

ST. HELENA.

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No. 35.

(No. 15.)

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir PATRICK ROSS, G.C.M.G.,
to Earl GREY.

St. Helena, April 11, 1849.

(Received June 20, 1849)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for 1848, with reference to which I have to make the following observations.

Revenue.

The gross receipts of the year amount to 16,474*l.* 7*s.* 5*d.*, including 898*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* from the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and 560*l.* from intestate estates. The nett receipts, deducting these amounts, is 15,016*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, shows an increase over 1847 of 431*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, and over 1846 of 1,305*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*; being the largest annual income this colony has ever exhibited.

Expenditure.

The expenditure amounts to the sum of 21,675*l.*, being 19*s.* 1*d.* less than the previous year. This amount, however, is still high, principally owing to the special outlays on the public buildings. The expenditure of the island in ordinary cases may be calculated at 20,000*l.* This includes 2,500*l.* paid on the spot for pensions granted by Her Majesty's Government to the late Company's servants.

Civil Establishment.

In December last the Hon. G. W. Edwardes arrived and assumed the duties of Auditor, to which he had been appointed; beyond which there has been no alteration calling for special notice.

Pensions

Amount to 2,687*l.* 8*s.* 3½*d.*, being 40*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* more than the previous year. The following pensions have ceased:—

Mr. G. V. Lambe, died July 2, 1848, at . . .	£500
Lieut. John Sampson, died April 3, 1848, at . . .	150

650

Add, new pension granted to Mr. Henry Weston, as late Master of the Country School, payable from the funds of the colony	28
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Nett decrease	£622
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Mr. Lambe's pension was usually drawn in England, his executors, however, received the balance, 127*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, due to him, in this colony.

Parish and Population.

The expenditure of the parish, including 372*l.* paid in salaries to the surgeon, clergyman, beadle, &c., amounts to 985*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* The population estimated to be 5,500.

Mortality.

The number of deaths in 1848 was 95; 16 of whom were seamen and soldiers, 79 only being inhabitants. The number of births, 215; increase, 136. In 1847 the deaths were 66; births, 171; increase, 105. It is also worthy of notice, that of 79 inhabitants deceased in 1848, the large proportion of 34 were upwards of 70 years of age.

Trade.

The number of vessels arriving in 1848 was 949, being 74 less than the previous year. The decrease appears in the number of English merchant vessels, of which 653 arrived in 1847, and 577 only in 1848. Traffic, notwithstanding, appears rather to have increased: the revenue from the Customs and Harbour dues being 468*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* more than the previous year.

Liberated Africans.

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From the 5th April, 1847, to 31st December, 1848, the Africans landed show the large number of 3,519; of which 932 were landed in 1847, and the remainder, 2,587, in 1848.

The emigration is as follows; viz., to

Jamaica	859
British Guiana	923
Trinidad	236
Cape of Good Hope	38
Total	<u>2,056</u>

The deaths, 1,240, amount to one-third of the whole number.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PATRICK ROSS.

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

MAURITIUS.

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(No. 114.)

No. 36.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir WILLIAM GOMM, K.C.B.,
to Earl GREY.

Mauritius, April 25, 1849.

(Received July 23, 1849.)

MY LORD,

1. I HAVE the honour to submit the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1848.

Finance.

2. In my general Report for the preceding year, No. 102, of 10th April last, I announced to your Lordship, and in successive financial Despatches of the period I recapitulated, the extensive reductions actually carried through in various branches of taxation, while others were projecting.

3. My more recent Despatches of like tenor will have apprised your Lordship that the colony has obtained further relief in the same sense, effected principally through a corresponding reduction in the demand for immigration, and to an extent that will justify the aggregate of relief afforded to the community to be estimated at little short of 100,000*l.* within the twelvemonth.

4. Those measures, it is presumed, will have carried reduction of imposts to the utmost extent compatible with the efficient maintenance of indispensable establishments; and these are undergoing, as reported some time since to your Lordship, a scrutinizing revision by the Council, with a view to their curtailment, where found practicable, and re-adjustment upon a scale suited to the actual circumstances of the colony. (Despatch No. 5, of 11th January.)

Revenue.

5. The political distractions of the year throughout Europe following fast upon the great commercial reverses experienced by the London houses, which sustained the cultivation of the colony, could not fail to produce corresponding results affecting the trade of the island generally, and its intercourse with France especially. These have been manifested in the reduced statements of imports and exports throughout the period, as compared with years immediately preceding.

A reviving confidence is apparent and its fruits may be reasonably looked for.

Sugar Crop.

6. The sugar crop of 1848-9, though falling considerably short of those of the several seasons immediately preceding, takes rank upon the general scale of recorded averages for a series of years past, only after these.

That in prospect continues to give earnest, as the published Statistical Reports of the colony will have shown, of being again considerably more abundant; the