

Deposits.	European.	Native.
Number of Depositors of sums of 1 <i>l.</i> and under . . .	8	..
“ “ above 1 <i>l.</i> and under 5 <i>l.</i> . . .	14	..
“ “ 5 <i>l.</i> and under 10 <i>l.</i> . . .	11	1
“ “ 10 <i>l.</i>	19	5
Total Depositors	52	6
Total sums deposited by Friendly, Religious, and Benevolent Societies	196 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	..
Total sums deposited during the year . . .	562 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i>	86 <i>l.</i>

J. WOODWARD, Secretary W. S. Bank.

ST. HELENA.

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No. 20.

(No. 16.)

No. 20.

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

St. Helena, June 6, 1850.

(Received August 7, 1850.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1849, with reference to which I have to make the following observations:—

Revenue.

The gross receipts of the year amount to 14,660*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.* This includes 635*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* received on account of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and 35*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* special receipts; deducting which the nett revenue is 13,989*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, showing a decrease as compared with 1848 of 1,026*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, and is to be principally accounted for by a falling off of the Customs of 758*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, and 117*l.* 12*s.* in the Licenses.

Expenditure.

The gross expenditure for the past year is 22,445*l.* 7*s.* 8½*d.*, being an increase over 1848 of 769*l.* 8*s.* 8½*d.*, which is readily accounted for by an additional sum of 1,485*l.* 5*s.* 5½*d.* having been expended in the public works as compared with the previous year.

I must likewise observe that of the 22,445*l.* 7*s.* 8½*d.* expended during the past year is included a sum of 1,973*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* pensions paid to the late Company's servants. This amount (hereafter to be paid by the Commissary), added to the sum of 3,619*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, which has been expended on the public works by authority of Parliament, and making together a total of 5,593*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*, must be considered as part of the extraordinary expenses of the colony for 1849, and will not form an item in future years.

Civil Establishment.

The deductions made in the Harbour Master's establishment at the latter end of the year, and the general economy which I have caused to be observed in the civil departments, has lessened the expenditure 584*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with 1848; and I anticipate a much greater saving will be effected during the present year, as shown in the estimate for 1850, which I had the honour of transmitting to your Lordship in my Despatch, No. 34, of the 4th October last.

The Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Clarke, R.A., commanding the troops, has taken his seat in Council, vice Colonel John Ross, returned to England.

Pensions.

Those payable by the colony amount to 148*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* The disbursements, however, made by the Treasurer under this head amount to the sum of

Parish and Population.

A census taken by order of the Secretary of State, shows the population of St. Helena to be nearly 7,000 souls, being an increase of about 1,500 during the last ten years. There are between 500 and 600 liberated Africans located in the colony.

Schools.

No alteration has yet taken place in this department. Arrangements have, however, been entered into by which the services of a clergyman of the Church of England have been secured as master of the head school, and he is shortly expected to arrive from England.

An additional day and Sunday school has been established in town, under the auspices of the Rev. Mr. Bertram, a Dissenting minister, at which about 30 to 40 children attend, and it is in contemplation to establish one in Sandy Bay, where a Sunday school is already opened.

Mortality on the island continues much as heretofore.

Trade.

The number of vessels touching at the island average 1,000 a-year; but from the falling off in the Customs already noticed, it would appear that during the past year the trade has not been so brisk, and may be accounted for by Her Majesty's cruizers from the west coast of Africa not having much frequented the island.

Liberated Africans.

A considerable number of liberated Africans have been brought to the island. I have the honour to enclose an abstract, giving the total number landed here since June 1840, to have been 15,076, and showing the manner in which they have been disposed of.

I have, &c.,

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

(Signed) PATRICK ROSS.

Enclosure in No. 20.

Encl. in No. 20.

LIBERATED AFRICANS.

ABSTRACT showing the Total Number brought to St. Helena, and the manner of their disposal.

Received from 9th June 1840 to 30th June 1843	6,638	
" on 27th January 1844	70	
" from 26th December 1845 to 31st March 1846	2,110	
" from 5th April 1847 to 1st December 1849	6,258	
	-----	15,076
Born from 9th June 1840 to 30th June 1843	14	
" 26th December 1845 to 31st March 1846	5	
" 5th April 1847 to 1st December 1849	12	
	-----	31
Emigrated to Jamaica from 9th June 1840—		
to 27th January 1844	625	
to 31st March 1846	468	
to 1st December 1849	1,682	
	-----	2,775
Emigrated to British Guiana from 9th June 1840—		
to 27th January 1844	1,287	
to 31st March 1846	818	
to 1st December 1849	923	
	-----	3,028
Emigrated to Trinidad from 9th June 1840—		
to 27th January 1844	800	
to 31st March 1846	100	
to 1st December 1849	1,566	
	-----	2,466
Emigrated to Cape of Good Hope from 9th June 1840—		
to 27th January 1844	1,332	
to 31st March 1846	34	
to 1st December 1849	38	
	-----	1,404
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ST. HELENA.

Emigrated to Grenada	91
Settled on the island from 9th June 1840—	
to 27th January 1844	391
to 31st March 1846	31
to 1st December 1849	118
	— 543
Deceased from 9th June 1840—	
to 27th January 1844	2,287
to 31st March 1846	593
to 1st December 1849	1,880
	— 4,760
	15,067
Remaining on charge 1st December 1849	40

MAURITIUS.

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No. 21.

No. 21.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. W. ANDERSON, C.B., to Earl GREY, dated Mauritius, 20th May, 1850.

(Received February 24, 1850.)

“ I HAVE now the honour to submit the Report on the general and political state of this colony required to accompany the Blue Book of the year 1849.

“ After considerable depression from losses in trade and falling prices in Europe of the great export of the colony, and the failures of several of the largest mercantile and planting establishments of the island, the general condition of the island towards the middle and end of the year assumed a more healthy and prosperous character; failures ceased, and a more cheerful feeling seemed to be gradually spreading abroad.

“ The general reduction of the price of sugars has brought about a far greater economy in the cultivation and manufacture of that produce; and I believe an unencumbered estate can now be worked to profit, though it is right to state that doubts are entertained whether this will be possible, after the total withdrawal of protection, unless such a loss be counterbalanced by a far larger and cheaper supply of labour than the planters have hitherto enjoyed.

“ This cheap supply is, after the hopes for larger protection in the home markets, the object which the planters naturally have most at heart.

“ This subject has been already brought under your Lordship's attention by the Report of the Immigration Committee of the Council, transmitted, with my Minute on the subject, in my Despatch No. 32, of the 15th February, 1850.

“ We must now await your Lordship's decision on the questions there submitted to your Lordship's consideration. I believe that we can very well admit of increased immigration from India, provided the scheme I suggested of a small deduction from the immigrant's wages for meeting the cost of the return passage is approved of and sanctioned.

“ In addition to this immigration from India, it may be expected that by-and-bye friendly commercial intercourse will be renewed with Madagascar, and then, with the labour thence derived, the supply will be fully adequate to the wants of the colony.

“ Your Lordship is aware of the unfavourable state into which the finances of the colony fell, in consequence of the reduced taxation, which brought the estimated revenue of 1849 considerably below the estimated expenditure.

“ I considered it my most imperative and serious duty, in taking charge of the Government of the island, to endeavour to remedy this, and, in consequence, caused the greatest possible economy to be exercised in all departments where expenditure could be controlled. I succeeded, also, in carrying through an Ordinance for imposing a tax, as directed by your Lordship, on the engagements of immigrants; this tax has worked well, and without any further remonstrance being made.

“ The revenue also generally improved, so that, at the end of the year, a balance in the Treasury appeared in favour of Government. But this certainly mainly arose from several large items of the expenditure entered in the estimates not having been made in the year, but which remain to be now made good, and