

LAGOS.

32. The number of offences reported to the police during the last four years is as follows:—

1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
2,293	2,053	2,357	1,525

And of convictions before the Courts:—

1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.
2,320	2,042	1,319	1,060

33. It is satisfactory to remark that the criminal returns of the past year compare favourably with those of former years, and that offences are few against the person.

Hospital.

34. During the temporary occupation of the Colonial Hospital by a detachment of the 2nd West India Regiment from October, 1873, to March of the present year, a suitable building was hired as a hospital. This is the building reported on in the Blue Book.

Lunatic Asylum.

35. There are at present in confinement two male and ten female lunatics. There is no separate lunatic asylum, portions of the Debtor's Prison and Criminal Prison being set apart for the male and female lunatics respectively.

General Remarks.

I am happy to state that the Colony is gradually recovering from the effects of the stagnation in trade which followed the closing of the roads to the interior by the Egbas and Jebus in the early part of 1872.

The roads were opened to commerce with the Egbas in the month of June, 1873, but up to the present time the Jebu roads remain closed, except for the transit of provisions.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEO. C. STRAHAN,
Administrator.

The Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

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No. 12.

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Governor JANISCH to The EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD,
St. Helena, Feb. 26, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for 1873. 2. Abstracts of the returns of revenue and expenditure were prepared and forwarded to your Lordship in my Despatch of the 8th instant, but I was unable to forward the book in consequence of the returns of trade and shipping from the Customs Department being unfinished until now.

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3. The revenue for the year amounts to 14,979*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, and exceeds the revenue of the previous year, 1872, by 1,051*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*

4. The expenditure has for several years past been in excess of the revenue, the reductions made from time to time in the establishment, although large, being insufficient to overtake the annual decrease in the falling revenue. This, together with the loss sustained by damages from the heavy flood on 20th February, 1873, caused a considerable excess of expenditure in the first six months of the year. From July, 1873, a large saving was made in the salaries of Governor and Colonial Secretary, which were reduced by your Lordship from a total of 2,700*l.* to 900*l.* for the combined offices, in consequence of which, with other retrenchments and some improvements in the receipts, the expenditure of the last six months of the year was covered by the revenue, and the deficiency of the first six months was partially but not wholly recovered. The total for the year was 16,699*l.* 5*s.* 11½*d.*, or 1,719*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.* more than the revenue. As, however, 750*l.* of this amount was applied in payment of debentures, the true excess would be 969*l.* 7*s.* 10½*d.*, out of which the sum of 646*l.* was incurred on account of flood damages. It was anticipated that the deficit would exceed 3,500*l.*, without taking into account the damage subsequently caused by the flood.

5. The debt which in July, 1873, amounted to 21,233*l.*, was in the following six months reduced to 20,010*l.*

6. Since the opening of the Suez Canal there has been a steady decline of the trade annually until the present year, which shows an increase as compared with 1872. The total of vessels, including ships of war and mail packets, amounted to 717, or 50 more than 1872. Or, reckoning merchant vessels only which have paid the port fees, we have for 1873, 677 vessels, tonnage 423,766, against 559 vessels, tonnage 382,842, in 1872, being an increase of 118 vessels, or 40,924 tons. The imports and exports of the two years are as follows:—

	1872.	1873.
	£	£
Imports - - -	52,070	54,998
Oil from whalers - -	31,150	36,500
Total imports - -	£83,220	£91,498
Exports - - -	10,337	6,072
Oil to United States -	31,150	36,500
Total exports - -	£41,487	£42,572

7. The distress set forth by the inhabitants in a memorial to your Lordship in March, 1871, occasioned by the reductions in the establishments at this station, and the change in the course of the Eastern trade, has been largely alleviated in the last few months by the fortunate opening of an easy means of emigration for all those

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8. So long ago as 1852, when the place was in a far more prosperous condition, a petition was forwarded by the then Governor, Sir Thomas Gore Browne, from a number of the inhabitants, praying for assistance to enable them to emigrate. Attempts were also subsequently made in various directions to secure the means of a free emigration for the unemployed poor to some larger Colony, but without any prospect of success until the working of the copper mines in Namaqualand created a demand for labourers from this Island at the close of 1871.

9. The workmen then sent from this place secured for themselves so good a repute, that a vessel was chartered for the conveyance of emigrants to Cape Town and to Port Elizabeth, and more recently to Natal. At the latter place they proved so acceptable that an emigrant ship (the 'Actæa') has since been constantly employed in the service, and at the request of the Natal Government I have appointed an emigration agent on their behalf, who is authorized to forward passengers by the monthly mail steamers. During the last year 441 have emigrated to Natal, and 258 to the Cape of Good Hope, making a total emigration since 1871 of 1340.

10. The fear now is, not that there will be any difficulty to provide means of emigration for our unemployed labourers, but that it will be difficult to retain those who have been steadily employed as our best workmen and were hitherto well satisfied, but are now unsettled by the golden accounts and invitations which they receive from Natal, and the easy means placed at their disposal for removal thither.

11. On this account the emigration is not without its disadvantages, particularly as the infirm and helpless remain in undiminished numbers to be supported by the reduced population. But with all this, it is a just cause of thankfulness in the Island that such an opening has been so opportunely provided for our surplus population, who could not have remained here without great distress, and who had no means whatever of providing passages for themselves. It is gratifying also to state that remittances exceeding a thousand pounds have already been made by the emigrants to their friends at St. Helena. These remittances from the Cape of Good Hope are rendered easy by the Money Order Office opened about four years ago, and I have applied to the Government of Natal to authorize the same convenience there.

12. Copies of the returns relating to crime and prison discipline were forwarded in my Despatch, with reports from the Chief Justice and Sheriff. Serious crime is unknown, and nearly the whole of the convictions may be classed under three heads, viz.:—Refusal of duty on the part of seamen from the passing shipping; disorderly conduct on the part of a few women of the class who are to be found in every seaport town; and petty pilfering. The daily average of prisoners in gaol was nine, and in the whole year there were only five convictions for indictable offences, all for small theft.

13. The Hospital returns call for no special report. There has been no prevailing sickness in the place, and only 80 deaths in the Island during the year, a large proportion of whom were infants.

14. In the Lunatic Asylum, containing seven patients, no deaths

had occurred; but the arrangements for the care of this unfortunate class are far from satisfactory, and I am now in correspondence with the Poor Relief Board on the subject.

15. On the 20th February, 1873, the Island was suddenly visited by a heavy flood, in which unhappily a small cottage situated in Friar's Valley was swept away, and its inmates, a labourer and seven of his sons, were drowned. Considerable damage was also caused both to public and private property.

16. The failure of a number of the trees in the Chinchona Plantation was described in the Report forwarded by Admiral Patey in his Despatch of 17th March, 1873. The first growth of the young plants was highly favourable; but after attaining some height, it was found that many of them were attacked by a disease in the stem, which spread upwards until it killed the tree. The disease was attributed to the cold, wet, rocky subsoil, to which the roots of the larger trees penetrated.

17. Dr. Hooker, to whom this Report was referred, has pointed out that precisely similar difficulties occurred in the Chinchona Plantations in India in cases where the water lodged in the subsoil, and that to a great extent the same difficulty was experienced in Java, and he suggests that the ground should have been trenched and drained to ensure success.

18. It has not been possible as yet to do anything towards the extension of the plantation in the manner recommended by Dr. Hooker, as the labour available for this work is at present necessarily employed in the care of the trees and grounds at Plantation House.

19. The encouraging view which Dr. Hooker takes of the suitability of the climate and soil of this Island for a Chinchona plantation is borne out by the thriving condition of the trees which remain. When I visited the plantation at Diana's Peak a few days since there were more than 300 trees, all of them except 27 were healthy, the largest being 14½ feet in height, with a circumference of 10½ inches. About 50 were between that and 10 feet in height, the remainder varying from 6 to 10 feet. A large number of the trees were in full flower, and perfectly strong and vigorous in their appearance.

20. These trees are all situated near the summit of the main ridge of the Island, at a height of not less than 2,500 feet above the sea, and it was the opinion of the late superintendent that it would be useless to attempt the growth of Chinchona at any lower altitude. It is therefore interesting to notice that a solitary plant left in the nursery grounds at Plantation House (about 1,500 above the sea) is not inferior to any of those growing at Diana's Peak.

21. The small plantation of young coffee trees referred to in the last Report of the superintendent has made highly favourable progress, and yielded in this year 250 lbs. of coffee, which has just been gathered, and is of the finest quality.

22. The capability of the Island to produce coffee of the best description has, indeed, been long proved, but little care was taken of its growth so long as the calls of the shipping and a large garrison made it more profitable to cultivate vegetables for sale on the spot.

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