the past year has been in bananas and some minor products, especially cocoa, while former staples, such as coffee, rum, sugar, and logwood continue on the down grade.

The quantities and prices of the principal products during the past ten years are given in the annexed table :—

				*										
				1887-88.	1888-89.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	
Sugar	...	...	cwt.	490,480 <i>11s. 0d.</i>	323,238 <i>15s. 1½d.</i>	377,901 <i>12s. 6d.</i>	425,793 <i>12s.</i>	371,821 <i>13s.</i>	410,537 <i>13s. 0d.</i>	398,683 <i>12s.</i>	390,918 <i>10s.</i>	321,468 <i>9s. 3d.</i>	284,375 <i>8s. 6d.</i>	
Rum	...	...	gal.	1,868,490 <i>2s. 2d.</i>	1,374,931 <i>2s.</i>	1,593,584 <i>2s. 0d.</i>	1,704,919 <i>3s.</i>	1,698,272 <i>2s. 3d.</i>	1,461,220 <i>2s.</i>	1,956,291 <i>1s. 11d.</i>	1,881,145 <i>1s. 9d.</i>	1,642,819 <i>1s. 6d.</i>	1,379,278 <i>1s. 4d.</i>	
Coffee	...	...	cwt.	98,963 <i>65s.</i>	84,606 <i>60s.</i>	75,680 <i>75s.</i>	84,926 <i>77s. 6d.</i>	97,304 <i>70s.</i>	88,293 <i>77s. 6d.</i>	95,129 <i>75s.</i>	84,392 <i>67s. 0d.</i>	66,614 <i>63s. 4d.</i>	85,410 <i>38s. 9d.</i>	
Dyewoods	}	Logwood	...	tons	101,901 <i>60s. 4d.</i>	115,454 <i>65s.</i>	109,283 <i>70s.</i>	86,675 <i>70s.</i>	92,622 <i>72s. 0d.</i>	89,736 <i>100s.</i>	76,333 <i>90s.</i>	84,478 <i>85s.</i>	43,084 <i>75s.</i>	42,600 <i>55s. 6d.</i>
		Fustic	...	"	2,463 <i>60s.</i>	793 <i>54s.</i>	950 <i>55s.</i>	677 <i>60s.</i>	6,461 <i>65s.</i>	9,333 <i>70s.</i>	1,833 <i>60s.</i>	1,093 <i>60s.</i>	2,779 <i>60s.</i>	4,611 <i>48s. 3d.</i>
Ginger	...	...	cwt.	10,222 <i>38s.</i>	8,952 <i>41s. 7d.</i>	10,886 <i>45s.</i>	16,273 <i>50s.</i>	13,632 <i>40s.</i>	14,931 <i>60s.</i>	15,504 <i>57s. 6d.</i>	17,505 <i>57s. 6d.</i>	11,014 <i>60s.</i>	12,573 <i>55s. 6d.</i>	
Pimento	...	...	"	66,559 <i>13s. 5d.</i>	46,180 <i>27s. 2d.</i>	90,363 <i>18s.</i>	63,730 <i>10s.</i>	69,747 <i>17s.</i>	87,756 <i>17s. 0d.</i>	83,956 <i>20s.</i>	97,347 <i>18s. 6d.</i>	99,551 <i>15s. 6d.</i>	38,828 <i>27s. 5d.</i>	
Cocoanuts	...	...	No.	5,909,301	4,831,615	8,554,618	5,555,655	6,978,988	9,171,347	10,143,500	9,443,452	11,862,224	11,533,726	
			Price per M.	70s.	63s.	65s.	63s.	70s.	75s.	72s. 6d.	80s.	60s.	69s.	
Other Fruit	...	...	value £	337,403	304,941	503,537	247,800	375,860	493,248	479,352	493,722	468,819	590,365	
Bananas	...	...	per bunch	<i>1s. 7½d.</i>	<i>1s. 9d.</i>	<i>1s. 10d.</i>	<i>1s. 0d.</i>	<i>1s. 7½d.</i>	<i>1s. 10d.</i>	<i>1s. 9½d.</i>	<i>1s. 0d.</i>	<i>1s. 3d.</i>	<i>1s. 3½d.</i>	
Oranges	...	...	price per M.	<i>27s.</i>	<i>29s.</i>	<i>28s.</i>	<i>24s.</i>	<i>30s.</i>	<i>30s.</i>	<i>32s. 8d.</i>	<i>35s.</i>	<i>30s.</i>	<i>30s. 7d.</i>	

Average price of each article stated in *italics* under quantity: thus *11s. 0d.* under Sugar for 1887-88 is that rate per cwt.

• Half-year, 1889-90, omitted.

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These figures indicate the general lowering of prices within the past 4 or 5 years on the older staples, particularly within the last two, when the depreciation was most marked on coffee and logwood. Sales of these articles, which are dealt in to a great extent by the yeoman and small trader, afford to many the wherewithal for purchasing articles of clothing, and paying taxes and church dues, and the unremunerative prices obtained on them have led to poverty, though not to any large extent to destitution, in the districts where they are staples. Coffee is especially a small settler's crop; of the total area under coffee, which amounts to 22,387 acres, more than 20,000 are in lots of under 50 acres each, and parishes, such as Manchester, where it is largely cultivated have felt the pinch severely. On the other hand, bananas though lowered in price give so excellent a yield, compared to the labour employed and cost of production, that the two parishes, Portland and St. Mary, where they are cultivated most have remained fairly prosperous.

The following are the figures for the two years of total exports :—

—	1896-97.	1897-98.	Increase.	Decrease.
I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	1,146,687	1,186,743	40,056	—
II. Raw materials... ..	215,757	172,846	—	42,911
III. Manufactured articles ..	38,245	38,483	238	—
IV. Coin and bullion ...	69,552	50,371	—	19,181
Total ... ..	1,470,241	1,448,443	40,294	62,092
Net decrease ...	—	—	—	21,798

The net decrease in 1896-97 was £402,864.

In 1897-98 a year of favourable seasons (while 1896-97 was one of drought in many districts), there would undoubtedly have been an increase instead of a small decrease but for the lower prices, as shown in the statement of products.

The following table shows increases or decreases on products with an exportable value in both years of over £10,000 :—

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Article of Export.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity Increase.	Value Increase.	Percentage Increase Quantity.	Percentage Increase Value.	Price.
			<i>Increased Quantities and Values over 1806-97.</i>				
Bananas ...	Bunches. 6,981,858	£ 445,866	Bunches. 2,143,213	£ 143,451	+ 44.3	+ 47.4	1s. 3½d. per bunch, 1s. 3d. 1896-97.
Cocoa ...	Cwt. 16,016	37,435	Cwt. 6,838	22,139	+ 74.5	+ 144.7	46s. 7d. " cwt., 33s. 4d. "
Ginger ...	" 12,573	34,884	" 1,559	1,843	+ 14.2	+ 5.6	55s. 6d. " " 60s. "
			<i>Decreased Quantity, Increased Value.</i>				
Cocoanuts ...	Number. 11,533,726	39,648	Decrease number. 268,498	4,242	Decrease quantity. — 2.3	+ 12.0	68s. 9d. " M., 60s. "
			<i>Increased Quantity, Decreased Value.</i>				
Coffee ...	Cwt. 85,410	165,494	Increase cwt. 18,796	Decrease. 45,452	+ 28.2	Decrease. — 21.5	38s. 9d. " cwt., 63s. 4d. "
			<i>Decreased Quantities and Values.</i>				
Rum ...	Gallons. 1,379,278	92,053	Decrease gals. 263,541	Decrease. 31,158	— 16.0	Decrease. — 25.3	1s. 4d. " gallon, 1s. 6d. "
Sugar ...	Cwt. 234,375	120,959	Decrease cwt. 37,093	Decrease. 27,720	— 11.5	Decrease. — 18.6	8s. 6d. " cwt., 9s. 3d. "
Oranges...	Number. 88,013,091	134,674	Decrease number. 15,689,684	20,880	— 15.1	— 13.4	30s. 7d. " M., 30s. "
Pimento ...	Cwt. 38,823	52,943	Cwt. 60,723	24,209	— 61.1	— 31.4	27s. 3d. " cwt., 15s. 6d. "
Logwood ...	Tons. 42,600	118,215	483	43,350	— 1.1	— 26.8	55s. 6d. " ton, 75s. "
Logwood Extract	Cwt. 21,001	20,984	—	6,511	—	— 23.8	20s. " cwt., quantity for 1896-97 not shown.

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The increases in value on bananas, cocoa, ginger and cocoanuts amount together to £171,675, the decreases on the other 7 articles yielding over £10,000 during both years to £199,310, a net decrease of £27,635. These 11 articles represent a value of £1,263,155 out of £1,377,826 for home products and manufactures in 1897-98, leaving £114,671 for about 60 other articles under that head; in 1896-97 they represented £1,290,792 out of £1,384,278, leaving £93,486 for these other articles, the increase for 1897-98 being £21,185. Add the increase £28,223 for cocoa, cocoanuts, and ginger, usually classed among minor products, and we get £49,408 increase. Add £143,451 for bananas making £192,859, and it is evident that exportation of this fruit, and of minor products, saved the Colony from a grave loss of income. Bananas increased by 47·4 per cent. value, and all minor products, including cocoa, cocoanuts and ginger by 27·9 per cent. during the year.

Of all the exported articles cocoa showed the most remarkable percentage increase, viz., from £15,297 to £37,435, or by 144·7 per cent.

Minor products, besides cocoa, cocoanuts, and ginger, showing substantial increases in quantity and value, were honey and beeswax, cigars, fustic, bitterwood, and annatto, together £20,812. Against this set lancewood spars 21,613 less in number and £6,975 in value. The demand for spars is limited, and the number (45,223) and value (£13,567) for 1896-97 were abnormal.

The average prices, which are now given for the first time in comparison with the quantities, have, it will be seen, declined within the last few years, especially within the last two, on nearly every staple, and markedly so on rum, sugar, coffee, and the dyewoods—logwood and fustic. Bananas have decreased in value, but considerably increased in quantity, demand being great and the cost of production very moderate. The price of oranges keeps a fair value, and would improve if greater care were exercised in selection and packing. The price of ginger has improved. In 1897-98 pimento realised a very high price, owing to the failure of the crop; this berry being an exportable product in Jamaica only, as trees grown in other countries do not possess spicy qualities.

The following table gives the percentage proportion of each product:—

—	1893-94	1894-95	1895-96	1896-97	1897-98
Sugar ... ..	14·2	12·9	11·0	10·1	8·3
Rum ... ..	7·4	10·1	9·3	8·4	6·3
Coffee ... ..	17·3	19·3	16·0	14·4	11·4
Dyewoods ... ..	24·3	19·0	20·4	11·6	8·9
Fruit ... ..	26·6	27·9	29·9	34·3	42·8
Pimento ... ..	3·8	4·5	5·1	5·2	3·6
Minor products ... ..	6·4	6·3	8·3	16·1	18·7



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This increase, however, has not compensated for the decrease on staples generally. A glance at the table of exports and imports from 1887-88 to 1897-98 shows that the highest figure was reached in 1893-94, when home products realised £1,982,596, decreasing thereafter year by year, particularly between 1895-96 and 1896-97, till in 1897-98 the figures stood at only £1,377,826, or 30.5 per cent. below those of 1893-94. In 1893-94 the estimated mean population was 667,554; in 1897-98 713,384, or 6.9 per cent. more. The country's income from exported home products and manufactures thus fell from about £2 18s. 7d. per caput to about £1 18s. 7d., a decline of about 34.1 per cent., or more than one third. In 1893-94 fruit realised £493,792 and minor products £160,170, together £653,962; in 1897-98 fruit gave £590,365 and minor products £226,674, together £817,039, a gain of £163,077. Sugar, rum, coffee, dyewoods, and pimento gave together in 1893-94 £1,328,634, *i.e.*, nearly as much as the total in 1897-98 of home products and manufactures. In that year these five old staples gave only £560,786, *i.e.*, less than fruit alone, a loss on the five of £767,848, or, deducting the gain £163,077 on fruit and minor products, a net loss of £604,771 on home products and manufactures. The loss on total exports during the period was £627,246, the difference as against home products only being chiefly due to a lesser shipment of coin and bullion in 1897-98.

It will be seen that the compensation from fruit and minor products is only between one-fourth and one-fifth of the loss on the older staples, and that the percentage comparison of the proportion of products one to another is highly fallacious, without reference also to the total values obtained on each and all exports. Thus minor products were 6.4 of the total in 1893-94 and 18.7 in 1897-98, but their value increased not by between 200 and 300 per cent. but by 41.5 per cent. It is evident also that owing to the influence of bounties and competition the income from the older staples is unlikely to be very greatly increased in the immediate future, and that such increase as takes place will probably be gradual, while fruit and minor products can hardly be expected to so increase in value as to fully compensate for stagnation in trade on the older staples, with an increasing population. The country will, therefore, probably not recover for some time to come the prosperity enjoyed during the period from, say, 1889 to 1893, when good prices were realized and foreign capital flowed into the country for railway extension. At the same time the steps now being taken to secure a fast steamship service with Europe and other local measures, such as the irrigation of lands in Vere, now receiving attention will, when carried into effect, undoubtedly afford an opportunity for a greatly increased export trade, add to the earning capacity of the Jamaica Railway, and tend to convert certain minor products into staples.

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The Island exports were distributed to the following countries during the last 5 years in the proportions set below :—

—	1893-4.	1894-5.	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.
United Kingdom ... ..	26·7	27·1	27·6	27·4	22·6
United States of America...	57·3	58·1	57·0	56·6	62·3
Dominion of Canada ... ..	1·7	1·5	1·6	1·2	1·3
Other countries ... ..	14·3	13·3	13·8	14·8	13·8

In 1891-92 the proportion for the United Kingdom was 32·7, United States 50·9, and Canada 3·5.

It is evident that the country is seeking the nearest market for its products. The States are likely to draw away more and more of our export trade from the British dominions as fruit becomes more and more the one great staple, unless this effect is neutralised by fast steam communication with England, where admission duty free, even with the disadvantage of greater freight dues and distance, would balance American protective duties. The decrease in exports to the United Kingdom is likely further to decrease with the decline in rum, coffee, and logwood. As to Canada, the proportion of trade with which has considerably declined, the Collector-General hopes her liberal tariff concessions, coupled with more frequent direct steam communication, will considerably improve this state of things in the immediate future.

Of foreign countries, France and Germany together took £113,713 worth of exports—France £82,211, chiefly in coffee and logwood; Germany £31,502, chiefly in cocoa, pimento, rum, logwood, and logwood extract. Of £10,325 realized on a variety of articles, £8,810 was for cattle.

Turning now to imports, the following figures indicate a general decrease compared with 1896-97, especially under manufactured articles:—

	1896-7.	1897-8.	Increase, 1897-8.	Decrease, 1897-8.	Percentage Increase, 1897-8.	Percentage Decrease, 1897-8.
I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	£ 759,419	£ 721,359	—	£ 38,060	—	— 4·6
II. Raw materials ... ..	49,778	65,427	15,649	—	+ 13·2	—
III. Manufactured articles ... ..	1,027,008	867,815	—	159,193	—	— 15·4
IV. Coin and bullion ... ..	28,407	15,749	—	12,658	—	— 44·6
Total ... ..	1,864,612	1,674,380	15,649	205,811	—	—
Net decrease ... ..	—	—	—	190,232	—	10·2

The previous year's imports showed a falling off of £391,025, and the rate of retrogression therefore was somewhat arrested during the year under review. In last year's report, it was remarked that there had been a remarkable increase in imports since 1890-91, the year of the Exhibition and of the beginning of the railway extension. This, and other important public undertakings, *e.g.*, new roads and bridges, led to the importation of materials for construction, and withdrew a large number of people from cultivation, who used a greater proportion of imported foods than when at their homesteads, and having ready money to dispose of, bought more manufactured articles. Public undertakings being at a standstill generally, except in and about Kingston, where street and sewerage works are being completed, imports tend to balance exports.

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The decreases on imports with a total value of over £50,000, are as follows :—

—	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity Decrease.	Value Decrease.	Percentage Decrease Quantity.	Percentage Decrease Value.
Alcoholic liquors ... ..	Gallons. 230,100	£ 52,871	Gallons. 72,589	£ 14,207	— 24·0	— 21·2
Fish, dried or salted ... ..	lbs. 13,284,564	116,240	lbs. 954,417	5,681	— 6·7	— 4·7
Cottons, including hosiery ... ..	—	218,854	--	28,577	—	— 11·5
<i>Increases on such Imports in Value, Decrease in Quantity.</i>						
Flour, wheat ... ..	barrels. 147,615	162,378	Decrease barrels. 20,304	Value increase. 7,053	— 12·1	Increase. + 4·5
<i>Increase Quantity and Value.</i>						
Coals ... ..	tons. 56,628	56,628	Increase tons. 15,320	Increase value. 15,320	Increase. + 37·1	+ 37·1

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Importations for the Public Service, Army and Navy, are not included in this computation. Apparel and slops fell from £66,533 to £45,239 ; boots and shoes of leather from £56,091 to £45,190 ; lumber (pine) from £55,871 to £37,374.

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Haberdashery and hardware also show large decreases. Increases in quantity and value besides those tabulated occurred in butter substitutes, meal, alewives. Condensed milk showed an increase in quantity with a cheapening in value. The few manufactured articles showing substantial increases were those in use for public undertakings, such as electric lighting, telegraphic and telephonic appliances, cement, &c. Textile manufactures show decreases generally, but the Collector-General points out that a considerable percentage of the decrease in value should be attributed to fall of price in manufacturing centres, especially in the case of cottons, the prices of which have probably decreased by one-half within the last 20 years, and by a considerable percentage within the last five years.

The following table shows how the import trade was distributed in each of the last five years, viz. :—

—	1893-4.	1894-5.	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.
United Kingdom ... ..	55.1	50.4	48.1	49.9	47.2
United States of America ...	33.2	36.6	41.8	39.4	43.0
Canada ... ..	8.8	8.5	7.5	8.2	7.1
Other countries ... ..	2.9	4.3	2.6	2.5	2.7

As in exports, trade has lessened with the United Kingdom and increased with the United States. Last year the tendency was accentuated owing to a greater decline on importations of manufactured articles and drinks than on food supplies.

POLICE.

The allowed strength of the police during the year was 853 against 852 in 1896-97, the actual strength 850 against 849. The number 850 is made up of 20 officers, 134 sub-officers, and 696 constables. One sub-officer, a sergeant-major, formerly in the Irish Constabulary, was promoted to be a sub-inspector.

To the 850 members of the regular force must be added 949 rural headmen and policemen, together 1,799 men engaged in police duties, against 1,786 in 1897. 72 constables were enlisted during the year, and 77 rural headmen and policemen appointed. 49 constables were discharged, 30 of them with pensions or

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gratuities, 16 were dismissed, and one deserted, while 6 died: 83 of the rural police force were "removed," which is tantamount to dismissal in the regular force.

The Inspector-General reports very favourably on the conduct of officers, sub-officers, and men generally during the year.

The rural police are chiefly employed in assisting to detect and to bring to notice cases of praedial larceny, and illegal possession of rum, of children needing medical treatment for yaws, or persons requiring to be vaccinated.

The rural headmen receive £1 per month, and the rural policemen, of whom there are three to four per headman, receive one shilling and sixpence a day when called out on duty.

The principal duties, outside of patrolling and attendance at courts, performed by the constabulary during the past five years were as follows:—

	1893-4.	1894-5.	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.
No. of persons arrested on view and on information.	8,237	7,781	8,775	8,351	7,330
No. of persons apprehended on warrants.	—	—	—	1,780	1,629
No. of search warrants executed.	122	150	151	142	148
No. of persons summoned ...	19,212	19,249	20,279	19,537	17,785
"    "    subpœnaed ...	29,808	30,673	31,058	27,161	27,161
"    prisoners escorted ...	8,599	8,224	9,911	11,542	12,081
"    seizures under revenue laws.	399	437	649	309	854
No. of post-mortems ordered	594	603	610	641	703

Compared with last year this table shows considerable decreases in arrests and apprehensions taken together and in summonses, and increases, though not so numerically large, in cases of prisoners escorted and of seizures under revenue laws. The number under the latter head, compared with the preceding years, is remarkable. Offences of illegal possession of rum &c. had become very numerous, and their detection has been stimulated by the grant of a larger number than usual of rewards to the constabulary and rural policemen in cases detected by them which have resulted in conviction.

The more important statistics of crime during the past five years are as follows:—

	APPREHENSIONS.					CONVICTIONS.				
	1893-4.	1894-5.	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.	1893-4.	1894-5.	1895-6.	1896-7.	1897-8.
I. Offences against the person ... ..	7,232	7,302	7,040	6,653	6,500	3,375	3,219	3,309	3,140	3,008
II. Offences against property committed with violence.	251	325	429	394	350	162	184	245	264	229
III. Offences against property committed without violence.	4,071	4,079	5,004	5,700	5,488	2,154	1,914	2,586	3,021	2,995
IV. Malicious offences against property ...	179	182	137	169	162	43	53	5	43	39
V. Forgery and offences against the currency.	27	39	48	25	25	13	14	29	9	8
VI. Other offences ... ..	16,281	15,513	16,477	16,201	14,329	10,741	9,569	10,473	10,188	8,969
Total ... ..	28,041	27,441	29,135	29,142	26,854	16,488	14,952	16,699	16,665	15,248
I. Murder, including infanticide ... ..	13	10	12	16	13	5	3	5	1	7
Manslaughter ... ..	10	3	20	17	12	1	1	16	5	4
Cutting and wounding ... ..	684	694	847	835	861	439	269	302	449	476
Common assault ... ..	5,753	5,760	5,326	4,928	4,688	2,479	2,465	2,547	2,238	2,029
II. Burglary and housebreaking ... ..	227	277	417	375	339	156	166	239	253	224
III. Simple larceny ... ..	1,650	1,773	2,017	2,264	2,143	852	748	914	1,073	1,013
Prædial larceny ... ..	1,168	1,019	1,560	2,171	2,147	617	512	889	1,277	1,309
IV. Arson ... ..	32	291	18	29	29	5	6	1	3	5
V. Disorderly conduct: ... ..	4,063	4,047	4,728	5,097	4,098	3,098	2,978	3,474	3,658	2,826
Obscene and abusive language ... ..	4,247	4,367	3,805	3,585	2,869	2,452	2,379	2,058	2,035	1,584
Trespass ... ..	825	940	911	973	883	436	449	467	482	471

2006\*—5

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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JAMAICA.  
1897-8.

907

**JAMAICA.**  
1897-8.

In the report for last year under this head attention is called to a general increase in cases of crime for the five years ended 1896-97, which was counterbalanced, however, by a greater proportional increase in population. It is satisfactory to note from the preceding table that the year 1897-98 shows with the normal increase in population a decided decrease in crime. The apprehensions were lower than in any of the four preceding years, the convictions than in any of them except 1894-95. Compared with 1896-97 each of the six heads of crime shows a decrease both of apprehensions and convictions, except for forgery, apprehensions for which were the same. Turning to the eleven descriptions of crime given in the table, which comprise between them about two-thirds of the total number of crimes, there are decreases under all the apprehensions except for "Cutting and Wounding," and under most of the convictions. While cases under this head have increased, none of them were of a very serious nature, the weapons used being almost invariably sticks and stones. It appears that the tendency to use knives, referred to in last year's report as noticeable since the exodus to and repatriation from the Isthmus of Panama, is passing away. The relations between the people and the police were, the Inspector-General states, generally satisfactory, and it is pleasing to note that Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated by thousands in each parish without disorder—indeed, in some of the parishes not an arrest was made during the celebrations.

#### PRISONS.

The following return shows the daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past five years, and the number on the last day of each year :—

Year.	Daily average number in custody.	Number on 31st March.
1893-94 ... ..	1,008	943
1894-95 ... ..	916	957
1895-96 ... ..	1,008	1,094
1896-97 ... ..	1,159	1,149
1897-98 ... ..	1,172	1,049



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Other important statistics of the Department for the years 1896-97 and 1897-98 are given below :—

JAMAICA.  
1897-8.

	Year ended 31st March.	
	1897.	1898.
Commitments—		
To prison ... ..	4,748	4,998
To Lock-ups ... ..	930	987
Total ... ..	5,678	5,985
Reconvictions ... ..	1,976	2,076
Deaths—		
General Penitentiary ...	12	28
Other prisons ... ..	23	12
Total ... ..	35	40
Executions ... ..	1	3

FINANCIAL.

	Year ended 31st March.	
	1897.	1898.
Gross expenditure ... ..	£ 21,285 11 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 20,884 11 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gross earnings in cash ... ..	4,796 15 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5,939 19 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Net cost of maintaining prisons ...	16,488 15 10	14,944 12 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cost per prisoner ... ..	14 4 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 15 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Estimated value of labour yielding no return.	8,550 9 4	5,577 0 4
Estimated value of bricklaying work and stone quarried (General Penitentiary).	3,789 2 2	3,507 11 11
Washing and repairing (General Penitentiary).	1,151 19 5	1,085 4 11

JAMAICA  
1897-8

It will be seen from the first returns that there has been an increase of late years in the daily average number of prisoners in custody. There has also been an increase of committals, the number for the year under review being greater than that of 1896-97 by 307, 1895-96 by 871, 1894-95 by 1,756.

The large mortality both at the General Penitentiary and other prisons is attributable to an outbreak of typhoid fever at the Penitentiary, and of dysentery at the St. Catherine's District Prison.

The outbreak at the Penitentiary lasted for nearly three months. There were also an unusual number of cases of malarial fever and of influenza.

The epidemic of dysentery at the St. Catherine's District Prison was very protracted, and it became necessary, in order to stamp out the disease, to largely reduce the number of prisoners during part of the year, and to transfer inmates from time to time to other prisons until the complaint had disappeared.

At both institutions various sanitary improvements were effected with a view to prevent further similar outbreaks, and these have so far proved successful. The defects in the systems for disposing of sewerage have been removed, and Berkfield filters for filtering the drinking water have been introduced.

The Black River short term prison, which had been closed in 1895, was re-opened from August to December 1897 to provide accommodation for prisoners who could not be received at the St. Catherine's District Prison during the occurrence of dysentery there. The district prison at Lucea and the short term prison at Port Antonio were closed on the 28th February 1898. It had been found that discipline was not so well maintained in these smaller prisons, and that some ultimate saving in expenditure for supervision, &c. could be effected by transferring the prisoners to the St. Catherine's District Prison (the enlargement of which for the purpose is now approaching completion), except in the case of prisoners with very short sentences, who are sent to the lock-ups of the several parishes.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Island on the 31st March last was estimated at 718,367, the net increase during the year being 11,973, or an increase at the rate of 16·8 per 1,000 persons living as against an increase at the rate of 16·6 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The mean population for the year 1897-98 is estimated at 713,384, and the rates for the year are calculated on that basis.

The average annual increase of population for the last six years has been about 11,500.

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The number of marriages during the year was 2,661, equal to a rate of 3·7 per 1,000, as compared with 3,026 marriages or a rate of 4·3 per 1,000 in the previous year. This shows a serious falling off, to the extent of 365, in the number of marriages solemnized during the year under review. In fact the number of marriages has, year by year, decreased to a considerable extent since 1893-4.

JAMAICA.  
1897-8.

Of the 5,322 persons married during the year, 2,510 or 47·16 per cent. signed the marriage registers by making their marks, as against 47·83 per cent. in the previous year. This slight decrease, however, is probably due to a falling off in the number of marriages amongst the poor and illiterate class, and is not a sign of better education.

The proportion of females who signed the registers during the year was greater than that of the males, showing that the former are still more skilled in writing than the latter.

The number of births registered during the year was 28,447, or a rate of 39·8 per 1,000, as compared with 27,064, or 38·5 per 1,000—an excess of 1,383 births over the previous year.

Of these births 17,729 were illegitimate, or a rate of 62·3 per cent., as against a rate of 61·1 in the previous year. This is the highest point that the number of illegitimate births has yet reached in this Island.

The deaths registered during the year numbered 16,474, or a rate of 23 per 1,000, as against 15,535 or 22·1 per 1,000 in the previous year.

Of the total number of deaths 5,047, or 30·6 per cent., were those of children under one year of age, while 7,389, or 44·8 per cent., were children under five years of age. The heaviest mortality as usual was amongst children of illegitimate birth.

Of the 16,474 deaths registered in the year 12,445, or 75·5 per cent., were registered without medical certificate as to the cause of death.

#### CAYMAN ISLANDS.

##### *Grand Cayman.*

The number of births at Grand Cayman during the year was 149, or 40 per 1,000 of population, of which 17 or 11·4 per cent. were illegitimate.

The number of deaths was 46, or 12·3 per 1,000 of population.

There were 23 marriages solemnized during the year, or a rate of 6·1 per 1,000.

JAMAICA.  
1897-8.

*Cayman Brac.*

The number of births was 37, of which 4 were illegitimate, and the number of deaths was 6.

Seven marriages were solemnized during the year.

GENERAL.

The serious decline in the income of the community, due principally to low prices, which characterised the year 1896-97 continued during the year under review as the preceding heads of the report clearly indicate. The decline was far less marked, as for instance the value of exports almost realised the figure for 1896-97, but the resources of the people were already to some extent exhausted on account of the unremunerative prices of their products, and the acuteness of the depression was felt to a greater extent than in that year. At the time I write there is good reason to hope that the better prices now being realised for sugar and some other staples, which had shown a very retrograde tendency of late, will result before long in an appreciable if not a very considerable increase in the spending power of the community, and I am happy to be able to report that the depression in trade seems to have passed through its worst stages.

General depression in the West Indies led to the appointment of a Royal Commission of Enquiry. The Commissioners arrived in this Colony on the 28th March, 1897, and left on April 14th. Their report regarding Jamaica indicates that this Island has in their opinion greater natural resources than most of the West Indies, in variety of soil and climate, and greater proximity to the American market, and the Commissioners saw no ground for despondency as to the future of the Colony.

The administration has made strenuous efforts to cope with the problem presented by a deficit in public revenue due to the depression. A committee of enquiry was appointed towards the end of 1897, but further reductions than those recommended by them were found necessary, and a second committee was appointed shortly after the close of the financial year.

Notwithstanding the efforts made to lower general expenditure, which was £36,800 less than in 1896-97, a deficit of £86,913 was left at the close of the year. The present upward tendency of trade and the stringent public economies in progress will probably result in an improvement in the revenues for the succeeding year.

In the latter part of the calendar year 1897, an epidemic of yellow fever broke out and spread from Kingston to several other parishes. The disease was more virulent than is usual in this Colony, not only in the number of cases, but in the percentage of deaths. The coloured and black population who are usually almost immune to the disease were attacked as well as the whites, though the percentage of deaths among them, was far less than

913

among the latter. Stringent measures were adopted to check the progress of the disease, and by February, 1898, it had disappeared. In one respect the epidemic was beneficial, as it has led to the adoption by the municipalities of improved sanitary measures.

JAMAICA.  
1897-8.

Various public improvements were initiated during the year in the Colony or in connection with it. The Direct West India Cable Company connected the Colony with Bermuda and Halifax.

Some new lines of steamers commenced to run; the Boston Fruit Company considerably increased its carrying capacity; the Street Car Company of Kingston and its neighbourhood, whose cars were drawn by mules, gave place to the West India Electric Company, which was granted a license during the year for an electric tramway service to be extended in new directions. The Company commenced their works during the year. The general sewerage works of Kingston were practically completed, and considerable progress made with the house connections. Few local industries were started, but the establishment of two dairy associations in the neighbourhood of Kingston, where the milk supply had hitherto been principally in the hands of hawkers and small vendors; the formation of new branches of the Jamaica Agricultural Society which now numbers among its members almost every influential and energetic agriculturist in the Colony, and numbers of smaller cultivators; the importation of better breeds of cattle, stock and poultry; and the increased interest taken by the peasantry in the lectures given by a Superintendent of the Botanical Department, are all indications that the pressure of harder times has led the community to realise more than was previously the case the necessity for a thorough knowledge and practice of improved methods of culture, stock raising, and disposal of products.

The local celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession were carried out with great enthusiasm throughout the Island, and the greatest order prevailed. The community generally has always been characterised by its loyalty to the Throne and Government.

A. W. L. HEMMING,

*Governor of Jamaica.*

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 253.

LABUAN.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 221.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

December, 1898.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
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1898.

[C.—9046-21.] Price ½d.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

## No. 253.

## LABUAN.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 221.)

GOVERNOR BEAUFORT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Labuan,

September 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Labuan Blue Book for the year 1897.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total amount collected was \$55,702.51, while the total expenditure was \$49,146.68, showing a surplus of \$6,556.

The following table shows the principal sources of revenue and the increase or decrease from the same source in 1896, cents being omitted :—

Source.	Received in 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
Land Revenue ... ..	\$ 2,247	\$ —	\$ 313
Rents, exclusive of land ...	4,785	75	—
Licenses (opium &c.) ... ..	29,499	—	331
Customs ... ..	3,024	920	—
Postal and Inland Revenue ...	7,059	1,427	—
Port and Harbour Dues ... ..	1,970	331	—
Fines and Fees ... ..	2,247	—	941

The revenue exceeded that of 1896 by about \$700.

Under Expenditure, pensions have increased by \$1,366 owing chiefly to difference in exchange. There is a decrease under Public Works and an increase under General Upkeep.

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LABUAN,  
1897.

#### CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The service and the public sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. F. O. Maxwell, the Acting Resident. He was obliged to take leave on account of ill health, and died while absent from the Colony in August. Mr. G. Hewett was appointed Acting Resident.

#### CHURCHES.

No church has yet been built to replace that burnt down in 1889.

The school house is used as a chapel. The bishop visits Labuan once a year generally. There is no chaplain.

#### EDUCATION.

The small school in Victoria built by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was conducted, under the direction of the bishop and the Sandakan chaplain, by a Chinese schoolmaster, but owing to his resignation the school was closed in August. It will be re-opened under an Eurasian master.

The average daily attendance is about seven boys, no girls. The British North Borneo Company contributes \$200 per annum to the pay of the schoolmaster.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

At the request of Officers Commanding H.M. ships, the rifle range was improved by the construction of better butts and mantlets with a rail running between, by which targets can be run in and out for two firing parties. The range was used during the year, and is most conveniently situated for the fleet, being on the beach within a quarter of a mile of the anchorage. It is perfectly flat and is used up to 1,000 yards.

The long bridge over the swamp at the back of the town was completely renewed: it is 400 feet in length.

#### LEGISLATION.

The only proclamations of the year were those prohibiting the export of arms and ammunition to Netherlands, India, North Borneo, and Brunei, that relating to neutrality published on account of the war between Turkey and Greece, and that suspending the collection of the duty on salt after the end of the year. Ordinances were also published relating to the duties on spirituous and fermented liquors and wine, and tobacco. The trade in these had been a monopoly which had been sold each year. By the new laws these trades were thrown open, and an import duty was put on spirits, &c., and tobacco. This duty may be collected by the Government, or the collection may be farmed.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

5

The tobacco duty was collected by the Government, while the duties on spirits, &c. were leased for the year. Formerly only one person could import or sell spirits or tobacco ; now anyone can do so on payment of the duty and fees.

LABUAN,  
1897.

TRADE.

There was a large increase in the value of imports and exports as compared with 1896, the total value being :—

	1896.	1897.	Increase
Imports ... ..	\$ 707,749	\$ 884,833	\$ 177,084
Exports ... ..	593,933	653,688	59 755

In imports the principal increases are mostly under foods, drinks, and narcotics. Under raw materials there are also large increases, notably squared timber, gutta-percha, rattans, beeswax, raw and prepared sago ; there are decreases under india-rubber, gum damar and hides.

In exports, raw materials have nearly doubled. Coal has been shipped to the amount of 43,891 tons, against 52,071 tons in 1896, the price of coal averaging from \$6 to \$8 at the end of the year.

SHIPPING.

Comparative statement for the periods 1895, 1896, and 1897 :—

Year.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
1895 ... ..	135	70,367
1896 ... ..	183	128,109
1897 ... ..	235	162,108
Increase over 1896 ...	52	33,999

The number of steamers calling in for bunker coal has materially increased, but the production from the mines of the New Central Borneo Company has slightly decreased, the latter this year amounting to 45,120 tons, against 46,449 tons in 1896.

LABUAN,  
1897

\* GAOLS AND CRIME.

There was a temporary strike amongst the Chinese stevedores, owing to the action of some of the headmen, but the stoppage of work only lasted about three days. The cases reported to the police numbered 54 as against 53 in 1896, the daily average of prisoners being 21·87 against 8·36 in the preceding year. The increased number is owing to convicts being sent from North Borneo to assist in public works, upkeep and repairs, for which native labour was not available.

HOSPITALS.

341 male patients were admitted during the year and 2 females. Of these 241 were cured, 19 relieved, 22 absconded, and 60 died, the balance remaining in hospital at end of year. There was no epidemic disease during the year.

POSTAL.

44,917 letters and cards and 18,613 newspapers passed through the post office, as against 33,119 letters and 18,642 newspapers in 1896. Stamps were sold to the value of \$8,881.37 compared with \$8,043.55 in 1896, the difference being occasioned by the increase in the postal traffic. The value of orders issued and paid was \$16,568.28 against \$12,531 in the preceding year.

GENERAL.

Her Majesty's Jubilee was held on the 22nd and 23rd of June. His Highness the Rajah of Sarawak visited Labuan on the 2nd July. An earthquake, on the 21st September, caused an upheaval between Labuan and the mainland. A mud island was formed, with exhalations of gas. The shock was felt only in certain localities.

The following of Her Majesty's ships visited the Colony during the year :—

April 1st	...	...	H.M.S. "Rainbow."
" 22nd	...	...	" "Pique."
May 3rd	...	...	" "Pigmy."
" 25th	...	...	" "Iphigenia."
December 31st	...	...	" "Plover."

I have &c.,

LEICESTER P. BEAUFORT,

*Governor of Labuan and*

*British North Borneo.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 232.

LAGOS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 219.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

*August* 1898.

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### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
204	Straits Settlements ... ..	1895
205	Do. do. ... ..	1896
206	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
207	British Honduras ... ..	"
208	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
209	Grenada ... ..	"
210	Hong Kong , ... ..	"
211	St. Lucia ... ..	"
212	St. Vincent ... ..	"
213	St. Helena ... ..	"
214	Seychelles ... ..	"
215	Mauritius ... ..	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 232.

LAGOS.

(For Report for 1896, see No 219.)

LAGOS.  
1897

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ACTING-GOVERNOR DENTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Lagos,

23rd June, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1897, together with an interesting report on its contents by the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. I take this opportunity to reply to your despatch of the 21st April last, and I beg to inform you that the instructions contained in the second paragraph of that communication have been specially noted, and that every endeavour will be made to render the Blue Book and its report as soon after the close of the financial year as is found possible.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

*Acting-Governor.*

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REPORT ON BLUE BOOK, 1897.

REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony collected during the year 1897 amounted to £177,420, as against £179,745 in 1896. Taking all the circumstances into account it is impossible to regard this falling off as indicating any serious or permanent retrogression

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A 2

LAGOS.  
1897.

in the financial position of the Colony. The usual cry of "bad trade" has of course been raised, but under the exceptional conditions prevailing during the year the figures cannot be said to point to anything more than a temporary disturbance. The methods of trading forced (or supposed to be forced) on merchants, speculation, long credit, and advances to irresponsible natives, no doubt have something to do with it: the political disquietude owing to events in the Hinterland something more; and a dry season probably most of all.

#### EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure during the year under consideration amounted to £182,669, as against £168,445 in 1896, a special outlay of £12,205 in providing a new stern-wheel Government steam yacht being principally responsible for the increase, the "Margaret" having been condemned as unserviceable.

The excess of the Colony's assets over liabilities on December 31st amounted to £60,731.

#### SAVINGS BANK.

The Savings Bank established in 1886, under Government control, had a total of 716 depositors during the year, the amount to their credit on December 31st being £13,230.

The business of the bank is managed by the Treasurer of the Colony, and interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum is allowed on deposits.

It is satisfactory to note that the number of depositors is steadily on the increase, but it must be remembered that most natives of the Colony, especially the women, are born traders, and embark the whole of their available capital in business.

The Bank of British West Africa has a firmly established branch in the Colony, and is of the greatest assistance to the Government.

#### DEFENCES OF THE COLONY.

There is an armed force known as the Hausa Force, numbering about 844 officers and men of all ranks. This force is intended almost entirely for service up-country, where the endurance and marching powers of the men are of the greatest value. They are armed with Martini-Metford carbines, and the force possesses also five 7-pr. R.M.L. guns, four Maxim guns, two 3-barrel Nordenfelt, one Gatling gun, and four rocket troughs; there is also one 3-pr. quick-firing Nordenfelt on board the Colonial Government stern-wheel steamer "Maud." The total cost of maintenance during 1897 amounted to £23,069. The large

number of out-stations in the interior requiring to be supplied from head-quarters cause the numbers actually stationed in Lagos at any one time to be small, but since 1895, when the force was re-organized, police work is not required of them, all such duties being carried out very efficiently by the civil police. This young force is steadily improving year by year in discipline and activity, and the habitual criminal finds that his profession has to be carried on under increasingly difficult circumstances. It is composed of 382 officers and men of all ranks, and was maintained during the year at a total cost of £11,223. The men in addition to being taught police duties are regularly drilled and taught the use of the Snider rifle, with which they are armed.

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PUBLIC WORKS.

The railway, together with the bridges connecting the town of Lagos with Iddo Island and the mainland at Ebute Metta, has been pushed on with all possible speed under the able superintendence of Mr. Gee. At the close of the year upwards of 25 miles of rails were laid, and hopes are expressed that the rail-head may be at Abeokuta by the end of 1898. An Ordinance, authorizing the raising of a further loan of £525,000, has received the Royal assent. The Denton Bridge, joining Iddo Island with the mainland, is rapidly approaching completion.

The new Treasury Buildings, including quarters for the Colonial Treasurer, have been completed, and are now occupied.

A most important work has been undertaken in connection with the demarcation and survey of land in the Colony. The Police Magistrate has been appointed *ex-officio* Commissioner of Lands, offices and a staff assigned to him, and the investigation of titles, with a view to the eviction of squatters and the putting down of encroachments, has been commenced in earnest. Excellent maps are in course of preparation, showing the lands and boundaries of the different owners throughout the town.

The expedition to the interior, mentioned below, forced on the contemplated construction of a telegraph line to Saki, a branch of which has been carried to the Niger at Jebba. The line was laid with extraordinary celerity; the cost of maintenance of such portion of the line as lies within the Colony will be borne by the Colonial Government, and is estimated at £4,513 per annum. It is hoped, however, that this expenditure will be considerably reduced before long, as natives are rapidly being trained to take the place of the non-commissioned officers, Royal Engineers, who have been sent out from England for the purposes of construction and maintenance.



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Special and increased attention has been given to the important subject of the opening-up and maintenance of roads and waterways, both by the Government and by native chiefs at the instance of the Government. The great improvement that is now going on in means of communication throughout the Colony cannot fail to benefit trade by providing easy access to markets.

#### IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports from all countries into Lagos during the year 1897 amounted to £770,510, as against £901,474 in 1896. Of this sum, £574,937 represents imports from the United Kingdom, and £165,912 those from Germany. The chief falling off was in cotton and silk goods. There was also a decrease of 5,157 gallons in the total quantity of spirits imported, as compared with the imports for 1896, which will be seen at a glance by reference to the following tabulated statement:—

—	Imported in 1896.	Imported in 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.
Brandy ... ..	430	427	—	3
Cordials ... ..	439	1,544	1,105	—
Geneva ... ..	442,862	480,610	37,748	—
Rum ... ..	776,290	730,694	—	45,596
Whiskey ... ..	4,054	5,643	1,589	—
Total ... ..	1,224,075	1,218,918	40,442	45,599

These figures tend to shew that the doubling of the duty on spirits, which caused a falling off in imports under that head in 1896 amounting to 480,000 gallons, still continues to affect the amounts imported. The large increase in the importation of tobacco, chiefly from Great Britain, is also worthy of attention.

#### EXPORTS.

As was anticipated, the falling off in the production of rubber, due to the reckless way in which it was collected, has come to pass, the amount shipped in 1897 being 4,458,327 lbs., as against 6,484,365 lbs. in 1896. It is early to talk pessimistically of the "extinction of the industry," inasmuch as the opening up of fresh country to peaceful commerce cannot fail to revive the production. At the same time, the greed and guile of the small minority that collects and adulterates rubber, coupled with the

LAGOS.  
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—

apathy of the large majority that only looks on, must inevitably deal a severe blow to the trade. Steps are, however, being taken to encourage the native chiefs to have the rubber collected in a thrifty and systematic manner, which, it is hoped, will show good results in the near future.

The export of palm oil also shows a very serious falling off, having decreased from 3,154,333 gallons in 1896 to 1,858,968 gallons in 1897, while that of kernels also shows a decrease. In both cases there can be no doubt that the dryness of the past two seasons was chiefly responsible for the decrease, while the disturbances in the Hinterland may have also had some slight effect. On the other hand, cocoa and coffee are being cultivated with success, and the export bids fair to continue to increase. The Government is also using every means in its power to encourage the cultivation of economic plants.

A new article of export has been taken up in mahogany, the value of the wood having been £6,292 in 1897. There is every reason to hope and expect that this trade will become a rapid success.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The Government Gazette is published weekly. 3,000 copies were published during 1897.

There are 3 weekly papers in private hands—the number of copies issued being returned at :—

“The Lagos Weekly Record”	...	31,200
“The Lagos Standard”	...	27,000
“The Lagos Echo”	...	20,800

#### PRISON.

The large and well-appointed prison has been further extended during the year 1897, and is perhaps the finest and best ordered building of its kind on the West Coast of Africa, the sanitary arrangements being excellent.

The total number of commitments in 1897 was 680, a large increase on 1896, when the figures stood at 502. There is no reason, however, to believe that a special criminal wave passed over the Colony during the year, the increase being rather due to the growing efficiency of the police.

Sentenced prisoners are employed on useful work, outdoor and indoor, the principal outdoor employments being the cleaning of the streets, while indoor, book-binding, carpentering, tailoring, basket-making, &c., are carried on. The prisoners' earnings during the year amounted to no less than £1,291 8s. 7d. The mark system is in force, under which remission of sentences may be earned.

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### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of prisoners apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrates was 1,784, as against 1,321 in 1896 and 837 in 1895, the number of summary convictions being 1,015, and convictions in the Superior Court numbering only 31. While these figures may point to the "sinfulness of little sins," it is matter for legitimate congratulation that in a population numbering some 50,000 there should be so marked an absence of grave offences.

### POPULATION.

The Census of 1891 remains the only recent estimate of the population of the Colony, namely, 33,000. Probably 50,000 would be nearer the mark now.

The resident European population averages about 250.

The general death-rate is not calculated to re-assure visitors or settlers, being no less than 59 per thousand, as against 19·14 per 1,000 in England. Twenty-three Europeans died during the year, the average age being only 34. Fever, dysentery, and lung diseases are the most fatal ailments. Infant mortality is especially heavy.

### EDUCATION.

Education is carried on in the Colony almost entirely through missionary societies of various denominations, as shown by the following figures:—Church of England, 15 schools with 1,744 scholars; Wesleyan Methodists, 8 schools with 776 scholars; Roman Catholics, 8 schools with 706 scholars; the Baptists and United Native African churches having one school each.

There can be no doubt that much remains to be done in the way of education, particularly in the provision of technical instruction. It cannot be too much regretted that in a growing and expanding Colony like Lagos an idea should have taken root that manual labour is not so "respectable" as clerical work in Government and mercantile offices—that the young man in a mechanic's apron, with his fortune in his skilled hands, occupied a lower position in the social scale than the clerk on £24 a year who wears a black coat and starched shirt. It must be recognized as practically impossible to maintain and develop the roads, railways, and resources of the Colony with any chance of financial success under white superintendence alone imported at great expense to face a climate uncongenial, if not absolutely fatal, to Europeans. The future of Lagos rests entirely with the growing boys of the Colony, and, until they and their parents and guardians recognise the dignity of labour as conferring a patent, there is but little chance of the real capabilities of the Colony being brought to light.

## LEGISLATION OF THE YEAR.

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The Demarcation and Survey Ordinance already alluded to was beyond doubt the most important enactment of 1897. Besides providing for the survey of land and the fixing of boundaries for future reference—which work is in active progress—an attempt was made to put an end to the practice of unlicensed so-called “Surveyors” of trading on the ignorance of natives with only a little less knowledge than themselves. Many hundreds of pounds have been paid for plans not worth the paper on which they were drawn according to the fancy and imagination of unskilled and untaught draughtsmen. In future, surveyors working in the Colony for fee or reward must hold a licence, every facility being offered him of proving his ability to hold it by means of examination, and any infringement of this rule becomes a punishable offence.

The remaining local Ordinances call for no remark.

## HOSPITAL STATISTICS.

794 cases were treated in the Colonial Hospital during the year, including 130 of fever and 104 of injuries and wounds. There were 109 deaths.

In the Contagious Diseases Hospital 68 cases were dealt with, leprosy and small-pox being responsible for 46. There were 10 deaths.

In the four towns of Lagos, Badagry, Leckie, and Epe, 23,270 persons were vaccinated, by far the larger number with success.

There is as yet no lunatic asylum in the Colony. Patients are sent to the lunatic asylum at Kissy in Sierra Leone for treatment at the expense of the Lagos Government.

## GENERAL REMARKS.

The year 1897 will be memorable for two events of conspicuous importance to the Colony of Lagos; viz., the brilliant celebration of the completion of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign, and the despatch of West India and Hausa troops to the “Hinterland” to protect British rights and interests.

His Excellency the Governor, Major H. E. McCallum, R.E., C.M.G., arrived in the Colony on the 23rd of April. The celebration of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession was utilized by him as the occasion for bringing together at head-quarters a representative gathering of native kings and chiefs, collected from all parts of the Colony and Protectorate, that was probably unique in the history of Lagos

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for numbers and importance. Many distant and widely separated people met at Government House in June last, to find for the first time that they had one interest and sentiment in common—that of allegiance and loyalty to the Queen—and it cannot be doubted that such a gathering of the clans, some of them perhaps not over fond of one another, under one standard, must have a vast and most important effect upon the future of the Colony.

Discussion is still going on as to a feasible scheme for the sanitary reform of Lagos town in connection with water supply and drainage that can be carried out reasonably within the means of the Colony. It will be easily comprehensible that on a malarial island a mile or two long by half a mile broad, with a population of 50,000 souls living on it, and a much larger number of bodies dead and buried in it for many years past, disturbance of the soil is to be avoided by every possible means. No scheme has yet been approved.

The question as to deepening the Bar is always with us, the cost of the only serious schemes being absolutely prohibitive at present. In the future, however, the Colony looks forward to great things. The railway is being rapidly constructed, and it is within the bounds of practical politics to think hopefully of the time when the railway will tap the undeveloped countries in the "Hinterland" of the Colony as well as on the Niger, thereby expanding and developing the Colony and adding to its revenue.

MARK KERR,

*Acting Colonial Secretary.*

21st June 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 246.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 227.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
October, 1898.

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1898.

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**COLONIAL REPORTS.**

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**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 246.

## LEEWARD ISLANDS.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS,  
1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 227.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. FLEMING TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Springfield House,

St. Kitts,

9th September, 1898.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Report of the Colonial Secretary on the Blue Book of the Leeward Islands Colony for the year 1897.

2. It will be noticed that with the exception of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, in which Presidencies there was a trifling increase of revenue during the year 1897, when compared with that of 1896, the revenue in the other Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Dominica has considerably fallen off.

3. It is satisfactory to find that in all the Presidencies there has been an increase in the revenues from the Postal Departments, although it is significant of the impoverished condition of the people, that while the total amount of money orders issued in the various post offices of the Colony in the year 1896 was £45,260, it dwindled down, during the year 1897, to £20,191.

4. Proposals have been made recently for a reduction in postal rates, and although a reduction from 2½d. per half ounce for letters to foreign parts to 2d. or 1d. would probably affect the revenue of the Colony for some little time, my belief is that a reduction in postage rates would eventually result in an increase of correspondence which would give rise to a larger amount of revenue being derived from this source.

656\*—75—9/98 Wt 21620 D &amp; S—5 (B)

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5. Every endeavour has been made to reduce the expenditure of the Colony during the last few years. The expenditure for 1897 was £8,511 less than for 1896, while it was £24,412 less than in 1895.

6. The total population of the Colony is, in so far as an opinion can be formed in the absence of statistics as to emigration and immigration, 138,063, being 10,340 in excess of the population when the last census was taken in 1891.

7. The value of imports into the Colony during 1897 was less by £89,541 than that of the previous year, proving the depression which has prevailed, and which resulted in reduced orders for goods by the merchants generally.

8. The impoverished condition of the people has also told unfavourably in regard to education. The average attendance at the elementary schools and the amount of school fees received have both decreased in 1897, when compared with the year before. But this is not surprising. The compulsory education laws have to be worked with every care and judgment during such a crisis as these Islands have been passing through. I have been credibly informed that in many instances parents lacked not only the means of paying the school fees, but they were utterly unable to provide their children with clothing sufficiently decent for the children to present themselves at school. I was informed of one instance in Nevis where a child was actually refused admittance to the school on this account.

9. So soon as the financial condition of the Colony can allow of it, I would urgently advocate that compulsory education should be free.

10. There are some who recommend the abolition of compulsory education in present circumstances, but this I should be sorry to see.

11. It is the duty of every State to attend to the proper education of its young, and although I should be glad of some further extension of technical education in these Islands, it must be borne in mind that primary education forms the essential foundation upon which education in other directions has to depend.

12. As a proof of the good results of compulsory education, I may state that since it came into force in 1892 the average attendance in primary schools has increased—in Antigua, 56 per cent. ; in St. Kitts and Anguilla, 112 per cent. ; in Nevis, 88 per cent. ; in Dominica, 78 per cent. ; and in Montserrat 127 per cent.

13: I concur with the Colonial Secretary that the attitude of the Colony during 1897 was one of despondency.

14. The assistance which has been afforded and which has been promised by the Imperial Government since the beginning of the present year, has done something to inspire hope and confidence for the future, but it is difficult to see how the condition of affairs generally is likely to improve in these Islands, the prosperity of which is almost entirely dependent upon sugar, and must necessarily be so for some time to come, until something is done to render more certain the conditions on which the sugar industry is to be carried on. This, however, would seem impossible so long as the bounty system is allowed to continue.

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

I have, &c.,  
F. FLEMING.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE  
LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

REVENUE.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies composing the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1897 was £124,768, showing a decrease of £13,892 as compared with the revenue of the previous year, which amounted to £138,660.

The following return shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the years 1896 and 1897, with the increase or decrease in each case :—

Presidency.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
Antigua ... ..	£ 54,951	£ 46,330	—	£ 8,621
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	49,561	45,247	—	4,314
Dominica ... ..	24,904	23,610	—	1,294
Montserrat ... ..	7,775	7,906	131	—
Virgin Islands ...	1,469	1,675	206	—
Total ... ..	138,660	124,768	337	14,219

Net decrease £13,892.

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In comparing the detailed statements of Revenue for the year 1897 with those of the previous year, it will be seen that in the Presidency of Antigua there was a decrease under the head of Customs of £5,660 and in St. Kitts-Nevis of £2,058, while under the same head there were in the Presidencies of Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands increases of £1,157, £204, and £310.

Under Internal Revenue (including excise, taxes, licenses, rates and miscellaneous revenue) there occurred decreases as compared with 1896 of £658 in Antigua, of £3,421 in St. Kitts-Nevis, of £2,838 in Dominica, and of £295 in Montserrat, while there was a small increase in the Virgin Islands.

In all the Presidencies there was an increase in the revenue received under the head of Post Office.

#### EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure in the various Presidencies was £140,926 as compared with £149,437 in the previous year, thus showing a reduction in the aggregate expenditure of the Colony of £8,511 compared with that of 1896, and of £24,412 as compared with the expenditure of 1895.

The following table shows the expenditure of the various Presidencies composing the Colony during the years 1896 and 1897, with the increase or decrease in each case:—

Presidencr.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
Antigua ... ..	£ 57,345	£ 53,417	—	£ 3,928
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	56,501	51,775	—	4,726
Dominica ... ..	25,189	24,062	—	1,127
Montserrat ... ..	8,732	9,895	1,163*	—
Virgin Islands ...	1,670	1,777	107	—
Total ... ..	149,437	140,926	1,270	9,781

Net decrease £8,511.

\* NOTE.—This excess was due to expenditure on repairs of special damages done by the flood of November, 1896.

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The largest decrease of expenditure in 1897 occurred under the heads Miscellaneous (a decrease of £3,119), Federal Contribution (decrease of £2,491), and Education (decrease of £1,292). LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

The following comparative return of the revenue and expenditure of the various Presidencies during the year shows that there was a gross excess of expenditure over revenue of £16,158 :—

Presidency.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess.
	£	£	£
Antigua ... ..	46,330	53,417	7,087
St. Kitts-Nevis ... ..	45,247	51,775	6,528
Dominica ... ..	23,610	24,062	452
Montserrat ... ..	7,906	9,895	1,989
Virgin Islands ... ..	1,675	1,777	102
Total ... ..	124,768	140,926	16,158

Reviewing the expenditure of the Colony for the year 1897, it will be seen that although the actual expenditure was decreased by £8,511, the revenue for the year was £13,892 less than that of the previous year.

To meet these deficiencies Loan Acts in aid of revenue were passed by Antigua and by Montserrat, a similar Ordinance having been passed in the previous year by the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The account of the Presidency of the Virgin Islands remained still overdrawn.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which on 31st December, 1896, stood at £301,221, was increased during the year 1897 to £335,621 by the issue of the loans in aid of revenue referred to above, namely, St. Kitts-Nevis £15,000, Antigua £13,000, and Montserrat £7,000. The amount sanctioned by the Act in Antigua was £20,000, but only £13,000 has been raised.

The following table shows the individual liability of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and

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Montserrat, with the amount at the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts at the close of 1897 :—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
Antigua ... ..	150,671	14,151
St. Kitts-Nevis ... ..	89,450	3,776
Dominica ... ..	70,900	8,929
Montserrat ... ..	24,600	558
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>335,621</b>	<b>27,394</b>

#### POPULATION.

The statistics for the year 1897 show a total for the Colony of 5,244 births, 3,215 deaths, and 489 marriages. The Census of 1891 showed a total population for the Colony of 127,723. From this date up to the 31st December 1897 the total excess of births over deaths has been 10,340, which gives an apparent total of 138,063 as the population at the present date, but this total cannot be considered reliable in the absence of statistics as to emigration and immigration. In consequence of the depressed and impoverished condition of the Colony, many of the younger men have left in search of employment elsewhere during the past year or two.

The following summary shows the population at the close of 1897 (subject, as above stated, to the unrecorded results of emigration and immigration), with the number of births, deaths, and marriages in each Island of the Colony during the past year. It will be seen that there has been in all cases a considerable excess of births over deaths :—

	Population on 31st December 1897.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Marriages.
Antigua ... ..	37,402	1,457	1,050	407	144
Barbuda ... ..	678	39	30	9	1
St. Kitts... ..	32,823	1,342	836	506	126
Nevis ... ..	14,659	637	300	337	41
Anguilla ... ..	4,209	180	53	127	21
Dominica ... ..	29,514	882	550	332	82
Montserrat ... ..	13,509	527	286	241	49
Virgin Islands ... ..	5,269	180	110	70	25
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>138,063</b>	<b>5,244</b>	<b>3,215</b>	<b>2,029</b>	<b>489</b>

## LEGISLATION.

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A session of the General Legislative Council was held at Antigua in December 1897, the Council sitting from the 9th to the 18th of that month.

The total number of Acts of the year 1897 was 36, of which, however, 11 were passed by the Council in December 1896, but were not assented to until after the close of that year.

Of these Acts the most important were—

No. 9, "An Act to amend the Leeward Islands Police Act, 1874."

No. 16, "An Act to provide for the recognition in this Colony of probate and letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom and in British Possessions."

No. 23, "An Act to amend the law with respect to riots and unlawful assemblies."

No. 25, "An Act to amend the law with respect to malicious injuries to property."

In addition to those enumerated above, Acts were passed reducing the salaries of the Colonial Secretary, of the Judges of the Supreme Court, of the Inspector of Schools, of the Auditor-General, and of the Attorney-General. These reductions will take effect on vacancies occurring in any of these offices.

The Act No. 31 also provided for the appointment of assistants to the Attorney-General to be resident in the Presidencies of St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica.

The local legislature of Antigua passed eighteen Acts, of which the most important were the St. Johns City Board Act (which, however, requires considerable amendment, and will be re-introduced in 1898), and the Defence Force Act, by which a Defence Force was established for the Presidency of Antigua.

In St. Kitts-Nevis the following were the most important of the thirteen Ordinances passed :—"An Ordinance to amend the law with respect to the Treasury Department" and the "Land and House Tax Amendment Ordinance."

The local legislature of Dominica passed eight Acts, none of which call for comment.

In Montserrat thirteen Ordinances were passed, of which the most important was the Plymouth Improvement Ordinance.

In the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, laws to prevent the importation of disease among plants were passed. An Act was passed in 1896 by the General Legislature on this subject, but it was held to be *ultra vires*, and the Act was therefore repealed and local enactments were introduced and passed as stated above. Up to the close of the year, however, the local Act for the Presidency of Dominica had not been passed.

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## CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Edward Alexander Foster was appointed Auditor-General of the Colony on the 13th April, in succession to Mr. L. J. Bertram. Mr. Foster arrived on the 21st April and assumed duty.

Mr. E. B. Jarvis, Mr. G. O. Nugent, and Mr. G. H. V. Mercier were appointed 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Clerks, respectively, in the office of the Colonial Secretary.

Messrs. George C. Johnson and C. R. Rannie were appointed Audit Clerks in St. Kitts-Nevis and in Dominica, respectively.

Mr. G. C. Faille was appointed 2nd Clerk in the Registrar's Office, Antigua.

Captain G. A. Luscombe was appointed Inspector of the Antigua Division of the Police Force.

Mr. W. J. Essex was appointed Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Rat Island.

Mr. N. Lockhart was appointed Acting Treasurer of St. Kitts on the 30th September.

Mr. W. M. Wigley succeeded Mr. G. G. Kirton (resigned) as 1st Clerk in the Registrar's Office, St. Kitts, and Mr. J. P. Turner received the appointment of 2nd Clerk.

Mr. N. G. Cookman was confirmed in his appointment as Commissioner of the Virgin Islands on the 5th October.

## EDUCATION.

The attendance at the Elementary Schools has slightly decreased during the year 1897 as compared with 1896, the numbers on the roll in 1896 being 25,439, and in 1897, 25,022. There is a consequent decrease in the average attendances from 12,89½ in 1896 to 12,438 in 1897. The School fees received were £331 14s. 9d. in 1897, as against £465 0s. 11d. in 1896. The Government grants paid were respectively £7,240 in 1896 and £7,090 in 1897, while the amount of voluntary contributions received decreased from £934 in 1896 to £532 in 1897.

The total amount expended on education therefore in 1897, comprising school fees, Government grants, and voluntary contributions, was £7,964 17s. 6d. or £675 13s. 0d. less than the expenditure of the previous year.

In the Skerretts (Boys) Training School at Antigua there were at the commencement of the year 160 inmates, including 83 from the other Presidencies, but owing to the necessity for reducing expenditure a number of boys from other islands were withdrawn, and the total number at the close of the year was 100, including 30 from other Presidencies.

The number of inmates of the Girls Training School at Scotts Hill was similarly reduced from 67 to 56, and it was decided, as a measure of economy, to close this School during the year 1898.

LEeward  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

As regards Skerretts Farm, which is worked by the boys in connection with the school, the experimental cultivation of a large number of varieties of sugar cane was carried on as in former years, and an exhaustive report on the results obtained was drawn up by Mr. F. Watts, Government Analytical Chemist, and Mr. F. R. Shepherd, the Superintendent of Skerretts School.

The total expenditure on Skerretts Stock Farm and Estate, worked by the boys, was £494 17s. 2d., while the receipts from the farm amounted to £359 1s. 4d.

The estimated value of the stock exceeds £2,000, and the value of the farm in improving the breeds of horses, cattle, pigs, and poultry, has been very considerable. This has been especially the case with the Mysore breed of cattle, imported some years ago from the Government Stock Farm in Trinidad, there being now a considerable number of half-bred Mysore bullocks in the Island.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports during the year 1897 (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies of the Colony) was £312,657, as against £402,198, being a decrease of £89,541. This is a very serious decrease, which is due to the general depression prevailing and to the consequent reduced orders for goods forwarded by merchants in the Colony.

The following return shows the total value of imports in 1896 and 1897, distinguishing the countries from which the articles were imported, from which it appears that there was a decrease in each case :—

Country whence Imported.	Value of Imports.		1897.	
	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
United Kingdom ... ..	£ 178,917	£ 133,497	—	£ 45,420
British Colonies ... ..	57,949	41,694	—	16,255
United States of America ...	149,982	124,064	—	25,918
Other Foreign Countries ...	15,350	13,402	—	1,948
Total ... ..	402,198	312,657	—	89,541

Net decrease, £89,541.



LEEWARD  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

The internal trade between the various Presidencies composing the Colony of the Leeward Islands shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £13,096, as against £14,095 in the previous year.

The table given above shows that, although there was a decrease in the value of imports from all the countries named, yet the decrease in the value of imports from the United Kingdom and from British Colonies was proportionately much greater than in the case of goods imported from the United States of America. This appears curious, inasmuch as a comparison of the figures of 1895 and 1896 shows that there was in the latter year an increase of import trade with the United Kingdom and British Colonies, and a falling off in the trade with America.

The following table gives the aggregate values of the imports for the years 1896 and 1897, made up of the various classes of articles, of which the values are shown in the statement. It will be noticed that the greatest decrease occurs in foodstuffs, in textile manufactured goods, and in other classes of manufactured articles which are not specially enumerated:—

Article.	1896.	1897.	1897.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Live animals... ..	2,649	979	—	1,670
Food ... ..	158,378	132,320	—	26,058
Drinks ... ..	13,993	11,443	—	2,550
Narcotics ... ..	3,792	3,722	—	70
Raw materials ... ..	16,953	9,947	—	7,006
Manufactured Articles:—				
Textile ... ..	91,376	67,688	—	23,688
Metal ... ..	20,873	16,912	—	3,961
Other Manufactures ... ..	92,684	69,540	—	23,144
	400,698	312,551	—	88,147
Coin and Bullion ... ..	1,500	106	—	1,394
Total ... ..	402,198	312,657	—	89,541

## EXPORTS.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS,  
1897.

The total value of the exports during the year 1897 (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies of the Colony) was £328,496 as compared with £316,510 for the year 1896, being an increase of £11,986.

The following return shows the total value of exports during the years 1896 and 1897, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles of export were sent, and showing the increase or decrease in each case :—

Countries to which Exported.	1896.	1897.	1897.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	44,703	49,582	4,879	—
British Colonies ... ..	54,027	38,925	—	15,102
United States of America ...	196,141	223,150	27,009	—
Other Foreign Countries ...	21,639	16,839	—	4,800
Total ... ..	316,510	328,496	31,888	19,902

Net increase, £11,986.

The export trade between the various Presidencies amounted to £11,422, as against £14,624 in 1896, showing a decrease of £3,202.

The following return shows the principal exports, with the quantities and values of each respectively, for the years 1896 and 1897 :—

Articles.	1896.		1897	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar ... .. Tons	32,498	£ 228,612	28,555	£ 236,209
Molasses ... .. Pun.	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506
Rum ... .. Gals.	30,656	1,112	62,686	2,265
Coffee ... .. Lbs.	38,528	1,280	20,533	722
Cocoa ... .. "	349	12,823	593,680	9,007
Lime and Lime Juice ... ..	—	19,240	—	24,514
Total ... ..	—	277,892	—	285,223

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

## SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at the various Islands of the Colony during the year 1897, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels:—

Island.	British.		Foreign.		Total Tonnage.	
	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam.	Sailing.
Antigua ...	421,880	20,582	—	3,486	421,880	24,068
St. Kitts ...	441,340	23,528	11,736	15,025	453,076	38,553
Nevis ...						
Anguilla ...						
Dominica ...	393,840	9,618	1,240	2,762	395,080	12,380
Montserrat ...	214,144	12,503	—	2,068	214,144	14,571
Virgin Islands	—	10,289	—	1,256	—	11,545
Total ...	1,471,204	76,520	12,976	24,597	1,484,180	101,117

Comparing the above figures with those of 1896, it appears that there was in 1897 a decrease of 35,426 tons in steam vessels, and of 10,543 tons in sailing vessels.

## GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The total number of prisoners received during the year under review in the gaols of the various Presidencies amounted to 1,700, of which 947 were males, 715 females and 38 juveniles. The total number of deaths in prison during the year was 8, including one prisoner executed.

The following table shows the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon at Antigua during the year, with the complaint in each case :—

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

Diseases or Complaints.	Male.	Female.
Skin diseases ... ..	18	4
Gastro-intestinal diseases ... ..	173	1
Malingering ... ..	133	2
Rheumatism ... ..	83	12
Genito-urinary ... ..	28	8
Slight injuries ... ..	24	5
Epistaxis ... ..	1	0
Elephantiasis... ..	2	0
Apoplexy ... ..	1	0
Lung diseases ... ..	83	12
Heart diseases ... ..	13	0
Eye diseases ... ..	11	0
Fevers... ..	43	6
Abscess ... ..	15	2
Hernia ... ..	5	0
Headaches ... ..	6	0
Debility ... ..	27	2

There were 4 deaths of prisoners confined in the common gaol at Antigua ; two occurred in the gaol, one from apoplexy and one from diarrhœa ; the other two took place in the hospital in the case of prisoners transferred from the gaol, the cause in one case being typhoid fever and in the other tuberculosis.

The total number of prisoners admitted during the year was 568, including 36 from the other Presidencies of the Colony.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The aggregate number of offences reported to the police during 1897 was 13,261, as against 15,128 in the preceding year. Of these 3,800 were offences against the person, 990 prædial larceny, 1,718 were offences against property (except prædial larceny), while 6753 came under all other heads.

Summary convictions were recorded against 5,789 persons in the magistrates' courts, and there were 48 convictions in the superior courts. In the magistrates' courts 7,194 persons were acquitted, while in the superior courts there were 61 acquittals, and in 3 cases a *nolle prosequi* was entered.

### HOSPITALS.

The following tables show briefly the particulars as to the number of patients who received medical treatment in 1897 in the hospitals, lunatic asylums, and leper asylums throughout the Colony, with the numbers discharged from these institutions and also the number of deaths which occurred :—

Hospital.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua ... ..	135	1,590	361	980	—	224
Cunningham, St. Kitts	124	806	459	216	61	82
Pogson, St. Kitts ...	23	201	101	95	9	11
Nevis ... ..	21	83	36	23	—	12
* Roseau, Dominica ...	54	350	283	44	3	10
Chateau (Montserrat)	67	46	—	38	—	16
Hospital (Montserrat)	3	33	30	—	—	5
Virgin Islands... ..	12	7	—	18	—	1

\* Including inmates of Yaws Ward or Hospital.

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LUNATIC ASYLUMS (Antigua).

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island ... ..	48	26	15	4	—	10
Ridge ... ..	32	6	—	—	1	2

LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1897.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua ... ..	32	2	—	—	—	3
St. Kitts ... ..	63	4	—	—	—	7

SAVINGS BANKS.

Savings Banks are established in all the Presidencies with the exception of the Virgin Islands. The total amount of money deposited during the year 1897 was £18,491, as against £22,817 for the previous year, the amount withdrawn being £20,407 in 1897, as against £27,111 in 1896. There was thus a decrease in the amount lodged in 1897 of £4,326, while the amount withdrawn was less by the sum of £6,704.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

The following table shows the amount at the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1897, in each Savings Bank, with the number of depositors at the same date. :—

Bank.	No. of Depositors on 31st December.	Amount at credit of Depositors on 31st December, 1897.
Antigua ...	1,696	£ 36,572 7 7
St. Kitts ...	323	6,632 11 7
Nevis ...	86	3,214 13 6
Dominica ...	303	4,671 19 9
Montserrat ...	155	3,025 14 4
Total ...	2,563	£54,117 6 9

#### POST OFFICE.

It is satisfactory to find, from a comparison between the total expenditure and the total revenue of the last two years, that while the total expenditure was £454 less in 1897 than in 1896, the total revenue was £372 more in 1897 than in 1896. Hence the net deficit on the working of the Post Office for 1897 was only £89 10s. 5½d., as against a deficit in 1896 of £914 11s. 8d. In other words, the Post Office is now almost self-supporting, including the payment of the annual Mail Subsidy. In 1895 the total excess of expenditure over revenue was £1,783 2s.

The total amount of Money Orders issued in the various Post Offices during 1897 was £20,191, as against £45,260 in 1896. The total amount of Money Orders cashed in the Colony in 1897 was £20,639, as against £13,984 in 1896. The large diminution in the amount of Orders issued is a significant sign of the depression in trade which prevailed during the year.

A comparison of the amount of postal matter of all kinds received and despatched during the years 1896 and 1897 shows that during the latter year there was a substantial diminution in the numbers of letters, cards, papers, books, and parcels transmitted to and from the Colony.

## METEOROLOGICAL.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

The average rainfall at 54 stations in Antigua was only 39·67 inches, being 6·15 inches below the average rainfall for the past 24 years, and upwards of 20 inches less than the average rainfall in 1896.

The rainfall recorded at the town of Basseterre in St. Kitts was 37·91 inches in 1887.

In Dominica the average rainfall at 21 stations was 114·71 inches.

In Montserrat the only rainfall recorded (at Elberton) amounted to 64·10 inches for the year. There were during the year constant earthquake shocks in this Presidency, varying in force and duration.

## GENERAL SUMMARY.

Reviewing the general features which present themselves to our notice in examining the statistics of the year 1897, we find the retrospect by no means satisfactory. It has been a year of great depression in trade (indicated by a reduction of nearly £90,000 in the value of imports), of drought (as shown by the fact that the rainfall was over 6 inches short of the average), and of painful uncertainty as to whether the cultivation of the staple product, sugar, would not shortly become impossible. A number of estates have been put out of cultivation and the labour employed on all was reduced to a minimum, while wages were reduced as low as possible.

Fortunately the prices obtained for sugar were considerably higher in 1897 than in 1896, so that with a total crop nearly 4,000 tons less, the prices obtained amounted to nearly £8,000 more in the aggregate. It is due to the improved prices obtained for sugar and molasses that the value of exports shows an increase of nearly £12,000 over the exports of 1896.

Retrenchment has been carried out, where it was possible, in the public expenditure, and permanent reductions of expenditure in the establishment have been provided for in the future by the passing of Acts reducing the salaries of most of the higher officials, which will come into force as vacancies occur in the several offices.

There appears little else to add. The attitude of the Colony has been one of despondency, into which, however, hope has been infused by the knowledge that efforts were being made by the



LEEWARD  
ISLANDS.  
1897.

Imperial Government to obtain a removal, or at least a diminution, of the various burthens which now threaten to break the back of the sugar industry. May the year of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Diamond Jubilee prove to have been the turning point in the long period of depression which Her Colonies in the West Indies have undergone!

GEO. MELVILLE,

*Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Leeward Islands,

25th August, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 266.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 246.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August 1899.

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**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
240	St. Helena ... ..	1897
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"
265	St. Helena ... ..	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Report on Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 266.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

## LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 246.)

GOVERNOR SIR F. FLEMING to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Antigua,

19th June, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1898 together with the Report on the same which has been prepared by Mr. Melville, the Colonial Secretary.

2. Every attempt has been made to draw up this Report in conformity with the instructions contained in your circular despatch of the 31st of January last, and for the Blue Book to be forwarded to you at as early a date as possible, but owing to the delays which are caused by references to the different Presidencies of this Government it is very difficult for the Blue Book to be transmitted as soon as it otherwise might be.

3. The credit of the completion of the Blue Book at a comparatively early period of the year is greatly due to the exertions of Mr. Gordon, the Chief Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, who has spared no trouble in his endeavours to obtain the necessary returns &c., and to facilitate the preparation of the report of the Colonial Secretary on the lines desired by you.

4. In order to expedite matters as much as possible I authorized the Colonial Secretary to communicate direct with the different Presidencies on all matters relating to the Blue Book, and this course has somewhat assisted in bringing about its early completion.

5. I need add but few remarks to what Mr. Melville has stated in his report. The revenue in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and

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**LEEWARD  
ISLANDS,  
1898.**

Montserrat decreased during the year 1898 when compared with 1897 by some £13,000, while the expenditure of Antigua and Montserrat increased by about £4,200. In Dominica and the Virgin Islands there was an increase of revenue amounting to £1,000, and a decrease of expenditure in St. Kitts-Nevis of about £7,000.

The total expenditure of the Colony was, however, £2,314 less than in 1897, £10,825 less than in 1896, and £26,762 less than in 1895.

6. The constitutional changes which were brought about in Antigua and Dominica, and to which Mr. Melville alludes under the heading "Legislation," will, I believe, prove beneficial to both of these Presidencies.

7. I referred in my despatch of the 9th September last, when forwarding the Blue Book for 1897, to what I believed would be the result of a reduced rate of postage.

As the new postal rate of 1*d.* per half ounce only came into operation on the 25th of December last, no reference could be made in the present Blue Book to returns based thereon for the year 1898, but from such information as I have been furnished with recently, I believe the result of the penny postage system will, far from causing a decrease in the revenue, considerably increase the receipts of the Postal Department.

8. It is a matter for regret that it should have been necessary to reduce the amount for school grants in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis by 25 per cent., but I hope it may be possible for Dr. Morris, the Imperial Commissioner for Agriculture, to assist this Colony in furthering industrial and agricultural teaching—branches of education which cannot fail to benefit many of the rising generation in these Islands.

9. The Mico Institution, referred to under the head of "Education" in the report, is not to be continued after the end of this year. It is unfortunate that such an institution should have to close its doors, although I do not anticipate much difficulty in obtaining male teachers for the Primary Schools.

10. With a decreasing revenue and with the difficulty of reducing expenditure except by degrees, it has been impossible to attempt the undertaking of any public works of importance, although whenever an opportunity offers, some attempt should be made to improve the lunatic and leper asylums in this Presidency, the unsatisfactory condition of which I have felt bound to bring to your notice on several occasions.

11. Enquiries have recently been made as to the possibility of establishing central sugar factories in some of the islands of this Colony, more especially Antigua.

12. I sincerely trust that these investigations will have a satisfactory result, for I feel perfectly sure that without the introduction of machinery which will allow of sugar being manufactured in such a way as to prevent that waste which now takes place, and of such a description as will render it a marketable commodity, Antigua and St. Kitts cannot hope for much improvement in the future.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

13. With the establishment of central factories, which will moreover give employment to many, and with the abolition of the bounty system, I see no reason why these Islands, which are in many respects favoured by nature, should not be able to meet their expenses and attain a reasonable degree of prosperity in the future.

I have, &c.,

F. FLEMING.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY  
OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE  
YEAR 1898.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Leeward Islands,

24th May, 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

*Revenue.*

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the year 1898, exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government, was £112,577, showing a net decrease of £12,191, as compared with the revenue of the previous year, which amounted to £124,768.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Presidency.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ... ..	57,678	44,348	54,951	46,330	39,663	—	6,667
St. Kitts-Nevis ... ..	55,443	43,215	49,561	45,247	40,430	—	4,817
Dominica ... ..	22,982	22,860	24,904	23,610	24,570	960	—
Montserrat ... ..	8,677	7,125	7,775	7,906	6,199	—	1,707
Virgin Islands ... ..	2,577	1,534	1,469	1,675	1,715	40	—
Total ... ..	147,357	119,082	138,660	124,768	112,577	1,000	13,191

Net decrease of revenue in 1898, as compared with 1897, £12,191.

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From a comparison of the receipts of 1898 with those of 1897 it appears that under the head of Customs there were, in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, decreases of £2,600, £1,138, and £142 respectively, while the Presidencies of Dominica and the Virgin Islands showed increased receipts under this head of £1,064 and £103 respectively.

LEeward  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

The item "Port and Harbour Dues &c." reflects the position of the Customs receipts, there being a decrease in 1898 in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis and Montserrat, and a slight increase in Dominica and the Virgin Islands.

Under the head of Excise, the Presidency of Antigua shows a decrease in 1898 over the previous year's receipts of £15, St. Kitts-Nevis a decrease of £385, and Montserrat a large decrease of £613, while Dominica shows an increase of £724.

The remaining heads under Internal Revenue (taxes, licenses, rates, and miscellaneous) show a total decrease of £5,521, and it is worthy of remark that in each individual Presidency there is a decrease in each one of these heads, with the single exception of the item of rates, which in Antigua shows an increase of £325 and in Dominica a small increase of some £10.

The revenue derived from "Fees of Court, Post Office, Rents, Interest, Miscellaneous and Land Sales" was less by £3,154 in 1898 than in 1897.

#### *Expenditure.*

The total expenditure of the various Presidencies for the year 1898 was £138,612, as against £140,926 for the previous year, showing a decrease of £2,314.



The following table shows the expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as well as the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Presidency.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ... ..	59,675	70,221	57,345	53,417	55,586	2,169	—
St. Kitts-Nevis ... ..	58,761	55,395	56,501	51,775	44,659	—	7,116
Dominica ... ..	27,833	27,102	25,189	24,062	24,648	586	—
Montserrat ... ..	8,301	10,702	8,732	9,895	11,936	2,041	—
Virgin Islands ... ..	1,602	1,954	1,670	1,777	1,783	6	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>156,172</b>	<b>165,374</b>	<b>149,437</b>	<b>140,926</b>	<b>138,612</b>	<b>4,802</b>	<b>7,116</b>

Net decrease of expenditure in 1898, as compared with 1897, £2,314.

Comparing the various heads of expenditure in each Presidency with those of the previous year it will be seen that the principal heads in which an increase of expenditure occurs in 1898, as compared with 1897, were Charges on account of Public Debt, which shows an increase of £1,212; Federal Contribution an increase of £745; Post Office an increase of £1,111, and Public Works Extraordinary an increase of £1,953. The latter increase is due to the fact that with the sanction of the Secretary of State some expenditure in the shape of relief works occurred in Antigua, while in Montserrat a considerable sum was expended in repairs to roads damaged by floods.

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A large decrease of expenditure was effected in various directions, principally £3,087 under Education (the school grants being reduced by 25 per cent. in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis). Under the head of Miscellaneous a reduction of £922 occurred, while decreases of £630, £518, £490 and £361 appear under the respective heads of Police, Treasury, Military, Public Works Department and Laboratory.

Passing briefly in review the expenditure of each Presidency in turn, the following salient features present themselves:—

Antigua shows increases of £756 under the head of Charges on account of Public Debt, of £533 on account of Federal Contribution, of £583 on account of Hospitals (mainly due to increased poor relief, necessitated by a long drought), of £320 under Board of Health (mainly for expenditure by the Board on the work of cleaning out ponds used for drinking purposes in the country districts, a work which was rendered possible through the exceptional dryness of the season), of £770 under Post Office (including accounts for three years payment of sum due to the General Post Office for ocean postage), and of over £2,000 expended in relief works (chiefly road repairs), with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

The principal decreases of expenditure in Antigua were £259 under the head of Police (owing to the pay of a detachment temporarily stationed in Montserrat being charged to the latter Presidency), £1,458 under Education, and £200 under the subhead of Telegraphs, the subsidy of the West India and Panama Company being reduced by that amount.

The total deficit on the working of the year 1898 in this Presidency was £15,923, which was met by a grant from the Imperial Parliament, which also enabled £13,000 to be applied to repayment of loans, and £1,450 to the repayment of a debt due to the Presidency on account of the Island of Barbuda.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a total decrease of expenditure appears in 1898 as compared with 1897 of £7,116, reductions occurring under the following heads, namely:—Treasury and Customs, £567; Police, £482; Prisons, £308; Medical, £380; Hospitals, £308; Education, £1,599; Laboratory (abolished), £267; Military, £275; Miscellaneous, £1,490; Post Office, £939;

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Telegraphs (subsidy reduced), £200 ; Public Works Department, £227 ; and Public Works Extraordinary, £580.

The only head which shows any material increase in this Presidency is that of Charges on account of Public Debt, which is larger by £256 than the previous year.

The total deficit in St. Kitts-Nevis was £4,229 which was met by an Imperial grant, from which a sum of £15,000 was also applied to repayment of loans.

In Dominica there was a total increase of expenditure of £586 as compared with 1897—the principal items of increase being Police, £116 ; Hospitals, £189 ; and Miscellaneous, £458.

The principal heads of decrease in this Presidency were Pensions, £201 ; and Public Works Recurrent, £282.

The Presidency of Montserrat shows a total increase of expenditure of £2,041 in 1898 over that of 1897, the increases appearing under the heads of Charges on account of Debt, £200 ; Miscellaneous, £761 ; Public Works Recurrent, £454 ; and Public Works Extraordinary, £502.

The increases were mainly due to expenses incurred in connection with a riot which unfortunately occurred during the year, and to expenditure on account of roads and buildings damaged by flood and earthquakes.

The total deficit in Montserrat at the close of the year 1898 was £5,737 (the revenue being £6,199, as against a total expenditure of £11,936). This was met by a grant from the Imperial Parliament, while from the same source a sum of £7,000 was applied to repayment of loans.

The Presidency of the Virgin Islands shows an expenditure only some £6 in excess of that of the previous year, calling for no remark.

The overdraft on the Crown Agents, which has stood for some years as a floating debt of this Presidency, was extinguished by the payment of £2,250 by the Imperial Government.

#### (B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

In Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat, the land tax on lands cultivated for sugar was considerably reduced for the year commencing on April 1st, while the export duties payable in St. Kitts-Nevis and Dominica were remitted for the same period. An Ordinance was also passed in Antigua increasing the import duties on spirits (other than rum) and on flour, bread, and fish.

This Ordinance, however, did not receive Her Majesty's approval, and has since been repealed so far as the increase of duty on flour, bread, and fish was concerned, while the increased duties on spirits remain in force.

In St. Kitts-Nevis, Ordinances were passed during the year imposing additional duties of customs on rum and kerosine, while a tax was also imposed on all wheeled vehicles within the Presidency.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Federal Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1898.

3329\*-5

Liabilities.	—	Assets.	—
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Presidencies... ..	624 1 11	By Presidencies... ..	92 15 5
„ Money Order accounts ... ..	729 11 5	„ Money Order accounts ... ..	600 0 0
„ Deposit accounts :—		„ Investment accounts :—	
Land Assurance Fund ... ..	1,402 2 1	Land Assurance Fund ... ..	1,300 0 0
„ Sundry Creditors ... ..	22 15 0	„ Sundry Debtors ... ..	720 17 1
„ Drafts on Crown Agents ... ..	50 0 0	„ Cash ... ..	114 17 11
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>2,828 10 5</b>	<b>Total... ..</b>	<b>2,828 10 5</b>

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PRESIDENCY OF ANTIGUA.

*Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.*

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	427 13 1	Advances ... ..	—	876 18 7½
Sundry Creditors ... ..	—	960 16 2	Crown Agents ... ..	804 2 10	
Drafts on Crown Agents ... ..	—	400 0 0	Treasurer ... ..	149 18 0½	954 0 10½
Loans Works (Balance of Appropriation).	—	10,206 6 1	Excess of Liabilities ... ..	—	10,163 15 10
Total ... ..	—	11,994 15 4	Total ... ..	—	11,994 15 4

PRESIDENCY OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	438 16 0	CASH—In Colonial Bank on Current account.	2,183 16 1	—
Crown Agents... ..	—	1,834 17 8	In Treasury Chest, Anguilla.	35 18 1	2,219 14 2
Loan Works (1891) ... ..	1,652 13 9		G. H Turner's sureties ... ..	—	100 0 0
„ „ (1893) ... ..	2,763 12 6	4,416 6 3	G. H. Turner ... ..	—	115 18 11
Money Orders ... ..	—	162 5 6	Money Orders ... ..	—	491 7 11
Sundry Creditors ... ..	—	428 11 5	Advances ... ..	—	830 12 6
			Remittances in Transit. ...	—	118 0 0
			Excess of Liabilities ... ..	—	3,405 3 4
Total ... ..	—	7,280 16 10	Total ... ..	—	7,280 16 10

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PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA.

*Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.*

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Money Order Accounts ... ..	—	180 14 11	Money Order Accounts ... ..	—	43 14 4
Sundry Creditors ... ..	—	1,018 16 11	Authorized Advances ... ..	—	157 0 0½
Deposit Account (Sundry) ... ..	—	232 17 6	Sundry Debtors ... ..	—	117 12 5½
Surplus and Deficit account (Surplus)	—	1,558 17 6½	Remittances in transit ... ..	—	22 8 8
			Treasurer (Cash) ... ..	—	2,650 11 4½
Total ... ..	—	2,991 6 10½	Total ... ..	—	2,991 6 10½

PRESIDENCY OF MONTSERRAT.

Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.

Liabilities.	—	Assets	—
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Crown Agents ... ..	722 4 3	Cash ... ..	157 6 11
Advances and Deposits received ... ..	538 0 4	Advances... ..	73 14 11
Money Orders ... ..	1,322 2 6	Drafts and Remittances ... ..	336 3 7
		Money Orders ... ..	34 17 7
		Excess of Liability ... ..	1,980 4 1
Total ... ..	2,582 7 1	Total ... ..	2,582 7 1

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PRESIDENCY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

*Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December, 1898.*

Liabilities.	—	—	Assets.	—	—
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Crown Agents ... ..	—	31 3 10	Cash—In Treasury Chest ... ..	—	399 11 1½
Advances and Deposits received ...	—	159 13 7	Advances ... ..	—	17 10 7½
Money Orders ... ..	—	178 0 5			
Unrepresented Estates ... ..	—	8 0 0	Excess of Liabilities... ..	—	24 1 9½
Postmaster's Deposits ... ..	63 19 8				
Pro: Marshal's Deposits ... ..	5 4	64 5 0			
Total .. ..	—	441 3 7	Total ... ..	—	441 3 7

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

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1898.

The Public Debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, which on the 31st December 1897 stood at £335,621, was at the close of 1898 reduced to £300,121, the Imperial Government having repaid the following sums on behalf of the loans of the undermentioned Presidencies, namely—Antigua £13,000, St. Kitts-Nevis £15,000 and Montserrat £7,000. A floating debt of the Virgin Islands, in the shape of an overdraft on the Crown Agents amounting to £2,250, was also paid off by the Imperial Government.

In addition to these repayments of debts from Parliamentary grants, the following payments were also made from revenue in redemption of loans, namely, Antigua Savings Bank £200, Montserrat Water Works Loan (1897) £100, Public Works Loan (1891) £200.

The Dominica Water Works Loan of £5,900 (the sinking fund of which, £5,046, is nearly sufficient to repay it) appears in the statement of Public Debt given below, although this loan has now been assumed by the Town Board of Roseau and is regarded as a liability of the Municipality.

The following table shows the individual liability of the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, with a column showing the amount at the credit of the various Sinking Fund Accounts on the 31st December 1898 :—

Presidency.	Debt.	To Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua ... ..	137,471	17,460
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	74,450	4,466
Dominica ... ..	70,900	10,028
Montserrat ... ..	17,300	616
Total ... ..	300,121	32,570

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## (E.) CURRENCY.

Under this head there appears to be nothing to be remarked. The Bank rates of Exchange remained unaltered.

## (F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The Town Board of Roseau in Dominica is at present the only existing municipality in the Colony. An Ordinance has, however, been passed providing for the creation of a City Board for St. Johns in Antigua, which will be established during the year 1899.

The Roseau Town Board was established in June 1896, and its revenue and expenditure has been as follows:—

1896.—Revenue, £754	Expenditure, £714.
1897.— " £929	" £925.
1898.— " £978	" £964.

## (G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The only debt of the Roseau Town Board is the amount of the Water Works Loan, £5,900, towards which a sinking fund had been accumulated at the end of 1898 of £5,046, as mentioned above. Annual contributions of £147 towards the final extinction of the debt are made from the general revenue of the Board.

## II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

## (A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

*Imports.*

The aggregate value of the imports during the year under review (exclusive of internal trade between the various Presidencies) was £299,976, as against £312,657 for the year 1897, being a decrease of £12,681.

The following table shows the total value of imports for each of the past five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports were made, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 in comparison with the previous year:—

**TOTAL IMPORTS.**

Country whence imported.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897	1898	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	206,920	163,376	178,917	133,497	134,071	574	—
British Colonies ... ..	47,951	56,050	57,949	41,694	41,308	—	386
United States of America... ..	161,594	162,191	149,982	124,064	113,864	—	10,200
Other Foreign Countries ... ..	14,243	15,505	15,350	13,402	10,733	—	2,669
Total ... ..	430,708	397,122	402,198	312,657	299,976	574	13,255

Net decrease in value of Imports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £12,681

The returns of internal trade between the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands show a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £12,119, as against £13,096 in 1897.

The table last given shows that while there was a slight increase in the value of goods imported from the United Kingdom in 1898 as compared with 1897, there was a falling off in the value of imports from all other places. It is possible that the Spanish-American war may have affected the imports from the United States during certain months to some extent.

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate values of the various classes of articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897. The only classes of imports which show an increase are live animals and foodstuffs, while the largest decrease in imports is shown in the various classes of manufactured articles and in liquors.

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SUMMARY OF IMPORTS.

Articles.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
Live Animals ... ..	£ 3,925	£ 2,189	£ 2,649	£ 979	£ 2,425	£ 1,446	£ —
Foodstuffs ... ..	164,490	170,931	158,378	132,320	132,728	408	—
Drinks ... ..	17,262	16,550	13,993	11,443	9,375	—	2,068
Narcotics ... ..	3,893	3,661	3,792	3,722	3,142	—	580
Raw Materials ... ..	17,165	14,063	16,953	9,947	8,310	—	1,637
Manufactured Articles, Textile ... ..	95,816	82,457	91,376	67,688	62,872	—	4,816
Do.           Metal ... ..	25,130	19,712	20,873	16,912	13,081	—	3,831
Other Manufactures ... ..	95,944	87,559	92,684	69,540	63,448	—	6,092
	423,625	397,122	400,698	312,551	295,381	1,854	19,024
Coin and Bullion ... ..	7,083	—	1,500	106	4,595	4,489	—
Total ... ..	430,708	397,122	402,198	312,657	299,976	6,343	19,024

### EXPORTS.

The aggregate value of the exports during the year 1898 (exclusive of the internal trade between the Presidencies) was £286,403, as compared with £328,496 in 1897, showing a net decrease of £42,093.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles of export were sent, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898, as compared with 1897. It will be observed that while there was an increase of £12,981 in the value of exports to the United Kingdom, there was a large decrease of £44,802 in the value of exports to the United States (due to the short sugar crop), while the value of exports to British Colonies also shows a decrease of £10,850.

#### TOTAL EXPORTS.

Countries to which exported.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	Increase 1898 over 1897.	Decrease 1898 under 1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	32,679	48,708	44,703	49,582	62,563	12,981	—
British Colonies ... ..	74,996	56,022	54,027	38,925	28,075	—	10,850
United States of America... ..	305,748	142,826	196,141	223,150	178,348	—	44,802
Other Foreign Countries ... ..	26,125	20,266	21,639	16,839	17,417	578	—
Total ... ..	439,548	267,822	316,510	328,496	286,403	13,559	55,652

Net decrease in value of exports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £42,093.

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The export trade between the various Presidencies comprising the Colony shows a decrease of £5,001, the figures being £6,421 in 1898, as against £11,422 in 1897.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles of export during each of the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

Articles of Export.	1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.		Increase 1898 over 1897.		Decrease 1898 under 1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar ... Tons	33,155	£ 345,810	27,592	£ 173,652	32,498	£ 228,612	28,555	£ 236,209	20,065	£ 174,098	—	£ —	8,490	£ 62,111
Molasses ... Tons	10,690	30,101	8,436	23,290	9,565	14,825	7,483	12,506	4,204	8,595	—	—	3,275	3,911
Rum ... Galls.	43,860	1,725	62,395	2,788	30,656	1,112	62,686	2,265	48,451	1,579	—	—	14,235	686
Coffee ... lbs.	14,540	880	12,726	459	38,528	1,280	20,533	722	21,958	537	1,425	—	—	185
Cocoa ... lbs.	635,478	8,655	617,836	8,444	944,349	12,823	593,680	9,007	1,112,862	26,362	519,182	17,355	—	—
Lime and Lime Juice.	—	12,284	—	19,599	—	19,240	—	24,514	—	25,753	—	1,239	—	—
Total ...		399,455		228,232		277,892		285,223		236,924		18,594		66,893

Net decrease in value of above exports in 1898, as compared with 1897, £48,299.

From the above table it will be observed that the quantity of sugar exported was very considerably less in 1898 than in any of the four previous years, being nearly 9,000 tons less than in 1897, and considerably over 12,000 tons less than in 1896.

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The average amount of sugar exported for the last five years is 28,373 tons, so that the quantity exported in 1898 was over 8,000 tons below the average.

On the other hand it is a matter for satisfaction to find that the quantity of cocoa exported, viz., 1,112,662 lbs., was nearly double the amount exported in 1897, which was 593,680 lbs., and was over 332,000 lbs. above the average of the last five years.

#### (B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Souffriere, and there are also mines in Virgin Gorda, none of which are at present worked. There is some prospect, however, of the latter being again worked for molybdenum.

Sugar is manufactured in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica and Montserrat, lime juice in Dominica and Montserrat, bay oil in Dominica, and arrowroot in Montserrat.

There are no organized fisheries.

#### (C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The estimated acreage of cultivated land is 16,481 acres in Antigua, 18,654 acres in St. Kitts and Nevis, 8,691 acres in Dominica, 8,000 acres in Montserrat. Of this the cultivation in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis is almost entirely that of sugar, while in Dominica and Montserrat cocoa, lime juice, and coffee are also grown.

Much is hoped for from the establishment by the Imperial Government of an Agricultural and Botanical Department for the West Indies.

#### (D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

No land grants have been made in recent years, and the general value of land varies so greatly in different Presidencies, and according to its suitability for sugar or other cultivation, that it is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to value. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land may be taken at the present moment to range between £4 and £8 per acre.



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## (E.) SHIPPING.

The following table shows the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1898, distinguishing between British and Foreign vessels :—

Island.	British.		Foreign.		Total Tonnage.	
	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam Vessels entered and cleared.	Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.	Steam.	Sailing.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	409,122	13,612	—	6,434	409,122	20,046
St. Kitts ...	453,392	24,813	10,800	12,873	464,192	37,686
Nevis ...						
Anguilla...						
Dominica ...	443,252	7,884	4,072	1,790	447,324	9,674
Montserrat ...	199,102	8,602	—	726	199,102	9,328
Virgin Islands	—	10,533	—	774	—	11,307
Total ...	1,504,868	65,444	14,872	22,597	1,519,740	88,041

Comparing the above figures with those of 1897, it appears that there was in 1898 a total increase of 35,560 tons in steam vessels. If we examine the figures for each individual Presidency with those of 1897, it will be found that in Antigua there was a decrease of 12,758 in steam tonnage and of 4,022 in sailing tonnage, and in Montserrat a decrease of 15,042 tons in steam vessels and of 5,243 tons in sailing vessels, while St. Kitts-Nevis shows an increase of 11,112 tons in steam vessels and a slight decrease in sailing vessels.

When, however, we come to Dominica, it is satisfactory to find that there was in 1898 a very large increase of 52,244 in the tonnage of steam vessels visiting the Island, while there is a decrease of 2,706 tons in the sailing craft entered and cleared.

The following table shows the total of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels :—

LEEWARD  
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1898.

*Total Tonnage.*

—	1894.	1895.	*1896.	1897.	1898.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua ...	501,886	467,978	468,612	445,948	429,168
St. Kitts-Nevis	507,627	478,132	473,407	491,629	501,878
Dominica ...	424,896	360,954	401,051	407,460	456,998
Montserrat ...	427,575	372,471	276,272	228,715	208,430
Virgin Islands ...	21,699	16,534	11,924	11,545	11,307
Total of Colony	1,883,683	1,726,069	1,631,266	1,585,297	1,607,781

\* In June 1896, the contract under which the Federal Steamship "Tyne" was run by the Royal Mail Company between the various Islands of the Colony expired, and was not renewed.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

During the year 1898 important constitutional changes took place in the Presidencies of Antigua and Dominica.

On the 22nd March 1898, the Legislature of Antigua passed an Act abrogating the semi-elective constitution which has existed since 1866, and reducing the number of members of the Legislative Council from 24 to 16, eight officials and eight unofficials, the latter being now all nominated by the Governor.

Similarly, on the 12th July, the Legislative Assembly of Dominica passed an Act of the same nature providing for a Legislative Council of 12 members, six officials and six unofficials, all

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the latter being nominated by the Governor, in place of the former constitution under which there were 14 members, seven of whom were nominated by the Governor and seven elected by small constituencies.

The necessity for these changes has long been evident in these two Presidencies, where the constituencies of many of the elective districts consisted of less than half a dozen resident proprietors, and as it has not been considered advisable at present to lower the franchise, the alternative system of nomination of representatives appeared desirable.

The Crown Colony system is therefore now in operation in each Presidency of the Colony.

Looking at the legislation of the various Presidencies and of the Federal Legislature, we find that the most important Act passed by the latter was No. 4 of 1898, "An Act to amend the Post Office Act, 1886," under which a system of penny postage was inaugurated between this Colony and the United Kingdom and a large number of British Possessions in various parts of the Empire.

A much needed Act was also passed (No. 12 of 1898) regulating the allowances of public officers when travelling on duty.

Of the ten enactments passed by the Legislature of Antigua the most important, besides the amendment of the constitution, referred to above, was Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, "An Ordinance to provide for the government of the City of Saint John," which was assented to by the Governor on the 17th November.

This Ordinance provides the machinery for the establishment of municipal government in the city of St. John. The Town Board is to consist of 12 members, six elected by the taxpayers and six nominated by the Governor. The electoral qualifications are:—

- (1) The possession of lands or houses in the city to the value of £40; or
- (2) Occupation of house of rental value of £12 per annum; or
- (3) Receipt of income of £40.

The Board will have all the powers usually exercised by Municipal Councils, and will be competent to levy rates and taxes for the improvement, sanitation, water supply, &c., of the city.

The Ordinances reducing the land tax and imposing additional duties on spirits (except rum) have been already referred to under the head of changes in taxation.

Eighteen Ordinances were passed during the year by the Legislature of St. Christopher-Nevis, of which perhaps the most important was No. 9, "An Ordinance for the Regulation of Watercourses," besides the Ordinances providing for the reduction of the land tax and the remission of export duties already referred to under the head of changes in taxation.

In the Presidency of Dominica six enactments were passed, none of which call for any special notice, except the Constitution Amendment Act and the Ordinance for the remission of export duties, which have been already referred to.

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1898.

In Montserrat two Ordinances of some importance were passed, viz., "An Ordinance for the Construction and Abbreviation of Laws," which, among other provisions, confers on the Commissioner, in the absence of the Governor from the Presidency, certain powers of the Governor, and "An Ordinance to establish a Defence Force," which latter, however, has not been brought into operation.

Of the three Ordinances passed in the Presidency of the Virgin Islands, two were the usual formal Supply Ordinances, and the third an Ordinance for the notification of diseases, which, however, requires amendment.

#### IV.—EDUCATION.

##### (A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The attendance at the elementary schools, which had slightly decreased in 1897, shows a small increase in 1898, the numbers on the roll being 25,122 in the latter year as against 25,022 in 1897. The average attendance, however, has fallen off, the figures being 11,745 as against 12,438 in 1897.

In consequence of the unsatisfactory financial position of the Colony it was found necessary to curtail the school grants by 25 per cent. in the Presidency of Antigua, and a similar step was also found necessary in St. Kitts-Nevis.

The amount received from school fees was also slightly less in 1898 than in 1897, while there was a small increase in the voluntary contributions.

The total amounts of the Government grants paid were respectively £7,090 3s 3d. in 1897 and £6,223 7s. 11d. in 1898, and the total amount expended on education (including revenue derived from fees and voluntary contributions) was £7,015 7s. 10d. in 1898 as against £7,964 17s. 0d. in 1897.

It is proposed by the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, that some provision be made out of the Parliamentary Grant in aid of the Imperial Department of

**LEeward  
ISLANDS,  
1898.**

Agriculture for encouraging a system of practical agricultural instruction in elementary schools, plots of land being attached to certain schools for this purpose.

Provision has hitherto been made by a Federal law for a special grant of £200 to the Mico Institution for the training of male teachers of primary schools, and an annual grant of £200 is also made from Federal funds for the training of female teachers at the Moravian College at Spring Gardens, Antigua.

#### (B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The only secondary schools in the Colony besides the two already mentioned (which, as they are employed solely to provide teachers for elementary schools, have been included under the head of primary education) are the Antigua Grammar School for Boys, with 47 boys, which receives a grant of £200 per annum from Antigua funds, and the Antigua Girls' High School, with 33 pupils, which receives a grant of £100 from the same source.

There is also a Government Grammar School in Dominica.

Centres for Cambridge Local Examinations have for some years been established in Antigua and Dominica. Periodical examinations are also held in Antigua for the various degrees in Arts of the University of London.

#### (C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, OR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

In the Skerretts (Boys) Training School the number of boys received is now limited to 100, and there were actually 99 inmates of the school on the 31st December 1898, of whom 68 were natives of the Presidency of Antigua, 26 of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis (including Anguilla), and 6 of the Presidency of Montserrat.

The Girls' Training School at Scotts Hill was closed early in the year 1898, as a measure of economy.

At the Skerretts Government Farm, which is worked by the boys in the Industrial School in connection with the school, the experimental cultivation of several varieties of sugar cane was carried on, but owing to the absence of any analytical chemist, the scientific results could not be worked out and published as in former years.

The total expenditure on the stock farm and estate was £473 6s. 2d., while the receipts from the farm amounted to £336 12s. 1d.

The value of the stock was estimated at the end of the year at £1,871.

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ISLANDS,  
1898.

During the year 1898 there was a considerable mortality amongst the cattle, owing to an outbreak of skin disease, and the want of a proper supply of water was much felt.

## V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

### (A.) HOSPITALS.

The following table shows, in a summarized form, the number of patients admitted in 1898 into the various hospitals throughout the Colony, the numbers discharged from these institutions, and the number of deaths which took place.

It may be remarked that owing to a long drought, which prevailed during the first six months of the year, much distress, and even actual starvation, existed amongst the labouring classes in the Presidency of Antigua.

Hospital.	Number in Hospital on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua ... ..	160	1,646	224	1,098	—	327
Cunningham St. Kitts	112	847	474	210	70	96
*Pogson (closed) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis ... ..	25	110	38	30	5	34
Dominica ... ..	43	494	369	57	3	44
Montserrat (Chateau)	59	77	36	36	17	—
(Hospital)	1	49	25	22	—	2
*Virgin Islands (closed)	—	—	—	—	—	—

\* These hospitals were closed during the year owing to the financial condition of the Colony.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

## (B.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

The following table gives the statistics of the Lunatic Asylums for the year :—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Rat Island ... ..	64	26	10	5	1	10
Ridge ... ..	35	6	—	—	—	2

## LEPER ASYLUMS.

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January 1898.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	
Antigua ... ..	31	8	—	—	—	3
St. Kitts ... ..	60	11	—	—	—	6

## (C.) POOR HOUSES.

In Antigua there were in the Poor House on 1st January 87 inmates. During the year 1898, 64 were admitted, 30 died and 39 were discharged.

The number of persons in Antigua who received poor relief was 1,165, the total amount spent being £780 14s. 10d. Owing to a severe drought and consequent failure of provision crops exceptional distress prevailed during several months in 1898. A soup-kitchen was established and carried on by private subscription for some months.

**(D.) REFORMATORIES.***(See under Education—Training Schools.)***LEeward  
ISLANDS,  
1898.****(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.**

Savings Banks have been established in all the Presidencies except that of the Virgin Islands. The total amount at the credit of depositors in the Colony on the 31st December last was £55,846 4s. 1d. The amount deposited during the year was £21,008 3s. 7d., as against withdrawals amounting to £19,542 19s. 4d., while the number of depositors on the 31st December was 2,491.

The amount of funds invested on behalf of the Savings Banks is upwards of £55,000.

**(VI.) JUDICIAL STATISTICS.****(A.) POLICE.**

The police force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 31st December last a total strength of 183, including an inspector-general, 3 inspectors, 3 sergeant-majors, 29 non-commissioned officers, and 150 privates. Of these, 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, 6 sergeants, 5 corporals, and 45 privates are stationed in Antigua; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, 4 sergeants, 3 corporals, and 53 privates in St. Kitts-Nevis; 1 inspector, 1 sergeant, 3 corporals, and 30 privates in Dominica, and 1 sergeant-major, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 12 privates in Montserrat (since the end of last year the detachment in Montserrat has been increased in strength).

There are also 6 mounted police and 5 harbour police in Antigua, while 1 private is stationed in the Virgin Islands.

**(B.) PRISONS.**

The total number of prisoners received during the year 1898 in the gaols of the various Presidencies was 1,957. Of this number the approximate proportion of male prisoners amounted to 61½ per cent., of female prisoners to 37¼ per cent., and of juveniles to 1½ per cent.

The number of deaths which occurred in Antigua among the prisoners was 5, three of whom died in the hospital, to which they had been transferred, and 2 in the prison. Of the latter, one prisoner died of apoplexy, and one from hæmorrhage from the



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ISLANDS,  
1898.

bowels. Of the three prisoners who died after transfer to the hospital, the cause of death in one case was chronic fistula, and uræmic poisoning, in another case diarrhœa, and the third was due to acute enteritis, produced by eating peppers, found growing near the gaol.

The following table shows the number of cases treated by the prison surgeon during the year 1898, with the complaint in each case :—

Disease or Complaint.	1897.		1898.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Skin diseases ... ..	18	4	8	2
Gastro-intestinal dyspepsia, diarrhœa, dysentery.	173	11	125	8
Lung—Phtthisis, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy.	83	12	49	4
Heart disease ... ..	13	0	6	2
Apoplexy ... ..	1	0	1	0
Debility... ..	27	2	14	3
Hernia ... ..	5	0	8	0
Eye diseases ... ..	11	0	9	2
Genito-urinary... ..	28	8	16	4
Rheumatism and neuralgia ... ..	83	12	44	4
Epistaxis ... ..	1	0	0	0
Elephantiasis ... ..	2	0	2	1
Fevers—Malarial, typhoid, &c. ...	43	6	30	7
Abscess ... ..	15	2	2	0
Headaches ... ..	6	0	20	4
Slight injuries ... ..	24	5	6	0
Malingering ... ..	132	2	80	0
Total ... ..	665	64	420	41

## (C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

LEeward  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

The following table shows the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with the convictions and acquittals in each year, from which it appears that there has been a steady diminution of crime during the last four years, while the number of offences reported during the year 1898 was the smallest during the five years.

Years.	Offences reported.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
1894 ...	17,538	8,628	8,904
1895 ...	18,282	7,479	8,921
1896 ...	15,128	5,962	8,959
1897 ...	13,261	5,837	7,258
1898 ...	12,813	5,613	7,105

Of the 12,813 offences reported during 1898, 2,993 were offences against the person, 1,241 prædial larceny, 1,633 were offences against property (other than prædial larceny), while the remaining 6,946 comprised all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 5,526 persons in the Magistrates' Courts, the number of persons convicted by the Superior Courts being 87.

In the Magistrates' Courts 6,947 persons were acquitted, while the number acquitted in the Superior Courts was 67, and a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 89 cases.

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1898.

## VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

## (A.) POPULATION.

The aggregate returns from the Registrars of the various Presidencies show a total for the Colony of 5,057 births, 3,601 deaths, and 455 marriages. The census of 1891 gave a total population for the Colony of 127,723, and adding on the number of births in excess of deaths between the date of the census and the 31st December 1898, we obtain as the present population of the Colony an apparent total of 139,519, but in the absence of statistics of emigration and immigration, the above total cannot be considered reliable. Owing to want of work, numbers of men have left for other Colonies in search of employment.

The following summary shows the population of each Island of the Colony at the end of 1898 (subject to the differences caused by immigration and emigration above referred to) together with the births, deaths, and marriages in each case during the past year.

As usual the births are largely in excess of the deaths.

ISLAND.	Population on 31st December 1898.	Births.	Deaths.	Increase.	Marriages.
Antigua ...	37,581	1,404	1,225	179	138
Barbuda ...	683	35	30	5	3
St. Kitts ...	33,159	1,227	801	336	122
Nevis ...	14,859	647	447	200	45
Anguilla ...	4,263	133	79	54	6
Dominica ...	29,886	902	530	372	81
Montserrat ...	13,756	528	281	247	43
Virgin Islands ...	5,332	181	118	63	17
Total ...	139,519	5,057	3,601	1,456	455

## (B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

LEEWARD  
ISLANDS,  
1898.

The following table shows the death-rate of the Colony per 1,000 during the past three years. It will be seen that the death-rate in 1898 was 2·52 per 1,000 in excess of that of 1897 :—

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1896 ...	136,034	3,404	25·02
1897 ...	138,069	3,215	23·29
1898 ...	139,519	3,601	25·81

## (C.) SANITATION.

Sanitary Boards exist in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Dominica, and Montserrat, by which provision is made for the enforcement of the usual sanitary regulations. In the town of St. John's, Antigua, the dry earth privy system, with frequent removal of excreta, has been introduced, and is gradually being extended. The villages are kept clear of weeds. In the Presidencies of St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat there is an abundant supply of good water carried by pipes to the towns. In Antigua, while the town of St. John's has a fair water supply, the country villages are exceedingly badly supplied with water by ponds, which can only be cleaned out in very dry weather.

## (D.) CLIMATE.

(1.) *Rainfall.*

The average of the rainfall recorded at 66 stations in Antigua during the year 1898 was 48·85 inches. The average rainfall during the past 25 years was 45·94 inches, so that last year's rainfall was 2·78 inches above the annual average. Although the rainfall was on the whole above the average, however, a protracted drought occurred during the first half of the year, only 14 inches falling up to the end of June.

In St. Kitts the rainfall at Laguerite was 55·51 inches.

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1898.

In Dominica the average rainfall recorded at 15 stations was 108·73 inches. Of these 15 stations, the average rainfall at 10 stations on the leeward side of the Island was 105·42 inches, while the average for 5 stations on the windward slopes was 115·33 inches.

In Montserrat the average rainfall at 6 stations was 68·81 inches.

(2.) *Temperature.*

In Antigua the shade temperature in St. John's varied during the year from 90·5 in September and October to 67 in February, the average readings for the year being 81·8 at 9 a.m. and 84·4 at 3 p.m.

In St. Kitts the maximum temperature at Laguerite was 90 in September, and the minimum 70 in January, while the average readings were 81·34 at 9 a.m. and 83·16 at 3 p.m.

In Montserrat, at Elberton (400 feet above sea level), the maximum recorded was 91 in May and the minimum 66 in December and February (readings taken at 9 a.m.), the average temperature being 79·4.

*Direction and Force of Wind.*

The prevailing direction of the wind in the Leeward Islands is east, with occasional variations to north-east and east-north-east, with an average velocity varying from 7·76 miles per hour in St. John's, Antigua, to 9·79 at Laguerite, St. Kitts.

Trade winds blow during the greater part of the year, but during the months of July, August, September and October the wind is usually light and variable, these being, however, the months during which hurricanes most frequently occur.

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VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Comparing the amount of postal matter of all kinds received and despatched in the Colony during the year 1898 with the figures for 1897, we find that there was an increase of 13,510 in the number of letters received and sent, of 3,811 papers and books, while the number of parcels shows an increase of 626.

The total value of money orders issued in the Colony was £28,409 as compared with £20,191 in 1897, while the value of orders cashed in the Colony amounted to only £9,519 as against £29,039 in 1897.

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1898.

The telegraph rates were reduced during the past year, the rate per word between this Colony and the United Kingdom being now 4s. 7½*d.* per word, while the rate for Government messages has been reduced to 3s. 1½*d.* per word.

Telephone systems are in operation in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, there being in the former Island 275 miles of wire and 147 instruments in use, while the latter has 204 miles of wire and 78 instruments.

The expenditure in Antigua on the telephone system was £909 and the receipts were £720.

In St. Kitts the expenditure was £539 and the receipts £334.

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## IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

### (A.) REGULAR FORCES.

*None.*

### (B.) MILITIA.

*None.*

### (C.) VOLUNTEERS.

Volunteer Defence Forces have been established in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the St. John's Infantry Company (armed with Martini-Enfield rifles) numbered, on the 31st December, 54 officers and men, and is increasing in strength.

A mounted infantry company is also in course of formation in Antigua.

In St. Kitts-Nevis a Volunteer Defence Force has been established since 1396, numbering 184 officers and men, armed with Martini-Enfield rifles. Of these, 66 are mounted infantry and 105 are infantry, with 10 officers and three medical officers.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1898. The expenditure in Antigua on the defence force was in 1898 £1,018, (including all expenses consequent on the formation of the corps, salary of drill instructor, and amount of capitation grant drawn).

The expenditure on the St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force was £835 in 1898. The arms are on loan from the Imperial Government.

(D.) CONSTABULARY OR SEMI-MILITARY COLONIAL FORCE.

*None.*

The police are armed with Martini-Enfield rifles.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

No events of importance arrest our attention when reviewing the course of the year 1898. The Colony was mercifully spared the ruin and desolation brought upon several other Islands by the disastrous hurricane of the 11th and 12th September, which will long be remembered in Saint Vincent and Barbados and by Saint Lucia. The track of this cyclone just touched Anguilla and Barbuda, in which Islands some damage was done to houses, but no loss of life occurred.

The difficulty of finding work in the larger Islands induced many of the more able-bodied men to seek employment elsewhere. A large number left for the newly acquired American dependencies of Porto Rico and Cuba after the war, where, owing to the laws prohibiting the landing of pauper immigrants, they were in most cases not permitted to land.

No public works of any importance were carried out during the year, the financial condition of most of the Presidencies requiring the strictest economy.

The Presidencies of Antigua and Dominica passed Acts abrogating their former semi-elective Constitutions, and providing for legislative bodies nominated by the Crown; and each Presidency of the Colony now possesses the Crown Colony form of Government, the Federal Legislature being, as before, partly nominated and partly elected by the unofficial members of the various local Legislatures.

The future prospects of trade in the larger Islands are, and must always be, dependent on the success and development of the staple industry, sugar, and it is hoped that the efforts which are being made by the Imperial Government to promote the establishment of central factories will speedily result in action being taken in this direction.

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The climate of the Leeward Islands is, generally speaking, a healthy one for Europeans, although during the hot months occasional sporadic outbreaks of malignant fever occur; but there are few openings for white labour at the present time.

A projected road across the interior of Dominica, from the Leeward to the Windward Coast, which will traverse a large area of rich Crown lands, should be the means of opening up a portion of that Island to the profitable employment of capital in the cultivation of cocoa and other products.

The establishment, in October last, of an Imperial West Indian Department of Agriculture, presided over by Dr. D. Morris, C.M.G., with an efficient staff, including curators of botanic stations and agricultural instructors in the various Islands, gives a guarantee that the capacity of these Islands to support remunerative agricultural industries will be thoroughly tested. The expenditure on this large undertaking, which it is hoped may result in stimulating productive labour and cultivation in many of the smaller Islands, now suffering from apathy and depression and from the want of means of sending their produce to any market, has been generously guaranteed for some years by the Imperial Parliament, to which these struggling Colonies owe a grateful acknowledgment.

GEO. MELVILLE,

*Colonial Secretary.*



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—  
1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 243.

MALTA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 196.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*October 1898.*

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1898.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena ... ..	1896
214	Seychelles ... ..	"
215	Mauritius ... ..	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia .. ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 243.

MALTA  
1897

## MALTA.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 196.)

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GOVERNOR SIR A. J. LYON FREMANTLE to  
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1897.

I have, &amp;c.,

ART. FREMANTLE,  
*Governor.*

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Chief Secretary's Office,  
Valletta, 2nd June 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit to Your Excellency the following Report on the Malta Blue Book for the year 1897.

## FINANCES.

*Revenue.*

The revenue collected from all sources in 1897 amounted to £323,787 5s. 10½*d.* This amount exceeds the estimate by £1,469 5s. 10½*d.*, and it exceeds by £10,106 11s. 3½*d.* the revenue of 1896.

The following table shows the receipts under each head of revenue compared with those collected in 1896 :—

75\*—75—7/98 Wt 21620 D &amp; S—5 (B)

A 2

HEADS OF REVENUE	COLLECTED IN 1896.			COLLECTED IN 1897.			INCREASE.			DECREASE.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs ... ..	176,457	6	1	172,707	12	1	—	—	—	3,749	14	0
Harbour and Quarantine Dues ... ..	8,270	5	0	8,522	10	3	252	5	3	—	—	—
Licences, Court Fines, &c. ... ..	5,633	18	1½	5,646	11	8¾	12	13	7¼	—	—	—
Fees and Reimbursements ... ..	21,155	9	0¾	23,113	11	0¾	1,958	2	0	—	—	—
Post Office ... ..	13,233	6	9	16,218	18	4	2,985	11	7	—	—	—
Railway ... ..	7,020	16	3	6,817	19	9¾	—	—	—	202	16	5¼
Water Service... ..	9,006	14	7½	10,114	7	2	1,107	12	6½	—	—	—
Electric Lighting ... ..	346	17	3	9,122	14	2	8,776	16	11	—	—	—
Rent, Rural ... ..	13,308	2	9¼	12,834	7	5¼	—	—	—	473	15	4
Rent, Urban ... ..	27,713	3	4¾	27,257	12	3¼	—	—	—	455	11	1½
Rents on account of Charitable Foundations ... ..	4,042	7	6¾	3,923	5	2¾	—	—	—	119	2	4
Interest ... ..	27,492	7	8½	27,507	16	4	15	8	7½	—	—	—
Total ... ..	£ 313,680	14	7	323,787	5	10½	15,107	10	6¼	5,000	19	2¾

The items of revenue which contributed principally to the increase were the following :—

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- (a) Harbour and Quarantine Dues,
- (b) Fees and Reimbursements,
- (c) Post Office,
- (d) Water Service,
- (e) Electric Lighting.

There was on the other hand a decrease of revenue under the following items :—

- (a) Customs,
- (b) Railway,
- (c) Rents, Rural,
- (d) Rents, Urban,
- (e) Rents—Charitable Foundations.

It is a matter of gratification to observe, with reference to Harbour and Quarantine Dues (a), that in the year under review a larger number of vessels than in the previous years entered our harbours for coaling or for other commercial purposes, and although the amount of Tonnage Dues received over that of 1896 was not in itself large, yet it may be taken as an omen of a possible future improvement of our Harbour Trade.

The increase of £1,958 2s. under head " Fees and Reimbursements " (b) is due principally to larger returns from store rent and wages of Revenue Guards, &c., consequent to larger quantities of dutiable goods and coffee being deposited in the Government Warehouses or placed under Revenue Guards, as well as to larger receipts accrued from fees for treatment in Hospitals and Asylums, and from Public Registry Fees.

The Postal Department (c) earned a larger revenue than in the previous year on almost all heads. But the amount of the increase (£2,985 11s. 7d.) must not be taken as a normal standard of the general improvement of the revenue of that concern, inasmuch as that amount includes a sum representing arrears of international transit rates received in 1897 on account of 1895 and 1896 on behalf of the local Mail Steamer " Carola " which is subsidized by the Malta Government. It is, however, to be noticed that the Post Office, judging from the larger returns obtained on the sale of stamps, and the transactions on Parcel

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**1897.**

Mails inwards, continues to improve its revenue, as may be seen from the following figures :—

				£	s.	d.
Revenue in 1895	...	...	...	13,337	17	9
„ 1896	...	...	...	13,233	6	9
„ 1897	...	...	...	16,218	18	4

The Water Service (*d*), which is another undertaking from which a source of revenue is derived, gave an increase of £1,107 12s. 6½*d*. The expansion of receipts accruing annually from this enterprise shows that householders are learning year after year that a supply of wholesome water is fully worth the small sacrifice they are called upon to undergo for payment of meter rent and of the water dues in excess of their gratis allowance. Commercially, this enterprise is carried on at a loss, due especially to the gratis allowance of three gallons per head per day above mentioned, but the benefit to the public health experienced by the general community counterbalances such commercial loss. The progressive expansion of this revenue is shown by the following figures :—

				£	s.	d.
In 1895 Water Dues and Meter Rents...			...	6,701	3	10
In 1896 „ „ „	„	„	...	7,442	7	5
In 1897 „ „ „	„	„	...	7,573	4	10

With regard to Electric Lighting (*e*), I stated in my last report that it was then premature to offer any remarks on the revenue derivable under that head, the installation having then commenced to operate in the last month of that year. During 1897 the receipts obtained by this new municipal undertaking amounted to £9,122 14s. 2*d*.; of this sum, the largest proportion (£6,947 15s. 6*d*.) was paid by the Government itself for street lighting, the remaining balance representing receipts obtained from lighting military and public buildings and private establishments. The capital laid out for the installation yields an interest of 2¾ carried revenue, besides setting aside 1½ per cent. for a Reserve and Renewal Fund. It is to be noted that the cost to the public for street lighting by the adoption of electricity as illuminant has increased, but on the other hand, it is universally admitted that by the installation of the electric light, a much superior quality and quantity of lighting power has been obtained as a set off against such increased expenditure.

The Customs revenue, unlike previous years, gave last year a diminution in its receipts amounting to £3,749 14s. Such

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decrease is chiefly attributable to a diminution in the importation of bullocks and frozen meat, due to the abnormally large stock of frozen meat introduced in December 1896, in consequence of which no large supplies for consumption by the population were required for importation in 1897. Another cause of the decrease of the Customs duties was the reduced importation of wheat. The frequent fluctuations in the market, consequent on American speculation for raising the price of this commodity, naturally deterred local merchants from importing any considerable quantities in excess of actual requirements.

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The receipts of the Railway Department have fallen off by £202 16s. 5½d. in consequence of a decrease in the passenger traffic. No positive explanation can be given of the cause of the diminished traffic during the year, but it is supposed that the general public, after the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee festivals, did not resort in large numbers to Notabile and other villages on the occasion of the other annual festivities.

The following figures show the revenue earned by this undertaking in the last three years, viz. :—

				£	s.	d.
In 1895	...	...	...	5,963	2	0
In 1896	...	...	...	7,020	16	3
In 1897	...	...	...	6,817	19	9¼

With regard to the revenue derived from the landed estate of the Government, including that of the Charitable Foundations, a small diminution has been experienced which is chiefly attributable, as regards rural rents, to the existing continued agricultural depression. The decrease in the rental of urban tenements is due to the fact that a smaller number of arrears of previous years were collected in 1897, and that certain tenements previously yielding an annual rent have now been allotted free of charge for special public services. The following table shows the rental received from the landed property of the Government in the last three years :—

Year.	Urban.			Rural.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1895 ... ..	27,233	16	6	13,368	9	10
1896 .. ..	27,713	3	4¼	13,308	2	9¼
1897 .. ..	27,257	12	3¼	12,834	7	5¼



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## EXPENDITURE.

The provisions voted for expenditure by the Legislature, or granted by Special Authority of the head of the Government, out of the revenue of the year 1897 and out of the General Reserve Fund, amounted in the aggregate to the following sums, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Chargeable to revenue ... ..	360,934	16	0
Chargeable to Reserve Fund ... ..	25,318	8	6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£386,253</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

This amount was allocated in the estimates as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
For personal emoluments ... ..	132,620	12	2
Other charges and works ... ..	253,632	12	4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£386,253</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

The amount actually expended was as shown hereunder :—

	£	s.	d.
Out of revenue ... ..	320,710	6	3
Out of Reserve Fund ... ..	3,963	1	7
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£324,673</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

The expenditure incurred out of general revenue was below the total revenue received by £3,076 19s. 7½*d.*, and below the total amount provided in voted estimates by £40,224 9s. 9*d.*

The General Reserve Fund, which had originally been instituted out of surplus revenues to meet any emergency requiring large special expenditure, commenced to be appropriated for the construction of certain works and other services which could not be defrayed out of revenue. This fund amounted at the beginning

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of 1897 to £39,905 6s. 10½d.; out of this sum £25,318 8s. 6d. were voted for certain services, of which, however, only £3,963 1s. 7d. were actually spent during the year. For the purposes of this report the expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund will be dealt with conjointly with that defrayed out of revenue.

The following comparative return shows in detail the expenditure incurred in 1897, under each respective head of service, exclusive of that chargeable to the Immovable Property Account:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Personal Emoluments.			Other Charges.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Interest and burthens	—	—	—	17,895	1	11	17,895	1	11
2. Pensions ... ..	—	—	—	16,886	17	6	16,886	17	6
3. The Government and Legislature.	4,762	19	1	492	12	9	5,255	11	10
4. Chief Secretary ...	3,620	6	2	594	11	0	4,214	17	2
5. Receiver-General ...	2,596	5	10	486	11	10	3,082	17	8
6. Customs and Port Department.	9,011	7	4	2,647	7	7	11,658	14	11
7. Audit Department ...	1,596	10	0	67	12	8	1,664	2	8
8. Printing Office ...	1,000	18	2	115	10	1	1,116	8	3
9. Railway Department...	2,573	1	2	3,229	5	10	5,802	7	0
9A. Railway Special Expenditure.	—	—	—	1,085	4	2	1,085	4	2
10. Legal Department ...	15,899	15	0	3,128	7	9	19,028	2	9
11. Police Department ...	33,382	8	11	5,348	4	4	38,730	13	3
11A. Public Health Department.	6,950	4	7	4,841	5	1	11,791	9	8
12. Prisons... ..	1,540	10	4	2,853	16	5	4,394	6	9
13. Charitable Institutions	12,242	4	8	31,765	15	6	44,008	0	2
14. Educational Department.	18,901	16	2	3,066	18	1	21,968	14	3
15. Post Office ... ..	4,375	15	4	9,507	19	8	13,883	15	0
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure.	125	0	0	631	13	6	756	13	6
17. Military Expenditure	—	—	—	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0
18. Miscellaneous Services	—	—	—	12,295	6	6	12,295	6	6
19. Superintendent of Public Works Department.	4,494	8	0	878	12	1	5,373	0	1
19A. Superintendent of Water Works and Electric Light Department.	4,766	18	9½	18,979	18	3½	23,746	17	1
20. Public Works annually recurrent.	—	—	—	40,337	4	7½	40,337	4	7½
21. Public Works and Water Works extraordinary.	—	—	—	10,823	19	6½	10,823	19	6½
21a. Special Expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund.	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,963	1	7
Total ...£	127,840	9	6½	192,869	16	8½	324,673	7	10

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The comparative yearly expenditure of this Government for the last three years was as follows :—

Year.	Personal Emoluments.			Other Charges.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1895	118,607	1	2	182,943	15	7½	301,550	16	9½
1896	123,091	18	7	185,810	15	9¾	308,902	14	4¾
1897	127,840	9	6½	196,832	18	3½	324,673	7	10

The heads of service under which an appreciable increase of expenditure was incurred in 1897 over that of the preceding year are :—

- (a) Pensions,
- (b) Customs and Port Department,
- (c) Public Health Department,
- (d) Prisons,
- (e) Charitable Institutions,
- (f) Post Office,
- (g) Miscellaneous,
- (h) Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department.

The circumstances which caused the augmented expenditure under each of the above stated heads of service were chiefly the following :—

- (a) The high rates of pensions awarded during the year to certain Government Officers ;
- (b) The employment of a larger number of Health Guards owing to quarantine restrictions, the allowances to Medical Officers, &c., and cost of supplies on the occasion of the landing of the troops on Comino Island, in quarantine ;
- (c) Increase to salaries and wages of portion of the staff, and extra remunerations to certain Professional Officers, and extraordinary expenditure consequent to the transfer of the French Creek Pumping Station to another locality ;
- (d) The high price of certain provisions ;

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- (e) The cost of the Charitable Institutions absorbs a large portion of the public revenue. The expenditure incurred last year exceeds that of 1896 by £1,604 1s. 8½*d.* Such increase is due to larger number of cases treated in the Hospitals or admitted into the Asylums than in preceding years, and also to the higher price of bread in the contract for that year.

The total expenditure in each of the last three years was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
In 1895	41,191	16	3
In 1896	42,403	18	5¾
In 1897	44,008	0	2

- (f) The extension of the business in the Postal Department carries necessarily with it a proportionate increase of its expenditure.

The largest part of this increase is due to the fact that the Department was called upon to pay within 1897 arrears of International Transit Rates of previous years. As a matter of fact, however, the revenue earned in 1897 by the Department fully covered its expenditure.

- (g) The increase under the head "Miscellaneous" is due to the drawback of duty for cattle and frozen meat imported for the use of the Army and Navy, which in former years used to remain in suspense, but which under Ordinance No. II. of 1896 is uniformly paid to the Customs Department by the importers, subject to be refunded as drawback to the Military and Naval Departments on certificates of disposal. The sum paid in excess of previous year for this service was, in 1897, £2,260 19s. 5*d.*

- (h) As stated before, the year under review is the first in which the Installation for Electric Lighting has been in operation; it follows therefore that the expenditure under this head of service, as compared with that of the previous year, when the installation was running for only one month, must necessarily be very large. But independently of the expenditure for electricity, the Waterworks expenditure was larger in 1897 than that of the previous year, owing principally to heavier pumping during the summer months and to the purchase of a larger supply than usual of meters to meet the increasing demand for the installation of house services.

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The heads of service on account of which a diminution of expenditure was obtained during this year were the following:—

- (a) Burthens and Interest.
- (b) Legal Departments.
- (c and d) Public Works Recurrent and Extraordinary.

As regards the first (a), such diminution is due principally to the smaller balance voted in 1897 as a subsidy to the formation of the General Reserve Fund, and as regards the second head (b), to the abolition of the situations of Syndics of the Country Districts.

The expenditure on public works, whether recurrent or extraordinary (c and d) was, during the year, the following:—

	£	s.	d.
Recurrent ... ..	40,337	4	7½
<i>Extraordinary—</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Out of revenue ...	10,823	19	6½
Out of General Reserve Fund.	3,963	1	
	14,787	1	1½
Total ... ..	£55,124	5	9

It will be observed that, even with the addition of the works defrayed out of the General Reserve Fund, the expenditure by the Public Works Department was below that of the previous year. The provisions taken in the various estimates for recurrent and extraordinary works, including those under General Reserve Fund, amounted collectively to £97,939 14s., whilst the sum actually expended was £55,124 5s. 9d., leaving balances at the end of the year available for suspended and uncompleted works to an amount of £42,815.

The following are the most important works defrayed out of revenue and Reserve Fund (exclusive of those chargeable to the Immovable Property Account Fund) during the year, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Towards construction of new Abattoir...	1,450	0	4
(2) Remodelling and constructing roads and streets, &c.	3,948	18	5
(3) Waterworks (exclusive of maintenance)	3,318	9	5
Carried forward ... ..	8,717	8	2

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Brought forward ...	8,717	8	2	<u>          </u>
(4) Improving property yielding rent ...	3,802	10	3½	
(5) Asylum for Lepers ... ..	818	16	1	
(6) Improving public buildings, including lazaretto accommodation for cattle.	4,228	2	2½	
(7) Constructing and improving Customs House stores and verandahs.	1,031	18	3	
(8) Improving buildings of the Charitable Institutions and Hospitals.	2,719	7	5	
(9) Constructing basin for boats at the Marsa	406	14	10½	
(10) Constructing camber for boats near the Custom House.	576	15	2½	
(11) Constructing a quarantine establishment at Comino Island.	1,862	5	5	
Total ... ..	<u>£24,163</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>	

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACCOUNT FUND.

The provisions voted in 1897, under Ordinance V. of 1891, as chargeable to the above fund, were the following:—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Installation of Electricity for Sliema ...	5,500	0	0
(2) Railway—Additional provision for railway carriages.	138	18	2
(3) Primary Schools—Additional provision for the new school house at Rabato.	31	16	9
Total ... ..	<u>£5,670</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>

The actual expenditure out of the above votes and the balances carried forward from votes taken in previous years under this fund was to the following amounts, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Railway Works—including extension of the line to Intarfa.	3,354	12	7
Establishment of Lighting by Electricity ...	9,871	3	5½
New school at Hamrun ... ..	299	17	9
Court House, Police Station, &c., at Zeitun	246	10	9
Total ... ..	<u>£13,772</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6½</u>

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leaving unexpended balances amounting to £23,782 18s. 4½*d.* as standing to the credit of the different works voted out of this fund in various estimates since the passing of the aforementioned Ordinance.

The balances standing to the credit of the fund (both Government and Pius Foundations) was, on the 31st December 1897, £5,698 18s. 0½*d.*

#### LEGISLATION.

The Council of Government met 22 times in 1897, during the periods between the 17th February and 12th May and the 27th October and the 22nd December, when it was adjourned to the 19th January of the current year.

Of the fifteen Ordinances passed only six are of sufficient importance to require notice in this report, the others being for the most part of a formal character and such as contained amendments in the existing laws.

Ordinance No. I. of 1897 gives power to the head of the Government to raise, by the issue of bonds, any sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate a total of £150,000, to be exclusively applied for works of drainage in the most thickly peopled districts of Malta and Gozo.

The authority thus granted to the head of the Government is subject to the condition that “no bonds shall be issued for any sum or sums before an estimate for each particular section of such drainage works shall have been sanctioned by the Council of Government.”

Every bond is to be for a sum not exceeding £1,000, and not less than £10, and to bear interest at the rate of 2½ per cent.; it is to be transferable by delivery, and liable to be paid off at 101 per cent. of the nominal value at any time after five years from the date thereof at the pleasure of the Government, provided that no less than 6 months' notice be given by an advertisement in the Government Gazette of the intention of the Government to pay off such bond or part thereof.

An amendment was proposed to the Government draft by an elected member, and passed by the Council, to the effect that steps are to be taken by the head of the Government with a view to this loan being placed on the list of securities quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

Ordinance No. II. empowers the head of the Government to make plans for regulating the alignment of buildings in any inhabited place in which the defective arrangements of building is to be remedied, and for regulating the extension of building area.

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The necessity of this measure has long been evident, in view of the fact that buildings in inhabited places were rapidly being set up without discrimination. The police laws contained provisions to the effect that houses be built in accordance with the requirements of sanitation; but builders of houses could not be compelled, previously to the enactment of this Ordinance, to observe, in the reconstruction of old buildings or in the erection of new buildings, such lines as might ensure healthiness of groups of buildings and the systematic arrangement of communications.

Ordinance No. III. "To amend Ordinance No. XII. of 1889, intituled 'For the better control and management of the University and other Educational Establishments,'" when first introduced, was simply intended to enable the Senate of the University to give execution to its intermediate decisions without the previous sanction of the Governor.

The provision which the Ordinance contained to that effect was rejected. Meanwhile the Government was compelled to enquire into the state of the Education Department. With this object in view, a Select Committee of the Council was appointed to enquire into and report upon the organization of the University and of the Elementary Schools, and on any reform that might be considered necessary in the then existing law which governed that department. The Committee to whom the Draft Ordinance in question was referred having unanimously recommended that the Senate of the University should be abolished, steps were taken in the Council to give effect to that recommendation, with the result of the passing of the four articles which form part of the present Ordinance, by which Ordinance No. XII. of 1889 was repealed.

The first of these articles provides that the second chapter of the Statute of the University referring to the constitution and powers of the Senate of the University is repealed, and that the Lyceum and the University of Malta shall be governed by that Statute.

By the second article the powers that the Senate had in matters over which the Director of Education had no authority were transferred to the Governor.

Article 3 and Article 4 were inserted in order to vest in the Council of Government the exclusive power of preventing any alteration of the Statute of the University in which the majority of the Council did not concur.

Ordinance No. IV. is intituled "To amend some provisions of the Criminal Laws relating to Bail."

By this measure the provision of the Criminal Laws, according to which persons under arrest, accused of crimes and contraventions, may obtain their temporary release on sufficient bail to



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appear at all the proceedings of the cause, at any time and place they may be directed to attend, may now be extended to any case in which the requirements of the public order do not make it absolutely inadvisable that such provisional release should be granted.

The previous law, according to which provisional release could be granted, except in the case of offences punishable with detention or with imprisonment or with hard labour for less than one year, deprived the great majority of arrested persons of the benefit of bail.

The term of imprisonment to which the judge could, in accordance with the verdict of the jury, condemn the prisoner had often been exceeded by the time during which the latter had been kept in arrest awaiting trial.

Ordinance No. VI. regulates the duty on oil, which is now established at (a) sixpence per caffiso ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  imperial gallons) on oil of every description, with the exception of linseed oil, of other oils used as medicine, and of any oils which, being unfit for food, are intended for industrial purposes; and (b) at one shilling per caffiso on cotton seed oil, or any oil containing any mixture of cotton seed oil.

This measure originated in a report made by the Chamber of Commerce, to the effect that cotton seed oil was being mixed with olive oil and sold as olive oil. The Collector of Customs supported the report, and called attention to the loss that the revenue was suffering by such mixture in connection with the duty on olive oil.

With a view of preventing importers of cotton seed oil from deceiving the public and defrauding the Treasury, a duty of one shilling per caffiso has been imposed on cotton seed oil, or any oil containing any mixture of cotton seed oil, which duty, as compared with the duty of sixpence per caffiso on olive oil, was considered sufficient to check fraud.

Ordinance No. VII. was introduced with the view (a) of consolidating in one Act all the laws concerning prisons; (b) of giving power to the head of the Government to appropriate adequate places in the country districts of Malta for the detention of prisoners accused of crimes, pending the enquiry into the charge by the Court of Judicial Police sitting in those districts; and (c) of appropriating adequate places for the detention of prisoners in addition to, or in substitution for, the prisons in the Palace of the Court of Justice in Malta and the prison of the "Gran Castello" in Gozo.

The necessity that the Government should have the power mentioned at (b) arose in consequence of the promulgation of Ordinance No. III. of 1896, abolishing the office of Syndics, by

which power was given to the Court of Judicial Police for the Island of Malta to exercise its jurisdiction in the country districts as a Court of Criminal Instruction in certain cases. As in such cases the accused has sometimes to be detained in prison, it became necessary that the law should give power to the Governor to establish places of detention where prisoners might be conveniently confined during the preliminary proceedings.

The expediency of giving to the Governor the power mentioned at (c) was suggested by the consideration that many unforeseen circumstances might make it necessary to transfer the prisoners from the places in which they have to be confined in the prison attached to the Courts, or in Gozo, to other places.

Ordinance No. XV. amends Ordinance No. II. of 1896, intituled "To impose a duty on imported meat, and to make provisions respecting the importation thereof."

The principal amendment affects the measures respecting the importation of fresh or frozen meat. According to present law "no fresh or frozen meat will be allowed to be imported into these islands, unless a certificate be produced by the importer, signed by the Government Inspector of the place of exportation stating that the meat has been inspected by him and found to be free from any disease, or unless, where there be no such Inspector at the place of exportation, a certificate be produced by the importer stating that no cattle disease of any sort was known to exist in the district where the animal was slaughtered at the time of slaughtering, and that the animals were inspected by a qualified veterinary surgeon and were found in good health. Any of the certificates mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall be signed by the British Consular Authority, and, where there be no such an authority, by the proper Government Officer or Municipal Authority of the district in which the Inspector resides, or in which the animal was slaughtered."

No fresh meat shall be allowed to be landed and no piece of frozen meat shall be allowed to be stored in the frozen meat stores before it is stamped by Custom House officials.

The refund of duty payable by this Government to the Imperial Government will be calculated on the amount of duty paid on such quantity of meat which, from a declaration by the Military and Naval Authorities and the books kept by them, shall appear to have been disposed of by the Imperial Government and actually issued as rations.

#### CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.

His Excellency Sir Arthur James Lyon Fremantle, G.C.M.G., C.B., left Malta on leave on the 31st July, and Major-General

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the Lord Congleton, C.B., administered the Government as Deputy Governor from that date to the 10th September, when His Excellency returned and resumed the Government.

The Honourable F. Vella, C.M.G., Collector of Customs, acted as Chief Secretary to Government during my absence on leave from the 6th June to the 10th October, the duties of his office having been performed by the Deputy Collector.

Mr. Lorenzo Gatt, C.E., was appointed Superintendent of Public Works in the room of Mr. Paolo Trapani, pensioned; and Mr. Napoleone Tagliaferro, Assistant Director of Education, appointed Director of Education in lieu of Dr. A. A. Caruana, pensioned.

#### SAVINGS BANKS.

The number of depositors in Malta and Gozo at the end of the year was 6,614, against 6,402 for 1896, the amount to their credit £514,878 18s. 9½*d.*, of which £113,963 16s. 7*d.* had been deposited during the year.

The invested funds amounted to £491,227 12s. 2*d.*, and the interest derived therefrom to £13,287 18s. 6*d.*, which left a net profit of £4,913 10s. on the year's transactions.

These banks receive deposits from one shilling to any amount, but interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum is only allowed on deposits of 5s. and on every additional sum of 5s. up to £100. Sums of money deposited in the name of any one person exceeding £100 are considered as placed in the banks for safe custody and do not bear interest.

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total imports in 1897 amounted to £10,895,639, against £10,472,139 in 1896, showing a decrease of £423,492. Of the above imports, £150,484 came from the United Kingdom, £9,087 from British Colonies, and £10,736,068 from foreign countries.

The following table shows a comparison between the values of the imports in 1896 and 1897, exclusive of articles not subject to duty, from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries, respectively :—

	UNITED KINGDOM.		BRITISH POSSESSIONS.		H.M.'s SHIPS.		FOREIGN COUNTRIES.		TOTAL.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Beer ... ..	71,769	75,024	—	—	96	51	451	803	72,316	75,878
<i>Cattle:—</i>										
Beef ... ..	12,565	7,333	38,225	8,125	13	—	216,577	88,529	267,380	103,987
Horses ... ..	288	1,224	22	—	—	—	4,592	5,253	4,902	6,477
Mules ... ..	—	112	—	—	—	—	520	1,152	520	1,264
<i>Grain:—</i>										
Wheat ... ..	1,265	1,768	91,468	83,700	—	—	7,620,205	7,008,813	7,712,938	7,094,281
Indian Corn ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	325,997	624,714	326,001	624,714
Barley ... ..	17	4	—	—	—	—	1,118,499	1,619,811	1,118,516	1,619,815
Saggina ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,209	9,278	9,209	9,278
Inferior ... ..	—	11	—	—	—	—	585,704	771,287	585,704	771,298
Damaged ... ..	1	4	—	—	—	—	31	58	32	62
Manufactured ... ..	25,588	34,694	—	—	31	215	25,634	42,962	51,253	77,871
Do. damaged ... ..	112	124	—	—	112	—	1	81	225	205
Oil ... ..	3,710	5,223	—	—	—	1	37,517	47,340	41,257	52,564
Potatoes... ..	19,838	16,038	—	—	1	4	9,029	13,421	23,868	29,493
Pulse ... ..	935	412	—	566	9	4	47,481	191,090	48,425	192,072
Seeds ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	27,596	36,273	27,596	36,273
Spirits ... ..	5,823	6,496	1	—	29	24	29,535	43,555	35,388	50,075
Vinogar ... ..	112	158	—	—	—	—	57	98	169	256
Wine ... ..	1,602	1,818	—	38	123	59	139,715	147,861	141,440	149,776
<b>Total ...£</b>	<b>143,629</b>	<b>150,473</b>	<b>129,716</b>	<b>92,429</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>10,193,380</b>	<b>10,652,379</b>	<b>10,472,139</b>	<b>10,895,639</b>

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1897.

Of the above total imports the sum of £905,006 represents the value of cargoes actually landed at this port in 1897, against £885,315 in 1896, and £9,990,633, against £9,586,824 in 1896, is the value of cargoes which proceeded in the same vessels.

Again, the value of exports from portions of the articles which were actually landed amounted to £80,567, so that the sum of £824,439 represents the value of the goods imported for local consumption in 1897, against £842,039 in the previous year.

An inspection of the Customs returns shows an increase in the imports from the United Kingdom for home consumption in the following articles :—

Beer, 91,451 barrels (1 barrel = 9½ imperial gallons) at 15s. 6d., against 87,495 barrels at 16s. 6d. in 1896 ;

Horses, 51 (at £24), against 12 (at £24) ;

Wheat, 641 salme (1 salma = 1 imperial quarter) at 35s. per salma, against 15 salme at 25s.

Oil (cotton seed), 4,595 caffisi (1 caffiso = 4½ imperial gallons) at 9s., against 14 caffisi at 13s. ;

Spirits 7,520 barrels (at 15s.), against 7,445 (at 14s.) ;

There was on the other hand a falling off in the following articles :—

Manufactured wheat fell from 25,899 cantars (1 cantar = 175 lbs.) at 17s. 6d. to 22,263 cantars at 25s. ;

Potatoes fell from 46,985 cantars (at 7s.) to 31,992 cantars (at 8s.) ;

Wine (superior) fell from 1,199 barrels to 1,105 barrels.

#### EXPORTS.

There being no export duty in Malta, the following figures refer only to articles subject to import duty which have been exported in the same vessels or from bond or were transhipped.

The total exports in 1897 amounted in value to £10,088,760, of which £80,567 represent the value of goods actually brought into the island and re-exported, and £10,008,193 the value of goods re-exported in the same bottoms.

The following return shows the value of the exports to the United Kingdom and other destinations respectively, in 1896 and 1897 :—

MALTA.  
1897.

—	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom ...	2,359,890	1,784,834
British Colonies ...	2,899,046	1,891,114
H.M.'s Ships ...	3,181	9,103
Foreign Countries ...	6,624,032	6,403,709
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>11,886,149</b>	<b>10,088,760</b>
Decrease in 1897 ...	—	1,797,389

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1897 were :— Wheat, valued at £1,381,129, against £2,074,682 in 1896; Indian corn, £56,653, against £72,987; barley, £201,227, against £128,933; inferior grain, £39,565, against £9,170; and pulse, £105,773, against £73,661 in 1896; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

The same articles, together with beer, valued at £2,169; horses, £832; mules, £1,260; manufactured grain, £5,872; olive oil, £7,498; cotton seed oil, £4,478; potatoes, £2,009; spirits, £34,413, and wine, valued at £3,508, were the chief exports to foreign countries.

#### SHIPPING.

The total number and tonnage of British and foreign vessels entered and cleared for the last two years is shown below :—

#### Entered.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Number.		Tonnage entered.	
		1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
British ...	Steam ...	1,556	1,673	Tons. 2,312,640	Tons. 2,619,626
" ...	Sailing ...	109	116	10,856	11,667
Foreign...	Steam ...	984	1,024	891,161	943,520
" ...	Sailing ...	1,137	1,298	78,543	62,613
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>3,786</b>	<b>4,111</b>	<b>3,293,200</b>	<b>3,637,426</b>
<b>Increase in 1897 ...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>344,226</b>

MALTA.  
1897.

Cleared.

British or Foreign.	Steam or Sailing.	Number.		Tonnage cleared.	
		1895.	1897.	1896.	1897.
British ... ..	Steam ... ..	1,563	1,668	Tons. 2,311,942	Tons. 2,614,648
" ... ..	Sailing ... ..	97	117	9,663	12,031
Foreign... ..	Steam ... ..	990	1,020	895,323	917,449
" ... ..	Sailing ... ..	1,117	1,292	74,215	62,914
Total ... ..		3,767	4,097	3,291,148	3,607,042
Increase in 1897 ...		—	330	—	315,894

The movement of the trade in 1897 was as follows :—

Tonnage entered from	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
United Kingdom ... ..	Tons. 1,055,739	Tons. 358	Tons. 1,056,097
British Colonies ... ..	22,206	240	22,446
China } India } Java } Australia }	52,438 335,092 6,595 34,158	— — — —	52,438 335,092 6,595 34,158
Via the Suez Canal.			
Foreign Countries ... ..	2,056,918	73,682	2,130,600
Total ... ..	3,563,146	74,280	3,637,426

*Tonnage Cleared.*MALTA.  
1897.

Countries to which departed.	Steam.	Sailing.	Total.
	Tons	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom ... ..	811,854	—	811,854
British Colonies ... ..	185,049	811	185,860
Australia	61	—	61
China	50,284	—	50,284
India	376,549	—	376,549
Japan	12,469	—	12,469
Java	3,336	—	3,336
Manilla	2,165	—	2,165
Russia	2,970	—	2,970
Foreign Countries ... ..	2,087,360	74,134	2,161,494
Total ... ..	3,532,097	74,945	3,607,042

## GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The number of persons confined in the gaols during 1897 was 5,967, of whom 4,289 were men, 619 women, 1,046 boys, and 13 girls. Of these 6 were committed for debt, 236 for safe custody pending trial, or for want of bail, and 5,728 for purposes of penal imprisonment.

The number of persons committed to penal imprisonment, including hard labour, was as follows:—

21 for five years or more,

82 for one year or more, but less than five years,

560 for more than three months and less than one year,

5,078 for three months or less.

The daily average in the gaols was 268, against 261 in 1896.

The number of punishments inflicted was 248 against 286 in 1896, viz. :—

Solitary confinement on bread and water ...	No.
Dark cell on bread and water ... ..	143
Reduction from class ... ..	2
Admonished ... ..	16
	87
Total ... ..	<u>248</u>



**MALTA.** The total cost of the prisons (Corradino, Valletta, and Gozo Prison) amounted to £4,172 4s., against £3,812 6s. 11d. in 1896.

		£
The estimated value of labour performed by male labour outside the prison (building, stone-cutting, reclaiming waste land and produce of prison lands), was ...		400
Inside—tailoring, shoemaking, carpentering, whitewashing, basket, mat and broom making, &c. ...		580
Sale of animals ...		10
<b>Total</b> ...		<b>£990</b>

The health of the prisoners was satisfactory, the daily average on sick list having been 3; 25 cases were treated in hospital; and only one death occurred, from purpura hæmorrhagica.

#### HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The total expenditure for the Charitable Institutions in Malta and Gozo during the financial year 1896-97 amounted to £41,616 19s. 4d., against £39,781 15s. in 1895-96, showing an increase of £1,835 4s. 4d.

The following table gives the particulars relating to each institution:—

#### *Hospitals.*

Hospital.	In the Hospital on 1st January 1897.	Admitted During the Year.	Discharged as Cured.	Deaths.	Daily Average.
Central Hospital	157	2,444	2,170	272	169
Seamen's Hospital.	11	89	89	2	8
Santo Spirito Hospital.	62	434	387	41	70
Gozo Hospital...	35	386	336	60	30
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>2,982</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>277</b>

*Asylums.*

MALTA.  
1897.

Asylum.	Inmates Remaining on 31st December 1896.	Admitted During the Year 1897.	Discharged.	Deaths.	Daily Average.
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables, viz. :					
1. Aged and Infirm	702	158	27	145	659
2. Incurables ...	190	42	3	18	194
3. Lepers ... ..	18	11	3	8	18
Lunatic asylum ...	591	138	68	33	605
Orphan asylum ...	96	12	10	1	95
Totals ... ..	1,597	361	116	205	1,571

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the Police or to the Magistrates in 1897 was 7,567, against 9,672 in 1896.

Of the offences reported, 974 were for offences against the person ; 43 were for offences against the good order of families ; 408 were for offences against property ; 6,142 were for other offences.

The number of persons apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates was 11,940, of whom 10,911 were summarily convicted, 838 discharged for want of evidence or otherwise acquitted, and 191 were committed for trial.

Of the convictions in the Inferior Courts, 1,082 were for offences against the person ; 14 were for offences against the good order of families ; 434 were for offences against property ; 9,381 were for other offences.

The convictions in the Superior Courts are classified as follows :—

61 for offences against the person ; 18 for offences against the

MALTA,  
1897.

good order of families; 33 for offences against property; and 8 for other offences.

The acquittals were as follows:—In the Inferior Courts, 836; in the Superior Courts, 71.

#### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The returns of the meteorological observations taken at St. Ignatius' College show as follows:—

(Lat.  $35^{\circ} 55'$  N., Long.  $14^{\circ} 29'$  E. Barometer readings reduced to  $32^{\circ}$  F. at sea level.)

Mean atmospheric pressure for the year  $30\cdot058$  inches; mean temperature of the air  $64\cdot2^{\circ}$ ; mean degree of humidity 75; mean hourly velocity of the wind 10·5 miles; fall of rain  $14\cdot216$  inches (against a mean of  $19\cdot701$  of last 14 years); number of days on which rain fell 81. The minimum of rain fell in September,  $0\cdot050$  inches; the maximum in December,  $3\cdot970$  inches.

Hail fell on 5 days; there was an unprecedentedly severe hail-storm at 1·5 a.m. on the 23rd January. Hailstones of hard ice, some as big as a hen's egg, fell for several minutes, causing much damage to skylights and windows facing westwards.

The highest reading of maximum thermometer in the shade was  $97\cdot8^{\circ}$  on the 14th September, in the sun it was  $159\cdot7^{\circ}$  on the 15th July. The lowest temperature was  $39\cdot4^{\circ}$ , on the 31st January.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,  
*Chief Secretary to Government.*

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 270.

**MALTA.**

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REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 243.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

*September, 1899.*

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**COLONIAL REPORTS.**

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	1897
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"
265	St. Helena ... ..	"
266	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
267	St. Lucia ... ..	"
268	Fiji ... ..	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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No. 270.

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1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 243.)

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GOVERNOR SIR F. W. GRENFELL to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Palace, Valletta,

20th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, the Chief Secretary's Report on the Blue Book for the year 1898, drawn up in accordance with the instructions contained in your circular despatch of the 31st January last.

2. The printing of the Blue Book will soon be completed, and copies thereof will be transmitted to you at the earliest opportunity.

I have, &c.,

F. GRENFELL,

Governor.

MALTA,  
1898.

Chief Secretary's Office,  
Valletta,  
13th June 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report of the Malta Blue Book for 1898 :—

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

*Revenue.*

The revenue collected in 1898 amounted to £332,488 18s. 1d., being £2,769 18s. 1d. above the estimate, and £8,701 12s. 2½d. in excess of the revenue of the previous year.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for the last two years classified under each head :—

Heads of Revenue.	Amount Collected in 1897.		Amount Collected in 1898.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1. Customs - - -	172,707	12 1	176,648	19 7	3,941	7 6	—	—
2. Harbour and Quarantine Dues.	8,522	10 3	8,723	16 6	201	6 3	—	—
3. Licences, Court Fines, &c.	5,646	11 8½	5,549	3 3½	—	—	97	8 5
4. Fees and Reimbursements.	23,113	11 0½	24,266	10 4	1,152	19 3½	—	—
5. Post Office - - -	16,218	18 4	15,731	12 0	—	—	437	6 4
5A. Railway - - -	6,817	19 9½	7,108	3 3½	290	3 5½	—	—
6. Water Service - -	10,114	7 2	10,698	2 8	583	15 6	—	—
6A. Electric Lighting-	9,122	14 2	11,236	8 1	2,113	13 11	—	—
7. Rents, Rural - - -	12,834	7 5½	13,054	19 0½	220	11 7½	—	—
8. Rents, Urban - - -	27,257	12 3½	27,507	14 2½	250	1 11½	—	—
9. Rents on account of Pious Foundations.	3,923	5 2½	3,933	2 6½	9	17 3½	—	—
10. Interest - - - -	27,507	16 4	27,980	6 6½	472	10 2½	—	—
<b>Total - - - - -</b>	<b>323,787</b>	<b>5 10½</b>	<b>332,488</b>	<b>18 1</b>	<b>9,236</b>	<b>7 0</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>14 9½</b>

For the purpose of a wider comparison I subjoin hereunder another table giving the revenue of the last five years preceding the year under review:—

MALTA,  
1898.

Year.				Revenue.		
				£	s.	d.
1893	...	...	...	291,157	10	3½
1894	...	...	...	301,858	13	9¼
1895	...	...	...	305,440	14	3¾
1896	...	...	...	313,680	14	7
1897	...	...	...	323,787	5	10½
Average	...	...	...	307,184	19	9
1898	...	...	...	332,488	18	1
Above average in 1898	...	...	...	25,303	18	4

It will be seen from the foregoing table that the increase of revenue over that of last year was chiefly contributed by (a) Customs, (b) Harbour and Quarantine Dues, (c) Fees and Reimbursements, (d) Railway, (e) Water Service, (f) Electric Lighting, (g) Rents of Rural and Urban Property, and (h) Interest; whilst the decrease was on (a) Licences and Court Fines, and (b) Post Office.

The largest increase to the revenue was earned by the recuperative powers of our Customs (a), and is mostly due to a larger importation during the year of flour, cattle, and potatoes, and also to the levying of duty on cotton-seed oil. The increased revenue on the above commodities more than makes up the diminution of receipts which has been brought about through a decreased importation of wines during the year.

The next appreciable increase calling for special mention is that of £1,152 9s. 3d. under head 4 "Fees and Reimbursements" (c). It was caused principally by larger returns from receipts of fees paid by patients for treatment in hospitals and asylums, recouped cost of subsistence of non-Maltese convicts in the Corradino Prison, fees collected in the Superior Courts, and Abattoir fees.



MALTA,  
1898.

The Railway (*d*) and Water Service (*e*) undertakings have both yielded a somewhat larger revenue than in the year 1897. This may be taken as an evident sign that the general public, admitting the utility of both concerns, freely take advantage of the same. The amount collected under these two heads of revenue during the last five years is shown hereunder :—

Year.	Railway.			Water Dues and Meter Rent.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894 ... ..	5,603	17	0	5,850	13	9½
1895 ... ..	5,963	2	0	6,701	3	10
1896 ... ..	7,020	16	3	7,442	7	5
1897 ... ..	6,817	16	3	7,573	4	10
1898 ... ..	7,108	3	3½	8,200	12	8

The Electric Lighting Installation, which is another undertaking administered on municipal lines, gave an increased revenue over that of 1897 by £2,113 13s. 11d., including £667 5s. 2d. for house installation. Although the principal contributor to this revenue is the Government, which pays the largest proportion of the receipts for illuminating the streets of the town and the three cities, the increase in the revenue obtained last year is not due to any further contribution for public street lighting, but to larger returns from War Department and private consumers, and to the laying of additional house installations.

The other increases under heads "Harbour and Quarantine Dues" (*b*), "Rents, Rural and Urban" (*g*), and "Interest" (*h*) do not call for any special observations.

On the other hand, the only diminution of revenue (£437 6s. 4d.) which deserves of being specially explained is that on the receipts of the Postal Department (*b*). This decrease resulted from the fact that the postal revenue of the previous year (1897) had been abnormally swelled by the payment in that year into the Post Office of Arrear International Transit rates which had been overdue since 1895. On other items the Postal Department has kept up the average proportion of its yearly receipts, and its

principal source of revenue, which is the sale of stamps, has shown a progressive annual increase as shown hereunder :—

MALTA,  
1898.

Year.	Sale of Stamps.		
	£	s.	d.
1894 ... ..	9,804	2	4½
1895 ... ..	10,027	18	11½
1896 ... ..	11,420	10	10
1897 ... ..	11,658	9	1½
1898 ... ..	12,088	9	5

*Expenditure.*

The authorized expenditure under the Civil List, votes of the Legislature or by authority of the head of the Government (awaiting the covering vote of the Council) amounted collectively in 1898 to the sum of £371,354 8s. 4d., of which £23,170 3s. 3d. was chargeable to the General Reserve Fund.

Out of the above provisions the following was the actual expenditure incurred, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Out of the Consolidated Revenue...	322,900	19	6½
Out of the General Reserve Fund...	16,181	19	8
<b>Total expenditure in 1898 ...</b>	<b>£339,082</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2½</b>

This expenditure was allocated in the accounts as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
For personal emoluments ... ..	129,452	1	9
For other charges and works ... ..	209,630	17	5½
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>£339,082</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2½</b>

There remained therefore, on the 31st December 1898, unexpended balances to an aggregate amount of £32,271 9s. 1½d.

The following comparative statement gives in detail the expenditure incurred under each head of service, exclusive of that under Immovable Property Account, which is dealt with hereafter:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Amount Expended in 1897.			Amount Expended in 1898.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Interest and Burthens ... ..	17,895	1	11	18,977	0	2	1,081	18	3	—		
2. Pensions ... ..	16,886	17	6	16,713	15	5	—			173	2	1
3. The Governor and Legislature ... ..	5,255	11	10	5,677	5	11	421	14	1	—		
4. Chief Secretary ... ..	4,214	17	2	4,224	8	11	9	11	9	—		
5. Receiver General ... ..	3,082	17	8	3,034	0	9	—			48	16	11
6. Customs and Port Department ... ..	11,658	14	11	11,109	16	7	—			548	18	4
7. Audit Office ... ..	1,664	2	8	1,664	19	4	0	16	8	—		
8. Printing Office ... ..	1,116	8	3	1,194	18	0	78	9	9	—		
9 Railway Department ... ..	5,802	7	0	6,282	14	5	480	7	5	—		
9A. Railway Special Expenditure ... ..	1,085	4	2	722	4	8	—			362	19	6
9B. Technical School... ..	—			535	1	0	535	1	0	—		

10. Legal Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,028	2	9	19,344	4	8	316	1	11	—		
11. Police Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	38,730	13	3	39,956	9	10	1,228	16	7	—		
11A. Public Health Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,791	9	8	8,947	9	4	—	—	—	2,844	0	4
12. Prisons	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,394	6	9	4,289	0	1	—	—	—	105	6	8
13. Charitable Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	44,008	0	2	47,503	7	4	3,495	7	2	—	—	—
14. Educational Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,968	14	3	22,573	10	2	604	15	11	—	—	—
15. Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,883	15	0	16,931	2	2	3,047	7	2	—	—	—
16. Ecclesiastical Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	756	13	6	726	7	10	—	—	—	30	5	8
17. Military Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Miscellaneous Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,205	6	6	13,632	11	2½	1,427	4	8½	—	—	—
19. Superintendent Public Works Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,373	0	1	5,380	14	10	7	14	9	—	—	—
19A. Waterworks and Electric Lighting Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,746	17	1	25,882	18	3½	2,136	1	2½	—	—	—
20. Public Works Recurrent...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,337	4	7½	40,875	8	6½	538	3	11	—	—	—
21. Public Works and Waterworks Extraordinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,823	19	6½	1,718	10	1	—	—	—	9,105	9	5½
21A. Special Expenditure chargeable to General Reserve Fund...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,963	1	7	16,181	19	8	12,218	18	1	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>324,673</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>339,082</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>27,628</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13,218</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11½</b>

MALTA,  
1898

The total expenditure of this Government for the last five-years was as follows :—

Year.	Chargeable to the Revenue of the Island.			Chargeable to the General Reserve Fund.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894	291,682	2	4	—			291,682	2	4
1895	301,550	16	9½	—			301,550	16	9½
1896	308,902	14	4½	—			308,902	14	4½
1897	320,710	6	3	3,963	1	7	324,673	7	10
1898	322,900	19	6½	16,181	19	8	339,082	19	2½

## IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACCOUNT FUND.

The provisions voted in 1898 for expenditure out of this fund amounted to £3,464 as an additional grant for the installation of electric lighting; the actual expenditure incurred out of the above provision and out of the balances carried forward from votes granted in previous years from this fund was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Railway Works ... ..	4,372	16	4
Installation of Lighting by Electricity...	7,560	5	4½
Purchase of Palazzo Parisio (General Post Office) ... ..	854	15	1
New School at Cospicua (towards construction) ... ..	212	16	10
Court House, Police Station, &c., at Zeitun (completion) ... ..	9	1	6
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£13,009</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1½</b>

leaving unexpended balances standing to the credit of the different works defrayable out of this fund to the amount of £14,237 3s. 2½d.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

MALTA,  
1898.

The assets and liabilities of the Government Treasury on the 31st December 1898 were as summarized hereunder :—

—	Liabilities.			Assets.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Investments in Imperial and Colonial Securities.	—			598,386	1	10
Investments in Monte di Pietà ...	—			2,062	11	3½
Funds deposited with the Anglo-Maltese Bank.	—			14,513	6	3
Funds deposited with the London Westminster Bank.	—			10,123	10	8
Capital laid out for portion of furniture in Governor's Palaces.	—			1,548	9	1
Loans to the Monte di Pietà ...	—			56,000	0	0
Advances made by Treasury ...	—			7,189	13	7
Cash ...	—			6,233	12	11½
Court and other Deposits ...	61,973	5	7	—		
Dollar Investment Fund ...	21,937	10	0	—		
Savings Bank ...	523,340	15	8¾	—		
Pappafy Emigration Fund ...	10,025	0	0	—		
Pappafy Emigration Administrators...	1,615	5	7½	—		
Deposit for works allocated to the Government Immovable Property under Ordinance V. of 1891.	14,237	3	2¾	—		
Reserve Funds ...	45,176	17	2½	—		
Immovable Property Deposit Account	3,305	6	5½	—		
	681,611	3	9¼	696,057	5	7¾
<b>Total Liabilities</b> ...				<b>681,611</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9¼</b>
<b>Surplus</b> ...				<b>14,446</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10½</b>

MALTA,  
1898.

### CURRENCY.

British coins are the only legal tender in these Islands, and the limit up to which silver and bronze coins are received is raised to five pounds and one shilling respectively. Twenty-franc pieces and five-franc pieces, both French and Italian, are merely kept in deposit as articles of merchandize for exportation to the neighbouring centres of trade, such as Tunis, Tripoli, Sicily, and Syria, when a demand arises for them for the purchase of produce, or for the payment of bills payable in francs and lire.

The maximum rate of exchange with London during the year was:—On demand, 6s. per £100; at 3 days' sight, 5s. per £100; at 30 days' sight, 4s. per £100; at 60 days' sight, 2s. per £100; and 90 days' sight, at par.

The amount of money in circulation fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported and the requirements of the fleet. It is at present roughly estimated at £495,500, of which £400,000 in sovereigns, £15,000 in half sovereigns, and £80,000 in silver coin. The circulation of notes issued by two of the local banks is estimated at £20,000.

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

In the absence of a statistical department, I am unable to give an official estimate of the exportation of local produce, or of the importation of goods which are not subject to duty.

Unfortunately, the transit trade, which formerly constituted one of the principal resources of the Island, and which has for years been on the decline, may now be considered as almost extinct, importation being practically limited to such goods as may be required for local consumption.

As regards hardware, earthenware, household goods, hosiery, and clothing materials, which are not subject to duty, enough is known to establish the fact that some foreign countries, especially Germany, compete favourably with the United Kingdom, not only because such foreign goods are generally cheaper in price, though sometimes of a quality inferior to that of British goods, but also in view of the activity displayed by the numerous foreign commission agents who scarcely ever return to their country without having secured a considerable number of orders.

As regards articles of food, such as wheat, meat, wine, &c., all of which are subject to duty, the exact value of the imports are given below, showing the increase or decrease on the imports of previous years; owing, however, to the peculiarities of our

market, very little beyond the fact that an annual increase in the consumption of those articles is due to a regular and steady increase in the population can be inferred from the comparison of the figures of one year with those of the previous years, inasmuch as any extraordinary larger or smaller importation and a consequent larger or smaller collection of revenue during the year is often due to causes which are quite independent of local conditions or of any action which the Government might properly take in the matter.

MALTA,  
1898.

The following table shows the imports subject to duty for the five years, from 1893 to 1897 :—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1893 ... ..	13,732,030	189,808	58,689	564	13,482,969
1894 ... ..	13,773,783	171,154	221,888	393	13,380,348
1895 ... ..	13,099,978	174,350	324,916	236	12,600,476
1896 ... ..	10,472,139	143,629	129,716	414	10,198,380
1897 ... ..	10,895,639	150,473	92,429	358	10,652,379
Average for five years.	12,394,713	165,882	165,527	393	12,062,910
1898 ... ..	10,025,131	203,517	519,608	485	9,301,521
Below the average...	2,369,582	—	—	—	2,761,389
Above the average...	—	37,635	354,081	92	—

From the above it will seen that whilst the total value of the imports has been reduced, the imports from the United Kingdom and from the British Colonies show an increase, and that the total loss in value is on the imports from foreign countries.



MALTA, 1898. — The following table shows in detail the value of the imports in Kingdom, British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries, the amount of duty collected on the articles landed for local

	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		H.M.'s Ships.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Beer - - - -	75,024	84,370	—	—	51	42
Beef & mutton (preserved) -	7,333	224	—	—	—	9
do. (frozen) -	—	—	8,125	17,730	—	—
Bullocks - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep - - - -	—	19	—	—	—	—
Horses - - - -	1,224	525	—	40	—	—
Mules - - - -	112	240	—	252	—	—
Wheat - - - -	1,768	1,959	*83,700	*486,816	—	—
Indian corn - - - -	—	20	—	—	—	—
Barley - - - -	4	93	—	*14,600	—	—
Saggina - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other inferior grain - -	11	9	—	—	—	—
Refuse grain - - - -	4	2	—	—	—	—
Manufactured grain - -	34,694	75,294	—	—	215	187
Refuse do. - - - -	124	29	—	—	—	—
Oil (olive) - - - -	14	10,400	—	—	1	69
Oil (cotton seed) - - -	5,209	8,136	—	—	—	2
Potatoes - - - -	16,068	12,917	—	—	4	29
Pulse - - - -	412	1,117	566	135	4	6
Seeds - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spirits - - - -	6,496	5,909	—	—	24	21
Vinegar - - - -	158	125	—	—	—	—
Wine - - - -	1,818	2,129	38	35	59	120
Total - - - -	150,473	203,517	92,429	519,608	358	485
Increase in 1898 - -	—	53,044	—	427,179	—	127
Decrease do. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—

\* Proceeded in the

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1898, exclusive of articles not subject to duty, from the United MALTA, as compared with the figures of the preceding year, together with 1898. consumption during the same years :—

Foreign Countries.		Total.		Amount of Duty Collected.					
1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.		1898.			
£	£	£	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
803	556	75,878	84,968	13,784	9	11	14,977	5	6
—	3	7,338	236	27	0	0	36	0	0
—	—	8,125	17,730	233	14	7	2,955	1	7
87,455	96,995	87,455	96,995	10,224	4	10	11,446	17	4
1,074	1,137	1,074	1,156	187	4	5	218	10	0
5,253	3,976	6,477	4,541	552	0	0	360	0	0
1,152	1,538	1,264	2,030	109	0	0	154	0	0
246,465	208,094	248,233	210,053	56,056	10	1	50,168	6	9
*0,762,348	*5,528,025	*6,846,048	*6,014,841						
180	230	180	250	65	11	2	83	5	11
*624,534	*576,275	*624,534	*576,275						
5,290	2,909	5,294	3,002	314	16	3	458	19	9
*1,614,521	*1,883,756	*1,614,521	*1,898,356						
9,278	13,784	9,278	13,784	1,425	16	9	1,483	16	1
38	47	49	56	8	9	4	11	1	6
*771,249	*655,495	*771,249	*655,495						
58	717	62	719	9	3	9	95	14	1
42,962	28,571	77,871	104,052	14,635	5	3	22,232	5	6
81	120	205	149	31	12	0	23	16	9
42,427	29,731	42,442	40,200	832	6	9	521	5	6
4,913	10,677	10,122	18,815	760	3	0	2,340	4	0
13,421	13,475	29,493	26,421	2,483	12	7	2,853	2	3.
56,809	58,181	{ 57,791 }	59,439	4,385	14	4	4,361	8	0
*134,281									
36,273	33,441	36,273	33,441	2,701	7	10	2,481	18	2
43,555	17,981	50,075	23,911	25,299	3	9	25,816	18	1
98	623	256	748	61	15	3	161	15	1
147,361	135,184	149,776	137,468	38,518	10	3	33,357	7	9
10,652,379	9,301,521	10,895,639	10,025,131	172,707	12	1	176,648	19	7
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,941	7	6
—	1,350,853	—	870,508	—	—	—	—	—	—

same bottom.

MALTA,  
1898.

The above comparative statement shows an increase in the amount of duty collected on beer, meat, bullocks, sheep, mules, grain other than wheat, manufactured grain (including flour), cotton-seed oil, potatoes, seeds, spirits, and vinegar; and a decrease of duty on horses, wheat, olive oil, pulse, and wine.

*Wheat and Flour.*—The price of wheat having risen considerably in the course of last year, first on account of the large purchases effected in America, and subsequently on account of the bad crops in Russia, local merchants would not run the risk of importing large quantities at those prices. This brought about a falling off in the importation of wheat, which was partly met by the consumption of wheat in the Island and partly by the importation of flour, which, in view of the special circumstances above referred to, could be obtained at a price which was relatively cheaper. It thus happened that, in addition to the gradual yearly increase in the importation of flour due to the preference given by a considerable section of the community to a superior quality of bread which cannot be made out of flour produced by the mills in use in the Island, and also to the necessity of mixing imported with locally ground flour in order to whiten the bread, there has been an exceptional increase in the importation of flour during last year.

The increase in the Customs receipts was £7,647 0s. 3d.; as, however, the duty on one salm of wheat is 10s., and that on flour produced from the same, as calculated for purposes of drawback in accordance with the law, is 12s. 7d., the increase was equal to the flour which would have been produced by 12,154 salms of wheat, and is due to the ordinary and extraordinary causes above-referred to.

*Potatoes.*—The importation of potatoes during the year was normal, the apparent increase being due to the falling off in the previous year in consequence of bad crops in the United Kingdom.

*Oil.*—No comparison can properly be made as regards receipts on oil between the last and the previous years, inasmuch as up to the 15th May 1897 cotton-seed oil did not pay duty, whilst it now pays double the duty levied on olive oil.

	£	s.	d.
Live sheep, increase ...	31	5	7
Frozen and preserved beef ...	1,515	10	6
Frozen mutton ...	1,214	16	6
<b>Total increase ...</b>	<b>£2,761</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>

This comparatively large increase is exclusively due to the contracts entered into by the Imperial Government for the supply of the meat in question, the consumption of fresh mutton and preserved meat by the population being normal, and that of frozen meat almost nil.

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MALTA,  
1898.  
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*Spirits, Wine, and Beer.*—The high price and the indifferent quality of common wine have had the effect of greatly reducing its consumption, and of increasing that of beer, and also to a certain extent the consumption of spirits, especially whisky. Moreover, the Customs authorities, with the assistance of the provisions of Ordinance No. X of 1889, have of late years been more successful in their endeavours to prevent smuggling, thus increasing the revenue derived from spirits, although the actual consumption may not have increased to the same extent.

*Vinegar.*—The increase on this item is only apparent, the same being due to a quantity of wine, bonded as such, having on examination been found sour and released as vinegar.

*Bullocks.*—The increase of £1,222 12s. 6d. under this item is due to the removal of the prohibition of the importation of cattle from Syria coinciding with low prices of live stock in Morocco and Tripoli.

In connection with this most important article of consumption, it appears desirable, in the interest of this community, that the local rearing of bullocks and the importation of small bullocks to be fattened in the Island be encouraged in every possible way as the best means, not only of securing a moderate supply of live stock in case of need and of reducing the price of meat by enabling importers to avail themselves of the opportunity when the price is cheap and when no quarantine restrictions exist in order to increase their stock, but also of furthering the interests of agriculture which stands in great need of assistance.

#### *Exports.*

The total exports in 1898, exclusive of local produce, amounted to £9,379,140, of which £51,597 represent the value of the goods actually landed in the Island and re-exported, and £9,327,543 the value of whole cargoes which merely touched at this port and proceeded in the same bottom.

**MALTA,  
1898.**

The following table shows the destination of the exports for five years from 1893 to 1897:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	H.M.'s Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1893... ..	1,876,402	4,193,122	8,152	6,197,465	12,275,141
1894... ..	2,737,744	3,978,977	6,373	6,363,653	13,086,747
1895... ..	2,859,870	3,317,533	6,817	7,047,593	12,231,813
1896... ..	2,359,890	2,899,046	3,181	6,624,032	11,886,149
1897... ..	1,784,834	1,891,114	9,103	6,403,709	10,088,760
Average for five years.	2,323,748	3,255,958	6,725	6,527,290	12,113,722
1898... ..	2,088,589	1,408,986	13,013	5,868,552	9,379,140
Below the average...	235,159	1,846,972	—	658,738	2,734,582
Above the average...	—	—	6,288	—	—

The principal exports to the United Kingdom in 1898 were:—Wheat, 3,591,174 quarters, valued at £1,494,570, against £1,381,129 in 1897; Indian corn, 728,395 qrs., value £75,565, against £56,653; barley, 2,249,197 qrs., value £441,313, against £201,227; inferior grain, 497,395 qrs., value £46,410, against £39,565; pulse, 34,600 qrs., value £30,030, against £105,773; all of which goods proceeded in the same vessels in which they were imported.

The same articles, together with beer, valued collectively at £9,047; manufactured grain, £7,563; olive oil, £9,822; cottonseed oil, £863; potatoes, 1,921; spirits, £8,793; and wine, valued at £2,810, were the chief exports to British Colonies, H.M.'s ships, and foreign countries.

AGRICULTURE.

MALTA,  
1898.

Agriculture in Malta and Gozo remains stationary, only varying in its results from year to year through accidental and abnormal causes, such as an excessive or deficient rainfall, absence or prevalence of destructive insect pests, &c.

The methods of cultivation employed are somewhat primitive, but the land as a rule is diligently tilled and cleaned by the hardworking and painstaking husbandmen. Vegetable produce and fruits being largely imported from Sicily and other neighbouring countries, the prices obtainable by local producers are lamentably low, whilst wages are high, ranging from 1s. 4d. to 2s. for farm labourers, and show a steady rise.

Acreage.

The surface of Malta, including Gozo and Comino, is 117·361 square miles, equal to 75,111 acres. The area estimated as under crop in 1898 was 44,165 acres, or nearly three-fifths of the whole surface. Of the remaining two-fifths only 4,024 acres were returned as uncultivated.

Holdings.

Some 10,000 holdings make up the cultivated area, the average extent of a holding being 4·4 acres, equal to one Maltese salma.

The following table, compiled from the census of 1891, shows the description, number, and extent of holdings :—

Description of Land.	Number of Holdings.	Total Acreage.	Per cent. to Cultivated Land.	Acreage Extent of Holding.
		Acres.		Acres.
Fields ... ..	7,981	37,236	84·32	4·66
Mixed fields ... ..	1,513	6,423	14·54	4·25
Fruit gardens ... ..	397	350	0·79	0·88
Market gardens .....	109	156	0·35	1·43

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MALTA,  
1896.

*Condition of the Soil, Land Tenure, &c.*

The soil is calcareous, deficient in "humus" and organic matter, and very shallow. Its fertility, however, as evidenced by an average yield of 22·56 bushels of wheat per acre, is not below par. This is accounted for by the mineral plant-food (phosphates and alkalis) contained in the soil, and heavy manuring.

The land is owned by Government, the Church, and private proprietors. Owners of land, as distinguished from farmers, are very few.

The system of land tenure is a "four years' rent," sometimes eight; and only waste open spaces are given on long lease to admit of being brought under cultivation.

*Agricultural Exports.*

Potatoes, onions, cumin seed, and oranges are the principal exports of local produce. A decline in the quantities exported is shown in the following table taken from the annual report of the President of the Chamber of Commerce for last year:—

Produce.	1897.	1896.	Total 15 years 1882-96.	Average 15 years.
Potatoes ...	C. 25,403	C. 67,791	C. 1,412,752	C. 94,183
Onions ...	" 17,166	" 43,087	" 657,965	" 43,864
Cumin seed	" 2,823	" 1,719	" 36,220	" 2,415
Oranges ...	Doz. 17,640	Doz. 6,980	Doz. 2,060,243	Doz. 137,350

*Crops.*

The corn crops, consisting of wheat, barley, and a mixture of both sown together (mischiato), covered an area of 13,189 acres, or 29·86 per cent. of the whole cultivated land. The average yield in bushels per acre was wheat, 22·56; mischiato, 25·02; and barley, 29·22.

The produce from wheat and mischiato (32,087 Imperial quarters) allow only 1·42 bushels out of the 7·21 bushels required per head and per annum for the civil population, which means a 75 days' supply only from home-raised corn.

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Beans and pulse include the broad bean, which is mostly picked green, peas and the common vetch which are gathered green to supply the market, the chickpeas and chickling vetch, which furnish seed for animals, and the catterpillar, which is grown only as a forage.

MALTA,  
1898.  
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The cultivation of the cotton, owing to the Egyptian and American competition, has dwindled to the quantity required for home consumption.

Under the denomination of gardens are included vegetables, root crop, and fruit.

Vegetables are grown on irrigation land all the year round, and in open fields during the rainy season. The rent of irrigation land is £3 and upwards per acre.

Potatoes and onions are largely grown for exportation. The area under potatoes is broadly estimated at 5,000 acres. Two crops, the spring and winter, are raised. The produce was, last year, fairly satisfactory, and sold at a high price of £6 per ton. Excessive rainfall, in November last, caused the nearly complete failure of the winter crop. Importation of inferior rate seed from Ireland, where the potato disease is prevalent, accounts for the decline of this crop.

Fruit trees generally are suffering from exhaustion of the soil, and many are made the host of insect pest and cryptogamic disease. The orange, lemon, and mandarin are attacked by scale insects and their fruit spoiled by the orange fly. The latter deposits its eggs likewise in the stone fruits and the prickly pear. Many means have been suggested to stamp it out, but considering the many hosts on which it thrives its eradication is somewhat difficult.

The pomegranate, fig, mulberry, carob, olive tree, and the vine are the other trees cultivated for their fruit.

Cumin is raised for exportation, and sesame for home consumption to dress bread with.

Most of the land returned as pasture is barren rock on which no crops can be raised, except the catterpillar and other pulse in the holes and crevices where some soil is collected.

The sulla (*hedysarum coronarium*) marks a distinct feature of the local agriculture. Nowhere can a better crop be seen. In 1895 the French Government of the Regency of Tunis made an enquiry as to the method of cultivating this forage in this Island. It is an essential crop in the rotation. It benefits the soil mechanically and chemically by its roots remaining in the ground and by its being a nitrogen-bearing crop. Outgoing tenants, in fact, receive compensation when leaving the land after the sulla crop.



MALTA,  
1898

*Live Stock.*

Notification of live stock is enforced by law for sanitary purposes, and the returns are very accurate.

Mules, farm cows, sheep, goats, and pigs are reared locally. The mules, farm cows, and goats especially are of a good breed. Unfortunately the once famous Maltese ass is becoming very rare, and unless means be adopted to protect it there is great apprehension that the breed may in future die out. Horses and most of the horned cattle for meat are imported.

The total number of horses, including mules and asses, was 8,862, or one horse for every 20 persons.

The horned cattle may be distinguished in farm animals and cattle kept in pens for the supply of meat. The first are fairly distributed all over the cultivated area, and their number bears a direct ratio to the acreage of casals. The cattle for the slaughterhouse are more abundant in districts adjoining the fortified towns, the greatest number being returned from Hamrun, Misida, and Pietà.

The total number of sheep was 13,895. Nearly half the number was returned from Gozo, where Garbo alone furnished 1,106. The milk of sheep is not sold as such but is turned into cheese.

Goats, of which 15,165 are returned, supply the inhabitants with fresh milk. At Hamrun, Misida, and Pietà no less than 3,334 goats are kept, of which nearly 2,500, or one goat to every 10 inhabitants in Valletta, are brought into town for milking purposes.

The total number of pigs was 7,058, most of which had been reared locally.

SHIPPING.

The shipping returns show the following comparison between 1897 and 1898 :—

Year.	Steamers Entered.		Steamers Cleared.		Sailing Vessels Entered.		Sailing Vessels Cleared.		Totals.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1897 ... ..	2,697	3,563,146	2,688	3,532,097	1,414	74,280	1,409	74,945	8,208	7,244,468
1898 ... ..	2,704	3,502,177	2,708	3,521,198	1,186	61,551	1,166	60,795	7,764	7,145,721
Increase in 1898 ...	7	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Decrease in 1898 ...	—	60,969	—	10,899	228	12,729	243	14,150	444	98,747

From the above it will be seen that whilst the totals show a decrease both in the number of vessels and in tonnage, the decrease in the number is wholly on sailing vessels, there being on the other hand a slight increase in the number of steamers entered and cleared in 1898.

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1898.

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The decrease in the sailing vessels may be accounted for partly by the gradual abolition of this class of vessels, and partly by the less frequent arrivals of the vessels laden with wine from Sicily and Candia.

The increase in the number of steamers may partly be due to the fact that shipowners are gradually becoming convinced that the facilities afforded by our harbour are at least equal to those which they found by experience to exist in other rival ports.

The following table shows the nationality of the vessels entered and cleared in 1898 as compared with 1897 :—

Nationality.	1897.				1898.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
<i>Sailing vessels :—</i>								
British ... ..	1	153	1	153	—	—	—	—
Colonial (Malta) ... ..	115	11,514	116	11,878	125	11,730	110	9,714
Austrian ... ..	5	490	5	490	4	396	4	396
French ... ..	—	—	1	105	—	—	—	—

Greek ... ..	170	14,642	194	17,132	85	10,401	84	10,530
Dutch ... ..	1	45	1	45	—	—	—	—
Italian ... ..	1,027	38,644	1,003	36,716	905	33,541	899	34,693
Montenegrin ... ..	12	2,255	12	2,255	3	518	2	238
Spanish ... ..	—	—	—	—	3	276	2	184
Turkish ... ..	65	5,423	58	5,984	44	3,984	46	4,261
Tunisian ... ..	16	537	17	560	17	705	19	779
Norwegian ... ..	1	205	1	205	—	—	—	—
German ... ..	1	372	1	372	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Sailing Vessels ...</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>74,280</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>75,895</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>61,551</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>60,795</b>

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Nationality.	1897.				1898.			
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
<i>Steamers :—</i>								
British ... ..	1,607	2,586,822	1,603	2,582,030	1,658	2,612,601	1,662	2,626,553
Colonial (Malta) ... ..	66	32,704	65	32,618	54	23,507	51	26,719
Austrian ... ..	479	307,986	478	273,863	483	321,873	484	321,634
Belgian ... ..	4	6,514	4	6,514	8	10,311	8	10,311
Danish ... ..	8	3,700	8	3,700	16	15,091	16	15,091
French ... ..	61	48,765	61	48,765	60	50,186	60	50,186
German ... ..	214	317,445	213	310,292	185	232,791	184	230,946
Greek ... ..	43	53,646	41	52,398	30	34,611	31	35,559
Dutch ... ..	25	16,795	26	19,795	21	14,818	21	14,808
Italian ... ..	123	115,914	122	129,267	114	103,803	114	103,813

Japanese ... ..	2	2,776	2	2,776	—	—	—	—
Portuguese ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1,990	3	4,884
Norwegian ... ..	43	46,221	43	46,221	42	44,008	42	44,008
Russian ... ..	2	807	2	807	3	2,018	3	2,018
Spanish ... ..	6	7,070	6	7,070	11	15,271	11	15,370
Swedish ... ..	7	10,391	7	10,391	14	17,486	14	17,486
Turkish ... ..	6	3,732	6	3,732	3	973	3	973
Roumanian ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	839	1	839
American ... ..	1	1,858	1	1,858	—	—	—	—
<b>Total Steamers ... ..</b>	<b>2,697</b>	<b>3,563,146</b>	<b>2,688</b>	<b>3,532,097</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>3,502,177</b>	<b>2,708</b>	<b>3,521,198</b>

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MALTA, 1898. The following is a comparative statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :—

Year.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1894 ... ..	4,126	3,597,992	4,111	3,592,141
1895 ... ..	3,959	3,512,427	3,983	3,521,780
1896 ... ..	3,786	3,293,200	3,767	3,291,148
1897 ... ..	4,111	3,637,426	4,098	3,607,042
1898 ... ..	3,890	3,563,728	3,874	3,581,993

#### LEGISLATION.

The Council of Government was in session when it met for the first time in 1898, on which occasion His Honour Sir Joseph Carbone, K.C.M.G., LL.D., Chief Justice, was sworn in as Vice-President of the Council; on the 29th April the Council was adjourned *sine die*, and by proclamation of the 12th July it was dissolved and a general election ordained.

The new Council met on the 12th October, and continued its sittings up to the 21st December, when it was adjourned to the 4th January 1899.

New Letters Patent, dated the 16th December 1898, by which all ecclesiastical persons were rendered ineligible for a seat in the Council of Government, having been published in the Island on the 31st December 1898, the Council was on the same day dissolved.

The Council met 28 times between the above periods and passed 13 Ordinances of which the most important are Nos. I., II., IX., X., XI., and XII.

Ordinance No. I. of 1898 was passed to enable the head of the Government to make regulations respecting the grant of licences for the sale of non-intoxicants, for better securing the maintenance of order and public decorum; and for limiting the number of such licences according to circumstances. This law was rendered necessary by the fact that, with a view of enabling holders of licences for the sale of wines and spirits to evade the stringent Government regulations concerning the same, shops for the sale of non-intoxicants were opened close to licensed grog-shops from

which wines and spirits were freely passed into the former, in which women, sometimes of doubtful character, also served, whilst their presence is not permitted in grog-shops.

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Ordinance No. II. establishes a tariff of commercial fees. This law originated in a petition by the Chamber of Commerce to the effect that commercial fees established by local usage should be recognized by a legislative enactment in order that merchants, brokers, &c. may not be put under the necessity of bringing before the court witnesses to prove the usage whenever their fees are disputed.

Ordinance No. IX. of 1898 amends Ordinance No. I. of 1875, intituled "To make some provisions for preventing the introduction and propagation of certain diseases in animals."

This law was passed to enable the Government to make regulations for preventing the supply of infected or contaminated milk.

The regulations, since published in the Government Gazette of the 23rd January 1899, provide for the registration of all persons carrying on the trade of cow-keepers, sheep or goat keepers, dairymen or purveyors of milk for the inspection of cattle in dairies, cattle-pens, or other places; for securing lighting, ventilation, cleansing, drainage, and water supplies of dairies and cowsheds in the occupation of persons following the trade of cow-keepers and dairymen; for securing the cleanliness of milk stores, milk shops, and vessels used for the preservation of milk for sale by such persons; and also prescribe the precautions to be taken for protecting milk against infection or contamination.

Ordinance No. X. amends the law concerning contagious diseases in conformity with modern ideas and with the English law on the subject.

The principal provisions of this enactment are to the effect (1) that the Chief Government Medical Officer may order the disinfection of any building, shed, tent, or ship in which there has been a person affected with a contagious disease as well as of any infected person or articles; (2) that the disinfection may be made either in the infected place or in any other place which the Government will establish for such purpose; (3) that infected articles, which cannot be sufficiently disinfected, may be destroyed; (4) that occupiers of houses, or any place in which, within the preceding six weeks, there has been a case of infectious disease, should be punished, if, without having disinfected the place, any such person should give it up to the landlord, or sublet it, or transfer it to others and conceal the fact that a case of infectious disease had occurred within the time above specified; (5) that persons shall be punished if they commit any of the acts contemplated in the Ordinance by which the infection might be communicated; and (6) that the head of the family to whom the



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1898:  
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patient belongs, or, in default the patient's next of kin residing in the same building, or attending the patient, or the master of the ship, shall be punished if they do not report any case in which the patient appears to be probably affected with an infectious disease unless they call the doctor without reasonable delay.

Ordinance No. XI. of 1898 is intituled "To make some provisions relating to public meetings and assemblies."

The object of this law is to prevent that public meetings be held without due notice thereof being given to the Superintendent of Police, who has the power, among others vested in him by the law, to indicate, if necessary, the place in which the meeting may be held in substitution for that pointed out in the notice above-referred to; to make, with the authority of the Government, regulations to be observed on the occasion of any public meeting for the maintenance of order; to dissolve the meeting in certain cases, resorting to force, if, after an injunction to disperse, the meeting or assembly should not disperse within an hour from such intimation; and to make use of force, even if no intimation can be made owing to riot or opposition.

The promoters of meetings held in contravention of the law as well as those who offend against its provisions are liable to certain punishments.

Ordinance No. XII. of 1898 is "The Education Ordinance, 1898," which repeals Ordinance No. III. of 1897.

By this enactment the power of framing amendments of, or additions to, any article of the Statute of the University and Lyceum is transferred from the Council of Government to the head of the Government, who is also vested with power to abolish the office of Director of Education and to transfer, wholly or in part, the duties appertaining to the office so abolished to the Rector of the University, to the Director of the Elementary Schools, and to other existing offices, or to the persons occupying such offices.

#### EDUCATION.

Malta is well provided with educational institutions in which instruction in its three stages, higher, intermediate, and elementary is imparted.

Besides a university and a lyceum, there are two secondary schools, one in Malta for females and one in Gozo for males; a technical and manual school, 38 elementary day schools for boys, 39 for girls, five infant schools, and 31 night elementary schools.

In addition to the above public schools, there are 129 private schools and colleges, attended by upwards of 4,000 scholars.

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*University.*MALTA,  
1898.

Under the new Statute promulgated in 1898, the authorities of the University are the rector, a general council, and the special councils of the faculties.

The University consists of four faculties, viz., literature and science, medicine and surgery, law and theology.

The course of literature and science extends over three years, the courses of the other faculties extend over four years.

The University is empowered to confer the following degrees—(I.) B.Lit., Bachelor of Literature; (II.) B.Sc., Bachelor of Science; (III.) D.Lit., Doctor of Literature; (IV.) D.Sc., Doctor of Science; (V.) M.D., Doctor of Medicine; (VI.) LL.D., Doctor of Laws; and (VII.) D.D., Doctor in Divinity.

A matriculation examination for admission to the university is held yearly; but the courses of the faculties commence every third year.

*Lyceum.*

The Lyceum is an institution in which intermediate instruction is imparted. Instruction is of two grades, the lower and the higher, each extending over three years. The lower is preparatory to the higher, which is divided into two courses, the classical and the modern.

In the classical course students are prepared to matriculate in the University; students in the modern course are prepared for the civil service, the army, the navy, a commercial career, mechanical engineering, civil engineering and architecture, and navigation.

The obligatory subjects of instruction common to both courses are English, Italian, history, geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, physics, writing, and religious doctrine. Latin is obligatory for students in the classical course, and French for those in the modern. Book-keeping, Arabic, phonography, and drawing are optional subjects. There is also a night drawing school for artizans.

The Schools of Mechanical Engineering and of Civil Engineering and Architecture, and of Navigation are attached to the Lyceum. In the School of Mechanical Engineering young men receive instruction to qualify for a certificate of competency to serve as first and second class engineers under the Merchant Shipping Act.

An entrance examination to the Lyceum is held once a year.

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1898.

*Secondary Schools.*

The Female Secondary School is attended by young ladies who receive instruction in English, Italian, French, arithmetic, geography, history, writing, needlework, drawing, music, and religious doctrine.

In the Boys' Secondary School in Gozo instruction is imparted in Latin, English, Italian, history and geography, arithmetic, algebra, geography, elements of physics, writing, and religious doctrine.

The course of studies extends over four years. An entrance examination in English and Italian and arithmetic is held every two years.

*Technical and Manual School.*

In the Technical and Manual School modelling in clay, plaster-casting, stucco work, cabinet making, and carving in wood and stone are taught. Apprentices in this school attend also the Lyceum drawing class daily during their apprenticeship, which extends over five years.

The expenditure incurred in 1898 in respect to the above Educational Departments, including the Education Office, was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Education Office ... ..	924	4	5
University ... ..	3,554	1	11
Lyceum ... ..	2,587	18	1
Secondary Schools ... ..	629	14	9
Technical and Manual School...	197	15	10
Messengers' Establishment, Stationery, &c. ... ..	303	2	10
Total... ..	£8,196	17	10

*Elementary Schools.*

The elementary schools, formerly called primary schools, together with the Girls' Secondary School in Valletta and the Boys' Secondary School in Gozo, had formed a separate Department up to 1879, when, on the recommendation of the Royal

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Commissioner, the late Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.B., they were merged into the Education Department. But it having lately been established that the elementary schools, numerous as they had grown to be, were suffering from a lack of supervision, the Government found it advisable in 1898 to recognize elementary education as a distinct Department, under a separate responsible head, leaving, however, the other schools of secondary instruction under the control of the Rector of the University.

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In taking that decisive step the Government was guided by independent expert opinion, and carried into effect the strong recommendations of the Select Committee which the Legislative Council had appointed in 1897 to inquire into and report upon the re-organization of the Education Department, and on any reforms that might be introduced for the better working of that Department.

The intricate question of education in Malta was thoroughly studied in all its bearings, and it was conclusively proved that the hitherto prevailing system of elementary instruction had failed to attain the object in view, especially in the attempt made to teach, simultaneously, English and Italian to Maltese pupils at a very tender age, both those languages being widely different from, and equally foreign to, their own native tongue.

The objectionable practice of calling upon the various teachers to help in conducting the annual examinations was done away with, it having been found that the schools were suffering considerably from the baneful effects of cramming, thereby failing in the real ends of a sound education. That unsatisfactory condition has now been remedied by salutary reforms introduced in the new regulations issued with a view to place elementary education on a sounder basis. Under these regulations Maltese only is now being taught in the inferior standards, whilst in the next two, only one language, either English or Italian, at the choice of the parents or guardians of the pupils, is to be allowed. It is satisfactory to note that in the classes where it has been considered advisable to introduce this salutary reform, 95 per cent. of the pupils attending have chosen English as their primary language of education, an evident proof that this system has met the real wants of the people.

The excellent practice of extending to teachers in the elementary schools the benefit of a regular course of training in England was revived in 1898 by sending two male and two female students to English Catholic training colleges; and it is to be hoped that this good work will, with the hearty and cordial support of the Council, be continued if possible on a larger scale, in order that the Government might be enabled to gradually fill up vacancies by accomplished teachers.

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The number of elementary schools in 1898 was as follows :—

	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
<i>Day Schools :—</i>			
Boys ... ..	29	9	38
Girls ... ..	31	9	40
Infant ... ..	4	2	6
Mixed infants ... ..	14	—	14
Drawing (boys) ... ..	5	—	5
Drawing (girls) ... ..	4	—	4
Wood carving and Modelling ...	3	—	3
Sunday (secular instruction) ...	1	—	1
	91	20	111
<i>Night Schools :—</i>			
Elementary (boys) ... ..	25	5	30
Drawing (boys) ... ..	4	—	4
	29	5	34
Grand totals ... ..	120	25	145

The schools in 1898 were attended by 10,768 children, corresponding to 82·4 per cent. of the number on the roll on the 1st September 1897, which is the date of the beginning of the scholastic year in the elementary schools, and 62·1 per cent. of the number of boys attending the night schools.

The result of the annual examinations shows that the general average percentage of passes was 86·0, as against 91·7 in 1895-96 and 95·3 in 1896-97.

The number of children who left the schools during the year was 4,265, whilst 4,652 were admitted during the same period, leaving 7,021 still seeking admission, or 121 over the number for whom no accommodation could be provided in 1897.

The new school at Musta, capable of accommodating 800 children, which was opened in August last, has been found to answer all expectations, and it is hoped that the school in course of construction at Cospicua will likewise meet the long and greatly felt want in that populous centre. But these schools will not meet all the required school accommodation in the Island, and it is

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therefore to be regretted that the efforts of the Government to build new suitable schools in other important villages have not so far been successful. MALTA,  
1898.

The question, however, of the supply of school accommodation is a matter of great importance, and calls for all the more attention of those concerned because it is only on a prompt and satisfactory solution thereof that the Government can adequately meet the ever increasing demand for admission in the elementary schools.

The total expenditure in 1898 for elementary instruction was £13,649 17s. 8d., or £1 5s. 4d. for each pupil attending the school.

Of the above total £11,394 4s. 1d. were personal emoluments, and £2,255 13s. 7d. other charges, including rent, minor works, and other expenses for the maintenance of the schools, but exclusive of the sums which have been laid out in connection with the building of new schools, or with any extensive and extraordinary repairs in the existing ones.

The above total shows that the Government has spent in 1898 on elementary education over one twenty-fourth part of the total revenue of the island collected in the same year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

*Hospitals and Asylums.*

The principal statistics relative to hospitals and asylums in 1898 are given below :—

*Hospitals.*

Institution.	In the Hospital on 1st January.	Admitted during the Year.	Daily Average.	Patients Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Central Hospital ... ..	159	2,497	171	2,205	280
Seamen's Hospital ... ..	9	85	7	78	9
Santo Spirito Hospital ...	68	481	73	413	64
Manoel Hospital ... ..	7	150	8	132	24
Gozo Hospital ... ..	25	431	34	345	73
Totals ... ..	268	3,644	293	3,173	450

MALTA,  
1898.*Asylums.*

Institution.	Inmates remaining on 31st December 1897.	Admitted during 1898.	Daily Average.	Discharged.	No. of Deaths.
Asylum for the Aged and Incurables, viz.:					
1. Aged and Infirm ...	688	144	626	18	136
2. Incurables ...	206	28	223	14	22
3. Lepers ...	18	12	22	4	3
Lunatic Asylum ...	628	142	639	73	44
Orphan Asylum ...	97	13	96	13	1
Ospizio-Gozo ...	134	36	145	2	21
Totals ...	1,771	375	1,751	124	227

The above institutions are under the administration and supervision of a Comptroller in Malta and of the Assistant Secretary to Government for Gozo in that Island, whose respective Departments are also in charge of a system of outdoor medical relief, afforded by twenty-two District Medical Officers in Malta and three in Gozo.

The Government, besides, distributes outdoor relief in alms to the poor who are not objects for admission into the charitable institutions, affords assistance to foundlings and other infants requiring nursing, and takes charge of the burials of paupers dying in the fortified towns, where inter-mural interments are not allowed, and of those dying from infectious diseases in all parts of Malta and Gozo, in which cases extra-mural burial is also prescribed.

The expenditure incurred in 1898 for the maintenance of the foregoing charitable institutions, and for carrying on the other services enumerated above, but exclusive of that incurred for recurrent or extraordinary works and repairs, amounted to £41,172 14s. 3d. in Malta and £3,296 1s. 10d. in Gozo. The institutions have afforded during the year maintenance and medical and surgical treatment to 5,432 persons in Malta and 626 in Gozo. 77,403 cases of ailment in Malta and 15,194 in Gozo were, besides, professionally attended to by the District Medical Officers at the patients' dwellings or at the Government dispensaries; and 4,796 vaccinations in Malta and 481 in Gozo were

performed by the same officers. 1,595 persons in Malta and 175 in Gozo received outdoor assistance in monthly rates varying between 2s. and 20s., and as immediate relief, to such an extent as the particular circumstances of each case required; and 83 foundlings and other children were farmed out, or their parents were pecuniarily assisted in procuring wet nurses for them.

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1898.

Among the new works effected in 1898 in connection with the charitable institutions, those which deserve special mention, in view of their importance, are the building of a mortuary and post-mortem examination room, and of an additional room in the sisters' quarters in the Central Hospital; the construction of an infirmary and of observation rooms in the male division of the Lunatic Asylum; two rooms for well-to-do patients in the Manoel Hospital for infectious diseases; and an Asylum for Lepers.

This latter building is still in course of construction, and some time I apprehend will have to elapse before it is brought to completion, unless funds for that object are more liberally and speedily provided. The urgent necessity of pushing on with the utmost alacrity the works in connection with this institution becomes clearly apparent when it is considered that there are 140 persons suffering from leprosy in both Islands; out of that number, only 27, *i.e.*, 17 males and 10 females, are kept voluntarily in separate wards at the poor house, though their isolation there cannot be quite absolute. The remaining number of lepers are scattered all over both Islands. An Ordinance was passed by the Council of Government in March 1893 providing for the segregation of persons suffering from that disease, but the law cannot be enforced before a suitable place is available for that class of patients.

The further enlargement of the Lunatic Asylum is another measure requiring serious and early attention. The building in its present state can hardly accommodate 400 patients, and yet the number of its inmates at the end of 1898 was 653. The inevitable consequence is that the classification of patients becomes a matter of great difficulty, and is but imperfectly carried out, and that the state of the institution, in so far as the comfort of its inmates and the observance of the rules of hygiene are concerned, leaves much to be desired.

Another want which is sorely felt in Malta is the building of a hospital in substitution to the existing one, which has become quite inadequate to the population of the Island, and which, on account of its position, does not admit of any further enlargement. The building now used for that purpose, moreover, was erected as far back as the year 1734, when principles of sanitation and the rules which are now observed in the construction of similar institutions were not rigorously observed; and, further, that building was never intended to be used as a hospital, but it



**MALTA,** was erected to serve as an asylum for poor spinsters. It there-  
**1898.** fore lacks most of the accommodations and conveniences  
 — necessary in an institution of that nature. It has no ground for  
 exercise and recreation for patients. Its ventilation is imperfect,  
 and its position in a thickly inhabited centre is a serious evil, not  
 only to the inmates of the hospital but to the population around.  
 It is therefore highly advisable that the means may soon be  
 found for meeting such an urgent public necessity.

#### GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors on the 31st December 1898 was 6,657, and the amount standing to their credit on the same day was £519,038 0s. 5½*d.*, against £514,878 18s. 9½*d.* in 1897.

The deposits made during the year under review were £99,113 14s. 8*d.* as compared with £113,963 16s. 7*d.* for the year 1897, while the withdrawals were £102,606 3s. 10½*d.* as compared with £105,088 9s. 7½*d.* for the previous year, leaving an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £3,492 9s. 2½*d.*

The expense of management and interest credited to depositors in 1898 amounted to £8,578 17s. 3*d.*, while the revenue collected was £13,044 14s. 1*d.*, thus showing a net profit of £4,465 16s. 10*d.* on the year's transaction.

#### JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

##### *Police.*

The strength of the internal branch of the Malta Police on the 31st December 1898 consisted of the following officers and men:—

One superintendent, 1 senior assistant superintendent, 5 assistant superintendents, 15 inspectors, 22 first-class sergeants, 55 sergeants, and 338 constables.

No important change has been effected in the distribution of the force, but the country districts have been gradually strengthened by drafting men of long service into the country, the recruits and younger constables being retained in Valletta for training and tuition in English.

An augmentation of 30 men was authorized in 1897, and recruits are being gradually enrolled, but it is found impossible to secure suitable English-speaking candidates. It became, therefore, necessary to select men otherwise eligible and to form a class for tuition in English, which has been done with fair success.

The small sum appropriated to the cost of instructing the police of both branches in "first aid to the injured" and "restoration of the apparently drowned" has been disallowed; it is feared, therefore, that this most useful portion of the police education must in future be omitted. The gymnastic course, however, continues, and constables are being gradually passed through a course of training with British battalions.

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1898.  
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The number of offences reported to the police in 1898 was 6,864, against 7,567 in 1897. The number of persons brought before the Magistrates was 10,670, being 1,270 less than in the previous year. Of these, 9,857 were convicted, 184 committed for trial in the superior courts, and 629 acquitted.

The summary convictions were for the following offences:—

Offences against the person	...	...	...	925
Injuries to property	...	...	...	357
Offences against the good order of families	...	...	...	30
Other offences	...	...	...	8,545
				<hr/>
			Total	9,857
				<hr/> <hr/>

Of the 184 persons tried in Her Majesty's Criminal Court, 60 were acquitted and 124 convicted. The convictions were: 1 for murder, 61 for other offences against the person, 2 for robbery with violence, 31 other offences against property, 6 offences against the good order of families, and 23 for miscellaneous offences.

The above shows a steady decrease in crime; indeed both islands are singularly free from crime of a serious nature. Contraventions of the police and sanitary laws, though decreasing, are still numerous. The rare appearance of men of the fleet or garrison (some 20,000 in all) in court is very satisfactory, and speaks much for the good behaviour of the men, and something also for the training, forbearance, and firmness of the police, to whom an invaluable assistance is rendered by the military police.

The suppression of organized houses of ill-fame and the expulsion of the worst class of foreigners who live on this traffic will shortly be effected under the recently enacted laws.

The police laws which, in the absence of municipal authority, provide the only sanction for repressing annoyances arising from the matters below enumerated, are deficient and inadequate,

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complicated by numerous ordinances and Government notices, and should be revised and adapted to the wants of modern civilization, namely:—Mendicity; solicitation or importuning, other than for immoral purposes; town noises; the practically unlimited traffic in drink; the collection and disposal of refuse; and traffic regulations, especially regarding vehicles plying for hire and their drivers.

*Prisons.*

In the year 1898, 5,236 persons were confined in the three prisons in Malta and Gozo, viz., 3,517 men, 715 women, 994 boys, and 10 girls. Of these, 9 were for debt, 188 for want of security, and 5,039 for penal punishment.

1,663 were committed for the first time,

1,079 for the second, and

1,113 had been convicted three times or more.

The daily average in the prisons was 292, against 268 in 1897.

The number of punishments inflicted was 283, namely:—

Solitary confinement on bread and water...	...	126
Dark cell on bread and water	... ..	8
Reduction from class	... ..	35
Admonished...	.. ..	114

The cost of the prisons (Corradino common gaol, Valletta prison, and Gozo common gaol) amounted to £4,544 14s. 7d., of which £437, expended in the maintenance of consular, naval, and military prisoners, were recouped, leaving a net expenditure of £4,107 14s. 7d., against £4,172 4s. in 1897.

The prisoners' earnings during the year amounted to £870, viz.:

Value of labour performed—

(a) Outside the prison (reclaiming waste land and produce of prison land)	... ..	£ 280
(b) Inside the prison (mat and broom making, tailoring, joiners' work, &c.)	... ..	580
Sale of animals	... ..	10
		<hr/>
	Total	£870
		<hr/> <hr/>

The health of the prisoners during the year was very good: 7 were treated in the prison infirmary, and there were no deaths.

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VITAL STATISTICS.

MALTA,  
1898.

*Population.*

The civil population for 1898 is estimated at 180,328, an increase of 15,291 over the population according to the census for 1891, and of 2,583 over the population in 1897.

The birth-rate for the year is 38. The death-rate is 25·77, a considerable decrease on the preceding year, due to less mortality among infants.

*Public Health.*

The general state of the public health has been good, if we except an outbreak of small-pox at the beginning of the year, which was not entirely stamped out until the month of May. The deaths from zymotic diseases were 207, or 4·4 per cent. to total deaths.

The fortified towns are supplied with water under pressure and have a good system of drainage. They hold a population of 60,423 over an area of about 1½ square miles, with a death-rate of 22·54. By far the greater part of the remaining population is clustered in the suburban zone surrounding the fortified towns. This zone, though partly supplied with water under pressure, is undrained, and comprises a population of 44,266 over an area of about 14 square miles, and has a death-rate of 31·17. The population spread on the remaining portion of Malta and at Gozo, occupying the rural area, amounts to 75,639. The rural area is partly supplied with water, is undrained, has an extent of more than 75 square miles, and a death-rate of 25·83.

*Sanitation.*

The Public Health Department, by means of a staff of inspectors, sees to the abatement of nuisances, and carries out generally the administration of sanitary laws. The sanitary law is deficient in some respects, and it is to be hoped that draft legislation which has long been expecting passage through the Council of Government will eventually become law. During the year under review a useful measure for the regulation of dairies and the handling of milk has been passed into law, the principal provisions of which have been dealt with under "Legislation" in this report.

The total rainfall for the year was 29·178, and the average for the last 15 years 19·7 inches.

The following is the Meteorological Return for the year:—

(Lat. 35° 55' N. Long. 14° 29' E. Barometer reading reduced to 32° F. at sea level.)

Month.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds	
	Solar, maximum.	Minimum on grass.	Shade, maximum.	Shade, minimum.	Range (mean daily).	Mean.	Amount in inches.	Degree of humidity	General Direction.	Average Force.
January ...	126·5	35·2	64·0	42·2	9·3	55·5	2·883	80	E.S.E.	0·63845
February ...	129·9	32·7	66·6	42·2	10·6	53·5	2·193	77	W.N.W.	1·03680
March ...	145·4	38·9	74·4	45·4	13·0	56·4	1·348	82	W.N.W.	0·43245
April ...	149·6	42·5	77·6	48·3	12·5	60·0	1·953	85	W.N.W.	0·80645
May ...	144·7	45·4	83·1	52·8	15·3	64·5	0·045	71	E.S.E.	0·60500
June ...	153·6	48·6	96·3	56·5	17·8	73·4	—	68	E.S.E.	0·36980
July ...	153·5	57·1	95·7	64·4	16·0	75·1	—	69	E.S.E. & W.N.W.	0·42320
August ...	151·5	61·0	92·3	67·0	12·6	77·5	—	75	S.S.E. & W.N.W.	0·26645
September ...	147·8	61·5	86·3	65·1	13·0	73·7	2·500	77	E.S.E.	0·00180
October ...	143·6	55·0	84·9	55·9	10·9	69·6	7·783	75	W.S.W. & W.N.W.	0·42320
November ...	137·7	51·0	76·2	54·5	10·9	64·9	2·329	82	E.S.E.	0·35280
December ...	120·8	—	66·4	41·4	9·8	55·9	8·144	79	W.N.W.	0·63845

## POST OFFICE.

MALTA,  
1898.

The transactions of the Post Office Department, when compared with those of the previous year, show an increase in the amount of correspondence exchanged.

The decrease in the revenue (as explained under head "Revenue," in this report) and the increase in the expenditure set forth in the following statement are merely to be attributed to the fact that in 1897 the sums received by the Malta Post Office on account of transit rates represented the amounts due for two years, and that the payments made to France under the same head, during the period under review, were in settlement of a term of three years.

The actual deficit in 1898 is, in consequence of the above payments, £1,349 10s. 2d.; but it is satisfactory to note that the sale of stamps during that year shows an increase of £430 0s. 3½d. over that of 1897.

Revenue.			Expenditure.		
1897.	1898.	Decrease.	1897.	1898.	Increase.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
16,218 18 4	15,781 12 0	437 6 4	13,883 15 0	16,931 2 2	3,047 7 2

Particulars of the mail matter dealt with during the year are furnished in the following statement:—

Articles.	Received and Despatched.		Increase in 1898.
	1897.	1898.	
Letters ... ..	4,019,206	4,198,786	179,580
Cards ... ..	126,325	153,350	27,025
Printed Matter...	1,973,128	2,402,322	429,194
Parcels Post ... ..	50,028	51,187	1,159
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>6,168,687</b>	<b>6,805,645</b>	<b>636,958</b>

MALTA,  
1898.

## MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Besides six companies of Royal Artillery and six battalions of Infantry, there are in Malta three local corps, viz. :—

The Royal Malta Artillery, consisting of seven companies, two of which are liable to serve in any part of the British Empire.

Two battalions of the Royal Malta Regiment of Militia, each composed of eight companies of 120 men; and

A company of the Malta Militia Division Sub-Marine Miners Royal Engineers.

The first battalion of the Militia was raised on the 1st May 1889, and the second battalion on the 1st April 1897.

The amounts expended by the Imperial Government for the up-keep of the above local corps during the year ending 31st March 1899 are as under :—

	£	s.	d.
(a) The Royal Malta Artillery	22,761	3	1
Pensions for the same	5,502	10	4
(b) The Royal Malta Regiment of Militia ...	12,307	15	9
(c) The Malta Militia Division Sub-Marine Miners Royal Engineers ...	1,488	8	2
Total ...	£42,059	17	4

The Royal Malta Artillery receives the same pay as regular Infantry Regiments, and the Militia, which is organised under the British Volunteer System, receive pay for 72 drills, the rates for officers and men being equal to those of Infantry Regiments in the United Kingdom.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

*Railway.*

The Malta Railway, as administered by the Government on co-operative principles and worked by Government officials, has continued to increase in popularity and importance; and, apart

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from its financial results, which are decidedly satisfactory, it has contributed largely to promote social and economic interests in the Island. MALTA,  
1898.

It is a fact that since its opening in 1892 new and healthy dwellings have been erected and are continually being built in the central villages within easy reach of the line and at Notabile; a great number of families have established their residence out of the towns; cab fares have been reduced to half their former rates; thousands of workmen, living in distant villages, who on working days used formerly to sleep in town agglomerated in small and unhealthy rooms, are now daily conveyed to their destinations; and townsfolk find nowadays an easy and cheap resort to the open country on Sundays and other festival days.

Besides the improvements mentioned in former reports, the following have also been effected in the railway. At the Valletta Station a platform has been built and a new ramp arranged as an entrance and outlet for passengers; a new station was cut in the rock at Floriana; many of the sleepers were replaced by new oak-ones, the line fastened with fangbolts, and all the stations furnished with additional accommodation.

Two stone sheds were built at the Hamrun Yard for the shelter of engines and carriages, and a technical school established in connection with the workshop for the training of apprentices.

An extension of the line from Notabile to Imtarfa is in a fair way of completion. Starting from Notabile Station, which is 160 feet below the inhabited centre, the extension runs for two-thirds of its length in a tunnel under Notabile and ends on the southern side of the Imtarfa Barracks after crossing the underlying valley on a stone bridge flanked by two embankments.

The tunnel is driven in clay and lined with limestone almost the whole length. In some parts of the tunnel, where the clay has no coherence, the circular shape has been adopted. This new extension will offer many advantages deriving from the fact that the position of the new station is far more suitable than the old one, both on account of its higher level and of its being nearer to the inhabited centres, whilst the terminus will be quite close to the Imtarfa Barracks. The cost of this extension will not be far short of £20,000. Interest on the sums expended in these works is being paid out of the railway revenue at the rate of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. on £5,000 and of 3 per cent. on £15,000.

The net profit of the railway in 1898, after deducting interest on the capital invested, was £1,457 16s. 7d., or £1,107 16s. 2d. if the amounts expended in the Imtarfa extension be taken into



MALTA,  
1898

consideration, as shown in column No. 3 of the following table, in which further details are given of the year's operation as compared with that of 1893, the year of starting.

	No. 1. 1893.	No. 2. 1898.	No. 3. 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Capital spent in the re-equipment of the line.	14,653 8 8	19,410 3 5	32,110 1 11
2. Gross revenue ... ..	4,859 9 1	7,108 3 3½	—
3. Working expenses ... ..	3,862 18 1	5,147 12 7	—
4. Profit on working ... ..	996 11 0	1,960 10 8½	—
5. Per cent. profit to capital invested.	6·80 per cent.	10·10 per cent.	6·10 per cent.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
6. Net profit after deducting interest on capital invested.	593 11 9	1,457 16 7	1,107 16 2
	s. d.	s. d.	—
7. Gross earning per train mile.	1 8·106	1 8·106	—
8. Working expenses per train mile.	1 3·983	1 2·920	—
9. Net profit per train mile.	0 4·123	0 5·686	—
10. Train mileage.	58·004	82·792	—
11. Coal consumed per mile run.	25·29 lbs.	24·80 lbs.	—
12. Number of passengers	626,912	1,063,013	—

*Change in the Constitution of the Council of Government.*

The close of the year witnessed a change in the constitution of the Council of Government by Her Majesty's Letters Patent of the 16th December, which makes the Council henceforth to consist, besides the Governor as President, a Vice-President, and six official members, of thirteen, instead of fourteen, elected members, ten of whom to be elected as heretofore by the general electors, and three, instead of four, by the special electors, all ecclesiastical persons having been rendered by the Letters Patent ineligible for a seat in the Council of Government and consequently in the Executive Council.

*Changes in Offices.*

MALTA.  
1898

Governor Sir Arthur Lyon Fremantle's administration came to a close on the 5th January last. He left the Island, on leave, on the 1st of that month, and his successor, Sir Francis Wallace Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., assumed the Government on the 6th. In the interval the Government was administered by the Honourable Major-General Lord Congleton, C.B., as Deputy Governor, who had also been appointed Deputy Governor during His Excellency's temporary absence from the Island from 20th July to the 28th August 1898.

Sir Joseph Carbone, Chief Justice, was on the 17th January 1898 appointed Vice-President of the Council of Government, which post had remained vacant since the retirement of his predecessor in office, Sir Adrian Dingli, from the service on the 31st December 1894.

Professor Enrico Magro, M.D., was on the 3rd January 1898 appointed to act provisionally as Inspector of Primary Schools which were subsequently separated from the Education Department and made to constitute a separate Department.

During my absence on leave from the 12th June to the 28th September, the Honourable F. Vella, C.M.G., acted as Chief Secretary to Government, the duties of his office as Collector of Customs having been performed by the Deputy Collector.

*Financial Position of the Island.*

With regard to the present position of these Islands, I must premise that, there being, as regards finances, no statistical or other publications issued by any authority or institution, except those of the Government Treasury, the information given below, which has been collected from various sources, must be considered as representing only an approximate estimate based on conjectural data.

It may be useful to class the information into various heads as follows:—

- (a.) Value of the landed property;
- (b.) Investment of money in securities (other than Government);
- (c.) Money in deposit;
- (d.) Money in circulation; and
- (e.) Value of gold, silver, and precious stones.

(a.) *Value of landed property.*—The total real value of the landed property in these Islands has been estimated at £4,455,000, and the annual income obtained from the letting of the same would amount to £133,650.

MALTA,  
1898.

(b.) *Investment of money in British and foreign stocks (exclusive of Government).*—The amount of money invested by local private capitalists in British and foreign securities is generally considered to be very large. It is held in fact that the aggregate amount of such investments can be safely estimated at £2,000,000.

(c.) *Money placed in deposit.*—The Government Savings Bank is the principal bank wherein money is deposited by petty traders and generally by all persons of thrift in these Islands. On the 31st December last the number of depositors was 6,657 and the amount standing to their credit was £519,038. Of this sum £103,556 are placed in the bank for safe custody and without earning any interest. The Government hold, besides, on deposit a sum of £21,937 belonging to 64 persons, which was left in the hands of the Government at 2 per cent. interest since the time of the conversion of the Sicilian dollars when demonetized by the Italian Government. There are also two local banks (Anglo-Maltese and Anglo-Egyptian) wherein moneys, as fixed deposits, are accepted at a rate of interest varying according to the period during which they are so deposited. Of these deposits no positive information is available, but I learn that they may be approximately estimated at say £20,000 between the two banks.

The amounts of money placed in deposit in this Island may, therefore, be recapitulated as follows:—

	£
In Government Savings Bank ...	519,038
In Dollar Conversion Fund ...	21,937
In the Anglo-Maltese and Anglo-Egyptian Banks ...	20,000
Total ...	<u>£560,975</u>

(d.) *Money in circulation.*—It is not possible to have reliable data on the amount of specie in circulation. In a place like this Island, which is a station for a large garrison and fleet, the money in circulation fluctuates according to the sums imported and exported especially for the requirements of Her Majesty's fleet. It may, however, be safely estimated that the specie in circulation amounts to about £500,000, besides the notes of the local banks which may be set down at, say, £20,000.

From the above, it may be held that the total amount of money capital at present belonging to the Islands would be—

	£
Money invested ...	2,000,000
„ in deposit ...	560,975
„ in circulation (including notes) ...	520,000
Total ...	<u>£3,080,975</u>

(e.) *Value of gold, silver, and precious stones.*—The value of the jewellery existing in these Islands is also to be taken into account. It is well known that it is the general custom of many families of all grades in this community to invest their savings in the purchase of jewellery, and this may be proved by the large number of gold and silver pawns existing always in the Monte di Pietà, by the yearly local manufacture of gold and silver wares, the value of which in 1898 amounted to upwards of £27,000, and the constant recurrent large importation of foreign jewellery. Taking the number of families, as given in the census of 1891, to be 37,467, and assuming that, say, one-half of these families possess jewellery to, say, an amount of £50 for each family, there would result a total value of jewellery in possession of the population represented by £936,650. To this may be added the value of stock of jewellery existing in shops, which is estimated at £100,000; but as only 50 per cent. of that stock is presumed to be the actual property of the jewellers, the amount to be added to the total value of the jewellery owned by the people of these Islands would be £50,000, giving a grand total of £986,650, which, spread on the population, gives a proportionate rate of £5·56 per head, and added to the £3·16 calculated as rate of money placed in deposit, gives a total of £8·72 of money and valuables owned by each head of the population, exclusive of immovable property.

MALTA,  
1898.

I have, &c.,

G. STRICKLAND,

*Chief Secretary to Government.*

LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

—  
1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 250.

MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

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ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1897.

(For Reports for 1896, *see* Nos. 215 and 223.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
November 1898.

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1898.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific .. ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 250.

## MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES.

(For Reports for 1896, see Nos. 215 and 223.)

MAURITIUS  
AND  
RODRIGUES,  
1897.

GOVERNOR SIR CHARLES BRUCE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Mauritius,

26th August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you copies of the Mauritius Blue Book for the year 1897, together with copies of the usual summary.

2. I also transmit the Report on the Blue Book, to which the Rodrigues Report is appended.

3. In transmitting the Blue Book and the accompanying Summary and Report, it is my duty to add that, since the close of the financial year ending 31st December 1897, the causes which led to a serious reduction of the revenue for the year, dealt with in the Blue Book, have told with disastrous consequences on the revenue of the current year. These causes may be briefly stated as a short crop of sugar, low prices, and the abnormally high price of Indian foodstuffs. The first and last of these causes may be considered as temporary; there is every promise that the crop of the season 1898-99 will be abundant, and there is an appreciable reduction in the price of foodstuffs; but the low price of sugar has been the result of causes which threaten the sugar industry of Mauritius with the loss of its hitherto profitable markets—India and Australia. The Indian market has been largely affected by the operation of the artificial bounty system of foreign governments in aid of beetroot sugar. In 1887 the total quantity of beetroot sugar imported into India amounted to only 630 tons, valued at Rs. 150,000, as compared with an

700\*—75—10/98 Wt 21620 D &amp; S—5 (B)

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MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES, 1897. importation of 85,000 tons, valued at Rs. 20,650,000. During the first nine months of 1897, no less than 52,000 tons of beetroot sugar, valued at Rs. 11,637,000, were imported into India, against 74,000 tons of cane sugar, valued at Rs. 17,000,000. As regards the Australian market, it is enough to record the fact that, whereas Australia 15 or 20 years ago took one-half of the produce of Mauritius, the extension of sugar cultivation in the Australian Colonies threatens permanently to close to this Colony that hitherto lucrative market.

4. I have endeavoured in numerous despatches to lay before you the present financial position of the Colony. If I have felt bound to draw attention to the subject in this despatch, it is because the publication of the Blue Book and the accompanying Report might naturally lead to an inference that they correctly define the position of the Colony at this date. Such an inference would be altogether misleading.

I have, &c.,

CHAS. BRUCE,  
*Governor.*

MAURITIUS, 1897. [BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897.

#### TAXATION.

1. Very little alteration was made in the items of existing taxation.

The bicycle, which, as I reported in the Blue Book Report on Barbados for 1896, had asserted itself in the West Indies, has now increased to taxable proportions in this Eastern Colony, and a license varying from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 was imposed on dealers in bicycles.

A few other items of not sufficient importance to necessitate special remark appear in the amendments and alterations of items of such taxes.

#### REVENUE.

	Rs.
2. The estimated revenue for 1897 was ... ..	8,238,517
The actual receipts were ... ..	7,996,706
	<hr/>
Showing a deficit of ... ..	241,811

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	Rs.	MAURITIUS, 1897.
The revenue for 1896 had been estimated at ...	8,427,338	<u>          </u>
And the actual receipts for that year were ...	8,849,181	<u>          </u>
Showing a surplus of ...	... 421,843	<u>          </u>

Allowing, therefore, for certain items, such as Licenses, Fees of Court, and Miscellaneous (to which a windfall of Rs. 368,074 had accrued in 1896), and for an increase under the other heads which showed a steady upward tendency, the estimates for 1897 were quite justifiable.

3. Unfortunately a disastrous drought, the low prices for sugar, the high prices for rice and grains in India, and the tightness of the money markets there, formed an overwhelming combination of untoward circumstances which upset all calculations, and went very high to produce a general financial disaster. With a solitary exception (a casual rise in the receipts for Crown land shooting leases) every head of revenue showed a considerable falling off.

4. The Customs, which had been estimated at Rs. 2,948,000 on a sugar crop of 140,000 tons, produced Rs. 2,769,889, against Rs. 3,069,745 in 1896; shipping, of course, followed suit; the receipts under both heads showing together a falling off of Rs. 313,543; excise fell from Rs. 1,279,215 to Rs. 1,245,869; railway receipts showed a decrease of Rs. 71,688; educational fees Rs. 4,495.

The net total decrease in the revenue for 1897 compared with 1896 was Rs. 852,476.

5. In 1896, however, the Colony got the benefit of what is very rightly called in the Blue Book Report a "windfall" of Rs. 368,074 (the figure given in that Report is Rs. 351,024, but the rate of exchange was only then estimated—the exact sum is Rs. 368,074), caused by the surplus balance of the Sinking Fund provided for the redemption of the 6 per cent. debentures of 1864 having been brought to credit of the revenue of that year.

If that sum be eliminated, the comparison between the revenue of 1896 and 1897 will be Rs. 8,481,107 against Rs. 7,996,706, or a decrease for 1897 of Rs. 484,401.

6. The remaining available balances to the credit of the Colony were required to meet the immediate necessities for current expenditure, and for making good the deficiency. It was possible to meet all obligations, but only by great care, and by abandoning—for the time only, it is to be hoped—much that might otherwise have been done for the welfare of the population.

MAURITIUS,  
1897.

## EXPENDITURE.

7. The total expenditure for 1897 was Rs. 8,626,798, against an estimate of Rs. 8,738,137 and an actual expenditure of Rs. 8,544,736 in 1896.

Of this personal emoluments were ...	3,015,220
Other charges ... ..	5,611,578
	<u>8,626,798</u>
The revenue for 1897 was ... ..	7,996,706

Showing an excess of expenditure Rs. 630,092

8. Although the falling off in revenue was due to the exceptional temporary disadvantage of short crop, low prices, no markets, and high cost of Indian foodstuffs, there is every reason to fear that the present establishment and expenditure of the Colony are beyond its resources, and that considerable reductions must be made if income and expenditure are at least to balance each other.

9. It is of interest to analyse briefly the current expenditure of the Colony, and for this purpose it has been divided under the following heads, showing the principal items of which they are made up :—

1. Annual Charges :—	Rs.
Public Debt, Pensions, Military Contribution, Telegraph Subsidy ... ..	1,960,664
2. The Executive Administration only :—	
Legislation, Executive, Police, Prison, Public Works (recurrent) ... ..	1,416,791
3. Revenue Making Departments proper :—	
Inland Revenue, Customs, Shipping, Registration, Railway, Post Office, Water Works ... ..	2,227,637
4. Departments partially recouped by Fees, &c. :—	
Judicial, Education, Medical, Forests, Poor Law, Immigration, Crown Land ... ..	2,266,373
5. Ecclesiastical ... ..	141,321
6. *Annual Grants :—	
Sciences, Agriculture, Homes, Races, Local Boards, Fire Brigade, &c. ... ..	113,724
Carried forward	<u>Rs. 8,126,510</u>

\* This item is susceptible of considerable reduction.

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	Brought forward	Rs. 8,126,510	MAURITIUS, 1897.
7. Miscellaneous :—			
	Interest on Deposits, Crown Agents, Exchange on Remittances, Loan Office, Dependencies ... ..	339,858	
8. Special Expenditure :—			
	Queen's Jubilee, Medical Mission to India, Depreciation of Currency Commissioners' Securities, Public Works (Extraordinary), New Edition of Laws, &c. ... ..	160,430	
	Total ... ..	Rs. 8,626,798	

10. The revenue (say Rs. 8,000,000) was absorbed (and in fact exceeded) by those heads of expenditure in the following proportion :—

	Approximate percentage.
1. Annual Charges ... ..	25
2. Executive Expenditure ... ..	18
3. Revenue Departments... ..	28
4. Departments partially recouped	28
5. Religion ... ..	2
6. Annual Grants... ..	1
7. Miscellaneous ... ..	2
8. Special Expenditure ... ..	4

	Rs.
11. The provision for the Education, Religion, Health, and Relief in sickness and old age of the Community was ... ..	1,559,453
and of the maintenance of Law and Order, and punishment of crime ... ..	1,313,432
Total ... ..	Rs. 2,872,885

The first represented Rs. 4·12 per head of the population, and the second Rs. 3·47.

The whole is about covered by the Customs receipts.

It is interesting to remark that in Barbados, an Island so far resembling this that it entirely depends on one and the same staple industry, sugar, and has a large agricultural labouring population (though very differently composed), the expenditure under these two heads bears about the same proportion to one another, and is defrayed by the Customs revenue.

MAURITIUS,  
1897.

## MUNICIPALITIES, &amp;C.

	Rs.
12. The total revenue of the Corporation of Port Louis in 1897 was ... ..	457,180
exclusive of a credit balance in hand on 1st January... ..	9,510
Total ... ..	Rs. 466,690
The total expenditure was ... ..	513,816
Leaving a deficit of ... ..	Rs. 47,126

13. The Debenture Debt at the end of the year stood as follows :—

	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
Conversion Loan ... ..	133,400	132,300
Colonial Loan, 1889 ... ..	106,470	93,600
Government Hurricane Loan, 1892 ...	140,093	130,491
Colonial Loan, 1894 ... ..	14,905	7,125
Government Overflow Loan, 1896 ...	—	45,833
Total ... Rs.	261,468	277,049

14. The Accounts of the District Boards of Commissioners show :—

	Rs.
Total Revenue ... ..	91,542
Expenditure ... ..	89,508
Debt to Government ... ..	20,000

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PUBLIC DEBT.

MAURITIUS,  
1897

15. The Public Debt of the Colony stood as follows on 31st December 1897 :—

	£	£
Unconverted Debentures 4 to 4½ per cent....	176,100	
Bonds paid ...	57,700	
		118,400
Converted Inscribed Stock 4 per cent. ...		480,750
Hurricane Loan Imperial Guarantee 3 per cent. ...		600,000
Treasury Bills redeemable ...		38,339
		<u>£1,237,489</u>

CURRENCY NOTES.

16. The amount of Treasury rupee currency notes in circulation on the 31st December was	Rs.	3,114,250
The specie in hand of Commissioners of Currency ...	Rs.	1,570,000
Investments ...		1,722,405
		<u>3,292,405</u>
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	Rs.	<u>178,155</u>

MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

17. The total military expenditure of the Colony was Rs. 418,272.

The Colonial contribution was calculated on five and a half per cent. on the gross receipts of revenue generally (exclusive of land sales), and on the net receipts of certain specified items, in addition to which about Rs. 20,000 is at present paid in lieu of Customs Rebate.

The total strength of the garrison on 1st January 1898 was 1,078 (of all ranks), against 939 on 1st January 1897. In that year the expenditure was £63,906.

The increasing importance of Mauritius as a fortified coaling station on the direct route from the Cape of Good Hope to the East is likely to lead to an augmentation of the benefits it derives from the presence of Imperial troops.

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## LEGISLATION.

18. Out of 42 Ordinances passed during the year, only one requires notice in this report, No. 38, "To consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Quarantine."

19. "Quarantine at Mauritius" had, it is no exaggeration, a wide-world reputation. The provisions of the existing law on the subject was by no means in consonance with the modern scientific views of the incubation period of germ diseases, and of the greater efficacy of medical inspection and isolation of actual, or observation of suspected cases, and of disinfection, than of prolonged detention in quarantine.

The rigid enforcement of the Quarantine Laws against vessels coming to Mauritius and its dependencies had become, to use the honest phrase, intolerable. Government troopships, ocean liners, mail and trading steamers, were liable, and often subjected, to delays and the passengers to detention, in some cases for long periods on the ground of maladies, some of them not usually the subject of quarantine, existing at the ports or places from which they had sailed or at which they had called on the voyage here.

Grave complaints were received from the Government of India and from private companies, and it is more than probable that the abandonment of this route by one of the largest ocean services running between Europe and Australia via the Red Sea was due to the delays and difficulties experienced by their steamers when calling here.

In one case at least the Government had to pay heavy compensation for the detention of a steamer in quarantine beyond the maximum limit allowed by law.

20. It needs no argument to show how in these days of keen marine and mercantile competition the adherence, however well meant, to obsolete principles must result in a deadlock with shipping and trade interests, and re-act on the progress of the Colony. It was therefore decided to submit to the Legislature a measure which, while safeguarding the Colony as much as possible against the introduction of dangerous diseases, would, by adopting the principles of the International Sanitary Conferences of Dresden and Venice, substitute reduced periods of quarantine, coupled with medical inspection and active precautionary measures, for the prolonged detention and delays which were so much complained of.

21. The Ordinance was very fully considered and debated at several meetings of the Council of Government before it was finally passed.

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It provides for :—

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- (1) Inspection by the Health Officer of all vessels arriving here.
- (2) Prompt admission to pratique of healthy vessels.
- (3) Temporary detention in quarantine of observation of suspected vessels.
- (4) Quarantine for specified periods for the following diseases :—

Disease.	Period.	Old Period.
	Days.	Days.
1. Plague ... ..	15	15 to 21
2. Cholera ... ..	10	21
3. Small-pox ... ..	15	16 to 21
4. Yellow fever ... ..	10	15 to 21
5. Typhus ... ..	10	15 to 21

calculated from the date of sailing of the vessel from the port of departure or termination of last case on board or in quarantine.

- (5) Prohibition and exclusion of certain articles from importation in the Colony.

22. The detail working of the law is effected by regulations to be made by the Quarantine Committee, and approved by the Governor in Executive Council.

Steps will be taken by the Government to establish a properly equipped disinfecting station in addition to the present one and other means at their disposal.

The above measure will afford much better facilities for dealing with the subject generally, and minimising the conflict with other interests, which is so liable to have an injurious effect on the prospect of the Colony.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

- 23. The number of electors registered was ... 6,230
- The number who voted at the last General Election (quinquennial) ... .. 4,566

In two districts, however, there being only one candidate nominated, there was no polling.

In 1896 there were 6,468 electors registered, and 4,566 voters at the elections.



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## COUNCILS.

24. No remarks.

## ESTABLISHMENTS.

25. The principal changes in the Public Service of the Colony were :—

Governor—His Excellency Sir C. Bruce, K.C.M.G., late Governor of the Windward Islands, succeeded Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, K.C.M.G., appointed Governor of Trinidad.

Supreme Court—Mr. J. Rouillard, 1st Puisne Judge, died on the 21st October.

Colonial Secretary—Mr. G. R. Le Hunte, late Colonial Secretary of Barbados, succeeded Mr. C. A. King-Harman, C.M.G., appointed Administrator of St. Lucia.

Receiver-General—Mr. J. J. Brown, Collector of Customs, replaced Mr. L. E. Schmidt, retired.

Director of Forests and Gardens—Mr. W. Scott died on the 3rd October, and was succeeded by Mr. J. Vankeirsbilck (acting), the Assistant Director.

Collector of Customs—Mr. G. Lungair, Storekeeper-General, succeeded Mr. J. J. Brown, appointed Receiver-General, and was succeeded as Storekeeper-General by Mr. L. S. R. du Vergé.

## PENSIONS.

26. The pension list amounted to Rs. 364,655.68, against Rs. 362,773.29 for 1896.

## POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

27. The total population is given at	...	...	377,856
(over 536 to the square mile, about half the proportion of Barbados or Malta).			
In 1896 it was	...	...	374,942
		Increase	2,914

This increase is almost entirely a natural increment from excess of births over deaths. The increment from immigration excess of arrivals over departures is only 323.

28. The total Indian population was 260,540; the total Chinese 3,389; being an increase of 1,538 over 1896.

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The Indian population may be classified under three heads :— MAURITIUS,

1. Resident (Indo-Mauritians) ...	184,775	MAURITIUS, 1897.
2. Immigrants ... ..	69,115	<hr/>
3. Other Indians ... ..	6,650	
Total ... ..	<hr/> 260,540 <hr/>	

representing about  $\frac{1}{10}$ ths of the total population of the Colony.

The general proportion of males to females in the total population is, approximately, 1,200 males to 1,000 females.

*Births.*

29. There were 13,657 births in 1897, or 2,159 more than in 1896 (but that year the birth-rate was abnormally low).

The birth-rate for the total population is 36.4 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 36.5 per 1,000.

The birth-rate varies in different districts, from the minimum 27.5 in Black River to the maximum 41.3 in Moka.

The birth-rate of Port Louis is below that of Madras, Cairo, and Alexandria, and above that of Bombay.

The proportion of illegitimate births was nearly 65 per cent. of the whole (lower, however, than for 1896 = 67.7).

30. There is a great difference in the percentage of illegitimate births acknowledged by the father. In the general population 21 per cent. were not acknowledged, in the Indian section only 3 per cent., showing that amongst the latter there exists a *bona fide* recognition of the responsibilities of paternity and solicitude for the care of their offspring.

*Deaths.*

31. There were 11,066 deaths in 1897 = 29.5 per thousand, against 15,843 deaths in 1896 = 42 per thousand, which, however, was an abnormally high rate.

The death-rate was lower and the birth-rate higher amongst the Indo-Mauritians, and they are increasing much more rapidly than any other group of the population.

The death-rate varies very much according to locality, from 40.4 per 1,000 in Port Louis (town) to 22.0 in Riviere du Rempart on the North-Eastern part of the Colony.

A very great improvement is noticeable in every district.

More than 50 per cent. of the deaths are due to zymotic diseases.

12 deaths were registered amongst the troops (1,014), 5 of enteric fever, 1 to remittent fever, and 6 to other non-climatic causes.

MAURITIUS, 1897. 32. The report of the Medical Inspector of Immigrants, Dr. Lorans, with reference to the sanitary condition of the estates was generally satisfactory. Referring to the diminished death-rate amongst the labourers for 1897 against 1896, Dr. Lorans says:—

“This diminution is easily accounted for by the difference in the climatic condition of these two years. It is a common saying in the Island that a good sugar crop is accompanied by a heavy fever rate. The correctness of the statement was well exemplified in 1896, and though the converse may not be always true, the contrast was well marked in 1897. The drought, which in the latter year did so much harm to the sugar industry, especially in the northern districts of the Colony, was accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the fever prevalence in those districts.”

The death-rate varied greatly on estates in different localities, the highest being 40·7, and the lowest 5·4 in Pamplemousses, 5·5 in Grand Port.

33. Speaking of the great increase, however, of the death-rate on certain estates in 1897 as compared with 1896, in one case 75 per 1,000 against 37 in the previous year, in another 59 against 27, in a third 36 against 9, Dr. Lorans makes a very interesting remark:—

“These four estates comprised in the valley of Cent Gaulettes have suffered from no special unsanitary condition which can account for the unhealthiness which prevailed there last year. The villages of the region have suffered similarly, and it seems probable that fluctuations in the level of the subsoil water brought on conditions favourable to the multiplication of the hematozoon of Laveran and of the germs causing dysentery. It should be remarked that the increased mortality on these estates was principally due to these two complaints, while diarrhœa was a frequent complication of the fatal fever cases.”

It is satisfactory to observe that Dr. Lorans states that careful analytical examination completely exonerates the Mareaux-Vacoas from any suspicion in the production of typhoid fever or dysentery.

34. Dr. Lorans draws very serious attention to the absence of any legislation for the compulsory notification of infectious diseases, and gives a grave warning that “unless steps be promptly taken to cause all cases of contagious diseases to be brought to the notice of the sanitary authorities, and powers granted them to ensure proper isolation and disinfection, when dealing with infectious disorders, it is to be feared that typhoid fever will, at no distant date, prove a terrible enemy to combat. Circumstances more favourable to the spread of this disease can hardly be imagined than those which obtain in Mauritius.”

The subject is receiving the attention of the Government, and an Ordinance on the subject is in course of preparation for the Legislature.

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Dr. Lorans also draws attention to the necessity for a Lying-in Institution, where some intelligent and suitable matrons could be trained in midwifery. MAURITIUS, 1897.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

35. There is a Government Widows and Orphans' Fund, to which all members of the Civil Service contribute 4 per cent. per annum of their salaries (Ordinance No. 2 of 1886).

The number of associates of the fund on the 31st December 1897 was 1,447, and the balance in the hands of the Government on that date was Rs. 435,617.

The fund receives from Government 6 per cent. on the mean monthly balance to the credit of the fund during the year.

The only other society assisted by Government grant is the Mutual Aid Society of Government Workmen for assisting members and their families in cases of sickness or death.

The number of members is 44, with 42 relatives and 105 children. The balance on 31st December was Rs. 1,505.

36. There is an excellent society among the Civil Servants, "The Mauritius Civil Service Mutual Aid Association," established under Ordinance 22 of 1894. Its object is to afford pecuniary assistance to Civil Servants going on leave to recruit their health, furnishing or repairing their houses, and in times of sickness or death in their families, when a sudden call on insufficient resources would entail great hardship or distress, and in many cases lead to the officers resorting to money lenders or other undesirable means of raising money to meet it.

The Act under which this society is formed allows an officer to voluntarily delegate a portion of his salary to the fund, which is deducted by the Receiver-General from his monthly salary. All other delegations of salary are expressly forbidden by the rules of the Service in this Colony.

The total number of members on 31st December was 1,037, and the balance in hand was Rs. 66,450.

There are seven other friendly societies, comprising altogether 3,108 members, with total funds Rs. 4,862.

EDUCATION.

1. Royal College (Boys).

(Affiliated to the University of London.)

37. The average number of scholars at the Royal College proper was 207, and at the two branch schools in Port Louis and Curepipe it was 69 and 154 respectively. Total average 361.

The expenditure altogether amounted to Rs. 148,600, and the receipts from fees and sale of books to Rs. 35,730.

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1897.

The net expenditure represented Rs. 313, or rather over £20 per pupil, a large amount when compared with some other Colonies.

Two scholars are sent to the Universities in England every year, with a grant of £200 per annum for four years and passage to and from. This is not included in the above.

There are 23 private schools under managers associated with the Royal College. They receive a grant collectively of Rs. 7,000.

There is no college or public high school for girls in this Colony. The Government gives a grant of Rs. 7,000 for the higher education of girls. They are educated privately, and they enter for local examination; they also share in the prizes given by the Royal College.

### 2. Government Schools.

38. There are 49 first grade and 32 second grade Government Schools, 16 for boys alone and 15 for girls, or girls-infants, the remaining 50 being mixed.

The average attendance in the first grade school was 4,838 out of 7,719 on the roll, and in the second grade 1,293 out of 2,212.

Total average attendance 6,131 out of 9,931.

The total expenditure was Rs. 195,154.

### 3. Aided Schools.

39. The total vote for grants to Aided Schools is Rs. 100,000, which was distributed as follows :—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grants Earned.
Roman Catholic ...	64	6,882	4,459	Rs. 73,454
Church of England ...	32	2,090	1,332	22,530
Presbyterian ...	2	222	173	2,105
Mahomedan ...	1	162	109	1,612
Totals ...	99	9,356	6,073	99,701
Not included in the vote of Rs. 100,000 :—				
(a) Grant for training of teachers ...	...	...	...	2,934
(b) Grant for drawing ...	...	...	...	300
		Total	...	Rs. 102,935
Receipts for sale of books ...				Rs. 5,673

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The re-establishment of a training institution is a much needed requirement. This Colony would do well to follow the example of the Leeward Islands in this respect, where the employment of certificated teachers, trained in the Mico Institution, has had such excellent results in the progress of education in these Islands.

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1897.

The total cost of elementary education comes to nearly Rs. 25, or about £1 12s. per pupil, an excessive amount when measured by the results.

*Industrial Education.*

40. Five apprentices are annually selected by the School Committee for the Government Railway Works for five years' training, and two for the Botanical Station for four years. They are paid daily wages by Government.

The expenditure under this head for 1897 was Rs. 3,949.

It would be more satisfactory if these apprentices made more use of these opportunities afterwards. Very few of them appear to follow up the profession of mechanical engineering which the private apprentices do in many cases with great success, obtaining posts as engineers in the Mercantile Marine, &c.

*Summary.*

41. The net total educational expenditure was as follows:—

	Rs.
Higher Education ... ..	193,197
Elementary Education ... ..	298,089
Industrial Education ... ..	3,949
Total ... ..	Rs.495,235

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

1. *Imports.*

42. The total value of the imports for the year 1897 amounted to Rs. 27,056,008 (inclusive of charges and exchange), against Rs. 32,194,410 in 1896 and Rs. 30,506,571 in 1895.

43. In the Report on the Blue Book for 1896 and 1895, the figures on which the averages have been struck and comparisons made have, no doubt for some good reason, been taken "*Exclusive of Exchange*," that is at the value of the article at the port of shipment in rupees calculated at Rs. 10 to the £1 sterling. This will give a total value of imports of Rs. 18,948,234 in 1897, against Rs. 22,501,462 in 1896 and Rs. 20,787,652 in 1895; the averages for the five years being in round numbers Rs. 20,000,000.

MAURITIUS, This method of calculation is, however, possibly misleading to  
1897. any one not acquainted with the real value of the factor  
— “Exchange” in financial transactions between countries with a  
gold and rupee silver currency.

For instance, the total value of the imports from the United Kingdom for 1896 is given at Rs. 3,855,229 as the equivalent of £385,523, whereas as a matter of fact that sum in sterling was represented by Rs. 7,412,771, a very serious difference when it comes to paying for them.

Again, with the Indian trade, where the currency is the same in both countries, the item “Exchange” very materially alters the figures.

The imports from India in 1896 are given at Rs. 13,749,974, which with exchange come to Rs. 16,109,221.

In fact it may be summed up as follows, that in 1897 it took Rs. 27,000,000 in Mauritius to pay for the Rs. 19,000,000 debited to the Colony as its accounts for imports.

In order to preserve the comparison of the returns, however, the figures in this Report are given *Exclusive of Exchange*.

44. The fluctuations in specie movements to and from India, which are included in the return of imports-exports, require some explanation. They depend almost entirely on the facility of remitting money through the banks to India. If at any time the position of the banks, with regard to their available funds outside the Colony (from causes such as the withdrawal of capital invested in the Colony), do not admit of their issuing bank drafts to the public for remittances abroad, except at rates which make it cheaper to export specie in payment of Indian accounts, instead of a transaction on paper which would not figure in the trade returns, a quantity of specie is sent away which figures in the exports. Should money continue to be “hard” this movement of specie will continue until funds outside are available for the banks and draft remittances can be resumed. Meanwhile the circulating medium in the Colony is reduced below its requirements for agriculture and retail trade purposes, and the banks have to obtain fresh supplies of specie for the planters and local traders, which will figure as an “import.”

45. As this ebb and flow of coin is purely accidental at any particular time, it should be taken into account separately when dealing with the actual trade statistics over any given period. The movement will also be intensified when the markets for sugar are abnormally bad, for although there may be a large quantity of export produce manufactured and ready for shipment, it may be difficult to obtain bills against it on account of the uncertainty of finding a sale for it in India, and in such cases it will be to the advantage of the Indian traders to remit specie. When money is hard at the banks, and markets bad in India, the greater will

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be the amount remitted in specie in payment of the rice bills. Specie shipments in fact actually show whether the Colony is paying its way with its produce or not. MAURITIUS,  
1897.

46. In 1897 the balance of trade was against the Colony, owing to the low prices of sugar, high prices for rice and grain. In addition to this, owing to the exchange being nearly 1s. 4d. the rupee, a considerable amount of European capital was withdrawn from the Island.

47. The following comparative return shows the imports from the several countries :—

—	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. United Kingdom ...	3,855,229	3,750,780
2. British Possessions :—		
India ... ..	13,749,974	10,405,578
Australia ... ..	578,321	334,385
Singapore ... ..	177,635	175,417
Seychelles ... ..	190,295	149,946
Miscellaneous ...	241,409	319,636
Total ...	14,937,637	11,384,962
3. Foreign Countries :—		
France ... ..	2,154,651	1,727,261
Pondicherry... ..	193,477	241,560
Madagascar and Reunion	331,315	314,168
United States ...	318,191	426,379
China ... ..	243,446	435,902
Germany ... ..	108,810	89,114
Miscellaneous ...	358,706	578,108
Total ...	3,708,596	3,812,492
Grand total ...	Rs. 22,501,462	18,948,234



MAURITIUS, 48. It will be seen from the above that while the slight altera-  
1897. tions in the trade with the United Kingdom and foreign countries  
almost balance each other, the decrease of three and a half  
millions of rupees falls on that with British Possessions, and it is  
found to occur entirely in the Indian trade.

The short crop in Mauritius consequent on the drought, and the low prices in India under the influence of plague, tight money, and bounty fed sugars, are sufficient causes for this without the additional rise in the price of rice and grains caused by the Indian famine and short supplies.

49. An analysis of the Indian trade shows a serious shrinkage in all items of ordinary consumption and use.

	Rs.
Foodstuffs decreased by ... ..	1,621,000
(There were 950 tons less rice imported, the staple article of food.)	
Soft goods ... ..	285,000
Hardware? ... ..	68,000
Wood and woodenware ... ..	20,500
Narcotics ... ..	19,000
Chemical manure ... ..	139,500

If we eliminate specie (Rs. 1,275,728 less than in 1896), the returns show a falling off in all articles of general consumption and use, from India alone, of over two millions and a quarter of rupees.

50. Turning to the general imports the returns show that the imports per head of the population were Rs. 85.86 in 1896 and Rs. 71.60 in 1897. Apart from the articles above mentioned in the Indian trade, a considerable falling off occurred in those principally imported from other countries, amongst which are noticeable :—

	Rs.
Guano ... ..	101,000
Jewellery ... ..	21,000
Olive oil ... ..	19,700
Boots ... ..	19,000
Beer ... ..	15,000
Kerosine oil ... ..	13,500

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51. The classification summary gives the following result :—

MAURITIUS,  
1897.

	Values Exclusive of Charges and Exchange.		Increase + Decrease —.
	1896.	1897.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Live animals, food, drinks, and narcotics.	12,824,595	11,253,567	—1,571,028
2. Raw materials :—			
I. Textile ... ..	8,127	12,540	+ 4,413
II. Metal... ..	2,070	—	— 2,070
III. Others ... ..	422,404	907,829	+ 485,425
3. Manufactured articles :—			
I. Textile ... ..	2,230,178	2,027,132	— 203,046
II. Metal... ..	805,100	754,299	— 50,801
III. Others ... ..	3,671,962	2,730,832	— 941,130
	19,964,436	17,686,199	—2,278,237
4. Coin bullion and specie ...	2,537,026	1,262,035	—1,274,991
Total ... Rs.	22,501,462	18,948,234	—3,553,228

*Exports.*

52. The total value of the exports for 1897 (Rs. 81.12 per head of the population, against Rs. 90.55 in 1896) was Rs. 30,654,007, against Rs. 33,949,614 in 1896, showing a decrease of Rs. 3,295,607. But of this Rs. 2,522,109 was specie exported in excess of the amount in 1896.

MAURITIUS, 1897. Eliminating specie for both years the real decreases in the exports of produce and manufacture of the Island was Rs. 5,637,729.

Decrease.			Increase		
	Rs.			Rs.	
Sugar ... ..	5,955,248		Molasses... ..	174,445	
Rum ... ..	190,210		Vanilla ... ..	15,986	
Aloe fibre ... ..	10,819		Hides ... ..	26,729	
Coconut oil ... ..	8,314		Soap ... ..	36,112	
			Miscellaneous ... ..	273,590	
	6,164,591			526,862	
	526,862				
Net decrease ... ..	5,637,729				

53. The decrease in the export of sugar was due (1) to the short crop consequent on the drought, (2) to the bad state of the Indian markets; a large amount of sugar remained in the warehouses at the end of the year and specie was remitted instead.

54. The preferential duty imposed in Madagascar in favour of French rum (from Bourbon) had the following effect on the exports of rum and molasses from here to that country:—

Export to Madagascar—

—	1896.	1897.
Rum ... ..	259,117 gallons.	52,448 gallons.
Molasses ... ..	18,318 cwt.	1 cwt. 16 lbs.

India, however, took 235,461 cwt. of molasses in 1897, against 54,537 in 1896.

55. The total quantities of sugar, rum, and molasses—about 98 per cent. of the total exports—were—

—	1896	1897.
Sugar ... ..	153,575 tons.	138,079 tons.
Rum ... ..	506,560 gallons.	142,288 gallons.
Molasses ... ..	152,733 cwt.	243,505 cwt.

56. The following comparison shows the produce export to MAURITIUS, the several markets of the world :—  
1897.

	1896.	1897.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. United Kingdom ...	270,740	382,538
2. British Possessions :—		
India and Ceylon ...	16,443,173	12,429,346
South Africa... ..	4,965,493 (Natal—Nil)	4,854,913 (Natal—343,503)
Australasia ... ..	4,085,345 (New Zealand—671,210)	2,623,985 (New Zealand—Nil)
Hong Kong ... ..	341,885	224,900
Miscellaneous ...	160,659	158,051
Total ...	25,996,555	20,291,195
3. Foreign Countries :—		
United States ...	1,784,419	1,795,179
France ... ..	252,689	200,620
Madagascar ... ..	332,967	176,778
Delagoa Bay... ..	275,648	372,967
Zanzibar ... ..	Nil	15,864
Miscellaneous ...	148,123	188,271
Total ...	2,793,846	2,749,679
Grand total ... Rs.	29,061,141	23,423,412

57. Apart from the Indian trade, which has been separately dealt with, it will be seen that there was an increase in trade with the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Zanzibar, while there was a decrease in Australia, France, and Madagascar.

The Colony is losing in the Australian and Madagascar markets, and gaining in Natal, Delagoa Bay, and Zanzibar.

The sugar crop for 1898 promises to be a very large one, which will no doubt materially alter the figure for that year compared with 1897. Unfortunately the prospect of prices is not so promising.

MAURITIUS,  
1897

## SHIPPING.

58. The shipping returns show the following comparison between 1896 and 1897 :—

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
<b>Sailing Vessels :—</b>				
British ... ..	113	59,329	121	64,766
French ... ..	18	4,795	19	5,322
German ... ..	29	7,836	28	7,412
Norwegian ... ..	11	4,855	12	5,442
Danish ... ..	7	3,584	7	3,584
Various ... ..	5	2,972	4	2,441
<b>1897—</b>				
Total Sailing Vessels ...	183	83,371	191	88,967
<b>Steamers :—</b>				
British ... ..	80	155,680	82	160,059
French ... ..	59	78,606	59	78,606
German ... ..	8	7,994	8	7,994
Norwegian ... ..	2	3,057	2	3,057
<b>1897—</b>				
Total Steamers ...	149	245,337	151	249,716
Total Sailing Vessels ...	183	83,371	191	88,967
<b>Total—1897 ...</b>				
Total—1897 ...	332	328,708	342	338,683
<b>Total—1896 ...</b>				
Total—1896 ...	391	394,371	387	388,456
<b>Decrease in 1897 ...</b>				
Decrease in 1897 ...	59	65,663	45	49,773

The falling off is due to the short sugar crop. The shipping figures for 1897 are, however, in excess of the average of the previous five years.

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AGRICULTURE.

MAURITIUS,  
1897.

59. The return of agriculture shows that out of a total area of 473,760 acres, 83,392 were under cultivation, 4,425 being cultivated in the Métairie system, *i.e.*, let to tenants on shares of the crop.

69,000 acres are returned as under sugar cane; 100 in tea; 50 in vanilla; 10 in coffee; 269 in maize.

A considerable extent of land, 3,221 acres, is returned as under aloes for fibre, but the production of this article is now very small.

The remainder of the land included in estate lands, 72,799 acres, is under "catch crops," pasturage, or wood.

60. There were 147 cane mills (all steam), 58 of which are fitted with the "Triple Effect;" 31 fibre machines; 40 manure manufactories; 30 distilleries (of which 12 were working). No new machinery of any kind was erected.

A great discouragement to the distillers here was suffered by the imposition of an import duty of 80 francs per hectolitre against all rum other than the export of French Colonies, in Madagascar this year, thus closing that market to Mauritius in favour of Réunion (Bourbon):

61. The average rates of wages were—

—	Per day.	Per task or job (one day's work).
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Agricultural ...	0.50 to 0.75	0 60
2. Domestic ...	0 75	
3. Tradesman ...	1.00 to 1.50	1 50

62. The following table shows the average prices of ordinary articles of consumption in the Colony:—

Article.	Price.	Article.	Price
Flour... .. per lb.	£ s. d. 0 0 1½	Butter (fresh) per lb.	£ s. d. 0 2 5
Bread ... .. "	0 0 1½	" (salt) .. "	0 1 0½
Milk ... .. per quart.	0 0 2	Cheese ... .. "	0 0 10½

700\*—5

D

MAURITIUS, 1897.		Article.	Price.	Article.	Price.
			£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Beef ...	per lb.	0 0 3½	Sugar... ..	per lb.	0 0 1½
Mutton ...	"	0 0 8½	Salt ... ..	per 3 lbs.	0 0 0½
Pork ... ..	"	0 0 7¼	Beer ... ..	per doz.	0 9 6
Rice per bag of 165 lbs.		0 16 8	Wine, per cask (49½ galls.)		6 17 10
Tea ... ..	per lb.	0 1 1	Tobacco ... ..	per lb.	0 2 0
Coffee ... ..	"	0 0 7¼			

63. The following extracts from the report of the President of the Chamber of Agriculture are of great interest :—

“1897 opened badly for the Sugar Industry. A drought had already afflicted the Northern and Central Districts for the last two months of 1896, after a few showers in January, gained in severity, and was persistent through the year up to 5th December, when it broke with a cyclone of exceptional character as regards the early date of its appearance and the violence of the wind during its short duration. Considerable damage to buildings was occasioned by this storm, and some to canes; but the crop was for the most part reaped, and the canes for the next year were not sufficiently forward to suffer very severely. The damage by the wind was nothing in comparison with the benefit brought by the rains for the coming crop. Unhappily the drought had been more or less severe over the whole of the Island; least felt in the South, but in the Northern and Eastern quarters it was disastrous, many estates experiencing the loss of 50 per cent. up to 75 per cent. of an average yield. The total production of the Colony is estimated at about 115,000 against over 150,000 tons in 1896. Prices have shown very little improvement, owing partly to the immense production of beetroot sugar and the fact that a rise in the value of the rupee in India has permitted large importations of European granulated beetroot sugar into that market; and to aggravate the planters' difficulties the prices of all provisions, especially rice, has been 50 per cent. higher than before.

“Parcelling out land amongst Indians proceeds on a large scale; in the majority of cases no money passes for the first year or two, except the value of the canes if there be any ripe enough to cut in the first year. It is impossible to predict what will be the effect of this great settlement of labouring Indians upon the land; it will undoubtedly lead to a great increase in the production of sugar canes, raise the value of the land, and must ultimately lead to the establishment of central factories and the division of labour.

“The cultivation of tea has been extended, and produce of excellent quality has been put on the market in limited supplies. While the quality is sufficiently good to enable it to compete on the English market, the scale on which it has been produced has not been sufficiently large to show whether the cost of manufacture will permit of exporting it profitably.”

MAURITIUS.  
1897.

**CROWN LAND RETURN.**

64. Practically no Crown lands were sold during the year.

The total area of the Crown lands of Mauritius at the present date is 79,285 acres, of which 5,895 acres are leased for periods of ten and twenty years. The total number of leases was 791.

The amount of Crown land rent for 1897 was Rs. 26,684 out of Rs. 41,657 due for the year.

The total amount of arrears of rent on 31st December 1897 was Rs. 19,161, of which Rs. 1,135 is struck off as irrecoverable.

**PRISONS.**

65. The total number of admissions were—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1896	6,118	385	6,503
1897	7,374	380	7,754
	Increase. 1,256	Decrease. 5	Net increase. 1,251

The above increase is found amongst the offences classified as under :—

Offences.	Total Number of Admissions.
Wounding ... ..	64
Larceny ... ..	636
Minor offences ... ..	374
Road cases ... ..	87
Vagrancy ... ..	374
Labour Law ... ..	125
	1,660



**MAURITIUS,** 66. The Superintendent of Prisons in his report says : "I  
1897. attribute the large increase in convictions to the extreme mildness of prison discipline, and to poverty and want of employment among the working classes."

Offences against prison discipline, except for very trifling matters, are dealt with by the Prison Board.

There were 18 escapes (17 recaptured), against 22 in 1896.

The average number of prisoners was as follows :—

Port Louis Prison (Town) ...	...	367
Central Prison (Beau Bassin)...	...	733
Total ...	...	1,100

The sick and death rate this year was unusually high.

	Average in Hospital.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000
Port Louis (Town) ...	81.05	12	33
Central Prison ...		41	60
Total ...	81.05	56	46

67. The alarming high sick and death rate at the Central Prison led to the appointment of a Special Committee to enquire into its causes. They found that the majority of cases occurred amongst the short-sentenced prisoners who are taken from the poorest and physically weakest classes of the population. The causes of sickness and death were principally from malarial fever and its complications, phthisical complaints, and dysentery. The situation and sanitary arrangements of the large New Central Prison at Beau Bassin, and the prison diet, are to all appearances excellent, and the Committee did not attribute the effect to local causes ; but it is to be feared that at certain seasons of the year the whole locality is not as healthy as it used to be, and the cases of fever amongst the prison officers who reside in the vicinity of the prison was very large. At the same time no large increase of sickness was found amongst the inmates of the Lunatic Asylum or the Barkly Poor Law Asylum, which are close to.

But it is a significant fact that the prison at Port Louis (Town), MAURITIUS, which an Inspector of Prisons in England would probably at once condemn, is coming to be looked on by the prison officers and prisoners as the "Sanatorium" for the Central Prison, which is built on the latest principles. 1897.

Certain suggestions and recommendations of the Committee on the Central Prison are being carried out, which it is hoped may effect some improvement.

68. The cost of the prison for 1897 was Rs. 161,702, against Rs. 165,546 in 1896.

The total value of the prisoners' work was calculated at Rs. 133,846, against Rs. 115,402 in 1896, but the Superintendent remarks that the value of manufactured goods supplied and work performed for Government purposes shows a large decrease of Rs. 10,195.

#### REFORMATORY.

69. The number of boys sent to the Reformatory was 412 : 310 for purpose of penal imprisonment, and 102 for non-payment of fine and costs.

The Superintendent remarks : " It is to be noted that 306 of these boys were committed on sentences varying from two days to three months only."

It is quite evident from the use to which this institution has come to be put that its title is a misnomer. No system of temporary detention of juveniles for non-payment of fine and costs, or for such sentences as those mentioned, can for a moment be associated with the idea of a reformatory, and it is useless to treat it as one until a complete change is made in the conception of its purposes.

70. The expenditure was Rs. 20,760. The earnings of the institution were calculated at Rs. 4,600, less by Rs. 325 than in 1896 ; and the Superintendent again remarks : " This is to be attributed to less indents (Government) for ' carpentering ' and ' tinsmith's work ' having been drawn on the institution this year."

The punishment returns show a marked improvement in discipline.

The health of the boys was good ; no death occurred.

The number of boys on 31st December 1897 on the penal side of the institution was 64, and in the industrial school 18.

71. A committee has been appointed to report on the Reformatory, and this report will be presented during the year 1898. No doubt some beneficial changes will follow upon it.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

72. The following table is compiled from Police Statistics for five years 1893-1897 :—

Year.	Total Number of Cases Reported to Police.	Number of Cases Enquired into but not Prosecuted.	Number of Persons Prosecuted.	Number of Persons Charged:				Amount of Property Recovered.
				Serious Offences.	Minor Offences.	Labour Law.	Vagrancy.	
1893	21,457	8,788	15,072	3,664	8,532	1,041	1,739	£ 28,238
1894	24,024	10,352	16,150	3,560	10,117	1,025	1,412	24,326
1895	24,592	10,706	16,461	3,179	10,904	977	1,341	25,212
1896	26,915	10,858	19,123	3,277	13,851	905	979	23,005
1897	26,963	10,341	19,710	3,858	12,986	920	1,835	26,753

It will be seen that there was an increase under nearly every head of offence. The prolonged drought and the scarcity of employment were probable factors in this, especially under the heading of vagrancy, which in this Colony is practically synonymous with "out of work."

Of the 1,835 persons arrested for vagrancy 877 were committed to prison, 21 to the Reformatory, and the rest otherwise dealt with.

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HOSPITALS.

MAURITIUS,  
1897.

*Civil Hospital.*

73. Number of persons treated	...	5,121
Number of deaths	... ..	320
Number of patients discharged	...	4,690
Nationality of cases admitted :—		
Creoles	... ..	3,020
Indians	... ..	1,950
Europeans	... ..	135

The Medical Superintendent remarks on the frequency of tubercular affection of the lungs, which he attributes to poverty, disregard of sanitary rules, alcoholism, and influenza “ which very easily opens the door to the specific microbe.”

*Barkly Asylum Hospital (Poor Law).*

74. Number of patients treated 2,454, 470 less than in 1896.  
Death-rate 54 per thousand, against 73 in 1896.

There were 21 public dispensaries open in 1897, and the number of patients who obtained gratuitous medical assistance and medicine from them was 59,751.

75. *Lunatic Asylum.*

—	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of inmates on 1st January 1897.	232	134	366
Admissions during the year	56	34	90
Total number ... ..	288	168	456
Discharges ... ..	52	34	86
Died ... ..	6	6	12
Number of inmates on 31st December 1897.	230	128	358
Daily average 361.			
Average number employed daily	100	52	152

MAURITIUS  
1897.

Of the 358 patients on the 31st December 1897 :—

Males.	Females.	
139	52	≡ 191 were from the Indian population.
91	76	≡ 167 were from the general population.
230	128	≡ 358.

The average number of lunatics in the asylum for the ten years 1888–1897 was 391, the number varying from a maximum of 440 in 1892, the year of the last great cyclone, to a minimum of 358 in 1897.

The population in 1888 was 369,302, lunatic 1·01 per thousand.

„ „ 1897 „ 377,856, „ 1·06 „

The total expenditure of the lunatic asylum was in 1897 Rs. 81,645, giving an average cost per patient of R. 0·619 per diem.

#### CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

##### 1. Religious Institutions.

76. The religious societies, with a certain amount of assistance from Government, provide for the instruction and care of a large number of the young and others.

The Roman Catholic Church has 90 institutions, convents, schools, orphanages, &c., providing for	...	...	...	8,275	persons
The Church of England, an orphanage and 41 schools	...	...	...	2,487	„
The Church of Scotland, two schools	...			222	„
Total religious institutions				10,984	„

2. *Government Relief.*MAURITIUS,  
1897.

77. Medical.—Persons treated in hospital ...	...	13,872
"    "    in private infirmaries	574	
"    "    at dispensaries ...	61,505	
"    "    in lunatic asylum ...	429	
"    "    in leper asylum ...	215	
		<hr/>
		76,595
Out-door relief.—Alimentary and pecuniary ...	1,857	
		<hr/>
Total ...	78,452	

## METEOROLOGICAL.

78. The Report of the Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory (on a plain 179 feet above sea-level, 3 miles from the sea, long. 12° 6' E., lat. 20° 5' S.) shows that the mean rainfall for the Colony was 27·26 inches, being 21·37 inches below the average for the last 23 years, and the lowest on record, being 2·48 inches less than in 1886, hitherto the year of least rainfall.

The mean temperature was 74° as against an average of 73·5° for the last 23 years.

The maximum temperature in the sun (on 9th February) was 155·2° F.; in a room in the shade (on 18th January) 88° F.; in a screen on lawn (on 30th November) 92·6° F.

The minimum temperature in a room in the shade (21st May) 57·4° F.; in a screen on lawn (21st May) 53·1° F.

The mean dew-point 64·6°, maximum (14th January) 76·6°, minimum (21st May) 48·9°.

The mean barometrical pressure (sea-level) was 30·066 ins., maximum (7th September) 30·400 ins., minimum (5th December) 28·922 ins.

Storm warnings were issued on January 26, February 17, 18, 19, 22, 27, and 28, December 5, 6, and 19-25.

The tracks of five tropical cyclones in the South Indian Ocean were determined; one of these passed over Mauritius on the evening of the 5th December, but fortunately without doing much serious damage.

MAURITIUS,  
1897.

## RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

*Railways.*

79. The receipts for the railways (105 miles), exclusive of Government traffic (Rs. 57,357), were—

	Rs.
Passenger traffic ... ..	969,511
Sugar „ ... ..	390,889
Goods „ ... ..	351,922
	Rs. 1,712,322
The total expenditure was ... ..	1,166,440
Balance in favour of receipts ... ..	Rs. 545,882

*Roads.*

80. The cost of maintenance of roads (370 miles), bridges, and ferries was Rs. 192,170.

## POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPHS.

*Post Office.*

81. The Report of the Colonial Postmaster shows the following work of the Department in 1896 and 1897 :—

—	Letters.	Post-cards.	Newspapers.
Mail packets ... ..	293,998	1,701	430,536
Private ships ... ..	79,996	406	34,129
Inland post... ..	860,329	23,689	920,638 °
Total ... ..	1,234,323	25,796	1,405,303
„ 1896 ... ..	1,226,357	25,608	1,301,558
Increase 1897 ... ..	7,966	188	103,745

° It may be noted that local newspapers pay no postage fee. There was an increase in the circulation of 100,000 in 1897.

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*Postal Parcels.*MAURITIUS,  
1897.

Year.	United Kingdom.	France and other Countries
1896 ... ..	1,856	5,986
1897 ... ..	2,093	6,898
Increase in 1897 ...	237	912

The sale of postage stamps, &c., realized Rs. 72,586, against Rs. 69,555 in 1896.

82. *Money Orders.*

Country.	Issued in the Colony.	Paid in the Colony.
United Kingdom ...	£ 3,539	£ 2,000
South Africa ...	208	5,745
Australia ... ..	221	102
Total... £	3,968	7,847
India and Ceylon ...	Rs. 98,243	Rs. 6,845
Dependencies ...	4,101	30,239
Total ... Rs.	102,344	37,084

Inland, Rs. 157,651.

*Telegraph Department.*

83. The gross revenue of the Telegraph Department was Rs. 97,153 in 1897, against Rs. 96,915 in 1896, showing an increase of Rs. 238.



MAURITIUS, 1897. The total cost of the Postal and Telegraph Department, including payment for conveyance of mails, &c., was as follows :—

	Rs.		Rs.
1896—Establishments	... 87,516		
Other charges	... 136,856		
			224,372
1897—Establishments	... 86,136		
Other charges	... 98,967		
			185,103
Decrease in 1897 ...	...	Rs.	39,269

#### GENERAL.

84. There is very little to be added to what has been said already in dealing with financial and agricultural matters in this Report.

The sudden and unforeseen crisis into which the Colony was thrown threatened at one time to produce most serious and immediate disaster. The means by which that was averted will form a very interesting page in the financial history of the Colony, and will no doubt be dealt with in the Report for 1898, to which year it belongs ; but it will take long before the effects of 1897 are neutralized, and although the Government is taking every possible opportunity of reducing expenditure—which can only be economically effected, as far as establishments are concerned, gradually, as vacancies occur—and of revising and improving the collection of revenue, it will be a difficult, if not impossible, task to make its finances balance without recourse to some new source of income.

85. Fortunately towards the end of the year the drought ended, and the prospects of a large crop in 1898 are excellent. But the prices obtainable for sugar are now so low that the future is very uncertain. The planters are aware that there is only one way to face the struggle, by improving their sugar machinery so as to obtain the best result at the least cost of production.

86. Too much importance cannot be given to the subject of sanitation, and especially of providing a good water supply to the Island. This excellent work has been begun in part, and should be continued at all costs.

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE.

July 31st, 1898.

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REPORT ON RODRIGUES FOR THE YEAR 1897. RODRIGUES,  
1897.

TAXATION.

No change has been made in the taxation of this Dependency during 1897.

REVENUE.

The revenue of the year (exclusive of Customs and sums received in Mauritius), amounted to ...	Rs. 8,007
and the revenue of 1896 to ... ..	8,310
showing a decrease of ... ..	<u>Rs. 303</u>

EXPENDITURE.

The payments made in 1897 (not including sums paid in Mauritius) and matters of account, amounted to ... ..	Rs. 23,502
and the expenditure of 1896 (not including sums paid in Mauritius) and matters of account, to ... ..	24,469
showing a decrease of ... ..	<u>Rs. 967</u>

The ratio of the revenue to the population of 1897 was Rs. 2.88 and a fraction per head. The ratio of the expenditure was Rs. 8.47 and a fraction per head.

LEGISLATION.

The only law enacted for this Dependency during 1897 was Ordinance No. 16 of 1897, imposing a tax on land cultivated in tobacco at Rodrigues, and abolishing the import duty on it when imported into Mauritius.

RODRIGUES  
1897.

## JUDICIAL.

	1896	1897
<i>Criminal Side.</i>		
Number of informations filed, including applications for search warrants ... ..	65	84
Number of adjudications ... ..	37	65
cases abandoned ... ..	11	3
persons convicted ... ..	46	76
"  "  acquitted ... ..	15	8
cases pending ... ..	2	—
<i>Civil Side.</i>		
Number of cases entered ... ..	99	101
<i>Stipendiary Side.</i>		
Number of cases ... ..	9	4
engagements ... ..	8	5
discharges ... ..	4	9

The total number of cases of all jurisdictions was 173 in 1896 and 194 in 1897. The amount of fines paid was Rs. 221.54.

The Court revenue was Rs. 531.35, and the expenditure Rs. 248.

## POPULATION.

The population on the 31st December 1897 was composed of 2,772 inhabitants, consisting of natives of this Island, of Mauritius, Madagascar, India, China, Europe, Seychelles, and Reunion, who are traders, agriculturists, and fishermen.

The number of births was ... ..	165
"  "  deaths ... ..	39
"  "  arrivals ... ..	85
"  "  departures ... ..	74

The birth-rate shows an increase of one birth in 1897, if compared with the previous year, and the death-rate a similar increase. RODRIGUES,  
1897.

Eight marriages were celebrated in 1897, against twenty in 1896.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are two Roman Catholic chapels at Rodrigues : one at Port Mathurin and the other at St. Gabriel. The expenditure under this heading was Rs. 1,999.92 in 1897.

EDUCATION.

In 1897 there were two schools in operation at Rodrigues, the cost of which is paid by Government. Total cost, Rs. 2,596.

EXPORTS.

The exports (exclusive of specie) amounted to Rs. 103,181.25 in 1896 and to Rs. 127,687.75 in 1897. The ratio per head was Rs. 39.15 in 1896 and Rs. 46.02 in 1897.

IMPORTS.

The imports amounted to Rs. 96,263 in 1897, against Rs. 154,886 and 50 cents in 1896. The ratio of import per head was Rs. 34.72 in 1897, against Rs. 58.78 in 1896.

SHIPPING.

The number of ships which arrived at and left Rodrigues was 8 in 1897, against 11 in 1896.

The service between Rodrigues and Mauritius was performed by sailing vessels under contract with the Government of Mauritius, which pays a subsidy of Rs. 7,500 for five trips in the year between April and December.

H.M.S. "Eclipse" and "Melpomene" visited the Island in July and August.

RODRIGUES  
1897.

## CROWN LANDS AND FORESTS.

*Land Rent.*

The total revenue actually received under the heading of land rent (fishing posts, town lots, and islands and other leases included) amounted to Rs. 2,198.25, against Rs. 2,135.50 in 1896, showing an increase of Rs. 62.75.

*Pasturage.*

In 1897 the pasturage fees received during the year amounted to Rs. 502.50.

*Forest Produce.*

The revenue derived from forest produce amounted to Rs. 267.01, against Rs. 260.14 in 1896.

*Land Sales.*

The amount received during the year under this heading was Rs. 231.37.

## GAOL.

42 persons were committed to gaol in 1897, against 38 in 1896.

## MEDICAL.

The number of patients maintained in the public hospital of Mount Lubin was 69 in 1897, against 93 in 1896.

In 1896 medical care was given to 2,484 persons at both dispensaries (Port Mathurin and Mount Lubin), and 2,497 in 1897.

In 1896 nine deaths occurred at the hospital of Mount Lubin, and eight in 1897.

The prevailing diseases were asthma, fever, anæmia, dysentery, debility, cramps, ulcers, disease of the heart, apoplexy, diarrhœa, tuberculosis, and rheumatic fever.

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In 1896, 175 children were vaccinated, and 80 in 1897. No hospital fee is exacted as the persons treated are destitute. No RODRIGUES,  
1897.

The total expenditure for the medical branch was Rs. 3,734.63 in 1897, against Rs. 3,701.74 in 1896.

METEOROLOGICAL.

*Thermometer.*

	Degrees.
Maximum, 6th February ... ..	88·04
Minimum, 22nd August ... ..	68·00

*Barometer.*

	Inches.
Maximum, 7th September ... ..	30·500
Minimum, 27th January ... ..	29·734

No hurricane visited the Island this year.

POLICE AND FOREST RANGERS.

The expenses for those two branches amounted to Rs. 5,207.04 in 1896 and 5,019.00 in 1897.

— POOR LAW.

24 persons received relief in 1897.

PUBLIC DEBT.

Outstanding on 31st December 1897 Rs. 1,486.50.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Governor of Mauritius, Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.M.G., and His Lordship the Bishop of Port Louis visited Rodrigues in 1897. His Excellency arrived on H.M.S. "Melpomene" on the 15th August and landed on the 16th at Port Mathurin.

RODRIGUES,    The British ship "Traveller," from Java, put in for assistance  
1897.            on the 4th February and was thrown ashore during the next  
                  night, and became a total wreck.

The crops of beans and other plantations have been good in 1897. They were nearly double the amount exported in 1896.

The inhabitants have, at the latter end of the year, begun planting out lands with tobacco. This is the result of the suppression by Ordinance 16 of 1897 of the Custom dues which were imposed in Mauritius on the tobacco imported from Rodrigues.

It is anticipated that the revenue from the tax on lands planted with tobacco will be from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000.

G. RUTHVEN LE HUNTE,

*Colonial Secretary.*

August 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 256.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896-7.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

*January, 1899.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada .. ...	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 256.

## NEWFOUNDLAND.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY to the GOVERNOR.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ending 30th June, 1897, for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

## TRADE.

The imports for the year under consideration amounted to \$5,938,334, and the exports to \$4,925,789, the balance of trade being thus against the Colony to the amount of \$1,012,545. A deficiency of 300,000 quintals in the catch, and the diminution in price, of codfish, reduced the value of exports by considerably over \$1,000,000. The prices ruling in the local market at the time of taking over the catch from the fishermen, though about the same as the previous year, were not borne out in the foreign markets, and, at the time of shipment abroad, values had decreased very considerably, resulting in large loss to our exporting firms. The imports were slightly less than in the previous year, as the following table will show:—

—	1895-6.	1896-7.
	\$	\$
From United Kingdom ... ..	1,875,754	1,960,999
„ British Colonies... ..	2,517,659	1,765,562
„ Foreign Countries ... ..	1,593,448	2,211,773
Total ... ..	5,986,861	5,938,334

**NEWFOUND-**  
**LAND,**  
**1896-7!**

By these figures it appears as if the trade with British Colonies had decreased, and that the trade with Foreign Countries had increased by the same sum. This is merely fictitious, and is the result of the imperfect system of tabulating imports in 1895-6, which has been corrected, to some extent, at least, in 1896-7. A large quantity of the productions of the United States come to us in bond, through Canadian ports, and these had, in the past, been included with the actual imports from the Dominion of Canada. Now, however, the Customs distinguish between the actual products of Canada and those merely passing through in bond, crediting the latter to the country of origin.

The total exports were :—

	1895-6.	1896-7.
	\$	\$
To United Kingdom ... ..	1,727,852	1,349,273
„ British Colonies ... ..	1,334,340	951,072
„ Foreign Countries... ..	3,575,995	2,625,444
Total ... ..	6,638,187	4,925,789

#### FISHERIES.

##### *Codfish.*

Our principal fishery resulted in an average voyage, being 300,000 qtls. less than the previous year. The shippers to foreign markets were severely handicapped by the poor returns realized, prices having fallen considerably. The competition of the Norwegians and of the French to obtain possession of our fish markets is severe, the latter being in a specially favourable position, by reason of the large Government bounties, to undersell all rivals. Much effort has been put forth by our mercantile firms to perfect the cure of our staple, but there remains yet a great deal to be desired in this direction. Newfoundland cod, well-cured, is second to none, but, so long as fish is purchased “talqual” the incentive to proper cure and careful handling will be to a large extent absent, the lower grade fish being equally remunerative to the fisherman as the prime merchantable. The system is a pernicious one, and its continuance is fraught with danger to the Colonial trade. Lack of capital prevents experiments to any large extent with new markets. The Government, in the summer just past (1898), authorized Commissioners to visit the Mediterranean ports in the interests of the fish trade. But very little can be done by a short visit. Several permanent mercantile agents are needed, who must keep moving through the various sections of territory; the needs of each market must be

studied as to quantity, cure, and packages required, and due attention to these matters must be given by shippers. . The length of time required to work up such a trade, the uncertainty of the venture, and the need for ready money, are obstacles in the way of the experiment.

NEWFOUND  
LAND,  
1896-7.

In my last report I quoted the average price of shore fish at \$3 per qtl., and Labrador at \$2.30. By the returns herewith you will notice the average rate to be about \$2.50 and \$2.00, respectively, for the year 1896-7.

The exports in connection with the codfishery were :—

—	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
Codfish, dry ...	1,436,083 qtls.	\$ 4,297,699	1,135,817 qtls.	\$ 2,824,242
Cod oil ...	4,456 tuns	311,920	3,705 tuns	245,360
Cod liver oil ...	33,145 gals.	33,145	87,601 gals.	39,420
Fresh, green, and pickled codfish, haddock, ling, sounds, and tongues.	—	5,633	—	2,346
Total ...	—	4,648,397	—	3,111,368

*Seal Fishery.*

The prosecution of this fishery in the spring of 1897 resulted in but poor returns. The values are quoted, for seal oil, \$75.00 per tun, and for seal-skins an average of 60 cents each, against \$70.00 and \$1.25, respectively, for 1895-6. Seal-skins vary in value according as they are the pelts of old or young or white-coats, and the average price is, of course, affected by the proportion of these in the season's catch.

The exports from this fishery are :—

—	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Quantities.	Value.	Quantities.	Value.
Seal oil ...	3,305 tuns.	\$ 230,068	3,283 tuns.	\$ 246,263
Seal-skins ...	298,049 No.	372,461	195,340 No.	117,204
Total ...	—	602,529	—	363,467

NEWFOUND-  
LAND,  
1896-7.

*Lobster Fishery.*

The yield of this important fishery, which, in this year under review, ranks next to the codfishery, was very encouraging indeed. The export was 58,883 cases, valued at \$529,947; against 45,662 cases, valued at \$376,711, for the previous year. The diminution in the size of the fish calls for notice, and shows the need of judicious legislation guarding the fishery. Such legislation, firmly and steadily enforced, together with a careful pack on the part of the canners, will ensure this industry being a source of wealth to those engaged therein.

*Herring Fishery.*

This fishery shows a lamentable falling off from what it was some few years ago. The export in 1896-7, compared with the previous year, was :—

—	1895-6.		1896-7.	
		\$		\$
Frozen herring ...	32,628 brls.	32,628	43,513 brls.	52,216
Pickled do. ...	40,113 brls.	98,665	19,731 brls.	49,960
Total ...	72,741 brls.	131,293	63,244 brls.	102,176

The prices ruling were \$1.20 per barrel for frozen and \$2.50 for pickled; against \$1.00 and \$2.45 in 1895-6.

*Salmon Fishery.*

A slight improvement, both in the catch as well as in the price, shows itself for 1896-7. From \$17.40 per tierce in 1895-6 the price went to \$19.25 in 1896-7.

The export was :—

—	1895-6.		1896-7.	
		\$		\$
Salmon, pickled ...	3,284 tcs.	57,003	4,648 tcs.	89,581
„ preserved ...	—	9,340	—	688
Total ...	—	66,343	—	90,269

The smaller fisheries are too unimportant for notice. The total export of our fisheries for the year 1896-7 was \$4,208,747, against \$5,853,156 for 1895-6.

NEWFOUND-  
LAND,  
1896-7

### SHIPPING.

The following figures give the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared from ports of this Colony, for the year ending 30th June, 1897, as compared with the previous year :—

#### *Entered*

	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage
Sailing ... ..	1,183	107,689	1,107	95,145
Steam ... ..	352	316,178	295	285,410
	Cleared.			
Sailing ... ..	815	83,801	881	78,962
Steam ... ..	272	284,228	239	258,186
Total ... ..	2,622	791,896	2,522	717,703

Of the above the following were British :—

#### *Entered.*

	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
Sailing ... ..	1,074	94,387	1,009	84,248
Steam ... ..	339	304,788	286	278,549
	Cleared.			
Sailing ... ..	767	77,781	852	75,759
Steam ... ..	261	271,876	234	253,261
Total ... ..	2,441	748,832	2,381	691,817

NEWFOUND-  
LAND,  
1896-7.

### LUMBERING.

A great deal of activity exists in this branch of our industries, which is yearly becoming of more value to the people of the Colony. Lumber in all its forms is now produced to meet the local needs. The subject of pulp manufacture is being prominently brought forward, and will, no doubt, in the near future, be entered into largely, for there is abundance of timber in the island most suitable for this purpose.

### MINING.

The product of our mines in 1896-7 was somewhat behind that of the previous year, but still came up to the average. Outside capitalists are evincing an interest in our mineral deposits, and if experienced miners, with the necessary capital behind them, can be got to develop these deposits properly, the future of Newfoundland as a mining country will be assured. Already we have several outside syndicates here who have, up to the time of writing (1898), expended large sums in machinery, tramways, and loading piers. Prospectors are moving over the face of the island, and up and down the coast of Labrador, and the indications of increased activity in mining are very apparent. The Government have afforded encouragement and help to all interested, by the establishment of a Public Assay Office, where minerals, discovered by those of limited means, will be tested and reported upon free of cost. The deposit of hematite on Bell Island still continues to yield as largely as ever, and operations on a still larger scale are proposed for the season of 1899.

In 1896-7 the export, compared with that of 1895-6, was as follows:—

	1895-6.		1896-7.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
Regulus (copper) ...	22,922	\$ 275,064	13,427	\$ 161,124
Copper ore ... ..	41,750	208,750	48,361	241,805
Iron pyrites ... ..	36,496	182,480	31,185	155,925
Asbestos ... ..	—	2,000	—	--
Total ... ..	—	668,294	—	558,854

## FINANCIAL.

NEWFOUND-  
LAND,  
1896-7

The revenue for the year ending 30th June, 1897, compared with that of the previous year, is as follows :—

	1895-6.	1896-7.
	\$	\$
From Customs ... ..	1,383,810	1,473,267
„ Light Dues ... ..	33,073	28,195
„ Postal ... ..	38,300	50,560
„ Profit on Issue of Coin ... ..	48,862	—
„ Miscellaneous ... ..	60,421	58,766
Total ... ..	1,564,466	1,610,788

The revenue actually collected is slightly in excess of the estimated amount, while the increase over that for 1895-6 is \$46,322.

The expenditure for the year is as follows :—

Service.	1895-6.	1896-7
	\$	\$
Education ... ..	126,822	154,438
Judicial, Magisterial, and Police ... ..	89,297	115,981
Public Works, Light Houses, and Public Buildings.	63,588	221,150
Postal, Mail Subsidies, Railways, Telegraphs.	209,158	242,478
Salaries and Pensions ... ..	107,349	108,520
Customs ... ..	43,012	120,647
Relief of Poor ... ..	146,474	178,441
Interest on Public Debt ... ..	522,810	599,160
Miscellaneous ... ..	51,945	71,147
Legislative ... ..	—	54,848
Total ... ..	1,360,455	1,866,810



**NEWFOUND-** The grant for education, which had been reduced in 1895-6  
**LAND,** under retrenchment, was restored to its full figure in 1896-7 ;  
**1896-7.** and a grant for public works was made for the repair of roads  
 — and bridges. These and some other allocations were made out  
 of the excess of revenue over expenditure in 1895-6, which was  
 shown by the returns tabled by the Receiver-General to be  
 \$204,011. The Customs expenditure for 1895-6, as shown above,  
 is for six months only, while that for 1896-7 is for the 12 months.  
 In 1896-7 were charged the expenses of the two legislative  
 sessions—one held in July and August, 1896, and the other in  
 the spring of 1897. There was none holden in the currency of  
 1895-6.

The actual expenditure for the year exceeds the actual revenue  
 by \$256,022 ; while, deducting the surplus of 1895-6 (\$204,011)  
 the shortage is \$52,011.

The statement of assets and liabilities, tabled by the Receiver-  
 General, shews a balance in favour of the Colony of \$662,604.36.  
 On the debit side will be noticed an amount of \$167,314.50 down  
 to dividend account. This is not an actual liability. It is the  
 amount received to that date from dividends paid on the notes of  
 the defunct banks, the total sum of which appears on the credit  
 side as an asset, viz. :—\$225,459.80. The sum of \$360,000 on  
 deposit at bank of Montreal represents the balance of loan  
 raised in May, 1895.

#### PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt at 30th June, 1896, stood at \$13,096,945.39.  
 At 30th June, 1897, it was \$16,248,522.05. The increase of  
 \$3,151,576.66 is made up as follows :—

	\$	c.
St. John's Rebuilding Act ...	14,712	69
N. N. and W. Railway ...	1,713,002	20
Newfoundland Railway ...	1,581,666	66
	<hr/>	
	\$3,309,381	55
Less paid off ...	157,804	89
	<hr/>	
Nett increase of ...	\$3,151,576	66
	<hr/> <hr/>	

Assuming the population to be 210,000, the debt *per capita* is  
 \$77.37 ; the multiple of revenue being \$10.08.

RAILWAYS.

NEWFOUND-  
LAND,  
1896-7.

Early in 1897 the Government of the day concluded negotiations with the Newfoundland Railway Company, whereby, for the sum of £325,000 stg. payable in bonds of 50 years at 3 per cent. interest, all the rights of the said company in this Colony were transferred to the Government.

The whole railway system of the Colony was thus brought under one control, and the injunction placed by the Newfoundland Railway Company upon the disposition of the coal areas near Grand Lake was removed. An arrangement with Mr. Reid to place a first class passenger ship on the strait dividing our Island from the mainland of the neighbouring continent, brought the transinsular railway system of the Colony into close connection with the great Canadian and American lines.

LEGISLATION.

The titles of the various Acts passed by the Legislature in the session of 1897 will be found in the Blue Book.

Of these, two were reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, viz. :—" An Act to amend Chapter 124 of the Consolidated Statutes (Second Series), entitled 'Of the Coast Fisheries'; and "An Act to amend the Election Act, 1889, and the Acts in amendment thereof." These Acts did not become law.

EDUCATION.

The grants for this service, reduced in 1895-6, were this year put back to the figure at which they stood previous to retrenchment. The total expenditure under this head for 1895-6 was : \$126,821.86 ; and for 1896-7, \$154,438.07.

No. of schools open in 1895-6 ...	...	...	588
No. of schools open in 1896-7 ...	...	...	625
No. of scholars on roll in 1895-6 ...	...	...	33,722
No. of scholars on roll in 1896-7 ...	...	...	32,207

In bringing to a close this brief record of the Colony's affairs for 1896-7, I may add that at this time of writing things have brightened considerably. Trade has improved, the prices paid

NEWFOUND- for our fishery products are higher, foreign markets are stronger,  
LAND, provisions are reasonable, greater interest continues to develop  
1896-7. in mining and agriculture, while the evident interest of the  
— Imperial Government in the welfare of the Colony, as shown by  
the appointment of the Royal Commission in connection with the  
French Treaties question, and the appointment of the Premier  
as a member of the High Commission now sitting at Washington,  
engenders the hope that the day of a new and better order of  
things is at hand.

I have, &c.,

J. ALEX. ROBINSON,  
*Colonial Secretary.*

8th December, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 237.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896-97.

(For Report for 1895-96, see No. 197.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*September 1898.*

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No. 237.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

BRITISH  
NEW  
GUINEA.  
1896-97

(For Report for 1895-96, see No. 197.)

GOVERNOR LORD LAMINGTON (QUEENSLAND) to MR.  
CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Brisbane,

5th April 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose the usual number of copies of the Annual Report of British New Guinea for the year ending 30th June 1897.

The evidence given in the Report of the progress made in the general administration affords ground for special satisfaction. It gives further evidence how incessantly is Sir William MacGregor engaged in the arduous work of administration, and how, despite the small resources at his command, his devotion serves to overcome the many difficulties connected with the carrying out of his duties.

I have, &c.,

LAMINGTON.

BRITISH  
NEW  
GUINEA.  
1896-97.

ANNUAL REPORT on BRITISH NEW GUINEA from  
1ST JULY 1896 to 30TH JUNE 1897.

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LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR to  
LORD LAMINGTON.

BRITISH  
NEW  
GUINEA.  
1896-97.

British New Guinea,

17th January 1898.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to submit the usual Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 1897. The arrangement of subjects is generally the same as that of previous years.

LEGISLATION.

1. Ordinance No. IV. of 1896 was passed after it was found that the mineral osmiridium occurs in traces round the eastern spurs of Mount Scratchley and in the valley of the Chirima. It became advisable to extend to prospectors for this metal the same privileges as are given to prospectors for gold. The Ordinance does this by including the metals of the platinum group under the term "gold" in the goldfields laws in force in the Colony.

Ordinance No. V. of 1896 appropriates for the services of the year ending 30th June 1897 the sum of £15,000, the ordinary amount available for a period of twelve months under the arrangement between the Imperial Government and the contributing Colonies, as well as the sums required for the maintenance of the S.S. "Merrie England."

Ordinance No. VI. of 1896 appropriates a special sum of £1,000 for the purchase and preliminary survey of blocks of land to be set apart for the encouragement of European settlement. The three contributing Colonies agreed that this sum should be provided from the accumulated and undivided revenue collected in the Possession.

Ordinance No. I. of 1897 was passed to impose a licence on firearms. This measure was very unpopular, principally because there is not such a licence in the neighbouring Colonies. It would have been difficult to carry out in some parts of the Colony under the circumstances, and it has lately been repealed.

Ordinance No. II. of 1897 makes certain amendments to "The Native Labour Ordinance of 1892." It has been the policy of the Government to relax or remove restrictions on the employ-

BRITISH  
NEW  
GUINEA.  
1896-97.

ment of native labourers in proportion as the advancing pacification of the country has made this possible. This law permits of natives being taken for engagement before any officer in a settled district qualified to deal with labour contracts. By a Proclamation issued on the 4th February the whole of the southern coast of the Colony, from its boundary on the west as far as Samarai, was declared to be a settled labour district under the Ordinance; the effect of which is that labourers, recruited, for example, in Orangerie Bay, or in the western portion of the Gulf of Papua, may be taken before a magistrate at Port Moresby for engagement, thus avoiding the considerable time and trouble that would be required in taking them to Samarai or Daru.

The same law also renders it compulsory on an engaged native, under liability to imprisonment, to perform the duties he has undertaken.

Ordinance No. III. of 1897 amended the Customs Ordinance in so far that the duty on spirits was raised by it from 12s. to 14s. a gallon.

Ordinance No. IV. of 1897 amends the Pearl-shell and Bêche-de-mer Fishery Ordinance of 1894, by prohibiting the fishing of or dealing in pearl-shell of less dimensions than five inches. This law was necessary to bring restrictions in the Possession into conformity with those applied in Queensland waters. Certain exceptional cases are dealt with similarly in the two Colonies.

Ordinance No. V. of 1897 amends the Goldfields Act in force in the Possession by enabling the Administrator in Council to extend beyond three years from the date of the proclamation of a locality as a goldfield the term during which Asiatic or African aliens shall not be admitted upon such a field. This brings the mining law of the Possession into unison with the law on the same point in Queensland.

2. During the year only one Regulation was passed by the Native Regulation Board, dealing with native carriers for Government. This Regulation, subject to certain precautionary measures to guard against abuse or oppression, makes it obligatory on such natives as are fit to act as carriers, to serve once a year in that capacity, if called upon to do so. Carriers are to be fed by the Government, and to receive such pay as may from time to time be determined by the Administrator.

3. Certain Proclamations were issued having the force of law. By a Proclamation made on the 5th August, the removal of any cattle, horses, sheep, goats, dogs, or pigs from the Island of Sudest to any other island or district in the Possession is prohibited.

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This was rendered necessary by the thoughtless introduction into Sudest of cattle affected by ticks.

BRITISH  
NEW  
GUINEA.  
1896-97.

Owing to the reported existence of small-pox in German New Guinea, that territory was, by a Proclamation made in August, declared to be an infected place under the quarantine law of British New Guinea.

By a Proclamation made in March the introduction of cattle, horses, or mules into the Possession from any place in Queensland south of "the tick boundary" is permitted under certain restrictions. By a Proclamation issued in June 1896, the introduction of such animals from Queensland had been absolutely prohibited.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

4. The staff for the administration of justice remained practically the same as in the preceding year.

The subjoined tables of cases dealt with by the several courts have been prepared by His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G., Chief Judicial Officer :—

MATTERS dealt with JUDICIALLY during the YEAR ending 30th June 1897.

CENTRAL COURT.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which Committed.	Persons Committed—how Disposed of.
17	Central District ...	13 tried, 4 discharged.
22	Eastern District ...	12 tried. 10 committal quashed.
25	Western District ...	21 tried, 1 discharged, 1 sent back to magistrate, 2 awaiting trial.
Total ... 64		

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THE COURT held EIGHTEEN CRIMINAL SESSIONS at the PLACES and TIMES,  
and with the RESULTS, undermentioned:—

No. of Persons Tried	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
2	1 murder, 1 abusing girl under twelve.	<i>Trobriand Islands,</i> 2nd. to 4th. July, 1896. 1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 not guilty.	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
1	1 murder ...	<i>Fergusson Island,</i> 10th July, 1896. 1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
1	1 wounding with intent, &c.	<i>Samarai,</i> 13th July, 1896. 1 guilty of wounding	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
3	1 assault, 2 murder.	<i>Normanby Island,</i> 25th to 28th July, 1896. 1 guilty of assault, 2 guilty of manslaughter.	1 six months', 1 eighteen months', 1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
4	2 murder, 2 assault.	<i>Orangerie Bay,</i> 12th August, 1896. 2 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of assault, 1 not guilty.	1 two years', 1 twelve months', 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
5	3 murder, 1 arson, 1 indecent assault.	<i>Port Moresby,</i> 18th September, 1896. 2 guilty of murder, 1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of arson, 1 guilty of indecent assault.	2 death, 1 one year's, 1 four months', 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
3	3 larceny ...	<i>Samarai,</i> 12th November, 1896. 3 not guilty.	

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CRIMINAL SESSIONS—continued.

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No. of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
1	1 abusing girl under ten.	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Samarai,</i> 26th to 28th Nov., 1896.</p> 1 not guilty.	
2	2 murder ...	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Samarai,</i> 8th December, 1896.</p> 2 guilty of manslaughter.	2 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
2	1 wounding with intent, &c., 1 assault.	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nivani,</i> 9th to 11th Jan., 1897.</p> 1 guilty of wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, 1 guilty of assault.	1 ten years' penal servitude, 1 one months' imprisonment with hard labour.
1	1 murder ...	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dufaure Island,</i> 14th January, 1897.</p> 1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.
3	3 murder ...	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Port Moresby,</i> 23rd January, 1897.</p> 3 guilty of murder ...	3 death.
1	1 murder ...	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Port Moresby,</i> 27th January, 1897.</p> 1 guilty of murder ...	1 death.
1	1 murder ...	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Port Moresby,</i> 2nd February, 1897.</p> 1 guilty of manslaughter.	1 two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

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## CRIMINAL SESSIONS—continued.

No. of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
2	Breaking gaol ...	<i>Samarai,</i> 9th April, 1897. 2 guilty ...	1 four months', 1 one months' imprisonment with hard labour.
21	3 murder, 1 manslaughter, 1 rape, 14 indecent assault, 1 abusing girl under ten, 1 wounding.	<i>Saguana,</i> 17th to 20th May, 1897. 4 guilty of manslaughter, 1 not guilty of rape, 13 guilty 1 not guilty of indecent assault, 1 guilty of abusing girl under ten years of age, 1 guilty of wounding.	4 one years' imprisonment with hard labour, 3 two years' imprisonment with hard labour, 10 eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour, 1 three years' penal servitude, 1 three months' imprisonment, &c.
9	3 murder, 6 manslaughter.	<i>Port Moresby,</i> 24th to 26th May, 1897. 2 guilty, 1 not guilty of murder, 5 guilty, 1 not guilty of manslaughter.	2 death, 1 three years' penal servitude, 1 eighteen months', 2 one year's, 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
1	larceny ...	<i>Samarai,</i> 11th June, 1897. guilty ...	nine months' imprisonment with hard labour.
<b>Total</b> 63			

## CIVIL BUSINESS.

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
2	Appeals from Wardens' Courts.
2	Applications for order under section 34 of Intestacy Act by Curator of Intestacy Estates.
2	Applications for order to administer by Curator of Intestate Estates.
3	Applications by Curator of Intestate Estates for directions.
2	Applications by Executors for protate.
<b>Total</b> 11	

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COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

INDICTABLE OFFENCES JURISDICTION.

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District of Court.	No of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	18	15 murder ... .. 1 manslaughter... ..	} 17 committed, 1 discharged.
Eastern District	31	2 indecent assault ... .. 9 murder ... .. 2 abusing female child... .. 4 assault... ..	
Western District	25	12 larceny ... .. 1 rape ... .. 1 wounding ... .. 2 breaking out of gaol... .. 5 murder ... .. 13 indecent assault ... .. 4 wounding ... .. 1 rape ... .. 1 manslaughter... .. 1 abusing female child ... ..	} 22 committed, 9 discharged.          } 25 committed.
Total ...	74		

SUMMARY OFFENCES JURISDICTION.

District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District	57	6 larceny ... .. 1 breach of Bêche-de-mer and Pearl-shell Ordinance. 4 breach of Constabulary Ordinance. 16 assault... .. 1 careless use of fire ... .. 4 breach of Prisons Ordinance 1 breach of Wild Birds Ordinance. 1 using threatening language ... .. 23 breach of Native Labour Ordinance.	5 convicted, 1 discharged. 1 convicted. 4 convicted. 15 convicted, 1 discharged. 1 convicted. 4 convicted. 1 convicted. 1 convicted. 23 convicted.
Eastern District	81	8 assault... .. 6 drunk and disorderly ... ..	3 convicted, 5 discharged. 5 convicted, 1 discharged.



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SUMMARY OFFENCES—*continued.*

District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Eastern District — <i>continued.</i>		1 breach of Quarantine Laws... 33 breach of Native Labour Ordinance. 3 breach of Prisons Ordinance 4 breach of Constabulary Ordinance. 1 breach of Merchant Shipping Act.	1 convicted. 24 convicted, 9 discharged. 3 convicted. 4 convicted. 1 convicted.
Western District	6	25 larceny ... .. 2 assault... .. 4 larceny ... ..	20 convicted, 5 discharged. 2 convicted. 4 convicted.
Total ...	144		

## CIVIL JURISDICTION.

District of Court.	No. of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District	4	4 debt ... ..	3 verdict for plaintiff. 1 verdict for defendant.
Eastern District	14	11 debt ... ..  3 damages ... ..	3 verdict for plaintiff. 3 verdict for defendant. 5 settled out of court. 1 verdict for plaintiff. 1 verdict for defendant. 1 settled out of court.
Western District	—	Nil.	
Total ...	18		

NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.  
CRIMINAL JURISDICTION (FORBIDDEN ACTS).

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District of Court.	No. of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	146	6 spreading lying reports ...	6 convicted.
		11 assault... ..	11 convicted.
		44 larceny ... ..	42 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 abduction ... ..	1 discharged.
		5 disobeying magistrates' orders	5 convicted.
		5 adultery ... ..	5 convicted.
		49 breach of Roads Regulation	49 convicted.
		24 breach of Burials Regulation	24 convicted.
		1 sorcery ... ..	1 convicted.
		No. 3 (Eastern)	39
3 larceny ... ..	2 convicted, 1 discharged.		
3 spreading lying reports ...	2 convicted, 1 discharged.		
11 sorcery ... ..	11 convicted.		
7 breach of Burials Regulation	7 convicted.		
No. 1 (Western)	17	2 using threatening language...	2 discharged.
		12 adultery ... ..	12 convicted.
		4 assault... ..	3 convicted, 1 discharged.
		1 larceny ... ..	1 convicted.
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>202</b>		

CIVIL JURISDICTION (CIVIL CLAIMS).

District of Court.	No. of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	9	7 debt ... ..	6 for plaintiff, 1 for defendant.
		2 damages ... ..	2 for plaintiff.
No. 3 (Eastern)	1	1 damages ... ..	1 for plaintiff.
No. 1 (Western)	—	Nil.	
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>10</b>		

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TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court ... ..	64
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 64 cases that went up to Central Court).	154
In Native Magistrates' Courts ... ..	202
In all Courts ... ..	420

TOTAL NUMBER OF CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.

In Central Court ... ..	11
In Courts of Petty Sessions ... ..	18
In Native Magistrates' Courts ... ..	10
In all Courts ... ..	39

5. During the year eight persons, all of them aboriginals, were sentenced by the Central Court to undergo capital punishment, in no case was the death sentence actually carried out. These cases were briefly as follows :—

In September, a native of Yarumi, on the Astrolabe Range, was tried for a murder committed by him in 1892, when his tribe made an attack on the Veiburi sept. Two other members of the same aggressive party were tried for the same offence in 1895, and were convicted. In their cases the sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude. The accused acknowledged the crime with which he was charged. The sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In 1894 some of the men of the village of Borabora, who were wandering around in the woods, were attacked by a body of men from the village of Bemuni. Two of the Borabora natives were killed. The cause of this attack was the marriage of a girl belonging to a third village to one of the Borabora men. Negotiations had been opened by one of the Bemuni men, called Moiamoria, for a marriage between himself and the girl. He and his friends seemed to have regarded the marriage of the girl to the Borabora man as a grievous injury, which, according to native custom, required to be avenged. Moiamoria was captured in 1896, and tried for his participation in the above murder. The capital sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In January, three natives of Uberi were convicted of the murder of certain members of the tribe of Awaiatenumu. The Uberi represented the strongest section of the natives of the district who, under the name of Ebé, had become notorious from the attacks made on the travellers, Mr. Morrison and Dr. H. O. Forbes. They have always been aggressive in recent years, and have been engaged in many conflicts with their neighbours. Ten

men of the Uberi met a man and a small boy of Awaiatenumu in the bush. They killed the small boy. The murderer acknowledged that he had committed the homicide.

A party of the Uberi made a direct attack on Awaiatenumu village, and killed three of its inhabitants. Two of the assailants were convicted. They also admitted their participation in the crime.

These cases were all regarded as episodes in the intertribal warfare that had existed there periodically for many generations. The strife had been forced on the people attacked, who really wished for peace; but Government authority had not been established over the Uberi. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude in each case.

In January, a native of the Hagari tribe, which occupies the southern spurs of Mount Service on the banks of the Naoro and Ruguoa, was convicted of murder. His tribe had made a descent on a village on the Lower Vanapa, and killed a woman there. The constabulary, under the leadership of the Commandant, crossed from the Lower Vanapa, traversed several mountain ranges, and arrested one man after a slight skirmish with the tribe. The accused admitted that he assisted in committing the murder. The Hagari tribe was unknown to the Government previously, and they had no acquaintance with the administration in any way. The capital sentence was commuted to five years' penal servitude.

In May, two men of the Womai village of Karama, in Freshwater Bay, were sentenced to death for the murder of a reputed sorcerer. It had been currently said of this latter that he had caused the death of five persons by sorcery. The two men convicted killed the sorcerer the day after the death of the child of one of them, under the idea that he had brought about the death of the child, and that they were therefore performing a meritorious service. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

Sittings at the Central Court were held as under :—

In the South-Eastern District 1, at Nivani.

In the Eastern District 11 : 1 at Kiriwina ; 1 at Fergusson Island ; 6 at Samarai ; 1 at Normandy Island ; 1 at Orangerie Bay ; 1 at Dufaure Island.

In the Central District 5, at Port Moresby.

In the Western District 1, at Saguana.

Of the 64 persons committed for trial before the Central Court, 46 were actually tried ; and at the end of the year 2 were still awaiting trial. The others were discharged or acquitted.

Of the 37 cases due to violence, 23 were charges of murder, 7 of manslaughter, 3 of wounding, and 4 of assault. The sexual crimes charged were 19.

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In the lower courts 144 cases were disposed of in summary jurisdiction. Of these, 56 were for breach of the Native Labour Ordinance, and 35 for larceny. Six persons were proceeded against for being drunk and disorderly, all in the Eastern District.

In the civil jurisdiction of the lower courts 18 cases were heard.

In the Native Magistrates' Courts 202 cases were tried. The principal offences were convictions under :—

The Road Regulation	...	...	...	49 cases
For stealing	...	...	...	48 "
For breach of Burial Regulation	...	...	...	31 "
For adultery	...	...	...	30 "
For assault	...	...	...	15 "
For sorcery	...	...	...	12 "
For spreading lying reports	...	...	...	9 "

Ten cases came before the civil jurisdiction of the Native Courts.

The total number of cases dealt with in all Courts was 459.

#### VISITS OF INSPECTION.

6. On the 20th July a call was made at Dufaure Island, chiefly to pick up a party that had been sent to visit the inland tribes of Orangerie Bay. These were found to be friendly, and the district to be in peaceful quiet.

The gaol and prisoners were seen to be in a satisfactory condition at Samarai, while several improvements on the island were in progress.

On 22nd July the station at Nivani was inspected, with a satisfactory result. The plantations of the station were doing well. The prison, which was clean, contained only four prisoners.

At Hula Bay, on Sudest Island, a careful inspection was made of a body of some fifty prisoners employed temporarily in the service of the British New Guinea Gold Mining Company. The company were endeavouring to open up some gold-bearing quartz reefs near the centre of the island, the first attempt of the kind made in the Possession. They had, however, several miles of road to make over very difficult ground, and on this the prisoners were nearly all employed. They were under the sole management of the chief gaoler, with the usual staff of prison warders and an armed guard of the constabulary. These officers were paid by the company, who also maintained the prisoners and paid a small sum a day for each prisoner. The men were in excellent physical condition, well provided with food and medicine, and they were doing good work. Unfortunately, the troublesome disease "beriberi" made its appearance among them before they had completed the year agreed on, and several of them died of

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that malady. It has on several occasions manifested itself among the prisoners, but it was not expected among fine strong men, who were sufficiently well fed, and were camped in the open forest.

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It was found that numbers of natives of Sudest were working at gold-washing on their own account, on regular miners' rights. A visit was made to Woodlark Island at the end of July. At that time there were about 190 miners on the island, the greater number in a camp about eight miles from the sea, chiefly under canvas, but with a few houses of native material. Mr. Thompson, a storekeeper at this place, was, by the request of the miners, appointed a justice of the peace and postmaster. There were no disputes between the miners themselves. They raised no objection to the natives of the island working gold on their own account, but demurred to Europeans using natives to exploit the field on behalf of the former. The great majority of the men were industrious workmen of good character. Many men had done well on this field. There had not then been much sickness, and, fortunately, there had been no trouble between the miners and the natives. It was thought that up to that time about 12,000 ozs. of gold had been obtained on the island.

A short halt made at the north side of Misima found all quiet and satisfactory there. There were not more than half-a-score of European miners on the island. The natives there do not prosecute the gold industry on their own account like those of Sudest.

7. On the 6th August I started from the mouth of the Mambare River on a journey of inspection that was extended right across the island. The lower villages of the Mambare were practically deserted through fear of the natives of the Gira River. The people of Peu were timid, as they had some time previously tried to entrap Mr. Green, the Government Agent of the district. The inhabitants of Manatu were friendly. The Government station on the Mambare was found to be in good order. During the few days we were at the station natives came there each day to sell food. They did not, however, give one the impression that they could be safely trusted if they thought themselves the stronger party. It was on this visit to the Mambare that we for the first time learned how the natives make the hole for the reception of the wooden handle in stone clubs. It is chipped out by means of a small stone about the size and nearly of the shape of a rifle bullet. Thunderstorms began for the first time that season on the 9th August, on the mountains to the north-west of the station.

A start was made from the station on the 11th August, and the same day, after passing over a large area of nearly flat and good land, we camped at the Green, an affluent of the Mambare coming from Mount Otovia. Beyond the Green the country passed over was considered very unsuitable for ordinary agriculture, though it is well watered. It took our party four days

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to reach Simpson's store on Mount Otovia. This was a camp consisting of two or three native houses built by the pioneer prospectors of the district, of whom Mr. William Simpson had been leader. They cut a track from Clarke Fort, on the left bank of the Mambare, as far as the junction of the Chirima with the Mambare, by far the most arduous undertaking ever performed by any private exploring party in the Colony. We followed this track, and consequently did not require to cut our way through the bush until we began to ascend Mount Scratchley. No trace of native occupation was met with between the Tamata and the Chirima, but there was abundant evidence of a large rainfall in that district, and this seems to favour the growth of several kinds of rubber-producing trees. From Simpson's store all the carriers that could be spared were sent back to the Government station. We arrived at the Chirima Junction on the 20th. Several miners were on their way to the coast, they being of opinion that the wet season was already setting in. It was soon quite plain that the Mambare River specially receives the drainage of Mount Scratchley, which it embraces on three sides.

At the crossing of the Chirima we built a strong, small log-house for stores, and for the defence of the two or three men left in charge. There we were visited by about a hundred natives from the village of Neneba, who brought us a large quantity of native food. They are the only tribe that actually live on a spur of Mount Scratchley. They were seen to be somewhat darker in tint than the coast people of the Central District, but to be distinctly lighter than the average Fly River man. They are of fair size, and wiry in build. No wavy-haired native was seen in that part of the country. The young men wear the eyebrows; their elders have whiskers. The features are good and not irregular. The men wear the T-bandage. The women, in addition to this, wear a petticoat and a mantle. The chief ornaments are earrings made of lizards' tails, and cigarette-holders carried in the lobe of the ear. The scaly ringworm was already among them, and known by the Louisiade name of "sipoma." They had the bow and arrow, and stone clubs. They, like many of the bow and arrow tribes, have no pottery. Besides the ordinary indigenous native crops, they cultivate maize and the tobacco of the western country. They have no cocoanuts and no betel-nut. The floors of their houses are 6 or 8 feet above the ground, the roof thatched with a kind of pandanus leaf. On the 30th of August the party reached the McLaughlin Creek, a fine mountain stream on the east side of Mount Scratchley, where all the miners except one were at work. They had a considerable number of native boys under engagement, from the north-east coast. These transported the food and stores from the Government station to the mining camps, and also worked on the field with fair skill and industry. They did not seem to be ill-treated, but the work was hard.

We followed the tracks of the prospectors to the furthest point inland, on a spur of Mount Scratchley facing the north end of the Yodda Valley, which begins there and extends southwards along the foot of the main range. Some of the natives of that place had made certain signs of friendly advancement towards the prospectors, but no communication was actually opened. On the 1st September the ascent of Mount Scratchley was begun, and on the 12th we pitched camp on the top. On the second day an altitude of 5,000 feet was reached, and we were then in a temperate climate. All vegetation was covered by moss and lichens, but the rains setting in regularly in the valleys below had not yet reached this altitude. From about 5,500 feet there was a good view to the gap or depression in the main range some ten or twelve miles east of Mount Victoria, but it did not seem to offer an inviting route by which to cross the mountain chain. The trailing climbing bamboo began between 7,000 and 8,000 feet. Most of the track was difficult to cut. The rains reached us about the 7th September, and attended us daily till we arrived at Doura on the south coast.

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On the 8th September all carriers except ten were sent back to the Government station, and, in addition to these ten, three constables were kept. The first ice was seen in the early morning at an altitude of 10,200 feet. At 11,000 feet grass patches began in the cypress forest, and at about the same place several of the party began to suffer from the rarity of the air. At the top of the mountain attention was given to geographical matters, for which a fine 3-inch theodolite was used. Whilst I was so occupied, assisted by Mr. Green, Mr. English was cutting the track towards the Owen Stanley Range.

It was seen that the Owen Stanley Range is connected to Mount Scratchley and the Wharton Range, and through the latter to Mount Albert Edward without any deep intervening depression. The geological formation of the whole of this vast mountain mass is schist and quartz. It was thought the sources of the Angabunga (Mekeo) River had their origin from the west side of Mount Scratchley or the Wharton Chain, but it is now clear that these sources are further west, and begin at the western spurs of Mount Albert Edward. The village of Fofoana, on the left bank of the Ajibara, was the only village seen on the Wharton Chain. Some specimens of natural history were collected, but a collector was established and left on the top of Mount Scratchley.

On the 17th September, the native that was ahead cutting the track reached the top of Winter Height, on the Owen Stanley Range, and found traces of the road cut there in 1889 during the first ascent of Mount Victoria. On the following day we camped on the height, having had an easy road from the first camp on the top of Mount Scratchley to that place. It was decided that a visit should be made for geographical purposes to the top of Mount Victoria, where we arrived with four or five carriers on



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the 20th, but found that nothing could be done in the fog and rain that lasted all day, and only the latitude could be taken at night. On the 22nd we travelled from the top of Mount Victoria to Winter Height in nine hours, and next day Mr. Green started back with his party to the Mambare Station. Mr. English and myself, with two constables and six carriers, continued the journey over the top of Mount Knutsford and down the Vanapa River. On the 29th we reached the village of Gosisi, on the Vanapa, the natives of which were much alarmed by our approach from the interior, as they had heard of no party being in that direction. They did not appear to know of any place or people on the other side of the Owen Stanley Range. The men of these tribes were remarkable for their excellent physical proportions and strength. They were timid and suspicious, but supplied us most liberally with food. On the 1st October they carried our effects to the hill above Tobiri, and finally to the Vanapa, at the foot of Mount Kowald. Beyond that point our 1889 track could not be followed, as all trace of it had disappeared. On the 12th September we arrived at the village of Koni, where we were well received. Next day we reached the sea-coast at Galley Reach. Short vocabularies were prepared of the dialects spoken at Neneba and Gosisi.

8. A start was made from Port Moresby on 9th November to visit the east end of the Possession. A passing visit was made to the Rigo Station, where matters were found progressing very satisfactorily. All was quiet in the neighbourhood of Suau, and also about Cape Vogel. On the 15th November we began the ascent of the Musa River with the steam launch and two whale-boats, but the former speedily became unserviceable. The river was flooded and difficult. The natives of Yasia, the first inhabited village, were timid but friendly. From that point it is possible to travel by native paths along the river, but the track is bad until the village of Dove is reached. The natives on the lower part of the river did not care about carrying for us, but the inhabitants of the upper villages were ready to do so, being less timid. When we had reached the hills I was obliged to return, owing to a very serious accident to Mr. Kowald, caused by the explosion of a dynamite cartridge he held in his hand. Two miners, McLennan and Simpson, went on to the Moni Valley with the carriers and six constabulary. They did not find any encouraging prospect. Descending the river with Mr. Kowald, we met a strong party of miners going up, several of whom were already sick. On the 7th December Mr. Kowald was placed on board the "Merrie England." On the 9th December we ascended the Mambare River to return Mr. Green to his station. The river had been flooded, and the lower natives had begun to build together at Gadara. A native of the Mambare district was taken back from Port Moresby by Mr. Green as one of his constabulary. This man and all the party received a friendly reception all along the river. There were about a dozen miners

at the station, half of them sick. There were said to be about as many more on the Upper Membare. Those that could not meet the expense of a passage in a private vessel were carried by the steamer to Samarai. Some of these miners did not treat their native boys well or fairly. Towards these latter the natives of the Membare were decidedly unfriendly. The steamer left Samarai on the 18th December for Cooktown with Mr. Kowald on board. He died soon after in hospital there. Mr. Winter proceeded to Sudest in the steamer, and found the prisoners employed there to be in a satisfactory condition on the 8th January.

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9. On the 8th February I left Port Moresby to make a visit of inspection in the western division of the Colony. The Daru Station was in a satisfactory condition, with large quantities of food in the gardens. A good and useful jetty was being built, and a new prison was under construction. A visit was made with a number of the principal men of the district to their hereditary fishing-grounds in the neighbourhood of the Barrier Reef, from whom it was learned that a line from Bramble Cay through the Moon Pass and thence to the south of Turn-Again and Deliverance Islands would secure their fishing rights and facilitate the work of administration in the west. No readjustment of boundary has yet been made between the two Colonies. On the 1st March we reached the Morehead River, intending to try to induce the natives there to resettle and rebuild their villages. We were accompanied by natives of Mawatta and of the Wassi Kussa, to make these acquainted with the Morehead people. The natives were friendly, but living scattered in the woods. They were favourably disposed to rebuild, and were anxious to receive a mission among them. Fifty-four natives of British New Guinea were then living at Boigu. It was arranged that they should return to their own country and rebuild in June. On the return journey I heard at Boigu of the murder of Mr. Green and others on the Membare, news which was confirmed by the Hon. John Douglas, C.M.G., who arrived at Daru on the 11th March. It became necessary to travel from Daru to Port Moresby in the steam launch, in order to reach the Membare as soon as possible. On the way a call was made at Saguana. There the Rev. James Chalmers was found to be successfully carrying on an English mission and school. The tribes visited, or rather passed, near the mouths of the Aird River were friendly. We reached Port Moresby with the steam launch on the 22nd March.

10. A start was made from Samarai, 10th April, to visit the Membare district. Mr. Moreton had gone thither soon after the murders committed there by the natives, but he wisely abstained from undertaking any active operations against the tribes of the locality with the small force at his command. Some natives that were loitering about the coast, near the mouth of the Membare, did not decline to enter into communication with us.

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The natives on the lower part of the river fled on our approach. The large village of Peu was deserted. The inhabitants of Manatu were the only ones that remained to receive us. These had always been friendly. At some of the Umi villages a number of articles taken from Europeans were found. The buildings in course of erection at the new station had not been injured, and the natives had begun to construct new houses for themselves higher up the river, from which they fled before we reached them. At some of these considerable quantities of ammunition were found. The whole district in the vicinity of the Government station was scoured by the constabulary, but the natives avoided any encounter with them, and soon abandoned that part of the country. One warrior of the Apochi tribe was captured, and another was shot dead in a skirmish with the natives of Peu in the thick scrub near the river bank. In a similar encounter with the Gadara tribe three men were arrested and one shot. None of the tribes ventured to make any show of open aggression or to threaten any attack on the constabulary. On the 1st May an attempt was made to surprise the village of Peu. There were about half-a-score of people there, but they escaped by abandoning their baggage. The whole country was again patrolled by the constabulary in several directions, and the formation of a new station at a better site was begun on the Tamata River. As it was most desirable to obtain a traverse of the Gira (boundary river), as far as it is navigable by boat, its ascent was begun on the 18th May. It is quite clear that the river opens into the sea in German territory, and speedily crosses the boundary line into British jurisdiction, but to again project a small loop on to or over the boundary, after which its course leads away to the south-west, like all other large rivers on the north-east coast.

There were undoubtedly many men from the hostile villages of the Mambare then seeking shelter on the Gira. The natives were timid, but not unfriendly. None were allowed to carry weapons, and they were not permitted free entrance to our camp. There is a good deal of fine planting land on this river, with many pleasant sites for building, and it has a comparatively large population. On the 6th June, the constabulary were led across the country from Apochi village towards the upper villages of the Gira. The country traversed between that and the village of Wade is not inviting in any sense. The villages of Wade and Diware contained, in addition to their own people, most of the fighting men of the hostile Mambare tribes. In an encounter with the constabulary two of their warriors were killed, and these tribes were cut off from those between Wade and the sea. A few days later they were forced to fight again, when four of their braves fell, and the others fled for their lives. It was not deemed necessary to inflict on them then any further loss of life, but it was decided to wait to see what change would take place with time.

11. A brief visit was made to the Kiriwina Group, on account of certain disturbances reported to have occurred there. Very satisfactory progress had been made by the Rev. Mr. Fellowes in mission work. The Resident Magistrate had experienced much trouble in putting an end to village burial. The traders had ceased to put obstacles in the way of mission work, and some of them had even rendered substantial assistance to Mr. Fellowes. Some tribal disputes were dealt with, and the surrender of some of the principals concerned was enforced. But what was, perhaps, of much greater importance, was that the great chief, Enamakala, was made to grant land for a mission site at his own village—a concession he had hitherto refused to make.

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#### REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

12. The Resident Magistrate for the Western Division reports that a fair advance was made by the natives in many ways, but in this he does not include house-building. Fortunately, the Burial Regulation has been well observed. Wabuda, which formerly gave us so much trouble, is now the most progressive tribe of the district. The Resident Magistrate has travelled a great deal in his division, visiting a number of villages that are unknown to me. At one of these, Baranoura, he saw the longest house we have yet met with in the Colony. It was 827 feet long and 40 feet wide. The natives were found to be friendly everywhere, and to be well disposed towards law and order. It is now well known that there are wide areas of rolling grassy lands, much of it fit for cultivation, between the sea and the Fly River. The majority of the offences dealt with under the Native Regulations was on account of adultery. Violation of women and children is still very frequent. A remarkable case is mentioned, in which a native was relieving his grief by the usual expedient of discharging arrows; one of these passed through a native house and then through the body of a man—a good example of the tremendous force with which the bamboo bow shoots its missiles. The constabulary have rendered excellent service during the year. There are now thirty-six village policemen in the division. In addition to much cultivation of food for the use of the station, two large undertakings were on hand—the construction of a much-needed jetty and the building of a new gaol. The Resident Magistrate speaks favourably of the progress made by the Rev. James Chalmers at Saguana, where great advantages to the natives will arise from their being taught in English. The health of the station and district was satisfactory. There is no doubt that the Resident Magistrate succeeded during the year in extending the influence and authority of the Government in a way that is very creditable to him.

13. The Resident Magistrate of the Eastern Division reports steady improvement on the part of the natives, which would,

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however, be greater but for the evil done by coloured traders and loafers. An epidemic of dysentery caused many deaths at certain places. He enforced the Burial Regulations, but in some instances not without considerable perseverance. It appears that certain employers of native labourers did not treat them so well as they should have done. There are twenty-seven village constables in the district, but some are not efficient, not receiving sufficient supervision. A wharf, which has 19 feet of water at low tide, has been built by Messrs. Burns, Philp, and Co., at Samarai. The Government ketch "Siai" is sailed by an exclusively native crew. In the rubber industry competition runs so high that the profits of the trader are said to be narrow, but it is to be presumed that the native has advantage from that. Mission work, carried on by the three Protestant missions, has progressed quietly and steadily during the year. The Rev. Copland King put through the Press the Gospel of St. Luke, written in the language of Bartle Bay. A great deal of work was performed by the Magistrate on the coast line, which is not touched on in his report.

14. The Resident Magistrate for the Central Division considers the condition of the coast tribes east of Port Moresby to be most satisfactory, but there are still inland tribes near the foot of the main range not yet under control, though the influence of the village policemen of the coast tribes is steadily extending itself in that direction. Visits were made to the sandal-wood camps, the native labourers at which were all well cared for. In the west the Burial Regulations had to be enforced at Apiope. Three murderers were successfully arrested in the Opau villages, and two were arrested at Womai after some trouble, during which the natives discharged a shower of arrows on the constabulary. Bodies were exhumed to the number of sixty-four, and natives were punished under the Burial Regulation at several villages on the coast. The Magistrate ascended the Biarua as far as Amoamoaku. He had to remain over two months at Port Moresby to attend to sick and distressed miners.

Attention is drawn by him to the reign of terror caused by the Uberi tribe in the Astrolabe district, and the opinion is expressed that the Uberi and Hagari tribes are in touch with each other, and that a large force will be necessary to deal with them. The season was a dry one, and the natives about Port Moresby purchased with money a good deal of European food. A party informed the Magistrate that they had ascended Mount Victoria, and that the track was very easy. This ascent, it may safely be said, is purely imaginary. Such a road, if possible, would be very difficult from the Lower Brown. The epidemic of dysentery, mentioned by the Magistrate of the Eastern Division, also passed along the coast line of the Central Division. It is the first introduction of this form of the disease into the Possession, and was therefore, as might be

expected, of a virulent type. The Rev. Dr. G. W. Lawes is having his students taught the use of the fumigating box, with which they will be able to cure many cases of skin disease. It is reported that Mr. Chester attended most assiduously to any cases of sickness among the prisoners while they were under his care. The ketch "Lokohu" is in charge of a solely native crew.

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15. The Resident Magistrate for the South-eastern Division states that serious crime is almost unknown in his district. The most backward part of it is Rossel Island, a natural result of its distance from Nivani. The tribes of Misima, once so savage and troublesome as almost to make one despair of them, are now so completely pacified that only petty breaches of Native Regulations have to be dealt with there. There are sixteen village constables in the division, and, with one exception, their conduct was all that could be desired. On the island station of Nivani, 3,250 cocoanuts have been planted, and some will soon be coming into bearing. The Resident Magistrate has here—as has been done at Daru and at Rigo—effected much saving to the Administration by the cultivation of food at the station. The labours and co-operation of the Rev. A. Fletcher, in the district of Panaietti, are very favourably commented on.

16. The Government Agent for the Rigo district has observed much advance in the way of peace and civilisation, and remarks on the absence of any serious crime. Many new inland tribes were brought into contact with European and Government officers for the first time. The natives showed great kindness to prospectors. He ascribes the spread of authority to some extent to the punishment inflicted on the Kokila tribe. Superstition is the greatest drawback to the civilising influences at work. The Government Agent complains of some trouble caused by the excessive zeal of certain South Sea teachers, while he eulogises the splendid results reached by some others. He visited the Uberi country with his detachment of constabulary to support Mr. Ballantine in dealing with that formerly refractory tribe. They proceeded as far as Baura. A number of new tribes were visited by Mr. Shanahan in some of the more inland parts of the district, so that the extension of the authority of the Government during the year was very considerable. It is stated that the natives are now steadily planting cocoanuts. Important improvements were carried out at the station in road-making and planting. There are over twenty village constables in the district, and they are said to be most useful. The Rigo detachment of armed constabulary consists of five men and a corporal; they give every satisfaction to the Government Agent. The sanitary condition of the station was good, but the natives of the district suffered from an epidemic of dysentery. Mr. English has prepared a vocabulary of the dialect spoken by the tribes immediately behind Aroma.

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17. The Government Agent for the Mekeo district states that he found the tribes at first unsettled, the natives thinking that the death of his predecessor meant that they might recommence intertribal warfare. Cemetery burial is being extended. Some agitation was caused in connection with the regulation dealing with carriers for Government. This was occasioned by irregular action taken under the regulation, and doubtless would not have arisen had its provisions been attended to, and some little tact and care been exercised. Sorcery is still the cause of a great deal of trouble among the natives.

The Mekeo constabulary detachment consists of seven men and a corporal. Their behaviour has been satisfactory. Regret is expressed that the missions do not make stronger efforts to teach English.

18. The report of the Commandant shows that a large amount of useful work was performed by the force during the year over the greater part of the Colony. The Commandant was for some time in charge of the Mambare district, which he managed very successfully for some months during the absence of Mr. Green. During that period the turbulent natives of that district were restless, requiring action to be taken by the police on several occasions. The visit of the force to the Hagari district is described. It was, undoubtedly, a hard and difficult journey. The total strength of the force at the end of the year was 108 men, consisting of Papuans, with the exception of one man. Some of them have already served five years. The health of the men was, on the whole, good, and their conduct satisfactory. Substantial and commodious barracks for the force were erected at Port Moresby.

19. The Travelling Government Agent mentions that he visited certain tribes inland from Suabina in Orangerie Bay, where he was well received. Subsequently he visited Mount Scratchley, cutting a road from the McLaughlin Creek to the top of that mountain, and visiting the village of Neneba. He cut a new track of ninety miles from Doura to Sikube, and built along it thirteen camping-sheds. By the end of June he had fixed his camp on the Wharton Range. Mention is made of the vast inland field that is not in the present programme of the missions. Mr. Giulianetti collected two small vocabularies, spoken at Suku and Sikube respectively. He was discontented with the constabulary generally.

20. The greater part of the report of the late head gaoler has reference to the previous year, but is inserted herein because it was not received in time for the annual report of last year. Mention is made of the death of nine prisoners from beriberi, and of the unsatisfactory results by treatment. It will be noticed that Mr. Meredith held the Papuan character in considerable estimation.

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MISSION WORK.

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21. The two most notable events of the year in connection with the missions were visits of inspection by the general secretaries of the Wesleyan Mission and London Missionary Society. There is good reason to believe that these visits will have, as a result in each case, the establishment at an early date of an industrial school in connection with the respective missions. These are undertakings to which a full measure of support has been promised by the Government as far as it may be in the power of the Administration to encourage such work by the grant of suitable lands or in any other practical way. The London Missionary Society also contemplate establishing an inland mission, in a district that is eminently suitable for such a development with respect to both locality and population.

At page 3 of the appendices\* to this report will be found a despatch\* dealing with a visit paid to the schools of the London Missionary Society at Port Moresby. It is noticeable that the Rev. A. Hunte was very successfully conducting the upper school in the English language, a matter that cannot but be of the greatest importance in the near future to the rising generation of that district. The Rev. James Chalmers, on the Fly Estuary, and the Rev. C. W. Abel, at Kwato, also taught wholly or principally in English.

MINING.

22. During the year under review a large number of prospecting miners arrived in the Colony. None of these came to the Western Division.

About 400 men landed at Port Moresby. They travelled thence generally in three or four directions, on the Vanapa track, inland from Port Moresby, by the Rigo Station, and along the Angabunga River. In most instances they carried their own effects and tools, and in a very few days became quite unfit for the road. Unfortunately, most of them seemed unable to make for themselves suitable camping arrangements, and all the officers of the Government concur in stating that many men were thoughtless and careless, ill-provided with food, and in too many cases with no medicines whatever. The result was that after a very short time large numbers became very weak and gave way to fever and dysentery. In the Central Division six died in the temporary hospital at Port Moresby, about as many are known to have died on the tracks in the bush, one on board the "Merrie England," and several in the Cooktown Hospital. Of some 130 men that started inland on the Vanapa track, the majority did not get past the Evelyn Creek, two days inland from Doura. Only two small parties from the South Coast seem to have reached the eastern side of Mount Scratchley, and they consisted

\* Not printed.



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of, or were conducted by, men already accustomed to travel in the country. Nevertheless, the journey across by the Mount Knutsford track should be an easy one for, say, fifteen days.

The conduct of the old miners—of the men that have been at work for years in the Colony—has been good. They have generally dealt justly and fairly with the natives, and they have been law-abiding. But amongst the men that came to the Central District last year there was, as might have been expected, a margin, probably a small one, of a different complexion. By these some acts of robbery were committed on natives, which greatly interfered with the engagement of carriers for the Vanapa track. These acts of violence were not accompanied by more serious crimes, and they met with universal condemnation on the part of the great majority of the men themselves. The old hands who have worked with the natives for years spoke of these occurrences with one voice in terms of indignation. It was unfortunate that the perpetrators got away from the Possession without being prosecuted.

Several parties proceeded inland from Port Moresby towards the Brown River on prospecting tours, but it does not appear that they got any further than their predecessors in 1878, if they even got as far. They met with few natives. The relations between the prospectors and them were good, except in the case of Mr. Rochfort, who was attacked by the aggressive tribe of Bauro, who drove his small party back from Ginianumu after spearing a South Sea man.

23. Several parties went inland from the Rigo district. They were able to obtain local carriers, and they were very well received by the different tribes. Some of them took horses to within two days' march of the top of Mount Obree. Another well-led party, under Mr. W. E. Buchanan, prospected some new districts near Mount Nesbit.

Some three or four different parties proceeded inland from the coast, along the Angabunga River towards the interior, but the Government Agent of that district could not say with what result.

24. All that it was possible to do for the prospectors in the Central Division was done, not only by the officers of the Government but also by the private residents of that part of the Colony. Two officers, provided with armed constables and a large force of carriers, were occupied on the Vanapa path for some five or six months. It is, however, the case that the results, owing to an unfortunate departure from instructions, were not nearly as good as had been expected. The track was made perfectly safe as far as Mount Knutsford, beyond which there are no natives before reaching the Mambare. It was well provided with camping-sheds as far as Suku, and a private firm furnished a store for the sale of supplies at reasonable prices on this track. A Government Agent was equipped for occupying a station on

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the top of the main range, whence he could visit places on either side of it within a wide area, and exercise a controlling influence on native tribes.

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Several special expeditions were sent directly inland from Port Moresby to try to pacify that part of the country, so that it could be visited by the prospector, but the process of pacification was by no means completed in that region within the year.

In the Rigo district the Government Agent opened a path to the top of Mount Obree, passable for horses as far as the mountain itself. A special agent was also employed by the Government to visit a considerable number of new tribes in the inland districts there with the view of facilitating prospecting operations. It had been intended to employ this special agent in opening a track to the interior from Cloudy Bay, but that part of my instructions was not carried out during an absence on the Mambare. It need hardly be said that officers did anything they could to assist the practical work of the prospector in any direction possible. No sufficiently favourable results seem, however, to have been obtained on the south side of the main range, no "field" was discovered, and no workings even of a temporary character were established there.

25. Steps were promptly taken for the relief of indigent men and for the care of those who were sick. Funds were provided by general subscription for the opening and maintenance of a temporary hospital. For this a competent and trustworthy caretaker was engaged, and the whole establishment was managed by a local committee, on the principle that any person in want should receive gratuitous care and treatment, whilst those should pay that could do so. But, in addition to the contributions made in money, the institution while in operation received constant gifts from the ladies resident at Port Moresby.

Twenty-two patients were admitted for treatment, about half of them suffering from malarial fever. Of the six deaths that occurred, however, only one is entered against that disease by the medical officer, while three are put down to dysentery. A considerable number of men had free passages back to Australia by the S.S. "Merrie England," and many were transported by Government vessels along the coast. Those that were not sick, but who declared their means to be exhausted, received supplies from the Government store, although it appears that in some cases the rations so given did not quite come up to the somewhat high standard expected in certain instances. Dr. Blayney was detained at Port Moresby some two or three months to attend to the sick. Amongst the European residents of the place the earnest and sincere desire to assist in this work was universal; and the same feelings moved many men among the miners themselves; but not a few instances occurred in which men would assist neither themselves nor their mates.

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26. In the South-eastern Division mining was carried on at Sudest Island, at Misima, and at Woodlark Island. Alluvial mining on Sudest has now assumed small proportions. The ten-head stamp battery in course of erection there was not in operation during the year. The prisoners employed, chiefly in road-making, by the company, had to be removed before the end of the year on account of an epidemic of beriberi. Not more than twelve or fifteen European miners worked on Misima. During the early months of 1897 the mining population of Woodlark Island increased to some 400 men, a number twice as great as the place could support. Some of the men lived comfortably in native huts they built for themselves, but many were too careless to do that, and lived in squalor under canvas. The season was wet, and there was much sickness among the men. Many did remarkable well, while others were very much disappointed. It was easy to obtain provisions on the field at a reasonable rate. There was no trouble between the miners and the natives. At the end of the year there remained about 250 men on this field.

27. In the Upper Mambare district nothing new was discovered, and the old ground became worked out. On this field three men remained during the whole of the wet season, and a brief record of events by one of them, John Schmitt, will be found as an enclosure to Appendix H hereto.\* They were greatly indebted to the natives of Neneba for food and shelter. It appears that it rained almost every day. At the Government station on the Mambare a number of men suffered from fever and dysentery, and several died. They were supplied in many cases with medicine, food, and attendance by the Government. Most of the miners that ascended the Mambare River were assisted by Government boats and by the steam launch.

A prospecting party, accompanied by a detachment of armed constabulary and a number of Government carriers, led by Mr. W. Simpson, did some prospecting work in the Moni Valley. His account of this journey will be found as enclosure No. 1 to Appendix D hereto,\* from which it will be seen that they found traces of gold at many places, and that they had no misunderstanding with the natives. A second party, unassisted by Government, did not appear to get as far as Mr. Simpson.

28. On the whole, the mining results of the year were disappointing. No deposits were found that, of themselves, would justify any considerable expenditure in road-making. Undoubtedly, much privation and suffering were endured by many of the prospectors; but it were idle to suppose that a tropical country, full of rugged mountains, scored in all directions by rivers and streams, and covered by dense forest, could be examined without fatigue and without incurring risk and danger. No person that is unable or unprepared to undergo hardship is or can be in his proper place in entering on a prospecting tour in

\* Not printed.

this Colony. Experience has also shown that the prospectors are not always inclined to utilise the paths already cut for them. In too many instances they have thoughtlessly, and on the strength of misleading experience obtained elsewhere, started courageously on a journey inland in spite of all advice to the contrary, and have, with no food at all, or with articles of diet unsuitable for their condition, and without any medicines, speedily succumbed to sickness that with reasonable care and forethought could have been prevented. Probably no new country ever has or ever will be opened up without such sacrifices of human life. The officers of the Administration and the permanent residents of the Possession have done all they could to make these lamentable losses as light as possible. The prospecting of the Colony is still in its early infancy, and is not likely to be completed for many a long year yet.

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29. The Treasurer has prepared the following

RETURN of MINERS' RIGHTS issued in the POSSESSION during the period 1st JULY 1896 to 30th JUNE 1897.

Year.	Central Division.	Eastern Division.	Louisiades Division.
1896.			
July ... ..	—	7	4
August ... ..	—	11	—
September ... ..	5	3	65
October ... ..	—	—	9
November ... ..	4	13	46
December ... ..	5	—	6
1897.			
January ... ..	5	16	37
February ... ..	14	8	3
March ... ..	11	—	42
April ... ..	41	7	2
May ... ..	8	7	6
June ... ..	10	—	—
Total ... ..	103	66	220

389 Miners' Rights = £149 10s.

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## TRADE.

The usual details of imports, exports, navigation, and postal matters are given in the appendices\* to this report.

## IMPORTS.

30. The total imports through the three ports of entry of the Colony have been :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89 ...	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889-90 ...	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890-91 ...	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891-92 ...	10,379	13,377	—	23,755
1892-93 ...	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893-94 ...	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501
1894-95 ...	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367
1895-96 ...	20,912	12,235	1,374	34,521
1896-97 ...	32,813	17,521	1,056	51,392

The chief items imported may be arranged under the following heads :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food-stuffs ...	5,400	7,124	4,463	6,037	6,252
Drapery and clothing	1,735	1,582	1,712	2,838	3,414
Tobacco and cigars ...	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407
Hardware ...	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828
Beverages ...	805	1,143	688	890	1,625
Building materials ...	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474
Other articles ...	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261
Total ...	£ 11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261

\* Not printed.

	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	
	£	£	£	£	
Food-stuffs ... ..	7,181	8,062	9,328	20,752	
Drapery and clothing	3,002	2,901	3,149	5,758	
Tobacco and cigars ...	3,985	3,059	2,735	4,648	
Hardware ... ..	3,162	3,440	4,844	7,718	
Beverages ... ..	1,760	1,116	1,755	2,378	
Building materials ...	2,889	1,727	1,916	1,890	
Other articles ... ..	6,522	7,997	10,794	8,248	
Total ... ..	£ 28,501	28,302	34,521	51,392	

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The increase in imports over the preceding year was thus £16,871. The advance on food-stuffs was £11,424; on drapery, £4,648; on tobacco and cigars, £1,913; on hardware, £2,874; on beverages, £623. There was a decrease on building materials of £26, and on other articles of £2,546. The increase under several of these headings was no doubt partly due to a greater influx of Europeans. This is shown clearly, for example, in the item of beverages, a class of article not used by the native part of the population.

#### EXPORTS.

31. The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been:—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89 ...	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889-90 ...	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890-91 ...	7,678	755	—	8,434
1891-92 ...	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892-93 ...	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893-94 ...	9,555	3,542	1,854	14,952
1894-95 ...	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215
1895-96 ...	10,600	8,326	475	19,401
1896-97 ...	39,349	4,658	338	44,345

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The advance in the value of exports over the preceding year was £24,944. The largest item of export was gold; but the amount of this article as entered at the Custom House is doubtless very much less than what was actually taken away. There can be no doubt that at least twice the amount of gold declared was obtained in the Possession during the year. The figures here given are those declared at the Custom House, Cooktown, and do not include gold taken to Sydney and other places direct from the fields. The increase shown by the actual figures is an advance of £20,283 on the previous year. In computing the value of the gold exported, it has been reckoned at £3 10s. an ounce, which must be somewhat under its real value. The annual export of gold declared at the Customs has been :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Ounces ... ..	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582
Value ... .. £	14,387	12,440	8,371	4,322	2,236

—	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Ounces ... ..	1,128	728	1,373	7,148
Value ... .. £	3,906	2,565	4,735	25,018

The second export in point of value was pearl-shell. The quantity of this article exported annually has been :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Tons ... ..	15½	12½	3	18	37
Value ... .. £	1,510	1,050	85	542	1,623

—	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Tons ... ..	52	51	41	147½
Value ... .. £	3,366	3,005	2,371	6,004

Nearly the whole of this was obtained in the eastern waters of the Possession. From the western districts only a ton and a-half was got, almost the whole of the fishing-grounds there being still in the hands of Queensland. It is an industry that will doubtless be carried on successfully in the eastern waters.

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The copra exported consisted of 440½ tons, valued at £3,494. The export of this article has been :—

				£
1888-89	...	76 tons valued at	...	550
1889-90	...	43 " "	...	250
1890-91	...	198 " "	...	1,433
1891-92	...	340 " "	...	2,084
1892-93	...	194 " "	...	1,159
1893-94	...	450 " "	...	2,885
1894-95	...	427 " "	...	2,830
1895-96	...	381 " "	...	2,748
1896-97	...	440 " "	...	3,494

Next to copra comes india-rubber. This article figured first as an export in 1894-95, when some 2 cwt. of it, valued at £27, left the Colony. In 1895-96 the quantity entered outwards was nearly 3 tons; this year it amounts to 16 tons, valued at £3,472. Taking into consideration the fact that this product is obtained from several indigenous trees and plants, that it exists over a great area, and that there is in the Colony a large extent of country that would appear to be eminently suitable for the cultivation of rubber-trees, it seems very probable that this may eventually become the principal export from the Possession.

There was a falling off of £1,712 in the declared value of sandal wood. Transactions in this industry have been as under :—

				£
1891-92	...	42 tons valued at	...	290
1892-93	...	899 " "	...	7,183
1893-94	...	321 " "	...	1,896
1894-95	...	378 " "	...	2,568
1895-96	...	525 " "	...	4,035
1896-97	...	300 " "	...	2,323

It would appear that the decrease in sandal wood is more owing to the superior attractions of prospecting for gold than to exhaustion of the sandal wood forest. If so, there may be a revival in this industry next year.



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The export of bêche-de-mer continues to show on the whole a downward tendency. Its course has been as under :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Tons ... ..	38½	70¼	64¼	49	21¾
Value ... £	2,178	4,682	5,030	3,401	1,573

  

—	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Tons ... ..	28	21¼	17½	13
Value ... £	1,714	1,087	929	1,016

Pearls valued at £980, and turtle-shell declared at £519, were also exported. The remaining items do not call for any special notice.

The total volume of the trade of the Colony has been :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1888-89 ... ..	11,108	5,943	17,051
1889-90 ... ..	16,104	6,455	22,559
1890-91 ... ..	15,530	8,434	23,964
1891-92 ... ..	23,755	11,289	35,044
1892-93 ... ..	25,261	14,966	40,227
1893-94 ... ..	28,501	14,952	43,453
1894-95 ... ..	28,367	16,215	44,582
1895-96 ... ..	34,521	19,401	53,922
1896-97 ... ..	51,391	35,654	95,737

#### SHIPPING.

32. All shipping entered inwards or outwards was British. The total number of vessels (exclusive of Government vessels) entered inwards from beyond the Colony was 85, representing

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13,650 tons ; the total number cleared outwards for foreign ports was 65, of 15,174 tons. The total foreign tonnage has been :—

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1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
28,824 tons ...	19,759 tons ...	28,824 tons

The entries inwards and outwards coastwise have been :—

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Vessels ...	107 ...	333 ...	595
Tons ...	5,133 ...	7,845 ...	20,676

The contract for the subsidised mail schooner came to an end during the year, and was discontinued.

Many of the smaller craft at work in the Possession are sailed exclusively by Papuans ; others have Papuan crews with a foreigner as master.

*Postal.*

33. The postal transactions for the year show, when compared with those of previous years, a decided increase. The following is a tabulated statement for the last nine years :—

Article.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Letters received ...	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,079
Letters despatched ...	2,587	2,586	2,191	3,917	4,011
Packets received ...	93	111	142	45	230
Packets despatched ...	98	84	88	78	427
Newspapers received...	4,071	6,845	6,042	8,505	6,749
Newspapers despatched	574	590	468	756	276

Article.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
Letters received ...	6,280	6,279	7,130	11,148
Letters despatched ...	5,297	6,189	4,987	11,550
Packets received ...	157	129	246	181
Packets despatched ...	467	468	281	475
Newspapers received...	8,131	7,046	7,197	7,441
Newspapers despatched	240	776	828	1,635

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## FINANCE.

*Revenue.*

34. The amount of revenue collected in the Possession and paid into the Queensland Treasury during the year was £10,663. It is compared below with the revenues of previous years :—

Items.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs dues ...	2,416	2,893	2,525	4,428	3,757
Goldfield receipts ...	187	20	23	24	23
Fees ... ..	2	4	4	10	157
Fines ... ..	25	41	46	34	24
Licences ... ..	2	11	21	136	106
Miscellaneous... ..	42	44	53	149	535
<b>Total ... £</b>	<b>2,679</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>2,673</b>	<b>4,783</b>	<b>4,604</b>

Items.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	£	£	£	£
Customs dues ...	5,067	4,622	5,974	9,336
Goldfield receipts ...	54	26	78	262
Fees ... ..	115	78	21	448
Fines ... ..	22	27	37	51
Licences ... ..	317	247	293	246
Miscellaneous... ..	291	109	144	320
<b>Total ... £</b>	<b>5,866</b>	<b>5,109</b>	<b>6,547</b>	<b>10,663</b>

*Expenditure.*

35. The sum of £15,000 was appropriated for ordinary administrative purposes, in addition to a sum of £437 18s. 5d. for additional Government Agents, and £1,000 for surveys. The two latter amounts were authorised by the Guaranteeing Colonies

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to be paid from the Accumulated Revenue Fund. The sum of £16,228 was actually expended for the usual administrative services in the manner indicated in the following table, in which it is classified and compared with the expenditure of previous years :—

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Head of Expenditure.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£	£	£	£	£
Civil list salaries ...	2,663	3,300	3,290	3,300	3,300
Other salaries ...	1,796	2,381	3,476	3,559	3,707
Vessels and boats ...	2,747	2,564	2,938	2,993	1,600
Allowances ...	1,296	2,548	1,500	1,356	1,748
Buildings and Works	185	1,144	979	780	872
Agriculture ...	2	137	355	335	146
Mail services ...	445	—	—	—	450
Miscellaneous... ..	1,662	2,898	2,675	2,675	3,174
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>£ 10,769</b>	<b>14,975</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>

Head of Expenditure.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	£	£	£	£
Civil list salaries ...	3,300	3,248	3,186	3,195
Other salaries ...	3,479	3,640	3,779	3,552
Vessels and boats ...	1,308	2,114	1,587	1,258
Allowances ...	1,454	1,614	1,388	2,061
Buildings and Works	435	397	661	754
Agriculture ...	203	145	142	94
Mail service ...	750	900	900	900
Miscellaneous... ..	4,071	2,942	3,357	4,414
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>£ 15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>16,228</b>

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S.S. "MERRIE ENGLAND."

36. The net expenditure on the "Merrie England" during the year ended on 31st March 1897 was £7,313 19s. 2d. The distance steamed was 16,250 miles on a consumption of 800 tons of coal, making an average distance of 20·31 knots for each ton of coal. The vessel was under steam on 180 days. On launch duty 68 tons of coal were used.

As in previous years since 1895-6, the Imperial Government contributed £3,000 towards the cost of maintaining the steamer, while the Guaranteeing Colonies allowed the sum of £4,000 to be charged to the Accumulated Revenue Fund.

37. The considerations on which expenditure was regulated are given in full in the despatch covering the estimates.\* With regard to the sum of £1,228 19s. 10d. expended in excess of the appropriation of £15,000, it may be observed that the increased expenditure was due partly to the large influx of miners to the Possession which took place in 1897, and partly to the massacres on the Mambare River. The attention of the Guaranteeing Colonies was directed to the fact that certain additional expenditure, estimated at the time to amount to some hundreds of pounds, would be necessary, and their consent was obtained to the increase being made a charge against the Accumulated Revenue Fund.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS.

38. An elaborate report\* by Mr. De Vis will be found as an Appendix hereto, in which that gentleman gives a careful description of the many new and interesting birds added to the official collection of the Possession since the date of his previous paper on the same subject. Mr. De Vis is well entitled to the thanks of the Colony for so promptly giving to these matters so much labour, especially at a time when he is otherwise already overworked.

39. A report\* is attached by Mr. J. B. Cameron, Government Surveyor, on lands surveyed by him for alienation to Europeans. It has been intended to dispose of this land on favourable terms, more with the object of introducing systematic cultivation of tropical products under European supervision than for any other purposes. Most of the 31,000 acres surveyed has been obtained by the Crown from the native owners by direct purchase.

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\* Not printed.

Mr. Cameron's report covers a few months not included within the year dealt with by this Annual Report, but circumstances make it convenient and desirable to publish it as it has been presented.

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40. Mr. W. E. Buchanan has kindly furnished a report\* on the results of the expedition led by him to the foot of the Main Range to the north-west of Mount Nesbit. Unfortunately Mr. Buchanan's instruments got damaged, so that the exact locality reached by him cannot be put on the map. He describes it as a large valley, in the deposits of which are traces of gold; but Mr. Buchanan, though an able leader and a skilful and persevering prospector, does not appear to have found payable gold.

METEOROLOGICAL.

41. The Rev. Copland King has furnished the table\* of rainfall at Dogura Station for the year ending 31st December 1896. It shows a fall of only 43½ inches, though rain fell on 115 days. The figures would indicate that the dry season is from May to September, inclusive; while the three wettest months are January, February, and March. The rainfall of the same place from 1st February 1892 to 31st January 1893 was 80 inches, which gives an average for the two years of 61·75 inches.

At Port Moresby the rainfall for the year ending 30th June 1897 was 38·97 inches. No rain fell in December 1896, nor in June 1897. In January, February, March, and April, the rain registered measured 32·31 inches. The rainfall of the last three years has averaged 37 inches.

A table is attached\* compiled from the observations taken at Port Moresby, which shows the average thermometer readings for each month of the year at 9 a.m.; and also the maximum and minimum temperatures for each month registered at the same place. From this it appears that the highest 9 o'clock temperature was that of January, 85·85 degrees Fah. The lowest was, for August, at 76·61 degrees; the average for the year was 81·92 degrees.

The highest monthly registration by the maximum thermometer was, for January, 89·28 degrees; the lowest by the same instrument was, for September, 80·46 degrees. The average maximum monthly temperature was, for the year, 85·44 degrees.

\* Not printed.

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The highest monthly readings by the minimum thermometer was, for February, 77·33 degrees; the lowest, for August, 72·89 degrees. The average monthly temperature by the minimum thermometer was 75·57 degrees.

The highest temperature registered at Port Moresby in the shade at 9 a.m. was 90 degrees, on the 6th January; the highest registered at any time was 94 degrees, on the 9th February. The lowest obtained was 74 degrees, on the 6th and 22nd August.

At Daru the rainfall for the year ending 30th June 1897 was 61·62 inches. The average for the last three years has been 82·5 inches. The fall in the months of September, October, and November, 1896, was less than 1 inch, while that for January, February, and March, 1897, was 10·74, 12·11, and 13·98 inches respectively. A table\* will be found as Enclosure D to Appendix L, showing the highest and lowest thermometer readings for each month in the year, barometrical readings for the same periods, general direction of wind, &c. The highest average temperature was recorded in December (85·75 degrees), the lowest in September (79·76 degrees).

#### ESTABLISHMENTS.

42. On the 30th of June last the officers on the establishment, in addition to those on the Civil list, were as follows :—

##### Resident Magistrates :—

Central Division ...	...	Dr. J. A. Blayney.
Western Division ...	...	B. A. Hely.
Eastern Division ...	...	M. H. Moreton.
Louisiades ...	...	A. M. Campbell.

##### Government Agents :—

Rigo ...	...	A. E. English.
Mekeo ...	...	B. W. Bramell.
North-east Coast ...	...	M. W. Shanahan.
Travelling (temporary) ...	...	A. Giulianetti.
Commandant ...	...	Captain A. W. Butterworth.

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\* Not printed.

ESTABLISHMENTS—*continued.*BRITISH  
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Government Storekeeper	...	H. N. Chester.
Treasurer and Collector	...	D. Ballantine.
Sub-Collector, Samarai	...	Alexander Henry Symonds.
Clerk, Samarai (temporary)	...	A. McAlpine.
Sub-Collector, Daru	...	H. W. de Lange.
Head Gaoler and Overseer of Works.		John McDonald.
Government Printer	...	J. G. Allen.
Commander, S.S. "Merrie England."		George A. H. Curtis, R.N.R.
First Engineer, "Merrie England."		F. V. Corkill.

The year was, beyond all precedent, unfortunate as regards the loss of officers.

On the 25th of November 1896, Mr. Charles Kowald, Government Agent for the Mekeo district, met with a most serious accident at a point on the Musa River some three score of miles from the sea. While Mr. Kowald was in the act of demonstrating to a native the use of dynamite, the cartridge exploded in his hand, and inflicted injuries of which Mr. Kowald died shortly after in the Cooktown Hospital. He had been employed by the Government from its first initiation. Though a foreigner by birth and education, he was a loyal officer, a man of unusual energy, resource, and activity. He built and created the Mekeo Station, and brought it to such a condition that the whole district was proud of it. The Mekeo Station was one of the most beautiful homes in this part of the world, and this was almost altogether the work of Mr. Kowald. He succeeded admirably in pacifying his populous and turbulent district, and made very considerable progress in road-making, while he practically put an end to village burial over a large area. He also visited many of the mountain tribes, and he held the balance evenly between rival missions while aiding them all alike. He had already gained a large experience, and been well trained to his duties as Government Agent. Manifestly, the loss of such a man to the service, of which he had made a profession, was very great.

On the 14th January 1897, Mr. John Green, Government Agent for the Mambare district and Assistant Magistrate, was attacked by a combination of the natives of the district and murdered, with four men of the armed constabulary, while three prisoners and a private servant were killed at the same time. Mr. Green and his men were engaged in constructing a new station on the Tamata affluent of the Mambare. They left the



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old station in the morning and went to the new one, about which they were employed when attacked, unfortunately without their arms. These constables were all first-rate men, and the Commandant is of opinion that if they had even had knives with which to defend themselves they would probably be alive to-day. The conspiracy had been carefully prepared beforehand, and its execution was doubtless facilitated by the presence at the station of a Tamata man as a constable. Apparently, all the tribes near the station were implicated.

Mr. Green had a natural liking to work connected with native administration, for which he had a decided talent. He had already received a good training, which, added to his superior intelligence and unusual perseverance, promised great things. He had built the Mambare Station; and though located in the most remote and least amenable of the districts, he had made very considerable progress in acquainting the natives with the aims and objects of the Government. He had visited and established friendly relations with many tribes on the north-east coast, and had inspected the Mambare as far as Neneba and the top of the Owen Stanley Range. He was much respected by the prospectors and others that visited the district, interpreting correctly and carrying into effect, with tact and goodwill, the desire of the Government to render to those men every assistance possible. He was the only European that accompanied me the first time the Moni Valley of the Musa was reached, and he accompanied myself also to the top of Mount Victoria, being able to render excellent assistance in preparing geographical work, in which he was becoming an apt pupil. The loss of an officer so endowed and so well trained was a most deplorable one to the service. There was no position in it to which Mr. Green might not have aspired. It was further intensified by being associated with the murder at the same moment of the faithful, intelligent, and well-bred chief of his detachment of constabulary, Corporal Sedu, a native of Turituri, in the Western Division.

Mr. John Meredith head gaoler and overseer of works, died of illness at Sudest Island, where he was stationed on duty in charge of a body of some fifty prisoners at work in connection with a gold mining company opening up some auriferous quartz reefs. Mr. Meredith became head gaoler in July 1894. He took a deep personal interest in each prisoner under his charge; and by firm, kind treatment maintained excellent discipline, while by regular work, regular hours, and the use of the English language, he imparted to the prisoners a useful and valuable education. He maintained them in good physical condition, clean skinned, and as contented as men in such circumstances could be.

The Commandant was absent, on leave, from February to the end of June.

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GENERAL.

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43. The usual assistance so courteously rendered by the Government of Queensland in former years to the Possession was again repeated in the refitting of the "Merrie England," and in other ways.

The year was one of specially hard work to the whole of the Civil Service in the Possession, the zeal and assiduity of which deserve my warmest thanks and acknowledgment.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency

The Right Hon. Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G.,  
Governor of Queensland.

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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 258.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897-8.

(For Report for 1896-7, see No. 237.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
April, 1899.



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1899.

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BRITISH  
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1897-8.

## BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

No. 1.

Governor LORD LAMINGTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received January 30th, 1899.)

[*Copy sent to Sir Wm. Macgregor 11th March 1899.*]

Government House, Brisbane,  
24th December 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward you a copy of Sir William Macgregor's Annual Report from 1st July 1897 to 30th June 1898, also a copy of a letter from the Honourable The Chief Secretary acknowledging its receipt.

It is a matter of peculiar satisfaction to me to transmit on the part of my Government a statement containing so warm a recognition of the success attendant upon the ten years of Sir William Macgregor's administration in British New Guinea, and of the harmonious relations that have prevailed between them and the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have so repeatedly expressed my admiration of Sir William Macgregor's single-mindedness, discretion, zeal and courage, that it is enough for me on this occasion to say that I most fully and heartily endorse the opinions set forth in my Chief Secretary's letter. Yet I may add, that having had an opportunity of visiting the Possession, these views of his government are more than substantiated by the actual results achieved. The gradations of good order and peaceful bearing amongst the tribes as successively brought under authority were most marked.

This civilizing process has been due mainly to the prestige that Sir William Macgregor has established for himself by his love of justice and firmness, and not by drastic or extreme measures.

These remarks apply not merely to the coastal but to tribes living in the interior of a country where the mere fact of travelling is surrounded with the most serious difficulties.

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When it is remembered with what small resources and in how short a time this work has been accomplished the task and success of Sir William Macgregor's administration will bear comparison with any kindred undertaking within the Empire.

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It only remains for me to record my personal regrets in losing as Lieutenant-Governor of British New Guinea one who was always anxious that the machinery of a somewhat complex system of Government should run with all possible ease.

I have, &c.,  
LAMINGTON.

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[Enclosure in No. 1.]

Chief Secretary's Office,  
Brisbane,

21st December 1898.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt from Your Excellency of Sir William Macgregor's Annual Report on British New Guinea from 1st July 1897 to 30th June 1898, and to inform Your Excellency that the usual action has been taken with regard to the Report.

As this closes the long series of Reports, annual and occasional, on British New Guinea, furnished to Your Excellency's predecessors and Yourself by Sir William Macgregor, I take the opportunity of expressing on behalf of the Government their great regret that the Possession can no longer enjoy the advantage of his able administration. During the ten years of his government they have observed with appreciative interest the steady progress of an experiment in the education of a barbarous people which they consider unique in the history of civilization, and the success of which has been mainly owing to the rare qualities of mind and character that so admirably fitted him for the position he has filled during that period. To Sir William Macgregor has been assigned the exceptional task of in a large measure creating the institutions it was his function to administer, institutions which could only be established after long and trying labour in the direction of pacification, and the orderly condition of the communities in the large area of the Possession which has been

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brought under the operation of his policy is due not only to his immense faculty of organization, but to the personal courage and indomitable energy which gained for him his extraordinary ascendancy over the native mind.

The Government, moreover, do not fail to recognise how largely the results of Sir William Macgregor's exploring expeditions and scientific investigations have added to the measure of his achievement, and they feel assured that the series of Reports which has now closed will be regarded, especially by anthropologists and sociologists, as among the most valuable contributions which have been added to scientific literature during the period over which they extend.

I desire to reciprocate the sentiments expressed by Sir William Macgregor with regard to the harmonious relations which have existed between himself and the Government of this Colony, and will only add that, if this Government have been able to discharge to the satisfaction of the Imperial Government and the other Contributing Colonies the obligation undertaken by Queensland with respect to British New Guinea, it has been largely owing to the fact that they were in co-operation with an Administrator whose single aim was to promote the welfare and prosperity of the Possession for whose good government they had made themselves responsible.

I have, &c.,

JAMES R. DICKSON.

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No. 2.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN to Governor LORD LAMINGTON.

[*Copy sent to Sir William Macgregor, 11th March 1899.*]

Downing Street,

8th March 1899.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 24th of December forwarding copies of the Annual Report on British New Guinea for 1897-8, together with copy of

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a letter from your Prime Minister, in which he bears eloquent testimony to the valuable services rendered by Sir Wm. Macgregor during his ten years' service in the administration of that Possession.

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2. I fully and cordially endorse what is said by Mr. Dickson and yourself in appreciation of Sir William Macgregor's work, and of the rare combination of qualities he has displayed in its discharge.

3. The constant support and ready assistance which he has at all times met with at the hands of those responsible for the government of Queensland has done much to facilitate his task, and I have pleasure in placing on record my high appreciation of the manner in which the Government of the Colony has throughout performed the duties of control assigned to it by the Agreement of 1887.

I have, &c.,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.



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## BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

BRITISH  
NEW  
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1897-8.LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR to  
GOVERNOR LORD LAMINGTON.

Brisbane,

27th October 1898.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Tenth Annual Report on British New Guinea, as required by Section XXXVI. of the Royal Instructions of 8th June, 1888. The different tables, the accounts of Revenue and Expenditure, refer to the year ending on the 30th June last. The Reports on administrative visits of inspection are continued up to the time at which I left the Possession.

## LEGISLATION.

1. ORDINANCE No. VI. of 1897 was passed to regulate the collecting of wild birds. In 1894 it had become apparent that it was necessary to legislate for the protection of certain rare birds confined to limited localities, and also to forbid the shooting of all birds, save only birds of prey, at certain places. These powers were conferred on the Executive by Ordinance No. II. of 1894. Under the provisions of this enactment, birds were protected on the islands of Daru and Samarai, and in the vicinity of Port Moresby. Two species of rare birds of the Paradise family, found only in the D'Entrecasteaux group in one case, and in that and the Kiriwina Islands in the other case, were absolutely prohibited to the collector, there being plenty of examples already in museums for all scientific purposes. Two other species of birds, of the Gallinaceous family, that were being killed out, and whose eggs are valuable as food, were also protected within ten miles of the sea.

In 1897 it was felt that some further restriction should be put on the bird collector. It is impossible to regard this occupation as an industry worthy of encouragement. Formerly the collector had to incur danger where now he is perfectly safe. He had, some years ago, to cut his own track, to find his own way, and it

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was difficult to obtain native assistants. Now he generally follows up tracks cut by Government; he can employ native assistants almost anywhere; and can thus shoot down the birds of a district in a short time. Ordinance No. VI. of 1897 imposes on the collector a license of £5, and a license of £1 for each shooting assistant. It does not appear that this license has any effect in diminishing the number of collectors. It will soon be necessary to proceed a step further and to limit the number of birds of certain species that any collector may kill under his license, for it would be a great mistake to suppose that birds of Paradise are plentiful in the Possession. Only two species are common; some are confined to certain altitudes, others to a few small isolated spots that lie far apart. It would be easy to reduce some kinds to practical extermination, a matter that should not be left till it is too late. It may be, however, that when other forms of employment are provided the number of collectors may be less.

2. ORDINANCE No. VII. of 1897 appropriates the sums required for the ordinary administrative services for the year ending with the 30th June, 1898, and for the s.s. "Merrie England" for the year ending with the 31st March, 1898.

3. ORDINANCE No. VIII. of 1897 amends the "Native Labour Ordinance of 1892" in certain particulars.

The first legislation affecting the employment of native labourers was Ordinance No. III. of 1888. This was passed in compliance with the command contained in Section XIII. of the Letters Patent of 8th June, 1888. This directs that a law be established providing "That no deportation of natives be allowed either from one part of the Possession to another, or to any place beyond the Possession." It was thought in 1892 that the time had then come when this stringent measure could with advantage to the native and to those wishing to employ him be relaxed. Ordinance No. II. of 1892 accordingly allowed natives to be employed by oral agreements for periods not exceeding one month at a distance not more than twenty-five miles from the usual place of residence of the native. Engagements before a magistrate were permitted for any term not exceeding one year. There was no further restriction of the native to his own district. The native could also be engaged to work in Torres Straits, and could be taken to Cooktown or Thursday Island; and, for educational purposes, a native could be removed by any one of the mission bodies to any island north of the 10th degree of S. latitude. Ordinance No. III. of 1893 provided that a native might be imprisoned for not entering on a service he had agreed to, or for deserting.

ORDINANCE No. II. of 1897 further modified the law as to the engagement of labourers, allowing natives to be engaged before any person qualified to deal with labour contracts. Under this

it became possible to engage any native of the south coast of the colony before any magistrate or qualified officer in that district. The same law also rendered it compulsory on a native to perform the work for which he may be duly engaged.

ORDINANCE No. VIII. of 1897 provides that a deserting labourer may be returned to his employer, and renders it a punishable offence to induce a native to desert.

ORDINANCE No. II. of 1898 permits natives to proceed, under a bond by the employer, if the latter has a *bonâ fide* residence or place of business in the Possession, to any Australian port, and to certain other places. Natives could also accompany any missionary for literary purposes to any part of Australia. This Ordinance has now been assented to by Her Majesty. It will thus be seen that the labour laws of the Possession have been developed gradually, suitably to the evolution of the colony and the control established over natives. The engagement of natives as labourers is therefore now sufficiently free, but it may soon be desirable to extend the term for which a native may be engaged to more than twelve months. This is becoming specially necessary for youths that may become engaged as apprentices to carpenters and others. An opportunity for doing this will present itself when the codification of the labour laws, already directed by the Secretary of State, is effected.

4. ORDINANCE No. IX. of 1897 extends generally to native servants employed by the Crown provisions analogous to those applicable to native servants in the employment of private employers.

5. ORDINANCE No. X. of 1897 repeals "The Arms Licenses Ordinance of 1897." This latter measure imposed a license on firearms, a tax which, theoretically, was thoroughly justifiable in a country where much game is killed without there being any game license. It was, however, obnoxious to people unaccustomed to such an impost in Queensland. It was deemed inadvisable to maintain an enactment that was clearly unpopular to a large degree, and that, too, without producing any very considerable advantage to the Treasury.

6. ORDINANCE No. I. of 1898 was passed "to enable certain persons to acquire and occupy Crown lands not exceeding in the aggregate two hundred and fifty thousand acres in area, and for other purposes subsidiary thereto."

Exception has been taken to this measure by the Prime Ministers of three of the contributing colonies—viz., Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria. These are fully set forth in the papers attached hereto<sup>2</sup>, and have been considered in my Despatch of 1898, included in the same correspondence. To the original Ordinance certain amendments have to be made by direction of the Secretary of State. But these amendments

\* Not reprinted here.

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have not yet been made, and Her Majesty's pleasure with regard to the Ordinance has not at this date been intimated to the Administrator.

7. On the 7th July 1897 the Foreign Enlistment Act was brought into validity in the Possession by Proclamation; and by a further Proclamation certain rules were brought into force affecting ships of war of Spain and of the United States of America, when belligerents.

By a Proclamation issued on the 6th July, 1898, an absolute prohibition was, in consequence of the further spread of the "tick disease" in Queensland, imposed on the importation of cattle, horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats, poultry, and other animals from that colony into British New Guinea.

On the 5th July, 1898, a gold field was declared in the Mambare district under the Gold Fields Act. At the same time a warden's court was established for this field, known as the Gira Gold Field. By a Proclamation issued on the 25th day of July, 1898, the Murua Gold Field is declared to be a new gold field within the meaning of "The Gold Fields Act Amendment Act of 1878" (Queensland adopted) till the 6th November, 1903. The purport of this is that till that date the Murua Gold Field will not be open to Asiatics.

8. Two Regulations were passed by the Native Regulation Board. No. II. of 1897 makes pandering "a forbidden act," and punishable. This Regulation was very necessary in certain parts of the colony, where it was quite customary for parents to wrong their children in this way. Other relatives also made a traffic in this. It seems that the Regulation has already been useful in dealing with this matter.

REGULATION NO. III. of 1897, having reference to schools, was passed after long and careful consideration. It was referred for observations to each of the four missions in the colony, and was finally passed in a form that corresponded as nearly as possible with their recommendations. It is purely tentative, and of a permissive character. The Regulation is brought into force in any village only after the European magistrate of the district has received the written consent of the European missionary to do so. Missionaries may thus use it or not as they choose. The complaint against the parent for not sending the child to school is to be laid by the teacher. The teacher of the school and the magistrate determine the number of days a week that the children of a village shall attend school. This Regulation is being very gradually brought into force. The threat to act on it seems to be, in many cases, sufficient.

9. During the decade now past, the general tendency of legislation in the Possession has been, in those cases where it was possible to do so, to frame the laws of the colony, as near as

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circumstances would permit, on the corresponding laws of Queensland. This seemed desirable, mainly on two grounds: the almost certain close political relationship of British New Guinea to the future Federated Australia, the nearest member of which is Queensland; and the fact that the majority of people that engage in mining and fishing pursuits in the Possession are already conversant with the law of Queensland. In all main particulars the fishing laws of the two colonies are the same on the two sides of the line that separates Queensland from British New Guinea.

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The same is true with regard to mining. The Gold Fields Act of Queensland is the fundamental mining law of the Possession. The principal difference between them is that British New Guinea cannot, from the want of funds, offer any pecuniary reward for discoveries of payable gold. It has been sought to meet this, as far as possible, by extending the area of a reward claim. It has been the desire of the Government of the Possession to liberalise the mining laws by increasing facilities to miners and by reducing certain restrictions and limitations. A draft Ordinance prepared for this purpose was submitted for Your Excellency's consideration some time ago; but in the meantime action thereon is suspended until the Mining Bill of Queensland becomes law, in order that the mining law of the Possession may be fashioned as far as possible in conformity with it.

The laws affecting land in the Possession are widely different in certain details from those of Queensland, as the circumstances and geographical position of the two colonies require.

With only two or three exceptions all Ordinances have been drafted by the Government of the Possession. All have been duly submitted to the Governor of Queensland, and, I believe, each draft has been examined by the Law Officers of that colony. Many unimportant verbal alterations have in this way been made in the drafts; but it has been rare to make any changes of principle. Suggestions of great importance, besides careful revision, were made in respect of some of the most important Ordinances by the late Sir Charles Lilley and by Sir Samuel Griffith. No Ordinance has been passed without the sanction of the Governor of Queensland.

The same routine has been followed in the case of the Regulations passed by the Native Regulation Board. These are as brief and as simple in many cases as it is possible to make them.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

10. The tables of cases below, dealt with by the courts of the colony during the year ending the 30th June last, have been compiled by His Honour F. P. Winter, C.M.G.



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MATTERS DEALT WITH JUDICIALLY DURING THE YEAR  
ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1898.

CENTRAL COURT.

*Criminal Jurisdiction.*

Number of Persons Committed for Trial.	District from which Committed.	Persons Committed—how disposed of.
23	Central District ... ..	20 tried. 1 committal quashed. 2 discharged.
24	Eastern District ... ..	21 tried. 1 discharged. 2 awaiting trial.
7	Western District ... ..	6 tried. 1 discharged.
Total ... 54		

The Court held sixteen Criminal Sessions at the places and times, and with the results, undermentioned :—

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
<i>Trobriand Islands—7th July, 1897.</i>			
1	Murder ... ..	Guilty of manslaughter.	One year's imprisonment with hard labour.
<i>Samarai—30th September, 1897.</i>			
2	1 larceny, 1 assault	1 guilty of larceny, 1 guilty of assault.	1 one year's, 1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
<i>Samarai—12th and 13th October, 1897.</i>			
2	1 murder, 1 larceny	1 guilty of manslaughter, 1 guilty of larceny.	1 fined £5, 1 two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

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Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

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Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
	<i>Port Moresby—3rd December, 1897.</i>		
4	4 murder ... ..	4 guilty of murder	4 death.
	<i>Port Moresby—11th December, 1897.</i>		
3	2 murder, 1 causing grievous bodily harm.	2 not guilty, 1 guilty of causing grievous bodily harm.	1 five years' penal servitude.
	<i>Mekeo—17th December, 1897.</i>		
3	3 murder ... ..	2 not guilty, 1 discharged.	
	<i>Port Moresby—21st January, 1898.</i>		
3	3 murder ... ..	1 guilty, 2 not guilty	1 death.
	<i>Rigo—1st February, 1898.</i>		
6	6 larceny ... ..	6 guilty ... ..	6 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	<i>Port Moresby—10th February, 1898.</i>		
1	1 murder ... ..	1 guilty ... ..	1 death.
	<i>Port Moresby—25th February, 1898.</i>		
1	1 arson ... ..	1 guilty ... ..	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	<i>Port Moresby—16th March, 1898.</i>		
1	1 conspiring to murder.	1 guilty ... ..	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	<i>Daru—22nd March to 4th April, 1898.</i>		
7	3 murder, 3 indecent assault, 1 wounding.	1 not guilty murder, 2 guilty manslaughter, 3 guilty indecent assault, 1 guilty wounding.	4 two years', 1 eighteen months', and 1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
	<i>Samarai—3rd and 4th May, 1898.</i>		
13	7 murder, 2 larceny, 1 assault, 3 desecration of sepulture.	5 guilty, 2 not guilty murder, 1 guilty assault, 2 guilty larceny, 3 guilty desecration of sepulture.	5 death, 1 fined £4, 2 one year's imprisonment with hard labour, 3 four months imprisonment with hard labour.

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Criminal Sessions—*continued.*

Number of Persons Tried.	Offence Charged.	Result of Trial.	Sentence.
<i>Samarai—27th to 31st May, 1898.</i>			
2	1 murder, 1 assault	1 not guilty, 1 guilty assault.	1 fined £5.
<i>Wamea Island—16th June, 1898.</i>			
1	1 assault ... ..	1 guilty assault ...	1 six months' imprisonment with hard labour.
<i>Hughes Bay—20th June, 1898.</i>			
1	1 wounding... ..	1 guilty ... ..	1 one year's imprisonment with hard labour.
Total	51		

*Civil Business.*

Number of Proceedings.	Nature of Proceedings, &c.
—	Nil.

COURTS OF PETTY SESSIONS.

*Indictable Offences Jurisdiction.*

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Inquiry.
Central District	37	19 murder ... .. 1 manslaughter ... .. 8 sedition ... .. 2 arson ... .. 6 larceny ... .. 1 aiding prisoner to escape.	} 23 committed. 14 discharged.
Eastern District	42	27 murder ... .. 4 larceny ... .. 4 assault ... .. 2 attempt to murder 3 desecration of sepulture.	
Western District	7	2 wounding ... .. 2 murder ... .. 5 rape ... ..	} 7 committed.
Total ...	86		

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*Summary Offences Jurisdiction.*

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District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
Central District	67	26 larceny ... .. 20 assault ... .. 5 breach of Constabulary Ordinance. 9 breach of Labour Ordinance. 6 breach of Prisons Ordinance. 1 breach of Arms and Liquor Ordinance.	18 convicted, 8 discharged. 13 convicted, 7 discharged. 4 convicted, 1 discharged. 6 convicted, 3 discharged. 4 convicted, 2 discharged. 1 discharged.
Eastern District	66	22 larceny ... .. 9 assault ... .. 1 breach of Prisons Ordinance. 1 drunk and disorderly. 1 insulting language 1 breach of Merchant Shipping Acts. 27 breach of Labour Ordinance. 3 breach of Arms and Liquor Ordinance. 1 breach of Pearl-shell Ordinance.	21 convicted, 1 discharged. 9 convicted. 1 convicted. 1 convicted. 1 discharged. 1 discharged. 27 convicted. 3 discharged. 1 discharged.
Western District	20	11 assault ... .. 1 larceny ... .. 7 breach of Labour Ordinance. 1 illegal trespass ...	9 convicted, 2 discharged. 1 convicted. 7 convicted. 1 convicted.
Total ...	153		

*Civil Jurisdiction.*

District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Action.	Result of Action.
Central District	2	2 debt ... ..	2 verdict for plaintiff.
Eastern District	14	14 debt ... ..	6 verdict for plaintiff. 8 settled out of court.
Western District	1	Debt ... ..	Verdict for plaintiff.
Total ...	17		

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## NATIVE MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

*Criminal Jurisdiction (Forbidden Acts).*

District of Court.	Number of Persons Charged.	Nature of Charge.	Result of Trial.
No. 2 (Central)	164	24 assault ... ..	23 convicted, 1 discharged.
		54 larceny ... ..	50 convicted, 4 discharged.
		23 disobeying magistrates' orders.	23 convicted.
		10 breach of Roads Regulation.	10 convicted.
		4 breach of Carriers Regulation.	4 convicted.
		29 sorcery ... ..	19 convicted, 10 discharged.
		5 spreading lying reports.	3 convicted, 2 discharged.
		5 breach of Burials Regulation.	5 convicted.
		3 threatening language.	2 convicted, 1 discharged.
		5 adultery... ..	3 convicted, 2 discharged.
		1 destroying coconut trees.	1 convicted.
		1 breach of "Pandering" Regulation.	1 convicted.
		No. 3 (Eastern)	30
2 spreading lying reports.	1 convicted, 1 discharged.		
9 sorcery ... ..	9 convicted.		
1 cutting down cocoanut trees.	1 convicted.		
No. 1 (Western)	46	25 adultery... ..	23 convicted, 2 discharged
		14 assault ... ..	13 convicted, 1 discharged
		2 breach of Burials Regulation.	2 convicted.
		2 sorcery ... ..	2 convicted.
		1 destroying cocoanut trees.	1 convicted.
		1 insulting language	1 discharged.
		1 theft .. ..	1 convicted.
Total ...	240		

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*Civil Jurisdiction (Civil Claims).*

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District of Court.	Number of Actions Tried.	Nature of Claim.	Result of Action.
No. 2 (Central)	4	2 labour performed	2 verdict for plaintiff.
		2 debt ... ..	2 verdict for defendant.
No. 3 (Eastern)	—		
No. 1 (Western)	—		
Total ...	4	.	

*Total Number of Criminal Proceedings.*

In Central Court	...	...	...	54
In Courts of Petty Sessions (exclusive of the 54 cases sent up to Central Court)	...	...	...	185
In Native Magistrates' Courts	...	...	...	240
In all Courts	...	...	...	<u>479</u>

*Total Number of Civil Proceedings.*

In Central Court	...	...	...	—
In Courts of Petty Sessions	...	...	...	17
In Native Magistrates' Courts	...	...	...	4
In all Courts	...	...	...	<u>21</u>

11. During the year eleven persons, all of them aboriginals were sentenced to undergo capital punishment.

Five men of the village of Dabunare, in November, 1897, attacked and killed two men of the neighbouring village of Wabunare. These villages are situated in the Astrolabe Range, at no great distance from Port Moresby. The inhabitants of these small hill villages seldom go far from home, and are hence rather primitive in their ideas. The murder was committed to avenge the killing many years ago of some Dabunare people by the Wabunare villagers. The old chief of Dabunare had treasured up this wrong, and had persuaded the younger men to join him in exacting retribution for it. The aggressors' village was promptly surrounded by contingents from the nearest coast villages under their village policemen, and all the culprits were arrested and brought up to Port Moresby. The sentences in these cases were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

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Three natives of the village of Radawa, in Goodenough Bay, were convicted of killing a lad from the hill village of Kwamana, which is not far from Radawa. Their excuse was that the boy was caught stealing from their gardens, a very serious offence in the eyes of the natives. A few years ago the people of these two villages were at open enmity with each other, and it is probable that this partly led to the youth being killed. The sentences were commuted to five years' penal servitude.

A man of Basilaki Island was sentenced to death for killing an old woman of the same village. She was a reputed witch. He came to the conclusion that she had by sorcery killed a friend of his, so he destroyed her. There was the same commutation in this case.

A man from Wedau, Bartle Bay, killed a woman of the same place for witchcraft. He believed that she had killed his brother. He was dealt with similarly to the preceding cases.

12. Mr. Winter has, at my request, prepared a memorandum on the administration of justice during the ten years now passed. This will be found of much interest, and is attached hereto as Appendix J.\*

From this memorandum it will be seen that during the above period 128 persons out of 195 accused have been convicted of murder.

It is a matter of great and profound satisfaction that not one of these convicts was a European. It will be remembered that by an Order of the Queen in Council, dated 17th May, 1888, there is conferred upon the Supreme Court of the Colony of Queensland an appellate jurisdiction by which the court can deal with any case arising in British New Guinea in which a sentence exceeding three months has been imposed. During the ten years no appeal has been made from the courts of the Possession to the Supreme Court of Queensland. The total exemption of Europeans from this category of criminals supplies the best proof that could be adduced that the general character of the Europeans in the country has been good. It may be doubted that any place of the same area, of like importance as to population, and in nearly the same social conditions, could show a similar record. One thing is clear: none could show a better in this important particular. It is probably in no small degree owing to the fact that Europeans have been in the habit of leaving the punishment of aggression by natives to the Government. It is tolerably certain they would not have done so very long had the Government not fairly well performed its duty in this matter. There have been minor charges, even charges of homicide, against a few Europeans, but, if foreigners are excluded, these have been very surprisingly few. It is a strange fact, and one for sincere congratulation, that the number of

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\* Not printed.

offences committed by Europeans during the ten years has, in such a remote country, with such a slender staff of officers, and in the face of a great population emerging from an early stage of barbarism, been so few and so unimportant. It is in some measure owing to the steady and honourable conduct of many of the old miners, men that are more or less domesticated in the colony. They have all along been men of a stamp greatly superior to the average old trader, that is speaking generally, for the old traders, especially the foreign element in it, have not been good examples of white men in the presence of a barbarous population. No reproach can be made against the few settlers there are. Their presence and influence have always been advantageous.

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13. Due regard being had to the customs of the natives, their innate proneness to commit retaliatory crimes, and the grossness and universality of the superstitions by which they have been weighed down, there is good reason to be satisfied with the quiet way in which they are falling into the use of courts, and begin to understand them. Naturally very great patience is required on the part of a judicial officer in dealing with native cases, more especially until the natives of a given district begin to understand something of the impersonal nature of a court, and learn to see that it seeks out the real and actual culprit and discharges the innocent. The colony has been very fortunate in this respect as regards its judicial officers. In many cases it can be seen that the audience take a keen interest in a case before the court, and that they debate among themselves the points at issue.

VISITS OF INSPECTION.

14. A visit of inspection was begun on the 2nd August, which extended from Port Moresby as far as the head of the Wovea Valley in the Owen Stanley Range. The object in view was to impress on certain inland aggressive and powerful tribes the superior force of the Government, and to see whether a track could be found or made over the lowest part of the Owen Stanley Range.

This part of the country had long been well known as far as Sogeri. The London Missionary Society had a station there as early as 1881, and this place had been visited even by Mrs. Lawes, the wife of the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes, in 1882.

It had been explored and mapped by Mr. W. E. Armit in 1882. His sketch maps have been rescued from oblivion only after some trouble. They will be found attached hereto,\* and cannot fail to be of considerable historical interest.

The late Mr. Andrew Goldie had collected on the stream that bears his name, in 1879 and 1880. Mr. G. E. Morrison had led an expedition into the Goldie district, and had been

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\* Not reproduced.



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repulsed after receiving a serious wound. The celebrated German naturalist, Dr. Otto Finsch, had collected there without having any trouble. The Rev. James Chalmers had travelled in the same district. Dr. H. O. Forbes, at a later date, had a collecting camp for nearly half a year at Sogeri; and Dr. Loria had more recently made large collections there.

Many prospectors had examined the Goldie district in 1878, and some of them had reached and crossed the Brown River, which was named after a prospector of that name who was drowned in this stream. Sogeri was also visited by the late Sir Peter Scratchley, and by many others not mentioned here.

Of all travellers that had visited this part of the country the one that seems to have got furthest inland was Mr. George Belford, who has never published any account of what he has done, though he has kept a diary. It is now established that in 1887 he crossed from Sogeri to Eaha on the Naoro (Brown), some half-score of miles further inland than Ginianumu, the furthest point reached a few months later by the expedition sent by the Protectorate Government under the leadership of Dr. Henry O. Forbes to explore the Owen Stanley Range.

15. The tribes it was now sought to reduce to submission had wounded and driven back Mr. Morrison. They had chased the expedition of the Protectorate out of the district and secured large booty, to them immense riches. This made them think themselves invincible. It was quite well known in 1896 that the district was unsafe, when a private party, in which was the experienced traveller Mr. F. A. Rochfort, tried to cross it. It should be mentioned that Mr. Rochfort was not the leader, and that consequently he, not having control, was not responsible for the manner in which this expedition was conducted. They safely reached Ginianumu, the spot from which, as declared by the natives to Mr. Ballantine on 22nd December, 1896, the Protectorate expedition under Dr. Forbes was turned back and routed. There also this private party was stopped, and had, like the Protectorate expedition, to abandon much property; but, less fortunate than the latter, they lost one of their party from a spear wound, which still further emboldened these arrogant tribes. Mr. Ballantine had visited Baura before I went thither, and he had practically reduced the Uberi tribe to peace, but only after some conflict. At Sogeri all the principal men of the district were received by me—the so-called chiefs, the village policemen, and a great many more. Carriers were provided for us, and food was brought to our quarters in profuse abundance.

Next day, accompanied by the great men of the several tribes, we camped near the then residence of the Uberi, who had, however, not yet rebuilt their villages. Their pacification by this visit was made complete, and they furnished food and carriers. Two camps were made between the Uberi and Wamai on the

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Brown, each on old village sites, but not a village or new garden was seen between those two places. The country between them is hilly, almost all covered by forest, and a good deal of the soil is rather rich, probably suitable for growing tea and coffee.

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As it had been affirmed that the Wamai tribe had recently in conjunction with Baura attacked their neighbours of Uberi, and as they had appeared hostile to Mr. Ballantine's party, they were not regarded by us as friendly. They had abandoned their houses, and were living in "the bush." Their camp was discovered and "rushed." From a prisoner it was ascertained that the Wamai tribe was only afraid, and had not been actively hostile. Peace was established with them the same day, and before next day this had been extended to the neighbouring tribe of Eaha, which lies further up the Naoro. There is a considerable population, and much good forest land on this part of the river. We travelled down the left side of the Brown for half-a-dozen miles till opposite Ginianumu, passing over much rich soil, quite unoccupied. On the Ginianumu hill were several old village sites, but no traces of recent occupation. The Baura villages were occupied only by some of the young warriors of the tribe; the other inhabitants were all in the woods near. They had immense food gardens. The soil of the Baura hills, though the ground is generally steep, seems to be everywhere rich. The Baura men would not face the constabulary, and made it understood that they did not really wish to fight the Government. They made some attempt at conciliation, but nothing satisfactory came of this. The chiefs from the Naoro and Upper Goldie remained with us camped in the Baura villages and eating the food of the Baura people for a week, while detachments of constabulary and natives patrolled the country in every direction; but here, as is so often the case elsewhere, it was not possible to make any arrests of any importance without the assistance of local natives. The district seemed to be a perfectly healthy one. The temperature went down to 60 degrees Fah. at night, and rose to 85 during the day.

On the 19th August we started for Hagari, on one of the spurs of Mount Service, a place we reached on the second day by a circuitous route, the country between it and Baura being practically impassable to carriers. We had to bridge and then to ford the Naoro, and on the second day to cross the Ruguoa branch before we began to ascend the Hagari spur. There were large food gardens there, but no visible natives. Smoke was seen at many points in the deep glens of the Ruguoa and the Wowea, between us and the main range. The natives of these glens remained aloof, and declared it to be their intention to have nothing to do with us. They were not willing to accept even presents. It was learned that Hagari had been visited once by the commandant and the constabulary, after this tribe had made an attack on certain natives of the Vanapa. On that occasion the constabulary did not know where they were, having reached

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Hagari under the conduct of guides from the Vanapa. It now appears that one Hagari man was then shot, and another who had been induced to approach to receive a present was made a prisoner and afterwards died in prison.

This unfortunate combination of circumstances had no doubt much to do with the attitude of the Hagari, Ruguoa, and Wowea tribes towards us. Matters were made worse by the fact that none of us, not even our followers from the Naoro, could understand much of what these people said. When they could get a chance they were ready to throw a spear from under cover at any one passing. The Wowea valley was ascended to within three miles of "the Gap" in the Owen Stanley Range. This, the lowest part of the chain, does not exceed 7,000 feet in altitude. From Hagari to the head of the Wowea there is plenty of pasture grass; the paths are good save at a few places where the pick and shovel would be required to open the road for pack animals.

Two parties were left in the district: one was sent up Mount Service to stay for some time behind the Hagari natives, and to collect there. The other was placed at Baura. Later on Mr. Ballantine, accompanied by Mr. Rochfort, visited the district, going to the villages of Eaha on the Naora and Agi on the Upper Wáumi, and up to the south end of "the Gap" in the Owen Stanley Range. They succeeded in pacifying Agi. The Wowea and Ruguoa people would not encounter the constabulary, but were not friendly, and Baura still kept aloof. In June last Peter Lifu was sent to Baura again, as it was then understood that they wished for peace and permission to resettle. He was successful in effecting their resettlement. It only requires a little time and trouble to do the same with the Hagari, Ruguoa, and Wowea people, who feel themselves powerless and isolated. Village police are in training for Wamai, Eaha, Baura, and Agi. The two belonging to Eaha and Uberi speedily arrested one of the Baura men concerned in the spearing of one of Mr. Rochfort's party, and brought the prisoner safely to Port Moresby, thus effecting what the constabulary, being without local knowledge, could not accomplish. It is important that the pacification of these tribes should be completed as soon as possible, in connection with the Brown River road.

16. On the 18th September, a start was made from Port Moresby for the western end of the Owen Stanley Range, to relieve some prospectors hemmed in and practically besieged there by the warlike Goromani tribe. This tour led us finally across the island from Galley Reach to the mouth of the Mambare. By travelling sometimes by water, sometimes overland, the village of Doura was reached on the 19th. Carriers were partly good-conduct prisoners, principally, however, free labourers. There was a detachment of fifteen armed constables. We proceeded by way of Suku, and had to follow up the track taken by a Government expedition earlier in the year, and which had been

used also by the prospectors it was now our object to relieve. This earlier Government expedition was by far the largest and most costly ever sent out, but it departed from its instructions and effected much less than was expected in the way of practical result. At Kone, the only village between Doura and Suku, the party received food and some additional carriers. There is an area of land that could be used for agricultural purposes between Doura and Suku. It is well watered, and the soil is at many places rich. It is all covered by forest. The carriers suffered much from the heat, and from the wet and slippery roads in this part of the country. On the 25th September, the old village of Suku was reached. We were soon joined by the chief and several men of that tribe. Next day the Niaba stream was crossed, and a short halt was made at the deserted village of Amaseba. Between it and the western end of the Owen Stanley Range lay the village of Ilabana, on the Vetapu branch of the Vanapa. There is no other village between Suku and Iritumuni. The first cold night was experienced on the Amaseba Range, at an altitude of 3,500 feet. From the top of that range to Iritumuni the road was extremely bad—would in wet weather be quite impassable. It was not an easy matter to cross the Vetapu, which is here a large river, deep and rapid, and has to be bridged where there are big trees on the banks and suitable rocks in the bed of the stream. If in flood, it could not be crossed. Messengers were sent ahead to Iritumuni to warn the inhabitants of our approach. They prepared a friendly welcome for us. Iritumuni itself was well disposed, and there was no reason to think that this was not also the case as far as regarded Sikube, which was the village nearest to it, at a distance of about two and a-half miles. Food was not plentiful at this place. Here was seen a means of preserving food in pits, somewhat of the nature of the "silo."

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17. A report was received at Iritumuni that in a recent attack on the beleaguered prospectors one of their party had been killed. A man asserted he had seen one of them struck by a spear in the stomach at the same moment that he was knocked on the head by a stone club. The aggression, as was found later, was made as described, but the man was not killed. On this it was determined to take the nearest path to the prospectors' camp, and to get there as soon as possible. We accordingly left Iritumuni early next morning, and arrived at the prospectors' camp on the 30th September, on the thirteenth day from Port Moresby. The party we found safe in a good loghouse, but far from water, and surrounded by forest and undergrowth which they could not venture to cut down. No natives were seen as we approached the camp. It was said by the Iritumuni guides that the assailants had retired to prepare for the final grand attack on the prospectors. A large number of the coast carriers were sent back from this camp, as they were already practically useless on account of the cold, though the altitude was only about 9,000 feet. Without any loss of time, and before the Goromani warriors should be

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able to obtain much or any information respecting our arrival, a descent was made next morning on their villages. The road was good, and was covered by us in two hours and a-half. The warriors of the tribe were taken somewhat by surprise when the constabulary, with only their rifles and ammunition, rushed down the long grassy ridge on the nearest village. The great war chief of the tribe was killed, with six or eight other fighting men, and the whole population was instantly driven off the Goromani Hill and scattered over the mountain between the prospectors' camp, Iritumuni, and Goromani.

In their houses were found many articles that had been taken from a miner they had murdered in Goromani, or had obtained by robbery from the prospectors. The fighting strength of the tribe was from four to five score men and youths. Their remarkably strong position made their village practically unassailable by their neighbours. These latter now refused them shelter. They lived on the ordinary forms of native food, but without any cocoanuts. The place of this latter article was taken by a species of pandanus, cultivated and fenced in on the face of the mountains, at altitudes of 3,000 to 4,000 feet. The seeds are smoke-dried and strung on strings. They seem to contain a large quantity of oil. This district consists of deeply excavated glens, the sides of which are covered by grass to an altitude of 4,000 to 6,000 feet. They are steep and narrow. Villages are generally not far below the edge of the forest that covers the tops of the great mountain ranges. At an altitude of about 5,000 feet the temperature in the early morning was as low as 55 degrees Fah. At midday it rose to 84 degrees. At an altitude of 6,500 feet the early morning temperature was 58, the noon temperature 78, degrees. The lesser temperature at the lower camp was probably caused by the damp fog that rose from the river there, and was not present at the upper camp. It seemed a very healthy country, and might be used by Europeans were it not so inaccessible. No doubt many of the products of temperate climates could be grown there.

18. On the 8th October we returned to the prospectors' camp. They went for and successfully obtained carriers from Iritumuni, Karama, and Sikube, which, under the circumstances, was a real triumph. The greater part of the constabulary, with a number of the coast carriers, were sent back to Port Moresby, Mr. Kelly, who was in charge, being directed to visit and reassure Iritumuni, Sikube, and Suku, which was successfully done.

On the 9th we started from the prospectors' camp for the Government Camp on the top of the Wharton Range. The prospectors wished to get to the other side of Mount Scratchley, and it was necessary to carry away the Government party as well. This meant reaching the sea by the Mambare River.

This toilsome transport retained us altogether on these high altitudes for about three weeks, for three camps and parties had

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to be shifted across the main range. The carriers suffered dreadfully from cold, not more from the frosted grass in the morning than from the penetrating fog at midday and the chilling rain of the afternoon and evening. Many were ill, nearly all breathless and afflicted by headache. It was a matter of surprise that under the circumstances only one man died. Time was lost through there being no track cut or marked across the Wharton Range and Mount Scratchley. The sergeant, with a detachment of constabulary, was sent to visit Neneba, Fofoa, &c., the inhabitants of which had shown some signs of hostility after the murder of a prospector at Goromani. It was found that a native track from Goromani crosses the Wharton Range and reaches Neneba. A large amount of geographical work was done at the camp on the Wharton Range and on Mount Scratchley, which will be found on the map.

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The scarcity of life, animal and vegetable, on the high plateaux at the top of the great range was noticed to be remarkably great as compared with, say, the European Alps. The prospecting party was left on the east side of Mount Scratchley; the Government party was transported to the eastern foot of this mountain and left there. About twelve or fourteen miners were at work in this district on the lowest spurs of Mount Scratchley. Two prospectors, Messrs. Clumas and Elliott, had visited the upper Chirima, and had been well and hospitably received by the natives, but had not found any good "prospect" there. On the other hand, a fair show of gold and hostile natives had been met with in the Yodda Valley, nearly opposite "the Gap." The Tamata station was reached by our exhausted carriers on the 4th November. It had been much improved, additional land cleared and planted. The acting Government Agent had cut a track to the Gira watershed, and he had met with encouraging prospects of gold and osmiridium. With the Government Agent were left at the station ten constabulary and a European assistant, while a detachment of five men were left quartered at the mouth of the Mambare River. In descending the Mambare we saw no natives except at the friendly villages of Yeva and Manatu.

The journey across the island, including the delay in chastising Goromani, and in transporting the additional camps with heavy stores across the top of the main range, occupied fifty-one days. The route followed was determined by the circumstances of the case. It is not one that should be taken voluntarily.

19. As Deputy Administrator, Mr. Winter made an inspection of the Meko district in December and January last. He visited twenty-one villages there. The road from Mou to Inawa had become unservicable through inundations. Most of the roads were being kept in tolerable condition. The hill village of Lapeka was visited. The coffee grown at Bereina was considered a good article. There was not much planting of cocoa-nuts going on. Those planted at the station were growing well. The imported

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fruit trees seem to want more attention. About twenty-five acres were under cultivation, so that rice had not been used at the station for about six months.

Shortly before this visit by Mr. Winter, and whilst I was absent on the relief expedition to the west end of the Owen Stanley Range, far too great precipitancy had been used in this district by the officers responsible in arresting sorcerers, over thirty of them having been sent to Port Moresby at one time. It was chiefly on account of this that Mr. Winter had been requested to visit the district during my absence in Brisbane, and to stay there for some time with a large force of constabulary under the Commandant. It will be noticed that Mr. Winter was told the natives were discontented because the Government will not kill the sorcerers. The members of the mission seem to attach a great deal more importance to the utterly ignorant though sometimes cunning sorcerer than one would wish to see. Gaol is only an awkward palliative for the sore of sorcery; it is not a cure. It is easy to attach too much importance to it. It is certainly inadvisable to proceed too fast or too far in that as in most native matters. The most influential native in the district was appointed native agent, and put on a similar footing to that of the native agent in the Rigo district, a most useful officer. The regulation regarding carriers for Government had also been used irregularly and without judgment in a part of this district, and this had at the time caused some discontent. This was, however, soon forgotten, and Mr. Winter saw no appearance of disaffection. There had been a great deal of sickness at Maiva, where the sea is fast encroaching on the villages.

Eight villages were visited in the east end of the Gulf. They had all been orderly. A prisoner accused of manslaughter at Mobiabi had been taken to Port Moresby by the village constables. Coconut plantations are being largely extended.

The members of the Sacred Heart Mission were learning English gradually. Several of their stations in Mekeo were unoccupied, but they were pushing themselves into Maiva, already very fully served by the London Missionary Society. No land has been granted there to the invading mission. It will be seen that liberty of conscience, or doctrinal predilection, is not concerned in this encroachment. It proceeds from petty quarrels and personal preference. These were not allowed to prevail when Aipiani, in the Sacred Heart Mission district, insisted on having a Protestant Mission. They are now content with the Catholic one.

20. On the 22nd March Daru was left on an inspection tour of the coast lying west of that station. A night had to be spent across the boundary in the Queensland Island of Saibai. At Bugi, on the New Guinea coast opposite Boigu, it was found that the remnants of a number of tribes shattered, dispersed, and nearly exterminated by the Tugeri raiders from Dutch New

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Guinea had, to the number of about 200, established a prosperous village. Contrary to what one would expect on looking from the sea inland, there seems to be a great area of good land behind the new village. A detachment of six men of the constabulary had been stationed there to form a solid nucleus for the commencement of this settlement. They had barely begun then to reap their crops from their own land for the first time, but their gardens have since come into full bearing, with the result that these hunted people have now—many of them for the first time in their life—plenty to eat. There is every prospect of their being joined by further fragments of "bush" tribes. There is no doubt a great area of good unoccupied land all round the head of the Mai-Kussa and Wasi-Kussa.

No trace of any visit from the Tugeri could be seen along the coast between the Wasi-Kussa and Walarter.

From the point at Walarter a passage was made across to Deliverance Island to determine the exact position, geographically, of the island, and to ascertain its value as an anchorage for the western part of the Possession. On the way across, the tops of the trees at Walarter were lost sight of as those on Deliverance Island came into view. The sea between them is perfectly open, but a large vessel cannot come nearer than, say, a couple of miles or more of either. The island has an area of about 120 acres, but varies apparently by two or three acres now and then. It contains fresh water, but not of first-rate quality. It is a great resort of the green turtle. It furnishes good anchorage all round the circumference of the reef, and will be very useful as an anchorage for the west coast, being within easy reach of the Morehead River.

A considerable amount of work was carried out at Daru for facilitating the navigation of the strait between it and the mainland, and for obtaining better knowledge of the fishing grounds of certain New Guinea tribes on the Warrior Reefs.

On the 4th April a call was made at the first village in the Fly estuary—Giavi. The community was found to be perfectly quiet and orderly, but school work was stagnant. At Saguana and on the whole of Kiwai Island all was thoroughly quiet and peaceable, the village police being quite equal to the task of maintaining order. The Wabuda tribes were found to be equally well settled and domesticated. The villagers of Gauobori had greatly improved, and their village policemen were gradually extending their control and authority over the bushmen of the inland district. Maipani and Dibiri were this time without any complaint, they both having entered into peace and friendship with Sisiamia. The latter were at first shy and suspicious, but on our return journey they got over all that. The Wawoi or western branch of the Bamu was traversed for some fourscore miles. Only the first ten or twenty miles seems to be ever visited by natives. Above that it is absolutely unoccupied and unused, and



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it presents a great area of deep alluvial forest land with excellent water carriage. The Wawoi seems to be clearly a mountain stream. It is remarkably free of any obstruction of any kind.

The Bebea tribe is now a settled community. They have rebuilt their large houses, and are on friendly terms with Sisiamia and all other neighbours. The great tribes about Risk Point appear to be now of a friendly disposition, and anxious to be visited by Europeans.

21. On the 18th April a journey from Port Moresby to the Brown River was begun, to decide whether a road should be pushed along that stream to where it receives its principal affluent, the Ruguoa, as it was already known that an easy road existed from that point along the Wowea valley to the lowest depression in the Owen Stanley Range. The existing track crossed the Laloki too low down, and passed to the west of Mount Lawes. It appeared a matter of no great difficulty to make a better road by crossing the Laloki higher up, and passing to the east of Mount Lawes, and it seemed only a question of time, and as requiring no extraordinary amount of labour, to make a bridle track along the course of the Brown to the junction of the Ruguoa. There is no native occupation whatever on this road after leaving the sea coast. The land near to Mount Lawes is not good except in small patches, but there is some good soil further on in the Mount Keith Range, and further inland it seems to improve still more. There is grass as far as the Brown.

22. On the 25th April Your Lordship and the Right Hon. Sir Hugh M. Nelson arrived in New Guinea, and participated in visits of inspection from that date to the 28th May. A Report on this visit was written by Sir Hugh Nelson to the Chief Secretary of Queensland, copy of which will be found as Appendix AA hereto.\* A journey was made to the Astrolabe Range; and buildings, constabulary, and plantations were inspected at the seat of Government. A call was made at Tupuseleia, where the village school was seen. A short halt was made at the London Missionary Society's Training College at Vatorata. One night was spent at Aroma, the largest native settlement in that part of the country, where village life can be well seen. Your Excellency, with a small party, crossed from Mullen's Harbour to Milne Bay, while the steamer went past Samarai, where the usual inspections were made with satisfactory results. The chief of Mita, who exercises considerable authority over Milne Bay, reported all quiet and well; a like satisfactory state of matters was found at Awaiama. A call was made at Dogura, the seat of the Anglican Mission, and Bishop Stone-Wigg made the journey up the north-east coast in the steamer. A new mission house had just been landed at Phillips Harbour.

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23. A visit was made to the Government Station on the Mambare River, and a better start was made in resettling the natives of the district. There were promising prospects of gold in the Gira district, and the development of the station was proceeding gradually. The Gira River was ascended as far as Dawatara village, but the district was much unsettled by the presence in it of the deserter Dumai and his gang.

At the Ope River and at Gona Bay the natives were very friendly and seemed to be making some advance. Your Lordship ascended the Musa River in the steam launch for about a day's journey, and Cape Nelson was well examined.

The London Missionary Station at Kwato, conducted by the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Abel, was inspected, and found to be in a flourishing condition.

24. On the 28th May the mission at Tubetube was visited. It was found that the mission influenced that and all the neighbouring islands, which were all perfectly quiet.

At Dobu a charge against the chief of abusing his position was investigated. There was nothing of importance in the case.

One could see at Kavatari that the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Fellows were making sure progress. A very wonderful change was observable in the girls being educated on the mission premises. Certain villages had reverted to burying amongst their houses. These were dealt with by the Resident Magistrate.

The great chief, Enamakala, professed to be most desirous of learning to carry out his duties as principal Government chief. He was proud of the mission established at his village. The archipelago seemed to be quiet. The Amphlett group was inspected, and everything found satisfactory.

The Dobu schools made a good appearance, showing that the pupils and scholars are extremely well taught and educated.

The natives in the Seymour Bay district had settled down and lost their shyness.

A difference between two tribes at Goodenough was disposed of on the spot.

25. On the Mambare Mr. Clunas and his party were cutting a path to the Yodda Valley. Fifty-six miners' rights had been issued by the Government agent. Several time-expired constables were returned to the district as village policemen, and they began, supported by some constabulary, by arresting the deserter Dumai, who was implicated in the murder of Mr. Green. They proceeded to resettle their respective tribes. Further examination was made of the north-east coast.

The schools of the Anglican Mission at Dogura were inspected. The scholars were being carefully taught in the lower school. In the upper school much progress had been made, and many pupils were found to be well advanced.

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The training college at Vatorata was also inspected, and was considered to be in every way suitable for its great and important functions.

The Government Station at Rigo was in good condition, with large food gardens and flourishing cocoanut groves.

26. On the 26th July I left Port Moresby to inspect the Brown River road as far as it had then been made. A better ford had been found across the Laloki at the point where it receives the Goldie. A superior road had also been found from Port Moresby to this point. The road then passes east of Mount Lawes, and crosses Mount Keith to Hospital Hill by easy gradients. The road is about 20 feet wide, and very suitable for pack-animals as far as the Brown. Thence it had been carried too far to the east, and over very uneven ground. It had to be turned back to the river. The prisoners employed on this road were in excellent condition. Some thirty free labourers from the west were taken out at the same time to push on the road before the wet season sets in.

On the 23rd August a hurried journey, occasioned by a totally false report of an attack on the farm established on Mount Warirata, was made necessary. Taburi, Sogeri, and the intermediate country were visited at the same time, and some useful work was done, so that the time was not lost in that way. But I had the mortification of having all my notes afterwards carelessly and hopelessly lost by being dropped overboard into the sea.

27. Mr. Winter visited the Mambare Station on 28th August. The natives were building their houses at two or three places on the river. The steam launch "Ruby" had been refitted and provided with a competent driver in order that the Commandant and others should be able to patrol the north-east coast, and to frequently ascend the large rivers during the season. The Commandant was not very well, and Mr. Winter allowed him to leave the district and to return to Port Moresby.

Mr. Russel, the Government Surveyor, had been sent to lay out a number of building sites near the Tamata Station, and Mr. Winter had to leave Mr. Russel in sole charge of the whole district, a very unsatisfactory state of matters, with 100 miners on the field, and more constantly arriving. There was not a little sickness. The village policemen were evidently of great use in the district. The escaped Mambare prisoners had been captured, and also the principal ringleaders concerned in the murders of two or three years ago—arrests that the constabulary alone could not effect.

Some unarmed natives on the Upper Ope had attacked three miners and some carriers, and the miners had lost a carrier and a quantity of goods. It was unfortunate that the Commandant, who had at disposal a large force, had not been able to go or to send there. Mr. Clunas and his party had returned from cutting

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a track to the Yodda Valley. His report\* will be found attached, with a sketch map indicating the route taken and the nature of the country passed through. This should be a useful bit of exploration. It is highly creditable to Mr. Clunas and his companions, all of them men of enterprise, courage, and tact.

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REPORTS BY OFFICERS.

*South-Eastern Division.*

28. The Magistrate reports that an order by him to natives to not carry large knives when visiting miners in Murua was obeyed to the letter. The native population there seems well under the control of the village policemen. The recent introduction of venereal disease into the island is likely to be productive of much evil. Maladies of this kind were not known till taken there by Europeans. At Misima the natives are now thoroughly under control. The murder of a native at Rossel Island had been reported. It is no doubt the murder of one native by another, if such a crime has really been committed.

There were no convictions recorded at Sudest during the year. Complaint is again made of the abuses connected with the system of giving goods to natives on credit. It will be remembered that some time ago legislation on this matter was suggested, but it did not then meet with the approval of the Queensland Government. Subsequently this position was reconsidered, and it was intimated to the Government of the Possession that legislation might be had recourse to if the abuses complained of continued. This will no doubt be borne in mind by the Administrator.

No Europeans now work alluvial mining on Sudest, and mining there by natives is falling off. One quartz-mine had been worked on a small scale, with, it is understood, fairly satisfactory results. The company employed labourers, successfully, from the Fly district.

Some eighteen miners seem to have become domesticated on Misima, and to make a living there. On Maurua, in April last, there were 160 miners. They were much scattered, and the alluvial grounds were becoming exhausted. The general conduct of the miners was excellent.

The few vessels employed in pearl-shell fishing near Sudest obtained 32 tons; and the natives collected 12½ tons of black-lipped shell. Ten tons of excellent *bêche-de-mer* were got by a boat manned by Queensland natives. There are seventeen stores in this division, licensed under the Gold Fields Act.

The station barracks have been rebuilt at Nivani. The coconut trees, about 3,500 in number, are now coming into bearing.

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Little imported food has been required. There is a very good and suitable vessel for the use of the Magistrate, manned entirely by natives.

One miner was attacked on Murua by two natives as a result of a personal quarrel. Fortunately this did not end fatally, and it seems to have been the only serious crime that took place in the South-east Division during the year, with the exception of the possible murder mentioned above, not yet investigated.

There were 213 Europeans in the division. It has a score of village constables. The total number of cases dealt with by the magistrate and warden was 106.

29. The South-east Division is the smallest of the four magisterial districts, and is for this and other reasons the best under control. The islands are not large, so that the natives are never far beyond reach. A magistrate was stationed there some two or three months after annexation. His headquarters were then on Sudest. He had, of course, no police or constabulary, and had no vessel. Subsequently, the magistrate was stationed on Misima, and later still the Government Station was established on the then unoccupied Island of Nivani. Gradually some control was established at Sudest, the natives of which place were from the very first amenable to European influence. They were fast being killed out in petty warfare, and were very glad to have peace thrust on them. It was very different at Misima. There, for several years, murders were of constant occurrence, and the tribes, though small, were refractory. It was very difficult to reach them on account of the rough nature of the ground. They also gave great trouble by their inveterate habit of stealing. At Murua there were also many murders, and several special expeditions had to be carried out against certain tribes there. All this is now so completely of the past that it may be considered that the division is quite under the authority of the Government. Visits are seldom paid to Rossel Island, because there is no European there, but even there the position of the magistrate is well established. That officer, with his regular constabulary and his score of village policemen, provided with a good ketch and a whaleboat, is quite equal to the government of the division. The station is already producing a great part of its food, and it will soon be able to sell cocoanuts. The very satisfactory state of those islands is undoubtedly largely due to the excellent services of the present magistrate, Mr. A. M. Campbell. No better man could have been obtained for the position. While doing his duty strictly, he has earned the respect of European and native alike, and, while maintaining a high state of efficiency, he has done what is most essential in British New Guinea—carefully studied economy. There is not much doing in the way of cultivation by Europeans in this district. One gentleman is planting cocoanuts in the Conflict group, which was found destitute of inhabitants. His trees seem to do remarkably well. A few small blocks have been taken up, but they are of little consequence. Only small

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areas would be available at any one place, save perhaps on Sudest Island, where there are considerable stretches of land unoccupied, which might be used for growing coffee and such like products.

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*Mambare.*

30. The report of the Government Agent for the Mambare district covers the period of his service there, from the 8th August, 1897, to the 30th June, 1898. He took with him from Port Moresby a score of selected prisoners to cut a track from the Government Station along the Otovia Range, to facilitate prospecting operations. There were then twenty constabulary in the district, and ten at the mouth of the river. Attempts to capture Dumai and other ringleaders failed. Mr. Shanahan cut a track from the station to the Gira River, and found good samples of gold wash and osmiridium, now in the official collections in Brisbane. Rich colours of gold had been found in our first ascent of the Gira, which was the inducement to cut a track from the station to that river. This track was shortened to twenty-five miles. A track was cut to within some half-dozen miles of the foot of Mount Albert Edward. Altogether about seventy miles of track were cut. The natives remained hostile. The only tribe not openly inimical was attacked by others, and thirteen were killed, according to certain reports. There were some other intertribal fights in the district attended with very considerable loss of life. As late as 8th May last the natives fought a detachment of constabulary, when four or five natives were shot and four were made prisoners. The Government Agent, it will be seen, did not, on my visit to the district in May last, approve of allowing and inviting the natives to resettle on their own lands. His attitude towards them had been too much in conformity with the idea of making them pariahs. Their resettlement was imperative in the interests of humanity and of sound policy. The resettlement has progressed since that date with highly satisfactory results, and may soon make these natives useful to the trader, the miner, and themselves.

The carriers and native labourers employed by the prospectors had given much trouble by running away. This is now rendered easier, and practically safe, by the pacification of the tribes along the north-east coast.

The rubber industry has been started in the district, and seems to have a large future before it in this part of the country.

Mining has been, for the present, practically abandoned at the foot of Mount Scratchley; but the special report by the warden shows that the Gira Gold Field is one of very considerable promise.

31. The history of the Mambare district has been a chequered one. So far as I know, the first European that ever was afloat

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on the Mambare was the renowned German scientist, Dr. Otto Finsch, in April, 1885. This gentleman lamented, in his work "Samoa-Reisen," his inability to ascend or examine the river. In February, 1894, a Government party, for the first time, inspected the Mambare as far as it was navigable—in fact, to a higher point than has ever since been reached by a boat of any kind. The opinion was formed of the natives of the district, especially near the sea, that they were treacherous and untrustworthy. Higher up the river they were at first shy and timid. At the village of Umi they then, however, surrounded the leader of the party, who was in a dingy with one native boy, no doubt with the intention of committing homicide; but they were evidently afraid of a formidable silver-plated revolver, and soon after were restrained by the arrival of a boat. In August, 1895, they treacherously murdered Mr. Clark, the leader of a prospecting party, which had already nearly reached the highest navigable point of the river.

Soon after this murder the river was visited by a force of constabulary, and several men were captured as they were preparing to attack the police camp. Five or six of the men then arrested are now village constables in the district. A station of a permanent character was established at the junction of the Tamata with the Mambare. Friendly relations seemed to exist with most of the tribes, but there were repeated signs of ill-will and petty treachery. In January, 1897, Mr. Green, the Government Agent and Assistant Magistrate, was murdered with several constables. The natives were at first in open hostility after this, and fought the constabulary several times. They were driven out of their villages, but the ringleaders always evaded capture until the return of the men now appointed village constables. A comparatively large force of constabulary is still kept in the district. There is good reason to think that the present settlement of the tribes, now that the ringleaders have been delivered up, will be effective. It is greatly to be regretted that the Anglican Mission is not able to participate in this pacification. The great desideratum of the Mambare at the present moment is the appointment of a medical man as resident magistrate there. There is every probability of this becoming a mining district of some importance. It has great agricultural capabilities, and possesses large areas of good land quite unoccupied and unused in any way.

There is still an outstanding question in this district connected with the boundary. Mr. Shanahan's report is sufficient to show that the affluents of the Gira are of some importance to the miner. The Gira proceeds from Mount Albert Edward, a great mountain well inside of British territory, but it touches the boundary some four or five miles from the sea, and opens into the latter some half-a-mile inside the German Protectorate. It has been proposed to neutralise the river as far as it is navigable, or to make it the

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boundary up to where it last touches the 8th degree of south latitude. This matter has not yet been finally dealt with.

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Arrangements were made for exercising a vigorous patrol of the Mambare and of the north-east coast generally during the present season by stationing the large steam launch there with the Commandant and the moveable detachment of constabulary. The non-appointment of a magistrate is likely to frustrate this, and it cannot fail to retard the settlement of the district, recently initiated with so much promise. This is not the fault of the Government of British New Guinea, which foresaw the need for this appointment some months since.

*Eastern Division.*

32. The Resident Magistrate for the Eastern Division reports the general conduct of the natives to be the same as last year—that is, “steadily improving.” The cases heard before the native magistrate’s court indicate a decrease of twenty-two as against those of the previous year; but on the other hand there is an increase of indictable offences. Desertion from hired service is mentioned as becoming a “serious matter.” Dysentery has again made its appearance, and carried off in some localities a somewhat high percentage of victims. Food has been fairly plentiful in the division, except at the beginning of the year along the south coast. There had been some disturbances on Goodenough and on Kiriwina Islands. The majority of the village constables are efficient officers, and have rendered good service, but some are spoken of as useless. The improvements at Samarai include a sea wall, a stone jetty, a stone wall to protect the public offices from the sea; several private houses are being erected, a public library has been opened, and one slip for small vessels has been completed. Three thousand coconuts have been planted on Gesila Island. The Anglican and Wesleyan Missions have made good progress throughout the year.

Mention is made of complaints by natives against the employment of dynamite in fishing. This matter has already been dealt with by legislation.

Normanby and Fergusson Islands yielded no results to prospectors. Some sulphur is being exported from Seymour Bay, from ground which it is in contemplation to lease for this purpose. The average number of prisoners at Samarai was thirty-five, with one death. Native labourers to the number of 777 were engaged before the magistrate.

33. It is impossible to regard the establishment provided for this magisterial division, which extends from Table Point to the German boundary, as being nearly adequate. This great district alone could very well furnish employment to all the magistrates in the Possession. A Government Agent was stationed at Samarai some time before annexation, but he was, of course,



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powerless. Soon after the establishment of Government a Resident Magistrate was stationed at Samarai. In this district, at Awaiama, the new Government was first called upon to assert itself in consequence of an attack on a small vessel, the captain of which had been murdered and his crew cut up. The vessel was looted and burned. With no police of any kind, and with only a 50-ton schooner for transport, it was a very difficult and somewhat hazardous matter for the four or five officers concerned to deal with and punish a confederation of the tribes of the neighbourhood. In the first collision several natives were killed, and after a long struggle the four principal ringleaders were captured and were executed at different places in the district in the presence of as many natives as could be assembled. This apparently harsh measure was completely successful, and put an end to the murder of white men in that part of the country, and laid, for the Government authority, the foundation of a prestige it has never lost. Its authority was soon established over a wide area, especially after a constabulary force had been organised. In 1891 the Government obtained the powerful assistance of the Wesleyan Mission, which arrived there full of zeal and work, and commenced operations with an earnestness of purpose which has never flagged. The same year the newly-planted Anglican Mission received a stunning blow by the death of the Rev. Albert Maclaren, a blow from which it has recovered fully only by the recent appointment of Bishop Stone-Wigg. The authority of the magistrate, widely extended as it gradually has become, does not nearly cover the whole division, though it is felt all along its coastline. There still remain inland great areas that have never been visited by a policeman. The Resident Magistrate is almost always travelling by water, for which he has a substantial and suitable schooner, manned exclusively by natives. The coastline alone would more than take up his whole time. Much is effected, however, by settled natives in extending settlement to others. This process will apparently have to be allowed to take its way, as there exist at present no means of adding to the staff in this division. Mr. Moreton has now had a good deal of experience in dealing with the natives of that part of the country, and it is to be hoped that his knowledge and tact in controlling them may long continue at the service of the Government. He has a very efficient assistant in Mr. Symonds. Much was done by Mr. W. E. Armit in beautifying the island of Samarai, and this work has been continued by Mr. Symonds, with the result that Samarai is now one of the most beautiful islands in the South Seas; ten years ago it was one of the most objectionable. A good few houses have been erected there lately. No land has been sold, but leases for twenty-one years have been granted. An excellent wharf has been built by the firm of Burns, Philp, & Co. There can be no doubt that the business of Samarai will steadily grow. The island will before long be found to be too small. It has been all planted in cocoanuts. It is hoped that the Government will soon have a plantation of 6,000 or 7,000 coconut trees on Gesila Island.

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*Central Division.*

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34. Towards the end of last year, as shown by the Report of the Resident Magistrate, the Mekeo district was agitated by rumours of threatened attacks on the Government. These were by report connected with the sorcerers, who in reality comprise a very large part of the population. A raid was made on certain reputed sorcerers after the "Merrie England" had been sent to Pinupaka with a large force of constables. They were surrendered peaceably on demand, and no hostility was manifested openly. The fighting men handed in their weapons when asked to do so, and these articles and the charms of the sorcerers were publicly burned. The sorcerers to the number of some thirty persons were sent to gaol. I did not approve of such wholesale arrests on a purely constructive offence; and the sorcerers were allowed to return to their homes quietly when their sentences were up.

In November the magistrate had to exercise restraint on the troublesome and irritating action of some over-zealous teachers, more especially at Kalo, a place at which, before annexation, the mission had sustained a cruel massacre.

In December, in a locality two days' journey inland from Kerepunu, one tribe attacked another and committed some homicides. The perpetrators were secured by the coast village police and their friends, and were delivered to the magistrate.

At Womi, in the Gulf, there was some trouble in effecting the arrest of an escaped prisoner, who was, however, captured. Shots were interchanged between the constabulary and some of the people of Maipua in connection with the arrest of a thief, who thus escaped, but was in the end delivered up with a peace-offering. One of their young men then joined the constabulary, and will later on, most likely, become village constable there.

At Orokolo a village constable was dismissed, charged with having committed incest, which is said to be not rare in that district. This is totally incompatible with the practice of totemism existing in the east end of the Possession, and not quite unknown west of the Fly.

At Keuru, in the Gulf, certain natives that had committed a burglary were surrendered on the demand of the Resident Magistrate.

On a visit to Mohu, the magistrate had the satisfaction of seeing 217 people at church. In May last the same officer found the roads of Mekeo in good order. At Inawi an excellent church had been erected, and nearly all its people attend service. The Government station was growing sufficient food, and the sorcerers were behaving well after their incarceration. There was, unfortunately, a heavy mortality from a virulent epidemic of dysentery along a great extent of coast. This disease is new

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to this part of the country, having been introduced only within the last three or four years, how and when is not accurately known. Natives were very willing to take the medicines given to them.

In the whole of the Central Division there are eighty-three village constables. The magistrate has a suitable schooner at his disposal, manned by natives who are drilled and armed as constables. Mention is made of considerable stretches of roads opened during the year, some by private enterprise.

35. The Government Agent for the Rigo district reports that the conduct of the people has been most satisfactory, morally and socially. They have improved their dwellings and had plenty of food. All the tribes on the Vanigela River visit and trade with each other in peace and friendship, though not long ago they were mortal enemies to each other. There are now numerous villages in which there is no longer spear or club. Old tribal animosities are to some extent kept up at certain places near the main range. The heavy mortality from dysentery of an epidemic type is noticed, and the idleness of the coast natives is commented upon. The Government Agent found the formerly troublesome tribes on the Robinson River quiet, peaceable, and friendly. The rubber industry was introduced there. It is mentioned that at the village of Wanegela there was found in one house the father, mother, and eighteen children. I understand the children were all alive. This is the largest family I have ever known an aboriginal to bear. On the Belerupu lagoon two village constables rule 1,239 people. Eight village constables maintain peace and order among the 4,147 persons of the Keakaro tribe. Village burial has entirely ceased in the district. The traders had behaved well during the year. The station grows about half the food it requires. The establishment consists of the Government Agent, six constables, and some prisoners. There are twenty-three village constables in the agent's district, and a dozen paid chiefs. The Government Agent has at his disposal a good whaleboat and some horses.

36. Before annexation was declared, a great deal had been done in the Central Division at Port Moresby, and at some other places on the coast, by the London Missionary Society. Murders, however, took place on the watershed of Port Moresby for some time after the declaration of sovereignty, and up to quite a recent date a dozen miles inland from that place. The action of the Government, like that of the mission, was first extended along the coast. The first time I visited the village of Kaile, then all built on piles in the sea, the inhabitants could not go ashore for fresh water on account of some bush tribes then lying in wait for them. Murders were, for several years, of very common occurrence in the Rigo district, at Kabadi, at Nara, at Maiva, and eastward as far as Samarai. The coast tribes were first subdued and pacified. At Aroma, the site of the powerful Keakaro

tribe, now ruled by its eight excellent village policemen, all were in arms against the Government less than half-a-dozen years ago. Authority and control have gradually extended themselves east as far as Table Point, and west as far as the Purari, and at several places have already reached the foot of the main range. There still, however, remain large areas beyond reach of the village constable, far inland in glens and mountains at present too far removed to be accessible or important. The staff of a Resident Magistrate and two Government Agents is, of course, far from being sufficient for all purposes, but it is enough to maintain what has already been won, and to gradually extend the sphere of influence. Another Government Agent is very much wanted about Orokolo, to command the tribes of the Purari Delta, and others as far as Risk Point. Arrests have been made by the constabulary from end to end of this great magisterial division, and it is quite safe to the traveller and trader.

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Much credit is due to Dr. Blayney for the way he has devoted himself to the working of his immense district. His medical services have also been of the greatest value to both natives and Europeans. Mr. English, one of the oldest servants of the Government, has now an experience of travelling in the Possession that is unrivalled, and which cannot but be of immense value to the service in future. He has deeply impressed his mark on the Rigo district, to the great gain of the natives. It has already been mentioned that his services to economic industry have also been meritorious. Mr. Bramell, Government Agent for the Mekeo district, had a somewhat difficult task, to which at first he was new. The Resident Magistrate is satisfied with his work.

#### *Western Division.*

37. The Magistrate for the Western Division reports that the condition of the native population has been satisfactory, and that crime has decreased though authority has been extended. Sorcery caused some trouble there also, but the most common offence is adultery, and next to that assaults. In this part of the colony there was no serious sickness. The season was a wet one, and therefore food was plentiful. The tribes of Mawutta and Tureture have begun to fish pearl-shell on their own account, and are now leasing boats for that purpose.

In July the coast was visited as far as Bugi, and in August the Fly Estuary. In the same month a journey was made inland to the Jibu country and beyond. The condition of the natives was gratifying, and much good land, fit for settlement, was met with. The same month Murare, on the Fly, was inspected. It was found that at no great distance from the river the country rises into grassy ridges. The Bugi settlement was founded in October. The Fly Estuary was again gone over in December.

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In May the Oriomo tribes received a call, and land for settlement by Europeans was looked out.

The constabulary were healthy, and did good work. On the prison register there were 101 names during the year. Three died, two of them old men, the third probably from beriberi. There are in this division sixty-three village police, or paid chiefs. They have practically arrested all persons charged with offences. The number of labourers under engagement was 205, exclusive of those employed by the Government. There is very little trade in this part of the country.

A substantial gaol, capable of accommodating ninety to one hundred persons, was built of hardwood. This should as soon as possible be roofed with iron. A new house has also been built for the magistrate, with an iron roof and ample accommodation.

The station has a good and suitable lugger, and a whaleboat, manned by a native crew. A large quantity of native food was grown at the station. The good services of Mr. H. W. de Lange are noticed by the Resident Magistrate.

38. This magisterial division extends from the Bensbach—the British-Dutch boundary—to the Purari delta. It contains numerous great areas that are at present quite unknown, and it will be a very long time before those can be fully examined by the present establishment, which consists for this division of only the Resident Magistrate, the Sub-Collector, and native employees. The first Government settlement in the west was at Mabudauan, where houses were built by the late Mr. J. B. Cameron.

The station was shifted by Mr. Hely to the Island of Daru, where plenty of good land and a suitable site were found. At first the harbour at Daru was unknown, and shipping difficulties were great at Mabudauan. The western part of the district had been depopulated and wasted by the Tugeri invaders before, probably long before, this. But their raids were kept up till 1896. When the first station was built it was in constant danger of being attacked and plundered by the tribes living nearest to it. Gradually authority was established over some of the nearest septs, and this was consolidated by the appointment of village policemen. Under them control is maintained from the Maikussa to the Bebea, and their influence extends well into the great expanse that lies between the sea at Torres Straits and the Fly. This division contains large areas of unoccupied land, and when these are taken up additional officers will be required, but then the revenue will no doubt suffice to support this. With a Government Agent on the Morehead, two on the Fly, and one on the Gawai or on the Aird River, one magistrate, with a good steam launch, would suffice even in the face of great agricultural developments. A good deal has been done by Mr. Hely during

the last two or three years in visiting new districts. He has now a well-established position among the natives over a large area, and, if his health only permits it, he will now fast extend his ever widening circuit of effective control, familiar as he is with the ways and character of the western man.

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The Daru station has grown up under his superintendence, and it is now amply sufficient for its purpose. It is not necessary to increase the western establishment until some economic industries begin to be opened up in the district, and for this it undoubtedly possesses large scope.

*Commandant.*

39. The report of the Commandant covers only the three last quarters of the year. It describes an operation by the Acting Resident Magistrate, Mr. Monckton, and the Commandant, against certain hill tribes on the north-east coast of Goodenough Island. Mr. Thomson had started a plantation on that part of the island, and some misunderstanding had arisen between his labourers and the hill tribes. The latter attacked the labourers and killed some of them. The magistrate found that the force at his disposal was not sufficient to effect the necessary arrests, and therefore the Commandant, with a strong detachment, was sent to assist him. They were met by much yelling and by slingstones, but there was no real determined resistance. The sling is as much the national weapon of Goodenough Island as the bow and arrow is that of the west, but it has never been found to be formidable in this colony. On the north-east coast at the places where they used to manufacture stones of a certain form for the sling, it seems to have fallen already into desuetude. The expedition was successful, and 16 prisoners were secured. These natives have since settled down quietly. The Commandant with his detachment was sent with Mr. Winter to the Mekeo district in connection with the arrest of the sorcerers. He describes the natives as being very friendly, and eulogises the work of Father Bouellat, at whose church there were present at least 450 people. In February the Commandant was on patrol duty in the Rigo district, and found all the natives quiet and well disposed.

40. The armed constabulary numbered at the end of the year 110 men, all Papuans. They are distributed at the various stations, so as to leave a patrolling detachment of about twenty-five men. These figures do not include the detachment of the Resident Magistrate at Samarai, the members of which have always been engaged separately and independently. The first nucleus of an armed constabulary was formed by a dozen Solomon Islanders, kindly recruited in Fiji by the late Sir John B. Thurston in 1890. In charge of these were two Fijians, non-commissioned officers. During the first year of the existence of this force, some eight Papuans were added to it by voluntary

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enlistment. At first recruits could not be had. The natives were suspicious of the constabulary, and would not join. But gradually the uniform of the force, their arms, and the good and regular food, became attractive; generally the recruits were at first of inferior physique. Step by step it has become a purely native force, and now contains a considerable number of the strongest men in the country, and the Commandant is able to select the best men out of many applicants. Not a few natives seem to have adopted the force as a profession, several of them having now served five years. They are recruited from all districts of the colony, but more are engaged from the west than from elsewhere. The standard of drill and discipline is not and never can be high, broken up as the force is into so many detachments, and under the command of so many officers. It is, however, quite obvious that the Magistrates and Government Agents take a pride in their men, and generally they are found neat, smart, and with their arms in good condition. Naturally their accoutrements are of the simplest and cheapest description, but on the whole they are suitable and efficient. The prestige of the constabulary is now great; they have faith in their officers, and they have confidence in themselves. Of their perfect loyalty to their Queen there can be no doubt. Some of them recently came to myself and said they wished to leave the service because of my departure. When it was pointed out to them that Queen Victoria's service remained ever the same, whoever Her Majesty might send to British New Guinea as her Governor, and that, therefore, they should continue to serve her as heretofore, they quite understood the argument, and recognised that they are still Queen Victoria's men. They are paid at the rate of 10s. a month the first year and £1 a month afterwards.

Doubt was expressed at first by those that knew the Papuan best whether they could be trusted as a constabulary, fear being entertained that they would be too prone to use their weapons, to abuse their position, and perhaps that they might turn on their employers. But the good nature of the race has manifested itself openly in the constabulary. Quarrels amongst themselves are very rare. It is not often that they have been guilty of extortion. In dealing with refractory, wild, or hostile tribes they have on many occasions shown an amount of forbearance that was simply astonishing. This has frequently been carried to an extent that has caused danger. Personally I have never seen one of them flinch before opposition; and it cannot be doubted that a mere handful of them will follow a man they trust anywhere, and abide by him. The late Corporal Sedu could have escaped when Mr. Green was murdered; he had already got clear and could have got away, but he returned and died by his officer. Others have shown similar devotion, though with a happier issue, under circumstances of great danger.

It is gratifying that Your Lordship and the Secretary of State have sanctioned the issue of a good-conduct medal which can be

given to members of the constabulary in recognition of meritorious service. I regret that I have not had an opportunity of presenting this personally to the present sergeant, Sepa; to Corporal Kimai; and to Romé, the first native of British New Guinea to cross the island from sea to sea. No doubt this will be attended to by my successor.

41. The constabulary alone, however, could never carry out police work in all the villages of the Possession. To meet this a large body of village policemen is gradually being created, which will eventually cover the whole country with a continuous network. This began originally with one man, the excellent village policeman of Port Moresby. They now number as follows:—

Western Division	...	...	...	...	63
Central Division	...	...	...	...	83
Eastern Division	...	...	...	..	36
South-eastern Division...	...	...	...	...	20
Total at the end of the year ...					202

The usefulness of the village policemen, of course, depends greatly on the Resident Magistrate or Government Agent in each case. Less use seems to be made of them in the Eastern Division than elsewhere. In the west they practically perform all ordinary police work, the constabulary thus remaining free to extend authority over new tribes, and being always ready as a reserve to support the village policemen when necessary. In the Central Division they arrest and bring in most prisoners; and they constantly join the constabulary, and help the latter to carry out their own more particular functions amongst inland tribes. In the South-east Division Mr. Campbell attributes the highly satisfactory state of his jurisdiction in a large degree to the services of the village policemen. Mr. Moreton does not seem to be so well served by them. Nevertheless, the recent arrests on the Mambare would not have been effected without the newly appointed village policemen of that district. Each of these men receives, with a few exceptions, only £1 a year and suitable uniform. This number will probably be trebled or quadrupled during the next ten years. They are the best substitute that can be created in the place of the tribal chiefs that do not exist in British New Guinea.

42. Nothing shows better the march of events in the Possession during the last decade than the progressive employment of natives. When annexation took place, there was not a native in any regular employment under the Government. The boat's crew in Port Moresby Harbour consisted of coloured men imported from Queensland. These were paid each £8 a month. After a short time they could not be engaged at less than £14. It was considered risky to man the boat with Papuans, though the London Missionary Society must often have had crews mainly composed of natives. It was perfectly clear that no



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Administration could long be carried on in this way on £15,000 a year. For this reason, as well as for the education of the natives, it was decided that they should be employed wherever possible. No expenditure can be incurred in British New Guinea without the sanction of Queensland. A very modest vote was proposed by me for native employees in submitting the first estimates of expenditure, but this was struck out in Queensland as an absurdity. In the Estimates for 1891-92, however, a vote of £50 was approved for "chiefs and native magistrates." At the present time probably about one-fifth of the total expenditure is disbursed for native services. Were the whole £15,000 expended on a European police force for the Possession, it would be far less efficient than the present native armed constabulary and village policemen.

*Overseer of Works and Head Gaoler.*

43. Mr. MacDonald, overseer of works, in his report merely enumerates the different kinds of work done during the year, almost entirely carried out by prison labour. These were chiefly repairs to buildings, cleaning cocoanut plantations, building a seawall, and roadmaking. This is more fully dealt with under "Prisons."

44. In his report on prisons, the head gaoler mentions that long-sentenced prisoners are generally sent to serve their sentence in districts other than their own; short-sentenced prisoners remain in their own district. If a prisoner has to wait for an opportunity to get home, he is paid as a free labourer. Long-sentenced and well-behaved prisoners receive some trade goods when discharged. Several pass annually into the constabulary, where they almost invariably do good service. They are taught cleanliness, and learn to speak more or less English. They receive three meals a day. They suffer from slight attacks of fever, which generally last only for one day; and they are frequently the subjects of mild rheumatism. At Samarai the prison labour extended the stone jetty, built some seawall, and reclaimed the foreshore. In wet weather they were employed indoors. A bridle road was made across Mount Warirata. The seawall at Port Moresby was extended, and many other things were done by the prisoners. They begin work at 7 a.m., have an hour's rest in the middle of the day, and leave off work at 5 p.m. On Saturday they have a half-holiday. Prison offences are rare. There is no flogging. As a rule they are tractable, industrious, cheerful, and very intelligent. Old prisoners have frequently reported the intention of new ones to escape. At Port Moresby there are always four armed constables as prison guard. They are generally men that have themselves been prisoners, and this is a stimulus to prisoners, who look forward to the time when they too may become the armed guard. There is one Solomon Island professional warder, who has now been in the service about eight years. Intelligent prisoners are appointed

gangers, and have certain small privileges, and these positions are much coveted. The prison language is English, but of course interpretation is very frequently required, almost always with new prisoners. The average number of prisoners on the Port Moresby register for the year was fifty-one.

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45. Perhaps in no department has the Administration been more fortunate than in its head gaolers. Imprisonment was, of course, a totally new idea to the native. At first it was a complete failure. The prisoners fretted, lost courage, pined, sickened, and died. So serious was this the first year or two that it became a question whether, if matters continued in the same strain, it would not be necessary to abolish prisons altogether and substitute some form of relegation. But after a couple of years the prison began to be better understood, and the prisoners no longer died of dread or hopelessness. The regular hours, regular meals, and the demonstrated proof that the prisoners were not kept to be killed or illtreated, and would be eventually liberated, soon put them into a healthy state, both morally and physically. Fortunately the first head gaoler, the late Mr. Denis Gleeson, was precisely the man that was wanted to carry out the system of imprisonment that had been deliberately decided upon. He was very kind, even sympathetic, to prisoners; but at the same time he was firm, and maintained discipline without ever insisting on what would not have been allowed, the introduction of the brutalising lash. The bad man was punished; the good man was commended, rewarded, or promoted. All were taught obedience, regular habits, and the inflexibility of Government orders. They soon began to learn what things the white man will not allow. They were apt pupils under Mr. Gleeson, and the elder ones soon took to teaching the younger ones, and in the course of a few years they began to return to their own people to teach them also. Relapses are very infrequent. It was soon seen that the lines on which the prisoners were treated were fully applicable. On one occasion when Mr. Gleeson expressed a desire to come to Australia to see how prisoners are dealt with there, he was informed, with perfect sincerity, that I preferred his own system to any other. His successor, Mr. John Meredith, continued the same methods, taking a personal interest in the education of each prisoner. Mr. MacDonald is by no means behind his predecessors in these respects. Under his guidance the prison still continues to be a great training and educational establishment for adults. Many constables and village policemen, now doing excellent work as faithful and trustworthy servants, had their tuition in gaol. There is one point on which the prison system has fallen short of the ideal, and it has also been a defect all along in the case of the armed constabulary. It has not been possible to have a teacher exclusively for the prisoners, or one for the constabulary. Through the London Missionary Society, divine service is performed on the Sabbath for the prisoners at Port Moresby

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and Samarai. But one would wish to have the long-sentenced men taught to read and write, which would add greatly to their usefulness after leaving prison. Hitherto the difficulties have been insuperable, but before long it may become practicable to employ teachers exclusively for this.

A visit to Samarai and Port Moresby will show even the most unobservant person that a great amount of work has already been performed by the prisoners. It was a very large undertaking at Samarai to fill in a dozen acres of noisome mangrove swamp. This had to be done, or the island had to be abandoned. At Port Moresby a considerable extent of road-making has been done; half the town site has been faced by a very substantial sea-wall. A considerable part of a stone pier has been built, and great cocoanut plantations have been kept clean. Latterly the prisoners have been road-making in the outlying country, and their work in this direction cannot be seen without visiting it there.

At the other stations prisoners are mainly employed in planting food, keeping buildings in repair, making roads, and such like. They are treated on the same lines as at Port Moresby and Samarai, the educational factor always in every case predominating over the penal.

It is confidently believed that all officers and employees connected with the prisoners are imbued by the right spirit, and that so long as this continues the prisoners will be well treated without being petted, and the prison will remain a valuable training institution.

#### *Mission Work.*

46. Of the four missionary bodies at work the oldest in the Possession is the London Missionary Society, started in 1871. Next comes the Sacred Heart Mission, established in 1885, that is three years before annexation. The Wesleyan and the Anglican missions were founded in 1891.

#### *London Missionary Society.*

47. The London Missionary Society, as the pioneer, was, of course, exposed to special danger and hardship in obtaining a footing in different parts of the country, and perhaps much more so in maintaining it. It was more through it than by any other means that the way was prepared for the founding of the colony. Before annexation it had a chequered existence. Many teachers died of illness. Several were killed by the people for whom they had come to work. In the history of this mission there loom out conspicuously the names of the two great missionaries, the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes and the Rev. James Chalmers, the former typically a man of thought, the latter typically a man of

action. Each of them has worked for and among the Papuans for over a score of years, and they still carry on work of the greatest importance.

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Mr. Chalmers is now successfully working an English mission in the Fly estuary. He was practically the creator of the mission in the east end of the Possession; he evangelised Maiva and the neighbouring district; and he has been the apostle of the Gulf of Papua. His geographical work has also been of much value, especially in the Gulf country.

Mr. Holmes's mission I have not been able to visit personally, but it is very favourably spoken of by those that have seen it. His mission, not hitherto described in any despatch, is conducted as detailed in Appendix FF.<sup>a</sup> The missions at Port Moresby, Vatorata, Kerepuna, Fyfe Bay, Saguana, Delena, and Kwato have been already reported on.

The teaching of English is now being pushed by this mission. It has been decided to establish an inland mission, with a resident missionary, on the Vanigela (Kemp Welch River); and also to open an industrial school. At the present time they have eight established mission stations with a resident European missionary at each; but these are all on the coast, and are not able to exercise strict surveillance even over the coast alone. The immense field that lies behind this very thin and interrupted line is totally unprovided for. Great gratitude is due to this large-hearted mission for its quiet and laborious toil in the Possession. But to witness the good they have actually done only increases in one the wish that they should undertake a great deal more, even if this were done at the expense of reducing missionary effort elsewhere among the yellow races until our own aboriginal fellow-subjects are evangelised. The Government of the Possession will undoubtedly do all it can to facilitate the contemplated expansion mentioned above. But the small increase now thought of is indeed very far from meeting the case. Before long the directors will have to face the alternative of adding largely to the mission, or of contracting to leave a clear field to others. It is sincerely to be hoped that they will adopt the former course, and thus turn to account the great knowledge and experience they have accumulated.

Each one of the missionaries of the Society has busied himself with the study of the native language of his own particular district, and small books and translations have been made by them accordingly. The literary work of the Rev. Dr. W. G. Lawes, comprising an excellent grammar and dictionary of the Motu language, and a translation of the whole of the New Testament, is monumental. The former was of much use to the Government in the first years after annexation, and it possesses now, and always will have, a high scientific value.

<sup>a</sup> Not printed.

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The statistics of this mission are as below :—

When begun ... ..	1871	Number of scholars ...	900
English missionaries ...	9	Boys' day schools ...	60
Ordained native agents	103	Scholars—boys ...	2,600
Church members ...	1,600	Girls' day schools ...	20
Native adherents ...	10,000	Scholars—girls ...	1,000
Sunday schools ...	29	Local contributions ...	£288

*The Sacred Heart Mission.*

48. The Sacred Heart Mission has now been in the Possession over thirteen years. It was founded originally by the late Bishop Verjus, a wise, energetic, enthusiastic missionary. He outlined the work of the mission, and died when the work of initiation was still under way. Owing to the chronic ill-health of the head of the mission, its practical working devolved on Bishop Verjus and on his successor, the Rev. Dr. Genocchi, an excellent man for such a post. Bishop Verjus worked loyally with the Government at the time the tribes of Mekeo were being subdued to authority. Dr. Genocchi did very good service by lending his weight and influence to put an end to village burial, and by working hand in hand with all Government officers visiting Mekeo. His great learning, his breadth of mind, his devotion to duty, commanded universal respect, and his departure from the colony was much regretted. There have been and are some excellent missionaries among the fathers and brothers of this mission, notably Fathers Toublanc of Mou, Vitali of Inawi, and Bouellat of Vaipa. The first had unfortunately to leave on account of ill-health; the other two still conduct very successful missions. The Sacred Heart voluntarily selected their present field of operations, and declined to occupy the north-east coast. Recently they have been examining the country further inland, and it is to be hoped they may extend their labours to the interior, where there is a magnificent and almost boundless field. The great probability is that the further inland they penetrate the more healthy they will find the country. Their reports state that Yule Island has proved more unhealthy than their stations on the mainland. Amongst the natives Yule Island has always been considered insalubrious. They have had a difficulty in teaching English, as it was not known to many of them to an extent that permitted of imparting it to others. Some boys were taken to Thursday Island to be educated there, but on their return it was found by the Government Agent that they had only acquired a few words, which they did not very well understand. They can, however, write very nicely in their own language, and their views seem to be somewhat widened. Archbishop Navarre, the head of the mission, has pledged himself that they will, as soon as possible, teach English in all their schools. They have built a number of substantial churches in their district. The Sacred Heart Mission in British New Guinea consists of—

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1 Archbishop, 18 Priests, 16 Lay Brothers, 21 Sisters, 23 Churches and Chapels, 1,100 Scholars, 20 Stations, 12 native School-teachers.

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*The Wesleyan Mission.*

49. The Wesleyan Mission, founded in 1891, was brought to the colony by the Rev. Dr. George Brown. It has had as its head ever since the Rev. W. E. Bromilow, who is happily endowed with the mental and physical qualities that are required for such a position. They have four missionaries, five sisters, and thirty-one teachers. The statistics of their mission are given in detail below. There is no doubt that nine or ten years ago the islanders were the most murderous of all the inhabitants of the Possession. Although they had by the time the mission was founded been made to some extent acquainted with the rough side of government, they were still so wild and untrustworthy that it was deemed prudent to follow the pioneers of the mission to Dobu a few days after they left Samarai. Two points have been characteristic of this mission from first to last—intense earnestness, and sound, practical, good sense. Their deep earnestness, which never approaches either bigotry or fanaticism, began to tell on the natives soon after work was begun. They have fully maintained without flagging the zeal and industry with which they began, with the result that there is perhaps no more successful mission than theirs. Mr. Bromilow has reduced Dobu and its neighbourhood to a decently-behaved community, who keep the Sabbath, go to school, attend church, and conduct themselves like an ordinary Christian parish. The immensity of the transformation can be appreciated only by one that has seen these tribes half-a-score of years ago and that visits them now.

Mr. Fellowes has begun a change that will be a very great improvement in the Kiriwina natives as citizens and subjects. The Tubetube mission is not less successful. There is to be some speedy expansion in this mission, on Goodenough Island, where a European missionary will take up permanent residence soon. And an industrial school is also in contemplation.

Excellent work has been accomplished by this mission in regard to translations. The Rev. W. E. Bromilow has printed and published in the Dobu language the four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles; a small work on the sacraments, marriage, and burial; a catechism and hymn book; and a primer. This of itself represents an amount of labour that can only be appreciated by those that have given some attention to cognate work. The Dobuan language is undoubtedly the tongue best known and most used for general purposes in the D'Entrecasteaux Group; and these books will certainly make it the literary native language of that part of the country.

Other translations have been made by the missionaries of this church to suit the natives among whom each of them is stationed, but those mentioned above are the most important.

The returns of this mission are given as follows:—

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Circuits.	Churches.		Other Preaching Places.	Missionaries.	Lay Missionaries.	Missionary Sisters.	Native Ministers.	Catechists.	Teachers.	School Teachers.	Local Preachers.	Class Leaders.	English Members.	Native Members.	Native Members on Trial.	Communicants.	Sabbath Schools.	Sabbath School Teachers.	Sabbath School Scholars.	Day Schools.	Day School Scholars.	Catechumens.	Attendants on Public Worship.	Deaths (members).
	...	...																						
Dobu ...	17	33	1	—	4	—	2	13	27	18	21	8	244	85	—	13	24	824	14	876	240	5,679	2	
Panaieti	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	8	—	4	2	17	21	—	5	10	120	3	80	31	1,000	—	
Tubetube	6	10	1	—	—	—	—	6	7	—	8	2	41	56	—	5	6	200	5	100	13	1,330	2	
Kiriwina	3	25	1	—	1	—	1	6	3	—	2	3	12	—	—	1	2	50	1	120	15	3,500	—	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>11,509</b>	<b>4</b>	

**AT DOBU.**

Actual students in training—five of these are married ... .. 29  
 Girls on the station ... .. 30  
 Besides a dozen or so of boys for future acceptance as students.

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*The Anglican Mission.*

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50. The Anglican Mission was also established in 1891. It was for a long time paralysed by the death of the Rev. Albert MacLaren, and but for the courage and tenacity of the Rev. Copland King it would apparently have become practically extinct. That gentleman remained on the field steadily at work with very little support, making progress and keeping the mission afloat till the appointment of Bishop Stone-Wigg, who with additional assistance arrived there only a few months ago. The Bishop has already been able to expand the field of labour considerably by opening up new stations. It is greatly to be regretted that the force at the disposal of the Bishop is not sufficient to enable him to occupy the Ope, Mambare, and Gira districts now that the tribes of those parts are becoming quieter and settling down. It would probably be no exaggeration to say that the Bishop could do three times as much work were he provided with a good steam launch as he can do without one. The north-east coast is topographically well suited for locomotion of that kind. The effect of constant supervision over South Sea teachers is seen to great advantage in the Wesleyan Mission, which is well concentrated. Such concentration is hardly possible on the north-east; hence the great necessity for a steam launch to carry the head of the mission rapidly from station to station.

At the end of June, 1898, the staff of the Anglican Mission in New Guinea was as follows:—1 bishop, 2 priests, 5 laymen, 5 ladies, 8 South Sea Islanders.

Regular schools and services were being conducted at Awaiama, Taupota, Wamira, Wedau, Dogura, Boianai, and Guravara, and several of the staff were engaged in the establishment of a station at Collingwood Bay.

At all the schools under white teachers, English is being taught three or four times a week, conversationally, according to the "Gouin" method, and also in reading and writing. These schools are—Taupota, Wamira, Wedau, and Dogura.

Mr. Copland King has translated one of the gospels into the language spoken in the neighbourhood of the principal station, and he has compiled a suitable grammar and dictionary, besides doing other translations.

*Lady Workers in the Missions.*

51. The ladies connected with these several missions have performed work of the greatest importance. Mrs. Lawes has taught Papuan girls for more than twenty years, and can look back on a great record of beneficence. This lady, as long ago as



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1882, visited a part of the inland country, which was some years later the field of operation of a great expedition under a distinguished explorer. Mrs. Lawes has done, to say the least, as much as any other person has ever accomplished to clean and brighten Papuan homes. In my despatch of 2nd May it was mentioned that Mrs. Chalmers was conducting the classes at Saguana in the absence of Mr. Chalmers. The very successful teaching of Mrs. Pearse has several times been pointed out. The splendid results obtained by Mrs. Abel Your Lordship had lately an opportunity of seeing on the spot.

It is hardly necessary to say that the Mother Superior and the sisters of the Sacred Heart Mission devote themselves entirely to the duties of their own sphere. It is most regrettable that these ladies suffer so much from sickness. Several of them have died; many have suffered a great deal. Of course they bear all this without complaint, and are ever ready to die at their post. It is not possible to ignore this devotion to duty; none can fail to admire their constancy. But there is another way of looking at this question. The mortality and suffering among the sisters seem to be greater proportionately than they should be. The death of any one of them is a loss to their district, and everything that it is possible to do should be done to improve their sanitary surroundings, and to fit them physically to turn their powers and their zealous labour to the best advantage of that service to which they voluntarily devote themselves. This requires knowledge and practical experience. So far as physical causes are concerned, there should certainly not be greater mortality amongst the ladies of this mission than amongst those of other missions. They are all equally devoted to work; they all live very much in the same climate; but the ladies of the Sacred Heart Mission suffer most. So long as this is so there is room for improvement in the general management of the Sacred Heart Mission. A medical missionary added to this mission would undoubtedly save many valuable lives. Their high rate of mortality, both in male and in female workers, shows perfectly clearly that those responsible for the management of the mission are less well acquainted than are the other missions with the conditions of life that must be followed in the climate of British New Guinea.

The work of the sisters of the Anglican Mission was noticed in a recent despatch, and their effective teaching at Dogura and at Wamila was commented on.

The sisters have also done excellent work in the Wesleyan Mission, and are contributing in no small degree to remould the character of young girls in the Dobu district.

The great and striking influence of Mrs. Fellowes and the sisters on Kiriwina was noticed in a recent despatch as being very remarkable. It has been recognised by every one that has

had an opportunity of seeing the work carried on in the Dobu district that Mrs. Bromilow has been a powerful factor in the almost unprecedented success that has attended that mission. Mrs. Bromilow's work is being kept up in her absence by Mrs. Fletcher.

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There is no doubt that the lady workers are of great use in mission work in the Possession. It is undeniable, however, that the climate is much more trying to them than to men. Consequently it is necessary that they should be better cared for in all that concerns sanitation. They require shorter hours and more nutritious, more easily digestible, food. They must be better guarded from exposure to the sun, to wet, and to cold winds. And they must have much more frequent leave of absence, and change to a cooler climate.

52. It has been a matter of extreme gratification to the Government of the Possession that during the ten years of its existence no missionary or teacher has met death by violence at the hands of the natives. This is specially a matter for congratulation, as it is well known to readers of mission literature that the readiness, amounting to desire, to undergo martyrdom was not wanting in at least one mission. This is a degree of zeal that is no doubt most admirable in the individual, but it is a constant source of anxiety to an Administration charged with establishing and maintaining peace among savage tribes. There have been numerous cases of misunderstandings between members of the missions and natives, but in no instance have these proceeded to the infliction of serious violence, although it has occasionally amounted to assault, and even to the robbery of certain teachers. The Wesleyans have been specially fortunate in having very few differences with natives. The pioneer mission, the London Missionary Society, had already a heavy death-roll through native violence before annexation, no fewer than some seven or eight teachers, with members of their family, having been killed. The risks they incurred in those days must have been very great in some places, where they were completely isolated amongst savage, greedy, easily offended tribes, at a time when there was no law in the land, and no force behind the missionary and teacher. To this was to be added unacquaintance on the part of the teachers with the habits, customs, and prejudices of the natives; while the latter are naturally impulsive, and could not possibly have understood or appreciated the motives of the teachers.

The lapse of time has steadily strengthened the conviction that mission labour is of immense value and importance in the Possession. It has been pointed out that the constabulary and the prisons are effective training institutions. This applies, however, almost exclusively to adults. The training and educating of children and of youth is practically entirely in the hands of the missions. The figures given above will give a fair idea of the

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extent to which this very important task is attended to. The example of the regular and upright life of the missionary is of itself an object lesson of great significance. The humanity they practise in regard to the sick, the castaway, and the abandoned child; the moral force by which they exercise restraint over many bad characters, and their sympathy with the weak and suffering, are all softening and ameliorating influences that could not otherwise be supplied to the natives.

#### METEOROLOGICAL.

##### *Rainfall.*

53. The Rev. Copland King has furnished the following return of rainfall at Dogura Station for the half-year ended 30th June, 1898 :—

##### Summary for 1898.

						Inches.
January	...	...	...	...	...	12·99
February	...	...	...	...	...	9·12
March	...	...	...	...	...	8·66
April	...	...	...	...	...	7·89
May	...	...	...	...	...	2·55
June	...	..	...	...	...	3·37

It gives a rainfall of 44·38 inches, rain having fallen on ninety-eight days. The three wettest months are shown to be January, February, and March. The Dogura rainfall for the five years ending with June, 1898, has averaged 59 inches a year, as below :—

Rainfall at Dogura, for 5 years ended 30th June, 1898, by the Rev. Copland King :—

					Inches.
1893	...	From 1 July to 31 December	...	...	35·11
1894	...	„ 1 January to 31 December	...	...	77·14
1895	...	„ 1 „ 31 „	...	...	50·10
1896	...	„ 1 „ 31 „	...	...	43·49
1897	...	„ 1 „ 31 „	...	...	45·59
1898	...	„ 1 „ 30 June	...	...	44·38

Average for 5 years, 59·16 inches.

At Port Moresby the rainfall for the year ended 30th June, 1898, was 37·70 inches. No rain fell in August, 1897, nor in June, 1898. In February, 1898, the rainfall registered was 15·79

inches—by far the largest for any one month. It fell in thirteen days. The average for the last four years has been 37·25 inches, and is summarised as under:—

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						Inches.
1894-5	...	...	...	...	...	40·11
1895-6	...	...	...	...	...	32·15
1896-7	...	...	...	...	...	38·97
1897-8	...	...	...	..	...	37·70

At Daru the rainfall for the year ended 30th June, 1898, was 93·60 inches. Rain fell in every month during the year. In April, 1898, 24·11 inches were registered; and in December, 1897, 16·77 inches. The average for the last four years has been 85·31 inches, as follows:—

						Inches.
1894-5	...	...	...	...	...	116·52
1895-6	...	...	...	...	...	69·49
1896-7	...	...	...	...	...	61·62
1897-8	...	...	...	...	...	93·60

*Temperature.*

54. A table is attached\* (Appendix Y), compiled from the observations taken at Port Moresby and Daru, which shows the highest, lowest, and average thermometer readings for each month of the year at 9 a.m., barometrical readings, general direction of the wind, &c., and also the maximum, minimum, and average temperatures for each month at those places. During the months of April, May, and June the minimum thermometer at Port Moresby was broken, and its readings for these months are consequently wanting. From this it appears that the highest monthly 9 o'clock a.m. temperature at Port Moresby was that of December, at 87·16 degrees. The lowest was for June, at 78·53 degrees. The average for the year was 82·24 degrees.

At Daru the highest monthly temperature was that of November, 83·09 degrees; and the lowest was that of July, 77·94 degrees. The average for the year was 80·83 degrees.

The highest monthly registration by the maximum thermometer at Port Moresby was for January, 91·65 degrees; the lowest by the same instrument stood at 82·67 degrees for June.

The average maximum monthly temperature for the year was 87·75 degrees.

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At Daru the highest shown by the maximum thermometer was in January, 89·45 degrees; and the lowest in July, 78·68 degrees. The average maximum monthly temperature at this station was 86·22 degrees.

The highest monthly reading by the minimum thermometer at Port Moresby was for December at 77·99 degrees; the lowest (the instrument having become broken in April) was for March at 70·90 degrees.

At Daru the highest and lowest monthly readings by the minimum thermometer were for November 76·93 degrees, and for July 74 degrees respectively. The average monthly minimum temperature was 75·12 degrees.

The highest temperature registered at Port Moresby in the shade, at 9 a.m., was 91 degrees on 14th and 15th February and 9th March; the highest registered at any time was 96 degrees on 9th December; the lowest obtained was 64 degrees on 12th March.

The highest temperature registered at Daru in the shade, at 9 a.m., was 88 degrees on the 13th April; the highest registered at any time was 93 degrees on the 7th January; the lowest obtained was 69 degrees on 13th September.

#### SANITARY.

55. The experience of the last ten years would seem to show that the climate of the Possession is not nearly so unhealthy as was at first supposed. The most frequent form of illness is probably fever; but a great many common and minor ailments are set down as fever quite erroneously. Natives suffer nearly as frequently from it as Europeans, but their attacks are somewhat less severe and of shorter duration. It is not much influenced by season in the low country; on the very high lands it seems to be absent altogether. It is never possible to say what part of the low country may be bad for fever or otherwise. It is very remarkable that again and again parties of twenty to thirty men, natives and Europeans, have spent several consecutive weeks in the low-lying mangrove and swampy country of the west, and have left it without a single sick man. On the other hand, of the same number landed in Cloudy Bay and camped on dry ground, and at a distance from swampy land, all save one man became ill of fever. Some of the worst cases have been contracted on dry, limestone country. Severe attacks are, however, not common. In about 90 per cent. of the cases that arise a single dose of quinine and antifebrine is all that is required. Those simple medicines are indeed almost a specific for New Guinea fever. But now and then obstinate cases, attended with violent sickness, or with great headache and delirium, are met

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with. These are not easy to cure. Those cases that are peculiar by reason of renal disorder are generally amenable to proper treatment. The common proximate causes of fever are over-fatigue; sudden change of temperature, as in plunging frequently into cold water when heated; exposure to the fierce rays of the sun, to wet, or to cold winds. Safeguards against it are total abstinence, and the never-failing use of a muslin mosquito net at night.

The endemic diseases of leprosy and elephantiasis are not common, and are not of severe types. Deforming leprosy is rather rare. Elephantiasis growths and tumours never assume the great size they reach in the Pacific Islands, and hardly ever require surgical interference.

Chest diseases, as pneumonia and pleurisy, are sometimes, especially about the time of the changes of the seasons, common and severe among natives, but this does not to any noticeable extent affect Europeans.

The disease of "yaws" is universally endemic. But it is greatly milder than it is in the Pacific, and is, in fact, not much taken notice of. There does not even appear to be a native name for it in any dialect known. No European appears to have contracted this disease in the Possession.

The scaly ringworm, very prevalent in the west, and equally so in the east, is gradually closing in on the central district, which it will before long completely invade. It presents always exactly the same characters, though it has thus approached from opposite directions. It is easiest dealt with amongst the prisoners by sulphur fumigation.

Rheumatism of a subacute form occurs now and then in either natives or Europeans, but it is very seldom severe in type.

Beriberi has been seen in many places. It has several times caused a number of deaths among the prisoners. It is not easy to deal with, but fortunately it is not very common. There does not appear to be any contagious ophthalmia. Phthisis is rare. Only one case of cancer has been seen in a native, and that was in a man that had lived more like a European than a native for many years. There are none of the exanthematous diseases of Europe. Yellow fever, and enteric fever, tapeworm, and guineaworm, are unknown.

Dysentery is the most serious disease in the country now. A few years ago this malady was practically unknown. It has been imported in an epidemic and contagious form within the last three or four years, and, like all new diseases when first

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introduced among an aboriginal people, it has raged with great severity in some places, causing many deaths. Among 132 prisoners at Port Moresby during the year nine deaths occurred, all save one from dysentery. It has been carried along the coast, but does not seem to have extended inland. Miners in certain districts, and the natives working with them, have occasionally become affected by a form of dysentery when sluicing—for example, in the cold water at the foot of Mount Scratchley. But that was caused simply as an effect of the cold, and never produced epidemic dysentery.

Itch was introduced some three or four years ago, and for a time it assumed serious proportions. Hundreds of natives were covered by it over the entire body. They soon discovered the potency of sulphur in this disease, but a great many natives have got rid of it that never had any sulphur to use. It is not uncommon yet among children. In all probability it is now, like dysentery, domesticated, and will never be exterminated.

Venereal diseases have several times been introduced, especially the less severe forms, though the worst kind has also been communicated to natives. Recently there has been a new introduction of it on Murua, where it has spread rapidly.

The effect of venereal diseases on Polynesians, especially from the Solomon and New Hebrides Islands, is often most disastrous. They do not seem, so far, to have assumed that malignant type amongst the Papuans. Dengue fever has been taken to the Possession, but it has not done any great harm. No form of ailment causes more petty inconvenience and worry than "scrub itch." It becomes, in some districts, a real torment. But it is greatly mitigated by the use of appropriate remedies.

The maladies mentioned above are the principal ones in the colony. They would rather point to its being a healthy tropical country than otherwise. The serious mortality that formerly prevailed amongst the teachers of the London Missionary Society, and that is, or has till quite lately been, so considerable in the case of the Sacred Heart Mission, is to be imputed to defective knowledge of the conditions of life in New Guinea and to the neglect to use suitable sanitary means and methods.

With the exercise of reasonable care there is no doubt that a healthy person may remain in the Possession for an indefinite time in active employment. For example, the oldest missionaries in the country, the Rev. Dr. Lawes and the Rev. James Chalmers, will, as regards physique, compare favourably with men of the same age in any country, and they have each performed a vast amount of work.

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56. In the matter of regimen there are amongst Europeans in the Possession two distinct courses followed. In the one a fairly sufficient dietary is adopted, with an absolute exclusion of wine, beer, and all other forms of alcoholic stimulants whatever. In the other class a diet of inferior quality is taken, and it is supplemented by some stimulant containing probably a small quantity of alcohol in some form or other; or the stimulant is taken in addition to a diet that is sufficient without it. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the former is by far the better course, and that the latter is a mistake. In my experience people that are total abstainers in the colony enjoy better health and have a lower mortality than those that are not total abstainers. There is a widespread popular belief that some stimulant is required in the tropics, especially by people that have in a cooler climate been accustomed to it. This will not stand the test of experience. It is a matter that anyone not a total abstainer can prove for himself in a month. I have not known a missionary that was of intemperate habits; but it is easy to see that the missionary that has no alcoholic stimulant with his meals is healthier than he that has. The principle applies to all residents in the country, but it is easier to see in the case of the missionaries than among other classes, because their habits and practice are more regular and uniform. The missions that as a class are total abstainers are the healthier, and stand exposure better than others. The man that is a total abstainer bears very much better the onset of fever than the man that is not; and he is also less liable to other diseases. These stimulants are valuable in conditions of debility when they are administered in small quantity. They should be eschewed by healthy persons that wish to remain healthy in the climate of British New Guinea.

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SS. "MERRIE ENGLAND" AND OTHER VESSELS.

57. During the year the steamer travelled 16,487 sea miles, at a consumption of one ton of coal for each 25·05 miles. The coal used was—For the main engines, 658 tons; for the launches, 22 tons; for the galley fires, 12 tons; total, 692 tons. The report of Lloyd's Surveyor on this vessel is attached hereto (Appendix HH).\* From this it will be seen that the steamer is in first-class condition; indeed, in a great many ways this vessel is now much better fitted for work than when first received from England.

Up to September last the "Merrie England" was maintained at the joint expense of the Imperial Government and the contributing colonies.

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58. The four magisterial divisions have each a suitable vessel for the use of the Resident Magistrates, with a whaleboat and dingey. Those in the South-east, in the Eastern, and in the Central Divisions are sister vessels—schooners, of about twenty tons gross—built specially for the British New Guinea Government. They are all nearly new, and are in good condition and very suitable for the work required of them.

In the Western Division there is a stout lugger, of more shallow draught, which is found to be convenient on the flats and shoals of the western coast.

There is a spare vessel stationed at Port Moresby, suitable to take the place of any one of the four divisional vessels, whenever necessary on account of repairs.

The sailing vessels are all manned by Papuans exclusively. They represent the minimum of what is required for administrative purposes even with the present staff. They at the same time constitute the maximum of what can be maintained on the funds now at disposal. They are capable of keeping the Administration alive in each division without the steamer; but the latter is indispensable for anything approaching efficient administration. It would be quite impossible for the Administrator to visit, say, the north-east coast more than about once a year without the steamer, unless this were done to the complete neglect of other divisions. It would be impossible to deal promptly with any sudden emergency arising at a distance at any spot to be reached by sea. The Administration would lose greatly in force and power by the discontinuance of the steamer.

There is an excellent river launch, which in fine weather is fit to travel along the coast as well as to ascend rivers. In rough weather, like what prevails during the six or seven months of the south-east winds, this vessel could not face the seas of the south coast.

#### TRADE.

59. The total value of the trade of the colony for the year has been—Imports, £46,971; Exports, £49,850; together, £96,830. Under ordinary circumstances the volume of trade would have been considerably over £100,000; but it happened that large imports due in May did not arrive till July, with the result that supplies were exhausted in some stores, that there was thus wanting nearly two months' Customs revenue, and that a large quantity of produce was left unshipped for want of opportunity.

The trade of the Possession has progressed as below during the ten years :—

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*Total Trade for Ten Years.*

				Imports.	Exports.	Total.
				£	£	£
1888-89	...	...	...	11,108	5,943	17,051
1889-90	...	...	...	16,104	6,455	22,559
1890-91	...	...	...	15,530	8,434	23,964
1891-92	...	...	...	23,755	11,289	35,044
1892-93	...	...	...	25,261	14,966	40,227
1893-94	...	...	...	28,501	14,952	43,453
1894-95	...	...	...	28,367	16,215	44,582
1895-96	...	...	...	34,521	19,401	53,922
1896-97	...	...	...	51,391	44,345	95,737
1897-98	...	...	...	46,971	49,859	96,830

The total imports and exports, as above, for the past ten years amount to £473,369, being an average annual trade of £47,336.

*Imports.*

60. The total imports through the three ports of entry of the colony have been as under for the last ten years :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89	6,016	5,019	—	11,108
1889-90	6,798	9,305	—	16,104
1890-91	7,455	8,075	—	15,530
1891-92	10,379	13,377	—	23,756
1892-93	13,173	12,088	—	25,261
1893-94	15,331	11,428	1,741	28,501
1894-95	12,079	14,036	2,253	28,367
1895-96	20,912	12,235	1,374	34,521
1896-97	32,813	17,521	1,056	51,391
1897-98	30,166	14,995	1,810	46,971

This gives an average annual value of imports of £28,144.

The chief items imported may be arranged under the following heads :—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Food-stuffs ... ..	£ 5,400	£ 7,124	£ 4,463	£ 6,037	£ 6,252	£ 7,181	£ 8,062	£ 9,328	20,752	£ 17,246
Drapery and Clothing	1,735	1,582	1,712	2,838	3,414	3,002	2,901	3,149	5,758	3,898.
Tobacco and Cigars ...	996	1,290	2,354	3,257	2,407	3,985	3,059	2,735	4,648	4,931
Hardware ... ..	927	1,123	1,535	2,677	2,828	3,162	3,440	4,844	7,718	2,192
Beverages ... ..	805	1,143	688	890	1,625	1,760	1,116	1,755	2,378	3,819
Building Materials ...	246	1,086	1,224	1,965	1,474	2,889	1,727	1,916	1,890	1,463
Other Articles ...	999	2,756	3,554	6,091	7,261	6,522	7,997	10,794	8,248	13,422
Total ... .. £	11,108	16,104	15,530	23,755	25,261	28,501	28,302	34,521	51,392	46,971

The imports for the year last past show a decrease as compared with the previous year of £4,421. The decrease on food-stuffs was £3,506 ; on drapery and clothing, £1,860 ; on hardware, £5,526 ; on building material, £427 ; but there was an increase on tobacco and cigars of £283 ; on beverages of £1,441 ; and on other articles, £5,174.

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*Exports.*

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61. The total value of exports, as entered at the Custom House, has been from the three ports of entry as below :—

Year.	Samarai.	Port Moresby.	Daru.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1888-89 ... ..	5,071	871	—	5,943
1889-90 ... ..	5,458	997	—	6,455
1890-91 ... ..	7,678	755	—	8,434
1891-92 ... ..	8,099	3,190	—	11,289
1892-93 ... ..	6,290	8,675	—	14,966
1893-94 ... ..	9,555	3,542	1,854	14,952
1894-95 ... ..	8,399	5,059	2,757	16,215
1895-96 ... ..	10,600	8,326	475	19,401
1896-97 ... ..	39,349	4,658	338	44,345
1897-98 ... ..	41,404	7,266	1,189	49,859

The total exports for the past ten years amounted to £191,859, an average of £19,185 per annum.

The total amount of trade passing through Samarai during the three last years has, as shown above, been not far short of three times that of Port Moresby.

The advance in the value of exports over the previous year was £5,514.

The largest item of export was gold; but the amount of this article as entered at the Custom House does not nearly represent the amount that was actually taken away. The quantity entered inwards through the Custom House at Cooktown from the Possession was 6,068 ounces; at Sydney, 762 ounces.

In computing the value of gold exported it has been reckoned at £3 15s. an ounce. The annual export of gold declared at the Custom House has been—

—	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Ounces ... ..	3,850	3,470	2,426	1,235	582
Value ... .. £	14,387	12,440	8,371	4,322	2,236

  

—	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Ounces ... ..	1,128	728	1,373	7,148	6,830
Value ... .. £	3,906	2,565	4,735	25,018	25,612

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The total export of gold for the past ten years, as entered at the Customs, has been £103,592, being an average of £10,359 per annum.

The second export in point of value was pearl-shell. The quantity of this article exported annually has been—

	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Tons ... ..	15½	12½	3	18	37
Value ... £	1,510	1,050	85	542	1,623

  

	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Tons ... ..	52	51	41	147½	104
Value ... £	3,366	3,005	2,371	6,004	8,468

Nearly the whole of this was obtained in the eastern waters of the Possession, the central and western waters producing 14 and 15 tons respectively.

The total value of pearl-shell exported during the past ten years amounted to £28,024, being an average of £2,802 per annum.

The copra exported consisted of 312 tons, valued at £2,425, being a decrease of 128 tons and £1,069 on the previous year. The export of this article has been—

Year.	Tons.	Valued at
1888-89 ... ..	76	£ 550
1889-90 ... ..	43	250
1890-91 ... ..	198	1,433
1891-92 ... ..	340	2,084
1892-93 ... ..	194	1,159
1893-94 ... ..	450	2,885
1894-95 ... ..	427	2,830
1895-96 ... ..	381	2,748
1896-97 ... ..	440	3,494
1897-98 ... ..	312	2,425

The total value of copra exported during the past ten years amounted to £19,858, being an average of £1,985 per annum.

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The india-rubber exported consisted of 15 tons, valued at £3,683, being an increase of £210 on the previous year. The export of this article has been—

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			1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Tons	...	...	15	3	16	15
Value	...	£	27	810	3,472	3,683

The total value of india-rubber exported during the past four years amounted to £7,992.

There has been an increase of £617 in the declared value of sandalwood as compared with last year. The transactions in this industry have been as under :—

Year.	Tons.	Valued at.
1891-92	42	£ 290
1892-93	899	7,183
1893-94	321	1,896
1894-95	378	2,568
1895-96	525	4,035
1896-97	300	2,323
1897-98	304	2,940

The total value of sandalwood exported during the past seven years has been £21,235, or an average of £3,034 per annum.

There has been a revival in the bêche-de-mer industry, which shows an increase of £2,379 in the value exported, as compared with last year. The export of this article has been—

		1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Tons	...	38½	70¼	64¼	49	21¾
Value	...	£ 2,178	4,682	5,030	3,401	1,573

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Export of Bêche-de-mer—*continued*.

	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Tons ... ..	28	21½	17½	13	37
Value ... £	1,714	1,087	929	1,016	3,395

The total value of bêche-de-mer exported during the past ten years has been £25,005, being an average of £2,500 per annum.

Other items of export worthy of mention are—pearls, £500, showing a decrease of £480 on the previous year; turtle-shell, £294, showing a decrease of £225; birds, £710; natural history specimens, £945; sago, £408.

SHIPPING.

62. All shipping entered inwards or outwards was British, with the exception of one French steamer of 640 tons which called at Port Moresby and Samarai. The total number of vessels (exclusive of Government vessels) entered inwards from beyond the colony was 92, representing 13,642 tons; the total number cleared outwards for foreign ports was 76, representing 12,909 tons. The total foreign tonnage has been—

1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
22,824 tons.	19,759 tons.	28,824 tons.	26,551 tons.

The entries inwards and outwards, coastwise, have been—

	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Vessels ... ..	107	333	595	531
Tons ... ..	5,133	7,845	20,676	14,511

POSTAL.

63. The postal transactions for the year show, when compared with those of last year, a small decrease. The following is a tabulated statement for the last ten years :—

Article.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
Letters received ...	2,366	3,166	2,664	4,393	4,079	6,280	6,279	7,130	11,148	9,604
Letters despatched ...	2,587	2,536	2,191	3,917	4,011	5,297	6,189	4,987	11,550	10,203
Packets received ...	93	111	142	45	230	157	129	246	181	249
Packets despatched ...	98	84	88	78	427	467	468	281	475	497
Newspapers received...	4,071	6,845	6,042	8,505	6,749	8,131	7,046	7,197	7,441	8,691
Newspapers despatched	574	590	468	756	276	240	776	828	1,635	2,135

The total number of letters, packets, and newspapers received and despatched during the past ten years was 194,169, being an average of 19,416 per annum.

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FINANCE.

*Revenue.*

64. The amount of revenue collected in the Possession and paid into the Queensland Treasury during the year was £10,280, showing a decrease of £378 as compared with the previous year. It is compared below with the figures of former years :—

Source of Revenue.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs ... ..	2,419 10 2	2,893 10 4	2,525 13 2	4,428 14 11	3,757 16 4
Gold Fields ... ..	187 17 0	20 15 0	23 0 0	24 0 0	23 17 0
Fees ... ..	1 18 0	4 10 0	4 3 0	10 14 0	157 8 5
Fines ... ..	25 13 6	41 10 0	46 5 0	34 0 0	24 10 0
Licenses ... ..	2 0 0	11 0 0	21 0 0	136 15 0	106 0 0
Miscellaneous... ..	42 13 2	44 8 0	53 18 2	149 12 6	535 4 9
<b>Totals ... £</b>	<b>2,679 11 10</b>	<b>3,015 13 4</b>	<b>2,673 19 4</b>	<b>4,783 16 5</b>	<b>4,604 16 6</b>

Revenue—continued.

Source of Revenue.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs ... ..	5,069 5 2	4,646 11 4	6,000 13 0	9,350 19 11	9,207 17 10
Gold Fields .. ..	53 10 9	25 17 6	77 17 11	261 17 3	285 0 0
Fees ... ..	136 19 4	105 3 7	57 16 4	415 16 9	212 15 0
Fines ... ..					
License ... ..	316 15 0	246 15 0	292 15 0	246 10 0	304 10 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	290 4 2	85 8 0	118 10 0	388 13 9	270 12 5
Totals ... ..	£ 5,866 14 5	5,109 15 5	6,547 12 3	10,663 17 8	10,280 15 3

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The total revenue collected during the past ten years amounted to £56,226 12s. 5d., being an average of £5,622 13s. 3d.

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*Expenditure.*

65. The sum of £15,000 appropriated to the ordinary administrative services of the year was expended. Of a special vote of £1,000 for surveys there was disbursed during the year £565 14s. 8d. In addition to this there was paid £437 18s. 5d., part of the unexpended vote for the first year of the Government services, towards the employment of an extra Government Agent in the Mambare district.

The expenditure is classified and compared as follows with that of previous years :—

Heads of Expenditure.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Civil List Salaries ... ..	2,633 19 7	3,300 0 0	3,290 12 8	3,300 0 0	3,300 0 0
Other Salaries ... ..	1,796 0 6	2,381 18 6	3,476 10 5	3,559 2 0	3,707 3 10
Vessels and Boats ... ..	2,747 11 4	2,564 3 0	2,938 16 3	2,993 6 5	1,600 8 3
Allowances ... ..	1,371 1 11	2,548 3 2	1,500 0 0	1,356 0 5	1,748 15 4
Buildings and Works ... ..	239 16 11	1,144 19 3	979 0 8	780 10 1	872 4 6
Agriculture ... ..	—	137 11 9	355 9 2	335 12 3	146 19 6
Mail Service ... ..	445 0 0	—	—	—	450 0 0
Miscellaneous... ..	1,536 1 0	2,898 9 8	2,459 10 10	2,675 8 10	3,174 8 7
<b>Totals ... £</b>	<b>10,769 11 3</b>	<b>14,975 5 4</b>	<b>15,000 0 0</b>	<b>15,000 0 0</b>	<b>15,000 0 0</b>

Expenditure--continued.

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Heads of Expenditure.	1893-94.			1894-95.			1895-96.			1896-97.			1897-98.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Civil List Salaries ... ..	3,300	0	0	3,248	11	3	3,186	8	6	3,195	11	3	3,175	0	0
Other Salaries ... ..	3,478	15	3	3,640	6	9	3,779	1	9	3,552	2	2	3,660	7	0
Vessels and Boats ... ..	1,308	2	9	1,214	3	1	1,587	8	7	1,258	18	5	1,588	11	11
Allowances ... ..	1,454	4	11	1,613	13	3	1,387	12	0	2,061	4	4	1,511	1	1
Buildings and Works ... ..	435	14	2	397	7	10	660	19	3	754	10	6	395	3	5
Agriculture ... ..	203	16	0	155	7	11	142	0	9	94	14	5	88	6	10
Mail Service ... ..	750	0	0	900	0	0	900	0	0	900	0	0	—		
Miscellaneous... ..	4,069	6	11	3,830	9	11	3,356	9	2	4,411	18	9	4,572	1	7
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>16,228</b>	<b>19 10</b>	<b>14,990</b>	<b>11 10</b>				

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Surveys, special vote ... .. £565 14s. 8d.

Extra Government Agent ... .. £437 18s. 5d.

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## LAND AND LAND CLAIMS.

66. Practically all claims to land acquired prior to annexation have been disposed of. One remains outstanding to allow the claimants, the present occupants, to obtain some right or title from the representatives of the original purchaser. This is perhaps a solitary example. The Crown Lands Ordinance provided for the re-hearing or reconsideration of any claim disallowed wholly or in part by the Administrator in Council. No appeal has been made demanding a re-hearing. Needless to say, the decision arrived at was not in all cases satisfactory to the claimant. The London Missionary Society and the Sacred Heart Mission have each considered themselves entitled to more land than was allowed to them under certain claims. It would have been greatly more satisfactory to the Government had they appealed, as the missions were inexperienced in such matters, and a re-hearing could not have failed to convince any reasonable person that they were liberally treated.

The small areas taken up for settlement by planting have almost always been alienated at the minimum price allowed by law. Some blocks in the township of Port Moresby were offered for sale by tender after extensive advertisement in Australia. The result was far from encouraging.

The several missions have acquired the land they need for religious purposes, under the Crown Lands Ordinance, at the original cost of the land to the Government.

This may probably average about 1s. an acre. It has been the desire of the Government to allow sufficient land to each mission station for growing its food. Unfortunately this is not always possible, because at times sufficient land is not procurable in the immediate vicinity of a mission station without hampering the village.

There has lately been some demand for land, more particularly for planting rubber trees. The position of this question is fully dealt with in the Appendices to this Report.

It is much to be regretted that it cannot be stated here what area of land has been granted on claims acquired prior to annexation. This may be possible in next year's Report. In Appendix X\* are given particulars of all Crown grants issued up to June last.

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\* Not printed.

They may be summarised as follows :—

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Blocks.	Purposes.	—	
		A.	R. P.
12	Agricultural ... ..	2,986	2 34
3	Pastoral ... ..	1,366	2 6
145	Religious ... ..	1,236	0 14
10	Cocconut Planting ... ..	874	1 19
18	Residential ... ..	108	3 32
1	Business Site ... ..	0	3 0
1	Coaling Station ... ..	0	2 0
190		6,573	3 25

SCIENTIFIC.

67. The description\* of a new species of fossil (petrified wood), by Mr. Shirley, is of considerable interest. The specimens were unearthed in cutting the road over the top of Mount Warirata.

68. The paper\* on Totemism at Tubetube, by the Rev. J. T. Field, is of much importance. All over the east end of the Possession this strange institution has still very considerable power. It comes west as far as Mairu or Table Bay, when it disappears. It certainly extends a considerable way up the north-east coast. Up to the present time no trace of it has been discovered in the Mambare district, though many inquiries have been made on the subject. It seems probable it exists there, however, for many natives have cicatricial markings on the shoulders and back that would lead one to suppose they had something to do with totemism.

No trace of it has been met with in the Central district; but it crops up on the Fly River, though it has not in the west nearly the force it has in the east.

In the east the child inherits the totem of the mother in most places, if not everywhere; in the west the practice is more to inherit the totem from the father. This is quite in harmony with the higher position occupied by women in the east as compared with the west. Totemism in the west seem to be fast becoming extinct. The younger generation do not appear to know very much about it—generally nothing. It will long retain some power in the east end.

\* Not printed.

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Mr. Hely's papers\* on "Totemism" supply the means of instituting some comparison between eastern and western totemism.

69. In Appendix CC will be found a brief note\* by the distinguished anthropologist, the Rev. Dr. Lorimer Fison, on Totemism in Fiji. From this it will be seen that in that country there are found only doubtful traces of it. Much time and care will be required to work out its position between Fiji and the Fly River. It may be remembered that it was not really known in the Possession till some years after annexation, so difficult is it to discover at times, and to investigate in a way that is trustworthy. I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. George Brown for some interesting notes\* on Totemism in New Britain and Samoa. The data for the interpretation of the Kiriwina emblazoned shield have been furnished by the Rev. S. B. Fellowes. The same gentleman has supplied a note\* on the centres of different industries in the Kiriwina group.

70. A number of geological specimens have been examined by Mr. Jack, the Government Geologist of Queensland, who has kindly furnished a report\* on them. There is nothing very remarkable in them except the occurrence of strontium in the specimens from Kiriwina, a substance not previously met with in the Possession. Up to the present time no precious stones or gems have been found in the Possession. The probability is considerable that these exist there.

71. A number of botanical specimens from the colony have been examined by Mr. Bailey, Government Botanist of Queensland. Mr. Bailey's descriptions\* will be found in Appendix DD.

A report\* by Mr. W. Botting Hemsley on the Alpine plants collected on the top of the Owen Stanley Range during the two last years, and forwarded to Kew for examination, is contained in Appendix II.

It is much to be regretted that no report could be obtained on the British New Guinea collections in the Queensland Museum. They have now assumed large proportions, and are of great value, but they have not been described nor their full extent determined. They cannot be properly exhibited for want of space

72. Much labour was given to extending and correcting the map of British New Guinea, the result of which will be seen upon reference to Appendix JJ,\* where will be found a map, prepared under the direction of the Surveyor-General of Queensland, of the Eastern portion of the Possession. The map was drawn on a scale of two miles to an inch for reduction to four miles (the scale upon which it will eventually be published), but has been reduced to six miles to an inch to make it a convenient size for

\* Not printed.

publication with this Report. A much-improved chart is now in course of preparation, in which many spots are fixed with sufficient accuracy for the present. A revision of the boundary line between Queensland and British New Guinea has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and the necessary Order in Council has been made. This awaits action in Queensland. The rectified boundary would secure to British New Guinea the fishing reefs of its tribes, and would provide the Possession with an anchorage in the west beyond Dauan.

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GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

73. A rough estimate has been made by officers at each station of the value of Government property in their charge. The figures are as follow :—

	£
In the South-eastern Division ...	1,509
Mambare ... ..	650
Eastern Division—no return—about	2,000
Central Division ... ..	12,216
Rigo Station ... ..	1,063
Western Division ... ..	1,045

This does not include the s.s. "Merrie England," nor the official collections in Brisbane. It, of course, does not include any Crown lands save those under cultivation by the Government.

PRESENT POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

74. There can be no doubt that the colony has now reached an important and critical stage of its existence ; that it is now in a position of great interest in many ways. Politically, it has arrived at the end of the period of ten years during which it was, under arrangement, jointly ruled by the Imperial Government and the contributing colonies. That stage of its existence has been before aught else one of pacification and of research. The establishment of some degree of supremacy on the part of the Government was a preliminary essential to acquiring any extensive and exact knowledge of the physical nature and capabilities of the country. The advance made even in peace making had to be executed with caution and patience, so as never to unduly imperil the prestige of the Government, which, had it during the first few years met with any serious reverse, might have lost all authority and control over other tribes than those it might have been compelled to retire before. Some of our greatest explorers have been routed and hotly pursued by natives on land or on water ; others have retired or passed them so swiftly as to evade



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collision so far as they were concerned. Others well held their ground, or had no misunderstanding of any kind with the tribes they came in contact with. The giving way of explorers before the natives carried to them personally, so long as they got clear away, no future results of a serious character, though it was sure to increase difficulties to the traveller that succeeded them. But it was entirely different with the Government. The explorer in a new district will almost always get through safely with ordinary prudence, if he is sufficiently liberal. Government parties, since annexation, have not been in a condition to be open handed, and they have always the serious and difficult task of arresting malefactors, and consequently are bound to inevitably come into collision with strong tribes, and under all circumstances they must maintain their ground. Consequently advance has had to be slow. The officers concerned have been fortunate, save in the sole instance of the late Mr. Green, who fell by treachery and not in open attack, and in no single instance have they suffered defeat in a fight. The authority of the Government has been firmly established over extensive areas, and a considerable extent of country has been roughly examined, but only so as to give general information as to its capabilities. This latter task can now be proceeded with deliberately and continuously. The colony is therefore in the condition of being ready for considerable agricultural development. This is not possible without the intervention of Europeans. With the exception of cocoanuts, rubber from forest trees, and a few other articles, natives are not likely alone to ever add much to the exports of the colony. The time has come when agricultural development should be pushed in the Possession with as much perseverance as has been employed in forcing peace on the different hostile tribes to prepare for it. Opinions may very well differ as to how this is best to be done; but there cannot be any doubt that this industrial development through agriculture is now a pressing necessity, if British New Guinea is to be made a British colony in anything save the name.

There still remain in the interior large areas that are not pacified, but, with peace established up to the borders of these districts, it becomes easy to reduce them to control whenever this is necessary or can conveniently be carried out.

The conditions under which land has been offered for some years for settlement have been very easy, but they have failed to attract settlers. There will be no help for this condition of matters, except to grant such facilities and inducements as may attract settlement of the kind now required. There is already undoubtedly as much land known and available for occupation as, if utilised, would suffice to make the colony self-supporting. It can be occupied without risk or danger. A very considerable amount of local labour could be acquired. There are a few Europeans in the country that are well acquainted with the ways

of natives, that are acclimatised, and could with advantage be employed by those entering on agricultural enterprise on a large scale.

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This form of development can take place extensively not only without in any way infringing on the rights of natives, which it has been the deliberate policy of the contributing colonies to fully respect, but even to their positive advantage in providing them with employment at home, and in helping to make them producers on their own account. At the present moment agricultural development is practically at a standstill on political considerations. The welfare and progress of the colony, the interests of the natives, the interests of Europeans, and the interests of all concerned, require that this state of matters should be amended as soon as possible, to put an end to loss of time, and to utilise expenditure to the best advantage.

The mining industry is better started than the agricultural, probably because for surface mining it requires much less capital. It has already been pointed out that it is considered desirable to offer some further encouragement to prospectors to examine new districts. In dealing with this question it has to be remembered that prospecting among the hills and mountains of the Possession is extremely arduous. The mineral country is of itself difficult to examine; but it is still more difficult in most cases to get there from the coast, and to obtain supplies once the payable mineral is found. As the Government of the Possession has at command no funds to expend as rewards to prospectors, they can be encouraged only by increasing the area of reward claims, and by other means of the same kind. Legislation in this direction has been and remains suspended till the Mining Bills now under consideration in Queensland become law. There is no room for doubt that the agricultural development of the country, by facilitating communication, and by supplying a basis from which to start and on which to fall back, will greatly add to the opening up of the mineral resources of the country, which are probably of much importance.

The fishing industry is capable of fuller development. This will probably proceed gradually by its own efforts.

Unless new industries, such as the manufacture of sago, the export of cane, and such like, are established, there does not seem to be room for any considerable addition to the number of small traders already in the Possession. Naturally, agricultural or mineral development must of necessity furnish an increased amount of freight and passenger traffic to the small vessels that ply along the coast. But, until the natives are taught to produce more, the number of Europeans now trading in native produce cannot be much augmented.

The fishing industry, on some scale or other, will be permanent. The agricultural expansion, so far as directed to cocoanut trees



Of these officers, Messrs. Winter, Musgrave, Hely, and Allen have been in office since annexation. With the exception of Mr. Hely they have not suffered from climate. They have been able to attend to their respective duties almost, without break or interruption, and have performed excellent service. Mr. Moreton, Mr. English, Captain Butterworth, Mr. Ballantine, and Mr. Chester have been in the service for a period that is not much shorter. They and their brother officers that have served for a shorter term have not been more frequently incapacitated by illness than they might have been in almost any other country.

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There has been every reason to be satisfied with the conduct of the officers of the service. Their relations towards natives have not been so intimate as to cause loss of respect. They have gained the confidence of Europeans and natives alike by doing their duty justly, fairly, and considerately. The tone of the service as regards a high sense of duty, and a determination to do justice to all, leaves nothing to be desired.

76. The losses the service has sustained by death have been most serious.

The death of Mr. George Hunter occurred in 1890, under very painful circumstances.

The qualities of the late Mr. Denis Gleeson have already been alluded to in this Report, and the value of his services as first Head Gaoler commented upon. Mr. Gleeson died in 1893.

In Mr. Frank Lawes the Government lost in 1894 its greatest authority on native questions, a man of very sound judgment and of fine tact, thoroughly in sympathy with his work, capable, had he lived, of performing great and important services.

Mr. Charles Kowald, who created the Government station at Mekeo, lost his life in 1896 from the results of a most unfortunate accident. He had before his early decease contributed largely to pacify the Mekeo district, and had made his station one of the most beautiful residences in this part of the world.

Early in 1897, Mr. John Green, Government Agent and Assistant Magistrate in the Mambare district, was treacherously murdered, with Corporal Sedu and some other natives. Mr. Green lived long enough to prove that he was a man of much more than average capacity, persevering, and devoted to duty. His death is to be attributed to his intense desire to conciliate and to pacify by peaceful means the turbulent natives of his district.

Mr. John Meredith, who became Head Gaoler in 1894, died at Sudest in 1897, when in charge of the prisoners then stationed there. He had shown himself thoroughly well qualified for his responsible position, and he took the deepest interest in his work.

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The loss of these officers would have seriously weakened a much larger service than that of British New Guinea. In two or three instances it for some time practically paralysed the departments more immediately concerned. Some of these men possessed knowledge and experience that a successor can acquire only with the lapse of a considerable period of time. In certain directions they had received a special training that was of use to them and of advantage to the service. To a considerable extent this had to be begun anew. It is surprising how well the service has stood these serious losses, a circumstance that can best be explained by the high sense of duty with which its officers are animated.

#### ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND.

77. It is my duty, at the end of the ten years' period, to put on record my deep sense of the unvarying and consistent desire on the part of the three Prime Ministers of Queensland with whom I have been associated to promote the welfare, prosperity, and development of the Possession. Sir Samuel Griffith was mainly responsible for the arrangements under which the Administration has hitherto been carried on. Each of them—Mr. Morehead, Sir Samuel Griffith, and Sir Hugh Nelson—have, in succession, made everything else subservient to the just and proper treatment of the native race. This has all through been the first consideration. They have, in numerous ways, performed important services for British New Guinea, both directly and indirectly. They made the transaction of business easy; and the benefit of their great experience in affairs has always been at the service of the Possession during a harmonious co-operation of nearly a decade. The two last have visited and reported officially on the colony.

All the numerous sketch maps of the colony prepared in recent years have been brought out under the supervision of Mr. McDowall, the Surveyor-General of Queensland. It is with his indispensable assistance that the new map of the Possession now in course of preparation is being got ready. The colony is under very great obligation to this officer, whose good services towards it have been frequently extended in matters beyond those specified above.

I have before this drawn attention to the good offices of Mr. Deshon, Auditor-General of Queensland. Owing to postal delays in forwarding payments and returning receipts, in consequence, also, of the inexperience of officers, Mr. Deshon has often had a difficult task to perform in auditing the accounts of the Possession. Mr. Deshon has uniformly endeavoured to teach where many in his position would have only found fault.

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The repairing and refitting of the "Merrie England" has now, for a number of years, been carried out under the general superintendence of Captain Almond. The thoroughness with which this has been done is demonstrated by the first-rate condition of that vessel at the present day. His services have also, on many occasions, been willingly and courteously given to engage men and officers for the steamer.

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Many other officers in the service of Queensland have rendered the Possession important services. The efficient assistance I have for a number of years received from Mr. H. S. Dutton cannot be overlooked here.

78. Finally, I have to thank Your Lordship for loyal and sympathetic co-operation during the time you have been Governor of Queensland. Your visit to the Possession, made at the cost of considerable time and personal inconvenience, cannot but be of advantage to the public service, and must add to the already deep interest taken by you in the affairs of the young colony.

I have, &c.,

WM. MACGREGOR.

His Excellency The Right Honourable  
Lord Lamington, K.C.M.G.,  
Governor of Queensland.

**COLONIAL REPORTS.**

The following, among other reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"
237	British New Guinea	1896-97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	"
240	St. Helena	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago	"
242	British Honduras	"
243	Malta	"
244	Fiji	"
245	Hong Kong	"
246	Leeward Islands	"
247	Grenada	"
248	Gibraltar	"
249	Gold Coast	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
251	Solomon Islands	1897-98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897-98
256	Newfoundland	1898
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 260.

**NIGER.**

**WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE.**

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REPORTS FOR 1897-8.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*June, 1899.*

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232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada .. ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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No. 260.

N I G E R.

WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE.

NIGER.  
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COLONEL F. D. LUGARD, C.B., D.S.O., to the SECRETARY  
OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

63, Jermyn Street, S.W.,

13th March, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the report which, in accordance with your instructions, I desired Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher to submit on the work done in raising the 1st Battalion of the West African Frontier Force. A similar report on the raising of the 2nd Battalion will shortly be submitted by Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher's decision to concentrate the recruits at Lokoja as soon as possible was entirely in accordance with the views I had expressed to him before he left London.

The site chosen by him for the Camp was, in my opinion, the best possible in the immediate vicinity of Lokoja. I do not entirely associate myself in the generalisations on the character of the African expressed in his report.

3. The Lapai Expedition commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher took the field at the moment when the crisis with the French was at its acutest stage. The assistance of the Frontier Force was claimed as an equivalent for the Royal Niger Constabulary serving in Borgu, and the representations made by Acting Agent-General Drew were of such a nature as left me no option but to add to the responsibilities of that anxious time by detailing the troops required. I was informed by him that any

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delay in so doing might produce a disaster of the gravest possible nature. The expedition was conducted to a successful issue by Colonel Pilcher, who brought to notice the valuable services done by Major Festing, Captain Wilkinson, and Lieutenant Molesworth.

4. I concur in the value of fatigue work as a part of the training of a native soldier, more especially in view of the saving in expense to the State.

5. The difficulty of recruiting Hausas has prevented the Battalion from reaching more than three-quarters (900) of its establishment (1,200), but the excellence of the training imparted by Colonel Pilcher and his officers is proved by the fact that already in so short a period a thoroughly serviceable force has been created—"fit to go anywhere and do anything."

6. The amount of work which devolved upon Colonel Pilcher and upon Captain Wilkinson, the Adjutant, and Lieutenant Molesworth, the Quartermaster, before the formation of the Transport and Accounts Departments, and of a separate Headquarters, was very great, and these officers worked indefatigably and unceasingly. Subsequently I appointed Captain Goldie-Taubman to the charge of the Station Staff Office at Lokoja, in addition to his regimental duties, and to the ability and untiring energy which he displayed the order and system which rapidly grew up was largely due. After his death he was succeeded in the discharge of these duties by Captain Marsh, concerning whose work I have received the most satisfactory reports from Colonel Willecocks and Colonel Pilcher. There was no better and more conscientious officer in the force than Captain Taubman; he never spared himself, and his death was a great grief to myself and to the whole force. I desire to endorse the terms of praise in which Colonel Pilcher has alluded to the work of Captain Blackader, Lieutenant Bryan, and other officers, and to add the expression of my own great regret for the sad and untimely death of so promising an officer as Lieutenant Keating. All ranks have worked loyally and well, in spite of constant sickness and great discomfort and exposure in mere grass houses during tropical rains (until the erection of the huts), and the greatest credit is due to Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher and the officers and non-commissioned officers under him for the results achieved in the formation and training of the 1st Battalion.

7. As directed by you, I add a few remarks on the organisation of the other corps and departments of the West African Frontier Force, and the general work and results of the first year.

*Artillery.*—This branch of the service has been organised as a separate unit from the Infantry, under Major W. A. Robinson, R.A. It consists of three batteries; two of these (field batteries) are armed with four 7-pr. M.L. guns each, the present establishment being 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 6 British non-commissioned

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officers, and 53 rank and file. The third, under Major Robinson, has six British non-commissioned officers and 49 rank and file, and is equipped with six 75mm. B.L. guns. Major Robinson and his officers showed the utmost zeal and energy in the raising and training of their men, but were much delayed by the initial difficulty of obtaining suitable Hausa recruits and by the non-arrival of the guns till last autumn. I have to record with sorrow the death of Lieutenant Porcher, Sergeant-Majors Francis and Bell, and Corporal Sheeley. Captain Armitage did good work on the expedition under Major Festing to the Anambra Creek. Lieutenant Ker, R.A., did excellent service in the Niger Company's Expedition in the Ibo country (Illah), which was brought to notice by the Officer Commanding the Expedition. The casualties in that affair were heavy, and it was of an arduous nature. Good feeling and contentment under difficulties and hardships—they were among the last to be housed, and were for long disappointed at the non-arrival of guns and recruits—were especially noticeable in the Artillery, and much credit is due to Major Robinson. The services of Battery Sergeant-Major H. Webb, Battery Sergeant-Major J. Heffernan, and Battery Sergeant-Major T. Matthews, have been specially mentioned by Major Robinson.

*Engineers.*—A small company of Sappers, under Lieutenant R. L. McClintock, R.E., consisting of 5 British non-commissioned officers and 26 local natives—to which, later, were added 20 Madras Sappers and Miners—were placed in charge of the erection of 54 wooden houses, sent out from England during February and March last. About 40 West Coast artisans (carpenters and masons) were attached to this company to assist in the constructions. On February 23rd last 26 of the small three-roomed houses for officers had been completed, one officers' mess, two hospitals, three large officers' houses, 18 non-commissioned officers' houses, and 160 ft. of storehouses. The houses have been well and carefully erected. The delay in the erection has been great, for it has taken a year to put up the houses now erected, but the difficulties to be contended with—more especially in the matter of transport—were very great. Lieutenant McClintock was handicapped by lack of experience in dealing with tropical conditions and labour, but no officer in the force has shown a greater energy and disregard of self, even when physically unfit to do his work. I desire also to mention the good work done by Corporal Greenway.

*Telegraph Section.*—The work done by Captain E. V. Turner, R.E., has been excellent. Under his superintendance the air-line from Lagos to Jebba has been constructed, and extended to Fort Goldie to the north, and a considerable distance towards Lokoja in the south. The efficiency of the line thus hastily constructed in a country of hurricanes, through continuous forest and cutting—and in spite of tropical rains—is evidenced by the fewness of the periods during which interruption has occurred.

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But, apart from technical skill, Captain Turner has proved himself unusually successful in handling native labourers and coast clerks and operators, and in traversing without friction the territories of the Emir of Illorin and in avoiding the suspicions of his fractious chiefs. He has specially mentioned the good work done by 2nd Corporal Rubery, and Sapper F. J. Lewis. Of this corps I have to record with regret the death of Sergeant J. Collins.

*Transport Department.*—The work thrown upon this Department has been altogether too heavy. Mr. Dangerfield, the Chief Transport Officer, has worked hard under overwhelming difficulties, but the details which should have been undertaken by a subordinate have occupied his time to the exclusion in some instances of weightier matters. Sergeant Jones has been reported upon in terms of high praise. The Department suffered a great loss in the death of Store-keeper Reynolds, an upright, hard-working, and very efficient man, who formerly accompanied me through Borgu.

*Medical Department.*—I cannot speak in terms of too great praise of the work and efficiency of the Medical Department, and were I to attempt to name the medical officers who have done first-class work I should be compelled to enumerate the names of almost every one without exception. During the operations in Borgu preceding the Convention with France, the Medical Department (most ably represented by Dr. Rock) tended the sick, and later (subsequent to the Convention), when a large number of posts from Illo to Jebba, and from Jebba to Okuta, Ashigiri, and Kiama, were held by British troops, the Department detached officers and non-commissioned officers to the medical charge of these detachments. This threw very heavy work on the headquarters of the hospitals, but the call was met with ability and unflinching energy. Of the senior officers, Dr. Poole and Dr. Rees not only earned the complete confidence of all, and were unceasing in their attention, but by microscopic research have endeavoured to elucidate the obscure origins of malaria and "blackwater." Of the juniors, none was more insistent in his work and regardless of himself than the late Dr. Rock, whose loss was felt by all as a personal grief,—while Drs. Ensor and Mottram and Tichborne all proved themselves efficient and zealous. The work of the nurses is summarised in a recent telegram to me from Colonel Willcocks, who says: "Dr. Poole recommends four female nurses instead of three, and attributes to them all recent recoveries of blackwater fever." Of the non-commissioned officers, the names of Sergeant-Majors F. Wakefield, G. Nosworthy, and G. Hew deserve to be specially mentioned.

*Accounts Department.*—If I have used terms of strong praise for the Medical Department, I desire to express no lesser approbation for the work done by Messrs. Glossop and Harrison, Chief and Assistant Accountants. Practically without assistance,

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they have laboured indefatigably to clear up tangled arrears. In this connection Mr. Harrison perhaps deserves special praise. Mr. Glossop has shown that he possesses two qualities, which I venture to submit mark him out as qualified for larger responsibility. He is jealous of the public expenditure, and shows anxiety on all occasions to check expenditure and to insist on adequate authority, and he has initiative by which he has effected several minor reforms and simplification of procedure without sacrifice of principles.

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*Headquarters.*—During the crisis in Borgu, from the beginning of May to the end of June (which was coincident with the expeditions against Lapai, Anam, &c., and the initial work of local organisation), the Headquarters was deprived of the services of Colonel Willcocks, Staff Officer and Second-in-Command, and of Captain Crutchley, A.D.C., who were in Borgu, and I therefore was left single-handed. To Colonel Willcocks' indefatigable energy and his unrivalled experience and capacity as a soldier is largely due the efficiency of the West African Frontier Force as a fighting force. By constant inspection on parade, exercise in "field days," daily attendance on the musketry range, he stimulated the energy of all, and secured uniformity in practice, training, dress, and routine. He has been ably seconded by the Officers Commanding Battalions (Lieutenant-Colonels Pilcher and FitzGerald), and the C.R.A. (Major Robinson), and by all British officers and non-commissioned officers. To these latter is due the credit of the training of their corps and the smartness and discipline of all ranks. Captain Booth has proved a model Staff Officer, and has more than maintained the reputation he made as Adjutant of the 5th Fusiliers. No better man could be found for the post. Lieutenant Abadie has equally proved himself an exceptionally good officer. Mr. King has done extremely good service as Confidential Clerk, and is ever ready to work, whether well or ill.

8. I have found it difficult to curtail my remarks within the compass I had intended, for, though I have left Lieutenant-Colonels Pilcher and FitzGerald to speak for the officers and non-commissioned officers of their own battalions, my necessary observations on the other corps and departments have unavoidably occupied your time, since the number concerned is large. I conclude with a few remarks on the work done.

(A) *Organisation of Force.*—I have already, in a previous dispatch, called attention to the services of Majors (temporary Lieutenant-Colonels) Willcocks, Pilcher, and FitzGerald, pointing out how successfully the arduous duties performed by these officers had been carried out. The two latter raised and brought to a comparatively high state of efficiency the two new battalions, while, as I have stated, to the former is mainly due the efficiency of the force as a whole, and the success of the operations in Borgu. I submit that the raising of a force so large as this and its ability to take the field in so short a time as a thoroughly

**NIGER.** . reliable brigade, with efficient Medical, Transport, and Accounts  
**WEST** . Departments, with a complete body of standing orders and regu-  
**AFRICAN** . lations available for the instruction of each new arrival, is a result  
**FRONTIER** . which reflects the greatest credit on the three officers whom I  
**FORCE.** have named, and represents an amount of work in an enervating  
**1897-8.** climate which is hardly appreciable in England. That friction  
with existing local authorities, and the risks of insubordination or  
mutiny inherent in the enlistment of so large a body of raw  
natives, have been avoided, that good feeling and "camaraderie"  
prevail among all ranks, and that the native troops are contented,  
while houses have been erected, and a coinage introduced—all  
these bear witness to the tact and patience of the senior officers,  
and the admirable class of officers, non-commissioned officers, and  
civilians, to whom their success is so largely due.

(b) *Operations in Borgu.*—I have submitted full despatches to you upon events in Borgu. The situation there was delicate and difficult in the extreme. Colonel Willcocks was in actual command of the Expeditionary Force, and, with the assistance of Major Arnold, D.S.O., Commandant of the Royal Niger Constabulary, and with such first-class officers as Captain Welch, Lieutenant Glossop, Lieutenant Brodie, and others, British rights were upheld, and the extension of French posts into territory held by H.M. Government to be under British protection, which had up to that time been continuous, was checked. From the day that the expedition reached the neighbourhood of Kiama, it is not too much to say that the position as between the British and French was entirely changed. Further advance on the part of the French in the face of the firm attitude of Colonel Willcocks became impossible. Numerous occasions, as you are aware, offered themselves upon which a collision, which would probably have resulted in a conflagration, was only averted by the patience and tact of the officers on the spot. Their attitude, which was one of uncompromising firmness, combined with unfailing courtesy, was fast rendering the French position untenable, when the welcome news of the conclusion of the Convention arrived. The goodwill of the local population was completely won over to the British by kindness and fair dealing, which contrasted considerably with other methods of which they had had experience; so that when the time came to occupy the positions evacuated by the French, the British troops were received everywhere with demonstrations of pleasure. The rapidity with which these posts were occupied, and the fact that no untoward incident whatever occurred either as regards the French or the people of the country, proves the efficiency of the expedition (for forced marches had to be made over long distances in the rains) and the friendly attitude of the people. The most onerous, and in a sense the most difficult, task in connection with these operations was the supply of the troops from a base 60 miles distant, through dense jungle and roadless bush. For this purpose 500 carriers were constantly employed. They were a hastily-collected batch

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of men, who gave incessant trouble by desertion, &c, while the difficulty of feeding them, in addition to the troops, in a country producing no supplies was very great. Provisions alike for every whiteman and every blackman, whether soldier or carrier, had to be pushed up from Jebba to Fort Goldie, and thence overland. To Lieutenant Brodie, who commanded at Fort Goldie for the greater part of the time, the greatest credit is due for his success in the organisation of the Transport Corps.

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(c) *Other Operations.*—The West African Frontier Force detached officers to assist the Royal Niger Company's troops in the Argungu Expedition,—the punitive expedition to the Anambra Creek,—and to Illoh, while the Lapai Expedition was almost entirely composed of its officers and men. In each of these affairs our soldiers behaved admirably. Their fire discipline and the accuracy of their volleys were particularly noticeable, as also their steadiness and the complete control which their officers had over them. A very rapid, effective, and well-managed expedition was conducted by Major Morland to punish the murderers of Lieutenant Keating and his party.

(d) Considerable changes in the appearance of the military centres have been effected. All Europeans are now housed in temporary houses raised from the ground; the surrounding ground has been cleared; roads have been made; rocks blasted and cleared away, and the whole sanitary conditions of the camps improved beyond recognition. The telegraph progresses daily towards Lokoja, and is most efficiently served between Jebba and Lagos, while a training school of operators has been established. Detachments at short intervals stud the whole of Borgu, the chief centres being at Illo, Boussa, Fort Goldie, Kiama, Okuta, and Ashigiri. The strict sanitary rules and the conditions of life instituted at headquarters are being gradually approximated to at each of these out-stations. I have alluded to the introduction of a coinage. I cannot here enlarge upon the especial difficulties—and even risks—attendant upon this step of progress, but I am glad to be able to report that Her Majesty's coinage is now, I believe, firmly established in the Niger Sudan, and is daily extending further into the interior and becoming more popular. It is to the great personal interest shown by Company Commanders and Company Officers in the welfare of their men, and their watchfulness in seeing that they suffered no loss by this innovation, that its success is due.

Considerable areas have been roughly surveyed, both in Borgu and the Upper Niger, more especially by Major Lowry-Cole, and in Bautshi and the Upper Benue by Lieutenants Bryan and Clive.

9. I cannot conclude this report without an acknowledgment of the most efficient and invaluable co-operation of the gunboats. Lieutenant Melvill, R.N., at some personal risk, succeeded in taking the "Heron" from Jebba to Fort Goldie, where its



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presence had an undoubted moral effect, while the landing party of bluejackets who proceeded to Kiama were most useful. The naval officers were ever ready to assist, no matter under what difficulties, in the transport of stores and in every way. I have to record my great personal sorrow for the death of Lieutenant Bellairs and Dr. Barter—and I speak the feeling of the whole Force—two out of the complement of four officers. Each was a type of the very best class of his service, and gave his life for his country, as many others of their comrades of the West African Frontier Force have done in Nigeria during this past year, so full of initial difficulties to be overcome.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD.

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REPORT by Lieutenant-Colonel T. D. PILCHER, Northumberland Fusiliers, of the work done during 1897 and 1898, in raising and organising the 1st Battalion West African Frontier Force.

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About the middle of September, 1897, when holding the appointment of Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General of the Dublin District, I was asked by the Military Secretary whether I would raise and command a battalion of Hausas and Yorubas in the Hinterland of Lagos. I accepted, and proceeded without delay to the Colonial Office, where, until the time of my departure to West Africa, I was employed with matters concerning the organisation of the force.

Start for West Africa. On November 13th the first detachment of the 1st Battalion left Liverpool, under command of the late Captain Goldie-Taubman. This party consisted of six officers and nine non-commissioned officers, and was ordered to proceed direct to Ibádan, in the "hinterland" of Lagos.

Destination of the Battalion. On November the 27th the Battalion Staff and the officers and non-commissioned officers of the remaining four companies of the battalion (which at this time was to consist of only six companies) left Liverpool under my command. This party consisted of 17 officers, 23 non-commissioned officers, and was accompanied by Dr. Ensor and the late Dr. Rock. At the time of leaving Liverpool our destination had not been definitely settled. On arriving at Cape Coast Castle on December 20th I received a telegram from the Secretary of State, in which he told me that,

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after consultation with His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel McCallum, C.M.G., Governor of Lagos, I was to determine how many, if any, extra officers and non-commissioned officers I would send to Ibádan, and that with the rest I was to proceed to Lokoja, on the Niger. His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel McCallum at the same time telegraphed, strongly advocating my detaching officers and non-commissioned officers for at least two more companies to Ibádan.

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Since the month of June the Governor of Lagos had been enlisting Yorubas at Ibádan, which is in the centre of the Yoruba country.

On December 22nd I had an interview with Lieutenant-Colonel McCallum in Lagos Roads. He commented on the undesirability of moving the men enlisted at Ibádan to the Niger. At the same time, His Excellency strongly advised me to send more officers and non-commissioned officers to Ibádan. Under these circumstances, being unable to satisfy myself on the matter, I had no alternative but for the present to leave at Ibádan the recruits enlisted there. I knew, however, that the ultimate destination of the battalion I commanded was to be the valley of the Niger, and, having only the previous day received a telegram telling me that over 200 recruits were waiting for me at Lokoja and that more were coming in, I determined to proceed there at once, with the whole of the Europeans on board, detaching only Dr. Ensor to go to Ibádan in medical charge of Captain Taubman's party. During the interview His Excellency promised to send me to Lokoja 150 Hausa recruits, who had been enlisted as supernumeraries to the establishment of the Lagos Constabulary. I informed His Excellency that on the first opportunity I should come from Lokoja to Ibádan, and should avail myself of the powers vested in me of deciding as to the advisability of moving the recruits he had enlisted there.

I had under my command officers with whom I had never previously served, and belonging to different regiments, and as I was most anxious to inaugurate one system throughout the battalion, I wished to bring the whole of it together to Headquarters. I told His Excellency that I would cable home for officers of one company of the 2nd Battalion to be sent forthwith to Ibádan; that they might take over from Captain Taubman the recruits remaining after the ranks of the Yoruba Companies of my battalion had been filled.

On December 23rd, the steamship "Volta" arrived at Forcados, at the mouth of the Niger.

On December 24th we embarked on two of the Royal Niger Company's river steamers, which were awaiting our arrival at Forcados, and reached Lokoja on December 29th, where we were most hospitably received by the Agent-General, and by Major Arnold, D.S.O., Commandant of the Royal Niger Constabulary, Lokoja.

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who had with the greatest forethought made every provision in his power for the wants of the officers and non-commissioned officers.

During the next two days our time was principally spent in looking for a good camping ground in the neighbourhood of Lokoja. We were for the time being in tents on the Royal Niger Constabulary's parade ground.

On December 31st, after mature deliberation and consultation with Mr. Wallace, C.M.G., Agent-General of the Royal Niger Company, and with Major Arnold and Mr. Watts, I telegraphed home for permission to move my battalion to Jebba from Lokoja, my reasons being that it was reported to me to be healthier for men and for horses, was a better base in the possible contingency of operations taking place in Borgu, and was on the main caravan route from Lagos to the central Soudan.

Recruits received from Royal Niger Constabulary.  
System of decentralization.

On January 1st 350 recruits, Hausas, Nupes, and Yorubas, part of whom had already received some slight instruction in drill, were handed over to me by Major Arnold, and the work of drilling them commenced in earnest. The number of officers and non-commissioned officers at my disposal enabled me to divide these men into small sections, and with the amount of individual attention which could be thus given to them, they progressed rapidly. The principle I at first adopted, and have since rigidly adhered to, was to decentralize as much as possible. Separate companies were formed of Hausas, Yorubas, and Nupes, who all speak different languages. On being enlisted a man was posted by my order to a certain company; from that day I held the Captain entirely responsible for him. I told Captains of Companies what I required, and left them to achieve the results I demanded in their own way, forbidding the Adjutant to interfere with any Captain except by my express orders. This method gave birth to a spirit of friendly rivalry amongst companies, and officers, knowing that they would be judged by results and had a free hand, worked with a zeal which never flagged, and I doubt if any other system would have gained the results achieved by this.

Courtesy of Royal Niger Constabulary.

In thinking of this period I cannot sufficiently express the gratitude I feel for the manner in which Major Arnold assisted me, by the loan of native non-commissioned officers and in many other ways.

Work during January.

On January the 6th a punitive expedition, composed of some 300 men of the Royal Niger Constabulary, under Major Festing, started for Asaba. I gave Captain Lewis permission to accompany this expedition as a volunteer, for, his company not yet having been formed, I had no need of another Captain's services at Lokoja, though I could utilize all my subalterns by attaching three or four to each company, and thus hastening the progress of the drill.

During the first three weeks of our residence in the country we suffered considerably from malaria, nearly half the Europeans of the force on one occasion being down together. I took every step to have the country in the neighbourhood of Lokoja carefully reconnoitred in order to find the best possible site for a camp. My task was rendered much more difficult owing to the fact that the grass was still high, and in most places not dry enough to burn.

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The surface of the country in this part of West Africa, <sup>The country.</sup> presents at different times of year very different aspects. In December the whole country is covered with grass, varying from four feet to ten feet in height, the "one man paths" which intersect the country being the only means of passing through it. By February most of the grass has been burnt, and the view is only intercepted by small trees, which are dotted over the whole country, generally with an interval of a few yards between each. The exceptions to this rule are that the ground for a few miles round a Foulah stronghold has generally been cleared in order to suit their tactics, and that in the neighbourhood of watercourses, and in marshy ground, there are often belts of forest varying in width, and consisting of magnificent trees, with an almost impenetrable undergrowth. From 50 miles below Lokoja to the coast forest of this description abounds. There are all round Lokoja and Jebba many ranges of table mountains about 1,000 to 1,200 feet in height.

When I cabled to England on December 31st, asking <sup>Move to</sup> permission to move to Jebba, I worded my cablegram so as to <sup>Jebba.</sup> say that if I did not receive orders to the contrary I should proceed there. On January 18th the steam wheeler "Liberty" arrived at Lokoja, bringing 98 Hausa recruits from Lagos, under command of Lieutenant Leet, but no answer to my cablegram of December 31st. Therefore, after consultation with officials of the Royal Niger Company, who told me that 18 days was ample time to allow for an answer to reach me, I decided to move to Jebba, for I was most anxious to commence building the best houses available, before the rainy season commenced. I made arrangements with the Royal Niger Company to procure me builders and send them to Jebba, and was assured that if building were at once commenced, mud houses with thatched roofs for all Europeans would be complete in three months. The difficulty in building these houses is that not more than a foot of wall can be built every two or three days, in order to allow it to dry before being added to.

I started for Jebba in the "Liberty," with 4 officers, Dr. Rock, and 220 men. On the 24th we arrived at Jebba, and on that and the following day selected and laid out what I considered a good camp on the right bank of the River Niger. On January 26th, after giving Captain Blackader, whom I left in command, instructions as to clearing the bush, making paths, &c., I re-embarked for Lokoja.

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On the way down river I only saw one possible camping ground between Jebba and Lokoja, viz., at Piafafi, near Shonga, which is a large town, and through which a caravan route passes across the Niger.

On reaching Lokoja on January 28th I received a cablegram from the Secretary of State ordering me not to proceed to Jebba, and on the first opportunity I instructed Captain Blackader to return.

Despatch of  
Major Reade  
to Ibádan.

Seeing that it would for some time to come be impossible for me to leave Lokoja, and go to Ibádan, much as I should have liked to do so, I ordered Major Reade, my second in command, who was at this time near Illórin, buying ponies, to proceed there, giving to him the full powers vested in me with regard to the movement of the Yoruba recruits enlisted there, and informing His Excellency the Governor of Lagos that I had done so.

Clearing a  
camp at  
Lokoja, &c.

The day after reaching Lokoja I decided to occupy a camp to the south of the town, and about a mile from it down the Niger, it being, in my opinion, by far the best position in the vicinity, and the work of clearing at once commenced. For those who do not know African bush, it is hard to comprehend the difficulties which clearing presents. Our tools were few, and we had principally to rely on the machets (knives with a handle and blade, 14 ins. by 3 ins.) issued to the men, and "trade" gunpowder, lit with impromptu trains, which made agility a necessary qualification of the engineer. With these means, and working eight hours a day, partly in the fierce sun, and always under Europeans, the men succeeded in removing rock and roots, cutting down small trees, clearing stones, levelling, and making drains in anticipation of the rains. After three weeks of this work, we had prepared a parade ground so large that I was able to say that no more clearing was to stand in the way of morning and afternoon parades, and all else must give way to drill.

It must be borne in mind that at this time it was considered possible that the men I was commanding might soon be required for service, and it was on this account that I was so eager to push on their training.

At this time and until the month of May, when some mud houses privately built by officers had been completed, officers and non-commissioned officers were living in small tents, or in houses constructed of grass and mats, neither of which were proof against the tornados and the heavy rains which accompanied them.

The question of water proved a great difficulty; this had all to be conveyed from the Niger, and boiled and filtered before it was wholesome and sufficiently clear to be drinkable. Before long the strain wore out the filters and rough ones with sand had to be devised.

In order not to interfere with the drill, and at the same time to construct a range, I hired outside labour for this purpose, and for carrying water.

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On February 17th Captain Blackader returned from Jebba, whence he had come in canoes, having been much assisted by the kindness of Lieutenant Melvill and the late Lieutenant Bellairs, the officers commanding Her Majesty's gunboats "Heron" and "Jackdaw."

Return from  
Jebba.

Captain Blackader reported that when he had received orders to return he had already done much towards clearing the site of the proposed camp at Jebba. He also reported that two days before leaving a fight had taken place between his recruits and the detachment of the Royal Niger Constabulary stationed at Jebba, under command of Lieutenant Carroll, that the constabulary had behaved excellently, and that order had within five minutes been restored by the Europeans, who were quickly on the spot.

By the 12th February my force at Lokoja had swelled to 450 men.

On February 21st arms were issued to companies for drill purposes. At night the arms were returned, and put in the vicinity of the European lines, with a guard over them. Later, rough houses were built under company arrangements for the storing of arms, but the principle of returning arms was always adhered to, as in the Royal Niger Constabulary. It was found that men progressed much more rapidly when arms had been issued to them, and when they first received them their faces beamed with joy and pride. They are big children, and should be treated as such. They require to be treated with kindness, but sometimes with severity.

Issue of  
arms.

Nature of  
the men.

They fortunately neither understand nor take any interest in the technicalities of law, which the educated native is so fond of, but are ready to accept and abide by a decision, even if adverse, as long as they have confidence in the judge, and everybody has been allowed "to have his say." A great matter for regret is that a European is so much in the hands of his interpreter. In hearing one case five languages are often spoken.

I and many officers under my command thought that our former Indian experience would be of use to us in West Africa; of this we were, however, soon disillusioned.

Indian ex-  
perience of  
little use in  
West Africa

About the beginning of March, a case which seemed to be one of grave insubordination arose. A certain native lance-corporal, a man of influence, being the son of a chief, stepped forward and exhorted the men of his company not to touch some loads they had been ordered to carry, and they refused to execute the order. The men were marched back under an escort, and compelled to do as they were ordered, the lance-corporal severely punished and the men not allowed to drill with their rifles for a week.

Insubor-  
dination.

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This at the time exposed them to so much ridicule that they would rather, I believe, have passed the week in prison. I mention this incident to show the nature of the men who have to be dealt with. At this time they, of course, had only some two months' service.

**French in  
Argungu.**

On February 16th I sent a cablegram to the Under-Secretary of State, saying that a reliable report had reached me that a party of French soldiers, under European officers, had crossed the Niger into Argungu. The contents of this cablegram were afterwards confirmed.

**Arrival of  
hutting  
material.**

On March 1st Captain R. L. McClintock, R.E., arrived at Lokoja, bringing with him a large amount of material for constructing huts. He had orders to collect all the material near the camp, and to sort out the component parts of each hut, but not to commence erecting any until Colonel Lugard, who was expected to follow immediately, should personally select the sites for the same.

Until their actual arrival I had no idea that the sending out of such huts had been contemplated. The mud houses now approaching completion were, however, of great use, for they were occupied until sufficient huts to shelter the whole of the Europeans were erected, viz., about July 1st, and were then utilised as store houses and Government offices.

On March 4th three non-commissioned officers were invalided to England, the result of malarial fever.

**Expedition  
to Argungu.**

On March 14th I gave permission to Lieutenants Dibley, Rigby and Taylor to accompany an expedition then starting for Argungu, under Major Arnold, Commandant of the Royal Niger Constabulary.

**Rifle ranges.**

The camp and its vicinity were daily being improved, and by April a musketry range had been completed, butts erected, and targets on trollies constructed with the rough tools we had. By this time a wharf had also been made on the banks of the Niger, below the camp.

**Increased  
establish-  
ment.**

During the month of March half the officers and non-commissioned officers who were to compose the 2nd battalion, and the officers and non-commissioned officers required to bring the battalion under my command up to eight companies of 150 natives each, which I now heard was to be its establishment, arrived at Lokoja. The Head-quarters of the 2nd Battalion had proceeded to Ibádan, viâ Lagos.

On March 28th our first death occurred, viz., that of Corporal Steuart, who died of malarial fever.

**Arrival of  
Yorubas  
from Ibádan.**

On reaching Ibádan, to which place, as I previously stated, I sent him, Major Reade, after consultation with His Excellency the Governor of Lagos, decided to move the recruits enlisted there, who were intended for the battalion under my command,

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and on April 3rd and April 4th this party, consisting of six officers, one doctor, eight European non-commissioned officers, and 485 men, arrived at Lokoja by river.

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Before leaving Ibádan, Major Reade handed over the remaining recruits to Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald, commanding the 2nd Battalion.

I take this opportunity of stating that the course Major Reade pursued throughout the time he was acting for me in Lagos territory has my entire approval, and I am of opinion that he acted with tact, judgment, and discretion.

The Yorubas from Ibádan were a fine body of men, and the knowledge of their duties which they had already acquired was most creditable to Captain Goldie-Taubman and those who had been in command of them, and also to Captain F. de V. P. Creighton, who had charge of them in the first instance.

On April 10th Colonel Lugard, C.B., D.S.O., accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Willcocks, D.S.O., arrived at Lokoja, from Forcados, and on the following day inspected the battalion.

Arrival of  
Colonel  
Lugard.

On April 13th Colonel Lugard and Lieutenant-Colonel Willcocks left for Jebba, and soon afterwards, as opportunity occurred, all officers and non-commissioned officers of the 2nd Battalion were gradually sent up there by river.

During the month of April disturbances on more than one occasion took place between the Hausas and the newly-imported Yorubas. The former were generally the aggressors; they are naturally quarrelsome, and, looking on soldiering under the white man as their monopoly, objected to men whom they regarded as intruders, both in their profession and in their adopted country. These disturbances were all quelled without any serious consequences, and all hostile feeling soon disappeared.

Ill-feeling  
between  
Hausas and  
Yorubas.

If properly used, the racial feeling in a battalion composed of different races is a powerful weapon in the hands of a commander, but it is one that must be used with great caution.

About the beginning of May I was ordered by Colonel Lugard, who had come from Jebba for a short stay, to send 100 men to the Niger Coast Protectorate, in accordance with orders to that effect received from the Secretary of State, and in consequence 100 Yorubas were sent. It was naturally a great disappointment to have to transfer these men, with whose training so much trouble had been taken.

Draft to  
Niger Coast  
Protectorate.

On May 3rd Major Reade, Capt. Lewis, and Lieuts. Clive Anam and Johnson, with 100 men from the battalion under my command who had already been put through a short course of musketry, left Asaba to assist in a punitive expedition, under command of Major Festing, Royal Niger Constabulary, which had been ordered to punish the tribes in the neighbourhood of Anam, about 100 miles below Lokoja, and on the Niger. From



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course.

the report subsequently received from Major Festing, I consider that the behaviour of these recruits reflects great credit on their company officers, Capt. Lewis and Lieut. Johnson.

During the months of April and May, rapid progress was made with the musketry and drill of the battalion. The course of musketry I instituted was an adaptation of the German course, the guiding principle of which is that the bad shot requires much more practice than the good shot, and gets it, firing many more rounds, and not being allowed to go on to another distance until he has qualified at the previous one. Company commanders who put their companies through this course are unanimously in favour of its advantages. This course was continued until July, when another for the whole force was drawn up by the Commandant.

On May 11th Colonel Lugard left Lokoja, and did not return until he passed through on his way home, towards the end of August.

Fall of the  
Niger.

The Niger by this time had dropped to such an extent that up to July only one steamboat on the river could travel between Jebba and Lokoja, and this one, a small launch, and canoes which took from three to five weeks to do the double journey, were the only means of communication between these places.

Reinforce-  
ments for  
Jebba.

On May 16th, in accordance with orders received, I despatched the whole of the Royal Artillery then present at Lokoja, and also 120 Yorubas, under command of Captain Gillespie, of the battalion under my command, by canoe to Jebba. Captain Gillespie, on arrival at Jebba, was pushed further north, to garrison certain points on the river north of Jebba.

Tornados.

The tornado season commenced in March, and from this time tornados gradually became more frequent, until in August they gave way to the heavy rains. These rains were, however, by no means incessant, a storm seldom lasting more than six hours, though while it lasted it was often very violent.

A tornado consists of a violent wind, followed by heavy rain. The effect is local, and the tornado occasionally within a few hours returns from the other direction.

These tornados were, until we were properly housed, a source of great discomfort. Papers and light articles had to be covered up, and the innates of the tents and grass houses, which in many cases were not impervious to the tropical rain, were often compelled to pass the night cowering in some corner, covered with a waterproof, in order to keep a little dry.

Deaths.

During March and April four deaths occurred at Lokoja, all being attributable to malaria.

Lapai  
expedition.

Before leaving Lokoja on May 11th, Colonel Lugard told me that on the Agent-General of the Royal Niger Company desiring me to do so, I was to furnish 200 men, with a certain proportion

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of Europeans, and was myself to take command of an expedition which might be required to take the field against the Emirs of Lapai and Argayeh.

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On June 2nd Mr. Drew, the Acting Agent - General (Mr. Wallace, C.M.G., the Agent-General being seriously ill and absent from Lokoja), informed me that since Mr. Wallace had seen Colonel Lugard the aspect had become much more serious, that the Emirs of Lapai and Argayeh had been slave raiding, and razing towns down to the very banks of the Niger, and that, unless immediate action were taken, a blow would be dealt to British prestige, the consequences of which would be far-reaching and disastrous. He further informed me that reports led him to believe that considerable resistance would be offered, and that in his opinion the force for which Mr. Wallace originally asked Colonel Lugard would not be sufficient to cope with the opposition which might be encountered.

On these representations, and taking into consideration that any reverse would bring upon us the whole forces of Bida, whose adherents were unofficially aiding Lapai and Argayeh, I determined to increase the force to be sent from my battalion to a total of 300 men in the ranks, as well as three Maxim guns and their detachments. In addition to this the Royal Niger Constabulary placed at my disposal 60 infantry, with one Maxim, and 40 gunners, with one 9-pounder Whitworth gun and three 7-pounder mountain guns, the whole under command of Lieutenant Carroll.

Concerning the work of the expedition, a special despatch has been sent to the Secretary of State, and it will suffice here to say that, by a forced march, the enemy, consisting of some 600 horsemen and 3,000 footmen, were completely taken by surprise, and routed with considerable loss. Their camps and strongholds were destroyed, and their power completely broken, with practically no loss on our side, except from sickness.

The behaviour of my recruits was good, their volleys being perfect, and their conduct soldierlike.

On July 1st the expedition returned to Lokoja.

We now reached the sickliest time of the year: nine deaths among the officers and the European non-commissioned officers, whose total strength only averaged about 55, taking place at Lokoja, and on the expedition, during the six weeks which included July and embraced the end of June and commencement of August. Sickness.

During July there was great mortality among the horses, but with this subject I intend to deal in a separate paragraph.

Between the months of July and December great progress was made with the drill and musketry of the battalion, and the camp and its vicinity were greatly improved. More ground was cleared, Bahama grass was planted, an extended parade ground and a Work from  
July to  
December,  
1898.

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fair polo ground made, the range was completed as a six-section range, and firing points constructed at 500 and 600 yards. The neighbourhood of the hospital, which had been built on the space adjacent to the one on which the camp was erected, was cleared, wells were dug, and various other improvements made. The above was all done by soldier labour.

There is at present, and for long will be, much useful labour for the men of the battalion to perform, but if there were not, I should advocate work being made for them. If never called upon to perform manual labour, the West African soldier is apt "to get above himself," and if allowed to do this he soon becomes useless.

A strict rule should, however, be made that, when performing fatigues, men should always work under the direct command of their officers, or non-commissioned officers, white or black, who must invariably treat them as soldiers.

The work above mentioned was all performed without interfering with the drill or training of the men.

**Inspections.** On August 11th Lieutenant-Colonel Willcocks arrived from Jebba, and remained in Lokoja until August 16th, when he was unexpectedly recalled to Jebba. During his stay at Lokoja he thoroughly inspected the battalion, and also the whole system on which the business of the Station Staff Office, the Orderly Room, the Transport Department, &c., was transacted.

On August the 29th Colonel Lugard arrived at Lokoja on his way to England, and on the following day saw the battalion on parade, and expressed his very great appreciation of the soldierly appearance of the men and of their drill and smartness on parade.

**Deaths of  
Lieutenant  
Keating's  
party. †**

On October 18th news reached me of the deaths of Lieutenant Keating, Corporal Gale, and fourteen native non-commissioned officers and men, at Helo Island, about 30 miles above Boussa. Lieutenant Keating, with 30 men, was sent up in July to reinforce the company under Captain Gillespie, which left Lokoja for Jebba in May. The detachment of which Lieutenant Keating was in command was stationed at Rafia, on the Niger.

The Chief of Helo Island having behaved in a manner which rendered it necessary that he should be arrested, Lieutenant Keating, with the above-mentioned party, proceeded to Helo Island to perform this duty, expecting no resistance. The party proceeded to the town, when it was suddenly fallen upon by overwhelming numbers. With difficulty a way was fought back to the beach. Here ammunition ran out. Lieutenant Keating killed the Chief with his own hand, but the party was overpowered, and, on attempting to get into their canoes, all except two were killed or drowned. These two escaped wounded to tell the tale.

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The only consoling feature in this sad affair is that all died fighting, and that the men (Nupes), from all accounts which can be gathered, fought with determination and courage, until they fell at the side of their leaders.

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On October 5th two companies, consisting of 222 men, were dispatched with 50 ponies to Jebba.

During the months of October and November events in other parts of the world made it appear possible that troops might be required in Borgu, and during these months I was prepared at six hours' notice to send off another 400 fully trained and equipped men, ready in every sense to take part in a campaign.

Readiness  
for active  
service.

On December 21st I left Lokoja *en route* for England, accompanied by those officers and non-commissioned officers who had completed the year in West Africa, for which they agreed to serve, and who did not wish to prolong their tour of service.

When I left Lokoja the battalion which I handed over temporarily to Captain Crutchley was 907 strong, this number being made up of 430 Yorubas, 400 Hausas, and 77 Nupes. The majority of the Nupes can now speak a certain amount of Hausa.

State of  
battalion in  
December,  
1898.

Of these 907 men, 700 were trained to such an extent that I should be proud to command them anywhere, either on service or on a field day at Aldershot, where I am convinced they would drill as well as half the battalions out. The native non-commissioned officers were thoroughly capable of taking command of their sections, and of drilling them or the company.

The musketry was very fair and the fire discipline good. On several occasions companies firing volleys at ranges of 500 and 600 yards, at a target 6 ft. by 12 ft., have got over 50 per cent. of hits on the target.

During the first four months we were in Africa I held neither a commanding officer's nor an adjutant's parade, leaving everything to the company commanders, Captains Goldie-Taubman, Marsh, Blackader, Webb, Hall, Lewis, and Gillespie; and it is entirely to their capacity and energy, and to the increased interest generated by the fact that they found themselves left alone to think and act for themselves, and to the spirit of rivalry which this system of decentralization gave birth to, that I attribute the results obtained.

In December, at the request of the Agent-General of the Royal Niger Company, and with the permission of the Commandant, I sent Captain Marsh's company to assist the Royal Niger Constabulary in an expedition then taking place in the vicinity of Illah, which is situated on the Niger about 100 miles below Lokoja.

Expedition  
to Illah.

The Commandment of the Royal Niger Constabulary, at the termination of this expedition, spoke to me enthusiastically of the discipline and drill, as well as of the fire discipline, of this company.

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Delay in  
filling  
vacancies.

During the last two or three months of my tour in West Africa work was impeded by the fact that vacancies caused by death and invaliding were not filled as they occurred, and after the officers whose year expired in December left West Africa, out of an establishment of 28 officers, only 13 remained in the country, and only 19 non-commissioned officers out of an establishment of 44. This staff would in no way be adequate to satisfactorily carry on necessary duties in a healthy country, but in West Africa a considerable portion of the Europeans are always on the sick list.

The native soldier becomes attached to an officer or non-commissioned officer whom he knows, but when handed over to a man whom they have never seen before, a company for some time is like a dog which has lost its master. Knowing the feeling of the men in this matter, I was especially anxious to dovetail officers who were coming out with those who were going home, so that they might for a few weeks at least work together in the same companies, and that the fresh arrivals might, if possible, take over some of the results of the old hand's experience, at the same time as they took over the arms and accounts.

The non-arrival of reliefs defeated my efforts, and was a bitter disappointment to me, as well as to the officers who had trained, and for one year lived for, their companies.

Only 60 per cent. of those who started from England in 1897 completed their year in the country, for 18 per cent. died and 22 per cent. were invalided.

Situation  
of the  
Imperial  
camp at  
Lokoja.

The camp at Lokoja is situated on the advanced slopes of a spur, which juts out from the mountain in rear of the camp, and runs down to the Niger. The hospital is on a similar spur. These spurs are drained by watercourses between and on either side of them. The site of the camp looks a particularly healthy one, and undoubtedly is the best in the vicinity of Lokoja, the view in front of the camp, both up and down the Niger, and up the Benue, is magnificent, and those to the rear and flanks are almost as beautiful.

It is difficult to conceive why a situation with so many apparent advantages is as unhealthy as is actually the case. The country round and to the north of Lokoja is covered with high grass, and with trees of the size and at the distance apart that trees usually are in an English orchard. In the neighbourhood of watercourses, in marshy ground, and generally in the country drained by the Lower Niger, the vegetation becomes dense, and the soil is covered with big trees, and impenetrable undergrowth, which absolutely binds travellers to the paths through the entangled bush.

Horses.

Not only is the valley of the Niger unhealthy for mankind, but also for horses and cattle. The African disease resulting from the bite of the tsetse fly and the Indian disease of Surra, which have similar symptoms, and give birth to a similar microbe

in the blood, are, I fully believe, both present, or, to be more accurate, I am convinced that the symptoms which prove fatal are on the Niger the result in some cases of eating rank grass, as in Surra, and in others of the bite of the tsetse fly, which carries the germs of this disease from impregnated to healthy animals. Of the 160 horses bought at Lokoja during the year I was there, not more than 60 were living when I left. I feel certain that the presence of a good veterinary surgeon would have done much to prevent this high death rate.

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Horses are not bred in the immediate neighbourhood of Lokoja, and those we obtained came either from the neighbourhood of Illorin or from the country round Ibi, on the Benue. The soil in all parts of West Africa which I have traversed is extremely stony, and I am more convinced now than when I wrote for horseshoes, of the great advantage which would arise of shoeing horses on their fore feet. I would not recommend their being shod behind, as the concussion on the hind feet is less, and unshod horses get a better foothold on the rocks, which have often to be climbed.

The question of the uniform of the force is one into which I do not here intend to enter, except to say that, whatever the material or pattern, I consider kharki colour preferable to blue. Uniform.

The Martini-Enfield carbines used are excellent, and well adapted, in my opinion, to the requirements of the force. The fact that they are of small bore and fire cordite, thus requiring great and constant care in cleaning, in the damp climate of West Africa, is not an unmitigated disadvantage, for as long as these rifles remain in our hands the requisite care will presumably always be bestowed on them. If, on the other hand, any should be stolen with a view to being used against us, it is equally certain that a want of proper attention will speedily render them almost useless. The rifle.

Before concluding, I think that a few remarks on the chief characteristics of the natives with whom I had to deal would not be out of place. Characteristics of the natives.

Rudyard Kipling's words "half child, half devil," applied by him to the Filipinos, apply equally to the soldiers I commanded, for they are a strange mixture of both. They seem to have absolute confidence in a white man whom they like, but they take strong likes and dislikes. They love to be taken, as it were, a little into their captain's confidence, and if this be done, and they are given a reason for a supposed hardship, they will readily bear it. They, however, very naturally like to hear facts from the white man's own lips, for they possess sufficient discernment to have but little confidence in the probity, or disinterested reasons, of their own native non-commissioned officers, who can drill them and exercise discipline, but who, if they have opportunity to do so, seldom fail to presume on their position, and to exercise extortion from those under them. Unfortunately the chance of

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detection of malpractices is much decreased by the fact that the non-commissioned officer, being the better educated man, is often the interpreter through whose medium the case against himself is in the first instance heard.

For native non-commissioned officers or soldiers travelling unaccompanied by Europeans to extort blackmail is, in their eyes, a matter of course, in spite of the white man's orders and ideas as to the rights of property, which are mere foolish prejudices in the native's eyes.

The manner in which we regard slavery, moreover, tends to complicate the question in the minds of men who fail to see a difference between slaves and other property.

To sum up, the men I commanded are naturally brave, vigorous, fairly intelligent, excellent marchers, hardy, and of good physique, but they are inclined to be cruel, do not tell the truth, and are dishonest. Neither they nor any other natives of West Africa whom I have met are, in my opinion, fit for positions of trust, where constant supervision is not exercised. They require tactful, but very firm treatment.

**Hausas.**

The Hausas are more quarrelsome than the Yorubas or Nupes, get into trouble more often, and are not so quick at picking up drill or musketry. They are more excitable and harder to keep in hand, but they are a race whose courage has been tried, and is highly spoken of by officers better able than I am to give an opinion on this point.

**Yorubas.**

I make a great difference between the agricultural Yoruba from the neighbourhood of Ibadan and the men enlisted on the outskirts of the Yoruba county, or so-called "Bush Yorubas."

The former are physically, morally, and intellectually the better men. They are quick, intelligent, good shots, clean and neat in their appearance, and on fatigue duty are much better men than the Hausas or Nupes. Those who have seen them highly tried on service speak well of them, though opportunity has seldom occurred for putting their courage to the same test as has been done in the case of the Hausas.

**Nupes.**

The Nupes are physically the finest men of all; they are very intelligent and shoot well. On the one occasion on which their courage has been tried under European leadership they are reported to have behaved well.

The Yorubas of Ibadan are said to be a race never conquered by another tribe, and for many years they waged a war with the Foulah Chief of Illorin, in which neither party was victorious. I have often doubted whether there really is any great difference in the fighting qualities of the different tribes who inhabit the countries near the middle Niger and the Benue, or whether the prestige which at a certain period a certain people hold is not owing to the accident of that people recently having had a leader

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capable of organizing his forces, and thus leading his tribe to certain victory. After the death of such a man the tribe lives on its reputation, until another leader rises and turns the tide.

During the month of March Lieutenant Bryan was sent on a recruiting tour up the Benue, and was afterwards followed by Lieutenant Clive. These officers traversed and mapped much previously unexplored country in the neighbourhood of Bautshi, north of the Benue; they also succeeded in sending to Lokoja a considerable number of Hausa recruits and some horses. Lieutenant Bryan has submitted a most clear and interesting report on the country through which he and Lieutenant Clive passed, as well as the sketches above referred to.

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Before concluding this report, which has already reached a greater length than I intended it to assume, I wish to bring to notice the excellent work done by the officers and non-commissioned officers I had the honour of commanding. I never wish to have a more capable, conscientious, and hard-working body of men under me.

My special thanks are due to my Adjutant, Captain P. S. Wilkinson, Northumberland Fusiliers; to Captain Blackader, Leicestershire Regiment; Captain Marsh, Royal West Kent Regiment; Captain M. Hall, P.W.O. West Yorkshire Regiment; Lieutenant Tomlin, P.W.O. Yorkshire Regiment; and Lieutenant A. B. Molesworth, West India Regiment; to Sergeant-Major A. F. West, Rifle Brigade; Colour-Sergeant J. R. McIntosh, 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders; Colour-Sergeant J. McKenzie, Depot, Seaforth Highlanders; Colour-Sergeant W. Tyson, Royal Lancaster Regiment; Colour-Sergeant J. Humphries, West Riding Regiment; and Colour-Sergeant E. H. Dinham, Gloucestershire Regiment; also to Lieutenants Bryan, Lincolnshire Regiment, and A. P. Clive, Grenadier Guards, who executed an excellent combined sketch of unexplored country north of the Benue, which was supplemented by a well-drawn-out and useful report by Lieutenant Bryan. My thanks are, moreover, due to Major Reade for the manner in which, as I have already stated, he acted for me whilst at Ibádan, and to Captain Gillespie and Lieut. Rigby, R.M.L.I., who, under trying circumstances, did good work on the Niger, north of Jebba.

T. D. PILCHER, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
West African Frontier Force.

Naval and Military Club, London,  
March 9, 1899.



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COLONEL LUGARD to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Haslemere,

11th April 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the report which, in accordance with your instructions, I directed Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald to submit on the raising of the 2nd Battalion West African Frontier Force, and the work done by the Battalion.

2. In doing so I desire to endorse most heartily the praise given by Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald to the officers and British non-commissioned officers of his battalion. The march from Ibádan to Jebba—166 miles—in ten days (picking up a hundred good recruits on the way) without any trouble or friction on the road, or difficulty regarding supplies, speaks for the tact and forethought of the Commandant and his officers. The method and order with which from the first all the correspondence and orderly room work was conducted, and the infrequency of severe punishment (though discipline was fully maintained) prove on the one hand that indefatigable personal effort was expended by all European ranks, and on the other that the men understood their orders and worked well for their officers.

3. These results were due to the zeal and ability of Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald, the Commandant, and of his Adjutant, Captain Booth, in particular, supported by such excellent officers as Major Morland, Captains Baker, Somerset, and Fremantle, and Lieutenant and Quartermaster O'Malley. It is due to the memory of the late Captain Baker and the Hon. R. Somerset that I should record the great personal sorrow which we all felt at the deaths of these—two of the very best and most popular officers in the force—and the great loss which the battalion sustained. Colonel FitzGerald has described the "Farm" of which Captain Somerset took charge, and the boon which it proved to his brother officers and to all white men at Jebba. It was no light task to undertake this in addition to his very onerous work as Adjutant and President of the Mess, which he had brought to a state as complete, comfortable, and orderly in all its accounts, &c., as though instituted in a civilized country.

Captain and Adjutant Booth was promoted Staff Officer on the Headquarter Staff, and a more efficient and better Staff Officer could not be found.

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Lieutenant O'Malley, as Quartermaster, was efficient and indefatigable, and he has shown great care of Government property and accuracy in the difficult conditions inherent in the post he volunteered to fill.

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Colour-Sergeant Bradley (2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers) has been continuously employed as Military Clerk on the Headquarter Staff, where he has worked hard and well; and, in addition to the non-commissioned officers mentioned in Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGerald's report, Armourer-Sergeant Chapman (Durham Light Infantry), Colour-Sergeant Barton (Royal Lancaster Regiment), and Colour-Sergeant Wingate (Rifle Brigade) have been mentioned to me by Colonel Willcocks as having done good service.

4. My former report contained some remarks upon the work done by the 1st Battalion and the other Corps and Departments of the West African Frontier Force. As a whole, it would be difficult to find a more zealous, efficient, and cheery set of officers than those who have raised and brought to its present state of efficiency the West African Frontier Force. Selected from different regiments of the army, they brought with them the best traditions of every corps, but the influence which has welded this material, however excellent, into a single effective force full of *esprit de corps*, and in which differences and quarrels (even in a climate and conditions like West Africa) were unknown, was that of Colonel Willcocks, C.M.G., D.S.O., who has for many months past been officiating as commandant. The rapidity with which the officers housed themselves and the British non-commissioned officers (precedence being given to the latter) with mere grass and poles from the jungle, and the equally rapid progress made in drill and musketry, form a record upon which comment from me is needless. The results were seen when I had to order a company of the 2nd Battalion at midnight to march 26 miles, crossing swollen streams in the rains, a company which had barely emerged from the recruit stage, and had but finished their recruits' musketry a day or two before. Their Captain (G. Fremantle), though suffering from fever, was on the march within two hours of the receipt of the order, and the distance was covered in 24 hours. Emulation and rivalry, without demur at the hardship of the task, was the response to the call I had made. Again, in the well planned and executed little campaign by a company of the 1st Battalion under Major Morland to punish the murderers of Lieutenant Keating and his party, the Battalion proved what its training had done for it. It was undoubtedly due to the exceptional rapidity and excellency of all arrangements made in this expedition that so few casualties occurred, and the results were so decisive. For his success in this difficult task, and his able command of the 1st Battalion since the departure of Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher, Colonel Willcocks has strongly recommended the inclusion of Major Morland's name among those submitted for special consideration.

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I fully endorse Colonel's Willcocks's recommendation, for I had myself selected Major Morland for the difficult post of Commandant in Eastern Borgu and the relief of the garrisons held by the French—a task he carried out most ably and without friction.

5. Portions of both battalions and of the artillery have had other opportunities of proving their efficiency in the field; on all occasions with most satisfactory results, as I have had occasion from time to time to report to you.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD.

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REPORT by Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. FITZGERALD, Durham Light Infantry, of the work done during 1897 and 1898, in raising and organising the 2nd Battalion West African Frontier Force:

1. On the 24th November, 1897, I took up the appointment of Commandant of the 2nd Battalion West African Frontier Force, which it had been decided to raise, and until my departure for West Africa, I was employed at the Colonial Office in organising the battalion.

Start for  
West Africa. 2. On the 5th February, 1898, Headquarters and three companies (consisting of 15 officers and 19 non-commissioned officers) embarked for West Africa, and reached Lagos Roads on the 3rd March, where orders were received to disembark, and proceed inland to Ibadan.

March to  
Ibadan. 3. After laying in two months' supply of provisions for my party, I proceeded on the 10th March from Lagos up the lagoon in launches to Epé, and thence by route march through Jebu Odé, Aha, Elikou, Odo Anakekri, to Ibadan. Here I took over the surplus Yoruba recruits from the detachment 1st Battalion West African Frontier Force, and commenced recruiting for the battalion. A few days later the detachment 1st Battalion left Ibadan for Lokoja *via* Lagos.

Oyo. 4. On the 23rd March I proceeded to Oyo (the nearest place in telegraphic communication with Lagos), where I received orders from Colonel Lugard, C.B., D.S.O., to be in readiness to march at short notice either to Lokoja or Jebba.

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5. I returned at once to Ibadan, and dispatched Major Morland and Lieutenant Buxton to report on the roads towards Jebba as far as the Yoruba-Illorin boundary, and I directed Captain Hon. R. Somerset and Lieutenant Pope Hennessy to proceed as far as Kabba in the direction of Lokoja with the same object.

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I would here mention that part of the country traversed by Captain Hon. R. Somerset's party had not previously been explored. He submitted a most clear and interesting report on the country passed through, and received the thanks of the Commissioner and Commandant for the "excellence of his reconnaissance." Captain Somerset's report has been forwarded to the Director of Intelligence, War Office.

Despatch  
officers on  
reconnais-  
sance duty.

6. On the 7th April the recruits were inspected by His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. McCallum, C.M.G., R.E., who expressed on parade his appreciation of the turn-out of the men (strength on parade, 23 Europeans, 444 natives), which were formed into three companies, as follows:—

Inspection  
by His Ex-  
cellency the  
Governor of  
Lagos.

- "A" or Captain Hon. R. Somerset's Company.
- "B" " Guy Fremantle's "
- "C" " P. G. Rigby's "

During our stay at Ibadan recruits came in at the rate of about 60 or 70 a week, of which, perhaps, 50 per cent. were rejected.

7. Whilst waiting for orders, I laid in a supply of yam flour for the men, as I was informed that, whichever route I should be ordered to take, the country could not feed the force I should have with me. I also bought horses for the officers and non-commissioned officers to ride on the march, and had picked men from each company put through a short course of musketry.

Preparations  
for the  
march.

8. The news that we were to leave for the Niger led to a good many desertions, which it was impossible to prevent. The men had been allowed to live in the town, and, although I had put a stop to this as regards the recruits enlisted after our arrival, I was very strongly advised against forcing those already enlisted away from the town and into the barracks. Also the men were frightened by the rumours of trouble with Illorin, started by the men of the detachment 1st Battalion who had been marched two or three marches towards Jebba and then brought back to Ibadan. The desertions during this period numbered 95 in all.

Desertions.

9. On the 27th April orders were received from Colonel Eugard, C.B., D.S.O., by telegraph from Jebba, to march with all Government stores, as quickly as possible to Jebba, and on the 29th, the Battalion (30 Europeans and 461 natives strong) left Ibadan, leaving behind Captain Eden and 3 non-commissioned officers (British) to form a recruiting depot, and passing through Evoko-Oyo-Ajawa, reached Ogbomosho on the 2nd May.

The march  
to Jebba.

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Here the battalion was halted for a day, and the men marched through the town, and the Head men interviewed. 105 good recruits were obtained here.

[*Note.*—Ogbomosho was the Yoruba war camp against Illorin, and I strongly recommend it as a recruiting depôt for Yorubas, in preference to Ibadan. My reasons for coming to this opinion (together with a sketch of the site selected for the barracks) were submitted by me on arrival at Jebba to the Commissioner and Commandant.]

The march was continued next day, passing Buda Egba, Obanisawa, and round the town of Illorin. [I had received orders that the battalion was not to enter Illorin, and that I was to interview the Emir with reference to the cutting of the telegraph wire and the safety of the telegraph station outside the city wall.] With a small escort I entered the city and had a long and satisfactory interview with the Emir. I then marched the battalion to the banks of the Oyañ River, where we halted for the night. Thence the march was continued viâ Ayetoro and Oshado to Jebba, which was reached on the 9th May, and the men and horses crossed over in canoes to the island the same day. Total distance marched, 166 miles, in 10 days' marching.

Although no opposition was expected, the march was conducted throughout as if in an enemy's country, as a training for the men, and I think the distances covered each day speaks well for their powers of marching.

A Frontier Force Order was published by the Commissioner and Commandant, conveying "his appreciation of the rapid and successful manner in which the march from Ibadan was conducted."

Increase of  
establish-  
ment.

10. On arrival at Jebba we were joined by Major Lowry Cole and the remaining officers and British non-commissioned officers of the battalion. They had come from England, viâ Forcados, and up the River Niger.

The making  
of the camp  
on Jebba  
island.

11. Jebba Island at this time consisted only of the Niger Company's factory, and the native village. As the rainy season was coming on, our first work was to house ourselves and the men and horses. Daily working parties were sent out across the river to cut grass and wood, while others cleared and prepared the ground. It was a time of incessant trial for everyone. Parades could not be remitted, as it was possible that we might be required for active service at any moment, so morning and evening saw us on parade; the rest of the day was spent by the men in building their lines and clearing the parade grounds, and by the Europeans in supervising and directing the labour of the men and the hired labour.

Life at  
Jebba.

12. Our life at Jebba for the first four months consisted of recruiting, drilling, clearing ground, and building. These months

saw a great change in the regiment, and also in the appearance of the island. In June the depôt company joined from Ibadan with 60 good Yoruba recruits, and a fourth company of Yorubas was formed. By the end of August two companies of Hausas had been enlisted, and the battalion consisted of six companies. Three companies had gone through a recruits' course of musketry, and a fourth was being put through. Lines for the men, good grass huts for the officers and British non-commissioned officers, hospitals (native and European), an orderly room, an officers' mess, a non-commissioned officers' mess, and stables for the horses had all been built. Two parade grounds had been cleared and levelled, and we were beginning to play cricket and to hold gymkhanas, with races for the men. A two-section musketry range had been constructed and was in daily use, and the island had been cleaned to a certain extent.

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13. In spite of all the exposure and hard work, this period was not an unhealthy one for the officers and British non-commissioned officers. Two deaths had occurred—Lieutenant Headlam, drowned, and Corporal Wintle from fever. The latter arrived from Lokoja in a bad state of health and died shortly after. There had been no cases of invaliding.

Health  
of the  
Europeans.

14. But the regiment was short of several officers and British non-commissioned officers from other causes. Major Lowry Cole was on the frontier as commandant of S. Borgu; Major Morland commanded in E. Borgu; Captain and Adjutant Booth had been posted to the Head-Quarter Staff, and Captain Hon. R. Somerset had been appointed Adjutant in his place. Captain Lynch was away recruiting up the Benué, and Captain Welch, Lieutenants Glossop, Blair, Mangles, and Porter, and several British non-commissioned officers were serving in Borgu.

Changes  
amongst the  
officers and  
British  
non-commis-  
sioned  
officers.

15. On the 1st of August a permanent camp was formed on the left bank of the river, consisting of three batteries of Artillery and "B" Company of the Battalion and the R.E. Company.

Record of  
movements.

On the 6th August, about 10 p.m., news was received that a disturbance had occurred amongst the troops of the Royal Niger Constabulary at Kiama, and "B" Company was ordered to proceed at once to Fort Goldie to prevent its spreading. At 1 a.m. on the 7th August Captain Fremantle, Lieutenant Buxton, Colour-Sergeant Moran and 60 rank and file with 20 rounds per man left by route march and arrived at Fort Goldie (26 miles) at 1 p.m. the same day. On this march two rivers had to be crossed. It was dark and there were no canoes on the near banks. Lieutenant Buxton swam both rivers and procured canoes, in which the men and horses were transferred across. The remainder of "B" Company followed the next day, and relieved, in accordance with orders, the detachments at Fort Goldie, Kiama, Leaba, Yangbassa, and Boussa, hitherto held by the Royal Niger Constabulary. "B" Company returned to

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—

Jebba in January 1899, having done good service in the expedition to punish the murderers of Lieutenant Keating and his party.

In September "A" Company proceeded on special service to Ilorin, under Captain Somerset, and I was informed by the Commandant that he carried out a delicate mission with great tact, and returned the beginning of November, and on the 25th November "A" Company, under Captain Welch, proceeded up river for duty in E. Borgu.

In October "D" Company proceeded up river under Captain Eden to reinforce the troops in E. Borgu.

On the 5th December Lieutenant Robertson with an escort proceeded to Ogbomosho and returned on the 20th December with 125 recruits.

On the 7th January 1899, Lieutenant Pope-Hennessy returned from the Benué with 70 Hausa recruits, enlisted by Captain Lynch.

On the 12th December Major Lowry Cole returned from duty in S. Borgu and assumed command of the battalion. (I had left a few days previously for England, to take up the appointment of second in command Durham Light Infantry.)

On the 7th February 1899, the regiment commenced its move to Lokoja in relief of the 1st Battalion.

Annual  
inspection.

16. The annual inspection of the battalion took place at Jebba in January, Colonel Willcocks, C.M.G., D.S.O., the officiating Commissioner and Commandant, expressed himself pleased with everything he saw.

Presentation  
of Royal  
Humane  
Society's  
medal to  
Corporal  
Taylor.

17. At a general parade of the West African Frontier Force on the 23rd January 1899 at Jebba, Corporal W. Taylor, of the 2nd Battalion, was presented with the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society, for gallantry on the night of the 12th May 1898, when he dived into the River Niger and brought to the surface the body of Lieutenant T. E. Headlam, the river at the time swarming with crocodiles.

Strength of  
battalion.

18. When I left Jebba the battalion was about 800 strong, and, now that the Hausa recruits from the Benué enlisted by Captain Lynch have arrived, it should be 1,000 strong.

A 7th company was formed in February.

The men.

19. There is a great difference between Hausas "born slaves, the sons of slaves" and those born free. The latter only should be enlisted. The best Yorubas come from the war camps of Ogbomosho and Ikerun; Ibadan men are also good. The men from Oyo (the capital of Yorubaland) are no good as soldiers. Both Hausas and Yorubas are imitative and learn very quickly. They also forget quickly. They are wonderfully amenable to discipline, but they can be easily made discontented and mutinous by an officer who does not listen patiently to what they have got

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to say. They are quite satisfied with their officer's decision, however adverse, once they have had their say. If shouted at and bullied they are apt to become cowed and stupid. For this reason I think all officers and British non-commissioned officers require supervision and careful tuition on first arrival in Nigeria; otherwise the results will not be lasting, and men will be unjustly punished through misunderstandings on both sides.

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20. My great aim was to create a regimental feeling in the System. battalion, and to teach the men that they belonged to the same battalion. It must be remembered that Hausas and Yorubas are long-standing rivals, and if they are to live peaceably together in the lines, and to fight side by side, they must be associated together on all possible occasions. From the very beginning, therefore, though only squad drill could be done, all the companies paraded together as a battalion, and a general supervision was exercised over them. This was especially necessary if any uniformity of system of training was to be obtained, when it is considered that the officers and non-commissioned officers came from so many different regiments. As the Company commanders got to know their men, and I was satisfied with their methods of handling them, this supervision was relaxed, and I then told them that I should judge them by the results they obtained. Officers and non-commissioned officers once posted to companies were kept as much as possible with their companies, and even with their sections or squads, but, owing to the exigencies of the climate *i.e.*, sickness, they were (except Company commanders) perforce interchangeable. It had this advantage, however, that the natives got to know all the white men, and they in turn had experience of both Haussa and Yoruba squads. The battalion interpreters attended every parade and all orders were carefully explained to the men, and they were told to go to their officers if there was anything they did not understand.

21. A two-section range was built at Jebba by the labour of Musketry the men. Pending the completion of this range the men were instruction. exercised at floating targets on the river. These targets were moored at 100 and 200 yards and afterwards at unknown distances. As the impact of each shot on the water was so plainly marked, the men improved very rapidly, and the task of teaching the men to shoot (which I had expected to be a difficult one) was by this means made an easy one. It is an ideal way of teaching recruits and improving the shooting of third-class shots. As soon as the range was finished, the companies were put through the recruits' course laid down in F.F. Orders.

22. The early education of natives in sanitary matters leaves Sanitary much to be desired. As the health of the Europeans depended arrangements. so much on the Island being kept clean, floating latrines were built at the river's edge and the natives coerced into using them. While not pretending that Jebba Island is yet clean, "Soldier



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**Water  
supply.**

Town" was a model in this respect when I left. The difference between my first weekly kit inspection and my last was most marked.

23. The preserving the health of the Europeans of the battalion naturally occupied much of my thoughts. A pure water supply was a great difficulty. The drinking water was fetched from the centre of the stream above the Island, and boiled and filtered, but even then it soon became impregnated with germs, and was with difficulty kept pure. Under regimental arrangements a soda-water machine had been brought out (the only one, I believe, in West Africa). This was, of course, too heavy to be marched up from Lagos, and a considerable delay occurred in its coming up the river. Once started, however, my troubles about the drinking water were at an end. The soda water was sold at a nominal sum. The water was filtered and boiled under the supervision of an officer.

**Regimental  
farm.**

24. In order to ensure a good supply of fresh meat, a regimental farm and poultry yard was started shortly after our arrival at Jebba. A big yard was fenced in, and a deserted Nupe village enclosed, and the houses used as cattle sheds and the granaries filled with fodder and Guinea corn. The results were most marked. The beef and mutton were both excellent. Sheep doubled their weight in a short time by careful feeding, and the mutton was equal to the "grain fed" mutton of any Indian mutton club. The meat latterly was sold to all corps in the station, the profit being credited to Government. The farm was entirely managed by Captain Hon. R. Somerset, who gave up every moment his other duties permitted to it.

**Messing  
arrange-  
ments.**

25. Although I knew we were liable to be split up in many detachments, I decided before leaving England on starting an officers' mess and a non-commissioned officers' mess, and made arrangements accordingly. From the day we landed in Africa (at headquarters) all the officers messed together, and all the non-commissioned officers messed together. By having only these two messes, instead of company messes, we were able to keep down prices by the absence of competition, and the officers and non-commissioned officers were kept cheery and made comfortable, which is half the battle of health in West Africa. A complete kit was brought out for each company, but until it was necessary men did not dine alone; moreover, a man who did his work would have had no time to think of housekeeping, and if he had left it to his servant his health would have suffered.

**Uniform.**

26. Before leaving Jebba I was asked for my views on the future uniform of the W.A.F.F. and I submitted two sketches, one showing the undress and the other the full dress I proposed. The former consisted of a khaki cotton blouse and pants which was made into full dress by the addition of a red Zouave jacket. The objection that cotton was too cold was met by the proposal to issue a flannel shirt. All accoutrements were of brown leather,

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pouches to be done away with, and cartridges carried in the belt, and in the head dress (as is done by the French native troops) a red tarbouch with a tassel of the regimental colour, and a kammerbund of the same colour completed the equipment.

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27. Before concluding this report I wish to bring to notice the excellent work done by the officers and British non-commissioned officers I had the honour of commanding. I was indeed fortunate in having such a capable, hardworking, cheery body of men under me.

Conclusion.

My special thanks are due to my Adjutants, Captain A. W. Booth, Northumberland Fusiliers, whose promotion to the Staff was a great loss to the regiment, and the late Captain Hon. R. Somerset, Grenadier Guards, whose work was unceasing, and his place will be very hard to fill; and to Captain Guy Fremantle, Coldstream Guards. These officers have already been mentioned in the "London Gazette."

Also to the late Captain A. W. Baker, Durham Light Infantry, who did excellent work recruiting in Kishi and in the training of his company; Captain Lynch, South Lancashire Regiment, whose knowledge of Hausa is unique and who brought us many Hausa recruits; Lieutenant H. M. Blair, Seaforth Highlanders, Assistant Adjutant; Lieutenant L. H. R. Pope-Hennessy, Oxford Light Infantry; Lieutenant R. H. Buxton, Norfolk Regiment; Lieutenant and Acting Quartermaster C. O'Malley, 3rd Middlesex Regiment; to Sergeant-Major F. Walker, Manchester Regiment; O.R. Sergeant C. Thomas, South Wales Borderers; Colour-Sergeant J. C. Heafield, Durham Light Infantry; Sergeant Blair, Northumberland Fusiliers; Corporal W. Munro, Seaforth Highlanders; and Corporal W. Taylor, Scots Guards.

H. S. FITZGERALD, Lieutenant-Colonel,  
West African Frontier Force.

Aldershot,  
31st March 1899.

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1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 240.

ST. HELENA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 213.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*September, 1898.*

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### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
209	Grenada ... ..	1896
210	Hong Kong ... ..	"
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212	St. Vincent ... ..	"
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4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
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9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
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11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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No. 240.

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(For Report for 1896, see No. 213.)

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GOVERNOR R. A. STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle,  
St. Helena,

9th August, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for 1897.

Mr. W. Grey-Wilson, C.M.G., administered the Government up to the 24th May, when he left on being appointed to the Governorship of the Falkland Islands, and the Honourable Major E. H. Peacock, Commanding the Troops, took charge of the Island till my arrival, when I assumed the Government on the 7th June.

The condition of the Colony has been on the whole flourishing. The seasons have been fairly good with ample rainfall, and the large increase to the garrison and employment of labour in the Public Works have conduced to the general prosperity.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in the Island with a heartiness that was to be expected from the known loyalty of the St. Helenians. Further allusions to this will be made under the head of "Social" in the Report.

At first sight the financial statement might appear unsatisfactory, but on analysis it will be seen that the actual normal expenditure is somewhat under the income, and much has been done for the improvement of the Island.

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The difficulties in establishing any profitable industry have not yet been overcome, but the matter has still my earnest endeavours, and negotiations are still pending regarding fibre, fish, and minor undertakings.

### FINANCIAL.

#### *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The Revenue of the year was £8,802 13s. 11d., and the Expenditure was £13,004 5s. 11d., showing an excess of payments over receipts of £4,201 12s. 0d., but this is not an accurate statement of the financial position, for the Revenue was normal, whereas £4,395 of the Expenditure was for Extraordinary Works such as the new water works, advances for timber from America, &c. The amount of actual ordinary Expenditure stands at £8,608 which is under the Revenue, and the Revenue itself is somewhat lower than in past years owing to a falling off in the Postal receipts on account of sale of stamps. I anticipate an increase of Customs Revenue with the strengthening of the garrison which has taken place.

#### *Assets and Liabilities.*

The Assets are £21,821 6s. 2d. and Liabilities £20,818 13s. 3d., showing a credit balance of £1,002 12s. 11d.

The Parliamentary Grant of 1871-2 of £5,758 is not included in the Liabilities.

### TRADE AND SHIPPING.

The Export trade of the Island is practically nil, being confined to a small business in potatoes, which during the year amounted to about 1,117 bags, value £679, the best year since 1894. To the United Kingdom the Exports, exclusive of £3,666 in specie, were of the value of £648, consisting of skins and wool.

The Imports during 1897 amounted to £34,365 being £3,415 more than the previous year. Judging from the appearance of the shops and the increase of the garrison, and also from the fact that home remittances by shopkeepers by means of Treasury Bills were greatly in excess of the previous year, *viz.*, £18,178 against £12,755, I am justified in assuming that trade has been brisk.

#### *Shipping.*

There has been a slight increase of 11 in the number of ships that have called and traded. The number of those which anchored was 147. Those which hove to and traded with the licensed traders, 174.

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The following ships of Her Majesty's Navy visited the Island ST. HELENA,  
during the year :— 1897.

8th April	...	...	...	H.M.S. "Philomel."
9th "	...	...	...	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
29th "	...	...	...	H.M.S. "Philomel."
12th May	...	...	...	Transport "Dunera."
26th "	...	...	...	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
29th June	...	...	...	Transport "Dilwara."
18th October	...	...	...	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
1st December	...	...	...	Transport "Avoca."

AGRICULTURE.

The year has on the whole been a prosperous one, with abundance of rain. The hay crop was fair, and the potatoes plentiful and comparatively free from blight. I obtained from Las Palmas, through the liberality of Mr. T. Millar, junior, of that place, some sacks of seed potatoes of the Palmera variety and they have succeeded very well. This variety is a most prolific cropper. I had sent some during the previous year to the Island but they were over-carried to the Cape and were in a bad condition when returned, so the experiment proved a failure, but the second attempt was very successful, and from those grown at Plantation I have now a quantity of seed tubers for distribution.

The advent of the West India Troops has created a demand for yams, not the St. Helena yam, which is an arum, but what is here called the Coast yam (*Dioscorea alata*), a creeper with very large tuber which used to be grown here formerly for sale to the coolie ships. As the number of these vessels has fallen off the cultivation was dropped, and now I have had to import seed tubers from Sierra Leone to be distributed to farmers at cost price.

The Tagasaste (*Cytisus proliferus albus*) from the Canary Islands, which I introduced in 1896, has succeeded in some parts of the Island, but the bushes are as yet too small to cut for fodder; it was very highly spoken of by Dr. Morris, C.M.G., of Kew, and also by some Spanish Naval Officers who visited St. Helena, but I notice that Professor Wallace in his "Farming Industries of Cape Colony" states that it is hurtful to horses.

I found on my arrival that the Agricultural Society was flagging and had not had a meeting since my departure from the Island in July 1896, but it is now reviving and is of great use in discussing matters relating to farming.

The question of manures is now a subject of discussion. The guano deposits of the Island are nearly, if not quite, worked out. On Mr. Deason's farm the native carbonate of lime is used, but a cheap and effective manure has yet to be invented, as the high



ST. HELENA, rates of freight preclude the importation of chemical preparations from England. Fish manure, which is so much used in Europe, would be the cheapest and best for this Island, but until a fishery on scientific methods is started the wealth of food and fertilizing matter will still, as heretofore, remain in the depths of the sea which surrounds us.

Small growers are, I think, turning their attention more to market gardening, as the West Indian portion of the increased garrison consume more vegetables.

#### INDUSTRIES.

I regret to say no progress has been made in the establishment of a fishery, which is a subject I have had at heart for some years, but I do not despair of something in this direction being yet accomplished, if not on a large scale for export, still on a smaller footing for home consumption. It is now becoming a matter for serious consideration what we are to do in the future for supplying fish for the poorer inhabitants who hitherto lived upon the economical food provided by the waters round their Island. Since the arrival of the West India Troops the demand for fish has been great and prices have doubled. Mackerel which used to sell from 2*d.* to 6*d.* a dozen are now a penny a piece, and an equal rise has taken place as regards albicore. The fishermen do not see the force of working longer hours to keep the price of fish down; it is to their advantage to have short hours and high prices.

The scientific European mode of fishing has been so successful at the Cape and Natal that I hope to see it tried here some day, providing cheap food for the poor, manure for the farmers, and an export trade of salt fish to South America. I have suggested to the Officer Commanding the Troops that we should revive the old custom of the past century and have one or two regimental fishing boats; if this were done, and a sufficient supply for the garrison obtained, prices would once more come down to their former level. He is quite willing to try the experiment, but at present the getting of a suitable boat is the difficulty.

A concession was granted during the year to a syndicate of four gentlemen who were disposed to try the preparation of fibre from the *Furcraea aloe*; I however recommended them to send one of their number to visit the plantations and factories in Natal and Mauritius before commencing operations here; this was done and Mr. J. Brown of Las Palmas, who was the member despatched, was favourably inclined to the scheme and stated that he would visit this Island after making enquiries as to machinery &c., but nothing more has been done as yet.

One of the ladies here, Mrs. Jackson, has been trying to start a lace-making industry (similar to that which has been so

successful in Madagascar) with a view to giving employment to the women and girls of the place, a very laudable project, and I hope to be able to state in my next annual report that she has been successful in her endeavours. There are so many idle women and children in the Island whose husbands and fathers are absent in South Africa that a movement of this kind is highly desirable. Emigration has brought about this state of affairs and, though it relieved the Island a few years ago, the evil effects which I anticipated are now felt, for labour is scarce and wages have risen. I am now paying labourers on the Public Works 2s. 6d. a day instead of 2s., and have had twice to assist Messrs. Solomon & Co., Admiralty Coal Contractors, with men to coal men-of-war on emergency. This pressure, however, may be but temporary as we are laying down new water works, building houses, and the Royal Engineers are preparing new barracks for the increased garrison.

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1897.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

During the early part of the year the following Extraordinary Works were completed at a cost of £700, *viz.*, the construction of a flushing dam at the head of the town for the purpose of cleansing the Run, which is an open sewer passing down the whole length of the town to the sea; this excellent work, designed and carried out by Mr. Grey-Wilson, is of the highest value, especially now that we have so many troops quartered in Jamestown. The flushing used to take place about every other day, but finding it capable of daily use the water is now discharged every morning at 6 o'clock. It was practically a finished work before my arrival; all I have done to it is to replace clay puddling on one side of the basin, which was leaking, by concrete, which the estimate allowed.

A new crane had been erected on the wharf which comes into the works of the year, but as yet it has not been used on account of the proximity of partially submerged rocks which prevent the approach of boats; these required very careful removal and, acting under the advice of Captain D. B. Thomson of the 28th Bombay Pioneers (who was here on a visit), I indented on the Crown Agents for 50lbs. of dynamite in commercial cartridges, and on arrival the work of chipping them to pieces by small charges was commenced but was stopped as the roller season set in early. It is now in hand.

A sum of £2,400 having been sanctioned for the new scheme of water works arranged for by Mr. Grey-Wilson, an accurate survey of the line, with working plans and sections, was made for me by Captain Thomson, the Royal Engineer Officers on the Island being fully occupied on the new barracks for the troops. Between Jamestown and the intake at Drummer's Point, a distance of 1,700 yards, there was a considerable amount of earth-work and masonry which I think had not sufficiently been taken

St. HELENA, 1897. into consideration in estimating the cost; however, I anticipate that the work will contrast favourably with similar operations elsewhere as the cost of supervision is small, though that of labour has risen, and I expect it to be completed by the end of the current year if indents from home are promptly complied with.

The estimated quantity of 6-inch pipes was landed *ex* "Luke Bruce" on the 27th February and the work of laying was taken in hand.

The ordinary Public Works comprised extensive repairs to the Gaol almost amounting to rebuilding; the roof and wood work had entirely to be renewed, the former being white ant eaten to such an extent that it is a wonder it had not collapsed.

A store house for mineral oil was also completed on the Wharf during the year, and the future warehousing of such oils in Jamestown was prohibited.

During the year we imported a very fine lot of American red cypress wood which is the best timber for resisting the white ant. Our consignment of 152,695ft. was shipped by Messrs. Lucas E. Moore & Co., of New Orleans, and is of exceptionally fine quality both in grain and size.

#### VITAL STATISTICS AND HOSPITAL.

The health of the Island continued good, the death rate was only 11·29 per 1,000, whereas the birth rate was 32·07 per 1,000. The death of the Officer Commanding the Troops, Major E. H. Peacock of the Leicestershire Regiment, occurred on the 16th of July and cast a great gloom over the Island, as he was deservedly popular. The population at the end of the year was estimated to be about 3,897.

#### EDUCATION.

The total number of children taught in the four Government Schools, the two Benevolent Society's, three Hussey Charity's, the Military, and the Baptist's Sunday Schools was 764, an increase of 14 over the previous year. Much yet remains to be done in this direction as many of the children in outlying parts are somewhat neglected, but when the new Education Ordinance becomes law the rules regarding compulsory education will be more stringently carried out.

#### CRIME AND GAOL.

There has been very little crime during the year under report and less than the previous year under all heads; for instance, the total number of offences reported to the police was 101 against 171 in the previous year; only two cases were committed to the

Supreme Court. The Gaol was almost empty during the year, which allowed of extensive repairs, almost amounting to rebuilding, being carried out; the daily average in prison was 1·3. ST. HELENA,  
1897.

LEGISLATION.

There were no Ordinances of any importance passed during the year, and the only Government regulations calling for notice were, making it compulsory to stow mineral oil on the Wharf outside of Jamestown; and a Proclamation prohibiting the landing of cattle from South Africa on account of the prevalence of Rinderpest there.

SOCIAL.

The great function of the year was, of course, Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, which was enthusiastically celebrated on the day. There was a parade of the troops in the garrison, when sixty guns were fired with a *feu de joie* between each twenty guns. All the Masonic and other institutions were present with their insignia and banners, and the day passed with sports, and in the evening fireworks, and a Ball given by myself at the Castle. Mr. W. A. Thorpe broached several hogsheads of ale at his own expense for all comers to drink Her Majesty's health, and a few days after about 2,000 of the poorer classes were entertained at tea on Francis Plain. The permanent memorials of the occasion were a fountain in the Public Gardens given by myself, and the surplus funds in the hands of the Jubilee committee were devoted to the purchase of two ambulances for carrying sick people to Hospital which have proved to be of great comfort and utility. An illuminated address was also forwarded to Her Majesty and graciously acknowledged by Her.

SCIENTIFIC AND METEOROLOGICAL.

In connection with the Public Gardens a Museum has been started, there being a suitable building available in the grounds, and I hope in time to have a complete collection of all the fish, marine mollusca, &c., as also mineralogical and botanical specimens. At present for want of funds we can move but very slowly. My own duties are so numerous that I cannot give the time and attention I should like, but I have given lessons in taxidermy to some of the islanders, and specimens are being collected by degrees. Captain D. B. Thomson, during his six months stay in the Island, collected a valuable series of the indigenous ferns, which are now arranged in glass cases. Specimens of the Island flora are being arranged, and several consignments of living plants have been forwarded to Kew. There has been a serious botanical loss to the Island in the destruction by a storm of the only existing tree of the *Psidium rotundifolia*, a now extinct species. This tree which grew in the

ST. HELENA, 1897. middle of a field at Longwood was carefully fenced in by Mr. Deason, and many attempts have been made to propagate it by seeds, cuttings, grafting on allied stocks, &c., but all in vain, and it is now, with the valuable ebony tree, *Melhania melanoxylon*, a thing of the past in the indigenous flora of the Island. A very curious fan-leaved palm with six massive branches radiating from the main stem at about six feet from the ground, which grew close to the house at Plantation, was also blown down and destroyed by high winds. The branches, which were about nine inches in diameter, were cut off by me and planted in various situations; I never expected any good results from the operation, but after some months two of them, planted in moist ground, have thrown out young leaves, after having apparently dried up.

The meteorological phenomena of the year have been quite abnormal. It is rarely that thunder and lightning occur, and hail is quite unknown, but on the 21st of October, at 9 p.m., lightning was observed with rumbling of thunder throughout the night; on the following day the thunder between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. was continuous, one very loud peal frightened my horses as I was driving down Ladder Hill at 11 o'clock, about the same time heavy showers of hail fell in the neighbourhood of Woodlands; towards midnight of the 22nd the wind increased from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. pressure to the square foot to 8 lbs., which continued till midnight of the 23rd, and with the high wind the storm passed away.

I have, &c.,

R. A. STERNDALÉ,  
*Governor.*

The Right Honourable J. Chamberlain, M.P.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 265.

ST. HELENA.

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REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 240.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August 1899.

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**COLONIAL REPORTS.**

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

**ANNUAL.**

No.	Colony.	Year.
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	1897
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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No. 265.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 240.)

GOVERNOR STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

19th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1898. It is rather longer than previous reports, having been written on the lines laid down in your circular dated 31st January 1899.

I am glad to be able to report that there has been considerable improvement in the condition of the Colony, owing to the increase of the garrison and the extensive works now being carried on by the Colonial and Imperial Governments, which have given employment to the inhabitants to such an extent that boys are being paid full labourers' wages and even women and children help.

More money has circulated and consequently trade has been brisk.

Probably some reaction may take place several years hence when the works are finished and wages fall, but it is to be hoped that permanent benefit will accrue to the more thrifty ones of the working population.



ST. HELENA, 1898. The seasons have also been favourable to agriculture, and though the supply of live stock has fallen short of the demand for meat for the troops, so as to compel the military authorities to import cattle for a while, I notice a fair number of young beasts coming on for future requirements.

### FINANCIAL.

#### *General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The revenue for the year was £9,152 12s. 1d., showing an increase over the previous year of £350. The expenditure was £12,349 3s. 1d., being £655 less than in 1897. Still the expenditure was £3,196 11s. 0d. over receipts. This expenditure was, however, extraordinary and not likely to occur again.

Additional grants were sanctioned during the year for rebuilding two houses, for the formation of a volunteer corps, and for the importation of a fine Spanish donkey for stud purposes. The first instalment of £500 was also made towards the liquidation of an advance of £5,158 made to the Colony by the Imperial Government in 1871-72, and an increase in the salaries of several of the inadequately paid officials was also sanctioned during the year. All these items raised the expenditure above the estimate.

I anticipate, however, a decided improvement in the current year, with a substantial surplus.

The Customs revenue and sale of stamps are rising, and expenditure, I trust, will be kept strictly within the sanctioned limits. I give the total Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	9,161	7,873
1895	9,762	8,063
1896	9,160	8,872
1897	8,803	13,004
1898	9,152	12,349

*Assets and Liabilities.*

ST. HELENA,  
1898.

The liabilities exceed the assets this year by £2,486 15s. 5d. In 1897 we had a surplus (after deducting a transfer of £1,120 19s. 6d. to the Savings Bank fund) of £4,460, but the following extraordinary expenditure to 31st December 1898 more than swallowed up the amount, viz. :—

	£
Waterworks ... ..	2,272
Timber and oil ... ..	2,037
Spring water ... ..	286
Two new houses ... ..	726
Sharpshooters ... ..	260
Purchase of "Maldivia" ... ..	391
Stallion donkey ... ..	67
First instalment Imperial Government loan	500
Total...	£6,539

*Public Debt.*

There is no public debt, but a Parliamentary grant of £5,158 made without interest in 1871-72, is now being paid off by instalments of £500 a year.

*Currency.*

The same as in the United Kingdom.

*Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of Poor Relief Board for last Five Years.*

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	958	939
1895	930	919
1896	851	863
1897	826	820
1898	863	850

ST. HELENA,  
1898.

*Public Market Committee.*

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	90	89
1895	89	93
1896	83	82
1897	112	110
1898	107	109

*Debts of Municipal Boards.*

In 1883 the Poor Relief Board borrowed from the Colonial Government the sum of £800 for the construction of a new poor house and lunatic asylum, to be repaid in 16 annual instalments; the last instalment was paid on 31st December 1898.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

*Imports and Exports.*

The imports greatly increased during the year under report, being to the value of £62,985, or nearly double those of the preceding year. The increase of the garrison and the extensive works in fortifications and barracks now in progress have given a great impetus to trade.

The imports consist principally of building material, beer and spirits, general goods, and food-stuffs (the latter chiefly from the Colonies), sugar, rice, &c., live stock for the use of the troops, the Island supply of cattle being insufficient.

The most notable increase occurs under the headings: oxen, cement, drapery and dry goods, grain, leather, boots, &c., preserved meats, oilman's stores, wines, and sundries. As there is much competition in cheap goods, I notice that German manufactures are creeping in, as yet, I think, only in fancy articles, but some foreign glass imported seemed to me to be of as good quality as what we have in store of English manufacture, though about half the price.

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The exports continue very low, even lower than in the previous ST. HELENA year, and amounted to only £4,391, including £3,816 in specie. 1898.  
These exports consist chiefly of potatoes.

I give the details of imports and exports for the past five years:—

*Imports.*

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	18,994	7,988	4,795	31,777
1895 ...	22,263	8,478	3,003	33,744
1896 ...	21,233	9,587	130	30,950
1897 ...	25,262	7,161	1,942	34,365
1898 ...	50,744	12,241	—	62,985

*Exports.*

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Total.
	£	£	£
*1894 ...	4,280	772	5,052
*1895 ...	4,205	109	4,314
*1896 ...	4,012	727	4,739
*1897 ...	4,314	679	4,993
*1898 ...	3,816	575	4,391

£  
\* Including specie 3,875 in 1894.  
" " 3,980 " 1895.  
" " 3,993 " 1896.  
" " 6,663 " 1897.  
" " 3,746 " 1898.

ST. HELENA,  
1898.

MINES, MANUFACTORIES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines of any description. The Island is devoid of metallic deposits of any consequence. The manganese ores which are obtainable are not of sufficient quality to pay for export, the percentage of manganese dioxide being only 63·19 (worth 52s. 6d. per ton delivered), which is lower than what manufacturers of chlorine would purchase.

Limestone is found of excellent quality for building purposes, but it has not been made much use of, for, what with the cost of fuel for burning and the difficulties of carriage, it has been found cheaper to import lime from England. I, however, intend to try some experiments in this direction, for the quality of the lime is so good that when some years ago the commander of one of Her Majesty's ships of war was allowed to open fire on an old wall built in the 17th century he made very little impression on it.

I am more sanguine, however, about an industry which is much needed in this Island, that is, coarse pottery-bricks, tiles, and pots of various kinds. There is a dark blue tenacious clay which has hitherto been only used for puddling in engineering works, but which I first used for road metalling, after being burnt. I then tried to make flower pots, but the first attempts cracked in firing, though well burnt and of good colour. I have now succeeded, by using an addition of fine sand in the clay, and am about to build a proper kiln for baking a number of pots at a time.

I am glad to be able to report progress in the manufacture of lace, to which I alluded last year, and great credit is due to Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Arthur for their energy under extreme difficulties. Mrs. Jackson, struck with the beauty of the Madagascar lace which had been started by the wife of an English Missionary, conceived the idea of a similar industry in St. Helena; she was ignorant of the method of working, but obtained a lace pillow and bobbins from an old worker in Buckingham—I will quote Mrs. Jackson's own words—"Even then without instructions the lace-making was at a standstill—I tried vainly to interest many in the Island until I mentioned the matter to Mrs. Arthur, who took a great interest in my scheme and readily entered into work to discover the different stitches of lace; we toiled on with varying success until she got a book on Torchon lace making; this unravelled the difficulty, and we were able to set to work almost immediately to teach others." I have on several occasions inspected Mrs. Jackson's class, she and Mrs. Arthur have about 20 girls between them, and the progress made is astonishing; many of the pupils are young children, and they all exhibit great keenness and dexterity in their work.

*Fisheries.*ST. HELENA,  
1898.

I wish I could give a better account of these; want of capital and above all want of energy prevent the Islanders from undertaking what would be their most valuable industry if they would but see it, but old habits die hard in St. Helena, and high wages on the military works have tempted many fishermen from their former avocation; recently fish was only to be had in the markets at double and treble the price it commanded formerly, and the supply even at these prices was limited; there is an abundance of fish in the sea, sportsmen go out and in a few hours return with large catches of albacore and cavally, and, with systematic fishing and fish curing a very profitable industry might be maintained. I have for some years gone into the subject, and I know that salted cavally (*Caruux dentex*) commands a ready sale in South America, where under the name of the Cape Verde cod (*Baculhae de Cabo Verde*) it is preferred to the Canadian cod. But, apart from the export trade, I have been urging the people here to cure fish for home consumption. The West Indian soldiers are great consumers of salt fish, and their canteen has to import it at a rate of about  $3\frac{1}{2}d.$  a pound; the Island-cured cavally could be sold at a good profit at  $2d.$  a pound, as large quantities could be taken during the season. Trammel nets have been tried with some success. Commander Gurney, R.N., of H.M.S. "Widgeon," used one daily in the harbour, catching enough fish to supply his crew. Mr. Robert Bruce of the Colonial Secretariat got a net out from England, and in his first experiment he caught about forty fish, including one hammer-headed shark, which I think spoiled sport and somewhat damaged his net. These experiments are, however, a move in the right direction, and the day may come when more extensive operations with nets will be carried out with success.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL  
STATIONS.

The year under report has been favourable for agriculture, and owing to abundance of rain the pasturage has been good, but the local stock owners have not been able to keep pace with the increased demand owing to the strengthening of the garrison, and the military authorities have had to import cattle from England. The ravages of rinderpest in South Africa prevented our getting any from the Cape.

It is too early yet to report on the results of the proposed Botanical Garden at Maldivia. The old Botanical Garden, which is to be made over to the War Office for barrack extension, has been worn out from neglect.

ST. HELENA, 1898. Nurseries of young trees are kept up at Plantation and the plants distributed to applicants. The Cinchona plantation, which was started in Sir Charles Elliott's time on the range below Diana's Peak, is still to be traced; the trees have run wild and thrive, but the cultivation here would not be profitable at the ruling prices for quinine.

#### *Forestry.*

This requires encouragement amongst the landowners. Mr. Grey-Wilson did much good in this way, and ample testimony exists of his efforts in the many fine young trees that are growing up in the vicinity of Plantation, especially with various kinds of cedar and eucalyptus. I have for some time tried to redeem the barrenness of Halftree Hollow, through which the main road from Jamestown to the south runs, but the rock is too near the surface for most trees, and some hundreds of young Cape yews planted have, with few exceptions, withered away. Some olives planted by me in 1896 survive, but the most hopeful species is a kind of evergreen of the fig tribe which in Jamestown grows to an enormous size. One tree of this on Halftree Hollow, planted by me in 1896, is now in a most flourishing condition, and I am about to make an avenue of the same.

#### LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

There have been no grants of land made during the year under report. All the best land in the Island is in private hands or leased by Government. The value is reckoned about £5 an acre for commutation purposes.

#### SHIPPING.

The number of ships that anchored was 147, exactly the same as in the previous year. Those that hove to and traded with licensed boatmen numbered 192; vessels sighted, 390.

	Tonnage.
Men-of-war ... ..	40,926
Steamers ... ..	104,737
Sailing vessels ... ..	120,467
	266,130
Total tonnage ...	266,130

The following nationalities were represented :—

	ST. HELENA, 1898.
American ... ..	7
Belgian ... ..	1
British ... ..	101
Dutch ... ..	2
French ... ..	4
German ... ..	6
Hawaiian ... ..	1
Italian ... ..	4
Norwegian ... ..	17
Russian ... ..	1
Spanish ... ..	1
Swedish ... ..	2

The statistics for the last five years are :—

	Tons.
1894 ... ..	280,634
1895 ... ..	279,717
1896 ... ..	220,857
1897 ... ..	228,569
1898 ... ..	266,130

The whalers have for the past two years entirely deserted this port, which is a matter of regret, for they used to spend much money in the Island. It is probable that the sperm whale fishery is not so profitable as it was, and that the ships employed in this industry have gone further north in search of the right or whale-bone whale.

LEGISLATION.

Only two Ordinances of special interest were passed during the year, viz. :—

No. 1, of 14th February 1898, "An Ordinance to empower the Governor in Council to fix the rates of postage."

No. 3, of 15th June 1898, "An Ordinance to provide for the management of the lunatic asylum."

Nos. 2, 4, and 5 were to provide for service and supplementary expenditure.



ST. HELENA,  
1898.

### EDUCATION.

There are four Government schools, four charitable, a military, and a Baptist Sunday School, the total number of scholars being 790, an increase of 26 over last year. In none of them can more than a good plain English education be imparted, and a good high-class school is much wanted. There are no technical schools as yet. In the town school of the Hussey Charity there is a carpenters' class, and the gardener at Government House Plantation has a class of boys learning horticulture.

### GOVERNMENT AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

#### *Hospitals.*

The civil hospital is supported by the Government, aided by fees from paying patients. The hospital is clean, commodious, and airy, well supplied with good water, and admirably managed, under the supervision of the Colonial Surgeon, by a lady superintendent (Miss Williams) and two nurses. 186 cases were treated, with 15 deaths; the greatest number of cases of any particular disease were respiratory organs 29, deaths 5; local injuries 28, deaths 2. No cases of zymotic disease occurred in the hospital, either amongst patients or officers; the daily average treated was 8·84.

#### *Asylums.*

The lunatic asylum is not supported by Government but by the ratepayers through the Poor Relief Board. There are only seven patients, of whom three are maniacal, three quiet, and one melancholic. The Colonial Surgeon visited three times a week; but an Ordinance has been passed during the year for the better management and supervision by visitors.

#### *Poor House.*

This is also supported and managed by the Poor Relief Board, who levy a rate of about 20s. per £100 per annum on all real property in the Island, assessed in the aggregate at about £94,900.

#### *Savings Bank.*

This Government institution is very popular, there being no banks in the Island. The number of depositors during the year was 174. The total amount of deposits, £3,000 19s.; of withdrawals, £2,240 19s. The total amount at credit of depositors at the end of the year was £17,003 11s. 4d.; of invested funds, £15,299 13s. 5d.

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PUBLIC GARDENS AND MUSEUM.

ST. HELENA,  
1898.

The public gardens, which are situated near the Castle Square and St. James's Church, are being much appreciated by the residents since they have been improved. There yet remains much to be done, and the want of a competent gardener greatly hinders progress, but I hope in a short time to add to the turf which has been established in parts, and to increase the supply of flowers. The three gates are locked at nine o'clock, at which time the reading-room closes, and now, instead of being the haunt of noisy rough lads and persons of doubtful character, it is much resorted to by those who wish to have a quiet time with a book under the trees, the seats near the fountain being generally occupied, and by numbers of children, for whose benefit I wish to increase the lawns.

Three gold fish, presented by Mr. A. Thorpe, were put into the basin of the fountain, and they have bred to such an extent that we have now many for distribution.

Both the Union and Castle Line Companies have kindly consented to bring out free of charge anything that may be required for the gardens and the museum. The latter is progressing favourably, and I have been able to get the assistance of Mr. Henry Thorpe, an enthusiastic student in natural history, to take the post of honorary curator.

Mr. Rowland Ward, of Piccadilly, presented us, the other day, with a collection of stuffed animals, including a fine South American jaguar and seven species of monkey and other valuable specimens, which are being arranged with tropical scenery in a large glass case, and which will not fail to be a source of great attraction to the St. Helenians, whose island fauna is destitute of any of the larger mammalia in a wild state.

There being no Government funds devoted to the support of the undertaking we are mainly dependent on the assistance of friends.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

*Police.*

The police force is a very small one, consisting only of a sergeant, four constables (now raised to five), and one special constable.

*Prisons.*

There is one goal in Jamestown, not large as goals go, but quite enough for requirements; it has been thoroughly repaired

ST. HELENA, during the year, as the whole of the timber was eaten by white ants; there are three wards into which open eight cells. The sexes are on separate floors. The sanitary arrangements are good, and there has been no sickness or a death during the year. The male prisoners are generally employed on outdoor work under the Colonial Engineer.

*Criminal.*

There is very little serious crime in the Island; only one case of housebreaking was brought before the Supreme Court. Of minor offences 143 were reported to the police, 136 apprehended or summoned, with 120 summary convictions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

*Population.*

The population according to the census taken in 1891 was 4,116, and on the 31st December last year was estimated at 4,543. There were 53 immigrants during the year, but 119 emigrants, principally to the Cape.

The births were 24·2 per 1,000; the deaths 18·2 per 1,000, which is much higher than in the previous year which was only 11·29 per 1,000. The year was wet and cold and unfavourable to old people, of whom 45 (or more than one-half the total mortality) died at the following ages:—

Between 50 and 60	...	...	...	10
„ 60 „ 70	...	...	...	13
„ 70 „ 80	...	...	...	12
Over 80	...	...	...	10
				—
Total	...	...	...	45
Children under 10	...	...	...	17
The rest	...	...	...	21
				—
Total deaths	...	..	...	83

*Public Health.*

On the whole the public health was not so good as in the preceding year; there was a good deal of slight ailment with

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dysenteric symptoms, which probably affected young children and old people more seriously ; still there was no serious sickness or epidemic of any kind. **St. HELENA,** 1898.

*Sanitation.*

Sanitary arrangements in the country leave much room for improvement, but in Jamestown matters are improving daily. When the new waterworks are opened the sanitary regulations regarding drainage will be more rigorously imposed. A new system of drainage for the town is highly desirable, for the existing drains are a series of patchwork of pipes and culverts of various dimensions which prevent perfect flushing. The great open sewer, called the "Run," which goes through the town has been concreted throughout from the flushing-dam to the sea, and a large volume of water is discharged down it every morning, sweeping it clean.

*Climate.*

There were no meteorological phenomena to report during the year. The rainfall varies very much in different parts of the Island, the yearly average being:—

Mount Pleasant	...	...	36.06	inches.
St. Matthew's Vicarage	...	...	33.950	„
Woodlands	...	...	23.63	„
Jamestown	...	...	4.82	„

The prevailing wind is the S.E. trade, which blew steadily E.S.E., S.E., and S.S.E. for 332 days during the year ; there were only nine days calm.

The temperature on the highlands varied from a maximum of 76 to a minimum of 46, the mean average being 60. In Jamestown the maximum was 80, the minimum 66.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE.

*Post.*

There is no inland post, residents in the country go down to meet the mails or send to the post office for their letters. The sale of stamps to collectors continued to fall off, being only £96 11s. 1d. as against £253 9s. 10d. in the previous year, owing to the pattern of the stamps being a common one and not in favour with collectors. I recommended the return of the old pattern from the Crown Agents, and since then the demand has been considerable, £337 worth having been sold during five months of the current year.

ST. HELENA, At the close of the year the new penny postage and the  
1898. improved parcel rates came into force.

#### *Telephone.*

There is a system of telephonic communication connecting East, West, and Central points with Jamestown. The lines are constructed and managed by the Royal Engineers. In the first instance the Colony gave a grant of £400 and an annual subsidy which is now reduced to £45, and £30 is granted by Lloyd's. The private messages are few and amounted during the year to only £13 14s. 4d. The revenue was £109 1s. 10d., the expenditure £210. The lines are, however, kept up solely for military and official purposes.

#### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The chief event of the year was the increase in the garrison by the arrival of the head-quarters of the 3rd West India Regiment, and the commencing of military works which gave employment to all in need of it. Emigration, to which the people in late years have been driven, will, I think, now be checked. I have been always averse to encouraging the steady flow of our able bodied young men to the Cape, foreseeing the difficulties that would arise in time and cripple any future industry or engineering work; we are now suffering from a scarcity of labour, especially skilled labour such as carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, &c. Our public works have been sadly hindered by the want of carpenters. Wages have increased and even young lads have been getting the wages of adults. In spite of these difficulties, our Colonial public works (excluding fortifications and barracks executed by the Royal Engineers from Imperial funds) consisted of:—

1. The completion of the laying of the six-inch main of the new waterworks from Drummer's Point to the wharf, a distance of over 2 miles.
2. The completion of the gaol, which required a new roof and new wood-work throughout.
3. The masonry of two new houses on the site of old ones belonging to the Government. These houses are being built to meet the increased demand for accommodation. The example of Government has been followed by one or two other house proprietors, and it is to be hoped that visitors from England may be tempted to come out during the English winter (the St. Helenian summer). This Island, with its salubrious climate, superior in some respects to Madeira and the Canary Islands, would prove a valuable health resort if it were better known. Wages are

moderate and living not more expensive than in England. From ST. HELENA.  
 its geographical position St. Helena might be supposed to 1898.  
 have a tropical climate, and so it would have but for the  
 cool south-east trade wind which blows nearly all the year  
 round. The summer temperature in the country seldom  
 rises above 70° to 75°. Englishmen go about with small  
 caps on their heads, yet sunstroke is extremely rare. There  
 is no doubt it is an excellent climate for Europeans, but there  
 are not many openings for white labour; wages are low  
 according to English ideas, 2s. 6d. a day for labourers and 5s.  
 per diem for a skilled carpenter.

The only openings for the investment of capital are in the  
 preparation of fibre from the furcraea aloe which grows wild in  
 abundance, and fish curing.

Coffee of an excellent quality is produced but the culturable  
 area is limited; still a great deal more could be done in this  
 direction as much land fit for coffee is used for pasturage.

Taking the people as a whole (I speak not of the cultivated,  
 but of the working classes), they are to be favourably compared  
 with the English agricultural population; with few exceptions  
 all can read and write, and the language is spoken with greater  
 purity than in many of our home districts. There is a good deal  
 of overcrowding in many of their cottages; still in most of them  
 there are to be found neatness and a love of art in the way of  
 pictures, and nearly all are musical. Some of the small houses I  
 have visited have been very neatly kept. As a rule I think  
 they are a happy and contented people with little crime among  
 them and much kindness in helping each other. Strangers are  
 greatly impressed with the general civility shown to them by old  
 and young.

I have, &c.,

R. A. STERNDALE,

*Governor.*

LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 1-3, GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE, E.C.

1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 239.

ST. LUCIA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 211.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*September, 1898.*

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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
212	St. Vincent ... ..	1896
213	St. Helena ... ..	"
214	Seychelles ... ..	"
215	Mauritius ... ..	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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No. 239.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 211.)

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GOVERNOR SIR A. MOLONEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,

31st July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit Administrator King-Harman's despatch of the 9th inst., covering his Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of St. Lucia for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,  
*Governor.*

---

Government House, St. Lucia,

9th July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the St. Lucia Blue Book for the year 1897.

I have, &c.,

C. A. KING-HARMAN,  
*Administrator*

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1897.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total Revenue for the year 1897 was ...	£	60,639
The total Expenditure ... ..	£	56,743
Leaving a balance to credit of the Colony of		<u>£3,896</u>

The Revenue and Expenditure for the five preceding years is shewn as follows:—

--	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Revenue ... ..	£ 48,297	£ 57,598	£ 55,971	£ 48,564	£ 55,331
Expenditure... ..	54,924	49,271	53,766	57,579	56,060

The year 1897 opened with a debit balance amounting to £5,088 8s. 0d., which on the 31st December was reduced to £3,114 15s. 8d. The actual excess of Revenue over Expenditure for the year was £3,896 4s. 3d., but as £1,922 11s. 11d. of this sum was appropriated towards the closing of the Accounts for Materials and Stores, which had hitherto figured in the Balance Sheet as an Asset of the Colony, only £1,973 12s. 4d. was available to be used towards the liquidation of the floating debt.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1897, was £191,979 11s. 0d. The debt was reduced during the year by £10,300. Included in the total amount of the debt is a sum of £17,000 raised by the Colony on behalf of the Castries Town Board. The interest and Sinking Fund are paid by the Board. There is also included in the debt a sum of £20,800 which was raised for Immigration purposes. Certain export duties on sugar, cocoa, and molasses, and import duties on tobacco are appropriated by law towards the payment of interest and sinking fund on this loan. The credit of the Colony is pledged for all loans.

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IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

Hereunder is shown in tabular form the value of each class of Imports during the years 1896, 1897 :—

Year.	Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drinks, and Narcotics.	Class II. Raw Materials.			Class III. Manufactured Articles.			Class IV. Coin and Bullion. For Army and Navy, Colonial Government and the Church.	Total.	
		Textile.	Metal.	Other.	Textile.	Metal.	Other.			
1896	£ 58,729	£ —	£ 1	£ 51,431	£ 19,172	£ 5,609	£ 24,131	£ 404	£ 31,057	£ 190,534
1897	65,655	—	9	66,709	25,176	26,687	50,617	10,400	—	245,253

The articles imported for the Army and Navy, and for the Colonial Government and the Church, were classified according to their nature under their proper headings in the 1897 returns.

The following will shew the chief articles which contributed towards the increases in the 1897 figures over those of 1896 under the several heads of classification :—

Articles.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
CLASS I.				
Ale, Beer, &c. ...	{ 2,243 doz. 29,218 gals.	{ £ 2,620	{ 1,792 doz. 37,629 gals.	{ £ 2,964
Butter ...	22,650 lbs.	1,055	32,312 lbs.	1,377
Oleomargarine ...	82,195 "	1,605	98,099 "	1,830
Flour ...	14,011 brls.	14,269	14,320 brls.	17,764
Medicines ...	—	674	—	1,438
Rice ...	560,634 lbs.	2,388	577,466 lbs.	3,216
Whiskey ...	2,471 gals.	877	3,152 gals.	1,127
Wines ...	—	2,187	—	2,806
Tobacco, manufactured	10,445 lbs.	841	14,785 lbs.	1,035
" unmanufactured	34,691 "	676	50,226 "	919
CLASS II.				
Coal ...	47,307 tons	40,601	63,902 tons	53,809
Manure ...	4,618 bags	4,501	9,220 bags	5,323
Wood, White Pine ...	432,766 ft.	1,792	539,810 ft.	2,158
" Pitch Pine ...	149,052 "	842	196,187 "	988

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.IMPORTS—*continued.*

Articles.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
<b>CLASS III.</b>				
		£		£
Cottons and Woollens...	—	17,672	—	23,308
Ropes and Cordage ...	—	141	—	485
Arms and Ammunition ...	—	81	—	19,135
Iron, Galvanized ...	—	770	—	982
Industrial Machinery, &c.	—	1,520	—	1,677
Sewing Machines ...	—	113	—	223
Boots and Shoes ...	—	3,469	—	4,591
Cement ... ..	—	2,722	—	3,843
Earthenware ... ..	—	764	—	1,386
Furniture ... ..	—	479	—	989
Glassware ... ..	—	475	—	613
Haberdashery ... ..	—	6,855	—	12,478
Hats and Bonnets ...	—	1,089	—	1,861
Musical Instruments ...	—	85	—	336
Perfumery ... ..	—	388	—	506
<b>CLASS IV.</b>				
Specie ... ..	—	404	—	10,400

The following Return gives the value of the Import trade with different countries in 1896 and 1897 :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Barbados.	Other B. W. I.	French W. I.	Spanish W. I.	France.	U.S. America.	Other Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1896	101,938	2,409	19,365	3,404	1,957	4,128	6,930	45,543	4,513
1897	119,355	2,704	39,943	8,992	2,688	1,845	8,899	57,478	2,341

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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The value of the Exports as classified in the returns for 1896 and 1897 is given in the following table :—

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

Year.	Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drinks, and Narcotics.	Class II. Raw Materials.			Class III. Manufactured.			Class IV. Coin and Bullion.	Military Stores.	Total
		Textile.	Metal.	Other.	Textile.	Metal.	Other.			
1896	£ 81,070	—	—	£ 51,102	£ 44	£ 178	£ 498	£ 3,040	£ 362	£ 136,294
1897	80,911	—	—	139,650	82	209	448	8,474	670	230,444

The quantities as well as the value of the chief Exports in 1896 and 1897 are shown in the next return under the several heads of classification :—

Articles.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
<b>CLASS I.</b>				
		£		£
Cocoa ... ..	1,136,843 lbs.	15,403	953,700 lbs.	17,158
Fruit ... ..	—	380	—	177
Preserves ... ..	—	110	—	47
Spices ... ..	—	50	—	110
Rum ... ..	1,280 gals.	92	10,107 gals.	589
Molasses ... ..	105,000 "	1,444	135,120 "	1,858
Sugar Muscovado ...	1,005,608 lbs.	5,860	1,025,360 lbs.	3,950
" Usine ... ..	6,843,920 "	56,096	7,617,332 "	53,498
<b>CLASS II.</b>				
Coal, Bunker ... ..	44,816 tons	42,575	78,130 tons	76,177
Hides, Cow ... ..	615 cwts.	517	714 cwts.	600
Turtle-shell ... ..	240 lbs.	170	150 lbs.	106
Wood, Cedar ... ..	4,018 c.ft.	402	130 c.ft.	13
" Fuel ... ..	2,329 cds.	1,048	2,381 cds.	1,131
" Logwood ... ..	1,901 tons	4,285	165 tons	248
" Pimento sticks...	34,749	505	22,250	227
" Satin ... ..	4,020 c.ft.	603	390 c.ft.	59

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.EXPORTS—*continued.*

Articles.	1896.		1897.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
CLASS III.		£		£
Brooms ... ..	1,325 doz.	33	1,038 doz.	26
Charcoal ... ..	144 bags	8	210 bags	12
CLASS IV.				
Specie ... ..	—	3,040	—	8,474

The countries to which the products of the Colony were exported in 1896 and 1897, and the values of such Exports, are shewn in the following Return :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Barbados.	Other B. W. I.	French W. I.	France.	U.S. America.	Other Foreign Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1896	21,707	829	1,730	240	2,044	13,727	46,480	38
1897	10,710	342	1,767	107	1,752	9,074	57,719	60

## SHIPPING.

The shipping of this Port is steadily increasing, and during the year under report 620 trading steamships entered and cleared, as compared with 435 during the previous year. Besides these trading vessels 24 ships of war visited the Port, as against 13 in 1896.

Of these ships of war, 6 were British, 4 American, 2 Dutch, 1 Austrian, and 1 Russian.

Of the trading steam vessels, 501 were British, 58 French, 19 Belgian, 16 Norwegian, 15 German, 7 American, 2 Dutch, 1 Venezuelan, and 1 Brazilian.

Besides the steam vessels, 327 sailing vessels entered, and 325 cleared, as against 287 and 293 in 1896.

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The total tonnage entered and cleared during 1897 amounted to 1,780,560 tons, as compared with 1,190,790 tons in 1896. ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

Not only was 1897 conspicuous for the large number of vessels which entered the Port, but also for the increased tonnage size of the vessels generally. Two of the largest mercantile marine vessels afloat entered the harbour, and were berthed and coaled at the wharves.

The following Tables will be found interesting :—

Year.	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	435	574,244	16,081	387	20,827	1,931	722	595,071	18,012
1897	620	869,739	20,462	327	21,020	2,169	947	890,759	22,631

Year.	British Steam Vessels.			British Sailing Vessels.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	357	493,713	12,809	245	10,674	1,595	602	504,387	14,404
1897	501	761,773	16,740	279	10,566	1,788	780	772,339	18,528

Year.	Foreign Steam Vessels.			Foreign Sailing Vessels.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	78	80,531	3,272	42	10,153	336	120	90,684	3,608
1897	119	107,966	3,722	48	10,454	381	167	118,420	4,103



ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

SHIPPING—*continued.*

Year.	Steamers with Cargoes.			Sailing Vessels with Cargoes.			Total Vessels with Cargoes.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	185	235,313	8,149	225	16,385	1,474	413	251,698	9,623
1897	210	283,310	8,476	258	16,910	1,660	268	200,220	10,136

Year.	Steamers in Ballast.			Sailing Vessels in Ballast.			Total Vessels in Ballast.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1896	250	338,931	7,932	62	4,442	457	312	443,373	8,389
1897	410	586,429	11,986	69	4,110	809	479	590,539	12,795

## SAVINGS BANK.

	£	s.	d.
The amount at credit of the Savings Bank Fund at 31st December, 1896, was ... ..	9,809	13	10
The deposits during the year amounted to ... ..	8,497	13	7
The interest credited to depositors was ... ..	236	15	3
Total ...	£18,544	2	8
The withdrawals during the year amounted to ... ..	8,161	15	11
The amount due depositors at 31st December, 1897, was ... ..	£10,382	6	9

This is the largest balance that has been shown since the Savings Bank was established. The number of depositors at 31st December, 1897, was 1,294, as against 1,277 at the close

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of 1896. The following investments on account of the funds of the Bank were held at 31st December, 1897, the same as at the close of the previous year :—

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

	£
Canadian Government 3½ per cent. ... ..	2,000
New South Wales Government 3½ per cent. ... ..	2,000
Western Australia 3 per cent. ... ..	1,500
Government of Trinidad 3 per cent. ... ..	1,500
Government of Barbados 4 per cent. ... ..	1,000
On deposit at Colonial Bank 3 per cent. ... ..	1,000
Total ... ..	<u>£9,000</u>

The sum of £286 0s. 6d. was received during the year under report for interest on the investments.

POST OFFICE.

	£	s.	d.
The revenue derived from postal transactions during the year amounted to ... ..	1,879	8	5½
The expenditure for the upkeep of the Department, and the charges for conveyance of mails to England, America, and Canada, was ... ..	1,139	7	7
There was also paid to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, for a local service on the leeward coast... ..	1,000	0	0
Total expenditure ... ..	<u>£2,139</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

The number of letters, postcards, newspapers, book-packets, &c. sent and received from abroad during the year was as follows :—

Sent Abroad.	Received from Abroad.	
Letters and Post-cards, 72,718.	Letters and Post-cards, 85,574.	Newspapers, Book-packets, &c. 50,896.

3,250 registered letters were dealt with, and no loss has been reported.

The number of steam vessels that brought mails to the Colony was 231, and the calling of steamers for coal on their way to New York afforded 247 opportunities for the despatch of mails from the Island.

ST LUCIA, 1897. The money orders issued on foreign places amounted to £4,891 6s. 4d., and the amount received from abroad was £978 8s. 7d. The Colony's share of commission on these orders was £82 12s. 3d.

By the parcel post service 1,445 parcels were received, yielding in customs dues £201 2s. 8d. to the credit of the general revenue. The number of parcels despatched from the office was 459.

The return of inland postal transactions shew that 44,801 letters and postcards and 11,475 newspapers, book-packets, &c. were exchanged between the central office in Castries and the four sub-offices in the country districts.

#### CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., who had been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, on 25th January 1897, in succession to Sir Charles Bruce, arrived in St. Lucia and assumed the Administration of the Government on 3rd August.

Mr. C. A. King-Harman was appointed Administrator on 29th January 1897, and arrived in the Colony and assumed the Administration on 16th November.

From the beginning of the year up to the arrival of the Governor on 3rd August the Government was administered by Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Dale, officer commanding the troops, being senior member of the Executive Council. From the departure of the Governor on the 20th August to the arrival of Mr. King-Harman on the 16th November, Mr. P. J. K. Ferguson, the Attorney-General, being then the senior member of the Executive Council, assumed the Administration.

#### LEGISLATION.

The year was not fruitful in legislation, only seven Ordinances being passed, the principal of which were :—

An Ordinance to amend the Immigration Ordinance 1891, Amendment Ordinance 1896, whereby Indian immigrants who have completed a continuous residence of ten years in the Colony, and Indian immigrants who are destitute or disabled, and the wives and children of such immigrants may, in certain cases, be provided with a return passage to India.

An Ordinance to authorize the raising of a loan of five thousand pounds, for the purpose of making up a deficiency in the general revenue of the Colony for the year 1896.

This Ordinance was not presented for Her Majesty's allowance, a surplus of revenue over expenditure at the close of the year being available towards the reduction of the floating debt of the Colony.

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

An Ordinance to continue the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance 1896.

Under this Ordinance the additional duty of fifteen (15) *per centum* on all duties leviable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance 1895, coal only being excepted, was continued for another year.

#### MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Imperial expenditure during the year for military purposes amounted to £31,815, as against £43,549 for the previous year.

The Colonial expenditure in the nature of allowances in lieu of exemption from customs duties amounted to £2,236, as against £2,020 in 1896.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The births and deaths of the year numbered respectively 1,824 and 1,163, thus yielding a natural increase to the population of 661.

This increase raised the population on 31st December 1897 to 47,332 (22,995 males and 24,337 females), being equal to 203 persons to the square mile.

Exclusive of still-births the birth-rate of the Colony was 3.57 per cent. against 3.84 in 1896, 4.04 in 1895, and 4.11 in 1894.

The birth-rate has therefore been steadily decreasing, a circumstance due in all probability to rural depression and the voluntary expatriation of numbers of the virile population. During the days of agricultural prosperity the rate averaged 4.28, rising in one year to 4.76.

The year under report shows no improvement in respect to the proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births, the former averaging 60.25 and the latter 39.75 of the total.

The net death-rate was 2.15 per cent. In 1896 it was 2.17, in 1895 2.24, and in 1894 2.09. The great majority of the deaths were due to zymotic diseases, and two persons are reported as having died from the bite of the fer-de-lance, now becoming rare in the Island.

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

In 1897 there were three Sessions of the Royal Court for the trial of indictable offences; 17 persons were tried, of whom 5 were acquitted and 12 convicted. In 1896 the number of convictions was 7.

ST. LUCIA.  
1897

The returns from the Magistrates' Courts shew a decrease in the number of summary convictions, the number in 1897 being 1,013 as against 1,096 in the previous year.

The Attorney-General reports that there has been in the last four years a gradual and steady diminution in the number of convictions for summary offences, but that the number is still large, a fact due, in his opinion, to the influx from other Islands of persons, chiefly of the lower classes, attracted to St. Lucia by the increased coaling trade and by the employment to be obtained on military works and in the garrison.

#### PRISON AND CRIME.

The prison population in 1897 shewed an increase of 83 admissions as compared with the previous year, and the convictions for the year were 15 in excess of those in 1896.

The admissions to the Royal Gaol were :—

1897.		1896.	
Males ...	481	Males ...	395
Females...	226	Females...	229
Total ...	707	Total ...	624

The convictions in 1897 amounted to 544 as against 529 in 1896, but there is little serious crime in the Colony, the returns shewing that only 10 sentences were passed for periods in excess of 12 months.

The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 51.48, and the largest number confined in the prison at one time was 73.

The general health of the prisoners was good, the daily average on the sick list being 0.89, the lowest number on record. There was one death during the year from chronic diarrhoea, aggravated, according to the Medical Officer's report, by mental depression.

Corporal punishment was administered on three occasions, one by order of the Royal Court and two for prison offences.

#### IMMIGRATION.

The Protector of Immigrants reports that the number of adult Indian immigrants under indenture in the Colony on 31st December 1897 was 124, namely, 85 males and 39 females. Six births occurred during the year and one death.

The health of the immigrants is reported to be good, despite the unseasonable weather that prevailed during a great part of the year; the predominant maladies of malarial fever and malignant ulcers have been treated by the Colonial Surgeon and his assistant, Doctor Galgey, with excellent results, by the employment of thymol in the one case and iodoform in the other. The immigrants appear to have been on the whole contented and peaceable throughout the year, and a sum of £25 5s. 4d. was remitted by them to their relatives in India.

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

The Immigration Fund shewed a balance to credit on 31st December of £1,840 11s. 7d., the receipts being principally derived from export duties levied on sugar (4d. per 100 lbs.), cocoa (1s. 6d. per bag) and molasses (1s. per puncheon), from an import duty of 1s. per lb. on unmanufactured tobacco, and from indenture fees. The expenses borne by the fund were principally on account of interest and Sinking Fund on loans amounting to £2,952; bounties paid to time-expired coolies, £62, and salary of Emigration Agent, Calcutta, £89 8s. 0d.

#### EDUCATION.

##### *Primary.*

Thirty-four primary schools were open during the year 1897; the number of children on roll was 4,447; the average attendance was 2,577, and the Government grant-in-aid amounted to £2,620 13s. 9d. Of the 34 schools, 3 were managed by the Government, 2 by the Anglican Church, 1 by the Wesleyan, 4 by the East Indian Mission, and 24 by the Roman Catholic priesthood. In the previous year, 1896, 3 Government schools were closed, but the number on the roll was increased in 1897 by 265 and the average attendance by 261. These figures shew that there has been greater regularity among the children attending school during the year under report. The number presented for examination was 419 more than in the preceding year, and the increase in the number of passes was 581. The numbers in both cases are the highest ever recorded in St. Lucia.

The cost to the Government per head of the children at school was £1 0s. 10d., as compared with £1 3s. 1d. in 1896.

##### *Secondary.*

In 1890 St. Mary's College was established by the Vicar General, the Reverend Father Tapon, with the object of supplying education of a higher standard, and in the following year a grant of £200 was made by the Government from the General Revenue of the Colony in support of this school.

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

This grant has since been annually renewed, and, in addition, 10 scholarships each of the value of £6 per annum have been established by the Government in order to enable boys from the primary schools to enter the College, and to profit by the superior instruction for a period of five years. The College may therefore be considered to be assisted by the Government to the extent of £260 per annum.

The College, which is divided into three classes, was annually examined by Masters from Harrison College, Barbados, up to the year 1895, since which date no examination has been held; but boys from the 1st or most advanced class have been sent up for the Cambridge Local Examination.

In 1895 two boys were presented for this examination and both passed, one with honours.

In 1896 seven were presented and all passed, three with honours.

In 1897 eleven were presented, all passed, four obtaining honours.

The annual examination of the two lower classes will be resumed.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

In carrying out the ordinary recurrent repairs to Public Buildings a sum of £795 11s. 11d. was expended, plus £106 16s. 11d. for repairs and renewal of Government furniture.

On dredging in the Castries Harbour £467 13s. 3d. was expended.

On the maintenance and repair of the public roads £3,496 19s. 6d. was expended.

Land was purchased for a new cemetery at Choc, the total area acquired being about 10 acres. The work of enclosing, fencing, draining, and the construction of roads was commenced, and an amount of £683 12s. 6d. spent up to 31st December.

Petty repairs were executed on all the jetties, two light timber bridges for the rivers at Soufriere were begun, and a water tank for the village of Gros Islet was put in order for £123 0s. 6d.

During the year the sum of £8,110 7s. 6d. was expended on the new water works, thus making a total expenditure of £23,822 12s. 1d. The principal work consisted of the completion of the following:—

Bocage Reservoir, capacity 450,000 gallons. Cast Iron Main 6in., connecting Bocage Reservoir with Entrépot works and Town main.

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Entrépot works. Filter beds and service Reservoir, the latter holding 300,000 gallons. Cast Iron Mains, 6in. and 7in., from Entrépot to Town boundary. St. Lucia.  
1897.

**Castries Town Mains.**

The subsidiary works at Piton Flore and Louisie, consisting of five dams with straining chambers and settling channels, were commenced and completed, and the mains laid ready for joining on to the principal main from La Sorciere at any time that a failure of water from the latter source may render it necessary to do so. From this subsidiary source a minimum supply of 120,000 gallons a day can be depended upon, and this can be either held in reserve, as at present, or in case of necessity could be added to the supply now being drawn from La Sorciere, and which for the present is more than sufficient for the needs of the town and the shipping.

**AGRICULTURE.**

*Sugar.*

The sugar made in St. Lucia is chiefly of a high class, and is manufactured in four Central Factories at Grand Cul-de-Sac, Roseau, Vieuxfort, and Dennery. The output of these four factories in 1897 aggregated 3,962 tons as against 3,698 tons in 1896, and of this amount 3,400 tons were exported in 1897 and 3,055 tons in 1896. The value of the sugar exported in 1897 was £55,497, and in 1896 £56,095.

In addition to the four central factories, several small mills, driven chiefly by wind or horse power, are maintained for the purpose of making Muscovado sugar, the export of which in 1897 amounted to 457 tons, value £3,900, as against 493 tons, value £5,859, in 1896. Syrup, an article of favourite local consumption, is also largely made in these primitive mills. The amount produced cannot be ascertained.

The trade in the bye-products of sugar during the years 1896 and 1897 was as follows:—

	1896.		1897.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
Molasses ... ..	105,000	£ 1,443	135,120	£ 1,858
Syrup... ..	100	5	455	23
Rum ... ..	1,280	91	10,107	588

480\*—5

C



ST. LUCIA,  
1897.  
—

The rum manufactured in 1896 was 39,460 gallons, of which 37,360 were consumed locally, and 63,637 gallons in 1897, of which 37,344 went into local consumption. The large increase in the manufacture in 1897 is chiefly due to the importation of 22,480 gallons of molasses in that year, no such importation having occurred in the previous year.

Much difficulty is at times experienced by the proprietors of the central factories in getting a sufficient supply of labour, the population within easy distance from Castries being tempted away by the military works and by the money to be made on the coaling wharves, while from the more distant parts of the island a constant emigration to the gold fields of Cayenne often hamper agricultural operations. Much of both field and factory work is done by labourers from Antigua, St. Vincent, St. Martin's, and Barbados, from which last named island efforts are being made to induce families of the labouring class to come and settle in the fertile valleys of St. Lucia. The central factories are fitted with the latest machinery for the production of sugar crystals for the English and American markets. Grand Cul-de-Sac is capable of making 2,500 tons in five months, working during the day; Roseau in the same time can produce 1,500 tons; Vieux-fort, 2,000 tons; and Dennery, 2,000 tons. In each case the bulk of the sugar is grown by the factory, but much is contributed by peasant proprietors.

#### *Cocoa.*

The crop for 1897 was a small one, owing to the heavy rainfall and wind experienced during the flowering period of May and June. The cultivation is slowly increasing, and it is hoped that the excellent results obtained by the few planters who apply intelligent methods to the treatment of their crop may, together with the sound advice tendered by the Curator of the Botanic Station when on his lecturing tours, induce the petty proprietors to improve on the primitive system to which they obstinately cling.

#### *Coffee.*

Liberian coffee is proving to be well adapted to the soil and climate of St. Lucia, and its culture is being extended. The demand for seeds and plants is increasing, and improved machinery for curing the crop is being imported.

#### *Kola.*

The cultivation of kola is being slowly extended and one shipment has been made to the London market, where good prices were obtained.

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*Ginger.*

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1897.

The cultivation of this spice is at present being tried by one or two planters only, but a shipment which was made in the month of June realized 70/- per hundred weight, and the profitable nature of the undertaking is being brought to the knowledge of the people.

The estimated acreage of the products cultivated in the Colony is given in the following return :—

	Sugar Cane.	Cocoa.	Coffee.	Spices.	Provisions.	Other Cultivation.	Pasture.	Total Cultivation.
Acres ... ..	5,234	3,940	104	11	3,944	323	12,234	25,790

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 152,320.

BOTANIC STATION.

Much activity has prevailed in connection with the Botanic Station, in which an increasing interest is shown by the general public. Plants were distributed throughout the Island to the number of 21,138, exclusive of 9,000 ginger sets given gratis to purchasers of Crown lands, and an impetus has been given to the cultivation of Liberian coffee, cocoa, nutmegs and kola, the number of each disseminated by sale, exchange or free gift being as follows :—

	Sale and Exchange	Free.	Total.
Liberian coffee ... ..	10,942	5,994	16,936
Cocoa ... ..	44	1,302	1,346
Nutmegs ... ..	444	463	907
Kola ... ..	214	704	918

ST. LUCIA.  
1897.

The following table, shewing the number of economic plants distributed during the last three years, affords satisfactory evidence that the station is increasing in favour with the public, and that its sphere of usefulness is being constantly enlarged :—

Year.	No. of Plants Distributed.
1895 ... ..	4,380
1896 ... ..	19,504
1897 ... ..	22,179

In addition to the assistance given to the planting community at the station itself, the Curator is paying periodical visits to the several districts of the Island for the purpose of giving lectures and practical demonstration upon agricultural topics, in the hope of encouraging an extended cultivation of the most useful and valuable economic plants upon rational and scientific principles.

The site of the present station leaves unfortunately much to be desired, and with a larger area and more suitable land the advantages now offered will be brought home with greater force to the general public.

The rainfall during the year as recorded at the station was 106·43 inches ; April with 1·53 inch being the driest, and May with 20·44 inches being the wettest.

#### METEOROLOGY.

At the station on Morne Fortune, at an elevation of 745 feet above mean sea level, the absolute maximum temperature recorded was 89·0 in October ; the absolute minimum was 67·0 in February and March. In 1896 the greatest heat registered was 89·2 in October, the minimum being 66· in January, February and March. The rainfall on the Morne for the year was 111·26 inches as against 114·29 in 1896, the wettest month being May, 18·91 inches, and the driest, April, 1·88 inches. Rain fell on 271 days as against 280 days in 1896.

C. A. KING-HARMAN,  
*Administrator.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 267.

ST. LUCIA.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 239.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

August, 1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada .. ...	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"
265	St. Helena ... ..	"
266	Leeward Islands ... ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.

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No. 267.

ST. LUCIA,  
1898.

ST. LUCIA.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 239.)

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ADMINISTRATOR THOMPSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

St. Vincent,  
20th June, 1899.

[Forwarded.]

HARRY THOMPSON,  
*Administrator,*  
Windward Islands.

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Government House,  
St. Lucia,  
7th June, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to Your Excellency my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

C. A. KING-HARMAN,  
*Administrator.*

His Excellency,  
Sir ALFRED MOLONEY, K.C.M.G.,  
Grenada.

St. LUCIA,  
1898.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The net revenue for the year was £67,627 16s. 2d., being £10,368 7s. 11d. more than the estimated revenue £57,259 0s. 3d. The net revenue for the five years ended 31st December 1898 stood as follows:—

						£
1894	...	...	...	...	...	55,937
1895	...	...	...	...	...	48,564
1896	...	...	...	...	...	55,331
1897	...	...	...	...	...	60,639
1898	...	...	...	...	...	67,628

The increase in the revenue as compared with 1897 amounted to £6,988 17s. 8d., and occurred chiefly under heads of Customs, Port and Harbour Dues, Post Office (sale of postage stamps), and unestimated sources under the head of Miscellaneous, which included the sum of £3,114 15s. 8d., the amount of the Colony's deficit at the 31st December 1897, received from the Imperial Government, which, by direction of the Secretary of State, was credited to general revenue.

The following comparative statement of revenue for the year ended 31st December 1898 will furnish more detailed figures of the increased receipts during the year under report:—

Head of Revenue.	Estimate 1898.	Actual revenue to 31st Dec. 1898.	Revenue for same period in 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs ... ..	29,000 0 0	32,260 14 9	29,844 3 10	2,416 10 11	—
Port and Harbour ... ..	4,500 0 0	5,638 11 8	4,988 6 9	650 4 11	—
Licences and Excise ... ..	14,250 0 0	14,818 14 11	14,824 19 6	—	6 4 7
Fees of Court, &c. ... ..	3,904 0 0	3,929 14 3	4,336 1 4	—	406 7 1
Post Office... ..	1,444 0 0	2,842 13 0	1,540 2 1	1,302 10 11	—
Telephone... ..	450 0 0	483 15 10	431 4 8	52 11 2	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	120 0 0	3,865 11 0	640 11 4	3,224 19 8	—
Interest ... ..	1,735 10 3	1,932 10 9	2,177 19 0	—	245 8 3
Repayment of loans ... ..	1,855 10 0	1,855 10 0	1,855 10 0	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>57,259 0 3</b>	<b>67,627 16 2</b>	<b>60,638 18 6</b>	<b>7,646 17 7</b>	<b>657 19 11</b>

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ST. LUCIA,  
1898.

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The increased revenue as shown in the above statement is to be attributed to increased activity in the coaling trade and to the general prosperity of the Colony prior to the disastrous hurricane in September. A change in the rate of ocean postage, prematurely made from  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$  to  $2d.$  per half ounce, which obtained from the 9th May to the 11th June, resulted in the abnormal sale of the  $2d.$  and  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$  denomination of stamps, apparently for collecting purposes, to the amount of £1,160.

The estimated expenditure during the year was £57,623 2s. 8d. and the actual disbursements amounted to £60,975 3s. 1d., or £3,352 0s. 5d. in excess of the estimates, but £6,652 13s. 1d. less than the actual revenue.

The following statement shews in detail the expenditure for the two years 1897 and 1898 :—

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimate 1898 and Supplemen- tary Vote.	Actual Expendi- ture to 31st Dec. 1898.	Expenditure same period preceding year.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt ...	13,168 9 4	13,177 3 9	13,418 10 0	—	241 6 3
2. Pensions ... ..	333 18 4	373 11 3	337 9 2	36 2 1	—
3. Governor and Legislature ... ..	2,567 12 0	2,496 0 11	2,272 2 7	223 18 4	—
4. Treasury, Customs, &c. ... ..	2,940 14 0	2,914 0 1	2,083 6 8	—	69 5 7
5. Audit ... ..	433 16 0	392 11 3	422 7 4	—	29 15 8
6. Port and Marine ... ..	838 5 0	784 0 4	806 5 2	—	101 15 10
7. Legal ... ..	4,123 18 0	4,143 10 0	4,112 3 4	31 5 8	—

8. Police ... ..	3,412 14 0	3,303 9 0	3,351 0 7	—	47 11 7
9. Prisons ... ..	1,048 16 0	1,018 4 3	988 18 6	29 5 9	—
10. Medical ... ..	6,606 17 0	6,170 7 10	6,112 11 1	57 16 9	—
11. Sanitary ... ..	312 0 0	249 14 9	340 3 0	—	90 8 3
12. Charitable ... ..	950 0 0	900 7 11	895 4 0	5 3 11	—
13. Immigration ... ..	800 5 11	792 0 11	886 17 0	—	94 16 1
14. Education ... ..	3,788 16 0	3,642 6 0	3,412 10 6	229 15 6	—
15. Ecclesiastical ... ..	1,516 13 4	1,516 13 4	1,500 0 0	16 13 4	—
16. Miscellaneous ... ..	4,052 11 4	3,650 10 7	3,769 6 10	—	118 16 3
17. Post Office ... ..	2,262 2 3	2,223 6 10	2,127 6 8	96 0 2	—
18. Telephone ... ..	383 0 0	376 13 10	330 13 2	46 0 8	—
19. Agriculture ... ..	682 12 0	634 2 6	426 9 11	107 12 7	—
20. Public Works and Survey ... ..	1,709 19 0	1,629 9 2	1,876 9 0	—	246 19 10
21. Public Works, Recurrent ... ..	6,535 0 0	5,833 5 7	5,199 5 9	633 19 10	—
22. Public Works, Extraordinary ... ..	6,697 5 4	4,803 3 7	1,093 10 0	3,709 13 7	—
Total ... ..	65,165 4 10	60,975 3 1	56,742 14 3	5,273 4 2	1,040 15 4

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ST. LUCIA,  
1898.

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ST. LUCIA, 1898. The expenditure to 31st December on account of the damage done by the hurricane in September amounted to £4,566 0s. 7d., and may be classified as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Roads ... ..	2,948	16	6
Jetties ... ..	159	10	1
River Works ... ..	780	5	0
Public Works ... ..	677	9	0
Total ...	£4,566	0	7

*Assets and Liabilities and Public Debt.*

The balance-sheet of the Colony at the close of the year shows a surplus of £3,537 17s. 5d., as shown by the following figures:—

	£	s.	d.
Deficit at 31st December 1897 ...	3,114	15	8
Net excess of Revenue over Expenditure for 1898 ... ..	6,652	13	1
Surplus at 31st Dec. 1898 ... ..	£3,537	17	5

The Public Debt of St. Lucia at the 31st December 1898 amounted to £189,579 11s., as against a sum of £191,979 11s. at the close of 1897. The debt is divisible as follows:—

*Inscribed Stock—*

	£	s.	d.
Colony's share for Public Works...	50,579	11	0
"    "    Water Works...	12,000	0	0
Castries Town Board share ...	17,000	0	0
Colony's share for Immigration purposes ... ..	5,900	0	0
Total Inscribed Stock ...	85,479	11	0
Debentures ... ..	104,100	0	0
Total Debt at 31st Dec. 1898 ...	£189,579	11	0

The amount due to debenture holders at the end of 1897 was £106,500. During the year under report £2,400 debentures were redeemed, thus leaving the outstanding amount £104,100 as shown above.

The sinking funds of the Colony for the repayment of the above mentioned loans stood as follows at the 31st December 1898:—

				£	s.	d.
For Stock	...	...	...	2,462	4	10
For Debentures	...	...	...	5,599	12	1
Total	...	£8,061	16	11		

As compared with the 31st December 1897—

				£	s.	d.
For Stock	...	...	...	1,709	8	3
For Debentures	...	...	...	3,830	6	6
Total	...	£5,539	14	9		

The charges on account of the Colony's debt (including interest and sinking fund) amounted to the sum of £13,177 3s. 9d., against which a sum of £3,788 0s. 9d. has been recovered from the Immigration Fund and the Castries Town Fund, being their share of interest and sinking fund on loans raised on their behalf on the general security of the Colony.

*Castries Town Board.*

The net revenue and expenditure of the Castries Town Fund for the five years ended the 31st December 1898 stood as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1894	3,495	1	5	3,732	12	3
1895	3,726	18	8	3,507	6	8
1896	3,978	6	0	3,626	1	11
1897	4,397	15	6	3,928	10	0
1898	5,276	12	10	4,718	2	8

The gradual yearly increase in the revenue appears to have been chiefly attributable to the prosperity of the market, and latterly to the improved water supply, which enables the town to meet the increased demand from the shipping. A sum of £782 10s. 4d. was placed by the Colonial Government to the credit of the Castries Town Fund in February 1898 as its share of the premium realised under the issues of the loans for the market, &c., and water works.

TRADE.

Imports and Exports.

Hereunder is a return of the chief articles imported during 1898 as compared with those imported in 1897:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
<b>CLASS I.—FOOD AND DRINK SUPPLIES:—</b>			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cattle ... ..	560	958	3,313 7 7	6,975 18 4
Sheep ... ..	629	495	1,113 1 1	983 15 6
Ale and beer, bottles ... ..	1,792½ dozen	2,529½ dozen	775 9 2	991 14 11
„ wood ... ..	37,628 gallons	45,023 gallons	2,189 0 3	2,707 17 2
Bacon and hams ... ..	19,053½ lbs.	25,766½ lbs.	513 15 5	698 6 6
Beef and pork, salted and pickled ... ..	225,274 „	315,247 „	1,980 6 8	3,212 7 6
Butter ... ..	92,312½ „	53,959½ „	1,377 3 10	1,681 19 8
Oleomargarine ... ..	98,099 „	79,943 „	1,830 8 4	1,466 6 1
Cheese ... ..	26,402 „	29,396 „	673 17 0	717 13 6

Coffee ... ..	46,487 "	47,871 "	1,353 14 4	741 7 3
Fish, salted and dried ... ..	9,010 cwt. 23 lbs.	10,775 cwt. 74 lbs.	7,260 9 11	7,767 10 4
Flour (wheat) ... ..	14,320½ barrels	15,560¾ barrels	17,764 14 3	16,443 18 3
Fruits and vegetables, fresh ... ..	—	—	1,462 2 8	1,546 15 10
Ice ... ..	248½ tons	401½ tons	710 13 9	711 19 2
Lard and compounds ... ..	76,959 lbs.	98,313 lbs.	815 12 10	898 5 11
Medicine (no quinine) ... ..	—	—	1,013 12 10	1,189 11 8
Oats... ..	8,249 bushels	9,164 bushels	1,069 7 4	1,229 15 9
Oil-lard, olive ... ..	7,881¾ gallons	6,573¾ gallons	1,133 2 11	682 18 1
Peas and beans ... ..	3,070½ bushels	4,058 bushels	964 9 4	758 4 0
Preserves ... ..	—	—	1,087 5 6	1,367 4 10
Rice... ..	577,466 lbs.	541,334 lbs.	3,216 19 1	2,877 11 10
Spirits :—				
Brandy ... ..	516¾ gallons	578¾ gallons	268 5 3	255 18 3
Gin ... ..	1,523¾ "	1,487½ "	381 1 3	368 2 4
Whisky ... ..	3,152¾ "	3,306¾ "	1,127 7 7	1,264 0 3
Wines ... ..	—	—	2,817 2 2	3,193 12 3

Sr. Lucia,  
1898.

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*Imports and Exports—continued.*

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
<b>CLASS I.—FOOD AND DRINK SUPPLIES—continued.</b>			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>NARCOTICS :—</b>				
Tobacco, manufactured ... ..	14,785 $\frac{1}{8}$ lbs.	16,513 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	1,035 6 1	1,017 5 10
„ unmanufactured ... ..	50,226 „	65,675 „	919 1 6	1,255 7 4
<b>CLASS II.—RAW MATERIALS, METALS :—</b>				
Coal... ..	63,902 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons	76,046 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons	53,809 4 11	72,149 0 0
Manure ... ..	9,220 bags	4,498 bags	5,324 13 4	2,343 9 5
Oil, cotton seed ... ..	31,060 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons	32,155 $\frac{1}{2}$ gallons	1,825 12 9	2,033 2 4
„ petroleum ... ..	61,243 „	58,282 „	1,392 14 3	1,433 9 11
Wood, W. pine ... ..	539,810 feet	734,067 feet	2,157 17 9	3,902 1 1
„ P. pine ... ..	196,187 „	330,516 „	988 1 1	1,739 7 11

CLASS III.—TEXTILE MANUFACTURES :—

Cottons and woollens ... ..	—	—	23,308 2 4	25,149 10 1
Arms and ammunition ... ..	—	—	19,165 19 2	5,243 2 10
Hardware ... ..	—	—	2,954 14 5	3,215 11 4
Iron, galvanized ... ..	—	—	1,056 14 6	945 11 10
Machinery and apparatus for industrial purposes and for manufacturing purposes.	—	—	1,676 18 7	1,157 7 9
Boots and shoes ... ..	—	—	4,596 2 9	4,459 16 4
Building materials ... ..	—	—	8,186 13 2	10,601 1 0
Cement ... ..	6,072 barrels	2,088 barrels	3,842 13 4	2,373 8 9
Earthenware ... ..	—	—	1,391 0 6	1,980 14 8
Furniture ... ..	—	—	989 7 10	891 13 6
Glassware ... ..	—	—	612 17 2	965 16 8
Haberdashery ... ..	—	—	12,477 15 11	11,363 14 7
Hats and bonnets ... ..	—	—	1,861 4 11	2,006 0 10
Ordnance stores ... ..	—	—	6,180 10 9	26,142 6 6
Paints, dyes, and varnish... ..	—	—	815 13 0	728 8 3
Soap, common ... ..	313,919 lbs.	279,808 lbs.	2,472 14 4	2,319 15 0

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**St. Lucia, 1898.** The large increases shown in the importation of cattle, ale, bacon and hams, and ordnance stores are due to the presence of the military.

The increase in the importation of coal may be taken as an indication of the steady development of the port of Castries as a coaling station.

All the other increases are due to general improvement in trade.

The decrease in the importation of coffee may be accounted for by the fact that the local cultivation of coffee is being extended.

The decrease in the importation of manure is a sign of the parlous condition of the planting community through the unremunerative results of their labours.

All the other decreases may be accounted for by the ordinary fluctuations of the markets.

The following is a return of the total value of the imports for the last five years :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	United States.	France.	Other Foreign Places.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	93,780	31,933	41,789	11,491	8,550	187,543
1895 ...	74,512	28,690	39,358	6,809	5,577	154,946
1896 ...	101,983	25,177	45,543	6,930	10,900	190,533
1897 ...	119,355	52,639	57,478	8,899	6,882	245,253
1898 ...	140,329	34,843	82,938	6,514	7,371	271,995

It will be observed that the imports have increased in value within the period shewn in the return by 45 per cent.

This increase amongst the several countries of origin would be in the following proportions, namely :—

United Kingdom	increased	by	50	per	cent.
British Colonies	"	"	9	"	"
United States	"	"	98	"	"

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On the other hand there was a marked decline in the values of importations from France and other foreign places. ST. LUCIA,  
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France decreased by 43 per cent.

Other foreign places decreased by 14 per cent.

The following is a list of the articles which are preferably imported from foreign countries, and the reasons why these articles of foreign manufacture are superseding the goods of British make :—

Articles.	Foreign Countries whence Imported.	Reasons for not importing such goods from England.
Boots and shoes (low priced).	America.	Cheaper freight ; better style ; cheaper ; no charge for packing.
Grey ducks and cotton canvas.	do.	Good quality and low price ; no charge for packing.
Hardware hinges ...	do.	Good quality and finish.
Watches ... ..	do.	Low price.
Soap ... ..	do.	Low price and low freight.
Chairs ... ..	do.	Cheapness.
Locks, knobs ... ..	do.	Very much cheaper and freight less.
Bolts ... ..	do.	Do. do. do.
Furniture ... ..	do.	Very much cheaper and freight much less.
Axes ... ..	do.	Finish of American better and charge less.
Plated ware ... ..	do.	Cheaper and better value and charge less.
School slates ... ..	do.	Better finish, cheaper and better value and charge less.
Dyed yarns ... ..	do.	Cannot get same quality in England.

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1898.

Articles.	Foreign Countries whence Imported.	Reasons for not importing such goods from England.
Tools in general ...	America.	Better steeled.
Matches ... ..	Germany.	Low price.
Lamps ... ..	do.	Cheapness.
Toys and games ...	do.	Do.
Ties ... ..	do.	Very much cheaper and comparatively good quality.
Shawls ... ..	do.	Do. do. do
Hosiery... ..	do.	Do. do. do.
Pipes ... ..	do.	Do. do. do
Chairs ... ..	do.	Quality different and cheaper
Silk foulards and handkerchiefs.	France.	Superior style.
Ladies' parasols.	do.	Do.
Confectionery (good quality).	do.	Superior style and quality.
Locks ... ..	do.	Very much cheaper and freight less.
Ladies' boots ... ..	do.	Do. do. do.
Perfumery ... ..	do.	Do. do. do.
Cologne... ..	do.	Do. do. do.
Silk dress stuff... ..	do.	Special quality and finish.
Cement (common)	Belgium.	Lower price and freight.
Earthenware do.	do.	Do. do.
Glassware do.	do.	Do. do.
Felt hats ... ..	Italy.	Do. do.
Matches ... ..	Sweden.	Low price.

A comparative table of the principal exports for 1897 and 1898 is given below :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
<b>CLASS I.—LIVE ANIMALS, FOOD, AND DRINKS :—</b>				
Cattle ... ..	53	—	£ 354 13 4	£ —
Horses ... ..	30	9	259 1 8	100 5 0
Cocoa ... ..	880,400 lbs.	942,700 lbs.	15,839 10 9	25,377 2 10½
Fruit, fresh :—				
Mangoes ... ..	316,240	1,771 packages	173 18 8	808 2 0
Rum ... ..	10,107¼ gallons	14,618 gallons	588 10 8	916 13 4¾
Sugar :—				
Molasses ... ..	135,120 „	162,670 „	1,857 18 0	2,236 14 3
Muscovado ... ..	1,025,360 lbs.	680,900 lbs.	3,899 19 10	3,197 15 11¼
Usine ... ..	7,617,332 „	7,722,800 „	55,497 14 0	49,370 15 1½

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Articles.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
<i>CLASS I.—continued.</i>				
Vegetables :—				
Unenumerated ... ..	15 packages	898 packages	£ s. d. 8 1 0	£ s. d. 414 15 10
Hides ... ..	714 cwts.	464½ cwts.	599 15 3	591 12 2½
Turtleshell... ..	150 lbs.	—	106 1 0	—
Fuelwood ... ..	2,381½ cords	1,790 cords	1,131 4 3	850 5 0
Logwood ... ..	165½ tons	58 tons	247 17 6	87. 0 0
Pimento sticks ... ..	27,250	5,909	227 1 8	49 4 10

The output of cocoa is steadily increasing, and the figures were largely enhanced by the greater value of the article in the European markets.

The fruit season was prolific, and the mangoes found ready sale at Barbados.

An attempt, which proved partially successful, was made during the year to establish an export trade in rum between this Colony and French Ports. The high protective duties, however, which are levied in France are barriers to complete success in this direction.

St. Lucia,  
1898.

The market for molasses in the Island of Martinique, where the rum industry is prosecuted on a large scale, was re-opened in the year by the reduction of a hitherto exorbitant duty, and the export of this article to that place consequently increased.

The manufacture of Muscovado sugar continued to decrease steadily. There was a sensible increase, however, in the quantity of Usine sugar exported.

There was no turtleshell exported in 1898. For some unexplained reason the natives do not prosecute this industry with any degree of steadiness. Fishermen from the neighbouring islands actually come to this island and enjoy the gains to be made from this source.

The decrease in the quantity of woods exported is attributed to the low prices reached by these articles throughout the year.

With regard to the decrease in the exports of cattle and horses it should be explained that in 1897 many of these animals were shipped to French Guiana by speculators, but as a general rule this Colony is not in a position to export any number of them.

A return of the total value of exports for the last five years is given hereunder:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	United States.	France.	Other Foreign Places.	Bunker Coals.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	43,062	11,297	35,991	48,629	6,915	45,729	191,623
1895 ...	24,269	2,951	37,760	32,718	4,457	35,714	137,869
1896 ...	24,144	4,842	46,481	14,719	3,534	42,575	136,295
1897 ...	38,042	3,176	98,924	11,461	2,664	76,177	230,444
1898 ...	11,154	6,625	49,054	22,691	3,891	73,093	166,508

**St. LUCIA,**  
**1898.**  
— The decrease in the value during that period has been at the rate of 13 per cent. It should be, however, noted that in 1894 the values of exports were largely affected by the exportation of log-wood which was then bringing record prices.

On an examination of the return it appears that there was an increase in the value of the exports to the United States at the rate of 36 per cent., but that there were decreases in all the others as follows:—

	per cent.
United Kingdom ... ..	74
British Colonies ... ..	41
France ... ..	53
Other Foreign Countries...	44

The deliveries of bunker coal have increased in the five years by 60 per cent. The higher level reached in 1897 was not however overtopped last year, in fact there was a slight decline in the figures, due it is considered to the disturbance of trade by the Spanish-American war which existed for a few months of the year.

The wide difference in the figures shewn between 1897 and 1898 is due to the fact that in the previous year the return included the value of a cargo of wool which was landed at this port from a shipwrecked vessel and re-exported.

#### BOTANIC STATION.

The Curator reports that good work has been done during the year by the dissemination throughout the Colony of useful and economic plants, and by the giving of information on the best methods of planting and cultivation.

The number of plants distributed during the year was 18,200 as compared with 22,179 in the previous year, the falling off being attributed to the smaller demand for coffee plants, owing probably to the low prices ruling in the market, and also to the fact that the planters and small growers were too much occupied in the latter months of the year in endeavouring to repair the damage done by the hurricane of the 11th September to be able to give their attention to anything else. Among the plants sold or exchanged or given free to the purchasers of Crown Lands were 5,119 cocoa plants, 7,937 coffee plants, 1,862 rubber

(*castanea elastica*), 695 nutmeg, and 304 kola. During the last ten years the distribution of plants from the station has been as follows :—

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1898.

From 1889 to 1894 ... ..	60,600
In 1895 ... ..	4,380
In 1896 ... ..	19,504
In 1897 ... ..	22,179
In 1898 ... ..	18,200
	-----
Total in ten years ... ..	124,263
	=====

The amount received from the sale of plants, seeds, fruit, and flowers during the year and paid into the Colonial Treasury was £50 10s. 0d.

Besides giving his attention to the Botanic Station, the Curator has done useful work during the year in giving lectures and practical demonstrations in planting, pruning, grafting, draining, and other field operations in the country districts. These lectures have been, as a rule, well attended, and the people are learning to take an interest in the visits of the Curator and to profit by the opportunities offered to them of improving on their primitive methods of cultivation.

During the months of October and November the Curator was also employed in visiting different parts of the Island for the purpose of advising proprietors as to the best means of restoring cocoa and other cultivation damaged by the hurricane of the 11th September.

CROWN LANDS.

The Crown Lands and Survey Office was established in 1889 as a branch of the Public Works Department. It was instituted with the object of facilitating the settlement of the Crown and vacant lands in the Colony, and of securing the formation of an independent class of peasant proprietors. These objects are being gradually attained, and the value of the office is becoming more and more recognized and appreciated by those in whose interest it was primarily established. The work of the office and its good influence among the peasants and small holders have been much interfered with by frequent changes of personnel, and it is only



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1898.

within the last two years that any marked progress in its operations has been observed. During the year under report, much was done in the publication and escheat of vacant lands, the allotment of Crown lands, the survey of Crown boundaries and the keeping open of already established lines, the detection of squatters, and the general supervision of Crown lands for the prevention of illicit wood cutting and forest spoliation.

Eighty-seven applications for land were received representing 965 acres, of which 30 applications were dealt with representing 213 acres, the remainder being carried forward to be dealt with in 1899. The number of applications were 43 in excess of those received in 1897. 39 lots containing 381 acres, valued at £368 15s., were alienated. One village lot and 10 estates containing 1,598 acres were escheated to the Crown, and 14 estates representing 2,621 acres were published for escheat, all of which are expected to fall in uncontested during 1899.

Over 7,000 plants for economic culture were distributed free during the year to purchasers of Crown land, many of whom are beginning to exhibit more advanced methods of cultivation.

The settlement of the Crown and vacant lands received a further impetus by the energetic action of the Road Boards of the several districts in obtaining the proclamation of many public byeways, much needed for the improvement of communication, and the consequent opening up of the uncultivated portions of the Island.

The amounts received for survey fees, deposits on account of purchase, and instalment of purchase money, which in 1898 amounted to £633 3s. 0d. as against £504 7s. 3d. in 1897, are paid to the credit of the Land Sales Fund which at the close of 1898 amounted to £1,454.

Crown land is sold at an upset price of £1 per acre, payable under ordinary circumstances in four annual instalments.

#### SHIPPING.

The number of steam vessels entered and cleared at Port Castries during 1898 was 1,113, or less by 126 than in 1897. The number of sailing vessels entered and cleared was 661, or 9 more than in 1897. The total difference therefore in the two years was 117 against 1898.

It must be explained, however, that the number of vessels entered and cleared in 1897 was exceptionally large in comparison with previous years, and, although the figures in 1898 are below

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those of 1897, they are far in excess of those of the preceding years. The shipping trade of the Port was also injuriously affected by the Spanish-American war and by the coal strike in Wales.

ST. LUCIA,  
1898.

Of the total number of trading vessels entered and cleared during the year 1898, 80 per cent. were British and 20 per cent. were foreign. Of the foreign vessels, 49 per cent. were French, 16 per cent. were Dutch, 11 per cent. were Belgian, and the remaining 24 per cent. were German, American, and Norwegian.

In the last five years the increase in the number of vessels entered and cleared amounts to 40 per cent. The number of ships of war which called for coal and other purposes during the year under review was 59, an increase of 35 as compared with the previous year. Of these, 34 were Her Majesty's ships, 9 were American, 7 Italian, 2 French, 2 German, 3 Dutch, 1 Russian, and 1 Austrian. The increase was probably due to the hostilities between America and Spain, and also to a state of general political unrest.

The total tonnage entered and cleared during 1898 amounted to 1,557,677 tons as compared with 1,780,560 tons in 1897.

The following comparative table gives the total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :—

RETURN OF SHIPPING FOR THE FIVE YEARS FROM 1894 TO 1898.

Years.	Steam Vessels.									Sailing Vessels.									GRAND TOTAL.		
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total Steam Vessels.			With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total Sailing Vessels.					
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
1894	295	347,153	12,837	477	587,737	14,900	772	934,890	27,737	451	32,076	2,871	48	14,529	409	499	46,904	3,280	1,271	981,794	31,017
1895	261	301,787	11,666	470	603,206	15,435	731	907,993	27,101	543	28,032	3,062	72	11,643	485	616	39,675	3,547	1,346	947,668	30,648
1896	312	387,076	14,448	558	761,412	17,714	870	1,148,488	32,162	440	27,167	2,922	140	15,145	1,011	580	42,302	3,933	1,450	1,190,790	36,095
1897	330	429,978	14,139	909	1,308,647	26,762	1,239	1,738,625	40,901	500	26,481	3,234	162	15,454	1,114	652	41,935	4,348	1,891	1,780,560	45,249
1898	329	399,598	14,711	784	1,112,938	23,889	1,113	1,512,536	38,600	455	24,985	2,967	206	20,166	1,458	651	45,141	4,416	1,774	1,557,677	43,016

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## LEGISLATION.

ST. LUCIA,  
1898.

During the year 13 Ordinances were passed and assented to. Of these, the principal were—

1. "The Quarantine Ordinance, 1895, Amendment Ordinance, 1898," the objects of which are to extend the period of incubation of yellow fever from ten days to 14, and to provide for the burial of bodies of persons dying from an infectious disease on board of an infected vessel.

2. "The Public Works and Roads Ordinance, 1889, Amendment Ordinance, 1898," under which the Road Boards are entrusted with the care of the bye-ways in the Island.

3. "The Crown Grants Registration Ordinance, 1898," which provides for the proper registration of all grants of Crown lands together with the diagrams attached thereto.

4. "The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1896, Continuance Ordinance, 1898," whereby an additional charge of 15 per cent. of the amount formerly levied on goods paying *ad valorem* duties was continued for another year.

## EDUCATION.

*Primary.*

During the year under report there were 39 primary schools in operation, an increase of five as compared with the preceding year. These schools were divided into the following classes:—Mixed 20, combined 9, juvenile 5, and infant 5. The number of children on the roll was 5,280, as against 4,447 in 1897, and the average number in attendance was 2,787, an increase of 210 over the attendance in the preceding year.

The number of children examined was 2,512, and the number of passes in two or three subjects was 2,124. This shews an increase of 186 in the number examined and of 85 in the number of passes as compared with 1897.

The total cost of the schools to the Government was £2,904 19s. 1d., equal to an expenditure of £1 0s. 10d. per head in average attendance. In 1897 the amount paid per head was also £1 0s. 10d. and the total cost was £2,620 13s. 9d., or £284 15s. 4d. less than in 1898.

Special attention was given during the year to the teaching and study of the English language, in the knowledge of which good progress has been made.

*Secondary.*

St. Mary's College for boys, founded in 1890 by the Vicar General, the Reverend Father Tapon, and subsidized by a grant of £200 per annum from the general revenue of the Colony,

ST. LUCIA, furnishes the only higher education for boys in the Colony. In addition to this annual grant the Government has established ten scholarships, each of the annual value of £6, in order to assist boys from the primary schools to enter the college and to profit by the higher education for a period of five years.

1898.

The number of boys on the roll of the college in 1898 was 53 with 43 in average attendance. In 1897 the roll shewed 52 with 46 in average attendance.

The more advanced boys at the college have been recently sent up for the Cambridge Local Examination, with the following results :—

In 1895 two were presented and both passed ; one with honours.

In 1896 seven were presented and all passed ; three with honours.

In 1897 eleven were presented and all passed ; four with honours.

In 1898 eleven were presented, but at the time of writing this report the results were not known.

The examination of the lower classes of the college which had fallen into abeyance was resumed in 1898, with satisfactory results.

At the Convent of St. Joseph, under the energetic management of the Reverend Mother Superior, a higher education is provided for girls. The number on the roll in 1898 was 66 with 61 in average attendance. In 1897 the roll shewed 56 scholars with average attendance 47. This school does not yet receive any financial support from the Government.

There are as yet no schools in the Colony where industrial, technical, and agricultural teaching is afforded.

#### GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

##### *Hospitals, &c.*

The Victoria Hospital at Castries is an excellent building containing nine wards, six male and three female, and having good accommodation for 130 patients. Branch hospitals also exist at Soufriere, where in two good wards 26 beds are provided ; at Vieuxfort containing 21 beds ; and at Dennery with accommodation for 30 patients. There is also a hospital for the exclusive treatment of yaws, which is isolated on a small Island a quarter of a mile from the shore, and has ample accommodation for over 100 patients.

Besides these hospitals, there is a poor asylum in Castries for the reception of infirm and chronic cases, and there is a Government dispensary in each of the smaller villages in the Island.

There is no lunatic asylum and all cases of insanity are sent for detention and treatment to the Central Asylum at Grenada. St. Lucia,  
1898.

The Colonial Surgeon, in his annual report for 1898 on the Medical Institutions of the Colony, shews that the general health of the people and the sanitary condition of the Island were nearly all that could be desired, and states that during the year no case of contagious disease occurred.

At the yaws hospital it has been clearly established that the disease, so long considered to be incurable, yields satisfactorily to treatment, and out of 79 admissions during the year 72 were discharged cured.

SAVINGS BANKS.

In addition to the principal bank at Castries there were opened during the year 1898 two branch savings banks at Soufriere and Vieuxfort.

The balance to the credit of depositors in the principal bank on 1st January 1898 was	£	s.	d.	
1898 was	10,382	6	9	
The amount deposited during the year and accrued interest was	10,505	7	3	
Total	£20,887	14	0	

The amount withdrawn during the year was	£	s.	d.	
1898 was	£9,118	7	8	
The amount remaining to credit of depositors on 31st December 1898 was	£11,769	6	4	

so that the deposits were increased during the year by £1,386 19s. 7d.

The following table shews the transactions of the bank during the last five years :—

Year.	No. of Transactions.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	No. of Depositors at 31st Dec.	Total Amount at Credit of Depositors at 31st Dec.
1894	3,376	£ 9,458	£ 9,842	1,187	£ 9,428
1895	3,201	7,000	7,162	1,275	9,267
1896	3,351	7,165	6,953	1,277	9,810
1897	3,635	8,498	8,162	1,294	10,332
1898	5,113	10,244	9,118	1,477	11,769

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1898.

From this table it will be seen that within the last five years the transactions have increased over 50 per cent. and nearly 25 per cent. of deposits have been added to the balance in the bank.

The following table gives a comparative classification of the deposits for the two years 1897, 1898 :—

Year.	Deposits of £10 and over.		Deposits of £40 and over.		Deposits of £70 and over.		Deposits of £100 and over.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1897 ...	2,204	4 2	1,877	16 3	1,341	15 3	4,958	6 1
1898 ...	2,666	11 5	3,057	1 8	1,346	18 3	4,698	15 0

Of the depositors during the year under report, 78 per cent. of the total number were employés and of the labouring class generally.

The following investments on account of the funds of the bank were held at 31st December 1898 :—

				£	s.	d.
Canadian Government ...	3½ per cent. ...	2,000	0	0		
New South Wales Govern- ment ...	3 „ „ ...	2,000	0	0		
Western Australia Govern- ment ...	3 „ „ ...	1,500	0	0		
Trinidad Government ...	3 „ „ ...	1,500	0	0		
Barbados Government ...	4 „ „ ...	1,000	0	0		
Colonial Bank, on deposit	3 „ „ ...	500	0	0		
	Total	£8,500		0	0	

The sum of £293 0s. 4d. was received for interest on the investments, and the interest (3 per cent.) which accrued to depositors' accounts during the year amounted to £281 6s. 11d.

At the district bank at Soufriere, which was opened on 1st March 1898, the transactions during the year were as follows :—

			£	s.	d.
Deposits ...	...	...	554	4	5
Withdrawals ...	...	...	368	14	0
To credit of depositors, 31st December ...			£185		10 5

At the district bank at Vieuxfort, opened also on the 1st March, the transactions to 31st December were :—

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1898.

	£	s.	d.
Deposits ... ..	192	17	0
Withdrawals ... ..	66	2	0
To credit of depositors, 31st December ...	£126	15	0

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

*Police.*

The police force in 1898 consisted of a chief of police, 3 sergeants, 4 corporals, and 51 privates. The Island for police purposes is divided into three districts, each district having three stations. To the first district, including the town of Castries and the villages of Gros Islet and Dennery, were apportioned 2 sergeants, 3 corporals, and 34 privates; in the second, including the town of Soufriere and the villages of Anse-la-Raye and Choiseul, there were 1 corporal and 10 privates, and in the third, comprising the villages of Vieuxfort, Laborie, and Micoud, there were 1 sergeant and 7 privates.

The force is supplemented by a body of about 100 rural constables selected from among the peasantry, and paid 2s. a day when employed.

The cost of the police force for 1898 was £3,303 9s.

*Prisons.*

Several improvements were made during the year; a supply of pure water being laid on, with baths for males and females, a new shed erected for the accommodation of stonebreakers, and general repair effected.

The number of prisoners received during the year was 694, namely, 484 males and 210 females. This shews an increase of 3 males and a decrease of 16 females as compared with the previous year.

The general health of the prisoners is reported as not having been quite so good as during 1897, influenza having been prevalent during the early part of the year.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £1,015 17s. 3d., of which the cost of the establishment came to £614. The revenue derived from the sale of coffins, macadam, sifted earth, baskets, and concrete blocks, together with the scraping of ginger,



ST. LUCIA, 1898: amounted to £158 8s. 5d., and the value of the labour performed outside the prison, together with the washing done for public institutions in the female prison, is estimated at £103 17s. 8d.

There were no deaths, no flogging, nor any escapes.

#### *Criminal Statistics.*

For the trial of indictable offences there were in 1898 three sittings of the Royal Court (Criminal Jurisdiction). Twenty-three cases were tried; in 18 of which the accused were convicted and in 5 acquitted.

The number of convictions was greatly in excess of that in the previous year, when out of 17 cases tried 12 were convicted.

An increase in the number of summary convictions as compared with 1897 is also apparent from the returns submitted from the Magistrates' Courts. In 1897 the number was 1,013; in 1898 it was 1,056. The figures for 1898 include 74 cases of prædial larceny, representing an increase of 53 over the previous year.

It is perhaps premature to determine whether the decided increase in the records of crime for the year under report as compared with 1897 is due to the growth of crime among the hitherto fairly law-abiding population of the Colony, or to increased vigilance on the part of the police; but there can be no doubt that the large influx of people from the other Islands, attracted to St. Lucia by the military works, the central factories, and the coaling trade, does contribute to this increase.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

On the registers for 1898 were entered 1,858 births and 1,214 deaths, giving a natural increase of 644 to the population.

The total population on the 31st December 1898 was 47,976, of which 23,311 were males and 24,665 females; equal to 205·65 to the square mile. In 1897 the total population was 47,332 (22,995 males and 24,337 females), and at the last census taken in 1891 the figures were 42,220 (20,461 males and 21,759 females). The population to the square mile was 205 as compared with 203 in 1897. The natural increase of 644 was slightly under that of 1897 which was 661.

The still-births numbered 167, which deducted from the total births left a net birth-rate of 3·57 per cent. of the population. The rate for 1897 was exactly the same. It was 3·84 per cent. in 1896, 4·04 in 1895, and 4·11 in 1894. The causes which, as pointed out in the report for 1897, operate to keep down the birth-rate, namely, rural depression and the voluntary expatriation of numbers of the virile population, still exist.

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Legitimacy represented 42·41 per cent. of the total births and illegitimacy 57·59. In 1897 the rates were respectively 39·75 and 60·25. St. Lucia,  
1898.

The deaths entered on the registers numbered 1,214. Eliminating the still-births (167) there results a death-rate of 2·21 per cent. of the population. The rate was 2·15 in 1897, 2·17 in 1896, 2·24 in 1895, and 2·09 in 1894.

There were no epidemic diseases during the year, and the endemic were not in any special degree fatal.

Only one death from snake-bite was recorded. In 1897 two such deaths occurred, and, going back 30 years, the records of 1869 shew 22 fatal cases in that year.

#### METEOROLOGY.

From the observations taken during the year at the Botanic Station in Castries 10 feet above sea level, it results that the mean daily height of the barometer was 29·982; the mean annual temperature was 80·1, and the total rainfall was 107·49. A maximum temperature of 90·1 in the shade was recorded in May, a minimum of 69·9 in March. The heaviest rainfall was in September, when 25·28 inches were measured; the driest month was May, when only 2·48 inches fell. Rain fell on 271 days during the year. The greatest quantity falling in any one day was 13·18 inches on the 11th of September, when the rain gauge at the station was found to be overflowing. The Curator estimates that at least 16 inches fell on that occasion in the 24 hours.

The hurricane of the 11th September was not very seriously felt in Castries, and the Botanic Station escaped with the loss of several trees, but in other parts of the Island the damage done by the wind and more especially by the heavy rains was most deplorable. The steep hill sides, surcharged with water, slid away in all directions carrying away plantations, houses, roads, and bridges, and leaving rock and rubbish behind. The injury done to public property amounted to nearly £10,000, and the losses of proprietors and other cultivators are estimated after minute and careful enquiry at £50,000. A promising cocoa crop was in great part completely swept away, and the hopes of the people in view of a brisk market and high prices were destroyed. So complete was the disappearance of many fine plantations that even where the soil has not been entirely washed away a delay of from 5 to 10 years in the re-establishment of the trees is inevitable. The loss of life was fortunately but small, but the injury to property was very great involving hundreds of peasant proprietors in total ruin.

ST. LUCIA,  
1898.

POSTAL.

The revenue and expenditure in connection with the postal transactions of the years 1897, 1898 were as follows :—

*Revenue.*

	1897.	1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	1,879 8 5½	3,027 12 9½

*Expenditure.*

	1897.	1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	2,139 7 7	2,148 6 9

The revenue therefore for the year under report was £879 6s. 0½d. in excess of the expenditure for the same year, and exceeded the receipts of 1897 by £1,148 4s. 4d. The following tables represent the work of the Post Office during the above-mentioned years :—

*Received from Abroad.*

Year.	Letters and Post-cards.	Papers and Books.
1897	85,574	50,896
1898	85,201	50,757

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*Sent Abroad.*

ST. LUCIA,  
1898.

Year.	Letters and Post-cards.	Papers and Books.
1897	72,718	6,324
1898	82,531	7,837

*Parcel Post.*

Year.	Received.	Sent.
1897	1,445	459
1898	1,744	509

*Money Orders.*

Year.	Amount Received.	Amount Sent Abroad.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897	978 8 7	4,891 6 4
1898	1,235 15 5	5,809 13 8

The Customs dues collected on the contents of the parcels amounted to £233 12s. 11d., an increase of £32 10s. 3d. on the amount taken in the previous year.

**St. Lucia,** The Colony's share of commission on money orders amounted  
**1898.** to £98 11s. 11d., an increase of £15 19s. 8d. on the amount of  
 — the previous year.

#### *Inland Services.*

There was an increase in the business of the inland service in the year under report. The number of letters exchanged between the central and branch offices was 45,966, an increase of 3,587 as compared with the previous year. The number of papers and books was 11,932,—616 more than in 1897.

The number of vessels which brought mails to the Colony during the year was 254 as compared with 231 in 1897, and the vessels which took away mails numbered 296 as against 247 in the previous year.

#### TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

St. Lucia is connected by the West India and Panama Company's cables with Santiago de Cuba in the north, from which place communication with the United States and the rest of the world is obtained, and with British Guiana in the south. In each case a duplicate system has been laid down.

A telephone system connecting Castries with the seven small towns or villages in the Island was completed in 1896. The seven country exchanges are worked by the police, and 120 miles of trunk line are open for traffic. The lines are run on wooden poles which, owing to the effects of the climate and wood-eating insects, are not found satisfactory, and are being replaced by iron rails. The revenue derived from the system in 1898 was £483 15s. 10d. as against £431 4s. 8d. in 1897. The expenditure in 1898 was £376 13s. 10d., and in 1897 £330 13s. 2d.

The system is in the hands of the Government.

#### MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The total military expenditure for the year was £54,385 7s. 4d. as compared with £31,815 8s. 2d. in 1897.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

Necessary repairs to public buildings, wharves, and lighthouses were executed during the year, involving an expenditure of £743 14s.

The new cemetery at Choc was completed at a total cost of £1,431 8s. 10d. St. Lucia,  
1898.

Dredging operations in the harbour were confined to the removal of obstructions to traffic, no fresh ground being broken.

Sanitary works were commenced at the villages of Dennery and Gros Islet, and good progress made in the reclamation of the swamps to the windward of both places.

A sum of £3,212 0s. 6d. was expended on the maintenance of the roads throughout the Island. One new highway and eleven bye-ways were also taken in hand. The hurricane of the 11th September caused much damage to both roads and bridges, involving an extraordinary expenditure up to the 31st December of £3,236 16s. The opening of new tracks where the roads had disappeared, the excavation of the silted rivers, the removal of landslips and general repairs were promptly commenced and carried on in a satisfactory manner.

On the 1st July the maintenance of the waterworks became a charge on the general revenue of the Colony pending a decision as to the handing over of the concern to the municipal authorities. A meter house with 3 meters was erected; a supply of water was laid on to the Royal Gaol; and the reservoir, filter beds, town mains, pipe lines, and head works were maintained in an efficient condition.

Considerable damage was done to the works by the hurricane and floods in September, but the whole was repaired at a cost of £200.

House connections with the mains in Castries not having yet been made, the revenue for the works was derived solely from the water supplied to the shipping, from the sale of which £1,338 17s. 3d. was received.

#### IMMIGRATION.

On the 10th December 1898 the 158 indentured coolies remaining in the Colony under their first term of service, namely, five years, completed their term of indenture and were then free to dispose of their labour as they pleased, although still bound to remain in the Island for a further period of five years.

The total coolie population in the Colony is estimated at from 2,000 to 2,500, and of these, some 740 are still bound by their contracts to remain in the Island for periods varying from two to five years.

**ST. LUCIA,**  
**1898**  

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The Protector reports that the general health of the people under his care was satisfactory. On the 31st December 1897 the indentured coolies numbered 153, namely, 85 male and 39 female adults, 1 male and 1 female minors, and 27 infants. During the year 1898 there were 7 births, or a rate of 4·57 per cent., and 2 deaths, a rate of 1·25 per cent., leaving 158 alive on 10th December when their period of indenture came to an end.

The Immigration Fund was credited during the year with the following amounts :—

	£	s.	d.
Duty on exported sugar ... ..	1,518	19	8
” ” ” cocoa ... ..	370	8	6
” ” ” molasses ... ..	67	16	6
” ” imported tobacco (unmanufactured) ... ..	3,283	15	0
	<hr/>		
Total ... ..	£5,240	19	8
	<hr/>		

#### COAL.

The coaling trade of St. Lucia is increasing slowly but surely, and quick despatch coupled with comparative immunity from dues is inducing steamers in want of bunker coals to give the Port of Castries the preference over other coaling stations in the West Indies.

In 1897, 63,902 tons of coal were imported and 78,600 exported.

In 1898, 76,046 tons were imported and 73,411 exported. On every ton or fraction of a ton of coal discharged a harbour due of 6*d.* (sixpence) is levied and paid by the ship discharging. A duty of 6*d.* (sixpence) per ton is in addition paid by the importer.

The revenue derived from this source in 1897 was £3,195 ; in 1898, £3,802.

Of the 73,411 tons shipped in 1898, 13,985 were put on board men-of-war and transports and 59,426 on trading vessels.

#### AGRICULTURE.

##### *Sugar.*

The Usine sugar crop of the year 1898 was an improvement on that of 1897, and the output from the four central factories at Cul-de-Sac, Roseau, Vieuxfort, and Dennery being 4,513 tons as

against 3,962 tons in 1897 and 3,055 tons in 1896. The production of Muscovado sugar is still on the decline; the exports for 1898 being 680,900 pounds as against 1,025,360 pounds in 1897 and 1,104,300 pounds in 1896.

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1898.  
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#### *Cocoa.*

The year opened full of promise to the cocoa planters; the preliminary or "small" crop being almost unexampled in quantity, the prices good, and the prospects for the main crop in November—December most encouraging. Owing to the dry weather continuing till the end of May the main crop was later than usual, and when the hurricane occurred in September there was a larger quantity of young pods and flowers on the trees than is customary at that time of year. The destruction caused by the force of the wind, the landslips, and the overflowing streams was in many places distressingly complete, and the general crop throughout the Island is estimated to have perished to the extent of at least one-third.

#### *Coffee.*

The extension of this cultivation has received a decided check owing to the depressed state of the home and the local markets which have been flooded with low class Brazilian coffees. The experimental growings in St. Lucia will not be extended under existing conditions.

#### *Other Minor Products.*

The cultivation of nutmegs, kola, turmeric, musk seed, annatto, vanilla, tea, sarsaparilla, tobacco, india-rubber, rice, and ginger is still in the experimental stage. The reports on ginger and tobacco are alone encouraging; the small markets available for some of the other products, and the length of time before others could become remunerative, being deterrent to the enterprise of small cultivators.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

Generally speaking, the prospects of the Colony are good; and although the effects of the disastrous hurricane of the 11th September will continue to be felt for many years, yet, with the prospect of a continuation of the present prices of sugar and cocoa, with the certainty of an increased demand for local produce in the Castries market, owing to the augmentation of the garrison and the increasing popularity of the port, and with the assistance to be given by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, the outlook may be regarded with some confidence. The efforts of the local Government are being steadily directed towards the encouragement of the settlement of the Crown lands by the



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1898.

industrious peasantry, and a distinct advance in this direction is being made. The counter attractions of the gold mines in French Guiana, the employment on the sugar estates, the high wages to be gained on the military works, and the remunerative trade of the coal carriers still interfere to a large extent with the permanent settlement of peasant proprietors, and the fear of a land tax is a powerful deterrent to many who would be otherwise desirous of purchasing their own holdings.

Want of capital, so common a feature in West Indian Islands, is a serious hindrance to the development of this small estate of the British Empire; and in the purchase of the virgin lands of the Colony, in the cultivation of those tropical products for which a remunerative market may exist, and in the raising of stock on the good pasture which can be easily established, there exists undoubtedly a good opening for the investment of capital. The labour market is at present restricted and is barely sufficient for the agricultural needs of the Colony; but any serious undertaking backed by a sufficiency of capital to ensure continuous and remunerative employment would find no difficulty in attracting the superabundant labouring population of the neighbouring Island of Barbados. The climate and conditions of life are not favourable to the employment of white labour. In addition to the settlement of the Crown lands, the energies of the Government are specially devoted to the improvement of communications between the several country districts and the market towns. New roads have been constructed, and a marked improvement has been effected in all the existing routes. There is much yet to be done, but in the still critical condition of the Colony's finances, progress must continue to be slow. A most gratifying feature in the improvement in the social condition of the people is the well-marked advance in the knowledge of the English language, especially in the country districts, where for so long the uncivilized patois has been the only known means of verbal communication. Special efforts are being made to extend the knowledge of English, with the result that among the rising generation it is becoming more familiar.

Under existing impoverished conditions the development of the undeniable resources of the Island must of necessity be slow; but if for the next few years St. Lucia is spared from those awful visitations of flood and tempest wherein in a few hours the labours of a life-time are destroyed, the material progress of the Colony, although slow, will be, under a Divine Providence, distinctly marked.

C. A. KING-HARMAN,

*Administrator.*

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1899.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 233.

ST. VINCENT.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 212.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*August, 1898.*

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1898.

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### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
207	British Honduras ... ..	1896
208	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
209	Grenada ... ..	"
210	Hong Kong ... ..	"
211	St. Lucia... ..	"
212	St. Vincent ... ..	"
213	St. Helena ... ..	"
214	Seychelles ... ..	"
215	Mauritius ... ..	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 233.

## ST. VINCENT.

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1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 212.)

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GOVERNOR SIR ALFRED MOLONEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Grenada,

7th July, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward Administrator Thompson's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, advising the transmission of the Blue Book for the Colony of St. Vincent for 1897 and embodying his Report thereon.

2. I have decided to allow this Report to go to the Colonial Office as it stands, thinking that in its separate form it will prove to be of greater public interest and more convenient as dealing exclusively with a Colony which now attracts so much notice than if embodied in one general Blue Book report on the Windward Islands, as was contemplated.

I have, &amp;c.,

ALFRED MOLONEY,

*Governor.*

ST. VINCENT.  
1897.

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ADMINISTRATOR TO GOVERNOR.

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Government House,  
St. Vincent,  
23rd June 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report on the Blue Book for 1897, which I am transmitting to your Excellency by this mail.

The sources of Revenue remained substantially the same as they were in 1896, with the exception of a slight change in the rate of Income Tax with a view to making the incidence of that Tax slightly more equitable.

Some change was also made in the licences by abolishing the fee of 1*s.* which was levied on every licence issued and substituting for it an increase of 6*d.* for a dog licence, and making animals and carts used for estates' purposes, which had hitherto been exempt, liable for the tax.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The total Revenue for the year was £24,844 17*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with a Revenue in 1896 of £26,487 2*s.* 0*d.*, and an estimated Revenue of £28,304.

Every important head of Revenue shows a falling off, chiefly due to the general depression from which the Colony has suffered; but I will refer specially to some of the more important items.

Licences for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors fell off by more than £100 and the Excise Duty on rum by more than £500, both chiefly due to depression and shortness of money, but the latter in part due to the spread of illicit distillation.

The Dog Tax realised about £75 less than was anticipated, owing to a fatal disease which broke out and caused much mortality among them.

The effect of the extension of the Tax on Horses to those used for estates' purposes was over-estimated and produced £100 less than was anticipated.

The increased Income Tax did not produce as much as was anticipated, and about £100 of Land Tax did not reach the Treasury until after the close of the year.

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The decrease in Post Office receipts was due to a falling off in ST. VINCENT. the abnormal demand during 1896 for St. Vincent stamps by 1897. dealers.

The Expenditure in 1897 was £27,865 19s. 0d., against £27,591 2s. 1d. in 1896, and an estimate of £27,462 15s. 4d.

This expenditure included the cost of the administration of Crown Lands, which had hitherto been charged to a separate fund, and also an increased debt charge to provide for the deficits of past years.

In addition to these items of expenditure, the cost of making good some of the damage caused by floods at the end of 1896 had to be borne, and a heavy bill for police clothing supplied in 1896 was met in 1897.

All these items more than absorbed the money which it was hoped to save by the very considerable economies effected in the public establishments at the beginning of the year.

The net result of the year's transactions, after wiping out the balance of the old Crown Lands Account, £1,707 5s. 8d., and borrowing £1,000 to fortify the Revenue, was that the Colony had an excess of liabilities over assets of £4,544 7s. 4d.

#### *Public Debt.*

The Public Debt, which stood at £19,160 at the end of 1896, was £19,100 at the end of 1897.

As already stated, £1,000 was borrowed during the year to fortify the Revenue, and this completed the whole sum of £5,000 authorised by "The Loan Ordinance, 1895." The Sinking Fund on this debt amounted to £610 at the end of the year.

Another £1,000 was borrowed under the provisions of "The Crown Lands Roads Loan Ordinance, 1896," but only £182 was spent, as will be explained later.

#### *Local Revenues.*

These, I think, call for no comment. The various local bodies raised about sufficient to meet their ordinary expenditure, and no more.

#### *Public Works.*

Beyond the ordinary expense of maintaining the various highways and public buildings, the only important works undertaken during the year were the completion of the new line of byeway



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1897.  
in the Belair Valley, and the completion of the road in the Perseverance Valley to Crown Lands, both of which were referred to in the Report for 1896, and making good some of the damage caused by the floods in 1896. The latter involved, besides the repairs to the surface of roads, and removal of landslips, the virtual re-building of three retaining walls, re-building one bridge and effecting extensive repairs in another, and this was all done for £410.

Extensive repairs were carried out on one of the old Ordnance buildings, for which a permanent tenant was found.

#### LEGISLATION.

The number of Ordinances passed during the year was very considerable.

The legislation to bring into effect the many changes contemplated in 1898 involved the passing of a number of short Ordinances at the end of the year to transfer duties to other officials, but the actual details of these changes will be more conveniently dealt with in the Report for 1898, when the changes were effected.

The most important Ordinances were the two dealing with Income and Land Tax ; the former imposed the increased taxes for a year, and the latter made them permanent.

“The Excise Ordinance” was required to strengthen the hands of the Police in dealing with the spread of illicit distillation.

Ordinance No. 4 was a most important Ordinance, having for its object the regulation of the payment of wages to labourers. It makes an ordinary day labourer’s wages payable fortnightly in cash, instead of monthly as had been the custom, and stops, as far as it is possible to do so, the various forms of the “Truck” system, which had begun to be practised.

“The Charcoal Ordinance” repealed the old laws which were nominally supposed to check the illicit making of charcoal, but really did not do so, and only imposed irritating fees and restrictions on those who had every right to make it. It is now a penal offence to make charcoal on any land without the owner’s permission.

“The Kingstown Board Ordinance” establishes a corporate body, partly elected and partly nominated, to superintend the affairs of the town. The Board was not constituted until late in the year, and its real work may be said to have begun this year. It is, no doubt, a step in the right direction that the inhabitants of the town should have the responsibility of managing its affairs. The Ordinance consolidates no less than eleven Acts and Ordinances.

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“The Infirm Paupers and Immigrants Regulation Ordinance” is one which all the neighbouring Colonies have found it necessary to pass, and St. Vincent, for its own protection, had to do the same. St. VINCENT.  
1897.

“The Land Credit Ordinance” is in the same form as the Ordinances passed in the other Colonies of the Windward Islands to encourage the introduction of capital.

“The Trustee Ordinance” and “the Probates (British and Colonial) Ordinance” are useful pieces of legislation on the subjects with which they deal.

#### OFFICERS.

I was absent from the Colony from the 1st of February to the 7th September; until the 28th May at Grenada, as Administrator of the Windward Islands, and from the 29th May on leave of absence in England.

During that time the administration of the local Government was carried on by Mr. Drayton, the Colonial Secretary of Grenada, to whom my acknowledgments are due.

Mr. Griffith, the Treasurer of the Colony, was retired on a pension from the 1st January 1897, and the duties of Treasurer were added to those of the Administrator, Colonial Secretary, and Registrar General.

On the abolition, from the 1st January 1897, of the separate staff for the administration of Crown Lands, Mr. Musgrave reverted from his temporary post of Superintendent of Crown Lands to his substantive post of Chief Clerk in the Government office, and the Colonial Engineer became Superintendent of Crown Lands, in addition to his other duties, thus reverting to an arrangement which existed some years ago.

The post of Supernumerary Clerk in the Government office was done away with, and Mr. Hutchinson acted as clerk to the Colonial Engineer.

The experiment was tried of amalgamating the duties of Inspector of Schools and Audit Clerk, and Mr. F. W. Griffith was appointed to the combined offices; Mr. Mackie, the former audit clerk, became clerk in the Treasury, in place of Mr. H. A. Lewis, who was transferred to the Magistrate's office, replacing Mr. W. E. Davis, for whom employment was provided as a landing waiter.

Mr. L. O. Chitty, the Inspector of Schools, for whom no place could be found in St. Vincent under the new arrangements, was transferred to Jamaica.

ST. VINCENT. To increase the efficiency of the Treasury a new office of  
1897. Supervisor of Customs was provisionally created, to which the  
Chief of Police was appointed. This virtually divided the  
Treasury Department into an indoor and outdoor branch, both  
under the supervision of the Treasurer.

Mr. Trafford, the Chief Justice, retired on a pension on the  
3rd November 1897, with a view to a combination of offices,  
which took effect in 1898, and Mr. Hazell, who had been acting  
for some time, was appointed Attorney General at a reduced  
salary.

The general effect of all these changes is apparent in the  
reduction of expenditure on "personal emoluments" from  
£12,660 12s. 4d. in 1896 to £11,982 18s. 1d. in 1897.

#### PENSIONS.

The pension list is increased by the addition of the Chief  
Justice's Pension at the rate of £544 8s. 11d. per annum, and  
that of the Treasurer at the rate of £228 8s. 3d.

#### POPULATION.

The estimated population is put down as 46,112, after allowing  
for the natural increase since the census in 1891, but we have no  
records of emigration, and I feel sure that the population is  
over-estimated in those figures, though I have no data from  
which to give correct ones.

#### EDUCATION.

In the elementary schools the full effects of the rules passed in  
1893 were felt in the Government contributions, which amounted  
to £2,019.

There was much complaint from the teachers that they were  
not being paid as much under the new rules as they were under  
the old; and this was so for the first year or so after the new  
rules came into operation, but now the grants earned by the  
schools have become so large that the Board of Education has  
had to take steps to reduce them.

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of the Imports into the Colony was  
£70,823 11s. 10d., as compared with £71,489 11s. 9d. in 1896, or  
a falling off of less than one per cent. The imports from the  
United States of America appear to have decreased, while those

from the British West Indies have increased, but this is due to the fact that American goods were received through Barbados and other Colonies, instead of by direct importations from America.

ST. VINCENT,  
1897.

The increase of trade with British North America is noticeable. It was represented in 1896 by an importation of pitch-pine valued at £951 and an export of 53 puncheons of molasses. In 1897 the imports from British North America are valued at £1,704, and are composed of some food-stuffs, in addition to various kinds of lumber, while the value of exports amounted to £4,513, composed of sugar, molasses and arrowroot, and 18 per cent. of the sugar and molasses exported went to Canada.

The various items on the import list, as a rule, follow the items of 1896 so closely that they require but little comment.

Most food-stuffs show a slight increase, with the exception of flour, of which nearly 1,000 barrels less was imported than in 1896. The import of whisky shows no falling off, but gin and other wines are less. Unmanufactured tobacco, which is the kind usually smoked by the poorer people, shows a slight increase in quantity.

The total Export trade was valued at £68,935, against £67,392 in 1896, or an increase of rather more than 2 per cent.

Besides the increase of trade with British North America to which I have already drawn attention, the only noticeable feature is the decrease in the trade with Venezuela, which shows a falling off of nearly 73 per cent. It is a precarious trade and, as far as the vessels engaged in it are concerned, not quite legitimate, and probably stricter supervision in Venezuela has checked it.

The exports of sugar rose in value from £21,512 to £25,591, and sugar and its products represented nearly 43 per cent of the total exports of the Colony.

In arrowroot there was a decrease, both in quantity and value, due to a rather half-hearted attempt on the part of producers to regulate the supply of arrowroot rather more in accord with the demand for it. The effect for a time was to raise the price to a slight extent in the English market.

The export of fruit, vegetables, and live stock shows a tendency to decrease in value, which is unfortunate. It means that the poorer classes are getting smaller prices in other colonies for their produce, and that their means of livelihood is therefore less.

The most satisfactory feature in the returns is the continued steady increase in the production of cocoa and nutmegs.

The export of cocoa increased from 194,037 lbs., valued at £3,209, to 264,192 lbs., valued at £4,514, and that of nutmegs from 15,026 lbs., valued at £685, to 24,628 lbs., valued at £1,084.

ST. VINCENT. Of the other staple products of the Colony, whale oil shows a  
1897. considerable increase in quantity, but not so satisfactory an  
increase in value, while cotton and cotton seed are both less.  
Cassava starch has increased both in quantity and value.

#### SHIPPING.

The tonnage of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 248,877 tons, compared with 273,245 tons in 1896. The decrease is in steamers, of which 82, with a tonnage of 111,422 tons, visited the Colony, against 94, with a tonnage of 123,612 tons, in 1896. A great part of this decrease was due to the less frequent visits of the Quebec Line of steamers from New York, which, as a rule, deposited their St. Vincent cargo at Barbados, to be brought from there by sailing vessel.

#### AGRICULTURE AND GRANTS OF LAND.

The only satisfactory feature in agriculture is the gradual increase in the production of commodities other than sugar and arrowroot, and especially of cocoa and nutmegs, to which I have already referred.

Although the planting of cocoa has not been going on by leaps and bounds, there has been a steady increase in the trees planted year by year for some years past, both on the large estates and in such small holdings as there are. The reports from the Curator, which have been submitted from time to time, give many encouraging examples of the success of these plantations.

Tobacco has been cultivated with success, on a small scale, in several places, and in the Botanical Garden a considerable experiment was made. The "mole cricket" was the greatest enemy the Curator had to deal with, but a large number of plants were reaped and cured, and the whole crop found a ready local market.

That more than £600 is now paid for imported tobacco of the coarsest kind shows that there is a local market for tobacco, which should be remunerative, while growers are learning how to cure tobacco sufficiently well to make it an article for export.

The cultivation of coffee is also gradually increasing, but our imports of coffee for local consumption are still worth more than £400, and there is no export of it at present.

At the end of 1896 no canes were planted for the 1898 crop, but towards the end of 1897 a considerable area of land was put under cultivation for the crop of 1899. This afforded

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a considerable amount of employment to labourers, and the Revenue felt the benefit of it in improved collections for St. Vincent, 1897. Import Duty in the later months of the year.

As I have already noted, an attempt was made to restrict the output of arrowroot, but it was but a small one, and on the first symptom of a rise in price everyone rushed to take advantage of it. Whether arrowroot shall be a remunerative crop or not seems to be entirely in the hands of the St. Vincent growers, and it only requires a little agreement between them to effect it. For the present it seems likely that the English buyer will reap all the advantages of the local competition among half-a-dozen individuals.

The production of Cassava starch continues to be remunerative to the small growers who produce it, and there is considerable demand for it in the neighbouring Colonies.

But little has been done in the Crown Lands Department during the year. A few new grants were made, but nothing was done towards getting in the large arrears of instalments of purchase money, and the holders of the land received but little supervision. The disastrous floods of 1896 disheartened a good many of the cultivators, but most of those who did not lose everything are again taking an interest in their holdings.

Proposals for new regulations for grants for Crown lands were under consideration at the beginning of the year, but the visit of the Royal Commissioners and their subsequent recommendations rendered it advisable to postpone dealing with the matter until the whole question of Peasant Proprietors has been gone into.

The Crown Lands scheme has been the subject of much criticism, and the inaccessibility of most of the land has been one of the fairest points of that criticism. To remove this objection, it was proposed to connect the most important areas of Crown Lands with the existing communication by roads adapted to the country which they would traverse. The estimated cost was £3,000, and, as a first instalment, £1,000 was borrowed and one road was completed in 1897. It is rather more than two miles in length and cost £182. Other work in connection with this scheme has been suspended pending the consideration of the whole question of Crown Lands.

Whatever may be the disadvantages of Crown Lands from the point of view of suitability of soil and accessibility, there is no doubt that they met a crying want when the scheme was first started, and, in face of opposition from many quarters, a large number of people are now enjoying the fruits of their own labour, and have at least been able to provide themselves with some of the necessaries of life, while the more prudent and industrious are receiving a certain amount of money, which is annually increasing, by the sale of their more permanent products.

ST. VINCENT,  
1897.

### PRISONS AND CRIME.

Partly owing to the cause mentioned in the Report for 1896, —the emigration of adult males—the admissions to prison show a large decrease. The average daily number in prison was 24·29 only, against 34 in 1896, and the number of persons committed 171, against 231.

The number of offences reported to the police is rather higher than it was in 1896, and the number of persons acquitted is also higher.

Prædial larceny shows no diminution in the statistics, and I fear that these figures represent but a small percentage of the cases which occur. It may be that people will respect the produce of a small holder more than they do that of a large land owner, but, unless they do so, I fear that one of the chief difficulties with which peasant proprietors will have to contend will be the protection of their holdings from the devastations of those who “reap where they have not sown.”

### HOSPITALS.

The work of the Colonial Hospital continued to increase, and the difficulty of providing for the deserving applicants for admission was greater than ever.

The daily average in hospital was 62·52, against 58·82 in 1896, and the average stay of the patients in hospital was longer than in 1896. Many of the cases were aggravated by faulty and insufficient diet, and a large part of the hospital treatment consisted mainly in building them up with nutritious food. The ulcer cases showed a considerable increase, and they, too, are to a large extent caused by unnutritious diet.

The Pauper Asylum is now chiefly devoted to providing a shelter for those who have received all the benefit they are likely to get from hospital treatment but have no place to go to when they are discharged. In many instances they are incurable cases, and they never leave the asylum alive.

The daily average in the asylum was 100·22, compared with 90·68 in 1896. The overcrowding in the building is a serious question, but we have no money to provide increased accommodation, and it requires a hard heart to refuse admittance to deserving persons who have no other possible shelter.

The Georgetown Casualty Hospital continued to do good work on a small scale, but want of money prevented anything being done towards improving the accommodation and appliances there. I should much like to see the utility of the institution increased.

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METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS.

ST. VINCENT  
1897.

The total rainfall for the year was 109·62 inches, which is slightly below the average of the last seven years (114·68 inches). I am able to record that it is the only year during my three years' residence in the Colony that no damage was done in any part of the Colony by floods caused by excessive rainfall.

The only disaster to be recorded is the small cyclone which visited a portion of the north-east part of the Colony in June, and within a limited area did some damage.

The latter part of the year was abnormally hot, and the maximum thermometer at the Botanical Garden recorded 88 degrees, which is the highest record for some years past.

SAVINGS BANK.

The total amount to the credit of Savings Bank Depositors at the end of the year was £8,771, divided among 1,047 depositors, against £8,455, divided among 1,062 depositors, in 1896.

GENERAL.

The year through which we have passed has been a critical one, and there is certainly no progress to record. It is said that in these days things cannot stand still, and that they must go forward or backward, and there is much that is true in this of communities and countries, as well as of commercial and other undertakings.

Were it not for this, I should be inclined to say that in 1897 St. Vincent had been more or less stationary. There has certainly been no progress, but I cannot see that in the main there has been any retrogression.

That this state of stagnation, if stagnation it be, cannot last is only too evident, and, unless the opportunity for progress shortly arises, it is terrible to contemplate what the condition of the country may become.

The visit of the Royal Commissioners was one of the leading events of the year, and their recommendation for the amelioration of the existing state of affairs are before the public and Her Majesty's Government. It would be presumptuous on my part to make any recommendations for dealing with the problems which face us in St. Vincent, when those problems have been so thoroughly grasped and ably dealt with by Her Majesty's Commissioners.



ST. VINCENT. Many of their recommendations are now in course of being  
1897. given effect to, and I have every hope that they will bring  
— back to this Colony a portion, at least, of that prosperity it once  
enjoyed.

I cannot close this report without referring to the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee, which was observed by all classes of the community with every demonstration of loyalty and thankfulness.

I have, &c.,

HARRY THOMPSON,

*Administrator.*

His Excellency Sir ALFRED MOLONEY, K.C.M.G.,  
&c., &c., &c.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 252.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 214.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

December, 1898.



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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas ... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"
241	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	"
242	British Honduras ... ..	"
243	Malta ... ..	"
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada .. ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-8

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 252.

## SEYCHELLES.

SEYCHELLES,  
1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 214.)

ADMINISTRATOR STEWART to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
Seychelles,

23rd August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book for 1897.

## REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1897 amounted to Rs. 296,171 as against Rs. 243,802 in the previous year, and exceeded the estimated revenue by Rs. 47,251. It surpassed the revenue of the previous year by Rs. 52,369, and is the largest revenue ever collected in Seychelles.

The expenditure was Rs. 259,056 as against Rs. 238,178 in 1896, and was Rs. 20,889 above the estimate. The expenditure included special votes taken by Council for Rs. 9,758.

The revenue has exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 36,115.

## EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports amounted to Rs. 1,503,701 and the imports to Rs. 1,122,411.

The large increase in both exports and imports is due to the large vanilla crops of the last two years. 61,382 lbs. of vanilla, valued at Rs. 921,065, were exported last year.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

A new ward styled the Victoria Ward was added to the Public Hospital last year. The roads have been kept in good repair, and the Cantonier System has undoubtedly proved a success.

The filling in of a portion of the foreshore in Victoria is being carried out by prison labour.

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SEYCHELLES,  
1897.

### POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Archipelago on 31st December 1897 was 18,639, whereof 9,480 were males and 9,239 females.

The births in 1897 were 618, 302 males and 316 females.

The deaths were 342.

### EDUCATION.

There were 28 schools examined by the Inspector of Schools, one of which was the Government Undenominational School, the rest Grant-in-aid Schools.

The number of children examined was 2,332 against 2,214 in 1896, the average attendance for the school year being 1,706.

The sums voted for education in 1897 were :—

	Rs.
Grant-in-aid Schools ... ..	8,000
Government School ... ..	3,864
Grants to affiliated classes ... ..	1,200
	<hr/>
or a total of ... ..	13,064
	<hr/>

The grant-in-aid was apportioned as follows :—

	Rs.
Roman Catholic Schools ... ..	6,343.94
Church of England Schools ... ..	1,656.06

### JUDICIAL.

There were 565 criminal informations lodged in 1897.

There were 735 persons charged and 592 convicted. 135 cases were disposed of on the Civil Side and 50 in the Stipendiary Court.

There were also 118 cases dealt with in Chambers.

The first trial for murder in Seychelles took place this year before the Seychelles Court of Assizes. Three men were condemned to death. The sentence was commuted into one of imprisonment for life.

### POLICE.

The Police Force of Seychelles consists of :—

1 Inspector of Police.	2 Sergeants.
1 Sergeant-major.	3 Corporals and 46 men.

### PRISON.

301 persons were committed to prison in 1897, of which number 19 were sentenced to one year and upwards but under 5 years, six to five years and upwards, and the remainder to less than one year.

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The daily average in prison was 70.  
1 death occurred.

SEYCHELLES,  
1897.

MEDICAL.

The total number of in-patients treated at the public hospital of Mahé during 1897 was 183, being the same number as in the year 1896.

They came under the following heads :—

	1896.	1897
Paupers ... ..	91	83
Prisoners ... ..	11	22
P. W. D. and Police ... ..	36	18
Paying Patients ... ..	46	60
Totals ... ..	183	183

and their treatment resulted as follows :—

	1896.	1897.
Cured ... ..	88	98
Relieved ... ..	55	37
Unrelieved ... ..	19	22
Died ... ..	1	14
Remaining in Hospital ... ..	10	12
Totals ... ..	183	183

The twenty-two unrelieved patients were suffering from : paralysis 1, imbecility 9, ascites 1, old age 4, epilepsy 1, leprosy 1, dislocated hip 1, filaria 1, anæmia 1, hernia 1, fractured arms 1. 9 of the above-mentioned were sent to Curieuse Island. The others left the hospital at their own request.

The fourteen deaths were due to :—

Enteritis, collapse ... ..	1
Strangulated hernia ... ..	1
Hepatitis, collapse ... ..	1
Peritonitis ... ..	1
Dysentery ... ..	2
Fever ... ..	1
Bright's disease ... ..	3
Phthisis ... ..	2
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1
Old age ... ..	1
Total ... ..	14

SEYCHELLES, One case of small-pox occurred in an isolated position about 3 miles from town.  
1897.

In his Annual Report the Government Medical Officer writes as follows: "Thanks to the energetic measures permitted by the authorities, the Sanitary Department were enabled to take steps to arrest the spread of the small-pox, and I am glad to be able to report that the disease has been so far limited to the one case which first appeared, and I think that we need not now expect any more.

"The step which I deem to have been the most important one was the vaccination of the neighbours and the guards in charge of the sick man. The necessity for this was shown by the number of cases in which the vaccination was successful."

The number of persons treated as out-patients during the year 1897 was:—

Females	...	...	...	1,442	} 2,099
Males...	...	...	...	657	

against 2,368 in the year 1896.

A Public Dispensary was opened at the Public Hospital on February 15th, 1897.

The amount voted for the purchase of drugs, &c. was Rs. 1,050—and the amount received from the sales up to the 31st December 1897 is Rs. 1,700.53.

The convenience of having such an establishment is proved by the use made of it by the poor people, who have contributed the major part of the Rs. 1,700 by purchasing small quantities of drugs.

A trained nursing sister from the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny, at Paris, arrived in the month of August 1897, and has already rendered inestimable service in attending upon the sick at the Hospital, thereby relieving the Matron of a great amount of work and enabling her to give her full attention to the general management of the Hospital.

#### LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1897:—

1. An Ordinance for applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 13,976.32 to the service of the year 1895.
2. An Ordinance to provide for the prosecution of employers for breach of obligations towards servants when necessary.
3. An Ordinance to amend Regulation 1 of 1889, and to make further provision respecting larcenies of produce.
4. An Ordinance to repeal certain sections of the Seychelles Capital Offences Order in Council, 1892, and to enact other provisions in lieu thereof.

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SEYCHELLES,  
1897.

5. An Ordinance to levy an export duty upon guano.
6. An Ordinance to declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorized to be raised by the Government of Seychelles, and to provide for the creation of Seychelles inscribed stock.
7. An Ordinance for raising the sum of twenty thousand pounds for the construction of roads.
8. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 12 of 1896, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the treatment of Convict, Vagrant, and Pauper Lepers."
9. An Ordinance for applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 7,802.18 to the service of the year 1896.
10. An Ordinance to provide for the arrest and re-instatement in the paternal domicile of absconding minors, and for the punishment of persons knowingly harbouring such minors.
11. An Ordinance to amend Regulation of Board of Civil Commissioners No. 3 of 1877, entitled "A Regulation for the Management of the Market."
12. An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Police Force in Seychelles.
13. An Ordinance to repeal Mauritius Ordinance 25 of 1875, entitled an Ordinance "to provide for the appointment of Ushers for the Seychelles Islands, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof."
14. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1898.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

According to the last census returns (1891) there were 2,636 Protestants and 12,608 Roman Catholics in the Archipelago.

The following is the list of the clergy in Seychelles :—

*Church of England.*

Civil Chaplain	...	...	...	...	1
Minister South Mahé	...	...	...	...	1
Minister for Praslin	...	...	...	...	1

*Church of Rome.*

Bishop	...	...	...	...	1
Priests	...	...	...	...	14
Lay Brethren of the Capucin Order	...	...	...	...	2
Marists Brothers	...	...	...	...	9
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	...	...	...	...	54



HARBOUR.

The following return shows the number of vessels, their nationality, tonnage, &c., which entered Port Victoria during 1897 :—

Nationality.	Merchant Vessels.		Men of War.			Mail Steamers.		Number of men.
	No. of Vessels.	Registered Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	
British ... ..	24	4,350	0	15,870	64	26	47,670	4,183
French ... ..	—	—	1	650	6	—	—	99
German ... ..	—	—	2	3,292	19	—	—	322
Portuguese ... ..	—	—	1	729	4	—	—	121
Norwegian ... ..	1	1,404	—	—	—	—	—	18
Total ... ..	25	5,754	10	20,541	93	26	47,670	4,743

Sixty-one vessels, manned by 4,743 men, entered Port Victoria in 1897.

	No.	Tonn.
Men of War ... ..	10	20,541
Mail Steamers ... ..	26	47,670
Merchant Vessels ... ..	25	5,754
Total ... ..	61	73,965

Year.	Men of War.				Merchant Vessels.			Mail Steamers.		
	No.	Tons.	Men.	Guns.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
1896 ... ..	10	18,675	1,941	96	92	9,222	443	30	70,512	2,936
1897 ... ..	10	20,541	2,110	93	25	5,754	346	26	47,670	2,287
	—	+ 1,868	+ 169	— 3	— 7	— 3,468	— 97	— 4	— 22,872	— 649

#### REGISTRATION AND MORTGAGE.

The receipts for Registration dues in 1897 amounted to	...	...	...	Rs.	8,897.76
For Hereditary dues to	...	...	...	Rs.	4,106.85
For Mortgage dues to	...	...	...	Rs.	1,446.53
For Archives dues to	...	...	...	Rs.	37.85
				Total Rs.	<u>14,488.99</u>

as against Rs. 11,059 for 1896.

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METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

*Rainfall.*

The amount of rainfall during the year 1897 was 101·98, being 34·70 above the average for the previous five years.

	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	
	87·45	87·77	95·08	101·03	115·08	

Average for six years :—98·06.

Number of days on which rain was registered :—143.

*Temperature.*

Highest maximum in shade 88·8 April 30th and May 1st.

Lowest minimum „ 71·8 Oct. 13th.

SAVINGS BANK.

The following statement gives the deposits and withdrawals of the Savings Bank since its establishment in 1894 :—

Year.	Balance on 1st January.	Deposits during Year.	Total 31st December.	Amounts withdrawn during year.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894 ...	Open 5th March	27,113	27,113	10,199	16,914
1895 ...	16,914	27,981	44,795	25,946	18,849
1896 ...	18,849	33,530	52,379	18,866	33,513
1897 ...	33,513·56	75,123·90	108,637·46	45,012·93	63,624·23

### CROWN LANDS.

A valuable addition to the Crown Lands was made last year, Government having recovered the "Terrain Audibert," an estate of 120 acres in extent.

Government has also purchased a further portion of the Coco de Mer Valley, at Praslin, with the sole object of preserving the unique palm the Coco de Mer, or *Laudicea Sechellarum*, which only grows in this part of the world.

### POST.

Comparative statement showing number of letters, newspapers, parcels, &c., received and despatched during the years 1896 and 1897.

	United Kingdom.				Other Places.				Total.	
	From.		To.		From.		To.			
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
Letters ... ..	9,387	9,877	3,368	3,296	2,807	2,778	13,623	10,508	29,185	26,459
Newspapers, books, printed papers, &c. ... ..	2,813	2,803	207	176	1,273	1,230	547	384	4,840	4,593
Total ...	12,200	12,680	3,575	3,472	4,080	4,008	14,170	10,892	34,025	31,052
Parcels ...	77	113	327	384	89	160	90	76	583	733

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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SEYCHELLES,  
1897.

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SEYCHELLES  
1897.

LOAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS.

A loan of £20,000 for the construction and improvement of roads in Seychelles has been approved, and the services of an engineer (Mr. Waddell of the Public Works Department of Ceylon) have been placed at our disposal. The works have been commenced.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The year under review has been a remarkably prosperous one. Two good crops of vanilla have done much to enhance the welfare of the Colony, and I am glad to say that there is every sign of an abundant crop this year also.

In my last Annual Report I drew attention to the capabilities of Seychelles as a vanilla-producing country, and judging from the numerous letters of inquiry which I have received on the subject the Report has evidently been widely circulated.

Only two gentlemen have taken the practical step of coming out here to judge for themselves.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with much enthusiasm, the rejoicings lasting for a week from the 20th of June.

A public drinking fountain designed and executed by Messrs. Doulton & Co. will shortly be erected as a permanent memorial of the auspicious occasion.

H. COCKBURN STEWART,

*Administrator.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 234.

SIERRA LEONE.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 208.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*August 1898.*

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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
206	Falkland Islands ... ..	1896
207	British Honduras ... ..	"
208	Sierra Leone ... ..	"
209	Grenada ... ..	"
210	Hong Kong ... ..	"
211	St. Lucia ... ..	"
212	St. Vincent ... ..	"
213	St. Helena ... ..	"
214	Seychelles ... ..	"
215	Mauritius ... ..	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

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No. 234.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA  
LEONE.  
1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 203.)

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GOVERNOR SIR F. CARDEW to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Freetown,

Sierra Leone,

10th June, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1897, which has been prepared by W. J. P. Elliott, Esq., Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

F. CARDEW,

*Governor.*



SIERRA  
LEONE.  
1897.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK, 1897.

1.—TAXES AND DUTIES.

There is no change this year.

2.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

*Revenue.*

The estimated Revenue for 1897 was £106,231, including Protectorate, afterwards revised to £101,181; the sum actually realised was £106,009.

The revenue for 1896 was £97,109; thus there is an increase in 1897 of £8,899, made up as follows:—

	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs ... ..	76,888	82,887	5,999	—
Port, Harbour, &c. ... ..	3,364	3,367	3	—
Licences, &c. ... ..	5,435	4,728	—	707
Fees of Court, &c. ... ..	3,026	2,249	—	777
Post Office and Telegraphs	2,682	4,884	2,202	—
Rent of Government Property	218	199	—	19
Interest ... ..	2,658	2,763	105	—
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,761	2,809	48	—
Land Sales ... ..	69	—	—	69
Protectorate ... ..	5	2,119	2,114	—
			10,471	1,572
			1,572	
Net Increase...	...	...	£8,899	

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*Expenditure.*

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LEONE;  
1897.

The estimated Expenditure for 1897 was £116,073, whereas the amount expended was £111,678, a saving of £4,395 having been effected.

This saving was effected principally under expenditure for

					£
Protectorate	...	...	...	...	3,524
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	945

The following return shows Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the past ten years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue.
1888	£ 63,035	£ 63,288	£ —	£ 253
1889	70,836	66,771	4,065	—
1890	73,708	63,056	10,652	—
1891	89,869	77,965	11,904	—
1892	86,866	83,852	3,014	—
1893	92,769	84,691	8,078	—
1894	98,838	93,100	5,738	—
1895	97,852	100,248	—	2,396
1896	97,109	116,183	—	19,074
1897	106,009	111,678	—	5,669

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### 3.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Assets on the 31st December, 1897, exceeded the Liabilities by £14,046, but there is a falling off as compared with 1896, which is due to the deficit on general revenue account for 1897.

### 4.—PUBLIC DEBT.

This remained at £25,000, to be paid off finally in June, 1898, the Sinking fund being fully sufficient for this purpose. The authorised Railway Loan of £150,000 has not yet been raised, the Crown Agents advancing pending issue.

### 5.—MUNICIPALITY.

The Council consists of a Mayor and 14 Councillors, three of whom are appointed by the Government, the others being elected.

Its Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year ending 31st October, 1897, stood as follows :—

<i>Revenue.</i>					£	s.	d.
Office Fees	...	...	...	...	14	1	9
General Trade Licences	...	...	...	...	872	14	7½
Market Dues	...	...	...	...	300	2	11
Cemetery Fees	...	...	...	...	319	16	2
Miscellaneous Receipts and Sale of Empties	...	...	...	...	19	2	4½
Government Grant-in-Aid (from 20th August, 1896, to 30th September, 1897) at £1,800 per annum...	...	...	...	...	2,008	1	3
Total					£3,533 19 1		

<i>Expenditure.</i>					£	s.	d.
Salaries ...	...	...	...	...	615	1	0
Buildings, Constructions and Repairs...					568	7	9
Works ...	...	...	...	...	197	16	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sanitary...	...	...	...	...	1,186	17	2
Printing and Stationery	...	...			309	15	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Street Lights, including Diamond Jubilee Illuminations	...	...			1,131	5	7
Contingency ...	...	...	...	...	126	4	6
Total ...					£4,135	8	2

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1897.

The Council opened its last financial year with a balance on hand of £2,109 11s. 6d., and its balance at the close was £1,508 2s. 4d.

No rates have as yet been levied.

#### 6.—MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

The Colony does not contribute towards the up-keep of the troops.

The garrison consisted of a European detachment of Royal Artillery, a Native Battery of West African Artillery, a detachment of Fortress Engineers, and a battalion of the West India Regiment.

The troops receive an allowance as compensation for Customs duties paid by them. This amounted to £947 7s. 9d., as against £1,279 14s. 6d. in 1896.

There is no Militia.

#### 7.—THE SIERRA LEONE FRONTIER FORCE.

The establishment of this force in 1897 continued the same as last year, except that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State authorised an additional 50 men being enrolled towards the end of the year for a special purpose.

A detachment consisting of 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 12 privates, and a bugler, or 15 in all, proceeded to England on the 14th May to take part in the celebrations held in London in connection with the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign. They were all presented with the Jubilee Medal, and their conduct while in England was very favourably reported on. They arrived back on the 23rd July.

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### 8.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any importance were carried out this year. A new Police Station was built in the Kissy Road, at a cost of £450.

The total sum expended during 1897 was as follows :—

			£
Public Works, Extraordinary ...	...	...	1,848
Public Works, Recurrent ...	...	...	7,085
			<hr/>
Total ...	...	...	£8,933
			<hr/>

### 9.—LEGISLATION.

There were 17 Ordinances passed during 1897, as against 34 in the previous year.

The only Ordinances calling for remark were as follows :—

No. 9, an Ordinance to amend "The Protectorate Jurisdiction Delimitation Ordinance, 1896," passed on the 8th June. This makes provision for the cost incurred by any plaintiff in any cause which was instituted in the Supreme Court of the Colony, and which became abated by virtue of "The Protectorate Jurisdiction Delimitation Ordinance, 1896," to be the plaintiff's costs in any cause which such plaintiff may institute in the Court of the Protectorate in respect of the same cause of action.

No. 11, an Ordinance to repeal an Ordinance intituled "The Protectorate Ordinance, 1896," and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

This Ordinance was passed under directions from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

### 10.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The following changes occurred in the Civil Establishment of the Colony during the year 1897 :—

His Excellency Colonel F. Cardew, Governor, left for England on the 4th May on the usual six months leave of absence.

Colonel J. E. W. S. Caulfeild was sworn in as Administrator on 4th May.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Gore acted as Deputy Governor from 12th to 18th June, and administered the Government from 5th August to 10th September during the absence of Colonel Caulfeild, invalided to Grand Canary.

11.—PENSIONS.

SIERRA  
LEONE,  
1897.

The sum paid on account of pensions and other retiring allowances in 1897 was £3,314 1s. 6d., as against £3,543 14s. 10d. in 1896.

12.—POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

There has been no census taken since 1891.

*Births and Deaths.*

The total number of births registered was 1,241, and deaths 1,664; as against births 1,541, and deaths 1,632, in the previous year.

RETURN of BIRTHS and DEATHS for the YEARS 1888 to 1897.

Period.	No. of Births.	No. of Deaths.	Remarks.
1888 ... ..	1,600	1,432	
1889 ... ..	1,219	1,239	
1890 ... ..	1,253	1,425	
1891 ... ..	1,328	1,374	
1892 ... ..	1,218	1,403	
1893 ... ..	1,279	1,308	
1894 ... ..	1,339	1,518	
1895 ... ..	1,440	1,508	
1896 ... ..	1,541	1,632	
1897 ... ..	1,241	1,664	

13.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

There are about 130 places of worship belonging to the various Christian denominations in the Colony, and, according to the last returns, about 42,000 persons professing Christianity.

Several missionary societies are working within the Protectorate, besides missions from the native churches in Sierra Leone. The principal societies are the C.M.S. and the American Soudan Mission and two other American societies whose

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head-quarters are at Shengeh and Rotefunk respectively; the two latter Societies, in addition to Gospel work, are imparting an excellent industrial training to the natives.

#### 14.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools inspected and “visited” was 72, as against 67 last year; 62 of these are on the annual grant list. Of the five visited, two have been received by the Board of Education, and are to be inspected for the first time for a grant next year. One (the Mohammedan School, Fourah Bay) receives a special quarterly grant.

The number of children present at these inspections and visits was 7,312, as against 6,850 in previous year, viz., 4,050 boys and 3,262 girls.

The enrolment for the year, according to the returns of the school managers, was 8,416—*i.e.* 4,423 boys and 3,993 girls, and the average attendance for the year was 3,163 boys and 2,720 girls, or a total 5,883, being 70 per cent. of the roll number.

The amounts of grants-in-aid earned by the assisted schools for all the subjects for which grants are allowed was £1,444 18s. 2d. as against £1,345 14s. 11½d. in previous year, showing an increase of £99 3s. 2½d.

The following are the heads under which grants have been made :—

	1896.	1897.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Average Attendance ... ..	523 14 0	550 18 0
Industrial Training ... ..	—	25 0 0
For those in Junior Standards...	44 19 6	71 0 6
Standards Subjects (Elementary) ... ..	431 8 0	446 8 0
Do. (Optional) ... ..	16 16 0	22 12 0
Needlework ... ..	103 0 0	102 2 0
Good Passes ... ..	2 6 0	2 6 6
Organisation and Discipline ... ..	119 2 3	139 0 0
Merit Grant ... ..	91 10 0	98 0 6
Special Grant (Isles de Los) ... ..	50 0 0	50 0 0

The increase in the merit grant-in-aid for 1896 and 1897 is due to higher pecuniary inducement being offered for merit.

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There has been little or no improvement in the standard of education during the past ten years, principally owing to want of efficiency, knowledge, and training in imparting the same on the part of the teachers.

The low rate of salary for teachers does not offer a sufficient inducement to young men to follow teaching as a profession.

A table showing particulars of education for the past ten years is hereunder given :—

Year.	No. of Schools Inspected or Examined.	No. of Scholars on Register.	Average Attendance.	No. of Scholars Inspected or Examined.	No. of Teachers Examined.	Grant earned.
1888	67	8,543	5,966	6,709	34	£ s. d. 761 19 3
1889	69	9,222	6,498	6,984	28	805 16 0
1890-1	71	8,818	5,974	6,912	—	811 12 6
1892	72	8,526	5,984	6,856	9	711 5 9
1893	61	8,102	5,943	6,636	—	854 14 0
1894	62	8,389	5,956	7,014	7	988 16 0
1895	64	8,337	6,033	6,826	14	932 7 0
1896	67	8,280	5,926	6,850	20	1,345 14 11½
1897	72	8,416	6,355	7,312	17	1,414 18 2

The 3rd Annual Exhibition of school work was held at the Wilberforce Hall on the 16th January and opened by His Excellency Sir F. Cardew.

The exhibits were on the whole fairly satisfactory, but were very much less than last year. This was in a measure due to the fact that some of the secondary schools did not send anything, and that the Technical School had no stall, as on previous occasion.



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1897.

## 15. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

*Imports.*

The Imports for the past year were valued at £457,389, a decrease of £37,299 as compared with value in 1896, which was £494,688. The decrease being principally on importations of:—

	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale and Porter ... ..	4,134	2,807	—	1,327
Ammunition ... ..	2,501	113	—	2,388
Apparel ... ..	9,189	10,410	1,221	—
Beads ... ..	8,212	7,159	—	1,053
Boots and Shoes ... ..	1,960	3,244	1,284	—
Brandy ... ..	1,071	1,375	304	—
Building Materials ... ..	2,362	44	—	2,318
Calabashes ... ..	1,599	767	—	832
Cement ... ..	863	2,879	2,016	—
Cigars ... ..	1,212	1,634	422	—
Coals ... ..	16,651	13,083	—	3,568
Cordials ... ..	308	409	101	—
Cotton Goods ... ..	175,095	160,012	—	15,083
Country Cloths ... ..	2,500	2,925	425	—
Flour ... ..	10,131	9,801	—	330
Geneva ... ..	5,288	4,825	—	463
Gunpowder ... ..	3,480	2,106	—	1,374
Guns ... ..	1,252	1,019	—	233
Haberdashery ... ..	21,808	16,779	—	5,029
Hardware ... ..	38,957	42,624	3,667	—
Jewellery ... ..	772	379	—	393
Carried forward ...			9,440	34,391

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*Imports—continued.*SIERRA  
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	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	—	—	9,440	34,391
Lard ...	1,920	1,509	—	411
Lumber ...	8,324	2,229	—	6,095
Medicines ...	5,093	3,427	—	1,666
Military Stores ...	2,922	10,658	7,736	—
Musical Instruments ...	1,449	1,190	—	259
Oil, Kerosine ...	5,065	3,136	—	1,926
Provisions ...	13,041	11,507	—	1,534
Rubber ...	40	1,422	1,382	—
Salt ...	11,567	9,000	—	2,567
Silk, manufactured ...	1,614	2,826	1,212	—
Specie... ..	22,389	6,045	—	16,344
Sugar ...	5,500	5,993	493	—
Telegraph Materials ...	2,686	114	—	2,572
Tobacco ...	19,147	24,654	5,507	—
Whiskey and other Spirits...	3,894	4,593	699	—
Wines ...	4,235	5,730	1,495	—
Woollen Goods ...	7,371	10,253	2,882	—
			30,846	67,765
Decrease on Sundry Goods ...	...	...	...	380
				68,145
Increase ...	...	...	...	30,846
Net Decrease ...	...	...	...	37,299

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1897.

The following table of Imports from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries shows comparative values for the past ten years :—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
1888 ... ..	£ 190,529	£ 1,211	£ 58,407	£ 250,147
1889 ... ..	210,800	1,110	65,871	277,781
1890 ... ..	248,401	1,628	65,475	315,504
1891 ... ..	286,772	1,980	77,651	366,403
1892 ... ..	332,198	4,814	76,105	413,117
1893 ... ..	325,829	5,543	86,094	417,466
1894 ... ..	381,248	11,012	85,765	478,025
1895 ... ..	336,414	5,755	85,169	427,338
1896 ... ..	403,053	12,452	79,183	494,688
1897 ... ..	377,508	6,097	73,784	457,389

The following table shows Customs receipts for the past ten years :—

Year.	Ad valorem.	Specific.	Other Receipts.	Totals.
1888 ... ..	£ 8,314	£ 35,429	£ 7,487	£ 51,230
1889 ... ..	9,317	39,717	7,445	56,479
1890 ... ..	12,330	41,480	6,507	60,317
1891 ... ..	17,770	52,228	4,429	74,427
1892 ... ..	17,510	51,895	4,564	73,969
1893 ... ..	17,838	54,333	4,211	76,382
1894 ... ..	19,140	60,661	5,007	84,808
1895 ... ..	17,106	65,474	4,939	87,519
1896 ... ..	22,094	52,669	4,565	79,328
1897 ... ..	24,386	58,489	4,218	87,093

*N.B.*—The rise under the *ad valorem* duty in years 1896 and 1897 is due to increased rate of tariff, namely, 7½ to 10 per cent., brought into operation on 1st August 1896.

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1897.

The fall under Specific in 1896 and rise again in 1897 is consequent on increased tariff on spirits to three shillings per liquid gallon, in January 1896, which caused merchants to previously withdraw spirits from bond in large quantities at old rate of duty; subsequently demands increased when stock became consumed.

*Exports.*

The value of Exports was £400,748, being a decrease of £48,285 as against 1896, which was £449,033, due partly to less African produce being brought to Freetown from the Northern Rivers included in French Guinea, and partly to the Poro Law being put in force in the inland districts during the early part of the year.

Subjoined is a ten years' comparative table:—

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1888 ... ..	166,569	17,651	154,823	339,043
1889 ... ..	131,077	23,932	164,650	319,719
1890 ... ..	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319
1891 ... ..	218,294	22,177	227,185	477,656
1892 ... ..	195,298	35,245	189,908	420,451
1893 ... ..	166,055	30,480	202,129	398,664
1894 ... ..	196,171	24,873	205,455	426,499
1895 ... ..	206,873	21,792	223,939	452,604
1896 ... ..	203,495	21,895	223,643	449,033
1897 ... ..	188,945	29,234	182,569	400,748

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1897.

*Customs Revenue.*

The total Customs receipts in 1897 were £87,093, an increase of £7,765 as against receipts in 1896, which were £79,328.

The increase is consequent upon more duty derived on importations as under :—

	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale and porter ... ..	572	425	—	147
Brandy ... ..	299	366	67	—
Cigars ... ..	722	913	191	—
Cordials ... ..	194	215	21	—
Geneva ... ..	5,603	6,556	953	—
Guns ... ..	89	157	68	—
Gunpowder ... ..	378	308	—	70
Hardware ... ..	2,570	2,284	—	286
Lumber ... ..	488	147	—	341
Oil, Kerosine ... ..	5,096	3,546	—	1,550
Rum ... ..	10,547	12,873	2,326	—
Salt ... ..	1,199	1,848	649	—
Sugar ... ..	1,658	1,638	—	20
Tobacco ... ..	17,744	21,148	3,404	—
Whiskey and other spirits ...	4,169	4,537	368	—
Wines ... ..	911	1,008	97	—
			8,144	2,414
Increase on goods liable to <i>ad valorem</i> duty ...			2,035	
			10,179	
Decrease ... ..			2,414	
Net Increase ... ..			£7,765	

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16.—SHIPPING.

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LEONE.  
1897.

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at ports in the Colony during the year 1897 was :—

—	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels ... ..	313	7,720
Steam do. ... ..	373	534,401
Total ... ..	686	542,121

The number of vessels cleared was :—

—	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels ... ..	335	8,282
Steam do ... ..	373	534,342
Total ... ..	708	542,624

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1897 was, steam vessels 1,068,743, sailing vessels 16,002, giving a total of 1,084,745 tons.

Subjoined is a ten years' comparative table :—

Year.	Entered and Cleared.		
	Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage of Steam Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1888 ... ..	28,368	489,313	517,681
1889 ... ..	20,286	568,885	589,171
1890 ... ..	27,242	652,267	679,509
1891 ... ..	28,535	813,988	842,523
1892 ... ..	23,675	777,020	800,695
1893 ... ..	26,481	720,031	746,512
1894 ... ..	21,860	940,186	962,046
1895 ... ..	21,584	1,000,286	1,021,870
1896 ... ..	22,102	1,054,158	1,076,260
1897 ... ..	16,002	1,068,743	1,084,745

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It will be observed that, in the past ten years, the aggregate tonnage of vessels that entered and cleared at the port has gradually increased to more than double the tonnage in 1888. This is due to more lines of steamers having made Sierra Leone a port of call, and the African Steamship Company and British and African Steam Navigation Company having increased their fleets as well as the size of their steamers.

Sailing vessels are not now so much used.

#### 17.—AGRICULTURE.

There was no Agricultural Exhibition held this year, but an inspection of farms was made by the Curator assisted by some native gentlemen.

The Botanic Station has improved considerably, attention being turned principally to the cultivation of economic plants.

The rainfall for the year 1897 was 156·51 inches, as against 176·07 in 1896.

#### 18.—GAOLS AND PRISONS.

The number of prisoners committed to and received in the gaols of the Colony during the year was :—

—	1897.	1896.
Freetown Gaol ... ..	479	532
Sherbro' ... ..	49	88
Waterloo ... ..	30	44
Total... ..	558	664

The number of prisoners sentenced during the year to penal imprisonment in Freetown Gaol was 353, as against 402 in 1896, and the number committed for safe custody till trial was 126. The total number of persons committed to the Freetown Gaol during the year 1897 was 479, viz. :—441 men, 30 women, and 8 juveniles ; as against 532, *i.e.* 501 men, 24 women, and 7 juveniles, in 1896.

The daily average number in prison for the year was 164 ; the number of admissions to the gaol hospital was 72, the daily average on the sick list was 21, and there were 11,489 attendances on out-patients.

The total cost of the prison up-keep during the year was £3,643 6s. 1d., as against £2,873 4s. 10½d. in 1896, exclusive of repairs and prison officers' uniforms.

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*Prisons.*

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1897.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
1888 ... ..	637	74	8	719
1889 ... ..	889	62	4	955
1890 ... ..	577	46	—	623
1891 ... ..	610	51	—	661
1892 ... ..	555	31	9	595
1893 ... ..	368	30	16	414
1894 ... ..	505	29	6	540
1895 ... ..	467	33	8	508
1896 ... ..	501	24	7	532
1897 ... ..	441	30	8	479

NOTE.—The above figures include convicted, untried, and prisoners committed into the Freetown Gaol during the year.

*Gaol Hospital.*

Year.	Total number of Prisoners in Gaol.	"Treated" in Hospital.	Total attendances on Out-Patients.	Deaths.
1888 ... ..	965	121	689	6
1889 ... ..	1,139	100	1,308	1
1890 ... ..	782	142	4,521	—
1891 ... ..	789	140	6,137	3
1892 ... ..	736	246	8,310	5
1893 ... ..	542	145	11,917	9
1894 ... ..	637	79	Not known	—
1895 ... ..	621	58	5,608	1
1896 ... ..	674	68	7,974	1
1897 ... ..	619	77	11,489	7



SIERRA  
LEONE,  
1897

## 19.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

There were 1,206 persons charged before the Police Magistrate's Court during the year. Of this number 459 were discharged for want of prosecution, 142 discharged on the merits of the case after a hearing; 538 summarily convicted, showing a decrease of 118 as compared with previous year; and 67 referred to the sessions of the Supreme Court for trial, as against 74 in 1896.

The total number of convictions for offences against the person was 153, showing 2 less than last year.

Larceny	...	...	...	299
Burglary	...	...	...	46
Drunkenness	...	...	...	23
Other offences	...	...	...	314

*Sherbro.*

The District Commissioner reports as follows:—

The total number of apprehensions effected by the police was 114, as compared with 226 in 1896, or a decrease of 49·55 per cent., and if compared with 1895 the decrease is still more pronounced, being 56·36 per cent.

The total number of larceny cases was 45; of these 28 convictions resulted.

The returns, on the whole, show a great falling-off in crime within the immediate area of the Judicial Courts of Bonthe for the year under review, which is most satisfactory.

There were, however two very brutal murders, which occurred during the year 1897, whereby three persons' lives were lost, but it is very satisfactory to learn that there was no murder case connected with the Human Leopard Society, which it is hoped has been stamped out.

## 20.—HOSPITALS.

The total number of persons admitted into the various hospitals of the Colony during the year was 1,435, viz. :—1,086 males and 349 females; and the number of deaths 205, viz. :—150 males, and 55 females.

The sanitary condition of the hospital was fairly satisfactory, but the building is old and not up to modern requirements.

21.—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

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LEONE.  
1897.

There were 13 admissions during the year, as against 19 in 1896, and 9 deaths, as against 9 deaths in 1896.

22.—CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

There are no Almshouses or other Charitable Institutions; the Colonial Government votes £400 annually towards the relief of the poor, and this grant is distributed monthly by three Charity Commissioners, one being a Government Officer.

23.—RAILWAYS, CANALS, ROADS, &C.

*The Sierra Leone Railway.*

Construction commenced in January, 1896. The line is now open for transport of material for 11½ miles, and rails are down for 20 miles, but, owing to 7 large viaducts having to be completed between 11½ and 17½ miles through transport by rail is not yet possible.

These viaducts are expected to be finished by the end of March, 1898, when the line will be open for transport to Waterloo, 20 miles distant from Freetown, and by this time the last portion of the 1st section of the railway to Songo Town will be constructed.

It is expected that the whole of the first section, from Freetown to Songo Town, will be completed and open for traffic about August 1898. An extension of the line to Rotifunk, a further distance of 25 miles, will then be taken in hand, as well as, it is hoped, the proposed pier at Government Wharf, alongside of which ocean-going steamers will be able to take in and discharge cargo.

The health of the large staff of Europeans employed upon the railway has been fairly satisfactory, only one death having occurred during the last twelve months.

GENERAL REMARKS.

*Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.*

A committee was appointed early in the year to consider the best and most suitable manner in which to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the Colony, and on the 4th June

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an Extraordinary number of the "Sierra Leone Royal Gazette" was published, giving a detail of the arrangements made.

On Sunday, June 20th, there was held Divine Service of Thanksgiving in all the churches throughout the Colony.

Monday and Tuesday, the 21st and 22nd of June, were observed as general holidays. On Tuesday, the 22nd of June, a special service was held in the Cathedral at 8 A.M., at which all public officers and others attended, and after the service a ceremony was held to commemorate the opening of a Jubilee park, to be called Victoria Park, and in the afternoon a levée was held at Government House.

In addition to these arrangements, all the school children and the poor of Freetown and the districts were entertained. Fortunately, the weather was very fine, and every arrangement passed off satisfactorily.

#### *The Public Health.*

The public health was not so good during 1897; in May and June there was a large amount of sickness both amongst the Europeans and Natives.

There was an outbreak of small-pox in the Western District, and special means were taken by the Government, and considerable expense incurred in dealing with this outbreak. A temporary hospital was erected, nurses engaged, and vaccination extensively carried out.

The number of deaths among Europeans was 19, as against 11 in the previous year, and six in 1895.

#### Fever :—

Remittent	...	...	...	...	4
Remittent Malarial	...	...	..		3
Bilious Remittent	...	...	...		3
Bilious Malarial	...	...	...		1
Malarial	...	...	...	...	5
Blackwater	...	...	...	...	1
Hæmaturic	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide while temporarily insane	...	...	...		1
					—
				Total	19
					==

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*The Protectorate.*

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LEONE.  
1897.

The total Revenue of the Protectorate, which was derived from fines, forfeitures, fees of Court, spirit and store licences, amounted to £2,119 15s. 6d. as against an Expenditure of £5,796 16s. 4d. for administration, exclusive of the expenses of the Frontier Police Force, £21,229 14s. 5d., and Department of Native Affairs, £2,661 1s. 7d., which amounts should properly be charged against the revenue of the Protectorate.

It is estimated that as soon as the house-tax has been enforced throughout the Protectorate the total revenue derived will be sufficient to meet the total expenditure; the Koinadugu and Pangoma Districts are exempted for the present from the house-tax.

W. J. P. ELLIOTT,

*Colonial Secretary.*

Freetown, Sierra Leone,

9th June, 1898.



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No. 273.

SIERRA LEONE.

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REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 234.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*September, 1899.*

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
247	Grenada ... ..	1897
248	Gibraltar... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"
265	St. Helena ... ..	"
266	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
267	St. Lucia... ..	"
268	Fiji ... ..	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
270	Malta ... ..	"
271	Gold Coast ... ..	"
272	Trinidad ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics.

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1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 234.)

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ACTING GOVERNOR MAJOR NATHAN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,  
Fort Thornton, Freetown,  
Sierra Leone,  
22nd April 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

M. NATHAN,

Acting Governor.



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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF SIERRA  
LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

*General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The estimated revenue for 1898 was £116,400, but the actual receipts were £117,681 18s. 3d., being an increase on the year of £1,281 18s. 3d.

The revenue for 1898 is the highest that has been received since the existence of the Colony, and, as compared with that of the previous year, there is an increase of £11,673 1s. 3d. The following comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1897 and 1898 shows that there has been an increase under nearly every head in 1898, but these increases do not call for any particular notice except in the case of the Protectorate. As far as practicable the accounts of the revenue and expenditure of the Protectorate are kept separate from those of the Colony. The sources of revenue are: Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of Courts, Store and Liquor Licenses, and House Tax.

The marked increase in the revenue of the Protectorate in 1898 over 1897 is due to the imposition of the house tax; on the other hand, there is a great falling off in the receipts for licenses as compared with the previous year, in consequence of the native rising in the Protectorate.

—	1897.		1898.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Customs ... ..	82,887	5 9	84,592	14 6	1,705	8 9	—	
Port Harbour, &c. ... ..	3,367	5 0	3,473	11 0	106	6 0	—	
Licenses, &c. ... ..	4,728	4 1	5,263	3 9	534	19 8	—	
Fees of Court, &c. ... ..	2,249	16 3	2,106	2 5	—		143	13 10
Post Office and Telegraphs ...	4,884	3 5	4,916	2 5	32	7 11	—	
Rent of Government Property	199	18 8	237	17 6	37	18 10	—	
Interest ... ..	2,763	2 2	2,071	17 10	—		691	4 4
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	2,809	6 2	6,971	11 3	4,162	5 1	—	
and Sale ... ..	—		294	10 0	294	10 0	—	
Protectorate ... ..	2,119	15 6	7,753	18 8	5,634	3 2	—	
Totals £	106,008	17 0	117,681	18 3	12,507	19 5	834	18 2

The estimated expenditure for 1898, including special votes, was £118,039 5s. 6d., whereas the sum actually expended was £121,112 8s. 2d., being an increase on the estimates of £3,073 2s. 8d. The increase on the expenditure for 1897 was £9,434 10s.

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As the revenue for 1898 was the highest on record, so was the expenditure for the same year. This increased expenditure is mainly due to circumstances connected with the insurrection in the Protectorate.

The following table gives the chief heads under which there was an increase in the expenditure:—

	£	s.	d.
<i>Customs</i> ... ..	608	15	0
Increase in the number of troops drawing the usual allowance. Drawbacks and refund of duties.			
<i>Legal Department</i> ... ..	375	6	3
Salary and expenses of Deputy Judge unestimated. Less savings under other heads.			
<i>Civil Police</i> ... ..	604	16	10
Special constables employed in Freetown during disturbances. Maintenance of criminals.			
<i>Prisons</i> ... ..	912	18	1
Excess in number of prisoners to be maintained.			
<i>Miscellaneous Services</i> ... ..	1,839	9	0
<i>Protectorate</i> ... ..	1,380	0	0
Military expeditions.			

#### *Deficit.*

The deficit for 1898 of £3,430 9s. 11d. will be met from the Reserve Fund.

The, on the whole, progressive increase in the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years—as shown in the following table—is due in the case of revenue to improved trade consequent

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on developments in the Protectorate, and in the case of expenditure to the necessary outlay connected with the opening up and proclamation of the Protectorate.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894 ... ..	98,838	93,100
1895 ... ..	97,852	100,248
1896 ... ..	97,109	116,183
1897 ... ..	106,009	111,678
1898 ... ..	117,682	121,112

#### *Taxation.*

It was estimated that the tax would amount to £8,000, and this sum has been more than realized. Owing to interruptions caused by the insurrection, the collection of the tax was not completed until the end of February, by which time, notwithstanding the difficulties of collection and further large exemptions, which were granted in cases of chiefs and their people, whose territory had suffered from the disturbances, it is computed that about £12,000 in coin and produce were paid in, but from this amount must be deducted the value of produce looted by the insurgents, which is estimated at £2,000.

#### *Assets and Liabilities.*

The assets on the 31st December exceeded the liabilities by £15,908 *1s. 2d.*

#### *Public Debt.*

The last instalment of the loan raised in 1871-73 for the wharf at Freetown was paid in June. The authorised Railway Loan for £300,000 has not yet been raised, but £192,200 of the amount has been advanced, up to the 31st December, by the Crown Agents for the construction of the Government Railway, and it is anticipated that the loan will be floated during the current year.

#### *Municipality.*

The Municipality of Freetown was established in 1895, with a council consisting of a mayor and 14 councillors, of whom 3 were appointed by Government, the remainder being elected.

The council have powers, under the Municipal Ordinance, to levy a rate on the rental value of houses, but had not acted on them up to the 31st December; they have, however, passed a resolution to levy a rate during the current year. Up to the present the municipal revenue has been derived from office fees, general trade licenses, market dues, cemetery fees, and a Government grant-in-aid of £1,800 per annum.

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1898.

The total revenue and expenditure for the financial year ending 31st October 1897 and 1898 are as follows :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1897... ..	3,533 19 1	4,135 8 2
1898... ..	3,560 17 3	5,405 0 5

The above figures show that the expenditure for the two years has exceeded the revenue for the same period by £2,445 12s. 3d., but as the council had a balance in hand of £2,109 11s. 6d. on the 31st October to start with, their actual deficit on the 31st October 1898 was £336 0s. 9d.

At the close of the financial year there was a balance of cash-in-hand amounting to £51 4s. 6d., but there were debts due by the municipality amounting to £387 5s. 3d. and further liabilities on account of the construction of the Krootown Market of £211 17s. 6d.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

*Imports and Exports.*

The following table gives the values of imports and exports for the last five years :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1894... ..	478,025	426,499
1895... ..	427,338	452,604
1896... ..	494,688	449,033
1897... ..	457,389	400,748
1898... ..	606,348	290,991

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The value of imports is greatly in excess of previous years. As compared with 1897 larger quantities of military stores, coals, provisions, and specie were imported for the use of the troops and Her Majesty's ships engaged in suppressing the disturbances, but also there has been a large increase in wearing apparel, alcohol, and furniture; on the other hand, there was a great falling off in the importation of beads, cotton goods, and tobacco, articles largely purchased by the natives of the Protectorate. Though the great excess in imports over previous years is mainly due to the importation of government and military stores, &c., on which no duty is paid, the fact that the Customs receipts exceeded those of any previous year since the formation of the Colony tends to show that there has been an increased consumption of dutiable articles by the public.

The following table shows the chief articles on which there has been a decrease or increase as compared with 1897:—

	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£
Aerated and Mineral Waters ... ..	4,085	—
Apparel ... ..	13,353	—
Beads ... ..	—	2,780
Books and Stationery ... ..	4,351	—
Building Materials ... ..	7,829	—
Cartridges and their Cases ... ..	14,693	—
Coals ... ..	20,194	—
Cotton Goods... ..	—	25,338
Furniture ... ..	7,270	—
Geneva ... ..	2,666	—
Machinery ... ..	4,953	—
Military Stores ... ..	13,526	—
Provisions ... ..	10,391	—
Rice ... ..	8,196	—
Rum ... ..	2,089	—
Specie ... ..	39,083	—
Tobacco ... ..	—	8,393
Whiskey and other spirits ... ..	1,229	—

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The following table of imports from the United Kingdom, British Colonies, and Foreign Countries for the last ten years shows that on the whole an increasing trade is done with the United Kingdom and British Colonies as compared with Foreign Countries :—

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Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889 ... ..	210,800	1,110	65,871	227,781
1890 ... ..	248,401	1,628	65,475	315,504
1891 ... ..	286,772	1,980	77,651	366,403
1892 ... ..	332,198	4,814	76,105	413,117
1893 ... ..	325,829	5,543	86,094	417,466
1894 ... ..	381,248	11,012	85,765	478,025
1895 ... ..	336,414	5,755	85,169	427,338
1896 ... ..	403,053	12,452	79,183	494,688
1897 ... ..	377,568	6,097	73,784	457,389
1898 ... ..	512,098	12,733	81,517	606,348

As bearing on the return of imports for the last ten years, given above, the following table, showing the Customs receipts for the last ten years, is interesting :—

Year.	Ad valorem.	Specific.	Other Receipts.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889 ... ..	9,317	39,717	7,445	59,479
1890 ... ..	12,330	41,480	6,507	60,317
1891 ... ..	17,770	52,228	4,429	74,427
1892 ... ..	17,510	51,895	4,564	73,969
1893 ... ..	17,838	54,333	4,211	76,382
1894 ... ..	19,140	60,661	5,007	84,808
1895 ... ..	17,106	65,474	4,939	87,519
1896 ... ..	22,094	52,669	4,565	79,328
1897 ... ..	24,386	58,489	4,218	87,093
1898 ... ..	24,245	60,359	4,919	89,523

SIERRA LEONE. The rise under *ad valorem* duty after the year 1895 is due to an increase in the rate of tariff from 7½ to 10 per cent. brought into operation on the 1st August 1896.

The fall in the receipts from specific duties in 1896 followed by a rise in 1897 is consequent on the increase in the tariff on spirits to 3s. per liquid gallon in January 1896, which caused merchants to previously withdraw spirits from bond in large quantities at the old rate of duty; subsequent demands increased when their stocks became consumed. However, owing to spirits being largely watered down for consumption in the Colony in consequence of the increased tariff, there has not been the proportionate increase in the receipts that was anticipated. Previous to January 1896 the duty on spirits was 3s. on the *proof* gallon and *pro rata* more or less as the spirit imported was above or below proof.

It would appear from the above return, and the two preceding ones, that at least the import trade has not been so adversely affected by the disturbances in the Protectorate as was naturally anticipated, and there has been an actual increase in 1898 in Customs receipts over those in any preceding year; in fact, the Customs receipts have never previously been so high as in last year.

The following is a comparative statement of the value of exports for the last ten years, showing the countries to which exported:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1889 ... ..	131,077	23,992	164,650	319,719
1890 ... ..	147,436	21,043	180,840	349,319
1891 ... ..	218,294	32,177	227,185	477,656
1892 ... ..	195,298	35,245	189,908	420,451
1893 ... ..	166,055	30,480	202,129	398,664
1894 ... ..	196,171	24,873	205,455	426,499
1895 ... ..	206,873	21,792	223,939	452,604
1896 ... ..	203,495	21,895	223,643	449,033
1897 ... ..	188,945	29,234	182,569	400,748
1898 ... ..	117,726	30,948	142,317	290,991

Exports are classified under two heads, viz., African Produce and European Manufactures. The values under these heads for 1898 were respectively £254,467 and £36,524, as against £316,665 and £84,083 for the previous year. As compared with the previous year there was a falling off of 19·6 per cent. in the value of African produce in 1898, and unless the market values have fluctuated considerably it may be assumed that the percentage represents also the proportionate decrease in the quantity of such produce. This falling off was no doubt due for the greater part to the disturbances, but some of it must be attributed to the increased restrictions imposed in French Guinea on exports from that Colony, the chief article of which is rubber.

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#### *Mines.*

There are no existing mines. Plumbago has been worked in the Bagru district of the Protectorate, but not, it would appear, with remunerative results.

There is evidence of the existence of gold-bearing quartz in the Protectorate, but it is doubtful whether the gold is in payable quantities; however this can only be determined after the country has been further prospected.

#### *Manufactures.*

The only manufacture that has been started is that of ice and mineral waters by the West African Manufacturing and Development Company. The necessary plant has been laid down and it is hoped that the industry will be in full operation during the current year.

#### *Fisheries.*

Pearl oysters have been discovered along the coast line in the neighbourhood of Sherbro, but whether in sufficient quantities to make the establishment of a pearl fishery remunerative has not been ascertained.

#### *Agricultural Industries.*

Both Liberian and Sierra Leone coffee are grown; and there are several extensive plantations of the former, and in most gardens may be seen a few coffee trees, but the methods of preparing the berry for the market are crude and in the process it often gets bruised and otherwise injured. Very little coffee is exported but there is a market for home consumption. Its cultivation and preparation will have to be carried out on a more extensive scale and with more scientific appliances than at present



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before it can command a price on the home market, and even then it is a question whether, owing to the expense of labour and production, it will be able to compete with coffee produced in the East Indies and elsewhere. At present its production can hardly be called an industry.

There is a large export trade in kola, which is an indigenous product, and the systematic planting and cultivation of kola trees gives promise of being remunerative; as also the cultivation of the rubber tree, which is also indigenous. At present the proper methods of collecting and preparing rubber for the market are unknown to the natives of the Protectorate, who in their ignorance cut down and destroy the trees and vines in the process of collection, and so crude are their methods of preparation that the value of the rubber is much depreciated.

#### *Botanical Station.*

At the Botanical Station, which is situated in Freetown, every effort is made by the curator to disseminate a knowledge of the culture of economic plants, a large number of which have been obtained from Kew and elsewhere and planted during the year. The station was only opened towards the end of the year 1895, but it has already produced good results in stimulating a desire in the Colony to cultivate economic plants, and an impulse has also been given to agriculture generally by holding agricultural shows, one of which took place in 1898.

It is in contemplation, as soon as the financial condition of the Colony admits, to establish a botanical station in the neighbourhood of Songo Town, with a view to more extensive cultivation of economic plants, and to connect with it a cattle and poultry farm. The native of the Protectorate has very little idea of right methods in rearing cattle.

#### *Fruit Industry.*

The curator is of opinion that fruit might be cultivated for export, such as pines, bananas, oranges, and limes, but the great drawback to such an industry is the want of regular and rapid steamship transport to Europe.

#### *Land Grants.*

In regard to land grants in the Colony the Governor is the authority empowered to grant waste land; all grants of land by the Crown are to contain reservations for roads and other public purposes. The tenure under which the occupation of Crown lands is sanctioned is, in the case of a Crown grant, fee simple.

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but occupation is also sanctioned under a squatter's license at a nominal rent, which tenure would be in the nature of a tenancy at will.

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Under Ordinance No. 14 of 1886, real and personal property may be taken, acquired, held, and disposed of by any alien in the same manner in all respects as by natural born British subjects.

In the Peninsula and Isle de Los, town or village lots are to contain from three thousand to six thousand square feet with a frontage on the street of not less than fifty feet; country lands not less than twenty acres or more than two hundred.

In Sherbro, town or village lots are to contain three thousand seven hundred and fifty square feet, or have a frontage of fifty feet and a depth of seventy-five feet.

*Value of Land.*

In the Peninsula and Isle de Los, town or village lots are sold by public auction at an upset price of twenty shillings; suburban, at an upset price of ten shillings; and country lands at an upset price of four shillings and twopence per acre.

At Sherbro, town lots are sold in such manner as the Governor may direct; suburban lots at an upset price of ten shillings; and country lands at an upset price of eight shillings.

There are no conditions regulating the re-sale of lands granted by the Crown.

The question of land grants in the Protectorate is still unsettled.

*Shipping.*

The total number and tonnage of sailing and steam vessels entered at ports in the Colony during the year 1898 were:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels ... ..	141	5,082
Steam do. ... ..	372	551,830
Total ... ..	513	556,912

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The number and tonnage of vessels cleared were :—

	Number.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels ... ..	125	4,924
Steam do. ... ..	368	548,392
Total ... ..	493	553,316

The aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1898 was : steam vessels, 1,100,222 ; sailing vessels, 10,006 ; giving a total of 1,110,228.

Subjoined is a comparative table of tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the last ten years :—

Year.	Tonnage of Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage of Steam Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
1889 ... ..	20,286	568,885	589,171
1890 ... ..	27,242	652,257	679,509
1891 ... ..	28,535	813,988	842,523
1892 ... ..	23,675	777,020	800,695
1893 ... ..	26,481	720,031	746,512
1894 ... ..	21,860	940,186	962, 46
1895 ... ..	21,584	1,000,286	1,021,870
1896 ... ..	22,102	1,054,158	1,076,260
1897 ... ..	16,002	1,068,743	1,084,745
1898 ... ..	10,006	1,100,222	1,110,228

It will be observed that in the last ten years the aggregate tonnage of vessels that entered and cleared at the port has gradually increased to nearly double the tonnage in 1889. This is due to more lines of steamers having, from its increased importance, made Sierra Leone a port of call, and the two lines

of African Steamship Companies having increased their fleets as well as the size of their steamers. It is to be noted, on the other hand, that the tonnage of sailing vessels has diminished by more than one-half during the last decade.

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III.—LEGISLATION.

There were 39 Ordinances passed during 1898, as against 17 in the previous year.

The principal measures passed are as follows :—

No. 2. An Ordinance for raising a further sum of one hundred and fifty thousand pounds for the construction and equipment of a railway from Songo Town to Rotifunk. This was necessary to enable the Government to continue the Sierra Leone Railway into the Protectorate, the first £150,000 authorized to be raised being only sufficient to carry the line as far as Songo Town, which is on the border of the Colony.

No. 13. An Ordinance to organize and establish a Volunteer Force in the Colony of Sierra Leone. This measure was considered necessary for the time being, in order to provide for the defence of the Colony owing to the insurrection in the Protectorate and the consequent necessity for sending most of the regular troops to the front. The force was disbanded by Proclamation dated the 15th September, after the suppression of the insurrection.

No. 14. An Ordinance to empower the Governor to apprehend and detain such persons as he shall suspect of conspiring against Her Majesty's Government. This was necessary owing to the insurrection which at the time existed in the Protectorate and some parts of the Colony.

No. 17. An Ordinance to regulate the law relating to the carrying and possession of arms and ammunition for the preservation of the public peace in the Protectorate. This was passed owing to the insurrection in the Protectorate.

No. 19. An Ordinance to authorize the inspection of stores and other places in which firearms, ammunition, and gunpowder may be kept under "The Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder Ordinance, 1892." This was considered desirable, as there was no provision for inspection under existing law.

No. 21. An Ordinance to confer certain powers on the Commissioner appointed by Her Majesty to inquire into an insurrection of natives in the British Protectorate adjacent to the Colony of Sierra Leone, and generally into the state of affairs in the said Colony and Protectorate. This Ordinance was necessary to enable Sir D. P. Chalmers, the Commissioner so appointed, to carry on his inquiry.

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No. 26. An Ordinance to further amend "The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1881." This was passed in order to provide for sittings of the Supreme Court for the trial of criminal offences arising within the Protectorate of Sierra Leone at such places in the Colony or Protectorate and at such times as shall be duly appointed, and also for the trial of cases in the Protectorate by the Court and Assessors, and further it provides for the expression "Court" including a Deputy Judge thereof, and for the appointment of a Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Master.

No. 34. An Ordinance to incorporate the chapter of the cathedral church of St. George at Freetown in the Colony of Sierra Leone, to vest the said cathedral in the said chapter, and for other purposes in connection therewith. This was necessary owing to the revocation of Letters Patent dated May 22nd 1852, under which prior Bishops of Sierra Leone were appointed, and to enable the Government to hand over the cathedral to a cathedral chapter.

No. 38. An Ordinance to establish a force of natives of West Africa within the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone, and to provide for its discipline. This regiment was organized this year under authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies and in conjunction with the War Office.

#### IV.—EDUCATION.

##### *Primary Education.*

The number of schools inspected and "visited" was 69, as against 72 last year; of these 69 schools, 33 are Church of England, 19 Wesleyan, 8 United Methodist Free Churches, 3 Countess of Huntingdon, 2 Roman Catholic, and 4 others.

The number of children present at these inspections was 6,852, as against 7,312 in previous year, viz., 3,813 boys and 3,39 girls out of 8,679 on the registers.

The school income for the year from all sources is £5,258 10s. 5½*d.* This is £505 18s. 11¾*d.* over the preceding year.

The expenditure is £5,009 19s. 11½*d.*, an increase of £550 13s. 7*d.* over last year. This amount includes the cost of building (*i.e.*, Kissy Wesleyan School and Bathurst Street Infant School Extension).

Taking the amounts as they stand, they show that the various denominations raised an income about 17s. 3*d.* per head and spent 16s. 6*d.* per child.

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The amounts received from the various sources are :—

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	1896 7.	1897-8.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Government Grants-in-aid ... ..	1,343 10 3½	1,498 12 9
School Fees ... ..	907 6 8	898 9 9
Class Collections ... ..	731 5 3½	793 3 7½
Voluntary Subscriptions ... ..	171 6 5½	615 1 11½
Society Grants ... ..	1,249 0 4½	1,034 1 1
Miscellaneous ... ..	68 19 7½	33 12 9½
Balance from previous year ... ..	260 14 3½	394 8 5½
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£ 4,732 3 0</b>	<b>5,267 10 5½</b>

The amount of grants-in-aid earned by the assisted schools for all the subjects for which grants are allowed was £1,439 0s. 10d., as against £1,444 8s. 2d. in previous year, showing a decrease of £5 7s. 4d. as follows :—

	Grants-in-aid, 1897.	Grants-in-aid, 1898.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Church of England ... ..	584 19 8	600 14 0
Wesleyan ... ..	403 8 3	493 4 0
U. M. F. Churches ... ..	168 15 3	153 13 8
Countess of Huntingdon ... ..	54 0 6	12 15 0
Roman Catholic ... ..	98 17 6	89 6 4
Wilberforce Street ... ..	52 9 3	—
Other Schools ... ..	82 7 9	99 7 3
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£ 1,444 18 2</b>	<b>1,439 0 3</b>

The above returns relate to primary education, which is of a very non-progressive character, both as regards the standard, which is very low, and the number of children under instruction.

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For the first three months of 1899, apparently the wettest season of the year, the rainfall registered shows 43·78 inches, as against 65·95 for the same three months of 1898. More extended observations are necessary before an annual average can be ascertained; but the observations already made will show that the Protectorate is not at all likely to suffer from want of rain.

I append a statement copied from my rain register, together with some records previously obtained:—

OBSERVATIONS OF RAINFALL IN SOLOMON ISLANDS  
IN INCHES.

1882 at Santa Anna.		1882 at Ugi.	
Month.	Inches.	Month.	Inches.
November ... ..	7·60	October ... ..	10·68
December ... ..	13·96	November ... ..	10·16
		December ... ..	9·57
	21·56		30·41
1883 at Santa Anna.		1883 at Ugi.	
Month.	Inches.	Month.	Inches.
January ... ..	5·23	January ... ..	13·46
February ... ..	9·63	February ... ..	13·89
March ... ..	4·40	March ... ..	10·02
April ... ..	14·96	April ... ..	23·28
May ... ..	11·28	May ... ..	6·39
June ... ..	26·88	June ... ..	12·83
July ... ..	18·61	July ... ..	24·60
August... ..	11·74	August ... ..	15·76
September ... ..	4·81	September ... ..	7·31
October ... ..	5·68	October ... ..	5·15
November ... ..	6·57	November ... ..	5·30
December ... ..	5·24	December ... ..	8·20
	125·03		146·24

OBSERVATIONS OF RAINFALL AT GOVERNMENT STATION, TULAGI, IN INCHES.

	1897.			1898.			1899.		
	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.	Inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in one day.
January ... ..	—	—	—	9·51	18	1·98	14·27	27	2·42
February ... ..	—	—	—	28·55	21	3·72	12·04	19	3·45
March ... ..	—	—	—	27·89	22	4·93	17·47	20	4·15
April ... ..	—	—	—	6·67	19	1·85	—	—	—
May... ..	—	—	—	4·19	18	1·02	—	—	—
June ... ..	—	—	—	4·86	15	·87	—	—	—
July ... ..	—	—	—	4·86	23	1·11	—	—	—
August ... ..	—	—	—	9·94	24	2·89	—	—	—
September ... ..	—	—	—	10·58	18	2·70	—	—	—
October ... ..	2·91	8	1·17	10·23	18	2·76	—	—	—
November ... ..	5·66	17	1·17	21·14	22	4·50	—	—	—
December ... ..	11·03	18	1·98	8·97	22	1·41	—	—	—
	19·60	43	—	147·39	240	—	43·78	66	—

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### 13. WORK ON THE GOVERNMENT STATION AT TULAGI.

Work at the Government Station has steadily progressed since the date of my last report.

The boat-house and landing stage then in course of construction were shortly afterwards finished. A way, with rollers, has been laid down for hauling up and launching the boat.

Another house, destined at present for occupation by my assistant, has been completed and is now ready for occupation.

No paid white labour has been employed in the execution of these works, everything having been done by myself with the assistance of prison labour.

All buildings, boats, and other Government property are in good order, and sufficient materials (except timber) are in stock to maintain them in the same condition.

Planting and clearing operations have been vigorously proceeded with during the year.

A swamp of about an acre and a half, near the landing place, has been cleared of mangrove, and drains have been cut through it admitting the salt water at high tide; but it is proposed gradually to fill it up above high-water mark. Coco-nuts have been planted in it wherever possible.

An area of particularly fine coco-nut land, on the south side of the island, has been cleared of heavy timber, and an area of about thirty acres is now ready for planting. Seven acres have been already planted, and the remainder will be planted as soon as the plant nuts are ready.

In planting, I am using only the best selected nuts, and they are set out as soon as the sprout appears, thus obviating a second removal.

The trees are planted 33 feet apart, a system which gives 40 trees to the acre.

I am no believer in forecasts of agricultural results, as I have seen them so often falsified by events, but judging from the produce of existing plantations here, the return from these nuts in five or six years' time should be worth at least £5 per acre per annum.

A further area of similar land is available, and work will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

Of the area under bananas, sweet potatoes, and "panas" (a species of yam), the two former are giving good returns. The latter are almost ready to dig, but so much native food is at present being brought for sale that I propose to defer digging them for the present.

The experimental plantations of coffee and cocoa are in a thriving condition, and the former is bearing.

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A cutting of ceara rubber, planted in August 1897, has grown into a tree fifteen feet in height, with a stem six inches in diameter.

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The total area at present under cultivation may be set down as about 60 acres.

The following is a list of trees or plants at present under cultivation at the Government Station:—

*Industrial, Food, and Fruit Plants.*

Bermuda arrowroot.	Lemon.
Sugar cane.	Lime.
Papau ( <i>Carica papaga</i> ).	Pumpkin.
Orange (Mandarin).	Water melon.
"    (Paramatta).	Tomato.
Egg fruit ( <i>Solanum</i> ).	Yam (2 varieties).
Granadilla ( <i>Passiflora</i> ).	Cassava.
China beans.	Chili pepper.
Piper betel.	Capsicum.
Piper methisticum.	Custard apple.
Areca palm.	Pine apple.
Coco-nut palm.	Coffee (4 varieties).
Sago palm.	Cocoa.
Banana (4 varieties).	Ginger (Jamaica).
Taro ( <i>Caladium esculentum</i> ).	Cinnamon.
Tamarind.	Mangosteen.
Vanilla.	Sweet potato.
Turmeric (2 varieties).	Ceara rubber.
Agava rigida.	Ficus elastica.
Foureroya gigantea.	Tobacco.

*Ornamental.*

Coleus.	Orchids— <i>cont.</i>
Dracœna (varieties).	Local species (15).
Bougainvillea.	Frangipani.
Alamanda (2 varieties).	Gardemia florida.
Eucharis Amazonica.	Celosia.
Amaryllis (varieties).	Hibiscus (5 varieties).
Canna (4 varieties).	Phlox (3 varieties).
Caladium (2 varieties).	Taxonia manicata.
A malvacious shrub?	Ixora.
Lagerstroemia ovata.	Anthurium crystallinum.
Clerodendron.	Crinum Moorei.
Adiantum farleyense.	Crotons (various).
Lygodium (2 species).	Mignonette.
Orchids:—	Palms (5 species).
Cypripedium barbatum.	Poinciana regia.
Dendrobium spectabile	&c.

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#### 14. VISITS OF WAR SHIPS.

During the season of 1898, the Protectorate was visited by H.M. Ships "Mohawk" and "Goldfinch." Both ships, among other duties, were engaged in proclaiming the extension of the Protectorate over the Santa Cruz group and adjacent islands, as previously reported. This period of duty in the Protectorate extended from May 6th, when the "Mohawk" arrived, to October 23rd, when the "Goldfinch" finally left for the season, or a period of nearly six months.

Commander Freeman, of the "Mohawk," investigated and dealt with the case of the attack upon the trader Pascal Jean Prat, and at Simbo arrested an important chief of that island for a most blood-thirsty murder of 10 native women during a head-hunting raid.

The arrest, and subsequent detention pending trial, of this man at the Government Station, has produced a most excellent effect among the natives of the western portion of the Protectorate where the practice of head-hunting prevails.

From Lieut. Commander Leggatt, of H.M.S. "Goldfinch," I received most valuable assistance in administering punishment to the natives of Ugi, for repeated acts of theft from the local trader. The punishment, although of a very mild character, has produced the desired result, and not only have no further complaints been received, but on a recent visit to Ugi, I was informed by the trader that the behaviour of the natives since my former visit had been satisfactory, and that they had brought in a large quantity of copra for sale.

The French warship "Eure" paid a short visit to the Protectorate, to visit the newly established mission station of the Marist Fathers at Rua Sura; and the German warship "Falke" is reported to have made a brief call at the Island of "Sikiana" while on a voyage to the German Solomons.

#### 15. PRISONS.

The number of prisoners under detention at the Government Station during the year has been twenty-one (21). Of these, the majority were minor cases under the local native code established by me in 1898 for the island of Gela or Florida.

A native of Ulawa is serving a sentence of three years for manslaughter; a "boat's crew" of a labour ship, a native of San Christoval, a sentence of six months, in addition to a fine, for aiding in the illegal introduction of fire-arms, and a Frenchman a sentence of six months for theft.

A native of Simbo is under detention, pending trial, for murder.

A Fijian half caste was detained for some months on a charge of murdering a white man by administering corrosive sublimate in a cup of tea in January 1898, but was discharged for want of evidence to support the charge.

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A native of Savo was brought to me charged with causing the death of another Savo native by means of witchcraft. After investigation the man was discharged.

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A native of Guadalcanar, who was arrested by the natives themselves and brought to me on an alleged charge of murder, which upon investigation I came to the conclusion he was not concerned in, refuses to leave the Government Station, being probably afraid to return home, and remains here at will.

#### 16. GENERAL.

During the year almost every island in the Solomons (proper) has been visited either by myself or by Mr. Mahaffy, my assistant.

The latter proceeded in June to the Western part of the Protectorate in H.M.S. "Mohawk," and was present when punishment was inflicted upon the natives of Billowa, on Vella Lavella, for an attack upon the trader Pascal Jean Prat in the previous November. Mr. Mahaffy left the "Mohawk" at the island of Simbo. From there he proceeded in Mr. Prat's schooner on a voyage through the Western Islands, including Treasury Island, returning to Tulagi from Rubiana in August. The account of his voyage, embodied in a very valuable and interesting report, has been already communicated. It relates largely to the subject of head-hunting raids. Mr. Mahaffy again visited Simbo in H.M.S. "Goldfinch" at a later date.

In September, accompanied by two native policemen, I visited the island of Ulawa, being courteously conveyed thither in the Melanesian Mission steamer "Southern Cross," for the purpose of arresting a native charged with killing his father.

Having arrested my prisoner I had to spend a week on the island, there being no means of getting away; and I at last left in a boat for Ugi. Here I was again detained a week, while a cutter belonging to the local trader was being repaired; and another prisoner, whom I had arrested for theft, escaped, after being five days in custody, by filing off his handcuffs. I eventually left Ugi for Marau Sound, on Guadalcanar, in the above mentioned cutter, and after being three days at sea I met H.M.S. "Goldfinch" and returned in her to Ugi, where, with the assistance of Lieut. Commander Leggatt, I administered punishment to the natives for repeated acts of theft.

I have also visited the island of Santa Anna, where I temporarily arrested a man for illtreating his wife; the island of San Christoval once; Savo has been visited four or five times, and the north coast of Guadalcanar several times. The island of Malaita has been visited in several places by Mr. Mahaffy on board either the "Mohawk" or "Goldfinch," and once by myself.

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In November 1898 I made an expedition occupying seven days into the interior of the island of Guadalcanar, from the south coast, with the object of ascending the high peak of Mount Lammas, stated to be 8,008 feet high. The bush natives met with were at first extremely shy, but eventually very friendly. An account of this journey is herewith enclosed. The topographical information obtained during the trip has been forwarded to Admiral Sir William Wharton, the Hydrographer at the Admiralty.

EXPEDITION TO MOUNTAINS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE  
ISLAND OF GUADALCANAR.

The following is an account of an expedition undertaken by myself, accompanied by Mr. Svensen of Marau, with the view of ascending the high central mountain range of Guadalcanar, of which Mount Lammas, stated by Captain Denham, of H.M.S. "Herald," to be 8,008 feet high, and to be situated in latitude  $9^{\circ}44'$  S. and longitude  $160^{\circ}$  E., has generally been supposed to be the highest.

The expedition failed in its main object for several reasons, the first being that it was uncertain which peak really was Mount Lammas, secondly that the Mount Lammas of Captain Denham is incorrectly placed upon the chart, thirdly that the peak which I suppose to be the Mount Lammas of Denham and Shortland is not the highest peak upon Guadalcanar, the neighbouring conspicuous mountain range of Kavo being certainly several hundred feet higher, and lastly, because it was found impossible, with the resources at our disposal, to carry sufficient food for an absence from the coast of more than one week, going and coming.

The expedition, such as it was, however, may be considered an entire success. The natives met with although at first extremely shy were eventually most friendly, and this, it must not be forgotten, in a district only a very few miles distant from the place where the Austrian expedition, belonging to the warship "Albatros," was attacked with such unfortunate results in 1896, the facts of which were well known to the bush natives with whom we came in contact.

The botanical results of the trip proved to be not altogether devoid of interest, and tend to show that the conditions at an altitude of from about 4,000 feet to 6,000 feet in the Solomons are much the same as those encountered by Sir William Macgregor in New Guinea at similar altitudes.

The experience gained on the present expedition will make it easy to achieve the ascent of the Kavo range at a future time; in fact, except for the want of food, we could have reached Kavo in about another day and a half from the point where we turned back. Leaving Tulagi, the Government Station, on the morning of November 11th in Mr. Svensen's schooner the "Sikiana," we

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reached the island of Savo the same afternoon, and anchored for the night. Departing from Savo the next day, we arrived and anchored in Wanderer Bay, on the S.W. coast of Guadalcanar, on the morning of November 13th.

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It was at this place that Mr. Benjamin Boyd was murdered about the year 1853, and the bay is named after his yacht the "Wanderer."

An old native pointed out to me on the return from our trip—for I was careful not to refer to the matter before—the place where the murder actually took place.

As soon as we dropped anchor a message was sent to the chief Pauro, who is a man of considerable influence both among the coast dwellers and those living in the bush in this neighbourhood, and he arrived on board during the afternoon. Mr. Svensen, on a previous visit, had sounded him upon the practicability of a mountain expedition, and, upon his arrival, he at once expressed his willingness to accompany us.

Our plans having been previously talked over, it was arranged to leave the schooner at anchor at Wanderer Bay in charge of Mr. Svensen's mate until our return.

We therefore started the following morning, November 14th, at daylight, in a boat and one canoe for the village of Veuvu close to Cape Hunter. The party consisted of myself, Mr. Svensen, two white men of Mr. Svensen's crew, two of my native police, five San Christoval natives in Mr. Svensen's employment, with the chief Pauro and one of his men.

We reached Veuvu about 9 o'clock, and rested about two hours for breakfast and to arrange the loads each was to carry.

The boat and canoe were left here until our return in care of the local chief Baumate.

A message was sent to a native who was said to know the mountain district well, as he had been in the habit of going there to hunt for opossums (cuscus). He arrived after some delay, having been summoned from his garden, and expressed his readiness to accompany us.

Leaving Veuvu about 11 o'clock, we climbed by a very steep track to the top of the spur forming the point of Cape Hunter, from which we had an equally steep descent to the mouth of the Ithina river on the east side of Cape Hunter.

The view as we descended the eastern slope of the Cape Hunter spur was remarkable. To the eastward stretched a long straight pebble beach of about four miles in extent, strewn with a regular streak of what, from our elevation, looked like matchwood or small white sticks, but which, on a closer examination, proved to be the trunks of enormous trees, evidently carried down by the Ithina River in flood time, and washed up for miles upon the beach by the action of the surf.

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Some of these trees must have been quite six feet in diameter, and nearly a hundred feet long. The Ithina is, perhaps, the largest river on the south coast of Guadalcanar, and drains the whole of the district which it was our fortune afterwards to visit, its head waters coming from the southern slopes of the Kavo range. It has numerous tributaries, some of which we crossed, and the volume of water carried by it must, in times of heavy rain, be something enormous, as we noticed flood marks many feet above the levels at which we were fortunate enough to cross them.

The exit of the river is through a gap in the pebble beach, which probably shifts during the S.E. and N.W. seasons.

Inside the beach is a large fresh water lagoon, said by the natives to be infested with sharks and crocodiles.

We found a few fishing huts at the mouth of the river, and the natives ferried our party over one at a time in two very crazy and leaky canoes. The passage of the whole party occupied nearly an hour, and we then continued our walk to the eastward along the beach for about three miles to some native huts, just short of the village of Bolonda.

Here we stopped for the night, the natives supplying us with a pig and some roots of taro, upon which our people feasted.

The following morning, November 15th, we started at daylight, and reached Bolonda soon after six.

We had been here joined, temporarily, by three or four other natives, and, shortly before reaching Bolonda, one of them drew my attention to some large boulders of clayey sandstone on the beach, in which he pointed out a narrow seam of what was, apparently, coal. He told me that it would burn like the fuel used on board steamers. I determined to test it on our return, but unfortunately the boulder in question had been then broken up by the action of the surf, and, although I picked up two or three lumps of a black coal-like looking stone, I was unable to get them to burn in a fire. The occurrence of coal in this locality has been already reported.\*

The village of Bolonda, although at one time an important place, we found entirely, but evidently only recently, deserted; and we were told that the natives had moved some distance inland.

From here we struck into the bush. Following a very steep and rocky track in a north-easterly direction, we came in about two miles to the village of Warigalia, where we halted for breakfast.

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\* I have since ascertained from Mr. T. H. Switzer, at present master of the labour schooner "Sybil," that he made a report of the occurrence of coal in this locality. He informs me that some samples brought to him by natives living at the mouth of the Ithina River burnt readily upon the application of a match.

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Here our opossum-hunting guide, whom we had obtained from Veuvu, said he could go no further, as he was sick.

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He was accordingly left behind, but, through Pauro's influence, we obtained two other men, one of whom remained with us until our return.

From this village we had a fine view westward over the estuary of the Ithina towards Cape Hunter and the land towards Wanderer Bay.

Leaving Warigalia we proceeded in a northerly direction, the land rising all the time to a height of 1,600 feet, until we came to a sharp descent of about 500 feet leading down to the Kolondoma River, a tributary of the Ithina, running to the westward through a rocky gorge to the westward.

[NOTE.—The prefix "Kolo" is frequently met with applied to the names of rivers in the interior of Guadalcanar. I met with many such instances during my previous trips in the mountains from Aola during the years 1886 to 1888, and from a bush tribe living near the head waters of the Kobua River I obtained the information that it signified "water." I am not aware that it is so used at present by any of the coast people, but it also occurs as a compound word in the language of Rubiana, where the natives told me the word for "salt water" was "Kolohokara," "fresh water" being "lena," and there is a small island in the Rubiana lagoon containing a well of fresh water which is known as "Kolohiti."]

This we had to cross and re-cross three or four times, but as the water was low it presented no great difficulty; and then we struck into a very steep native track leading up a spur trending in a northerly direction. Foot holes were cut in the rock, and rattans were placed in position to aid the ascent but they were in very bad condition and the track seemed to be very little used.

At about noon we halted at a height of 2,500 feet for lunch. Already we had begun to enter the region of ferns and moss. The stems of the trees and the ground were covered with a luxuriant mossy growth, but not so dense as we afterwards met with. I noticed many terrestrial orchids of several species, but nothing of a striking nature. Here, too, I met with a beautiful foliage plant, "anectochilus" sp., which has already been recorded from elsewhere upon Guadalcanar. Everything was moist and spongy, and rain now set in, continuing all the afternoon. We arrived, about 3 p.m., at the so-called village of Rambubu. This consisted of two huts, and appeared to be only used by natives when cultivating some rather fertile taro gardens in the vicinity.

Here we found about eight natives, men and women, who did not appear to be best pleased to see us, and at first sulked persistently; but Pauro having told them that we had come to stay,



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and that one of the huts must be given up to us, for which they would be well paid, they eventually relaxed, and provided our boys with some most excellent taro.

The rain continued to descend in torrents, and we were all in a state of greater or less discomfort. The temperature was quite chilly, the thermometer being down to 70°. The aneroid gave the altitude about 2,700 feet.

About five o'clock the rain fortunately ceased, and we were able to inspect our surroundings. We had a fine view of the mountains to the westward as far as the western part of the island, whilst on our right the sharp peak of Legombi was very conspicuous.

Immediately in front of us, but far below, was the gorge of the Teremalenga River, a tributary of the Ithina, taking its origin at the foot of the high mountain of Popomanasiu, from which it came through a deep rocky cleft by a fine fall of perhaps 400 feet.

From Legombi, on our right, the mountains shut us in in a horse-shoe formation as far as north-east. The names of the peaks and their bearings from Rambubu being as follows:—Legombi, 112°; Kuruvembau, 74°; Popomanasiu, 65°; Bulamarau, 56°; Paguruguru, 43°; and Tasambara, 34°.

The high range of Kavo was hidden behind Popomanasiu.

Of these Popomanasiu was certainly the highest, and it lay in the direction of the Kavo range. We thought it probable that we might find a saddle connecting it on the north side with the Kavo range, as appears to be the case from a distant view taken from the north side of the island. In this hope, however, we were mistaken.

The top of this mountain has two low summits, which, from some fanciful resemblance to inverted coco-nut shells, have earned the mountain its name, which means "the food bowl and the drinking cup." The natives sometimes refer to it as Siunanapopo, which, of course, means "the drinking cup and the food bowl." This mountain, then, we decided to climb the following day.

The people of Rambubu having cleared out the larger of the two huts for our accommodation, we made ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night.

Shortly before dark a young native arrived from the village of Taringa, situated on the opposite side of the Teremalenga gorge. He had been summoned by signals blown on conch shells after our arrival at Rambubu, and was said to have a good knowledge of the mountains. The spears carried by these bush natives are short and stout, about 7 feet in length, and are used as aids in climbing as well as for purposes of offence.

Next morning, November 16th, leaving the two white men and some of our natives at Rambubu, Mr. Svensen and I, with nine natives, continued on towards Popomanasiu.

From the village we had first a very steep descent of 1,100 feet to the crossing of the Teremalenga River, which we forded just above a fine waterfall named Namugade.

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Fortunately the river was comparatively low. Ropes of rattan were stretched from side to side to assist people in crossing, which afforded a none too secure hold. The river was encumbered with large boulders over which the water broke, making it difficult to know where to place one's feet, and, just below, the waterfall was waiting ready for anyone who might get into difficulties. I considered that I was fortunate in getting over without getting my instruments wet.

From the river we rose again, equally steeply, through some patches of taro cultivation. The slopes on which the taro was planted are so steep that they had to bank the soil up with stones and trunks of trees to prevent it washing away.

At one place the track passed under a waterfall, which shot out clear several feet from the face of the cliff from which it fell.

About ten o'clock we met some natives of the village of Taringa working in their gardens, and made a short halt on the slope of Paiguruguru, at an altitude of 2,400 feet.

Proceeding on again, we followed a track leading in an easterly direction on to a spur, which brought us to the top of Paiguruguru at an altitude of 4,400 feet.

At this altitude it was already pleasantly cool, the thermometer standing at 68°, and walking was rendered much pleasanter. We were now in a district where probably it rains every day in the year. The trunks and boughs of the trees were festooned with long trails of moss and lichen, while the ground was simply carpeted with the most beautiful ferns and mosses, into which one sank to the knees as into a sponge.

Here I noticed for the first time a singular climbing bamboo with a habit of growth like a rattan cane. I believe a similar species, probably identical, has been noticed in British New Guinea. I noticed, among the roots of the trees, some large holes, evidently used by some animal, and was told by our natives that they were the holes of the gigantic bush rat, "mus imperator," a species discovered by me some years ago, and, so far as is known, peculiar to this island. It is the largest species of rat known. A male specimen, now in the Natural History Museum, measured from head to point of tail within a fraction of two feet long. I was told that the natives come here occasionally to hunt for them with dogs. The track which up to mid-day had been moderately well defined, now became rather uncertain, but we continued along the ridge in an easterly and north-easterly direction, descending slightly. We were evidently on the saddle joining Paiguruguru and Bulamarau, but the bush was too thick to get a bearing of any value.

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During the afternoon, we had two hours rain, and we were all thoroughly well drenched when we decided to camp about 5 p.m., on the top of the saddle, and just at the base of what we, at the time, supposed was Popomanasiu, but which we found out afterwards was Bulamarau.

Just before we reached the camping place, my attention was directed by the natives to some seedlings of a species of *dacrydium* resembling the Norfolk Island pine. The roots were growing in the mossy carpet where the seeds had fallen, and had not yet reached the soil. The native name is "tumbolu." I found, by searching, some mature trees, but was unable to find the fruit cone. I was fortunate enough to establish some of these seedlings in pots after my return, and two of them reached the Botanical Gardens in Sydney in good condition. I also noticed several specimens of an extremely handsome palm growing, with a straight stem, to a height of about 60 feet. The roots were partly aerial, and reminded me of the Fijian species *kentia exoriza*. It was probably a *kentia* or *areca*, but I was unable to procure seeds in ripe condition.

Two huts roofed with tree fern and other leaves were quickly constructed, and having made fires and cooked some rice and tinned meat for the party, we made ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night.

Fortunately there was neither rain nor wind, and a fairly comfortable night was passed, there being nothing to disturb us but the incessant croaking of the frogs, the murmur of the stream near which we had camped, and other innumerable and inexplicable noises always to be heard on even the stillest night in the bush.

Close to our huts I had noticed two strange looking cylindrical holes in the ground. These were about three feet in diameter, and about the same in depth. The natives told me they were the holes made by wild dogs, and that a pack of about sixty used formerly to frequent the mountain. They were said to hunt in company, and had been known to attack and kill men. Some time ago the natives organised a hunting party and either killed or dispersed them. I afterwards came upon more of these dog holes, some of which were enlarged at the bottom like an inverted funnel. The following morning, November 17th, as soon as we had had breakfast, Mr. Svensen and myself with two natives started for the top of Popomanasiu, which we believed we could reach in an hour, leaving the remainder of the party in camp. There was no track, but the bush was a little less dense, but still covered with the growth of moss, if possible thicker than what we had passed through the day before.

We had not gone far when we discovered that we were upon the mountain of Balumarau, and not, as we supposed, upon Popomanasiu, so we sent back one of the natives we had with us to bring on the party we had left in camp.

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Before they overtook us, we reached the top of Balumarau, which I made by aneroid to be a little over 5,000 feet, the thermometer at 9 a.m. standing at 64°, and the air being particularly dry and bracing, while the moss-covered trees were less like sponges. It is probable that the actual summits of these mountains do not receive so much rain as their slopes. It is a common thing, from a distance, to see the peaks clear and clouds enveloping the slopes.

While resting on the rocky top of the mountain, the rest of our followers joined us. We at once continued our route, following the top of the razor back connecting Bulamarau and Popomanasiu, which now towered right above us, and commenced the ascent.

There was, of course, no track, and walking was very difficult on account of the network of climbing bamboos and interlacing tree roots through which we had to cut or force a way.

I noticed some extremely pretty orchids, both terrestrial and epiphytical, one especially of a mauve colour growing on the branches of low trees. Some of these I successfully transported to Sydney.

After a hard day's work we reached the highest point we could see about 3 p.m., but as the trees, although not high, were very thick, we were unable to get an extended view of our surroundings. We accordingly directed our boys to make a clearing on the top of the mountain, in order to get a better idea of our position. Unfortunately, about 3.30, down came the rain again, and we were once more enveloped in mist and clouds.

We worked away, however, cutting trees until 5 o'clock, and then the natives set about building huts for the night, the rain having gradually ceased.

As the clouds rolled away from the slopes to the north of us, we at last began to get an idea of our position.

Immediately at our feet the mountain dropped steeply down for a distance of probably 3,000 feet to the valley of the Ithina River, and rose again on the opposite side to the great Kavo range, which is undoubtedly the highest point on Guadalcanar.

The long ridge of the top, stretching to the westward, appeared quite close to us and was probably not more than three miles distant in a direct line, but the descent from our position, and ascent again on the other side to reach the range, through bush where every step would have to be cut, would have taken us at least two days' work. I took notice of two or three leading spurs on the opposite side of the valley by which the top of the range might have been reached, but I was disappointed in not finding any sort of a saddle connecting Popomanasiu with the Kavo range.

Through a small depression in the top of the range I was fortunate enough to get a bearing of the top of the island of Savo,

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distant 40 miles, which bore  $336^{\circ}$  from our position, and by climbing a low tree I was able to see the Russell Island Archipelago, the central point bearing  $299^{\circ}$ , the islands of which appeared with all the distinctness of a map, although they were distant more than 60 miles.

The eastern peak of the Kavo range bore  $12^{\circ}$ , east of that everything was shrouded in mist; and I was disappointed in not getting any view of the islands of Gela or Malaita, or even of the conspicuous rocky peak of the Lion's Head, which I knew could not be more than a very few miles distant. Behind us to the S.E. and S. everything was shut out from view by the thick bush.

While the natives were preparing food I boiled the thermometer, and found that we were at an altitude of very nearly 6,000 feet.

After dinner we proceeded to make ourselves as comfortable as might be for the night, although we were all wet through, and I was shivering with cold, the thermometer being down to  $59^{\circ}$ .

Fortunately there was no rain during the night, and the atmosphere was so still that a candle would have burnt unprotected. In the morning we all felt equal to another day's climbing, but now the food difficulty stood in our way. We had economised as much as possible, but we had now been away from the ship four days, and we expected to have been back again in that time.

For breakfast there was half a biscuit, and a cup of weak soup made of a handful of rice and the rinsings of the tins, per man.

We then considered what was to be done. We had only partly attained our object. Pauro, the old chief who had accompanied us from Wanderer Bay, said to me in excellent Fijian, "Never mind Sir, day or night, food or no food, if you say we are to go to Kavo we will go." Having taken everything into consideration, however, Mr. Svensen and I decided to return. Before starting we cut down a few more trees to see if we could get a more extended view, but the clouds, as before, shrouded everything to the east of north. To the westward it was clear and we got bearings of the peaks above Tiaro and Veisali, but even the Kavo range was this morning shrouded in cloud. We found now that we were not exactly on the top of Popomanasiu, but that the actual summit was about a quarter of a mile eastward and perhaps 300 feet higher than our position, but we decided that with a long day's work before us, it was not worth while to go any further. So, about seven o'clock, we began the return journey. We returned the way we came, and not having now to cut our track we, of course, made better progress.

We reached our previous camping place about 11 o'clock, and from there sent on one of the natives to meet us at the crossing

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of the Teremalenga River with some cooked native food. About noon the rain came down again in torrents, and we reached the river in such a state that it made no difference whether we got wetter or not. We had some difficulty in crossing, as the river had risen about two feet since our previous passage, and was still rising. By the aid of the rattan ropes we at last all got over, and then fell upon the meal of cooked taro which had been prepared for us, and which we sorely needed. The climb of 1,100 feet up to the village of Rambubu was not the least fatiguing part of the day's work, but we reached the village at last, about five o'clock, where we found the two white men somewhat anxiously awaiting our return.

They told us that it had hardly ceased raining since we left, so that we might consider that we had been somewhat fortunate.

Dry clothes and a comparatively sound roof made life appear worth living once more, and although there was quite a brisk stream of water running through the centre of the house, and the leaves upon which we had to sleep were more or less saturated with wet, we contrived to get a good night.

The natives of Rambubu were now extremely friendly. They had supplied our people with food during our absence, and upon our return produced a pig and a quantity of taro for our party.

At daylight the following morning we paid off our mountain guides and the people of Rambubu for entertaining us.

One of the guides had accidentally left a large knife behind, but volunteered to go back and fetch it a distance of four miles. This we would not allow him to do, telling him that he might keep it as part of his pay.

The pay consisted of axes, knives, the blankets we had slept in, porpoise teeth, and a small quantity of tobacco, and was on such a lavish scale from these poor people's point of view, that not only did they express entire satisfaction, a very rare thing to meet with among natives, but they invited us to come again, and said that they would do everything they could for us.

We left them in the best of spirits about eight o'clock and, in drenching rain, continued our return journey to the coast.

We walked all the morning through the most pitiless rain, and about noon reached the crossings of the Kolondoma River. The river had risen considerably since our former crossing, and we had some difficulty in getting over, the passage of the whole party occupying nearly an hour, but we eventually succeeded without damage to anything of value.

We reached Warigalia during the afternoon, where we found the man we had left sick most miraculously cured.

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We paid off the two men we had taken from this [place], and after a short rest continued down to the coast, reaching the huts where we had slept on our way up shortly before dark.

A large number of coast natives had assembled here to see us and hear our adventures.

After some persuasion a good supply of native food and a pig was produced, and the boys again feasted royally. We resumed our march at daylight the next morning, and I availed myself of the delay occasioned by our crossing of the mouth of the Ithina River to take a round of compass bearings to all visible points.

We arrived at the village of Veuvu about 11 o'clock. I had not seen Baumate, the chief of this village, on our way up, but another man, who bore a most striking resemblance to him and might have been his twin brother, had been put forward to personate him.

The reason I believe to have been that he knew that a complaint had been made to me against him of a desire on his part to take heads from some villages further along the coast. The matter appeared to have been amicably arranged. We found the old man in his house suffering from a very bad cut in the knee, which he had accidentally inflicted upon himself with an axe.

The wound, having been neglected, was in a very bad state. We made one of his women thoroughly cleanse it with hot water, and Mr. Svensen then dressed it with iodoform, and left some with him for future use. He seemed extremely grateful for the attention, and I have since heard he has quite recovered.

We then launched our boat and canoe, and reached Wanderer Bay late in the afternoon, having been absent from the ship just a week.

The behaviour of the old chief Pauro of Wanderer Bay was, throughout our expedition, above all praise, and it was undoubtedly due to his influence and presence that we found the bush natives so civil. He had previously worked in Fiji many years ago, and told me that he had been stolen, his canoe having been broken up by the ship that took him. His assistance would be extremely valuable and almost indispensable in the event of another attempt being made to reach the Kavo range from the south side of the island; but I think, and have always thought, that Kavo would be more easily reached from the north coast.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have addressed to Rear Admiral Sir William Wharton, K.C.B., F.R.S., Hydrographer to the Admiralty, containing such topographical data as I made during the trip. The maps therein referred to I have not herewith enclosed.

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Government Residence, Tulagi,  
British Solomon Islands,

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31st March 1899.

DEAR SIR WILLIAM WHARTON,

I send you herewith, in the hope that they may prove interesting, a few observations that I made during a trip in November last year to the mountains of Guadalcanar. I also enclose a map and some profile tracings.

You will see that my information differs almost entirely from what is given on the chart. The southern coast of Guadalcanar is certainly all wrong, but you may be able to evolve some sort of order out of chaos and reconcile the apparently opposed data.

I undertook the expedition with the object of climbing Mount Lammas; but although you will see that I climbed a mountain very close to the position given to Mount Lammas on the chart, I could not find it or see any mountain 2,000 feet higher than the peak I reached (as Mount Lammas should have been) except the Kavo range.

I have planned out my route on a tracing of the large plan of Guadalcanar, disregarding all previous information, and also another track on a larger scale; these I enclose with the others.

The highest mountain on Guadalcanar, and by far the most conspicuous from the north side, is the long down-shaped Kavo range, which has never yet appeared upon the chart at all.

My idea of the actual facts is this: I assume and believe the Lion's Head, Tatuve, of the Austrian expedition of 1896, to be pretty nearly in its proper position. The high peak south of it, called in the present chart Popomanisao, and assumed to be about 7,000 feet (I am responsible for both the name and the height, the former I obtained from the Aola natives in 1887 and I estimated the latter), is, I believe, the Mount Lammas of Shortland and Denham. It should appear, perhaps, about two miles further south than it is represented. It seems to be connected with the Lion's Head by a saddle. A glance at the profile sketch No. 3 will show you at once that there is no other high mountain visible from Tulagi between that peak and the Kavo range except the peak I ascended. The name of Popomanasao must come out. It is not the name of the high peak south of the Lion's Head but of the peak I climbed. The correct spelling would be *Popomanasiu*, and means "the food bowl and the drinking cup." The natives sometimes call it Siunanapopo,



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which, of course, means “the drinking cup and the food bowl.” The origin of the name arises from the fact that the mountain has two twin summits like inverted coco-nut shells.

You will have to alter the upper course of the Balesuna River more to the westward, as it evidently comes down from the eastern and north-eastern slopes of the Kavov range. The eastern branches of the Ithina River are pretty correctly defined upon my route plan, but there are probably more affluents on the right bank. The volume of water discharged by this river during heavy floods must be very great, as evidenced by the enormous trees that strew the beach from Cape Hunter to Bolonda.

I do not know who gave the information about the occurrence of coal near the mouth of the Ithina River, but it is doubtless there. The natives pointed it out to me close to the village of Bolonda. The vein was only about an inch thick, and was in a large boulder of clayey sandstone which had dropped down to the beach from the land above. On our return the boulder in question had been broken up by the surf, and the only likely-looking specimens I could find in the neighbourhood resisted the action of a hot wood fire for twenty minutes without change. The natives told me that the stuff they pointed out to me *did* burn like the coal used on board steamers.

The composition of the Popomanasiu range appears to be a very hard dark rock, apparently basalt.

I append the observations I made for determining the height of Popomanasiu. The aneroid shews the greater altitude than the thermometer, but the latter is, of course, far more accurate.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES M. WOODFORD.

Rear Admiral

Sir William Wharton, K.C.B., F.R.S.,  
&c., &c., &c.,  
The Admiralty, London.

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COMPASS BEARINGS taken during visit to the PEAK of  
POPOMANASIU in the ISLAND of GUADALCANAR, SOLOMON  
ISLANDS, in November 1898.

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Bearings from mouth of Ithina River :—

	Deg
Rock outside Cape Hunter .. ...	229
Cape Henslow ... ..	90
A nearer point of land ... ..	89.30
Visu Point (distant 11 miles) ... ..	86
Bolonda Point and village ... ..	69.30
Legombi Mt. ... ..	66
Kuruvenbau Mt. ... ..	62
Vatuvisa Mt. ... ..	60
Popomanasiu Mt. ... ..	56.30
Bulamarau Mt. ... ..	53
Tasebara Mt. ... ..	50.30
Paiguruguru Mt. ... ..	49.30

Rough bearing, centre of Kavo range from  
Cape Hunter ... ..

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Bearings from village of Rambubu :—

Legombi Mt. ... ..	113
Kuruvenbau Mt. ... ..	75.30
Popomanasiu Mt. ... ..	65.30
Bulamarau Mt. ... ..	52.30
Paiguruguru Mt. ... ..	42
Tasambara Mt. ... ..	34
Centre of high saddle behind Wanderer Bay ... ..	274

Bearings from Popomanasiu Mt. :—

Kavo (eastern peak of range) ... ..	12
„ (another peak of range) ... ..	348
Top of Savo Island, through depression in Kavo range ... ..	336
Centre of Russell Island ... ..	299
Lower conical hill behind Tiaro (Yarrow Bay of chart) ... ..	297
Upper conical hill, behind Tiaro ... ..	307
Peak behind Vaturanga (Coughlan Har- bour of chart) ... ..	312
Sharp cone behind Veisali ... ..	317

Bearings taken at sea close to Tree Cay (an  
island off West Cape, Guadalcanar) :—

A high distant peak, probably Mt. Lammas of Shortland and Hunter ... ..	105
Centre of Kavo range ... ..	99

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, 1898-9. —	Bearings from Government Residence, Tulagi:—	Deg.
	Lion's Head (Tatuve) ... ..	168
	Mount Lammas (?) ... ..	169.30
	Popomanasiu (the peak I climbed) ... ..	177
	Eastern peak of Kavo range ... ..	177.30
Names of rivers:—Ithina, Kolondoma, Teremalenga, and Kolovaravara.		
Names of villages:—Bolonda, Warigalia, Rambubu or Rambumbu.		
Thermometer (Royal Geographical Society's No. 8):—		
	Deg.	
In shade at sea level, Bolonda ... ..	75	
In shade at top of Popomanasiu ... ..	59	
Aneroid (Royal Geographical Society's No. 32):—		
At sea level at Bolonda ... ..	29.80	
At top of Popomanasiu ... ..	23.95	
Boiling point, thermometer at top of Popomanasiu:—		
Royal Geographical Society's No. 19 ... ..	201.9	
"    "    "    No. 20 ... ..	201.9	
Aneroid at halting place between village of Warigalia and Kolondoma River ... ..	28.25	
Aneroid at halting place between Kolonda River and village of Rambubu ... ..	27.32	
Aneroid at Rambubu ... ..	27.20	
Aneroid crossing top of Paiguruguru ... ..	25.57	
Aneroid at camp, foot of Bulamarau ... ..	25.60	
Aneroid at top of Bulamarau ... ..	24.80	
Aneroid at top of Popomanasiu ... ..	23.95	

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 236.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 215).

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

*August 1898.*

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213	St. Helena ... ..	"
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10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
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1897.

No. 236.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 205.)

ACTING GOVERNOR SWETTENHAM to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Singapore,  
2nd June 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of the undermentioned annual departmental report for the year 1897 :—  
Report on the Straits Settlements.

I have, &c.,  
J. A. SWETTENHAM.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR  
THE YEAR 1897.

FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue for 1897 amounted to \$4,320,207, including land sales, the three Settlements contributing as follows :—

			\$
Singapore	...	...	2,536,428
Penang	...	...	1,425,421
Malacca	...	...	358,358

There was an increase of \$54,144 as compared with the revenue for 1896, and \$271,847 as compared with the revenue for 1895.

The principal increases were under the heads of Land Sales (\$53,255), Interest (\$11,722), and Land Revenue (\$10,797).

There are also satisfactory increases under Port and Harbour Dues, Postage, and Reimbursements.

On the other hand, there were decreases of \$12,871 in Fees of Office and \$12,531 in Stamps. The former is chiefly due to the decrease in the number of cattle imported, on account of cattle disease in the neighbouring countries, the latter to a decrease in death duties. Fines, Forfeitures, and Fees of courts also show a decrease of \$6,686.

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The expenditure for the year was \$4,430,603, which shews an increase of \$473,513 over 1896, and \$648,147 as compared with the expenditure for 1895. There was an increase of \$126,974 in military expenditure, the cost of the new emplacements having been paid for during the year. There was a large increase under the head of Special Expenditure—\$123,325. This expenditure includes \$100,000 voted for the permanent memorial of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and \$19,089 in connexion with the celebrations. There were also considerable increases under the following heads :—

	\$
Personal Emoluments ... ..	93,915
Public Works Department Expenditure ...	65,382
Extraordinary Expenditure ... ..	29,362
Interest ... ..	16,020
Other charges ... ..	14,516

The large increase under the head Personal Emoluments is due to the addition of 10 per cent. to the salaries of the clerical branch of the service, the rice allowance of \$1 a month to native subordinates, and the increase to exchange compensation in consequence of the fall in the value of the dollar.

#### ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

2. The net balance to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December 1897 was \$2,161,913, as compared with \$2,328,270 on the same date in 1896. The Colony has no debt.

The financial position of the Colony continues to be very satisfactory. The excise farms have been let for three years at an enhanced rent of \$645,000, and it is proposed to carry out a large scheme for the improvement of the harbour of Penang on an estimate of \$459,000, and other important works, out of current revenue.

#### EXCHANGE.

3. There was a marked fall in the sterling value of the dollar, the average value of which was  $1\ 11\frac{1}{8}$  on demand and for bills at 4 months' sight  $1\ 11\frac{1}{8}$ , as compared with  $2\ 2\frac{1}{8}$  and  $2\ 2\frac{1}{8}$ , respectively, in 1896.

The average bank note circulation of the Colony for the year was \$7,326,693.

#### MUNICIPALITIES.

4. The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to \$1,273,283, and the expenditure to \$1,371,716. Under powers conferred by the Municipal Ordinance, a sum of \$89,998 was levied in the districts outside the municipalities. The expenditure on roads and bridges in these districts amounted to \$241,083. The Singapore Municipality have taken in hand the important question of the disposal of town sewage, and large sums have also been spent in connection with the filter beds.

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LEGISLATION.

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5. Twenty-four meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year, 18 Ordinances being passed.

Ordinances were passed consolidating and amending the law with regard to the registration of births and deaths, the law relating to lepers, and for the protection of Indian immigrants. The two last named Ordinances have not come into force. Certain provisions of the Indian Immigration Ordinance met with opposition from the planters, and will be dealt with in an amending Ordinance.

Other important Ordinances were passed to provide for the issue of Government paper currency, and to make better provision for the regulation of pilgrim ships.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS.

6. The land market, as evidenced by the number of deeds registered, shews increased activity, the fees received in Singapore being for deeds, \$8,479.70, and for bills of sale, \$1,401.25; and in Penang, for deeds, \$9,342.50, and for bills of sale, \$1,050.50.

PUBLIC WORKS.

7. In Singapore, as in 1895 and 1896, the principal works were the construction of new barracks.

On Blakang Mati Island, the hospital and barracks for non-commissioned officers and married native soldiers were completed.

In Tanglin, two blocks providing twenty married quarters, an infant school, five quarters which are intended for the use of ten single sergeants, and the non-commissioned officers' mess were finished, and five married quarters and schoolmaster's quarters were begun.

At Pearl's Hill, 2 warrant officers' quarters and 6 married staff sergeants' quarters were commenced.

In addition to these works, a sum of \$228,096 was handed to the Military Department for constructing the new emplacements for the quick-firing guns.

The only other undertaking of importance in Singapore was the extension of the Master Attendant's office at a cost of \$15,000.

In Penang, the only service of importance was the construction of a jetty for the accommodation of local steamers. This work was brought near completion out of the Harbour Improvement vote, and it is expected to be finished early in 1898.

A sum of \$9,000 was expended in enlarging the reservoir in Province Wellesley, to admit of Butterworth being supplied with water from Bukit Mertajam.



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Under Roads and Bridges, a vote of \$67,350 was taken for the renewal of 4 timber bridges with iron in Province Wellesley.

The abutments of these bridges were erected, and the superstructure of iron is expected to arrive soon from home, so that this much needed improvement will be accomplished early in 1898.

The Perak Railway system is being extended by the Government of the Federated Malay States to Prai in Province Wellesley, and a steam ferry boat service will connect it with Penang, a special jetty being about to be erected at Weld Quay.

#### POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

8. During the year under review, 6,031,136 articles passed through the Post Office of the Colony, as compared with 5,928,730 in 1896. The Registration, Insurance, and Parcel Post branches, as well as the Chinese Sub-Post Office, all continue to show steady progress. The postal revenue amounted to \$215,246, which is an excess of \$6,838 over the income of the department for the preceding year. The expenditure charged to 1897 was \$198,136, being an increase of \$14,695, as compared with the expenditure of the year before. There is an increase on "British postage," due to increased weight of mails and low rate of exchange.

In consequence of very unfavourable rates of exchange having prevailed for remittances to India and Ceylon, there was a large decrease of no less than Rs. 205,807 in the money order business done with those countries. The transactions in sterling amounted to £11,049, in Indian currency to nearly Rs. 725,000, and in local currency to \$227,640; the total business done aggregated only \$806,885, against a total of \$822,135 in 1896.

#### SAVINGS BANK.

9. There was a large increase in savings bank transactions, as compared with the preceding year, and the amount standing to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was \$363,545, an increase of \$36,668 as compared with 1896. The deposits amounted to \$269,313, and with rawals to \$242,341.

The investments in Indian 3½ per cent. rupee paper amounted to \$273,391, and amounts placed on fixed deposits at the Chartered Bank to \$34,000.

#### EDUCATION.

10. Two hundred schools were inspected in 1897, and 8,301 pupils were presented for examination.

During the year, a scheme for improving the pay and prospects of the Government European masters was drawn up and has been approved.

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Singapore and Penang were both made centres for the Cambridge local examination in December for the first time. The result was, on the whole, an indication that this Colony has still a great deal of work before it in order to attain as good results as shewn by some other Colonies. The Penang Free School gained both the Queen's scholarships.

The total expenditure of the Education Department amounted to \$179,769.

POPULATION.

11. The population of the Colony, which was 512,342 by the census of 1891, is now estimated to be 580,563. During the year 1897 there were registered 12,090 births, of which 6,250 were of male and 5,840 of female children. The number of deaths registered was 21,427, as compared with 24,014 in 1896.

CHINESE AND INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

12. The number of Chinese immigrants was very much below the normal supply, and there was a marked decrease in the number of contracts signed in the Chinese Protectorate. This was partly due to a prosperous year in the provinces of China from which our labour supply is chiefly drawn, and also to the restrictions placed on immigration in consequence of the prevalence of bubonic plague in China. The demand for tin-miners in Selangor having almost ceased no doubt also affected the supply to some extent.

It is satisfactory to record a further increase in the number of both free and statute immigrants from India. The late scarcity in India no doubt had the effect of stimulating emigration to countries such as this Colony and the Malay States, where there is a constant demand for labour. Arrangements have been made for cheap passages for intending immigrants to the Protected States.

TRADE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

13. The figures for the year shew large increases over those for 1896.

There was a decline in the value of the principal articles of export—tin, gambier, and copra—but an improvement is recorded in the pepper trade.

The trade of the Colony with other countries has largely increased. There was an increase in the export of coffee, gambier, hides, and pepper.

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Merchandise imported from all places outside the Colony amounted to 187½ million dollars, an increase of 11 millions, and exports to 162½ million dollars, an increase of 11 millions.

From all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, an increase of \$12,082,000 is seen in the silver value, but a decrease of £564,500 in the gold value, of goods.

To all places, including Inter-Settlement movements, the silver increase of merchandise sent is \$11,869,000, the gold value decreasing by £387,500.

Imports shew increased values under food-stuffs (the increase in rice alone being over 6 million dollars), in manufactured textiles, machinery, telegraph materials, and coal, and declines in hardware, cutlery, and cattle.

Exports shew increased values in food-stuffs, gutta, rattans, hides, areca nuts, and pepper, but declines in tin, gambier, and copra.

Imports from the United Kingdom shew an advance of about 25 per cent., or 5 million dollars, chiefly in cotton goods, yarns, telegraph materials, and machinery.

Exports to the United Kingdom declined by about 1 per cent., or \$262,000; the decrease was chiefly seen in tin, gambier, and copra.

From British India and Burma there was a decrease in imports of over 4 million dollars, owing to smaller supplies being received of rice and opium, but exports thither increased by 3½ millions. Larger exports of raw silk, areca nuts, and fish account for this. A large quantity of rice also was exported to British India, amounting in value to 1¾ million dollars over and above the value exported in 1896. The success of the experiment of closing the mints in India has favoured exports to that country, while diminishing exports therefrom to places with a silver standard.

The Hongkong and China trade increased by about 1½ per cent. in imports, but decreased by a little over 3 per cent. in exports. There were increased imports of wheat flour, joss sticks and joss paper, and raw silk, but decreased exports of tin, rattans, and pepper.

There was a fair increase in imports from Japan, due to a larger import of coal and matches. Exports thither nearly doubled in value, larger quantities of tanned hides, rice, and gambier, among other articles, having been sent out.

Netherlands Indian imports shew an increase of over two million dollars, and exports an increase of over four million dollars.

The largest increases are in sugar, gutta-percha and other rubbers received, and among the export articles shewing large increases are rice, cotton piece goods, sarongs, and kains.

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From the Malay Peninsula, including the Western Siamese States, a decrease of over three million dollars is recorded in imports, but in exports there is a trifling increase.

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Tin ore, rice, fish, rattans, areca nuts, and gambier shew increased import values, but a large decrease is found in tin, and a decrease to a smaller extent in pepper.

The Continent of Europe sent larger values in the case of all countries.

Exports to the Continent declined in the case of every country, with the exception of Belgium and Russia, to which places they slightly increased.

From Saigon imports increased by over 4 million dollars. The export value fell slightly. The large increase in imports is due mainly to the growth of the rice trade.

*Cotton Goods.*—The imports of cotton piece goods increased by nearly a million pieces. Yarns of both kinds also shew increases. Sewing thread shews an increase of \$75,000 in its import value, but cotton handkerchiefs, sarongs, slendangs, and kains, as well as blankets, all shew decreases.

*Coal.*—There were received over 108,396 tons more than in 1896. From the United Kingdom supplies fell by about 3,000 tons, and from Borneo by 15,000, while from Japan they rose by over 40,000 tons. Australian imports rose by over 24,000 tons, and Bengal coal by about 55,000 tons.

*Rice.*—Imports rose to nearly 457,000 tons, an increase of 27,000 tons, and combined with a heavy rise in price, enormously increased the value of this food-stuff. The largest supplies came from Siam. Rangoon imports declined largely. Supplies from Saigon shew a large increase.

*Opium.*—Imports decreased by 769 chests. Opium from China declined by 131 chests. Patna opium fell from 525 in 1896 to 275 chests in 1897.

*Tapioca.*—The total export of all three kinds of tapioca was 39,973 tons, a decrease of 5,385 tons.

*Copra.*—Exports declined by 9,800 tons.

*Sago.*—Exports fell from 51,500 tons in 1896 to 44,959 tons in 1897. The decrease was in both flour and pearl sago.

*Rattans.*—The year's export is the highest on record, exceeding by 492 tons the figures for 1896.

*Tin.*—Exports largely declined, being 8,446 tons less than in 1896.

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#### CURRENCY.

14. The decision of the Japanese Government to revert to a Gold Standard, which took effect during 1897, led to the recall of the Japanese yen, which had been current in the Colony and in its vicinity since 1872. A very large number of these coins was withdrawn from circulation and sent to Japan.

The coins were replaced by the new British dollar minted in Bombay, of which no less than \$15,782,908 were imported into the Colony during 1897 by the banks alone. This new coin is already greatly in request in Siam, and its introduction into the Colony in such large quantities was a great convenience, as it may be doubted whether sufficient Mexican dollars could have been easily obtained to replace the large number of Japanese yen withdrawn.

During the year, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China obtained authority from Her Majesty's Treasury to increase its local note circulation by \$1,000,000.

#### SHIPPING.

15. The total tonnage of the vessels arriving and departing was 12,206,782, as compared with 12,244,383 in 1896. The light dues amounted to \$115,887.

Three hundred and fifty-three (353) new vessels of 13,252 tons were built in the Colony during the year.

#### LIGHT-HOUSES.

16. All the light-houses, launches, buoys, and beacons have been maintained in an efficient condition and periodically inspected.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH.

17. The public health of the Colony during 1897 has been considerably better than it was during 1896, the number of deaths registered being less by more than 2,500 than it was during that year. The death-rate is still high, averaging about 36·00 per mille for the whole Colony, but this is a great improvement on 1896. The death-rate for 1896 was given as 43·78 per mille, but there is reason to think the population was underestimated in calculating this rate. A new method of calculation has been used this year, and it is on this that the rate of 36·00 per mille is based: were this calculation used for 1896, the rate of mortality would appear as 40·66.

The Colony has been remarkably free from zymotic disease during the year.

The number of patients treated in the Government Hospital was somewhat less than that during 1896, but greater than that of 1895 or any preceding year.

The arrangements described last year as being carried out in relation to the registration of deaths have been continued during 1897 with satisfactory results.

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METEOROLOGY.

18. A rainfall of 138.88 inches was recorded in Penang, the greatest fall in one day being 5.76 inches, and in one month (October) 41.17 inches. In Singapore and Malacca the rainfall was above the average. The mean temperature of the Colony was 80.6.

BANKRUPTCY.

19. There were 31 receiving orders and 23 adjudications made in Singapore, and 12 receiving orders and 10 adjudications in Penang, shewing an increase in the number made in the previous year.

Few of the bankruptcies were of any great importance, and there has been a decrease in the amount of liabilities as well as assets as shewn by the bankrupts' statements of affairs. One important failure occurred during the year in Penang.

The revenue and expenditure both shew a small decrease on those of last year.

REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

20. Seven joint stock companies, with a nominal capital of \$1,330,003, were registered during the year.

POLICE AND CRIME.

21. There has been no change of importance during the year in the strength or constitution of the police force of the Colony. The European contingent is still six men under strength. The conduct of the inspectors and of the European contingent has on the whole been good. The police are much hampered by the want of efficient detectives.

There has been a serious falling off in the numbers of the Sikh contingent, but now that the pay has been increased and additional privileges given, it is hoped that a sufficient number of recruits will be induced to join. The Malay contingent has been kept well up to strength in Penang and Malacca, but not so well in Singapore. The conduct of this branch of the force is on the whole improving.

In January there was a strike of jinrikisha coolies in Singapore, which, as some 16,000 men of the coolie class were involved, gave rise to some apprehension, but the strike subsided after a few days without anything worse than inconvenience to a large section of the public.

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A good deal of uneasiness was caused in the end of September by the appearance of two placards inciting to murder and riot. The authors of the placards were not discovered. Precautions were taken and no riot whatever took place.

Twenty-two cases of murder and twenty-three of gang-robbery were reported; of the former, three took place on the high seas; of the latter, one was certainly false.

Gambling is increasingly difficult to deal with, and in the existing state of the law the police appear to want power to cope with the forms in which gambling is now carried on.

#### JUDICIAL.

22. In the Supreme Court on the criminal side there was a large increase in the number of cases at each Settlement, and on the civil side the number of actions commenced showed a considerable increase at Singapore.

In the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, the work at Singapore and Malacca was greater than in the previous year, while it decreased at Penang. The number of convictions again showed a considerable increase, while the number of acquittals was less than last year. This increase in the number of convictions and decrease in the number of acquittals was especially marked at Penang.

#### INQUESTS.

23. Five hundred and eighty-two inquests were held during the year, as compared with 498 last year. The number in Penang showed an increase of over 50 per cent. In 399 cases the verdict was death from natural causes, accidental, &c. There were 82 suicides.

#### PRISONS.

24. The daily average of prisoners in the Singapore Prison is less than last year. The worst of the habitual criminals are now banished as their sentences expire.

There is again a marked decrease in the death-rate in the Singapore Prison, but an increase in the rate at Penang Prison.

There was one suicide in Singapore Prison. No escapes from prison took place in any of the Settlements.

C. W. S. KYNNEERSLEY,

*Acting-Colonial Secretary.*

Singapore, 12th May 1898.

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No. 241.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, see No. 201.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*September, 1898.*

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1898.

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### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena ... ..	1896
214	Seychelles ... ..	"
215	Mauritius ... ..	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ..	1897
217	Fiji ... ..	1896
218	Ceylon ... ..	"
219	Lagos ... ..	"
220	Gold Coast ... ..	"
221	Labuan ... ..	"
222	British Guiana ... ..	1896-97
223	Rodrigues ... ..	1896
224	Basutoland ... ..	1896-97
225	Jamaica ... ..	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate ... ..	"
227	Leeward Islands ... ..	1896
228	Bermuda ... ..	1897
229	Gambia ... ..	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
231	Barbados ... ..	"
232	Lagos ... ..	"
233	St. Vincent ... ..	"
234	Sierra Leone .. ..	"
235	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
236	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
237	British New Guinea ... ..	1896-97
238	Bahamas... ..	1897
239	St. Lucia ... ..	"
240	St. Helena ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 241.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 201.)TRINIDAD  
AND  
TOBAGO  
1897.  
—

ACTING-GOVERNOR SIR C. C. KNOLLYS to  
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Trinidad,

10th August, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Trinidad and Tobago Blue Book for 1897, and to make the following Annual Report upon the Colony for that year.

## TAXES AND DUTIES.

2. The following changes have been made in the Customs duties levied on imports into the Colony :—

- (a) The admission free of duty of goods imported by Foreign Consuls for the official use of their Consulates.
- (b) The prohibition of the importation of tobacco extracts.
- (c) Exemption from duty of packages or coverings of articles imported; all articles passed by the Collector of Customs as the personal baggage or household effects of passengers; and all professional apparatus and workmen's tools brought in by passengers for their own use.
- (d) The substitution of the following tariff for that imposed under Section 3 of Ordinance No. 18 of 1895 :—

	£	s.	d.
Varnish or polish containing methylated spirits, and admitted as such by the Collector of Customs, the gallon ...	0	1	6
Spirituous preparations admitted by the Collector of Customs as medicinal, the gallon ... ..	0	5	0

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ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

TRINIDAD  
AND  
TOBAGO.  
1897.

4. The Assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1897, were ... .. £ 405,090  
The Liabilities, excluding the Public Debt, were 313,170

showing a balance in favour of the Colony of ... £91,920

in addition to stores in stock the value of which is estimated at £27,595.

PUBLIC DEBT.

5. During 1897, Debentures amounting to £4,020 were paid off, leaving the Public Debt at £916,518, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1. (a) Railway Debenture Debt ... ..	111,039	0	2½
(b) Public Works and Road Extension and Railway Debt (4 per cent. Inscribed Stock) ... ..	413,380	4	5
2. Port-of-Spain Water Works Ordinance 3 of 1883... ..	—		
3. Railway Extension and Public Works Further Loan ... ..	392,099	6	7
Total Public Debt outstanding ...	£916,518	11	2½

LEGISLATION.

6. The legislation of the year consisted of 24 Ordinances, the principal of which were those relating to Immigration.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

7. The chief official changes were the arrival in the Colony of, and assumption of the Government by, Sir Hubert E. H. Jerningham, K.C.M.G., on the 2nd of June, up to which date the Government had been administered by me. Mr. G. L. Garcia, Q.C., Attorney-General, died on the 19th of October, and on the 13th December Mr. N. Nathan, Q.C., was appointed to succeed him. Mr. Vincent Brown, Q.C., Solicitor-General, acted as Attorney-General during the whole year to the 13th December. Mr. T. A. Thompson succeeded the late Mr. C. F. Monier-Williams in the office of Registrar of the Supreme Court and Marshal.

TRINIDAD  
AND  
TOBAGO.  
1897.

## PENSIONS.

8. The pension list amounted to the total of £14,640, being £533 in excess of that for the preceding year.

## POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

*General Population.*

9. Estimated population at the end of 1896	...	246,173
Births registered in 1897	... ..	7,927
Deaths registered in 1897	... ..	7,091
		836
Natural increase	... ..	836
Arrivals recorded by the Harbour Master in 1897	... ..	21,079
Departures recorded by the Harbour Master in 1897	... ..	15,544
		5,535
Increase by immigration	... ..	5,535
Estimated population at the end of 1897	... ..	252,544

*East Indian Population.*

10. The estimated number of East Indians at the end of 1896, was	... ..	81,973
Registered births during 1897	... ..	2,509
„ deaths „ „	... ..	2,563
		54
Natural decrease	... ..	54
		81,919
Immigrants from India	... ..	1,860
Emigrants to India	... ..	747
		1,113
Increase by immigration	... ..	1,113
Total number of East Indians on 31st December, 1897	... ..	83,032
Population other than East Indian	... ..	169,512
		252,544
Total	... ..	252,544

11. Of the total number of births registered 4,005 were males and 3,922 females. This gives a birth-rate of 31·8 per 1,000 compared with 33·7 and 34·8 for 1896 and 1895 respectively.

12. The illegitimate birth-rate, on the general births, was 59·2, as against 58·1 for each of the two previous years, and on the East Indian births 79·2.

TRINIDAD  
AND  
TOBAGO.  
1897.

13. The percentage of still births was—

General births ... ..	6·9
East Indian ... ..	10·7

14. The deaths—3,989 males and 3,102 females—give a death-rate for 1897 of 25·3 per 1,000. One-fourth of the total number of deaths occurred among children of two years of age and under.

14 males and 16 females reached the age of 95 and upwards. 18 of these were centenarians, the birth-place of 8 of whom is registered as Trinidad.

IMMIGRATION.

15. During 1897, 1,165 men, 607 women, 43 boys, 20 girls and 43 infants, making a total of 1,878 souls, embarked at Calcutta for Trinidad. Of these 27 paid their own passages and brought with them, besides jewellery, the sum of £487.

The East Indian population is estimated to have been 83,032 on the 31st of December, 1897, and the number of indentured immigrants on estates was 9,636.

On the 24th of September the return ship left Trinidad for Calcutta taking 442 men, 164 women, 60 boys, 65 girls and 16 infants. The amount deposited by these return immigrants for remittance to India was £7,091.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

16. The following table gives the number of places of worship of each denomination :—

Sect.	No. of Places of Worship.	Accommodation.
Roman Catholic ... ..	60	18,544
Anglican ... ..	51	10,540
Wesleyan ... ..	13	4,230
Presbyterian ... ..	8 <sup>o</sup>	2,375
Baptist ... ..	16	Not given.

<sup>o</sup> Also 59 chapels are returned with accommodation for 2,120 persons.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. 1897. The amount voted under this head was £10,600 and was distributed as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Church of England ... ..	3,917	0	0
Roman Catholic Church ... ..	6,155	10	0
Wesleyan body ... ..	527	10	0
Total ... ..	£10,600	0	0

#### EDUCATION.

17. *Primary.*—The expenditure on elementary education amounted to £33,896, and was incurred under the following heads :—

	£
Government Schools ... ..	10,166
Assisted Schools ... ..	18,839
Government Training Schools ... ..	1,121
Assisted " " ... ..	673
Administration ... ..	3,097
Total ... ..	£33,896

In addition to the above expenditure on Government Schools, a sum of £1,358 was spent by the Public Works Department in repairs and alterations to school buildings.

The expenditure for 1897 exceeded that for 1896 by the sum of £1,140.

The excess is accounted for by the increase in the number of schools under the control of the Board of Education.

18. The reimbursements to the Revenue amounted to £1,524, made up as follows :—

	£
Contribution from Borough Council of Port-of-Spain. ... ..	500
Fees paid by scholars in Government Schools and amount received for the sale of needlework ... ..	1,024

19. The cost to the Government of each scholar in average daily attendance was, in Government Schools, £2 7s. 9d., and in Assisted Schools, £1 14s. 11d.

20. The following table gives a summary of the attendance :—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Scholars on Roll.	Average Attendance.	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. 1897.
<b>ASSISTED SCHOOLS :</b>				
Roman Catholic ... ..	59	7,686	4,844	
Church of England ... ..	34	5,257	3,319	
Presbyterian (Canadian Mission) ...	42	3,584	2,109	
Wesleyan ... ..	4	788	465	
Moravian ... ..	1	78	50	
Totals, Assisted Schools ... ..	140	17,393	10,797	
„ Government Schools ... ..	56	6,558	4,258	
Totals, all Schools ... ..	196	23,951	15,055	

21. *Secondary.*—The two schools for secondary education are the Queen's Royal College which is a Government institution, undenominational and with 91 students; and the St. Mary's College, which is a private institution, assisted by the Government, Roman Catholic, with 195 students. Four scholarships, each of the annual value of £150 tenable for three years, at some European University, are offered, subject to the rules and regulations governing their grant, to the students of both colleges who attain the highest places in one of the Honour Divisions of the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations.

#### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

22. The figures relating to the imports and exports for 1897 and the four previous years are shown in the following table :—

Year.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	
	Total Value.	Value exclusive of Bullion and Specie.	Total Value.	Value exclusive of Bullion and Specie.
	£	£	£	£
1895	2,270,885	1,987,071	2,320,824	1,941,171
1894	2,152,883	1,869,330	2,000,748	1,726,963
1895	2,276,864	2,040,872	2,065,104	1,791,867
1896	2,463,525	2,188,189	2,165,820	1,896,748
1897	2,161,231	1,992,537	1,994,926	1,823,818



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1897. 23. The value and direction of trade during the years 1896 and 1897, was—

*Imports.*

From	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	978,565	857,857
British Colonies ... ..	241,438	201,779
United States of America ...	458,440	450,664
Venezuela ... ..	524,042	462,697
Other Foreign Countries ...	261,040	188,234
Total ... ..	2,463,525	2,161,231

*Exports.*

To	1896.	1897.
	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	943,888	713,540
British Colonies ... ..	40,129	41,346
United States of America ...	669,950	628,264
Venezuela ... ..	209,727	254,760
Other Foreign Countries ...	302,126	357,016
Total ... ..	2,165,820	1,994,926

24. The class of imports and exports was as follows during 1897 :—

—	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
	£	£
Live Animals, Food and Drink	901,941	1,328,502
Raw Material ... ..	129,381	241,005
Manufactured Articles ...	961,215	254,311
Coin and Bullion ... ..	168,694	171,108
Total ... ..	2,161,231	1,994,926

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25. The total quantities and values of the more important staples exported during the last five years were—

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Year.	Sugar.		Cocoa.		Asphalt.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	Tons.	£
1893	101,140,361	757,937	19,106,553	535,055	90,203	98,572
1894	104,986,406	598,010	21,608,384	587,564	99,192	112,401
1895	122,353,755	596,415	29,458,813	620,634	86,148	97,318
1896	120,562,942	700,347	23,481,848	452,141	96,385	106,920
1897	110,026,245	537,107	23,840,665	532,123	124,672	138,801

26. The directions in which the staples of the Island were exported and their values were as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	France.	United States of America.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ... ..	272,212	—	250,421	5,474	537,107
Molasses ... ..	1,823	150	826	14,192	16,991
Rum ... ..	5,932	—	—	149	6,081
Cocoa ... ..	154,956	198,091	147,165	31,911	532,123
Coconuts... ..	20,275	4	3,012	1,199	24,490
Asphalt ... ..	8,304	3,360	95,736	31,401	138,801
Bitters ... ..	10,510	530	17,133	11,883	40,106
Total ... ..	474,012	202,135	523,313	96,209	1,295,699

## SHIPPING.

27. During 1897, 2,916 vessels, with a total tonnage of 673,323 entered, and 2,908, with a total tonnage of 667,673 cleared.

580\*—5

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TRINIDAD  
AND  
TOBAGO  
1897.

The following tables show the countries from which vessels arrived, and to which they departed :—

*Entered.*

From	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	39	19,199	85	127,215	124	146,414
United States of America.	93	45,805	30	39,937	123	85,742
British North America	29	3,220	10	11,752	39	14,972
British West Indies and British Guiana.	552	33,966	139	170,269	691	204,235
Venezuela ...	1,677	16,943	142	126,131	1,819	143,074
Other countries ...	72	20,821	48	58,065	120	78,886
Total ...	2,462	139,954	454	533,369	2,916	673,323

*Cleared.*

To	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	56	22,630	17	22,981	73	45,611
United States of America.	118	60,139	46	59,875	164	120,014
British North America	9	1,254	10	11,204	19	12,458
British West Indies and British Guiana.	536	23,203	161	191,026	697	214,229
French West Indies...	27	4,392	21	27,247	48	31,639
Venezuela ...	1,677	16,120	184	207,533	1,861	223,653
Other countries ...	38	10,056	8	10,013	46	20,069
Total ...	2,461	137,794	447	529,879	2,908	667,673

28. The nationality of the vessels which entered is shown in the following table :—

TRINIDAD  
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1897.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ... ..	596	38,573	258	361,208	854	399,781
French ... ..	5	679	52	64,301	57	64,980
United States ... ..	105	52,240	36	19,569	141	71,809
Venezuela ... ..	1,654	14,089	60	32,911	1,714	47,000
Dutch... ..	18	1,435	39	43,587	57	45,022
Norwegian ... ..	31	12,915	2	1,793	33	14,708
Other countries ... ..	53	20,023	7	10,000	60	30,023
Total ... ..	2,462	139,954	454	533,369	2,916	673,323

AGRICULTURE.

29. The acreage under cultivation is estimated at 200,000 acres, and is made up as follows :—

	Acres.
Sugar cane ... ..	57,000
Cocoa ... ..	98,000
Coffee ... ..	1,500
Coconuts ... ..	14,000
Provisions ... ..	13,500
Pastures ... ..	10,000
Other products ... ..	6,000

30. The nature of the produce grown or manufactured in the Colony in 1897, and the quantity of each product was—

Sugar ... ..	54,933 tons (crop of 1897)
Molasses ... ..	680,761 gallons.
Rum, (home consumption) ... ..	246,814 (proof gallons.)
„ (exported) ... ..	99,533 „ „
Cocoa ... ..	23,840,665 lbs.
Coconuts ... ..	11,649,138 in number.
Asphalt ... ..	124,672 tons.

The coffee grown in the Colony is chiefly used for home consumption, and the price is governed by the supply.

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1897.

## CROWN LANDS.

31. 4,690 acres of Crown Land were sold during 1897, realizing the sum of £5,474. This brings the total number of acres alienated to ... .. 442,924 and leaves ungranted ... .. 677,076

Total acreage of the Colony ... .. 1,120,000

Of 432 grants issued 2 were for 159 and 103 acres respectively. 67 village lots were sold. The upset price of Crown Land is £1 an acre and 10s. per acre to cover all fees and cost of survey.

## GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

32. The total number of persons committed in 1897 was 4,877, against 4,583 in 1896, showing an increase of 294.

Of the above numbers there were committed for the purposes of—

	During 1897.	During 1896.
Penal imprisonment ... ..	3,907	3,482
For debt ... ..	23	24
For safe custody till trial, or for want of security ... ..	947	1,077
Total ... ..	4,877	4,583

Of the number committed during 1897, 4,170 were men, 683 women and 24 juveniles.

33. The daily average at the three prisons of the Colony was—

	In Prison.	On Sick List.
At the Royal Gaol ... ..	228	14
At Carrera's Depôt ... ..	171	11
At Female Prison... ..	41	—
Total ... ..	440	25

There were 18 deaths at the Royal Gaol, 3 of which were by judicial execution and 2 by suicide.

There were 27 deaths at Carrera's and 1 at the female prison.

	£	s.	d.
34. The total expenditure for prisons was ...	8,817	1	7½
Estimated value of prisoners' labour			
exclusive of that in service of prison ...	3,655	18	3½
Daily gross cost of each prisoner ...		1	1

The following is a comparison of expenditure and average number of prisoners for the last 5 years :—

Year.	Average number of Prisoners.		Expenditure.
	Males.	Females.	
1892 ... ..	445	41	£ 10,144 s. 14 d. 10½
1893 ... ..	499	44	10,520 7 0
1894 ... ..	509	50	10,517 10 0
1895 ... ..	463	45	9,398 16 11½
1896 ... ..	424	46	9,220 17 1
Average for 5 years ...	468	45	9,960 9 2¼
1897 ... ..	399	41	8,817 1 7½
Below the average by...	69	4	1,143 7 6¾

TRINIDAD  
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Classified according to nationalities, the most striking figures are—

India ...	2,040	... being 430 more than 1896.
Trinidad ...	802	... " 32 "
Venezuela	32	... " 12 "
Barbados ...	382	... " 10 less than 1896.
St. Vincent	110	... " 16 "
Grenada ...	89	... " 2 more than 1896.
Tobago ...	79	... " 2 less than 1896.

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

35. The number of offences reported to the police was 17,484 against 19,279 during the year 1896. 20,725 persons were apprehended by the police, or summoned before the magistrates, of whom 13,090 were summarily convicted, and 112 committed for trial at the sessions. Of the latter 72 were convicted.

The following table compares the state of crime during the last four years :—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Offences ... ..	15,779	18,238	19,279	17,484
Apprehensions ... ..	20,468	21,037	22,820	20,725
Convictions by the Magistrate	12,262	12,892	13,978	13,090
In Superior Courts ... ..	115	106	75	72

TRINIDAD  
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TOBAGO.  
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## HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

36. A return showing the hospitals of the Colony with the number of inmates and the cost of upkeep, exclusive of medical staff, is subjoined :—

Institutions.	Daily Average No. of Diets Issued.	Cost exclusive of Medical Staff.
Colonial Hospital ... ..	616	£ s. d. 13,608 12 11
San Fernando Hospital ... ..	227	5,863 17 9
St. Joseph District Hospital ... ..	34	765 6 5½
Tacarigua Hospital ... ..	31	750 8 3
Arima Hospital ... ..	24	675 2 1½
Chaguanas Hospital ... ..	19	622 4 4
Couva Hospital ... ..	34	754 13 3
Princes Town Hospital ... ..	27	587 7 6
Cedros Hospital... ..	18	448 19 10
Total ... ..	1,030	23,076 12 5

## 37.—Asylums.

Institutions.	Daily Average No. of Diets.	Cost exclusive of Medical Staff.
Lunatic Asylum ... ..	441	£ s. d. 7,701 9 6¼
Leper Asylum ... ..	241	4,679 10 1½
House of Refuge ... ..	229	3,912 14 5½
San Fernando Alms-House ... ..	14	238 6 8½
Total ... ..	925	17,532 0 9¾

The San Fernando Alms-House was closed on the 2nd of October, and the patients transferred to the San Fernando Hospital.

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38. The total expenditure of the medical department for 1897 was as follows :—

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Institutions.	Salaries, &c.			Other Charges.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Medical Staff ...	17,974	2	11½	—	—	—	17,974	2	11½
Clerical and Store Staff.	1,421	19	1½	—	—	—	1,421	19	1½
<b>HOSPITALS.</b>									
Colonial Hospital ...	3,741	10	7	9,898	11	7	13,640	2	2
San Fernando Hospital.	1,682	12	0	4,428	1	2½	6,110	13	2½
St. Joseph District Hospital.	144	1	8	620	19	5½	765	1	1½
Tacarigua District Hospital.	130	15	6	638	16	0	769	11	6
Arima District Hospital.	182	5	0	464	11	4	666	16	4
Chaguanas District Hospital.	164	1	8	446	15	0½	610	16	8½
Couva District Hospital.	175	15	0	583	4	6½	758	19	6½
Princes Town District Hospital.	154	1	8	423	11	8½	577	13	4½
Cedros District Hospital.	100	15	0	344	17	0	445	12	0
Mayaro (Temporary) District Hospital.	22	10	0	83	1	0	105	11	0
<b>ASYLUMS.</b>									
Lunatic Asylum ...	2,238	8	6½	5,517	16	7½	7,756	5	2
Lepor " ...	1,155	12	7	3,512	3	8½	4,667	16	3½
House of Refuge ...	949	3	4	2,979	4	7½	3,928	7	11½
Moruga Dispensary	110	0	0	39	18	10½	149	18	10½
Medical Expenses and for Paupers.	—	—	—	1,049	18	3½	1,049	18	3½
Miscellaneous Sanitary Expenses, Public Health.	1,593	0	0	105	15	7	1,698	15	7
Quarantine ...	255	0	0	184	17	5½	439	17	5½
Vaccination ...	—	—	—	1,454	12	7	1,454	12	7
Travelling Expenses Officers on special duty.	—	—	—	93	10	3	93	10	3
Office Contingencies	—	—	—	42	2	7½	42	2	7½
Yaws Dispensaries ...	186	1	8	281	3	7½	467	5	3½
Total ...	£32,381	16	3½	£33,213	13	1½	£65,595	9	5



TRINIDAD  
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*Hospitals.*

39. The admissions, discharges, and deaths of patients during the year 1897, at the Colonial Hospital, San Fernando and District Hospitals were as follows :—

Total number remaining in hospitals on 31st December, 1896	...	...	1,038
Total number admitted during the year ended 31st December, 1897	...	...	16,132
Total number treated during 1897	...	...	17,170
Number discharged during the year ended 31st December, 1897	...	14,518	
Number died	...	1,807	16,325
Number remaining in hospitals on 31st December, 1897	...	...	845
Daily average number in hospitals on 31st December, 1897	...	...	1,006
Percentage of deaths on number treated during 1897	...	...	10.53

40. The following is an abstract of diseases treated in the various hospitals during 1897 :—

Disease.	Discharged.	Died.
I.—GENERAL DISEASES.		
SPECIFIC :		
(a) Febrile Group	3,406	197
(b) Dependent on external agents other than Morbid Poison.	378	34
(c) Developmental Diseases	617	157
(d) Not classified	2,703	462
II.—LOCAL DISEASES.		
1. Nervous System	372	89
2. Eye	301	—
3. Ear	63	1
4. Nose	30	1
5. Circulatory System	97	61
6. Respiratory	673	121

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Disease.	Discharged.	Died.
<b>II.—LOCAL DISEASES—cont.</b>		
7. Digestive System ... ..	1,609	518
8. Lymphatic „ ... ..	61	2
9. Thyroid Body ... ..	—	—
10. Urinary System ... ..	198	92
11. Generative System ... ..	562	17
(a) Affections connected with Pregnancy	261	4
(b) Affections connected with Parturition	10	1
(c) Affections consequent on Parturition...	4	3
(d) Diseases of the Female Breast ...	11	—
12. Organs of Locomotion ... ..	106	1
13. Connective Tissue ... ..	313	2
14. Skin ... ..	1,138	4
Poisons ... ..	22	2
Injuries ... ..	796	38
No Appreciable Disease ... ..	787	—
Total ... ..	14,518	1,807

41. The most noticeable diseases in the above table are—

Disease.	Discharged.	Died.
Whooping Cough ... ..	52	8
Influenza ... ..	39	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	18	12
Typho-malarial fever ... ..	17	10
<i>Malarial Fever :</i>		
Intermittent Fever... ..	1,520	10
Remittent ... ..	925	102
Malarial cachexia ... ..	76	5

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1897.	Disease.	Discharged.	Died.
	Rheumatism ... ..	437	5
	Phthisis Pulmonalis ... ..	192	17
	Anæmia ... ..	1,696	181
	Bronchitis ... ..	439	36
	Asthma ... ..	89	6
	Pneumonia ... ..	60	60
	Pleurisy ... ..	59	10
	Dysentery ... ..	276	88
	Diarrhœa ... ..	512	374

42. The following are the birth-places of the patients admitted to the hospitals :—

Birth-place.	Number.
India ... ..	4,943
Trinidad ... ..	4,940
Barbados ... ..	2,522
Windward Islands ... ..	1,492
Leeward Islands ... ..	516
Tobago ... ..	409
Venezuela ... ..	185
Various ... ..	1,125
Total ... ..	16,132

#### LUNATIC ASYLUM.

43. The number remaining on 31st December, 1896, was ... ..	407
„ „ admitted during 1897 ... ..	157
	<hr/> 564
„ „ discharged ... ..	47
„ „ died ... ..	49
	<hr/> 96
„ „ remaining on 31st December, 1897 ... ..	468

The average number resident during the year was 439.73. Besides the lunatics resident in the Asylum there is a lunatic

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ward and an idiot ward at the House of Refuge, containing 49 patients.

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AND  
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The number of cases admitted was above the average, the increase being chiefly on the female side.

The death-rate was smaller than in the previous year, but the Medical Superintendent reports that there was much sickness throughout the year, cases of fever being very prevalent.

44. The nationality of the patients admitted was—

Birth-place.					Number.
Barbados	...	...	...	...	26
India	...	...	...	...	37
Trinidad	...	...	...	...	56
Various	...	...	...	...	38
Total	...	...	...	...	157

LEPER ASYLUM.

45. Number remaining in Asylum on 31st December, 1896	...	...	...	...	...	218
Number admitted during 1897	...	...	...	...	...	52
Total number under treatment	...	...	...	...	...	270
Discharges in 1897	...	...	...	...	14	14
Deaths in 1897	...	...	...	...	23	37
Number remaining in Asylum on 31st December, 1897	...	...	...	...	...	233
Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	8

The number of admissions was about the average for past years.

During the year important improvements to the Asylum were in course of progress, the old building being re-roofed, and new floors and galleries built.

HOUSE OF REFUGE.

46. The number remaining on the 31st December, 1896,	...	...	...	...	...	184
was	...	...	...	...	...	184
Admitted during 1897	...	...	...	...	...	79
Number discharged during 1897	...	...	...	...	36	263
„ died	...	...	...	...	56	92
Number remaining on 31st December, 1897	...	...	...	...	...	171

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1897.

The average age of those who died at the House of Refuge was, males 89·3, and females 69·9.

### YAWS.

47. The Dispensaries for the treatment of Yaws cases and the districts in which they are situated are—

District.	Dispensary where situated.
Port-of-Spain... ..	Colonial Hospital.
San Fernando... ..	San Fernando Hospital.
Diego Martin ... ..	
Santa Cruz ... ..	
St. Joseph ... ..	District Hospital.
Tacarigua ... ..	
Arima ... ..	{ Garden Estate. District Hospital. D'Abadie. Cunapo. Tuumpuna.
Mayaro ... ..	
Toco ... ..	{ Matelot. Grande Rivière. Matura. Toco.
Chaguanas ... ..	{ District Hospital. Carapichaima.
Couva ... ..	{ Exchange Village.
Pointe-à-Pierre ... ..	Claxton's Bay.
Gran Couva ... ..	{ D. M. Officer's Residence. Preysal Village.
Guaracara ... ..	{ D. M. Officer's Residence. Whitelands.
North Naparima ... ..	
South „ ... ..	Picton Estate.
Savana Grande .. ..	
Oropuche ... ..	Siparia.
Indian Walk ... ..	D. M. Officer's Residence.
Cedros ... ..	District Hospital.
Bocas ... ..	

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The total number of cases remaining on 31st December, 1896, was	...	...	...	389	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. 1897.	
The number of cases treated during 1897, was...	1,898					
"    "    "    cured    "    "    "	353					
"    "    "    remaining on 31st December, 1897	...	...	...	350		
"    "    "    missing was	...	...	...	114		
The total expenditure for the year under this head was £467 5s. 3½d, made up as follows :—						
				£	s.	d.
Medicines	...	...	...	221	15	4
Rent, Freight, &c.	...	...	...	59	8	3½
Dispensers, Attendants, &c.	...	...	...	186	1	8
				<hr/>		
				£467	5	3½

This disease continues to be prevalent in certain districts, but the dispensary system has certainly checked its increase.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

48. The general health of the Colony during 1897 was satisfactory. Mild epidemics of influenza and whooping cough prevailed for some months.

METEOROLOGICAL.

49. The meteorological results for 1897, taken at the Royal Botanic Gardens, show that the month of May was the hottest in the year, the temperature being recorded at 91.0. The lowest temperature was 67.6 in February. The mean annual temperature was 79.13.

The total rainfall for the year was 77.68 inches. Most rain fell in July, the gauge registering 13.88 inches.

The mean daily height of the barometer, reduced readings, was 29.962 inches.

SAVINGS BANK.

50. There are 10 Government Savings Banks open in the Colony, viz :—

Port-of-Spain with	...	...	5,559	Depositors.
San Fernando	"	...	2,336	"
Arima	"	...	899	"
St. Joseph	"	...	272	"
Couva	"	...	605	"
Tortuga	"	...	274	"
Princes Town	"	...	500	"
Cedros	"	...	173	"
Mayaro	"	...	218	"
Chaguanas	"	...	100	"
			<hr/>	
Total	...	...	10,936	

TRINIDAD  
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---

Of this number, 4,379 were East Indians, with a total amount to credit of £85,761.

	£
The balance in deposit on the 1st January, 1897, was ... ..	229,043
The deposits during the year, including interest added on 1st January, 1897, were ... ..	180,826
	<u>£409,869</u>
Withdrawals during 1897 ... ..	177,929
Leaving as due to depositors ... ..	<u>£231,940</u>

Of this amount, £218,117 is invested in Colonial Inscribed Stock and English Funds, the remainder being cash in hand to meet current transactions.

#### TOBAGO.

51. I annex the report of the Commissioner of Tobago (the Hon. W. Low) on the portion of this Blue Book relating to that Island.

I have &c.,

C. C. KNOLLYS,

*Acting Governor.*

## REPORT ON THE TOBAGO BLUE BOOK.

TRINIDAD  
AND  
TOBAGO.  
1897.

I have the honour to forward the Tobago Blue Book Returns and to report to His Excellency thereon.

At the close of 1897 there was in the Treasury Chest £1,325 0s. 4d. The total revenue during the year was £8,107 2s. 7d., or £297 17s. 5d. less than the estimate. The expenditure was £8,386 14s. 1d., or £164 6s. 3d. more than the estimate, thus leaving the Island £462 3s. 8d. to the bad. In addition to this must be noted the fact that of the sum of £4,500 raised by the Crown Agents for loan purposes and credited to Tobago in their current account, only £4,032 6s. 2d. had been actually expended on roads and buildings to 31st December.

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance sheet for 1897 shows an excess of liabilities of £9,203 3s. 10d. The Assets at 31st December were £2,621 4s. 4d. as against liabilities amounting to a total of £11,824 8s. 2d. The sum of £4,500 raised by the Crown Agents during 1897 on account of the loan was carried to credit of Tobago to adjust their temporary advances. This sum has been included in the balance sheet. The whole of the amount of £4,500 had not been expended to 31st December as is shown under the head of revenue and expenditure.

## LEGISLATION.

During the year six regulations were passed by the Financial Board. None of them were of a character demanding special report.

## CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Commissioner was absent on leave for six months, and Mr. S. W. Knaggs, 1st Clerk in the office of the Colonial Secretary of Trinidad, acted during Mr. Low's absence.

## IMPORTS.

The total imports appear to be £11,656 12s. 1d. This shows a decrease in the imports of £2,276, as compared with the amount in 1896.



TRINIDAD  
AND  
TOBAGO.  
1897.

### EXPORTS.

The exports only amount to £4,968 5s. 4d., and if from this be taken £911 4s. 4d. "specie" the actual exports of "produce" of the Island would only be £4,057 1s., or less than half of the previous year's exports; but £14,433 9s. 3d. which represents the trade between Tobago and Trinidad during 1897 must be added to the first-mentioned figures. These figures require no comment to show the effect on the Island of the collapse of the sugar industry.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population at close of 1897 was 20,785 or an increase of 463 over the figures of 1896. This increase may be taken as a further tribute not only to the healthiness of the Island but to the facilities for easy living here.

### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

In 1897, 507 cases were reported. Of these 112 were for assaults and 47 for prædial larceny with 81 and 52 convictions respectively. There was a total of 376 convictions. The offences against the person were of a trifling nature. Five persons were indicted for this offence but only one was convicted by the Supreme Court. Prædial larceny—*i.e.* larceny principally of coconuts—is, as in most West Indian Islands, prevalent. There is no serious crime in the Island. "Other Offences" principally represents cases against owners of animals, &c., who have neglected to obtain licenses at the Treasury within the specified time.

### CROWN LANDS.

In addition to the other difficulties the Island is now struggling against, the sale of Crown Lands is being retarded by having to compete against the abandoned sugar estates. These lands are being sold at 8s. to 10s. per acre plus survey fees. The owners of the estates are also only too glad to let the peasants have what land they require for provision grounds; and as human nature is the same everywhere the negro, whose wants are very small, cultivates part of an abandoned cane field with a sufficiency of vegetables for his immediate wants, and when this piece is exhausted he moves on to another spot. This system saves him the trouble of felling forest trees, and as most of the negroes are devoid of ambition, the consideration that a lot of the Crown Lands would in time become their own property, does not exercise an important influence.

### LOAN.

Expenditure on roads is being conducted on the principle of reconstructing the worst portions of the principal roads and

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bye-ways. Thus every road receives a proportionate amount of attention : none are now really bad, many are really good, while some require very little repairs.

TRINIDAD  
AND  
TOBAGO.  
1897.

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GENERAL REMARKS.

During the year 1897 Tobago maintained its well deserved reputation for being one of the healthiest of Her Majesty's West Indian Colonies. It is to be regretted that the well-to-do of Trinidad who can afford short absences from work do not resort to Tobago for rest and enjoyment of the pure air of this Island, and thus help to advertise the advantages of the poorer partner. Tobago is virtually even now a part of Trinidad ; yet the richer Trinidadians prefer going further away. Were some effort made by the influential Trinidadians to bring to notice the salubrity of an Island within sight of theirs much good would result, not only to the people themselves but to the mutual friendly understanding which should exist between the two places.

Sugar is dead. Cocoa is being slowly planted in small quantities, but a judicious and liberal expenditure of capital is necessary to restore the Island to some degree of prosperity.

WM. LOW,  
*Commissioner.*

23rd March, 1898.



LONDON:  
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1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 272

TRINIDAD.

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REPORT FOR 1898

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 241.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
*September, 1899.*

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
243	Malta ... ..	1897
244	Fiji ... ..	"
245	Hong Kong ... ..	"
246	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
247	Grenada ... ..	"
248	Gibraltar ... ..	"
249	Gold Coast ... ..	"
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues ... ..	"
251	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1897-98
252	Seychelles ... ..	1897
253	Labuan ... ..	"
254	Ceylon ... ..	"
255	Basutoland ... ..	1897-98
256	Newfoundland ... ..	1896-97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ... ..	1898
258	British New Guinea ... ..	1897-98
259	Bermuda ... ..	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ... ..	1897-98
261	Jamaica ... ..	"
262	Barbados ... ..	1898
263	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
264	Gambia ... ..	"
265	St. Helena ... ..	"
266	Leeward Islands ... ..	"
267	St. Lucia ... ..	"
268	Fiji ... ..	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	"
270	Malta ... ..	"
271	Gold Coast ... ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast ... ..	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand ... ..	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone ... ..	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada ... ..	Emigration.
5	Bahamas ... ..	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland ... ..	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific ... ..	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica ... ..	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands ... ..	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada ... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla ... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 272.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD,  
1898

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 241.)

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ACTING GOVERNOR KNOLLYS to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House.

31st July 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Trinidad Blue Book for the year 1898 with my Report thereon. The Tobago returns are not yet ready, so I would not keep back the Trinidad Blue Book for them. Next year there will be no separate returns for Tobago, as all the returns will be for Trinidad and Tobago.

I have, &c.,

C. C. KNOLLYS.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

A.—GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

	£
1. The revenue for 1898 was ... ..	615,372
The expenditure for 1898 was ... ..	640,952
The balance on 31st December, 1898 was ...	64,326

The heads of Revenue and Expenditure, compared with those of 1898, will be found in Appendices A. and B.

2. The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years was :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894 ... ..	585,905	537,775
1895 ... ..	598,884	605,514
1896 ... ..	618,332	594,462
1897 ... ..	611,434	622,364
1898 ... ..	615,372	640,952

3. The revenue shows a steady increase year by year, such as would be expected as a result from the increased population, except in the year 1896, the exceptional increase being accounted for by the fact that in that year the shops and stores which had been burnt in the great fire of 1894 were completed and re-stocked, thereby abnormally swelling the Customs receipts.

4. The increase in the expenditure, also, is due to the progress of the Island. The chief increases, comparing the first with the last of the five years are under the following heads :—

	£
Charges on account of Public Debt—increase...	9,555
Post Office and Subsidies	4,753
Medical and Poor Relief	5,286
Education	8,597
Government Railway	26,942
Public Works and Roads	49,333

Schemes have been elaborated by which the expenditure for TRINIDAD,  
medical and education may be reduced. 1898.

5. The increase in population has been from 219,000 at the end of 1893 to 260,000 at the end of 1898, or 18·8 per cent. during the five years. The increase in revenue during the same period has been five per cent., and in expenditure 19 per cent. A variation in the rates of increase between revenue and expenditure might be expected from the nature of the immigration, the immigrants being almost entirely composed of the working classes, and many of them practically paupers. These, of course, spend little money, while they materially increase the cost of education, hospitals, and poor relief. The increase in expenditure, however, has chiefly occurred under the heads of Public Debt, Railways, and Public Works. The railways extensions and loans for various large works account for the first two, while the third is explained by the economy in repairs and necessary works which prevailed during the years 1891-94, necessitating increased expenditure later. The average expenditure on Public Works, including roads, during the years mentioned was £73,823, while during the three previous years the average had been £86,543, and during the years 1896-98, £116,488. The Government buildings are now in good repair, and most of the existing roads are in good, and the rest in fair order. Any surplus revenue, therefore, that can be spared will be available for the extension of roads and for the erection of certain public buildings which are still needed. But the current revenue and recurrent expenditure are nearly equal; every mile of new road opened necessitates an increase in the annual cost of upkeep, and the cash balance to the credit of the Colony, which had been accumulated during the years 1892-96 and amounted at the end of the latter year to £106,074, is now being spent in such remunerative works as the supply of water to country-towns and villages. As, therefore, there is no immediate intention of raising further loans, it is absolutely necessary to provide for an increase of revenue if the present prosperity of the Island is to continue and its further development to be encouraged. If the taxation per head in Trinidad and England be compared, it will be seen that there will be no hardship in a moderate increase. The taxation per head in England is £2 10s. 6d., besides local rates of between 20 per cent. and 43 per cent. on assessed rentals, while the taxation per head in Trinidad is £1 14s. 0½d., and the local rates 7½ per cent. on assessed rentals. The taxation per head in Trinidad in 1882 was £1 17s. 10½d., since which time it has gradually fallen to its present rate. It is proposed that the new tax shall take the form of a stamp duty, which it is estimated will produce between £10,000 and £20,000 per annum, the whole of which will be available for improvements. This would increase the taxation by about 1s. per head.



TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## B.—IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

6. There were no changes in taxation during 1898.

## C.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

7. The assets of the Colony were on 31st December 1898.—

	£
Cash ... ..	39,172
Investments in English and Colonial Securities ... ..	313,965
Advances ... ..	50,408
	————— 403,545

The liabilities of the Colony were :—

	£
Balance due sinking funds on loans...	133
Deposits due sundry persons ...	300,230
Suspense Accounts ... ..	8,281
Advances ... ..	30,000
Sundry debts ... ..	574
	————— 339,218

Giving a balance in favour of the Colony £64,327

## D.—PUBLIC DEBT.

8. The Public Debt of Trinidad amounts to £911,211. The debt is a first charge on the general revenue, the payment on account of interest and sinking fund amounting in 1898 to £47,657. This debt will shortly be increased by about £200,000 to complete works now under construction.

The proceeds of the whole of this debt, with the exception of about £175,000, have been spent on directly remunerative works, such as railways, and harbour, sewerage, and water works.

The receipts from railways more than cover working expenses, and had the lines belonged to a company a dividend of £2 19s. 6d. per cent. would have been declared for the year 1898. The cost of the harbour works is covered by harbour improvement dues levied on the tonnage landed and shipped, while that of the sewerage and water works is, or will be when they are completed, covered by special rates. The £175,000 spent on roads and public buildings is the only part of the loan which is not directly remunerative.

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E.—CURRENCY.

TRINIDAD  
1898.

9. The currency of Trinidad consists of British bronze, silver, and gold coins, and a note issue by the Colonial Bank. Though the currency is based on a gold standard, and twenty shillings are worth a pound, there is no limitation to the legal tender of silver. Hence, in obedience to the laws of exchange, gold is practically non-existent. Formerly, the note issue of the Colonial Bank amounted to between £120,000 and £140,000, but by their new charter the bank is limited to a note issue of £500,000 for the whole of the West Indies, of which £100,000 is apportioned to Trinidad. This has proved insufficient, and a recent famine of the larger currency has hampered trade, especially with Venezuela, where foreign silver is contraband.

F.—MUNICIPAL REVENUES, &c.

10. Comparative statements of revenue and expenditure of the boroughs of Port-of-Spain, San Fernando, and Arima will be found in Appendix C. These show that the average revenue and expenditure for the past five years of Port-of-Spain were £19,900 and £20,636 respectively, of San Fernando £5,424 and £5,359 respectively, and of Arima £1,360 and £1,304 respectively. The local rates on the annual rental were five per cent. for Port-of-Spain and Arima, and seven per cent. for San Fernando. The debts are secured on the rates and are—Port-of-Spain, £37,800, San Fernando, £5,700, Arima nil.

The Borough Council of Port-of-Spain was, however, abolished in January last and the care of the Municipality, with extended boundaries, entrusted to four commissioners, the chairman being a Government official. The rates have been increased from five per cent. to 7½ per cent., and this, with a more careful assessment and the extension of the boundaries, has increased the income from rates from £8,026 to £13,500 per annum.

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II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

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A.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

11. The values of the chief articles imported compared with those of the previous year will be found in Appendix D., and of articles exported in Appendix E. The falling off in the amount of asphalt exported in 1898 is accounted for by an unusual activity displayed during the previous year in view of an impending alteration in the tariff of the United States.

12. The total values of imports and exports for the last five years are given in Appendix F.

TRINIDAD, 1898. 13. The total values of the imports from and exports to each country in the years 1896, 1897, and 1898 are given in Appendices G. and H.

14. The class of imports and exports for the years 1897 and 1898, the total quantities and values of the more important staples exported during the last five years, and the directions in which the staples of the Colony were exported, with their values, are given in Appendix I.

15. The following tables of imports from and exports to Great Britain and the United States are instructive. Bullion and transhipments are deducted :—

	1878.	1888.	1898.
Imports from—	£	£	£
Great Britain... ..	558,290	754,348	706,509
United States ... ..	341,560	349,863	453,609
Exports to—			
Great Britain... ..	930,845	727,898	425,656
United States... ..	168,803	665,342	744,512

Compared with 1897 there was a diminution of £45,000 in imports from Great Britain, and an increase of £40,000 in those from the United States.

16. The trade with Venezuela is of great importance to Trinidad, and shows healthy signs of reviving. The imports from Venezuela have not varied very greatly, but the following table, giving the exports to Venezuela for the three years immediately preceding the imposition of the 30 per cent. differential duty and the last three years, speaks for itself.

Year.	<i>Exports to Venezuela.</i>					Value.
						£
1879 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	218,983
1880 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	214,671
1881 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	252,686
1896 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	93,097
1897 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	69,318
1898 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	81,031

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The following are some of the items which show a falling off:— TRINIDAD,  
1898.

	1881.	1898
	£	£
Leather manufactures ... ..	2,619	226
Lumber ... ..	1,830	286
Sugar ... ..	5,760	1,104
Vegetables ... ..	6,900	1,972
Machinery ... ..	5,400	—
Hardware ... ..	34,503	1,324
Textiles ... ..	139,200	36,152

The loss on the two last items amounts to roughly a third of the whole trade of the Colony in these branches, from which fact some idea may be formed of the importance of the tax in question.

#### B.—MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

17. There are no mines in Trinidad, and the manufactories, with the exception of sugar and angostura bitters, are small and unimportant. Bitters to the value of £33,991 was exported from one factory. There are several magnificent sugar factories in the Island fitted with the most modern and improved appliances.

#### C.—AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

18. The nature of the produce grown or manufactured in the Colony in 1898 and the quantity of each was:—

Sugar ... ..	50,704 tons.
Molasses exported ... ..	660,535 gallons.
Rum, home consumption ... ..	270,000 proof gallons.
„ exported ... ..	172,000 „
Cocoa ... ..	24,340,960 lbs.
Coconuts ... ..	12,240,306 in number.
Asphalt ... ..	100,208 tons.
Bitters ... ..	40,000 gallons.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

*Sugar.*

19. The most useful method of treating the agricultural interests of the Colony will be to deal with them as they are at the present time (July 1899). The sugar crop of the Island just past can be fairly described as a good one. The output will reach 60,000 tons. The weather has been favourable for cultivation and reaping, and consequently the cost of production has been low, and as the markets have been better than for some years past most estates will have made a fair profit.

*Cost of Production excluding Interest.*

20. The average cost of production for the crops of 1898 and 1899 was £9 7s. 6d. per ton. The net proceeds of 1898 and 1899 were £11 4s. 4d., showing a profit per ton of £1 16s. 10d. About 50 per cent. of the crop of the Island was manufactured in well equipped factories with the most modern machinery. The above shows a fair margin for interest on capital invested, which would lead one to suppose that the sugar industry of the Island is in a flourishing condition, and that owners could find a ready market for estates if they desired to sell them. This is not the case, and estates representing 40 per cent. of the total output are in a precarious condition.

21. This state of things has been brought about by the losses between the years 1883 and 1896, which were usually charged against capital account. About the year 1890 it became apparent that only modern well equipped factories could produce sugar below market price, and owners of estates had to decide whether they would abandon, or invest further capital in improved machinery, &c., and form central factories. The investments in most cases were already so large that a total loss could not be faced. Hence, while in isolated cases estates were abandoned, others were improved and enlarged. The result is that many estates are over capitalized, the interest on capital in some cases amounting to £1 15s. per ton of sugar produced. Under these circumstances those most interested cannot be expected to invest further capital in improvements, although it has been clearly demonstrated that some of the best equipped estates can produce sugar at a cost of £8 10s. per ton; hence outside capitalists must be approached to put the industry on a sound basis. Many capitalists of late have enquired into the business to be done, but all have come to the same conclusion, viz.: bounties cause such uncertainty in the market, that until bounties are abolished or countervailed, investments in sugar estates in Trinidad are not safe.

22. Prospects for next year's markets are favourable. Although beet sowings are higher than last year, last year's "world-

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production" was 350,000 tons less than consumption, and by the time next crop is reaped old stocks will be reduced by 500,000 tons, and the increased beet crop is not likely to make this up. TRINIDAD,  
1898.  
—

23. The stimulus given to the beet sugar industry in the United States by the present protective tariff has been checked by the acquisition of Cuba and the Philippines, both sugar-producing countries, but, owing to scarcity of labour and stock in the former, and the unsettled state of the latter, no increase of production is expected next year.

24. The ultimate fate of the sugar industry in Trinidad will depend almost altogether on the measures taken by the Imperial Government to abolish or counteract the bounties given by foreign powers.

25. It is probable that five years hence Louisiana, Hawaii, Cuba, and the Philippines will be able to supply the consumption of the United States. The West Indies will then be driven to compete with bounty-fed sugar in England. Capital is the first necessity to reduce the cost of production, but much could still be done with an abundant supply of labour.

26. Sales of Crown lands have increased enormously during the last two years, and are still increasing, especially in the new districts opened up by the railway extensions. This expansion necessitates labour, which must come from the already populated districts where the sugar estates are situated.

27. Of late years a new form of the sugar industry in the shape of cane farming has sprung up. This is specially suited to the temperament of the peasants of this country, who like to be independent and to work when they like and idle when they like. It is estimated that the total weight of canes supplied by about 5,000 cane farmers during the last crop was 90,000 tons, representing 6,000 acres. Omitting one or two whole estates which are farmed, the weight of canes sold by individuals varied from 10 cwt. to 600 tons, and the average price given was 7*s.* 8*d.* per ton. About 12 tons of canes will give one ton of sugar. Two factories alone bought 32,720 tons of canes.

28. The prospects of the sugar industry at the present time are more hopeful than they were three years ago, and well managed and equipped properties, such as those which now turn out fifty per cent. of the total output, have no difficulty in making fair profits.

#### *Cocoa.*

29. The area of land under cultivation of cocoa is estimated to be 103,000 acres, which in the year 1898 gave a crop of 24,340,306 lbs. This will be considerably exceeded in 1899.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

Cocoa is exported in bags averaging 165 lbs. each. The cost of cultivation varies according to accessibility and nature of the land, and the maturity of the estate. The trees bear but little when young, and increase in bearing until they are 14 years old, and continue in full bearing until about eighty years old. The cost thus varies from 33 shillings to 60 shillings per bag; but 40 shillings may be taken as an average for a fairly matured estate. The average price obtained last year was 80 shillings per bag, so 40 shillings may be taken as the average profit per bag. The value of an estate to produce 600 bags is about \$60,000 or £12,500. Calculated as above this would give an annual profit of £1,200, or 10 per cent. on the capital invested; but many well matured estates, making a good quality of cocoa, realized last year as much as 14 per cent., and some even more. There is a good opening for the investment of capital in the establishment of combined rubber and cocoa estates.

#### *Rubber.*

30. The cultivation of rubber-producing trees is in its infancy, but there is every prospect of this industry being a paying one.

#### C.—BOTANICAL STATIONS.

31. The Botanical Station has been doing good work in Trinidad during the year. 4,866 letters were registered outward, and 5 bulletins were published, one being a special issue on rubber. 31,188 plants and 52 packets of seeds as well as 12,398 loose seeds were distributed. Much assistance was given to the establishment of rubber plantations, seeds of the *Castilloa* rubber were readily sold by auction at the rate of 30s. per thousand, while plants a year old were sold for seven cents each and seedlings in boxes for 4s. per hundred. A subsidiary station is in course of establishment in Tobago, which will be supported by an Imperial grant; the land for this has already been purchased, and it will be immediately laid out. Much good is expected to result from this station.

#### *Government Farm.*

32. This institution is in a flourishing condition. The farm was originally started for two purposes, first, to supply an abundance of good milk to the public hospitals, and secondly, to improve the breed of stock in the Colony. Both of these purposes have been fulfilled. During the year, 129,514 gallons of good milk was supplied at a cost of 3½ cents per quart, which is less than the cost of condensed milk. The San Fernando Hospital has for the last two years been supplied also, and last year took

145-

21,864 gallons, thereby effecting a saving on the previous rate of contract of £410. The introduction of zebu cattle from India and red poll and other good stock from England and Canada has had a most beneficial effect. Stock has been purchased at the annual sales for exportation to Jamaica, Demerara, and other places. The stock now on the farm is 245 cattle, 31 horses, and imported poultry. On account of the milk being supplied at cost price no profit is shown by the institution, but the advantages gained are very great.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

D.—LAND GRANTS.

33. During the year 1898, 706 grants of Crown lands were made, comprising 8,001 acres and 62 village lots, for which £9,657 was received. During the previous year, 1897, 432 grants were made, comprising 4,690 acres and 67 village lots, realizing £5,474. The average for the last ten years, including 1898, has been 552 lots, comprising 6,237 acres and 52 village lots, realizing an average of £7,309. Up to the 30th June 1899, the number of grants completed were 535, comprising 5,439 acres and 45 lots and realizing £9,528, including survey fees, while on the same date there were still 632 applications not dealt with, comprising 6,533 acres and 22 lots. The total received for purchase money and survey fees to that date was £18,665. The estimate for the whole year was £12,500. On the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners, instructions were issued for the reduction of the minimum quantity to be sold from ten acres to five acres. This alteration has not been taken advantage of to any appreciable extent, and nearly all the lots sold are of ten acres. The number of grants issued in 1898 to Indian immigrants was 217, comprising 2,698 acres and 5 village lots. Crown land is usually sold without competition for £1 per acre and 10s. per acre to cover cost of survey, though sometimes particularly good land has a slightly higher price put upon it.

34. The acreage under cultivation in Trinidad is estimated at 210,000 acres, and is made up as follows :—

	Acres.
Cocoa ... ..	103,000
Sugar cane ... ..	57,000
Coffee ... ..	1,500
Coconuts ... ..	14,000
Provisions (vegetables) ... ..	18,500
Pastures ... ..	10,000
Other products ... ..	6,000



TRINIDAD,  
1898.

### E.—SHIPPING.

35. Returns of shipping inward and outward compared with that of the year 1897 will be found in Appendix K, the nationality of vessels in Appendix H, and a comparative statement of the total shipping inward and outward for the last five years in Appendix N.

## III.—LEGISLATION.

36. Thirty-six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year, of which two were exceptionally important.

No. 5, “An Ordinance for quieting possession and titles against the Crown in this Colony.” This Ordinance establishes a title against the Crown to property after sixteen years exclusive possession or forty years enjoyment of rents.

No. 15, “An Ordinance to authorize the acquisition of land for public purposes.” It was found that the valuation by a jury of land acquired for public purposes was practically unworkable, and an Ordinance was passed, providing that in case of dispute the value of such land shall be fixed by a Judge of the Supreme Court assisted by assessors. This has been found to work admirably.

## IV.—EDUCATION.

### A.—PRIMARY.

37. The expenditure on elementary education amounted to £35,924, being an increase of £2,028 over the previous year, and was incurred under the following heads :—

					£
Government schools	...	...	...	...	10,297
Assisted schools	...	...	...	...	20,608
Exhibitions at colleges	...	...	...	...	222
Government training schools	...	...	...	...	1,132
Assisted	...	...	...	...	667
Administration	...	...	...	...	2,998
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>£35,924</u>

38. The following table gives a summary of attendance :—

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

Assisted Schools.	No. of Schools.	No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.
Roman Catholic ... ..	61	8,217	5,196
Church of England ... ..	37	5,424	3,605
Presbyterian (Canadian Mission)	44	3,554	2,137
Wesleyan ... ..	4	783	491
Moravian ... ..	1	78	47
Total Assisted Schools ...	147	18,056	11,476
„ Government Schools...	57	6,810	4,341
„ All Schools 1898 ...	204	24,866	15,817
„ „ 1897 ...	196	23,951	15,055

39. The cost to the Government of each scholar in average daily attendance was in Government schools £2 7s. 5d., in assisted schools £1 15s. 11d.

#### B.—SECONDARY EDUCATION.

40. The two schools in which secondary education is given are the Queen's Royal College, which is a Government institution, undenominational, with 91 students; and the St. Mary's College, which is a private institution assisted by Government, Roman Catholic, with 208 students. Four scholarships, each of the annual value of £150, tenable for three years at some European University are offered, subject to certain conditions, to the students of both Colleges who attain the highest places in one of the honour divisions of the Cambridge senior local examination.

#### C.—TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

41. There are two industrial schools, one for boys and one for girls. At the former, as well as at the reformatory for boys, agricultural training is carried on by officers who have had special experience of the work in England. There are no technical or agricultural schools, but arrangements are being made for agricultural teaching at elementary schools, and for this purpose a certain number of school teachers are attending agricultural lectures. A considerable number of technical lectures have been delivered during the past year at the Victoria Institute, a local institute subsidized by the Government, and these were well attended by working men.

TRINIDAD  
1898.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

A.—HOSPITALS.

42. There are nine hospitals in the Island, viz.: the Colonial Hospital, Port-of-Spain, with 581 beds and an average of 535 patients, the San Fernando Hospital with 205 beds and an average of 168 patients, and seven district hospitals with 218 beds and an average of 164 patients. There are also four dispensaries, nine medicine chests, and twelve yaws dispensaries.

43. The expenditure under the medical vote was as follows:—

	£
Medical (including Lunatic Asylum) ... ..	53,316
Health Department ... ..	2,916
Quarantine ... ..	1,192
Poor Law, House of Refuge ... ..	3,608
„ Leper Asylum ... ..	4,660
Total ... ..	<u>£65,695</u>

Divided as follows:—

	Salaries.	Other Charges.	Total.
	£	£	£
Medical Staff ... ..	17,826	—	17,826
Clerical and Store Staff ... ..	1,362	—	1,362
Hospitals and Dispensaries ... ..	7,402	16,887	24,289
Lunatic Asylum ... ..	2,332	5,639	7,971
Leper Asylum ... ..	1,129	3,530	4,659
House of Refuge ... ..	953	2,655	3,608
Health, Quarantine, Vaccination, &c.	1,953	4,027	5,980
Totals ... ..	£ 32,957	32,738	65,695

44. During the year there were 12,816 admissions into the hospitals, 11,227 discharges, and 1,634 deaths, giving a daily average of 814 patients, with a percentage of 11.96 deaths on the number treated. A return of the diseases treated is given in Appendix N.

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## PAUPERS.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

45. Pauper and poverty certificates for medical attendance were issued to the number of 27,319. Of these, 21,972 were treated as out-patients, and 5,347 treated in hospital. The number of pauper certificates was 18,010, the holders of which are treated free, and the number of poverty certificates was 9,309, the holders of which are treated for a reduced fee.

## YAWS.

46. The average number of yaws cases under treatment throughout the year was 500. The number of cures was 503, while 453 are reported as uncured at the close of the year.

## VACCINATION.

47. 7,012 children were successfully vaccinated, being the proportion of about 96 per cent. of the births. The results obtained with glycerinated calf lymph were all that could be desired.

## B.—ASYLUMS—LUNATIC ASYLUM.

48. The number of inmates at the beginning and close of the year was 468. Admissions 120, discharges 43, deaths 77; percentage of deaths on the average number resident 16.49. As remarked elsewhere, the inmates will be moved to new quarters within a few months.

## LEPER ASYLUM.

49. This asylum is under the able administration of the Roman Catholic sisterhood "The Little Sisters of St. Dominic" with a Government Medical Superintendent. The sisters receive regular salaries as nurses and have very comfortable quarters provided for them within the institution. The number of admissions was 83, of deaths 35, and discharges 16, leaving 265 inmates at the close of the year.

## C.—POOR HOUSES—HOUSE OF REFUGE.

50. The number of admissions was 105, of discharges 35, and deaths 58, leaving 232 inmates at the close of the year. Of these 57 were harmless lunatics. The average age of death of inmates other than lunatics was for males 66 years, and for females 70 years. There is a poor house belonging to the Borough Council of Port-of-Spain containing 59 inmates.

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B

TRINIDAD,  
1898

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#### D.—REFORMATORIES.

51. There are two reformatories—one for boys, in charge of the Church of England, and one for girls, under the care of the Church of Rome. In the boys' reformatory there were 86 inmates, who receive a sound industrial training. Besides carrying on the general service of the institution, including cooking and baking bread, the inmates cultivate a considerable quantity of farm land. A very creditable brass band has been formed among the boys. There were 26 inmates in the girls' reformatory, who were mostly engaged in laundry work.

#### E.—SAVINGS BANKS.

52. There are twelve branches of the Savings Bank, and 11,389 depositors having £244,288 to their credit, or an average of £21 8s. 11½d. This money is invested in Stock Annuities and Colonial Inscribed Stock and yields an interest of £7,595. The interest paid depositors was £5,478 and the cost of management £1,231. The number of deposits during the year was 19,793, amounting to £183,571, and of withdrawals 20,187, amounting to £176,702.

#### LABORATORY.

53. This institution has done good work and will be an important factor in industrial education. 1,213 samples were analysed during the year.

#### FIRE BRIGADES.

54. There are two fire brigades, one in Port-of-Spain and one in San Fernando. The Port-of-Spain Fire Brigade consists of the Commandant, 20 paid members, and 39 volunteers, and cost £2,257. The San Fernando Fire Brigade consists of a paid Commandant and 24 volunteers, and cost £232. In both cases the Government pays one-half the cost, the respective Borough Councils one-third, and the Insurance Companies one-sixth.

#### PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

55. This institution is very complete. It cost during the year £7,128, including £1,300 for stationery for public departments. There were printed 1,900,000 forms and circulars, 10,000 ledgers, journals, &c., 5,988 counterfoil books. 2,943 volumes were bound.

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VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

A.—POLICE.

56. The strength of the force including all ranks was 555, which was distributed among 37 stations. 57 horses and mules are attached to the force. Of these 555 men, 318 were natives of Barbados and only 52 natives of Trinidad. The police are armed and drilled and are a semi-military body forming part of the local forces, under which heading they will be dealt with later. When on police work they carry the usual policeman's baton. The cost of the force was £43,545.

B.—PRISONS.

57. There are three prisons, the Central Gaol, which is in the middle of the town of Port-of-Spain, the Female Prison, which is about one mile from the town, and the Establishment on Carrera Island, about seven miles from Port-of-Spain and half a mile from the nearest land, from which it is separated by a deep channel having a strong current. Only one prisoner has ever made good his escape from this prison. The number of female prisoners is so small, being under fifty, that their time is fully taken up by mending and washing prison clothes. Of the male prisoners, unless there is some reason to the contrary, all, except very short-sentence men, are sent to Carrera Island. There the chief occupation is quarrying and breaking up stones for road metal, which is droghed to the various landing places on the coast. The prisons have been much improved of late years, additions being made by prison labour at a small cost. The separate system is in force.

The following figures are interesting :—

	Males.	Females.
The number of prisoners committed during the year	3,370	564
Discharged on expiration of sentence ... ..	3,372	571
Discharged by His Excellency the Governor for special reason.	11	0
Transferred to Lunatic Asylum ... ..	3	2
"    "    House of Refuge ... ..	1	0
"    "    Colonial Hospital ... ..	2	1
Discharged on ticket of leave ... ..	23	1
Died from natural causes ... ..	26	2
Number in custody on 31st December, 1898 ...	385	28
Daily average for year 1898 ... ..	382	30

3586\*—5

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TRINIDAD, 1898. — The number of committals was 656 males and 114 females less than in 1897, being 471 males and 133 females below the average for four years.

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure for prisons was ...	8,593	10	6½
Estimated value of prisoners' labour, exclusive of that in service of prison ...	3,044	6	8½
Daily gross cost of each prisoner ...	0	1	1½
Daily cost deducting value of labour ...	0	0	8½
Daily cost of each prisoner, exclusive of pay of Staff ... ..	0	0	5
Daily cost of each prisoner for the Staff	0	0	8½

The following is a comparison of expenditure and an average number of prisoners for the last five years :—

Year.	Average number of Prisoners.		Expenditure.
	Males.	Females.	
1893 ... ..	499	44	£ 10,520 7 0
1894 ... ..	509	50	10,517 10 0
1895 ... ..	463	45	9,398 16 11½
1896 ... ..	424	46	9,220 17 1
1897 ... ..	399	41	8,817 1 7½
Average for 5 years ...	459	45	9,694 18 6½
1898 ... ..	382	39	8,593 10 6½
Below the average by ...	77	6	1,101 8 0

#### C.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

58. The number of offences reported to the police was 14,996, against 17,484 in 1897 and 19,279 in 1896. 18,674 persons were apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate, of whom 11,831 were summarily convicted and 130 committed for trial at the sessions. Of the latter, 64 were convicted. There were no judicial executions during 1898, but during the first half of 1899 there were five, three of whom were East Indians and two creoles.

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The following is a comparative statement of crime for the past five years :—

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Offences ... ..	15,779	18,238	19,279	17,484	14,996
Apprehensions ... ..	20,468	21,037	22,820	20,725	18,674
Convictions by Magistrate	12,262	12,892	13,978	13,090	11,831
Convictions in Superior Courts.	115	106	75	72	64

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A.—POPULATION.

59. The estimated population at end of 1897 was 252,544.  
 Births registered during 1898 ... 7,962  
 Deaths „ „ „ ... 6,755

Natural increase ... .. 1,207

Arrivals recorded by the Harbour  
 Master during 1898 ... .. 19,828

Departures recorded by the Harbour  
 Master during 1898 ... .. 13,062

Increase by Immigration ... .. 6,766

Estimated population at end of 1898 ... 260,517

The actual population at the last census in  
 1891 was ... .. 200,028

Increase in eight years ... .. 60,489

The number of East Indians in the Island is  
 estimated to be ... .. 83,505

60. Of the total number of births registered, 4,060 were males and 3,902 females. This gives a birth-rate of 31 per thousand ; of the above births, 5,592 were among the general population and



TRINIDAD 2,370 among the East Indians, of the former 2,321 were legitimate  
1898. and 3,271 illegitimate. There were 620 still-births recorded.  
The number of legitimate and illegitimate births among the East  
Indians is not given, as it is not fair to say that the off-spring of  
parents married according to their own religion is illegitimate.

61. The deaths, 3,793 males and 2,962 females, give a death-rate of 26·3 per thousand. More than one-fourth of the deaths occurred among children under one year of age, while nearly one-third were among those under five years old.

Seven males and nine females reached the age of 95, of whom six were centenarians.

#### B.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

62. The general state of public health during the year was satisfactory. In some districts dysentery in a particularly aggravated form was prevalent. This is attributed to the drinking of bad water. It is satisfactory to notice that since the introduction of pure water into the town of Arima, dysentery, which had for years been prevalent, has practically ceased to exist. A very interesting paper by the Professor of Chemistry was printed in the November number of "The Journal of Tropical Medicine" giving the curve lines of rainfall and death-rate for the town of Port-of-Spain. It is a striking fact that there are rhythmic rises and falls in both curves, those of the rain curve usually preceding those of the other by a month or two.

#### C.—SANITATION.

63. A Staff of Sanitary Inspectors is established throughout the Island who work under the direction of the Surgeon-General; orders were served by the Sanitary Inspectors of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando during the year to the number of 11,979.

#### D.—CLIMATE.

##### (1.)—*Rainfall.*

64. The average annual rainfall for 30 years, 1862 to 1891, was 65·91 inches. The average for 7 years, 1892–98, was 71·42 inches. The mean rainfall for 1898 taken at 72 Stations was 73·21 inches.

##### (2.)—*Temperature.*

65. The reading of the thermometer gives a monthly average for the year of *maximum* 87·6, *minimum* 69·2, with a mean annual temperature of 78·4. The highest was the average for May with 92·3, the lowest the average for February with 67·0. The mean daily height of the barometer was 29·954 inches. The average humidity was 80.

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These observations were taken at the Botanical Station, which is 140 feet above sea level. The barometer readings are reduced. TRINIDAD,  
1898.

66. The weather Bureau Division of the United States Department of Agriculture has instituted an observatory of the best class in Port-of-Spain, which sends telegraphic messages at least twice daily to head quarters.

(3.)—*Direction and Force of Wind.*

67. A table giving the force and direction of wind for each month in the year forms Appendix O.

*Seismograph.*

68. This instrument for recording earthquakes has just been erected as part of the Meteorological Department of the Botanical Gardens. It has been established in connection with the Seismological Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

69. There are 58 post offices, 12 money order offices, and 29 telegraph offices in Trinidad. The revenue of the Post Office was £9,457, and the expenditure £18,094. The latter includes £2,740 subsidy to the Royal Mail, and £1,579 for transit charges under the Postal Union. The number of letters passing through the Post Office during the year was 1,373,737. The number of newspapers, book packets, &c., 520,580, and the number of parcels 14,482. The value of the money orders sent out of the Colony was £39,101, and of those paid in the Colony £6,948.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

70. A subsidy of £3,000 per annum is paid to the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, by which telegrams can be sent to all parts of the world *via* New York, or they can be routed over the Bermuda and Halifax line *via* Jamaica and Bermuda. The rate per word to England is 5s. 4d. Internal telegraph lines are laid along the various railway lines, and there is an extensive system of telephones over the greater part of the Island.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

### A. B.—REGULAR FORCES—MILITIA.

71. None.

### C.—VOLUNTEERS.

72. There is a Volunteer Force, consisting of the Commandant, Staff Officer, Garrison Quartermaster, 5 Sergeant Instructors, (all the above have served in the regular army), 53 officers, and 762 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, divided as follows :—

	Officers.	W.O., N.C.O., and men.
Permanent Staff ... ..	3	5
Trinidad Light Horse (Yeomanry) ... ..	17	83
Trinidad Field Artillery Volunteers <sup>c</sup> ... ..	6	136
Trinidad Light Infantry Volunteers ... ..	20	487
Total ... ..	56	711

<sup>c</sup> COLONIAL OFFICE NOTE : Disbanded since the date of this Report.

The cost of this force, which is entirely paid from Colonial funds, was £6,241.

### D.—CONSTABULARY.

73. The police is a semi-military force, which has not only to keep order in the Colony, but also, when required, to defend it against Her Majesty's enemies. The force consists of an Inspector-General, who is also Commandant of the local forces, a Deputy Inspector-General, 3 Inspectors, and 550 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. They are well-drilled, taught to shoot, and next year, in common with the whole of the local forces, will be armed with Martini-Enfield rifles. When on police duty they do not carry arms, but a policeman's baton.

74. The total strength of the local forces is 61 officers and 1,317 warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men.

## X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

75. The tables attached to this Report are for the year 1898, but in these remarks the present condition of the Island is dealt with rather than that of several months ago. On the 1st of January, 1899, the Island of Tobago, containing 114 square miles with a population of 18,000, and having a revenue and expenditure of £8,107 and £8,385, respectively, became an integral part of the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago. Its departments were made district branches of the several chief offices in Trinidad and the treasuries were amalgamated. This Report deals with Trinidad alone except where expressly stated.

76. There is no doubt that Trinidad is at the present moment more prosperous than it has ever been before. The crops just taken off are exceptional, both in extent and in price. The sugar crop and the cocoa crop are far above the average, and both articles are obtaining remunerative prices. A few sugar estates have been unfortunate, but the majority have made good profits, while every cocoa estate has paid well.

77. The following is a comparative statement of exports up to 6th July for this and previous years :—

—			Sugar.	Cocoa.	Asphalt.
			Reduced to bags.	lbs.	Tons.
1895	...	...	438,514	19,253,315	36,148
1896	...	...	463,037	15,446,457	46,659
1897	...	...	459,528	15,389,080	67,552
1898	...	...	422,270	15,624,700	50,323
1899	...	...	460,803	21,690,470	59,103

These figures are shadowed in the Treasury receipts to the 30th June, as compared with the previous year as follows :—

—					1898.	1899.
Customs	...	...	...	...	122,654	131,136
Excise	...	...	...	...	54,546	57,999
Government Railway	...	...	...	...	40,136	43,305
Land Sales	...	...	...	...	11,661	17,825

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

78. Another sign of general prosperity is the almost total temporary disappearance of the larger currency represented by five dollar bank notes. These, no doubt, were paid away to cane farmers, small cocoa proprietors, and country shopkeepers who are temporarily hoarding them, and will return to circulation or be taken to Venezuela after the conclusion of crop. Yet another and lasting sign is the erection in every direction of neat little wooden cottages. These are small, but they are well finished and are such as are occupied by members of the working and small trading classes who have saved money.

#### RAILWAYS, ROADS.

79. Two extensions of the Government railway have recently been opened—one from Arima to Sangre Grande of 13 miles was opened in 1897 and already is paying considerably more than its working expenses, and a new branch from Caroni to Tabaquite of 15 miles, through entirely new country, was opened in 1898, but is not yet paying its working expenses, though doing much good by opening out the country, which is being taken up in considerable quantities. The total length of lines is 81 miles. The roads throughout the Island are being extended and improved, though very much still remains to be done in this direction.

#### IMMIGRATION.

80. The number of arrivals in the Colony during 1898 was 19,828 and departures 13,062, giving an increase to the population by immigration of 6,766.

The number of East Indians brought to the Colony under indenture was 1,292 souls, and 746 were sent back to India. The former were brought from Calcutta in two ships, and it is remarkable that every one embarked at Calcutta in the first of these was landed in Trinidad, with the addition of five infants born on the voyage; while in the second ship there were three deaths, but five more souls were landed than were embarked. The 746 who returned to India transmitted savings to the amount of £10,863, besides the jewellery and gold coins displayed on their persons. Of the 83,505 East Indians resident in Trinidad, 4,481 have deposits in the Savings Bank amounting to £88,440. The deposits during the year amounted to £40,570, and £2,781 was remitted to friends in India.

There are two orphan homes for East Indians, one in Port-of-Spain under the charge of a Roman Catholic sisterhood with 53 inmates, and one at Tacarigua, under charge of the Anglican Church, with 58 inmates. In both cases the Government contributes annually ten pounds a head.

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## PUBLIC WORKS.

TRINIDAD,  
1898

81. The several public works commenced in 1895, or shortly afterwards, are completed or approaching completion. Two lighthouses have been built. The San Fernando and Arima waterworks are opened, to the very great comfort of the inhabitants of these boroughs. The water tanks at Couva are finished, and the waterworks for St. Joseph and Tunapuna progressing. The harbour improvements at Port-of-Spain will be finished by the end of the year, and already the facilities to trade obtained thereby are thoroughly appreciated. A new steamer's warehouse has been built. The new lunatic asylum, which will have cost over £50,000, will be occupied within the next few months. These are handsome and substantial buildings, built throughout of concrete, and will last practically for all time. It is a pity that the site is rather in the background, as the appearance of the buildings would do credit to any town. The casing of galleries and additions to the public buildings in Port-of-Spain finished in 1897 change what was a structure of mean and barn-like appearance into a very handsome edifice. The new waterworks and sewerage works for Port-of-Spain are progressing very slowly. As yet preliminary work only has been done, but once the designs are settled the work will proceed more rapidly. A new fire brigade station for Port-of-Spain of handsome appearance was completed in 1897, and various police stations and schools have lately been erected in the districts. All these are built of concrete, which, though somewhat costly at first, will in the future require but little outlay for repairs. Several more buildings are required, the erection of which will no doubt be sanctioned in due course.

## CLIMATE.

82. The climate is not suited for white labour, the sun being too powerful for Europeans. There is a limited opening for mechanics and artisans, but none should attempt to come out unless employment has already been secured.

## RATES OF WAGES.

83. Wages are fairly good. A labourer will earn from 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. a day, and an artisan from 2s. 6d. to 5s. The cost of living is high for Europeans, as everything costs more than in England, and house rent is simply ruinous. Compared with wages in England, servants' wages are low, ranging from £20 to £30 a year for men servants, and somewhat less for female servants, board wages.

## OPENINGS FOR INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL.

84. There are ample and safe openings for the investment of capital, but investors should exercise the utmost caution before deciding on them. Interest on mortgages, which until recently

TRINIDAD, 1898.  
— ranged from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. or even higher, has mostly come down to 5 or 6 per cent. for good securities. Money, where the investor could afford to wait for a return, could profitably be invested with syndicates for clearing new land and planting rubber and cocoa. With a command of capital a large established cocoa estate could be purchased, which under a good manager would give an ample return for the outlay, but in this case the capital should not be less than £10,000 to £20,000. A young man with limited capital could do worse than come out, and either in partnership with others or by himself acquire a small cocoa estate on which he could live and which he would manage.

#### SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

85. Trinidad is a thoroughly civilized place. The capital, with 50,000 inhabitants, is well laid out, and fairly well kept. There are a large quantity of shops, or stores as they are called locally, in which anything can be purchased. Some of these stores are commodious and handsome. Carriages and buggies abound. The visitors' list at Government House includes some 800 names. The population is very mixed, consisting in the upper classes of English, French, Spanish, Americans, and Germans, while the labourers include negroes, East Indians, Chinese and Spaniards.

C. C. KNOLLYS

*Acting Governor.*

Government House, Trinidad,  
11th July 1899.

## APPENDIX A.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## HEADS of REVENUE for 1897 and 1898.

Heads of Revenue.	1897.			1898.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs ... ..	244,684	18	5	238,089	18	2
Port, Harbour, Wharf, &c., Dues ... ..	7,424	4	9½	6,361	0	1½
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	172,969	1	0	181,998	13	1½
Fees of Court, &c., &c. ... ..	35,654	6	0	39,769	3	3
Post Office ... ..	8,920	4	0	9,519	15	2½
Government Railway, &c. ... ..	67,230	10	7	71,165	13	2
Rents of Government Property ... ..	571	10	5½	752	15	2½
Interest ... ..	10,811	18	10	11,542	14	10
Miscellaneous Receipts ... ..	2,103	18	4½	4,233	15	0½
Transport Train (Public Works) ... ..	—			—		
Total—Exclusive of Land Sales, &c.	550,370	12	5½	563,433	8	1½
Land Sales, &c. ... ..	16,787	5	5	21,085	2	11½
Immigration Taxes, &c. ... ..	44,276	2	9½	30,853	1	3½
Total ... ..	611,434	0	8	615,371	12	4½



TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## APPENDIX B.

## HEADS of EXPENDITURE for 1897 and 1898.

Heads of Expenditure.	1897.			1898.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charges on account of Public Debt	37,046	6	11	47,657	13	2
Pensions, Gratuities, &c. ... ..	13,922	3	0½	15,514	5	1½
Governor and Legislature ... ..	6,584	5	1½	5,999	5	1
Colonial Secretary ... ..	4,022	17	0½	3,722	10	3½
Auditor-General ... ..	3,350	9	8	3,434	4	4
Military ... ..	7,394	9	9	6,198	8	11
Immigration ... ..	63,417	19	4	43,809	10	9
Receiver-General ... ..	15,348	17	9	15,627	1	6½
Crown Lands... ..	7,703	15	5	9,385	17	6½
Customs ... ..	17,813	13	1	19,548	14	7
Police ... ..	44,043	12	9½	43,545	13	2
Registrar-General ... ..	3,328	14	9½	3,025	18	8½
Post Office, Mail, and Telegraph Subsidies.	20,635	6	6½	22,043	14	0½
Port and Marine ... ..	8,686	9	3½	9,841	4	2½
Printing ... ..	7,019	19	3	7,117	12	10½
Laboratory ... ..	2,190	10	11½	1,242	13	9½
Legal ... ..	11,689	12	1½	11,350	17	0
Carried forward ... ..	274,229	2	10½	269,065	5	1½

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APPENDIX B.—*continued.*

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

Heads of Expenditure.	1897.		1898.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Brought forward ... ..	274,229	2 10½	269,065	5 1½
Magistracy ... ..	11,599	13 9½	11,482	16 9
Wardens ... ..	14,811	17 6	15,342	7 11
Medical, Hospitals, Asylums, &c. ...	65,823	5 1½	65,578	14 8½
Education ... ..	39,506	19 0	41,622	2 2
Prisons, Reformatories, and Industrial Schools.	13,869	14 1½	13,006	10 11
Transport ... ..	70	9 1	103	12 2
Ecclesiastical ... ..	10,600	0 0	10,600	0 0
Crown Agents ... ..	657	19 7	883	11 8
Botanical and Agricultural ... ..	5,813	0 0	6,411	10 1
Fire Brigades ... ..	3,007	1 4	2,490	8 3½
Miscellaneous Services ... ..	12,556	16 6	6,844	12 2
Government Railway ... ..	63,344	7 6½	70,349	6 7
Director of Public Works ... ..	106,473	16 5½	127,171	8 7½
Public Works, Recurrent, &c. ... ..				
Total ... ..	622,364	2 11	640,952	7 2

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## APPENDIX C.

REVENUE and EXPENDITURE for 5 YEARS of the BOROUGHS  
of PORT of SPAIN, SAN FERNANDO, and ARIMA.

Year.	Port of Spain.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	20,206	22,577
1895	15,599	14,459
1896	23,532	26,356
1897	20,180	20,515
1898	19,987	19,274

Year.	San Fernando.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	5,339	5,490
1895	6,069	5,401
1896	5,091	5,331
1897	5,320	5,211
1898	5,301	5,366

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APPENDIX C.—*continued.*

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

Year.	Arima.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	1,330	1,296
1895	1,325	1,325
1896	1,476	1,476
1897	1,369	1,369
1898	1,300	1,054

APPENDIX D.

IMPORTS.

VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED in 1898 as compared with 1897.

	1897.	1898.
	£	£
Bread ... ..	11,162	14,862
Flour ... ..	127,383	152,797
Dholl ... ..	11,734	13,766
Peas and beans ... ..	8,771	9,350
Rice ... ..	124,026	104,146
Balata gum ... ..	18,498	34,229

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TRINIDAD,  
1898.APPENDIX D.—*continued.*

	1897.	1898.
	£	£
Butter ... ..	23,023	20,843
Do. substitutes, lard, &c....	18,733	19,044
Cement ... ..	20,814	17,267
Cocoa, raw ... ..	92,498	101,464
Coal and coke ... ..	26,412	27,563
Earthen and glass ware ... ..	17,298	16,083
Fish ... ..	58,425	66,818
Hardware ... ..	95,810	129,132
Machinery ... ..	29,476	26,613
Malt liquor ... ..	37,662	40,965
Medicine ... ..	16,572	15,732
Meats ... ..	46,751	72,789
Oil, kerosine ... ..	17,217	16,597
Soap ... ..	22,317	20,596
Live stock, oxen ... ..	40,816	37,340
.. other ... ..	31,323	28,820
Spirits ... ..	18,434	17,776
Timber ... ..	42,611	41,216
Textile manufactures... ..	309,611	315,632
Fresh vegetables ... ..	40,778	34,026
Wine ... ..	30,775	25,799

## APPENDIX E.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## EXPORTS.

VALUE of PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED in 1898 as  
compared with 1897.

	1897	1898.
	£	£
Asphalt, Crude ... ..	110,543	86,574
Do. Epuré ... ..	28,258	27,243
Cocoa ... ..	605,690	812,272
Coconuts ... ..	24,490	30,439
Molasses ... ..	16,991	16,595
Rum ... ..	6,089	5,300
Bitters ... ..	40,106	33,991
Sugar ... ..	538,597	603,285
Balata Gum ... ..	22,207	28,313

## APPENDIX F.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS for 1898 and the FOUR PREVIOUS  
YEARS.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total Value.	Value Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.	Total Value.	Value Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.
1894	£ 2,152,883	£ 1,869,330	£ 2,000,748	£ 1,726,963
1895	2,276,864	2,040,872	2,065,104	1,791,867
1896	2,463,525	2,188,189	2,165,820	1,896,748
1897	2,161,231	1,992,537	1,994,926	1,823,818
1898	2,283,054	2,123,589	2,310,130	2,189,731

3586\*—5

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APPENDIX G.

TOTAL VALUE of the IMPORTS of the COLONY from each COUNTRY in the YEARS 1896, 1897, and 1898.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS. 1896.			IMPORTS. 1897.			IMPORTS. 1898.		
	Goods Entered for Tran- shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Goods Entered for Tran- shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Goods Entered for Tran- shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	92,029	886,536	978,565	86,361	771,496	857,857	69,650	726,709	796,359
<b>BRITISH COLONIES :</b>									
B. E. Indies ... ..	6,591	114,700	121,291	2,600	82,771	85,371	—	85,678	85,678
B. N. America ... ..	112	74,197	74,309	10	60,650	60,660	160	72,893	73,053
B. W. Indies ... ..	152	36,455	36,607	92	49,665	49,757	—	61,102	61,102
B. Guiana ... ..	—	8,625	8,625	—	5,192	5,192	—	3,908	3,908
O. B. Colonies ... ..	—	606	606	—	799	799	—	779	779
Total ... ..	6,855	234,583	241,433	2,702	199,077	201,779	160	224,360	224,520

FOREIGN COUNTRIES :													
3580*	France ... ..	6 398	87,874	94,272	1,894	58,942	60,836	3,616	62,922	66,588			
	Germany ... ..	2,507	47,653	50,160	807	32,015	32,822	1,691	31,655	33,346			
	Holland ... ..	14 784	10,183	24,967	37,422	7,526	44,948	40,031	8,538	48,569			
	Spain ... ..	6,956	16,390	23,346	5,296	21,110	26,406	3,528	21,087	24,615			
	Austria ... ..	—	10,760	10,700	—	741	741	—	835	835			
	Portugal ... ..	—	3,969	3,969	—	10,735	10,735	—	7,515	7,515			
	Belgium ... ..	200	1,013	1,213	—	519	519	—	2,323	2,323			
	Switzerland ... ..	—	5,185	5,185	—	565	565	—	224	224			
	Denmark ... ..	—	173	173	—	168	168	—	93	93			
	Italy ... ..	—	145	145	—	235	235	—	194	194			
	United States ... ..	20,488	437,992	458,480	33,028	417,636	450,664	33,331	457,838	496,169			
	Dutch Guiana ... ..	10	748	758	—	141	144	—	15	15			
	Dutch W. Indies ... ..	—	88	88	82	451	523	20	855	875			
	French Guiana ... ..	—	224	224	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	„ W. Indies ... ..	—	3,215	3,215	—	448	448	100	516	616			
Danish W. Indies ... ..	—	1,354	1,354	—	2,379	2,379	—	2,056	2,056				
Carried forward ...	51,343	626,906	678,249	78,529	553,614	632,143	87,317	596,666	683,933				

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

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APPENDIX G.—*continued.*

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS. 1896.			IMPORTS. 1897.			IMPORTS. 1898.		
	Goods Entered for Tran- shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Goods Entered for Tran- shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Goods Entered for Tran- shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	51,343	626,906	678,249	78,529	553,614	632,143	87,317	596,666	683,983
Cuba and Porto Rico ...	61	259	320	125	12	137	—	62	62
Sun Domingo and Hayti ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mexico ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,680	2,680
Venezuela ...	5,034	519,008	524,042	279,144	183,553	462,697	348,173	226,440	574,613
South America ...	—	40,186	40,186	5,785	833	6,618	—	799	799
Other Countries ...	17	703	726	—	—	—	—	40	40
Total ...	56,455	1,187,067	1,243,522	363,583	738,012	1,101,595	435,490	826,687	1,262,177
United Kingdom ...	92,029	886,536	978,565	86,361	771,493	857,857	69,650	726,709	796,359
British Colonies ...	6,855	234,583	241,438	2,702	199,077	201,779	160	224,360	224,520
Foreign Countries ...	56,455	1,187,067	1,243,522	363,583	738,012	1,101,595	435,490	826,687	1,262,177
GRAND TOTAL ...	155,339	2,308,186	2,463,526	452,646	1,708,585	2,161,231	505,300	1,777,756	2,283,056

APPENDIX II.

TOTAL VALUE of the EXPORTS of the COLONY to each COUNTRY in the YEARS 1896, 1897, and 1898.

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COUNTRIES.	EXPORTS, 1896.				EXPORTS, 1897.				EXPORTS, 1898.			
	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Trans-shipment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.
United Kingdom ...	£ 662,524	£ 1,644	£ 279,720	£ 943,888	£ 476,351	£ 194,130	£ 43,059	£ 713,540	£ 502,732	£ 175,679	£ 34,800	£ 713,211
BRITISH COLONIES:												
B. E. Indies ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	135	135	42	—	26	68
B. N. America ...	7,880	60	165	8,045	12,082	1,518	126	13,726	20,416	665	554	21,645
B. W. Indies ...	3,308	1,854	21,101	26,266	2,595	5,801	14,319	22,715	3,383	2,941	17,469	23,793
B. G. India ...	1,169	2,252	2,359	5,780	1,146	1,701	1,923	4,770	1,193	1,037	4,131	6,361
O. B. Colonies ...	2	—	36	38	—	—	—	—	1,094	—	2	1,096
Total ...	12,359	4,166	23,601	40,126	15,823	9,020	16,503	41,346	26,138	4,643	22,182	52,963

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1898.

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APPENDIX H.—*continued.*

COUNTRIES.	EXPORTS. 1896.				EXPORTS 1897.				EXPORTS. 1898.			
	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Tran- ship- ment.	All Other Goods	TOTAL.	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Tran- ship- ment.	All Other Goods	TOTAL.	Produce of Colony.	Goods Entered for Tran- ship- ment.	All Other Goods.	TOTAL.
FOREIGN COUNTRIES:	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
France ... ..	176,846	—	18,843	195,691	202,195	780	16,165	219,140	258,058	137	22,811	281,006
Germany ... ..	27,924	10	15,477	43,411	53,813	3,093	16,009	72,915	38,766	13,708	8,525	60,998
Holland ... ..	17,291	929	2,132	20,352	15,670	9,807	9,143	34,620	9,493	17,343	30,072	56,908
Spain ... ..	—	—	3,630	3,630	380	1,044	3,135	4,559	603	—	1,656	2,259
Austria ... ..	654	—	68	712	599	—	—	599	559	—	—	559
Portugal ... ..	1,506	28	—	1,534	1,427	—	67	1,494	1,797	—	100	1,897
Belgium ... ..	248	—	—	248	457	—	—	457	277	—	—	277
Switzerland ...	156	—	151	307	447	—	—	447	—	—	—	—
Denmark ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1,140	—	1,140	1	—	—	1

United States ...	484,156	2,949	232,845	669,950	524,264	46,862	57,138	628,264	665,734	118,838	78,893	863,465
Dutch Guiana ...	5	20	1,174	1,199	185	476	1,101	1,762	323	—	568	891
Dutch West Indies .	105	—	—	105	118	29	361	508	41	—	1,711	1,752
French Guiana ...	20	66	445	531	311	138	1,996	2,445	492	563	3,307	4,362
„ W. Indies ...	25,410	5	112	25,527	8,701	—	2,841	11,542	7,543	—	350	7,893
Danish „ ...	323	2	21	346	375	685	1,264	2,324	263	—	82	345
Cuba and Porto Rico	3	—	—	3	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	—
San Domingo and Hayti.	—	5,000	—	5,000	38	—	—	38	157	—	18	175
Mexico ...	—	—	—	—	680	—	—	680	482	—	2,242	2,724
Venezuela ...	485	116,630	92,612	209,727	289	186,442	69,029	254,760	480	174,389	80,550	255,419
South America ...	3,018	—	25	3,043	2,262	—	—	2,262	2,622	—	405	3,027
Other Countries ...	314	—	173	487	69	—	3	72	1	—	—	1
Total ...	688,466	125,639	367,698	1,181,803	812,280	249,496	178,264	1,240,040	987,691	324,978	231,290	1,543,959
United Kingdom ...	662,524	1,644	279,720	943,888	476,351	194,130	43,059	713,540	502,732	175,679	34,800	713,211
British Colonies ...	12,359	4,166	23,604	40,129	15,823	9,020	16,503	41,346	26,138	4,643	22,182	52,965
Foreign Countries ...	688,466	125,639	367,698	1,181,803	812,280	249,496	178,264	1,240,040	987,691	324,978	231,290	1,543,959
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,363,349	131,449	671,022	2,165,820	1,304,454	452,646	237,826	1,994,926	1,516,561	505,309	288,272	2,310,133

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THIRDAD,  
1898.

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TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## APPENDIX I.

The CLASS of IMPORTS and EXPORTS was as follows during the Years 1897 and 1898 :—

Class.	1897.		1898.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
Live Animals, Food, and Drink.	901,941	1,328,592	943,507	1,614,070
Raw Material ... ..	129,381	241,005	336,569	337,094
Manufactured Articles ...	961,215	254,311	843,515	238,567
Coin and Bullion ... ..	168,694	171,198	159,465	120,402
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>2,161,231</b>	<b>1,994,926</b>	<b>2,283,056</b>	<b>2,310,133</b>

The TOTAL QUANTITIES and VALUES of the more important STAPLES EXPORTED during the last five years were :—

Year.	Sugar.		Cocoa.		Asphalt.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£	Tons.	£
1894 ...	104,986,406	598,010	21,608,384	587,564	99,192	112,401
1895 ...	122,353,755	596,415	29,458,813	620,634	86,148	97,318
1896 ...	120,562,942	700,347	23,481,848	452,141	96,385	106,920
1897 ...	110,026,245	537,107	23,840,665	532,123	124,672	138,801
1898 ...	113,696,521	602,045	24,340,960	812,272	100,208	113,829

APPENDIX I.—*continued.*TRINIDAD.  
1898.

The DIRECTIONS in which the STAPLES of the ISLAND were EXPORTED, and their VALUES, were as follows:—

	United Kingdom.	France.	United States of America.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ... ..	204,847	127	383,528	13,543	602,045
Molasses ... ..	1,356	—	682	14,557	16,595
Rum ... ..	4,743	4	56	497	5,300
Cocoa ... ..	240,875	253,294	196,370	121,733	812,272
Coconuts ... ..	23,390	10	6,144	895	30,439
Asphalt ... ..	11,307	4,056	67,028	31,438	113,829
Bitters ... ..	12,204	449	10,209	11,129	33,991
Total ... ..	498,722	257,940	664,017	193,792	1,614,471

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## APPENDIX K.

## SHIPPING IN 1898.

*Entered.*

From	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	40	21,331	53	90,944	93	112,275
U. S. America ...	52	25,332	29	39,434	81	64,766
B. N. America ...	32	3,811	13	15,291	45	19,102
B. W. I. and B. Guiana...	453	27,625	161	176,944	614	204,573
Venezuela ...	1,590	16,754	113	88,992	1,703	105,746
Other Countries ...	55	18,009	46	58,434	101	76,443
Total ...	2,222	112,866	415	470,039	2,637	582,905
Totals for 1897 ...	2,462	139,954	454	533,369	2,916	673,323

*Cleared.*

To	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	31	14,201	5	6,206	36	20,407
U. S. America ...	68	36,442	30	43,329	98	79,771
B. N. America ...	11	1,799	13	15,276	24	17,075
B. W. I. and B. Guiana...	431	17,896	170	184,986	601	202,882
Venezuela ...	1,580	17,057	173	188,197	1,753	205,254
Other Countries ...	65	22,738	27	32,690	92	55,428
Total ...	2,186	110,133	418	470,684	2,604	580,817
Totals for 1897 ...	2,461	137,794	447	529,879	2,908	667,673

## APPENDIX L.

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## NATIONALITY OF VESSELS ENTERED in 1898.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.		Totals for 1897.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ... ..	497	33,977	219	316,191	716	350,168	854	399,781
French ... ..	9	2,004	66	67,312	75	69,316	57	64,980
U. S. America...	59	29,282	26	8,316	85	37,598	141	71,809
Venezuela ... ..	1,580	16,398	52	22,202	1,632	38,600	1,714	47,000
Dutch ... ..	10	813	48	52,140	58	52,953	57	45,022
Norwegian ... ..	22	9,365	2	746	24	10,111	33	14,708
German... ..	15	8,780	2	3,132	17	11,912	—	—
Russian... ..	10	4,151	—	—	10	4,151	—	—
Other Countries ...	20	8,096	—	—	20	8,096	60	30,023
Total ... ..	2,222	112,866	415	470,039	2,637	582,905	2,916	673,323



TRINIDAD,  
1898.

## APPENDIX M.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of TOTAL SHIPPING INWARDS  
and OUTWARDS for the last FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894 ...	2,518	638,783	2,484	634,672
1895 ...	2,512	649,085	2,512	642,790
1896 ...	2,817	623,241	2,815	619,037
1897 ...	2,916	673,323	2,908	667,873
1898 ...	2,637	582,905	2,604	580,817

## APPENDIX N.

RETURN of DISEASES and DEATHS during 1898 at all the  
HOSPITALS of TRINIDAD.

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
<b>GENERAL DISEASES.</b>		
Cow-pox ... ..	4	—
Measles ... ..	1	—
Chicken-pox ... ..	1	—
Typhus ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	26	—
Influenza ... ..	163	21
Diphtheria ... ..	1	—
Carried forward ... ..	196	21

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APPENDIX N.—*continued.*

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
<b>GENERAL DISEASES—<i>continued.</i></b>		
Brought forward ... ..	196	21
Febricula ... ..	31	2
Enteric Fever ... ..	24	32
Typho-malarial Fever ... ..	6	6
Dysentery (included in Digestive System) ... ..	—	—
Beri-beri... ..	1	1
Malarial Fever :		
(a.) Intermittent ... ..	1,008	10
(b.) Remittent ... ..	502	54
(c.) Pernicious R. ... ..	52	7
Phagedœna ... ..	1	—
Erysipelas ... ..	11	4
Pyæmia ... ..	1	—
Septicæmia ... ..	1	6
Tetanus ... ..	14	21
Tubercle... ..	33	70
Leprosy :		
(a.) Tubercular ... ..	58	—
(b.) Anæsthetic ... ..	126	7
Yaws ... ..	130	—
Syphilis :		
(a.) Primary ... ..	28	1
(b.) Secondary ... ..	64	4
(c.) Inherited ... ..	88	26
Gonorrhœa ... ..	118	—
Carried forward ... ..	2,493	272

TRINIDAD,  
1898.

APPENDIX N.—*continued.*

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
<b>GENERAL DISEASES—<i>continued.</i></b>		
Brought forward ... ..	2,493	272
Hydrophobia ... ..	—	1
Scurvy ... ..	—	—
Alcoholism ... ..	32	3
Delirium Tremens ... ..	6	—
Rheumatism ... ..	237	3
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	1	—
Gout ... ..	1	—
New Growth, non-malignant ... ..	66	—
New Growth, malignant ... ..	16	8
Anæmia ... ..	922	109
Leucocythæmia ... ..	1	—
Diabetes mellitus ... ..	4	1
Diabetes insipidus ... ..	—	—
Premature Birth ... ..	5	16
Debility ... ..	422	106
<b>LOCAL DISEASES.</b>		
<b>DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM :—</b>		
<b>Sub-section 1—Diseases of the Nerves :</b>		
Neuritis ... ..	4	1
Hæmorrhage ... ..	11	12
Meningitis ... ..	4	13
Myelitis ... ..	—	—
Softening ... ..	2	1
Carried forward ... ..	4,227	546

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APPENDIX N.—*continued.*

TRINIDAD  
1898

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
<b>LOCAL DISEASES—<i>continued.</i></b>		
<b>DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM—<i>continued.</i></b>		
Sub section 1—Diseases of the Nerves— <i>continued.</i>		
Brought forward ... ..	4,227	546
Hydrocephalus ... ..	2	—
Hyperæmia ... ..	2	1
Encephalitis ... ..	—	—
Abscess of Brain ... ..	1	3
Congestion of Brain ... ..	—	—
Locomotor Ataxia ... ..	3	—
Sub-section 2—Functional Nervous Disorders :		
Apoplexy ... ..	4	7
Paralysis... ..	30	11
Chorea ... ..	11	—
Eclampsia ... ..	8	13
Epilepsy ... ..	30	—
Vertigo ... ..	2	—
Neuralgia ... ..	70	—
Torticollis ... ..	2	—
Hysteria ... ..	25	1
Sub-section 3—Mental Diseases :		
Idiocy ... ..	7	—
Mania ... ..	25	—
Melancholia ... ..	5	—
Dementia ... ..	24	—
Delusional Insanity ... ..	3	—
Carried forward ... ..	4,481	582

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D

TRINIDAD  
1898.

APPENDIX N.—*continued.*

Diseases.	Cases.	Deaths.
LOCAL DISEASES— <i>continued.</i>		
Brought forward ... ..	4,481	582
Diseases of the Eye ... ..	197	—
"    "    Ear ... ..	16	—
"    "    Nose ... ..	31	—
"    "    Circulatory System ... ..	96	63
"    "    Respiratory " ... ..	730	288
"    "    Digestive " ... ..	1,358	438
"    "    Lymphatic " ... ..	100	2
"    "    Thyroid Body ... ..	1	—
"    "    Urinary System... ..	222	108
"    "    Generative " ... ..	—	—
Male Organs ... ..	487	10
Female " ... ..	131	4
Affections connected with Pregnancy ... ..	61	2
"    "    "    Parturition... ..	14	2
"    consequent on " ... ..	6	4
Diseases of the Female Breast ... ..	30	2
"    "    Organs of Locomotion... ..	160	12
"    "    Cellular Tissue ... ..	176	4
"    "    Skin ... ..	1,132	21
Injuries, General ... ..	114	10
"    Local ... ..	663	10
Surgical Operations ... ..	—	—
Malformations ... ..	27	30
Poisons ... ..	18	—
Parasites ... ..	75	3
Arkylostoma ... ..	322	34
No appreciable disease ... ..	571	—
Total ... ..	11,227	1,634

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TRINIDAD,  
1898.

APPENDIX O.

DATA RELATIVE to WINDS prevailing in TRINIDAD from AUGUST 1898 to JUNE 1899. FURNISHED by the OBSERVER of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA WEATHER BUREAU in PORT OF SPAIN.

Month.	Total Movement.	Prevailing Direction.	Per cent.	Average Hourly Velocity.
1898.				
August (for 25 days only).	Miles. 2,023	E.	18	—
September ...	2,458	E.	20	3.4
October ...	2,669	E.	18	3.6
November...	2,474	E.	26	3.4
December...	2,757	N.E.	22	3.7
1899.				
January ...	3,229	N.E.	40	4.3
February ...	3,258	E.	50	4.8
March ...	3,372	E.	42	4.5
April ...	4,417	E.	73	6.1
May ...	4,880	E.	91	6.6
June ...	3,344	E.	64	4.6

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1899.