

## ST. HELENA.

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(No. 20.)

No. 35.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir P. ROSS to Earl GREY.

Castle, Jamestown, St. Helena,

April 22, 1847.

MY LORD,

HEREWITH I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1846, containing the usual information under the respective heads.

*Finance.*

The taxes and duties collected for the year amount to the sum of 13,671*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, exclusive of 1,230*l.* 11*s.* received on account of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund—a falling off in the revenue of the colony, as compared with the previous year, of 1,892*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.* 1,070*l.* of this deficiency is at once accounted for as commutation money received in 1845, whereas no rents have been commuted during the present year, 1846.

A falling off in the customs and port charges of 1,203*l.* 6*s.*, as compared with 1845, has occurred, and is accounted for by the guano trade with Ichaboe having entirely ceased. The vessels engaged in the above trade, to the number of several hundred, frequented this island on their homeward voyage, and necessarily incurred port and other charges, thereby benefiting the revenue. 13,000*l.* to 14,000*l.* may therefore be considered as a fair average revenue for St. Helena.

*Expenditure.*

The expenditure during the year 1846 has reached the sum of 21,193*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* an excess over the year 1845 of 2,077*l.*; and I regret to add that an excess of the expenditure may be expected to continue until the comparatively great works now in the hands of the engineer shall be completed. The wharf, for instance, which was seriously damaged by the heavy rollers of February, 1845, and the repairs of which are estimated at 4,000*l.* and upwards; New Civil Hospital, erecting principally for the accommodation of the merchant service; the Castle, in Jamestown, &c., are all extensive works in a place badly off for artificers, and will probably not be completed for two or three years, though urgently required, and sanctioned by the Secretary of State as being indispensably necessary. An additional outlay of 1,000*l.* has likewise been incurred during the past year, under the head of Special Disbursements for the Purchase of a Site for the New Civil Hospital.

*Civil Establishment.*

In May, 1846, Governor Trelawny died. Pending my arrival in the colony, which took place in November last, the Government was administered, first by Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser, of the Royal Artillery, as senior officer; and again by Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, who arrived from England in July, and assumed the government as senior to Colonel Fraser.

A trifling increase (amounting to 93*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) in the salary of the servants at the Civil Hospital was found necessary, and has been sanctioned

*Pensions.*

The pensions paid in the colony during 1846 are 2,613*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, nearly the whole of which (41*l.* 14*s.* excepted) are paid to the late Company's servants. The following additions have been made to the pension list payable from the funds of the colony:—

|   | £.    | s. | d. |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Seedee Fran, a Lascar, late of the Marine Department, per annum . . . . .               | 18    | 5  | 0  |
| Chinese Achan, a carpenter in the Company's service, late Engineer Department . . . . . | 18    | 5  | 0  |
|   | <hr/> |    |    |
|   | £36   | 10 | 0  |

ST. HELENA.      Whilst the following reductions have taken place by the death of the Company's late servants:—

|                             | £.        | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----|----|
| Captain O'Connor . . . . .  | 270       | 0  | 0  |
| Captain Pritchard . . . . . | 155       | 0  | 0  |
| Private Houze . . . . .     | 13        | 13 | 9  |
|                             | £438 13 9 |    |    |

Of which 195*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* had been received by the parties in 1846, previous to their demise. And I would beg to suggest, in connexion with the annual decrease of these pensions, that the amount thus saved should henceforward be appropriated with a view of increasing the salaries of the public servants on the island, as I can with confidence assert, and I believe the fact is now generally admitted, that their salaries are insufficient to meet the expenses of their establishment, on however economical a footing they may be placed, and that therefore the respectability of the service demands some addition to their present income.

#### *Parish and Population.*

The population of the island is calculated to be 5,300, and the expense of the parish in connexion with the poor amounts to the sum of 695*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*

#### *Societies and Schools.*

There exist at present four private societies or funds for the benefit of the lower classes, besides the benevolent society, founded in 1814, for the relief and education of the poor. Two schools in town and three in the country are kept by this society, at which 251 children are at present educated at an annual expense of 186*l.*, whilst the Government schools educate 302 children, 40 of whom are of the second class in life, and the remainder in the lower, at an annual expenditure of 100*l.* These schools are placed under the superintendence of the colonial chaplain. I may here state my wish, as it is my duty, to give much attention to the important subject of establishing these schools on a more effective footing; and to accomplish this, the appointment of an additional clergyman, who might, as formerly, have the principal classical school under his immediate superintendence and instruction, is very desirable.

#### *Military.*

The following are the disbursements made by the Commissary under this head during 1846:—

|                      | £.     | s. | d. |
|----------------------|--------|----|----|
| Ordnance . . . . .   | 5,093  | 5  | 9  |
| Ordinaries . . . . . | 10,009 | 17 | 4  |

#### *Currency and Exchange.*

The total of bills drawn by the Commissary amount to 33,421*l.*; the loss for discount on these bills is 426*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, it having reached as high as 7½ per cent. in consequence of the scarcity of money, when the arrival in January of 10,000*l.* (ten thousand sovereigns) from England again enabled the Commissary, by taking advantage of the market, to obtain a premium on bills. The sovereigns, as they are issued from the treasury, find their way back to England as remittances from the merchants. It follows, therefore, that when the 10,000 sovereigns shall have been issued, the Government will again have to pay a heavy discount, unless the want is anticipated by a timely annual cash remittance from England. This money was shipped in the bark "Mercury," which was 110 days on its passage, having got on shore in the channel. Steamers would be the most advisable mode of conveying specie in future to this colony.

#### *Mortality.*

During the year 1846, 113 deaths have taken place; of which 24 were in the Civil Hospital, out of 281 patients admitted; and in the Military Hospital 2 deaths have occurred out of 601 patients received. The great difference observable in the two hospitals in the number of deaths is to be accounted for by the obligation of the soldier to go to hospital on slight occasions.

*Trade.*

ST. HELENA.

During the year 1846, 993 vessels have arrived at St. Helena, 465 fewer than the year previous; and this decrease has already been accounted for by the trade with Ichaboe having ceased.

*Liberated Africans.*

The gross expenditure under this head during 1846 amounts to the sum of 6,361*l.*, of which 2,649*l.* has been disbursed in cash in the colony, the remainder 3,712*l.* in treasury bills. These sums have been partly expended in the maintenance of Africans, 2,110 of whom have been received between the 26th December, 1845, and the 30th November, 1846, the balance having been laid out in the erection of sheds, tents, &c., which are now occupied by more recent arrivals brought here by the "Penelope," Commodore Sir Charles Hotham, on the 5th instant.

*Agriculture.*

A society for the improvement of the above has of late been established, from which I am inclined to argue favourably. At present the land in cultivation does not exceed 155 acres. There are 7,500 acres in pasturage, much of which is capable of cultivation, besides 24,500 suitable for sheep and goats.

*Gaols and Prisons.*

The want of proper accommodation in the gaol has frequently been brought under the notice of your Lordship's predecessors in office. It is, however, impossible at present, from want of artificers and labourers, to undertake any improvements. The total number of prisoners committed in the course of the year is 255; of this number about one-half are inhabitants of the island, the remainder Portuguese, Brazilians, seamen, &c.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,  
&c. &c.

(Signed) PATRICK ROSS.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.  
No. 36.

(No. 117.)

No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir C. A. FITZROY to EARL GREY.

Government House, Sydney,  
May 27, 1847.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year ended the 31st December, 1846; and in compliance with the instructions contained in the Secretary of State's Despatch, No. 101, of the 5th of May, 1842, I proceed to offer such observations upon the condition of the Colony as may be interesting to your Lordship.

*Taxes, Duties, &c. (pp. 1-15).*

The total revenue derived from the duties on spirits, imported as well as made in the Colony, was in—

|                | £.      | s. | d. |
|----------------|---------|----|----|
| 1845 . . . . . | 107,056 | 17 | 4  |
| 1846 . . . . . | 86,037  | 9  | 3  |

This decrease has arisen from the reduction in the duties on spirits under the Act 9th Victoria, No. 20. The *ad valorem* duties remain as last reported; but their amount is progressively improving with the recovering prospects of the colony. They produced in—

|                | £.     | s. | d. |
|----------------|--------|----|----|
| 1845 . . . . . | 19,471 | 0  | 2  |
| 1846 . . . . . | 27,779 | 15 | 4  |