

MALTA.

The number of persons committed in 1884 was as follows:—

Men	-	-	-	-	3,034
Women	-	-	-	-	284
Boys	-	-	-	-	1,045
Girls	-	-	-	-	5
					4,368
					4,368

General Observations.

During the year 1884 employment for the labouring class was abundant, and wages maintained their level. Had it not been for the quarantine, which interfered seriously with the profits of the boatmen, cabdrivers, shopkeepers, and hotel keepers, and to a certain extent with those of the wharf labourers, besides hampering general commerce, the year would have been, so far as the working and trading classes are concerned, one of the most prosperous on record.

The year has witnessed the commencement of the construction of the improved approach to Valletta by way of the "Marine Gate," a work which has been much desired for many years, and will, when completed, prove of great convenience to the commerce of the place, as well as to the visitors and inhabitants generally. A dredge has also been purchased at a cost of 8,000*l.*, and is now employed in deepening the harbours and creeks, a work which has long been desired, both on commercial and sanitary grounds, but postponed for want of funds. The Government also obtained, at the close of 1883, the services of Mr. Osbert Chadwick, A.M.I.C.E., to report on the state of the water supply, and Mr. Chadwick's proposals, which embody a thorough reform in both the quality and quantity of the supply, and an experimental irrigation scheme, and involve an expenditure, to be spread over several years, of between 50,000*l.* and 60,000*l.*, have been accepted by the Council of Government and are now in course of being carried out.

The remodelling of the drainage of Valletta, and the three cities, which has been proceeding under the able superintendence of Captain Tressider, R.E., during the last eight years, will be completed in the course of June 1885.

By the end of 1886 the distributory system of the water supply in Valletta will have been remodelled, and negotiations are about to be opened between the Government and the "Malta and Mediterranean Gas Company," with the view of improving the quality and reducing the price of gas supplied to private consumers, as well as to the public, without involving any charge on the Treasury.

A scheme has been submitted to the Council for the construction of a new ospizio, to replace the present ospizio and Hospital of Incurables which have for many years been condemned on sanitary grounds, and several other useful public works are under consideration.

MALTA.

The available balance at the close of 1884 was nearly 80,000*l.*, and for the last five years the ordinary revenue has exceeded the ordinary expenditure of Government by 15,000*l.* on an average. If necessary, a loan can be raised to cover the cost of the remunerative works, and perhaps of some of the other works. Such a step would have to receive the concurrence of the Council, and would not be undertaken except after due consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER HELY HUTCHINSON,
Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

To His Excellency
Sir J. L. A. Simmonds, G.C.B.,
Governor of Malta,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

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No. 19.

ADMINISTRATOR LIEUT.-COLONEL BLUNT, R.E., to the Right
Hon. the EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

MY LORD,

St. Helena, June 13, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book Returns for 1884.

2. The revenue, which was estimated at 11,054*l.*, amounted to 10,421*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, including a grant in aid from the Imperial Treasury of 450*l.*, and the expenditure, estimated at 11,492*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, amounted to 10,806*l.* 14*s.* 1½*d.*

3. The decrease of 632*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* in the estimated receipts arose from a falling off in the receipts for wharfage, but few vessels having discharged cargo for repairs, and also from the reduction in the rates for postage. The yearly decrease in the number of sailing ships employed in the carrying trade, and those that call being better supplied with stores, together with the fact that there is no export trade from this island, leads to the conclusion that the future revenue from this Colony is not likely to reach much over 9,000*l.* to 9,500*l.* per annum.

4. The reduction of 685*l.* 11*s.* 8½*d.* in the estimated expenditure has been caused by the reduction made in the fixed establishments.

5. The public debt has been reduced to 6,750*l.*, and I anticipate that there will be no difficulty in continuing the yearly repayments of 1,000*l.* per annum until this debt is liquidated.

ST. HELENA.

6. On the 19th March the late Governor, Hudson R. Janisch, Esq. died, and Lieut.-Colonel Grant Blunt, R.E., the officer commanding the troops, assumed the administration of the Government from that date. Up to that date Lieut.-Colonel Grant Blunt performed the duties of Colonial Engineer, with a salary of 200*l.* per annum, but these duties are now performed by this officer, combined with those of Officer administering the Government, on a salary of 450*l.* per annum.

7. In the secretariat, B. N. C. Knipe, Esq., was dismissed from the 16th July, 1884, and G. W. Janisch, Esq., temporarily performed the duties of Assistant Colonial Secretary, until he was relieved by G. A. Banbury, Esq., 28th November 1884. E. Watson, the printer, was pensioned 28th November, and the duties have since been carried on by the reduced staff.

8. *Educational Staff.*—Mr. W. P. Thompson, the master of the lower school, was pensioned on the 1st May, and Mr. A. S. Brady was appointed from that date on the reduced salary of 100*l.* per annum. The Rev. J. C. Lambert, the master of the Head School was pensioned 1st January 1885, since which date this school has been closed.

9. *Medical Department.*—Reductions have been made in the establishment.

10. *Judicial Department.*—A reduction has been made by the appointment of a policeman in the place of one pensioned not being filled up.

11. There has been an increased expenditure on the pension list of 263*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* over the expenditure in 1883, on account of officers, &c. pensioned on abolition of office.

12. *Savings Bank.*—There has been no increase in the number of depositors, but the amount of deposits received in the year 1884 was 400*l.* in excess of that received in 1883. Of the 83 depositors 69 are poor persons, with deposits ranging from 1*l.* to 150*l.*, more than half this number having deposits of less than 25*l.* Of the seven societies that use this bank, one has 750*l.* deposited, the lowest being 30*l.* Interest is paid only on 150*l.*, the societies leaving their money with the bank for safe custody. It is much to be regretted that the poorer classes do not take more advantage of this opportunity of providing for times of distress, but they have so many friendly societies that this, I believe, accounts for the little use made of the savings bank by the great bulk of the population.

13. The return of the numbers attending school, gives a total of 908 children, who receive secular and religious instruction. The approximate number of children in the Island between the ages of 6 and 14 years does not exceed this number, and it may, therefore, be assumed that there are but few children who do not receive some kind of education.

14. The imports for the year have amounted to 41,816*l.*, against 43,095*l.* in 1883, and the exports to 1,436*l.* against 1,505*l.* in 1883. This does not include the oil and bone transhipped by the American Southern Whaling Fleet, which amounted to 21,970*l.*, against

12,750*l.* in 1883. There were also stores to the value of 2,130*l.* landed and shipped to Whaling fleet.

15. The total number of vessels that called at this port during the year was 414, against 521 in 1883. Of these, 20 were vessels of war and transports, 46 merchant steamers, 321 merchant sailing vessels, and 27 whalers.

16. *Agriculture.*—The storage of green fodder in silos has been introduced with success, and if generally adopted will be a great safeguard against loss of cattle during the droughts which periodically prevail, and have been a source hitherto of great loss to farmers in this Colony.

17. *Criminal.*—Two prisoners only have been convicted in the Supreme Court during the year, and these were foreigners belonging to the Whaling fleet.

18. *Hospital.*—The hospital is efficiently conducted, although a reduction has been made in the working staff.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.
the Earl of Derby, K.G.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) GRANT BLUNT,
Lieut.-Col. R.E.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 20.

Administrator SIR J. C. McLEOD, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. the
EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

Queen's House, Colombo, Ceylon,
July 17, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of Ceylon for 1884, and to submit the following report on its contents:—

2. The coffee crop in 1883 was the smallest of any during the last quarter of a century, and that for 1884 exhibits a still further falling off. In 1877 the island exported 974,333 cwts. of coffee: in 1884 the export amounted to 299,395 cwts. During the intermediate years the decadence of the industry, owing mainly to leaf disease, has been almost uniformly rapid, each year, with one exception, showing a considerable decrease on the returns of its predecessor. The financial prosperity of the Colony was for long intimately bound up with the fluctuating fortunes of its main staple of export that the progressive decline in the production of that article justified the most serious apprehension in regard to the prospects of the Island. The general revenue of the Government so largely depended indirectly on the state of the coffee industry that its condition could not properly be regarded with unmixed satisfaction even when that industry was most prosperous, and the years which brought with them so large a decline in the