

NATAL.

of the sugar growing colonies of the empire except Barbados. Occasional difficulty of obtaining labour is experienced in the up country when it is wanted in small numbers. The natives prefer to work in company, and so seek for employment on the coast, where, from the nature of the cultivation, labour is organized in gangs. Frequently too, failure arises from the unsuitableness and one-sidedness of the conditions offered.

19. The history of the year thus cursorily reviewed may be stated to be one of quiet progress making its way in spite of many obstacles. To the removal of these obstacles the efforts of the Government have been unceasingly devoted, as being absolutely indispensable to the initiation of any measure which might accelerate that progress by the application of fresh impulses.

The Earl Granville, K.G.,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ROBT. W. KEATE,  
Lieutenant-Governor.

ST. HELENA.

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No. 12.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR PATEY to The EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

(No. 30.)

MY LORD,

St. Helena, March 23, 1870.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the St. Helena Blue Book for the year 1869, the duplicate copy of which will be forwarded by the next mail.

As I did not administer the Government for any portion of that year, I requested the Colonial Secretary (who has filled various important offices in this Government since 1838, and in whom from my short experience I have great confidence), to draw up the Report on the Blue Book, which I trust will meet with your Lordship's approval.

Earl Granville, K.G.,  
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) CHAS. G. E. PATEY,  
Rear-Admiral, Governor.

SIR,

St. Helena, March 22, 1870.

WITH the Blue Book for 1869 I have the honour, in obedience to your Excellency's direction, to submit the following brief Report on the returns of the past year.

*Revenue.*

The revenue of the year 1869, 20,779*l.*, contrasts favourably with that of the preceding year, and would show a comparative increase of 2,074*l.*

	£
Revenue 1868 - - -	18,705
„ 1869 : - -	20,779
Increase in 1869 - -	2,074

In both of these years, however, the receipts fall considerably below the *Estimates* for 1868 and 1869, which were based upon the steady receipts for several years preceding. The deficiency is caused by a sudden falling off in 1868 and 1869 of the receipts from Customs, the returns from which, notwithstanding the improvement in 1869 as compared with 1868, is still 2,074*l.* below the estimates.

	£
Customs 1869, estimated - - -	17,150
Receipts - - -	15,076
Deficiency - - -	2,074

This failure is the more unfortunate because it happens under an increased rate of tariff, which was provided in 1864, in order to meet the special charge for the reconstruction of the public buildings, part of the outlay for which had been raised by loan.

The amount of imports in the last three years were:—

	£
1867 - - - - -	114,159
1868 - - - - -	117,110
1869 - - - - -	122,759

The returns of merchant vessels which have called at this port for supplies during the same period show:—

	Vessels.	Tons.
1867 - - - - -	766	486,559
1868 - - - - -	749	453,827
1869 - - - - -	746	473,116

It is observable that in these returns of imports and shipping there is nothing to indicate the reason of the failure of the revenue; but on the other hand there has been a general complaint of the stagnation of trade in the neighbouring Colonies and eastern ports, which has made itself felt at a port of call like this. The removal also of the African squadron and the reduction of the strength of the garrison has seriously diminished the circulation of money in this Island. It is also to be borne in mind that the customs tariff is levied not by an ad valorem charge, but by a rate of wharfage upon packages, according to size, without reference to value; and it may be that these imported packages are, as a rule, now carefully sized, so as to take every possible advantage of the scale laid down in the tariff.

The Postage, 1,900*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.*, is 400*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the estimate; the receipts for the last three years being—

	£	s.	d.
1867 - - - - -	1,598	10	7
1868 - - - - -	1,748	11	10
1869 - - - - -	1,900	19	10

Since 1868 arrangements have been made with the offices both in London and at the Cape of Good Hope for the issue of money orders through the Post Office, by which much convenience has been afforded to the inhabitants. The orders issued by the the St. Helena office in 1869 amounted to 2,891*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

#### *Expenditure.*

The expenditure for the year 1869, 27,505*l.*, is 5,592*l.* in excess of the estimate. From this, however, must be deducted the repayment of a loan of 2,500*l.*, and also certain payments made in 1869, but remaining due from the preceding year, to the amount of 1,577*l.*, leaving a net excess over the estimate of 1,615*l.*, caused chiefly by the outlay under the heads of Works, Buildings, and Roads.

#### *Public Debt.*

The public debt at the close of 1868 was 7,500*l.* A further loan of 5,000*l.* was contracted in 1869, out of which the sum of 3,000*l.* was applied in diminution of the previous debt, leaving a total of 9,500*l.* due at the close of 1869.

Under the heads of Agriculture and Fisheries it is to be regretted that so little can be said.

The arable land is of course very limited in extent, but generally speaking it is rich and fertile. Little care is taken, however, to raise more than a scanty supply of vegetables and forage for the inhabitants and passing shipping. Owing mainly to the stimulus given by the late Governor, Sir Charles Elliot, some attempt has been recently made to revive the orchards with which the Island once abounded. A large number of chinchona trees of the best description have been introduced, and appear to thrive well at an elevation of over 2,000 feet. Renewed attention has also been given to the planting of coffee, experience having shown, for years past, that to the small extent to which it has been grown in the Island, the produce is abundant and of the finest quality.

But owing to the entire want of capital, and (it must also be added) to the almost entire want of enterprise and industry in the people, the efforts made for these objects

ST. HELENA. are few and languid. The ground being naturally rich, little care is taken to renew its strength by the use of manure, so that cartloads of valuable stable soil are daily thrown into the sea at James Town, rather than incur the expense of its carriage for some short distance to the cultivated lands: and the deposits of guano on our coast which may be had for the gathering, have been used only to freight an occasional vessel bound to a shore where the climate is less genial and the inhabitants more energetic.

From the same causes the fisheries, which ought to be a source of comparative wealth, afford barely an uncertain supply for the inhabitants, and a mere subsistence to about a hundred very poor fishermen. The fish, at proper seasons, swarm in shoals sufficient to load large fishing vessels using nets, but the fishermen use the hook and line exclusively, and are content to take no more than would meet the demand at the market for daily consumption. No care is taken, by pickling or salting, to make the superabundant supply of one day provide for the scarcity of another. Neither is any effort made to take advantage of the whale fishery, although these fish frequent our shores, and American whalers constantly make valuable additions to their cargoes by the capture of them close to the Island.

#### *Minerals.*

It has recently been ascertained that beds of manganese exist in several parts of the Island, and that the ore yields from 65 to 70 per cent. of the peroxide of manganese, estimated to be worth in the English market over 4*l.* a ton.

About 13 tons of this ore were procured, shipped to Newcastle, and sold there at 2*l.* per ton. As this did not cover the expenses, the parties engaged in the shipment did not care to repeat the experiment. The expenses, however, of this first small shipment were necessarily exceptionally high, considerably exceeding the rate per ton which would attend an extensive and systematic working of the ore. It may further be reasonably expected that upon larger shipments, and under better arrangements, the amount to be realized in the English market per ton would be nearer to that quoted in the Price Lists. Even if the returns were only sufficient to cover the expenses, it would clearly be an advantage to be able to meet some portion of the cost of imports by an article of export, and at the same time provide employment for the labouring class.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency Admiral Patey,  
&c.      &c.      &c.

(Signed) HUD<sup>S</sup>. R. JANISCH,  
Colonial Secretary.