

ST. HELENA.

No 29.

ST. HELENA.

(No. 15.)

No. 29.

COPY of DESPATCH from GOVERNOR TRELAWNEY to the Right Hon.
W. E. GLADSTONE.

MY LORD,

St. Helena, March 24, 1846.

I DO MYSELF the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1845, and beg to make the following observations thereon :—

REVENUE.

The gross revenue of the Colony for the year 1845, amounts to the sum of 16,596*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* In this amount is included the sum of 1,032*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, being the amount received by the Treasurer of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund during the year. This sum, deducted from the gross revenue, leaves a nett balance for 1845, of 15,563*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* The commutation of rents (as detailed in page 166) amounts, for the year 1845, to the sum of 1,070*l.* 3*s.* 8½*d.* Total number of properties commuted since October 1, 1843, being 310, and the total amount received 2,991*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

The tonnage duty of one farthing a ton on vessels visiting this port, has this year realised the sum of 544*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*. This amount to be appropriated for the erection of a new hospital.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for 1845, is 19,116*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, being a decrease as compared with the last year, of 144*l.* 8*s.* 6½*d.*; which, after deducting the advance to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and the pensions granted by Parliament to the late East India Company's servants, leaves a nett expenditure for

1845, of	15,385 <i>l.</i> 11 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>
Nett revenue	15,563 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i>

Balance in favour of the Colony	178 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
---------------------------------	---------------------------------------

A special disbursement of 300*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, loss sustained on foreign coins by the change of currency to British sterling, was debited to the Colony during the past year.

I have much pleasure in bringing to your notice, that the present is the first year since the assumption of St. Helena by Her Majesty's Government, that the revenue collected on the Island has more than equalled its expenditure.

COMMISSARIAT EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure of the Commissariat amounts to the sum of 24,709*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*; in this amount is included, 4,537*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, on account of Her Majesty's navy, and 189*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, on account of the liberated Africans. The total amount of bills drawn, 19,080*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; the gain on the exchange, 101*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*

PUBLIC WORKS AND ROADS.

The expenditure under this head amounts to the sum of 1,389*l.* 19*s.* 7¼*d.*

The following alterations in the establishment have taken place during the year.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Secretarial Department.—Mr. R. C. Pennell appointed Colonial Secretary on the 8th of November, 1844, assumed his duties, vice Mr. J. G. Doveton, acting on 24th February, 1845.

Treasury.—*New Appointment.*—Mr. J. G. Doveton, appointed Colonial Treasurer on the above dates, formerly Clerk to the Treasury, which office is now abolished.

Judicial.—Mr. J. N. Firmin, Acting Queen's Advocate, confirmed in the appointment on 200*l.* per annum, by despatch from Right Hon. the Secretary of State. No 190, dated 20th June, 1845.

Medical.—Mr. C. M. Vowell, Colonial Surgeon on leave, returned to his duties on the 15th October, 1845.

Police.—Lieut.-Colonel Hodson, Summary Judge, went to England in April

last, two years' leave since granted to him by Secretary of State's Despatch. ST. HELENA.
No. 186, dated 15th May, 1845.

PENSIONS.

George Wilson, pensioned on the funds of the Colony at 31*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* a year, late Coxswain in Harbour Master's Department,

The under-mentioned persons (late Company's servants) have died during the past year:—

Thomas Coffin, }
Joseph Le Moss, } Soldiers at 1*s.* per diem.

COINS AND EXCHANGES.

The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at 12,000*l.* In 1844 it was said to be about 11,000*l.*, and considered so low in amount as to inconvenience mercantile transactions. Since then, 10,000*l.* sterling has been received from Great Britain. This amount would appear to have found its way back to Europe, a clear proof that the circulating medium required for this colony does not exceed 12,000*l.*

The average rate of exchange has been about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. premium in the Commissariat transactions. Private bills are usually at about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below Government Bills.

IMPORTS.

The total number of ships touching at St. Helena during 1845 amounted to 1458, including 33 men of war and 13 slave prizes.

The imports, as shown by the Collector of Customs, amount to 94,658*l.*, deducting therefrom 10,800*l.*, the value of the cargo of a French ship, (discharged in consequence of her leaky state,) leaves 83,858*l.*; this shows a nett increase in imports over last year of 35,791*l.* The cause of the increase is chiefly to be found in a large amount of specie (10,000*l.*) having been received on account of Her Majesty's Government, and the greater number of prize vessels (thirteen) having been sold with their cargoes during the last year as compared with 1844, when there were three only. Increased supplies, chiefly of British goods, have likewise been imported to meet the demands from the naval squadron on the coast.

EXPORTS.

For 1845, as stated by the Collector of Customs amount to 18,379*l.*; deduct the cargo of the French ship before alluded to of 10,500*l.* leaves the exports for 1845 at 9879*l.*, being 20,959*l.* less than the previous year. With respect to this decrease, the Collector observes, that an alteration has occurred in the mode of making up the Return for 1845, which is now framed in accordance with similar Returns required to be furnished to the Commissioners of Customs, whereby the export trade of the port with other countries is correctly shown,—whereas the former Returns contained the articles supplied to shipping for consumption during the voyage, blended with those which properly constituted the exports from this colony.

FOREIGN CONSULS.

Saul Solomon, Esq., recognized during the past year, as Consul for Hamburg and Lubeck.

Nathaniel Solomon, Vice Consul for ditto.

LIBERATED AFRICANS.

Have again been introduced into the colony during the past year, 540 having arrived on the 26th of December; of these 21 died from dysentery, and the crowded state in which they were brought here, leaving 519 in charge of the Collector of Customs on the 31st December, 1845.

I have, &c.,

HAMELIN TRELAWNY.