

ST. HELENA.

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No. 14.

Governor JANISCH, C.M.G., to The EARL OF CARNARVON.

MY LORD, St. Helena, March 1, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1876; the returns being nearly similar to those of the preceding year.

2. The revenue amounts to 13,167*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, exceeding the estimate by 167*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* An alteration was made during 1876 in the postal arrangements, which caused a decrease in the revenue from that source, the whole of the postage on letters, &c. conveyed by mail packets from 1st July last being appropriated by the London office for payment of the mail subsidy. The loss, however, under this head has been made up by a small increase in the customs wharfage receipts arising from the number of vessels discharging for repairs.

	£	s.	d.
3. The expenditure (exclusive of 750 <i>l.</i> for redemption of debentures) was	-	-	12,579 9 11
against an estimate for	-	-	13,357 17 8
			778 7 9

This saving was effected principally in the office of Chief Justice, the duties of which are now performed by the Governor without salary, under the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council dated 5th April 1852.

4. As compared with the revenue, there is a saving of 587*l.* 18*s.* 5*d.* towards the reduction of the debt.

	£	s.	d.
Revenue	-	-	13,167 8 4
Expenditure	-	-	12,579 9 11
			587 18 5

5. The imports amount to 49,500*l.*, and the exports to 7,800*l.* Under the latter head it would seem that during the last three years a falling off had occurred as compared with former years, in which the returns of Exports show on an average more than 25,000*l.* per annum. In reality the exports of this year exceed those of any former years; the larger sum assigned to these years being made up by the value of goods landed and reshipped, whilst during the last three years the returns have been limited to the value of exports strictly so called.

6. The Island in fact possesses no export trade of its own beyond a small quantity of wool, hides, guano, fibre prepared from

the New Zealand flax, and oil taken by whalers belonging to the Island. All other produce is consumed on the spot or sold to the shipping calling for supplies. The exports of last year included 110 bales of fibre prepared from flax grown in the Island, and I am informed that the Flax and Fibre Company are making arrangements for a further enlargement of their machinery in the ensuing year.

7. The oil exported amounted to 408 casks, valued at 5,600*l.*, taken by a whaler belonging to the Island, and shipped to the London market. Until last year the whole of this fishery has been monopolised by vessels belonging to the United States.

8. The number of vessels calling for supplies was 582, including 16 vessels of war. Those landing cargo are entered as 87, but the majority of these vessels landed only small proportions of their cargo.

9. The public debt due on debentures is reduced to 13,750*l.* During the last three years the current expenditure has been carefully kept within the revenue, and the liabilities have been reduced 1,365*l.* in that period by the small surplus accruing at the end of each year. The large pension list prevents for the present a more rapid reduction of the debt, but that list (as I have previously pointed out) must itself undergo a large reduction within a very few years from natural causes.

10. In the various public schools there are 1,178 pupils receiving instruction. I attended the annual examinations of those belonging to the Hussey Charity and Benevolent Society as well as the Government schools. The children were all of them neat and cleanly in their appearance, and exhibited a satisfactory progress in their education which reflected credit upon their teachers.

11. The criminal returns show an increase in the number of summary convictions before the magistrates, chiefly from the larger number of seamen charged with refusal of duty under the Mercantile Marine Act; out of 390 convictions, 159 were against seamen. But there has been the same satisfactory absence as heretofore of all serious crime. With a single exception (an African found guilty of a criminal assault), there has been no conviction whatever for indictable offences in the higher court.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUDN. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon,

&c. &c. &c.

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