

care since 1866, and it is to be regretted that he is about to resign. In consideration of the high character of the master, and the local support given to this school, it has retained throughout a grant of 70*l*. Mr. Boyd's teaching was vigorous, exact, and intelligent, and it will be difficult to supply his place.

37. Rev. T. Taylor's School at Greytown hardly keeps up its numbers, and the girls' school has lately lost its mistress, and is a present closed. At Welgefonden the families were purposing to build a school-house and a dwelling-house for the master when the Acting-Superintendent visited the school in June; since that time the scheme has been abandoned, and at present there seems no prospect of its being carried out; the school continues to be held in the lean-to of a farm-house, by no means large enough for the number of scholars; it maintains its numbers, its master, Mr. Sheridan, has been raised from the rank of an itinerant, and the school now receives a grant in proportion to the number of its scholars.

38. The same permanent character has been acquired by the school at Nooitgedacht. The parents of the families there, as at Welgefonden, seem to understand that the old system of teachers, who stay for a few months in a farm-house and then move elsewhere, is expensive and of little permanent value; the other system, viz. that of sending children to a stationary school, causes trouble, doubtless, and some sacrifice, but there can be no doubt that it is the right method to promote education in the country districts; it will be some time, however, before the advantages of the system are felt by the farmers, and generally adopted.

39. The boarding school at the Hermannsburg Mission continues to prosper and to increase its numbers, ending the year 1870 with an average attendance of 82 against 77 of 1869. Its energetic Head Master has been largely adding to the buildings, to increase the comfort of the scholars, and to provide quarters for additional masters from Europe.

40. Mr. Harding has succeeded in reviving the school at Weenen; the local support is still very insufficient, but the attendance during the year has been 29.

41. At Kruisfontein an itinerant teacher seems to have established a school of sufficient permanence and numbers to give hope of the school receiving a grant.

42. The Legislative Council this year has approved of the vote for "New and Additional Grants" for 1871, and has, by so doing, given the Government the means of assisting schools in the process of forming, or of rewarding the efforts of schools already at work.

43. The difficulties which appeared last year sufficient to prevent the introduction of the Middle Class Examination System into the Colony have been removed, and the Syndicate has resolved to extend its examination to the Colony; it was too late before their resolution was conveyed to us to do anything in 1870, but we may hope to see the system at work in 1871 or 1872.

It will take a year or two more for the colonists to become accustomed to the system, and to avail themselves of it; when that time comes it may be hoped that some settlement of our financial troubles

more than to suggest that these examinations should be supported by exhibitions to enable a successful candidate to pursue his studies in Europe, or by appointments in the Civil Service of the Colony.

T. WARWICK BROOKS,  
Acting Superintendent of Education.

Office Superintendent of Education,  
March 1, 1871.

## ST. HELENA.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor PATEY to  
The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

ST. HELENA.

No. 12.

My LORD,  
St. Helena, April 20, 1871.  
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1870.

I have already had occasion to bring under your Lordship's notice that the past year has been one of great depression in the Island, caused mainly by the decrease in the shipping trade, and the reduction of the Military Establishments hitherto maintained on this Island.

3. The stagnation in the trade of the place has very materially affected the sources of revenue. In my Despatch, No. 72, 25th August, 1870, I reported to your Lordship that I saw reason to anticipate that the amount of revenue for 1870 would fall probably 6,500*l*. below the amount which had been estimated for that year. I regret to say that this has proved to be the case;

	£	s.	d.
The actual receipts being	-	-	15,973 17 4
The estimated revenue for 1870	-	-	22,355 0 0
			£6,381 2 8

4. Every possible opportunity has been taken to reduce the expenditure, but some of the large items of reduction could not take immediate effect.

	£
The expenditure for 1870 amounted to	- - 18,943
Estimated expenditure	- - 22,176
	£3,233

5. In consequence of the want of funds some of the claims still remain unsettled. The debt also due for the conveyance of mails at the end of 1869 has now been further increased by the amount for the year 1870, and the contract still remains in force, and will not expire until 30th June, 1871.

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6. The imports for the last three years show—

	£
1868 - - -	117,110
1869 - - -	122,759
1870 - - -	84,781

In the above return of imports is included the value of oil from the Southern Whale Fishery, landed at St. Helena, and afterwards reshipped to the United States. When this item is deducted, the imports for 1870 will show 61,000*l.* as against 87,260*l.* in 1869, the difference arising chiefly from a falling off in the imports from the United Kingdom to the amount of 18,941*l.*, owing doubtless to the failure in the local trade.

7. The number of vessels which have paid tonnage dues amount to—

1868 - - -	749 vessels, 453,827 tons.
1869 - - -	746 " 473,116 "
1870 - - -	677 " 441,472 "

A much larger number pass through the port on their homeward voyage without anchoring or taking supplies, and those that anchor require on an average a much smaller proportion of supplies than was usual a few years since, owing principally to the increased facilities which now exist for provisioning ships for the entire voyage, rendering them independent of supplies at intermediate ports.

8. The supply also to Coolie ships and troop-ships, which formed a considerable item in former years, is now much reduced. The Coolie ships are now provided with condensers, by which means they supply themselves with fresh water, and the troops from India return home by way of the Red Sea.

#### Agriculture.

9. The agricultural state of the Island is very low. The principal portion of the cattle and sheep consumed on the Island or supplied to the shipping is imported from the Cape of Good Hope, and these are of very inferior quality.

Some thousand acres of grazing land are entirely unoccupied, and the few cattle and sheep belonging to the islanders are in most instances much neglected.

10. The supply of vegetables is very limited. Potatoes, said to have been formerly most abundant and excellent in quality, have now greatly deteriorated, and the crops are very precarious. The same may be said of all kinds of fruit. The land, although to a certain extent productive, appears to have lost much of its former reputed fertility; great patience, care, and industry are now required to master the trials with which the cultivator of the soil has to contend. Insect pests, such as grubs, caterpillars, beetles, &c., &c., &c., prevail to a great extent, and rats and mice abound and cause much destruction to the growing crops.

No. of cattle,  
1,105.  
No. of sheep,  
3,615.

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hitherto escaped notice, being found in spots to which sea birds have long ceased to resort, as well as on the small rocky islands where birds still abound. The gathering of this guano has afforded employment to a few of the labouring population at a rate of two pounds per ton. An export duty of ten shillings per ton is levied on guano.

Little use is made of the guano by the inhabitants themselves for agricultural purposes, although the experiments made with it seem to prove that very great advantage might arise from its use upon the land. Manure of any kind is little employed. Valuable manure from the stables in the town (amounting to many tons in the course of the year) is daily thrown into the sea.

12. With reference to the chinchona plantation, established by the Government in 1869, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that at the end of 1870 there were about 800 plants in a healthy thriving condition, viz. 500 of the *Chinchona succirubra* and 300 of the *C. officinalis*. The tallest of these plants had attained the height of 7 ft. 2 in. above the ground, and about 300 of them averaged 4 ft. 6 in. in height. The cultivation of the species *C. cailsaya* and *C. pahudiana* has been discontinued because it was found that they did not thrive as well as the other species.

13. The Bermuda cedar has been recently introduced by seed sent by Dr. Hooker, and planted in various positions, where they appear to thrive well. A number of Norfolk Island pines (*Araucaria excelsa*) have been raised from seed grown on the Island, and have been planted out during the past year. Trees of both these species have by my direction been planted in James Town, where the temperature is very high, and they thrive apparently as well, or perhaps better, than in colder positions. A number of other trees, promising to be of use and ornament, have been planted in the grounds at Plantation. 500 coffee trees have also been planted out, and look well, but at present it is too early to form an opinion of their success. It appears that a considerable quantity of coffee was once raised on the Island, but the old plantations have now fallen into decay.

#### Fisheries.

14. To the return of fisheries I have appended a printed statement, furnished to me by the American Consul, showing in detail the number of whalers which have visited this port, and made it their rendezvous during the year 1870, together with the quantity of oil taken, amounting to nearly 50,000 barrels, worth at the lowest average 300,000*l.* A large portion of this oil was taken in the neighbouring seas, some in the immediate vicinity of the Island.

15. The inhabitants benefit but to a small extent from this valuable source of wealth, which, had they the energy, enterprise, and capital needful, might be turned to profitable account. A few natives are occasionally shipped as seamen on board American whalers.

16. There is an abundance of fish in the bay, and the

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of salted fish is largely imported from the Cape of Good Hope and sold at fourpence per pound. The fish of St. Helena are deemed very superior to those of the Cape.

17. I have made personal efforts to arouse and encourage the fishermen. With this object in view I have from my private funds laid out 50*l.* for the purchase of suitable boats, gear, and fishing tackle. Men were offered employment in these boats at one shilling each per diem, free of all expense, and a share of the fish caught (one-fourth part), but could not be induced to accept the offer. The remaining three-fourths was to be sold at a rate not exceeding sixpence per dozen fish to pay wages and other expenses.

*Hospital.*

18. I am enabled to report to your Lordship satisfactorily on the condition of the Colonial Hospital. Many improvements have been effected during the past year. I consider it to be the most creditable and valuable establishment on the Island, where sick seamen of all nations are received and carefully treated for any period of time without further charge than the one penny per ton levied on ships anchoring. I beg to express my high approval of the manner in which the colonial surgeon, Mr. C. H. Fowler, performs his very onerous duties.

The number of scamen in 1870	- - - -	132
Civilians	{ Male	- - - - 26
	{ Female	- - - - 37
		<u>195</u>

*Education.*

19. There are five day schools supported by the Government, and one evening school, at a cost of 720*l.* per annum, and a grant of 50*l.* is made to the Benevolent Society in aid of their schools.

20. I attended the Christmas examination of all the schools. The number of children under instruction is—

	Boys.	Girls.
Government Schools	- - - 268	174
Benevolent Society ditto	- - - 154	102
Hussey School	- - - 59	42
Baptist ditto	- - - 99	134
Others	- - - 62	57
Total	- - - <u>642</u>	<u>509</u>

21. The Government School buildings, with the exception of the girls' school, erected in 1869, I found in a very dilapidated and dirty condition. The whole have been cleansed and put in sound repair, in which state I trust to be enabled to maintain them.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES GEORGE PATEY,  
Rear-Admiral, Governor.

The Earl of Kimberley,  
&c. &c. &c.

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AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW  
ZEALAND.

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