

MALTA.

often frivolous; and the skill with which he has availed himself of the local resources, and accepted local methods whenever they were suitable, have disarmed opposition and conciliated support.

The success of the Government in securing the acceptance of the project, apart from the excellence of the proposals themselves, is thus in a great measure due to Mr. Chadwick.

The state of the police force has been a source of complaint for many years. Discipline was lax, and there was difficulty in obtaining suitable recruits. As a result, the duties of the force which, in Malta, are multifarious, were performed in a perfunctory manner, well-founded complaints were continually made, and abuses were rife. As a first step towards the re-organization of the force, a Police Act was passed in 1885 on the model of the Royal Irish Constabulary Act, bringing the force under proper discipline; a system of good conduct pay was inaugurated, the scale of pensions was improved, and the salaries of the inspectors and sub-inspectors placed on a higher scale. Care has been taken to eliminate undesirable characters from the force, and a considerable improvement is already evident. Much remains to be done, and the superintendent fully recognizes the necessity of unremitting attention to the subject.

In November, a panic was caused in Malta by the withdrawal from circulation, in Italy, of the so-called Sicilian dollar. This coin, although long since demonetized in Malta, had become, in spite of the efforts of the Government in past years, almost the sole means of exchange in Malta and Gozo, and large numbers had been hoarded. The Government was obliged to come to the rescue and to undertake the exchange of dollars for such persons as desired to entrust their dollars to Government for exchange.

1,842,530 dollars were collected by the Government, shipped to Italy, and the proceeds paid to the depositors at the rate of 4s. per dollar within three and a half months. In addition, 54,000 dollars, belonging to depositors in court were exchanged by the Government, and nearly a million more were exchanged by private hands.

Correspondence on this subject has, I believe, been already printed.

It is sufficient to observe here, that the amount of labour and responsibility incurred by the Government in conducting the conversion was considerable, that the result was favourably received in Malta, and that the action of the Government has received the unqualified approval of the Secretary of State. The Government received material assistance in this matter from private individuals, notably from Mr. Edward Giantar, a retired merchant, who devoted a great deal of time and trouble, at considerable inconvenience to himself, to advising the Government during the course of the operations.

An epidemic of measles, which occurred during the hottest and most unhealthy part of the year, the summer having been particularly hot, caused a serious rise in infant mortality, and in death from anonylos.

MALTA.

The death-rate for the first fortnight in August, in Malta, reached the unprecedented rate of 80·57 per thousand.

Two hundred and fifty-four deaths occurred from diphtheria during the year. Considerable expense was incurred by the Government in attempting to segregate and stamp out this disease. The precautions taken were very strict, and it may be that if they had not been taken, the number of deaths from diphtheria would have been greater. The disease, however, still exists, although the cases have materially diminished in number and severity.

The year has on the whole been prosperous. The universal depression in trade affects Malta, as it does other places, but in a less degree. Employment for labour has been plentiful, owing to the extensive works in course of construction at the dockyard, and to the works undertaken by the Civil Government. The revenue received from Customs duties was the highest on record, having reached 135,907l. or 2,560l. above the receipt for 1883, hitherto the highest on record.

The other branches of revenue also maintained their level, and excluding from the comparison a receipt of 10,000l. in 1884 from the Imperial Government, on account of Egyptian refugees, and the increase due in 1885 on account of the Post Office, the nett increase of the revenue in 1885 compared with 1884 was 3,070l. 17s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

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

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

## ST. HELENA.

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No. 15.

ACTING GOVERNOR LIEUT.-COLONEL GRANT BLUNT, to the  
Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

My LORD,

St. Helena, April 26, 1886.  
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book Returns for 1885.

2. The revenue, estimated at 9,114l., amounted to 9,049l. 8s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. A grant in aid of 2,050l. was received from the Imperial Treasury to defray the charges falling on the Colony on account of the Mail Service, which brought the total revenue to 11,099l. 8s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

3. The expenditure, estimated at 10,261l. 12s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., amounted to 13,098l. 13s. 5d. The excess was caused by the payment of 2,426l. 16s. 5d. due for Mail Service to end of 1884, and from a sum of only 676l. 14s. 5d. having been provided for in the

estimates for the carriage of mails during the year, whereas 1,540*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* was actually paid for this service.

4. *Public Debt.*—The public debt has been reduced to 5,750*l.*

5. *Legislation.*—The following Ordinances were passed by the Executive Council and have all, with the exception of No. 6, received the gracious confirmation and allowance of Her Majesty:—

1. To divide the parish of St. Helena into ecclesiastical districts.
2. Authorising expenditure not provided for in the estimates.
3. To prevent repealed Ordinances being revised.
4. To amend the Law relating to highways.
5. To extend the operation of Ordinance No. 1 of 1863.
6. Appropriation Ordinance for the estimates for 1886.
7. To extend Ordinance No. 1 of 1863 respecting disease among cattle.

No. 4. became necessary owing to transfer of rural roads from the Colony to the War Department. No. 5 was brought forward on account of the prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia amongst the cattle in the Cape Colony. Cattle are frequently imported from that Colony, and hitherto have been allowed to be taken into the country unless showing signs of disease when landed. This practice was considered a source of danger to the Island stock, but the provisions of this Ordinance not being considered sufficiently stringent, No. 7 was brought forward instead.

5. *Civil Establishment.*—Lieut. Turton, R.E., the auditor, resigned on the 30th April, and was succeeded by Captain B. Bruno, D.A.C.G. of Ordnance. Mr. F. E. Fowler, Stipendiary Magistrate, was pensioned on 1st March on abolition of Office.

6. *Pension List.*—The Lord Bishop, Colonial Chaplain, Rev. J. Lambert, Master of the head school, and Mr. T. E. Fowler, Stipendiary Magistrate, were, on abolition of office, placed on the pension list. These pensions amount to 273*l.* 5*s.*, and with an increase of 6*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* allowed to the pension of E. Watson, make a total increase to the pension list of 279*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* William Hubbard in receipt of pension of 50*l.* 13*s.* died during the year.

7. *Foreign Consuls.*—Mr. J. M. McKnight arrived in the Colony on the 15th April, and assumed his duties of American Consul. Mr. T. E. Fowler was appointed American Vice-Consul.

8. *Population.*—The following were registered:—

—	—	1884.	1885.
Births	-	60	89
Marriages	-	25	28
Deaths	-	62	56

Of the deaths 10 were over 80 years of age.

9. *Savings Bank.*—Although the number of depositors was only 72 as compared with 82 in 1884 there was an increase in the amount of deposits.

10. *Education.*—The Government Head School was closed from the commencement of the year, and the late master was allowed to rent the school-house at a low rent to enable him to start a private school. This, however, I regret to say, has not proved a success, and he will shortly relinquish this building. The education obtained in the other Government schools appears to be all that the parents generally care to obtain, and the better classes send their children to England for education. The members of this class are not sufficient to retain the services of a competent master.

11. *Imports and Exports.*—The imports as compared with 1884 were as follows, viz.:—

—	1884.	1885.
From United Kingdom	£ 27,931	£ 30,790
“ British Colonies	11,200	8,501
“ Foreign Countries	2,685	2,470
Total	41,816	41,761

The exports to United Kingdom and British Colonies amounted to 1,772*l.* compared with 1,436*l.* in 1884. Of these 532*l.* was produce of the Colony (hides, skins, and wool), the remainder being principally old metal. In addition, 12,330*l.* of coffee, rice, and sugar was landed from vessels undergoing repairs and re-shipped, and 12,752*l.* of ambergris, bone, and oil was transhipped from American whalers and shipped to the United States of America.

## 12. SHIPPING.

### *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

—	1884.	1885.
British	21	24 with cargoes.
“ ”	2	1 in ballast.
Foreign	22	12 with cargoes.
“ ”	9	5 in ballast.

*Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

		1884.	1885.
British -	- - -	15	17 with cargoes.
"	- - -	4	5 in ballast.
Foreign	- - -	8	4 with cargoes.

*Steam Vessels Entered.*

		1884.	1885.
British -	- - -	35	33 with cargoes.
"	- - -	3	Nil in ballast.

*Steam Vessels Cleared.*

		1884.	1885.
British -	- - -	Nil.	1 with cargo.

*13. Gaol and Prisoners.*

		1884.	1885.
Committed -	- - - -	83	54
Average daily number in prison	- -	4 <sup>2</sup> <sub>3</sub> <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	2 <sup>1</sup> <sub>3</sub> <sup>2</sup> <sub>3</sub>

*Criminal Statistics.*

Total number of offences reported in 1884, 250; in 1885, 198. The returns show an absence of any serious crime.

14. *Hospital and Asylum.*—The hospital is ably managed by Dr. Watson, the Colonial Surgeon. Owing to the American whaling fleet having only visited this port once during the year, only 51 seamen were admitted as compared with 80 in 1884. Two males were admitted to the Lunatic Asylum and one male died during the year.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon.  
the Earl Granville, K.G.  
&c. &c. &c.

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

**GIBRALTAR.**

## No. 16.

Governor Sir J. M. ADYE, G.C.B., to the Right Hon. the EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Gibraltar for the year 1885, with a report by the Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN ADYE,  
General and Governor.

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

*Finance.*

## REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of GIBRALTAR for the year 1885.

The actual revenue received during the year was Pts. 1,111,003·08 (44,052*l.*), being a decrease of Pts. 36,614·31 (1,451*l.*) when compared with that of the previous year, notwithstanding that the new tariff Order in Council was in force. The decrease is attributable to the quarantine restrictions imposed by all nations against Spain and Gibraltar during the prevalence of cholera which completely paralyzed trade in all branches and prevented vessels entering the port for several months.

A considerable decrease is shown on the duty for wines compared with that received in 1884; whilst, on the other hand, spirits show an increase. The cause is not far to seek, as during the prevalence of cholera in Gibraltar and the neighbourhood spirits were largely consumed in preference to the light wines of Spain.

The recently imposed duty on malt liquors brought in the sum of Pts. 22,275 (883*l.*).

The expenditure for the year, as compared with that of 1884 was less by Pts. 86,414 (3,426*l.*), owing chiefly to the decreased expenditure on public works. The saving on this head of service alone being Pts. 47,361 (1,877*l.*), whilst under the head of miscellaneous services a reduction of Pts. 58,073 (2,302*l.*) is shown when compared with the previous year.