

Colonial chests and in the hands of the Crown Agents, was 6,511*l.*; of this amount 3,000*l.* has been invested in Colonial securities, in pursuance of an arrangement for securing the permanency of the revenue derived from the rent of the Crown lands, by capitalizing the proceeds of sales of land, nearly half of the revenue of the Colony being derived from the rent of the Crown lands as pastoral stations.

A calamity, which might have had more fatal consequences, befel the town of Stanley on the night of the 2nd of June. The weather had been very rainy, and the large peat bog on the rising ground at the back of the town, which supplies the inhabitants with fuel, became so saturated that a large mass, in a semi-fluid condition, slid down the slope, filling the lower parts of the houses in its course to the harbour, and carrying away fences, outhouses, and smaller obstacles.

Two persons were swept away and suffocated, and but for the extreme darkness of the night, which deterred persons from venturing out of their houses, it is probable that many more would have perished.

The building which formed the church and schoolhouse was so much injured by the pressure of the mass of peat which accumulated against it that it has been found necessary to take it down. A similar peat slip took place in 1878, of which an interesting account was given in the Blue Book for that year.

Efforts were made to secure as worthy a representation of the Colony at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition as its limited range of productions would admit of, but owing to the isolated residences of the producers, who are all engaged in sheep-farming on large stations, in a rough country without roads, and where intercommunication is difficult, the attempt failed, and the Government was unable to procure any exhibits to forward to the Exhibition. The directors of the Falkland Islands Company in London, however, exhibited, at their own expense, samples of wool and tallow from their stations in the Colony.

The Governor left the Colony for England on leave of absence on the 3rd of March, and his term of office having been extended, he returned on the 16th of December.

The Government was administered *ad interim* by Lieutenant-Governor Barkly, Chief Commissioner of the Seychelles.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Sir H. T. Holland, Bart., M.P.,
&c. (Signed) T. KERR,
Governor

ST. HELENA.

No. 18.

Governor GRANT BLUNT to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, The Castle, St. Helena, May 27, 1887.
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book Returns for 1886.

2. The revenue for the year amounted to 12,186*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, including a grant in aid of 2,000*l.* from the Imperial Treasury on account of mail subsidy. By the comparative statement it will be seen that the revenue exceeded that for 1885 by nearly 1,150*l.*

3. The expenditure, which was estimated at 11,064*l.* 7*s.* 1½*d.*, amounted to 11,209*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*, but over 200*l.* beyond the amount estimated for works and buildings was expended principally in improvements to Jamestown drainage. Only 500*l.* of debentures were paid off instead of 1,000*l.* as estimated, but to balance this 546*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* for mail subsidy (December quarter, 1886) was paid, making five quarterly payments for the year instead of four as estimated.

4. The strength of the garrison was increased by about 100 men by the arrival of an infantry detachment, and may possibly be further increased during the coming year. New batteries for the protection of Jamestown Bay have been constructed during the past year, and further works for the protection of this coaling station are contemplated.

5. Legislation.

The principal Ordinances enacted during the year were :—
No. 5. To make provision for the apprehension and detention of deserters from foreign merchant vessels.

No. 7. To permit trading with passing vessels under certain restrictions.

These Ordinances have been found to work satisfactorily, and meet the requirements of the Colony.

6. Civil Establishment.

Mr. G. A. Banbury left the Colony, and Mr. W. Grey-Wilson joined as Colonial Secretary, &c.

Miss Warren joined as schoolmistress in place of Miss Welch, pensioned.

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Police-sergeant Harrison took over the duties of gaoler in addition to his police duties on J. Richards being pensioned.

7. Pensions.

The following changes occurred in the pension list:—

Chief Justice Parker, in receipt of a pension of 128*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and J. Seale, 39*l.* 13*s.*, died. Miss E. Welch, 47*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, and J. Richards, 66*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, were added to the list.

8. Foreign Consuls.

C. A. Carrol has ceased to be Consul for Chili and Venezuela. Saul Solomon has become Consul for Denmark and Portugal, in place of H. Bovell, who has left the Island.

Robt. Pooley has ceased to be Consul for Peru.

A. C. Wadson has become Vice-consul for Brazil and Consular Agent for Peru.

9. Education.

There was a considerable decrease in the number of children attending the girls' school, Jamestown, owing to there having been no mistress for this school for many months, and consequently many of the elder girls have gone to other schools.

10. Imports and Exports.

The imports, as compared with 1885, were as follows:—

	1885.	1886.
	£	£
United Kingdom - - - -	30,790	28,949
British Colonies - - - -	8,501	9,276
Foreign Countries - - - -	2,470	2,025
Total - - - -	41,761	40,250

The exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 429*l.* In addition 21,232*l.* bone, oil, and whaling stores were transhipped from American whalers in port. Also 1,615*l.* of coal was landed from a vessel in distress, and afterwards sold in the Island. 343*l.* lime juice, spirits, and wine were taken out of bond as ship's stores, in addition to the amount shown as exports.

11. SHIPPING.

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Sailing Vessels Entered.

	1885.	1886.
British - - - -	24	17 with cargoes.
" - - - -	1	5 in ballast.
Foreign - - - -	12	21 with cargoes.
" - - - -	5	7 in ballast.

Sailing Vessels Cleared.

	1885.	1886.
British - - - -	17	13 with cargoes.
" - - - -	5	1 in ballast.
Foreign - - - -	4	6 with cargoes.
" - - - -	4	4 in ballast.

Steam Vessels Entered.

	1885.	1886.
British - - - -	33	35 with cargoes.

Steam Vessels Cleared.

	1885.	1886.
British - - - -	1	2 with cargoes.

	1885.	1886.
Committed - - - - -	54	77
Average daily number in prison - -	$\frac{2193}{387}$	$\frac{220}{387}$

There were no deaths, and the sanitary state of the prison was very healthy.

Criminal Statistics.

	1885.	1886.
Total No. of offences reported - -	198	207

There were no convictions in the Supreme Court.

13. Hospital and Asylum.

The admissions to the hospital were:—

	1885.	1886.
Males - - - - -	76	74
Females - - - - -	27	25

The number of deaths in hospital were 1885, 8; 1886, 16. These were principally sailors left by passing ships. One male was admitted to the asylum and one male died.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANT BLUNT, Colonel,
Governor.

The Right Hon.
Sir H. T. Holland, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.

No. 19.

Governor Sir J. L. A. SIMMONS to Sir H. T. HOLLAND.

SIR, Palace, Valletta, May 25, 1887.
I HAVE the honour to forward the Malta Blue Book for 1886, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's report on the same.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS,
Sir Henry Holland, Bart., G.C.M.G. Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Malta,
May 23, 1887.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for 1886:—

1. The revenue and expenditure may be tabulated thus:—

Revenue.

	Customs.	Other Receipts.	Total.
1883 - - -	£ 133,347	£ 72,219	£ 205,566
1884 - - -	132,850	79,719	212,569
1885 - - -	135,907	77,404	213,311
	402,104	229,342	631,446
Average - - -	134,035	76,447	210,482
1886 - - -	142,069	81,684	223,753
Increase - - -	8,034	5,237	13,271

Or eliminating from "other receipts" of 1884 the 10,000£ granted by the Imperial Government on account of the "Egyptian refugees," and from "other receipts" of 1885 and 1886, the increase in the revenue of the Post Office due to the transfer to the Colony on 1st January 1885.