

No. 486.

S T . H E L E N A .

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REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, see No. 448.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1906.



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No. 486.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 448.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,

8th March, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1905, together with my Annual Report covering the same.

2. The references in my report to the present state of the labour market and of trade generally in St. Helena are gloomy reading. I am, however, sanguine that an era of prosperity will before long dawn in the Colony, provided, however, that the troops are not entirely withdrawn. My hopes are based upon not only the probability of some company working the manganese ore deposits, but also on the likelihood of the flax industry being successfully revived by a South African Syndicate. Under the circumstances I feel confident that in my next Annual Report I shall be able to write on the Colony's future in a more hopeful strain. The hopes expressed in some quarters that St. Helena might become a health resort are not, I fear, likely to be realised, owing to the great distance of the Island from the British Isles.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony for the year under review amounted to £10,287 13s. 9d., being £1,226 6s. 3d. under the original Estimate and £692 6s. 3d. less than the revised Estimate. As compared with the previous year the revenue showed a falling off of £3,073 14s. 6d.

The failure of the revenue to come up to the Estimate was chiefly due to the Imperial Government removing the infantry detachment from the Island early in the year. Further, the number of "calling ships" was the lowest on record, which fact caused a falling off in imports and was naturally detrimental to private enterprise.

Every item of revenue showed a decrease as compared with the previous year excepting "Rents" and "Miscellaneous," which remained practically the same, showing a total increase of £13 over the figures for 1904.

The chief fallings off were:—"Customs £1,421, and "Post Office" £934, due to the reduction of the garrison, and in the case of the "Post Office" also due to less orders being received than formerly from stamp collectors. There was a marked decrease under "Fines, &c."—amounting to £564—due principally to the public purchasing less cypress timber from the Government than in the previous year. A falling off of £164 under "Interest" is accounted for by the Crown Agents refunding to the Colony, in 1904, surplus funds on which they had paid the Colony interest at current bank rate. The refunding of these monies was made necessary to meet the expenditure in connection with the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes.

In my Annual Report for 1904 receipts from householders (shown under "Fines, &c.") on account of repayments for drainage connections and water services were included in the revenue. These receipts—£741 10s. 6d. in 1904 and £1,404 16s. 11d. in 1905—have now been transferred to and accounted for under "Advances repaid" and are not included in the revenue.

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure during 1905 was £14,969 8s. 3d., being £3,582 4s. 5d. less than the previous year and £606 5s. 10d. under the Estimate. The expenditure exceeded the revenue by £4,681 14s. 6d. This deficit is met by the balance in hand carried over from the previous year and by an overdraft of £4,428 1s. 8d. with the Crown Agents. On this overdraft the

Colony is paying interest at the bank rate, which overdraft will be liquidated by realising from time to time part of the surplus funds of the Colony which are invested in securities in the hands of the Crown Agents.

Every effort was made to economise during the year. The only excess of expenditure (£75) incurred was under "Miscellaneous," due to increased interest to the Crown Agents on overdrafts. The heavy expenditure on the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works and large withdrawals from the Savings Bank were the entire causes of these overdrafts. The works referred to, completed during the year under review, cost the sum of £17,142, being £3,729 over the estimate. £7,527 of this amount is due from householders, of which £2,192 has been recovered up to the 31st December, 1905, leaving £5,335 still due, which bears interest at the rate of from 2½ to 3½ per cent.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Colony's assets exceeded the liabilities by £4,142 10s. 10d. on the 31st December, 1905. These figures are, however, misleading. In the table of Assets and Liabilities (shown at the end of this report, marked N) it will be seen that the Colony's investments show an asset of £31,233 1s. 7d., that being the cost price of such investments, whereas the actual market value of those investments on the 31st December, 1905, was £29,797 8s. 2d., or a deficit on the cost price of £1,435 13s. 5d. Consequently the actual excess of assets over liabilities was only £2,706 17s. 5d. The market value of the Colony's securities given above showed an increase of £292 19s. 9d. as compared with the corresponding date of the previous year.

(D.) CURRENCY.

The amount remitted by the public by means of Government bills of exchange on the Crown Agents showed a decrease of £7,017 1s. 3d. as compared with the previous year—the figures being £24,248 2s. 0d. and £31,265 3s. 3d., respectively. In my report for 1904 I showed a decrease under this head as compared with 1903 of £9,681 16s. 5d. Thus in two years we have a falling off in these remittances of no less than £16,698 odd. Against this serious state of affairs we have an increase of £1,201 in the same period in sums remitted to the United Kingdom through the Post Office. This leaves a deficit of remittances by the public for the period named of £15,497.

Commissions amounting to £168 19s. 2d. were received during the year on bills of exchange, against which a sum of £52 6s. 6d. was paid to the Imperial Government in remittance charges. The figures in 1904 were £221 12s. 11d. and £73 12s. 6d., respectively.

Specie was exported to the amount of £7,200. There was no import in that line.

(E). FINANCIAL RETURNS.

At the end of this report will be found the following returns touching on matters financial:—

- (1.) Revenue for the years 1904 and 1905, showing increases and decreases under the several heads—marked K.
- (2.) Expenditure for the years 1904 and 1905, showing increases and decreases under the several heads—marked L.
- (3.) Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years, including the year under review—marked M.
- (4.) Table of Assets and Liabilities—marked N.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

A decrease of £1,420 12s. 1d. as compared with the previous year occurred under the head "Customs"—the figures being £5,719 19s. 9d. and £7,140 11s. 10d., respectively. Decreases occurred under the following sub-heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Permits	2	10	0
Wharfage	278	6	1
Import dues	1,123	13	9
Tonnage dues	72	2	6

There were increases under two sub-heads, viz.:—"Warehouse Rent £14 15s. 3d., and Water £41 5s. 0d. Attached is a comparative statement (marked O) showing the Customs revenue for the last five years, including the period comprised in this report.

The decrease in revenue is chiefly due to the withdrawal of about half the garrison in the early part of the year under review. It is also due in part to the few vessels that called for stores as compared with 1904. The large number of men thrown out of work on the completion of the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works also adversely affected the Customs revenue in an indirect manner.

The following figures clearly illustrate the serious fall in receipts of specific duties caused chiefly by the reduction of the garrison above referred to:—

	1905.	1904.	Decrease
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons
Spirits	3,571	4,363	792
Wines	4,019	5,105	1,086
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Tobacco	9,389	11,183	1,794
	Hhds.	Hhds.	Hhds.
Beer	567	1,082	515
	Dozen.	Dozen.	Dozen.
"	974	1,219	245

The total value of imports was £52,787 as compared with £75,987 in the previous year, showing a decrease of no less than £23,200. These figures are, however, misleading, as in 1904 the Eastern Telegraph Company imported a new cable valued at £15,270. Eliminating this item, we still have a decrease of £7,930.

The chief imports were as follows:—

Articles.	1905.	1904.
	£	£
Oilma . . . stores	10,131	12,605
Drapery and dry goods	6,551	7,625
Beer	2,535	4,597
Wines	1,210	1,789
Spirits	1,607	1,861
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco	1,248	1,852
Flour	3,559	2,829
Sugar	2,184	2,734
Butter	2,544	2,614
Coal	2,250	2,400
Hardware	1,496	2,374
Rice	1,970	2,362
Oilcake, grain, and seed	3,662	1,794
Beef and pork	1,148	1,690
Leather, boots, &c.	1,451	1,641

The above figures speak for themselves. The only two increases, under "Flour" and "Oilcake," were caused by the merchants importing increased quantities of these goods from Australia by the ship "Illawarra," which vessel, it was reported, was making her last voyage between Australia and St. Helena.

There is no regular export trade in St. Helena. It is to be hoped, however, that this evil will be remedied in the near future by success attending the efforts to revive the flax industry and by the hoped-for working of the manganese ore deposits. The total exports for the year amounted to £7,635, of which £7,200 was specie. A large part of the balance was covered by a quantity of household goods belonging to an officer who left the Colony during the year.

Attached to this report is a statement (marked P) showing the value of imports and exports for the last five years, including the year under review.

The expenditure under "Customs" amounted to £776 12s. 8d. as against £716 5s. 4d. in 1904. This increase was caused by larger rebates being paid on coal supplied to His Majesty's ships and on beer for the troops than was the case in the previous year.

(B.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The hope expressed in my last Annual Report that a company might be formed in London in order to revive the flax industry in St. Helena was not realised. It looked at one time as if such a company would be formed, but the whole thing eventually fell to the ground. An attempt was, however, made to work the flax and aloe plant by a syndicate of gentlemen in the Colony. Their efforts have unfortunately suffered a reverse owing to the machines imported not having proved satisfactory. The extractor sent out to the syndicate is capable of dealing with leaves up to three feet in length, whereas the St. Helena leaves vary from six to seven feet in length. I am informed that the syndicate referred to do not in any way intend abandoning the project on account of the bad start made, but propose to import machines from New Zealand with the hope that the industry may yet be successfully established. An appeal I made to the Union Castle Steamship Company to carry the fibre home at a reduced rate of freight, at all events until the industry was well started, met with the most generous response, the Company expressing their readiness, in order to encourage the industry, to carry six shipments of 10 tons each free of freight. The Steamship Company's action is to be commended, and is highly appreciated by the public. I am only sorry that it has not yet been possible to make a shipment of fibre under these generous terms. I would add that samples of fibre sent home were very favourably reported on—the flax being quoted at £32 to £33 per ton and the aloe at £33 per ton.

It is difficult to say yet to what extent the "Peach Fly Ordinance, 1904," has had effect, although there is no doubt there was a marked decrease of the fly during the year under

review. It is suggested, however, that the heavy floods of Easter, 1904, caused a decided check to the fly and from which it has not yet recovered. It will be easier in another year to speak more confidently as to the real effect of the Ordinance referred to. There is no doubt that the cutting down of a large number of old fruit trees has tended considerably towards reducing the number of flies, and it was owing to the enactment of the Ordinance in question that growers cut down such trees. The Ordinance may, therefore, fairly be said to have done good, but to what extent remains to be seen. The fact is that the success or otherwise of the Ordinance depends almost entirely on whether or not the fruit-growing community as a whole observe the conditions laid down. The poorer classes of St. Helenians consider that it is useless to fight against any visitation caused by the hand of God. They argue that the peach fly was sent by the Almighty, and that, therefore, it is not likely that any human efforts will get rid of the pest. This is not encouraging, but is very typical of the spirit in which a large number of the community accept adversity.

The year 1905 was not at all a favourable one from an agricultural point of view; this was especially the case in the western division of the Island, where the rainfall was the smallest recorded for over twenty years. The average fall for the past twenty years and more in the western division has been about 29 inches, whereas during 1905 the fall only amounted to 16.5 inches. Other parts of the Island, especially the centre, were better favoured, but the rainfall throughout the Colony was well below the average. Unusual heavy rains in December, when least expected, saved a drought in both pasture and water. The springs were very low at the end of November, but at the end of the year were in a satisfactory state, and will probably continue so until the advent of the summer rains. Very hot and drying weather prevailed in April and May, which in many parts completely destroyed the summer crops. In some cases seed potatoes, imported by the Colonial Government and sold to growers at cost price, were entirely lost. In fact, potatoes generally were a very short crop owing to lack of moisture. In the months of August and September there were scarcely any Island-grown potatoes to be bought, and the price was consequently high. The winter crops were seriously damaged by the dry weather in October. Pasture lands were getting bare by the beginning of December, and cattle, which should then be at their best, were in poor condition. Fortunately, however, the December rains set things right in this direction. Very little hay was made, partly owing to the fact that a large crop was obtained the year before and a quantity still remained on hand from lack of demand. Oaten forage, grown for cattle food, was a short crop, the rain for the first eleven months of the year not allowing it to be made in first-class condition. This crop is used principally upon the farms where it is grown. It was not possible, owing to the

absence of rain when most needed, to grow green vegetables in successive crops as usual. Watering by hand was resorted to, but this is not practicable in every locality. Insects have been very troublesome, especially grubs. Birds are unable to get at these latter pests unless the ground is moved. Cattle have been kept fairly free from ticks, thanks to the mina birds. The presence of these birds probably keeps down insects to a greater extent than is recognised by the general public. On the other hand, the mina has a bad reputation as a killer of young broods, and is in very bad repute with fruit growers.

At the present time the prospects of farming, the only quasi industry in the Island, are far from bright. The removal of the larger part of the garrison, which occurred in March of the year under review, must to a large extent stop the increase of cattle. There being no other market open, cattle owners will have to restrict the breeding or they will be overstocked. The supply is already greater than the demand, and there will not be sufficient pasture for the surplus cattle. The same cause seriously affects all other farm produce.

A large number of young trees were issued to the public free of cost from the plantation nursery during the year. A considerable number, too, were planted by the Government, having been raised in the same nursery. In all about 1,000 forest trees were planted during the year, chiefly consisting of eucalyptus, cedar, Cape yew, Norfolk pine, and deodar. In addition to these a large number of Kaffir thorn trees were planted on the roadsides and waste lands. The year was a bad one for tree culture owing to the lack of rain when most required. The majority of the trees planted by the Government are protected by wire-netting guards, without which it would not be possible to raise trees owing to the presence of innumerable goats and donkeys, who roam at large and who are greater enemies to the trees than is the want of moisture. In fact, it was not until several goats had been shot and many donkeys pounded that the owners thereof could be made to understand that the trees had not been planted with a view to feeding those animals. Wherever possible, the trees were planted in good soil transported from Plantation, and, in spite of the unfavourable conditions existing, the efforts made during the year in tree planting may be considered satisfactory. A certain amount of flax was planted in the vicinity of Half Tree Hollow as an experiment. The plants appear to be doing well. The Government also imported a large number of fruit trees from Cape Colony and sold the same to growers at cost price. Fifty such trees were distributed free of cost to twenty-five poor growers with a view to encouraging fruit culture in the Island. My efforts to induce the St. Helenians to experiment with cotton seed, referred to in my report for 1904, failed. It is most difficult to get anyone in St. Helena to interest themselves in such matters. The Government has from time to time in the

last three years distributed free of cost large quantities of seeds and trees, but in hardly any case can I ever get the recipients to report how such seeds and trees thrive unless I enquire into the matter personally. This is not an encouraging state of affairs. The fact is, the St. Helenian prefers taking things easy and trusts to Providence that everything will turn out right in the long run. I do not say there are not exceptions to this rule, but my remarks, unfortunately, apply to a large majority of the Islanders.

Fruit to the value of £28 7s. 1½*d.* was sold during the year from the Maldivia Garden in Jamestown. Fallen and dead trees for fuel realised £6 15s. 6*d.* during the same period.

(C.) FISHERIES.

The attempt made by an ex-Boer to run a fish-curing establishment proved a failure. There was little or no sale for the fish locally, and the freight charges would not allow a reasonable profit being made on the article in the Cape market.

(D.) SHIPPING.

Returns are attached hereto; one (marked Q) being a comparative statement of shipping, entered and cleared, for the last five years, including the year under review, and the other (marked R) being a general abstract of vessels that touched at the port of Jamestown during the same period.

These returns are sad reading, showing, as they do, no cessation of the decline in the number of vessels that call at St. Helena from year to year. In past years the shipping was the mainstay of the Island generally. In fact, in the old days of St. Helena's prosperity the greater part of the revenue was derived from the shipping, especially in the way of wharfage on the cargoes of leaking ships.

Referring to the first return (Q) named above, 40 vessels, representing a tonnage of 206,690 tons, entered and cleared with cargo and in ballast. There was one vessel only in the latter category. The number of tons of cargo brought by these vessels amounted to 5,008, a decrease of 1,370 tons as compared with the previous year—a heavy percentage for so short a period and a clear sign of the evil days that have come to this small and ancient Colony. It will be noted that the number of vessels referred to was less than half the number that called in 1901.

Taking the return marked R, 99 vessels called at the port of Jamestown and were boarded by the Harbour Master out of a total of 212 vessels sighted during the year. Another 29 were communicated with by licensed traders. It will be

observed that the number of vessels dealt with in this return is less by eight than those boarded in 1904. The tonnage shows a corresponding drop of 11,928 tons; this decrease falls principally under British steamships. The annual falling off in the number of vessels has been proportionately larger in the case of British than foreign vessels. There was also a decrease as compared with the previous year of five warships and transports, but an increase of two British man-of-war. Only two foreign warships called, viz., the French cruiser "Dupleix," flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Boué de Lapeyrère, and the Spanish corvette "Nautilus."

I stated above that 29 passing ships were communicated with by licensed traders during the year. "The Passing Ships Ordinance, 1886," was made inoperative during the time the Boer prisoners-of-war were interned in St. Helena, because it gave boatmen and others, who boarded vessels many miles from land, free access to ships that were not subject to the special restrictions imposed on all calling vessels during that period. The Ordinance was, however, re-enacted in 1904, with certain modifications, thereby giving these licensed traders the privilege of boarding and trading with vessels not actually touching at the port. By this means such vessels obtain fresh vegetables, &c., and are able to post letters. During 1905 there were 201 letters posted from this source as against 264 in the previous year. The number of letters to be posted is in every case entered by the master of the vessel on a form presented to him by the trader, which form is delivered up by the latter on his arrival ashore. By this method a safe check is afforded against the non-delivery of such letters. The number of ships boarded by these traders during the year was less by seven than during the year 1904.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Seven Ordinances were enacted and two Proclamations issued during the year under review.

The most important Ordinances were:—

No. 2.—"The Small Debts Ordinance," relating to the recovery of small debts. Jurisdiction increased from £10 to £25. This law was found necessary, as there are no legal practitioners in the Colony to conduct cases in the Higher Court, and the St. Helenian has an aversion to pleading his own cause in that court, the result being that many debtors escaped where the amounts claimed exceeded £10.

No. 3.—"The Customs Ordinance." The enactment of this Ordinance was undertaken with a view to consolidating all laws

relating to the Customs and to present such laws in a comprehensive and compact form. The new Ordinance repealed five old Ordinances, ranging from 1853 to 1895, and the Order-in-Council of 11th July, 1839. The tariff remains as under the old laws of 1864 and 1882. Specific duties are levied on wines, spirits, beer, and tobacco; all other goods pay rates of wharfage according to the measurement and size of the outer coverings.

No. 4.—"The Stallion Donkeys Ordinance." This Ordinance aims at ensuring the effectual control of stallion donkeys with a view to improving the breed of donkeys in St. Helena. A Board of Inspectors was appointed under the Ordinance with powers to exempt from castration any stallion donkeys they considered useful for breeding purposes, the owners of such donkeys being given a "certificate of exemption." The Ordinance came into force on January 1st, 1906, but was enacted six months before that date in order to allow the Board of Inspectors to select those stallions which they considered fit for breeding purposes, and to give plenty of time for owners to have those animals castrated which either did not pass the exemption test, or for which they did not intend to take out a licence. Only about 12 stallions received certificates of exemption, whilst licences (of 10s. for the year) were taken out by owners in 15 cases on the Ordinance coming into force. The inspectors carried out their work of selection most judiciously. In proof of this fact, there has not been a single appeal instituted against their decisions. Owners of stallion donkeys, having accepted the necessity, had their jacks taken to appointed places in different parts of the Island, and the work of castration was in nearly every case performed gratuitously by operators appointed by the Government, and without cost to the owners. Over 250 stallions were operated on before the Ordinance came into force. The losses were very few. It is generally recognised that the Ordinance is already a decided success. Mare donkeys and foals, which were formerly chased by stallions all over the hill sides, now have the quiet time which is so necessary for the rearing of the foal. The ill-feeling, which was so prevalent formerly, caused by neighbour's stallion donkeys fighting and killing each other, no longer exists. Even those persons most opposed to the Ordinance at first, have to admit that it is a good one, and fully recognise the wisdom of the somewhat drastic measures which had to be taken in order to make the Ordinance a complete success. The full benefits of the Ordinance will become more apparent every year as time goes on.

No. 6.—"The Weights and Measures Ordinance." This Ordinance repealed the one of 1884, which had the great drawback in that it entailed a duty on the sheriff and justices of the peace of visiting the shops, &c., with the police constables—a duty that appeared to be seldom, if ever, performed. The police magistrate, however, performed the duty on a few

occasions and afterwards adjudicated on any cases. This state of affairs was objectionable and necessitated the enactment of a new Ordinance.

No. 7.—“The Port Health Ordinance.” This Ordinance is framed on the lines mapped out at the Barbados Convention and in accordance with the spirit of the Paris Convention of 1903. Old ideas of quarantine and its comparative value as a method of protection against the introduction of disease have been replaced by the more modern idea of relying almost entirely on disinfection and isolation of the sick, and reducing “quarantine” to a minimum. In fact, the word “quarantine” disappears entirely from the Ordinance, the term “observation” taking its place.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The amount expended during the year under “Education” was £711, as against £615 in 1904, the increase being caused by the employment of more pupil teachers and by the fact that Mr. Tucker was present in the Colony for only a part of 1904. This does not include the cost of erecting new class-rooms or of carrying out many repairs in the schools. Such expenditure is dealt with under the “Public Works Department.”

There were eight schools open during the year, or one less than in 1904. This decrease was caused by a reorganisation of the Government Town Schools, by which the Boys’ Town School, the Girls’ Town School, and the Infants’ School ceased to exist, their places being taken by the Senior Town School and the Junior Town School, the infants being admitted into the latter establishment. By this new method, which came into operation on the 1st March of the year under review, the scholars in each school were mixed instead of boys and girls being relegated to different schools. The great object aimed at in this division was to economise the teaching power of the staff and also to bring the senior boys and girls under the instruction of Mr. Tucker, a trained teacher, who arrived in the Colony in 1904. Another decided advantage gained by the new arrangement was that the junior children, as well as the infants, were brought under the influence and care of lady teachers—a plan that has issued in the happiest results. As the Inspector of Schools remarks, such results cannot fail to prove a great factor in the general improvement of the youth of Jamestown, both intellectually and morally.

The total number of children attending the schools was 654, of which 322 were boys. The figures in the previous year were 646 and 325, respectively. The small increase of eight in the total is accounted for by the fact that the school buildings are

filled to their utmost capacity; in fact, in several cases they are crammed. This evil was remedied as far as two of the Government Schools were concerned by the erection of a class-room at both the Senior Town School and the Country School. Even with this additional accommodation the latter school is full to overflowing.

The Inspector of Schools reports that there is a general improvement apparent in the method employed in teaching; this especially applies in a marked degree to the two Government Town Schools. This improvement is particularly noticeable on the part of the younger teachers. The consequence is that an advance has been made in the standard of work brought up by the scholars for examination. This improvement is very gratifying, and is chiefly due to the effort made to substitute the method of oral instruction for the old-fashioned way of teaching by means of text-books. As I said before, the greatest advance in the way of education has been made in the Government Town Schools which have the advantage of trained teachers to superintend them. On this point the Inspector of Schools remarks:—“The Senior Town School, after nearly a twelvemonth’s work, presents at last to the Island a school worked on approved principles, whose scholars have a decided advantage over those who attend the other schools, and which, it is possible, may in the future advance beyond the elementary stage to secondary or higher education.”

Classes for pupil teachers, under Mr. Tucker, were started during the last quarter of the year. These classes are proving to be an excellent innovation as a means of instruction in the art of teaching.

The Colonial Surgeon gave a course of weekly lectures on elementary hygiene during two months of the year under review. The course was arranged for school teachers and was well attended throughout. The lectures were illustrated by lantern slides, which proved of great value in upholding the interest of the class. The greatest object of these lectures was to give the teachers a grasp of the simple laws of health, so that they might impress the same upon the children as opportunity offered, giving practical illustrations by the airing of school-rooms, and insisting on the great importance of the cleanliness of children by careful attention to hair, teeth, nails, &c. An examination in hygiene was held at the end of the year for the Government School pupil teachers. Two-thirds of those who entered passed the examination, and the answering was excellent. A daily object lesson of great benefit to the children is insisted on in all the Government Schools; the school-rooms are aired at the end of each lesson and the children given a rest for five or ten minutes before the next lesson is commenced. By this means both teachers and scholars are given a lesson in simple physiology, as they learn that these short

intervals give rest to the brain and a renewed supply of pure air for the blood.

The Attendance Officer reports 28 prosecutions and 24 convictions during the year under the Education Ordinance for non-attendance. This shows a decrease of 30 prosecutions and 9 convictions as compared with the previous year. There were only two cases where a parent or guardian was prosecuted twice for failing to comply with the terms of the Ordinance. The attendance generally showed a marked improvement over the previous year—a noticeable feature being the increase in attendance of children living beyond a two-mile radius of any school, and the number of children above the school age who attended the several schools.

All the schools were closed for a few weeks during the year, between June and August, owing to an epidemic of measles which prevailed throughout the Colony.

The School Board continued its useful work throughout the year, but was unfortunate in losing the services of its energetic honorary secretary, the Reverend T. Aitken, who left the Colony in December. Mr. Aitken's successor in St. Helena, the Reverend W. J. Buchanan, kindly consented to take over the duties of honorary secretary to the Board.

The children were given "outings" on His Majesty's birthday and on "Empire Day" (May 24th). On the latter occasion the flag was saluted in due form. The Howard Vincent Empire map was introduced into the schools during the year with a view to illustrate to the children the vastness of the British Empire and to impress upon them the bond they have to guard in their capacity as citizens of that Empire. The lectures on the map are divided into sections and are made as interesting as possible.

I think I have plainly shown that a decided advance in education was made during the year under review, thus confirming the views expressed by me on this point in my last Annual Report. There is, however, still plenty of room for further improvement.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

The number of patients admitted to the Civil Hospital during the year under review was 127—77 men and 50 women—being an increase of 15 as compared with 1904.

There were 15 deaths amongst the admissions as compared with 3 in the previous year, giving a mortality of 11·8 per cent. as contrasted with 2·6 per cent. in 1904. The Colonial Surgeon explains that this high mortality is accounted for by the fact that an unusual number of those who died were in a more or less hopeless condition on admission, but that their removal to hospital, however, from impoverished homes, no doubt, mitigated much suffering.

The Lady Superintendent went on four months' of well-earned leave of absence in March. Her duties during that time were, as the Colonial Surgeon reports, admirably performed by Miss Wormald, the senior on the nursing staff.

The expenditure incurred under the head "Medical" amounted to £1,362 during the year, being an increase of £20 as compared with 1904.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

A profit to the bank of £289 17s. 8d. resulted on the year's transactions. The revenue amounted to £1,014 12s. 11d., interest on moneys invested. The expenditure was £724 15s. 3d., viz.:—Salary of Manager, £40; and interest to depositors, £684 15s. 3d.

The number of depositors during the year under review was 177, and the amount deposited £2,114 4s. 0d., as against 190 depositors and £4,641 13s. 0d. deposited in 1904. £4,850 9s. 3d. was withdrawn from the bank during the year, being £349 8s. 3d. less than in the previous year. Thus the withdrawals during 1905 exceeded the deposits by £2,736 5s. 3d. General depression in trade accounts to a large extent for the large amount withdrawn. Then again, householders had to meet the repayments to the Government of moneys advanced in connection with the house connections and services under the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes. About one-fifth of the total withdrawn fell to one depositor who invested the amount in landed property in St. Helena, thus showing that land is still a good investment. Very few depositors left the Island during the year under review, and the manager of the bank considers it safe to say that nine-tenths of the withdrawals were spent in the Colony.

The bank's reserve amounted on the 31st December, 1905, to £26,057 6s. 0d., being £2,040 9s. 8d. less than on the corresponding date of the previous year.

It is anticipated that the deposits will continue decreasing unless something turns up to foster trade. The manager predicts that at least £3,000 of the reserve will be withdrawn during 1906 by depositors leaving the Island, and he expresses the opinion that the reserve will fall below £20,000 in a very few years.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.—Only three cases came before the Supreme Court during the year under review. Two young men—Louis and Richard Crowie—were found guilty of murder and were sentenced to death at the January Sessions. The sentence on each was carried out on the 2nd February, 1905. These two criminals were the only felons upon whom the extreme penalty of the law had been carried out in St. Helena for over fifty years. In the October Sessions a negress was sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour for sending letters demanding money with menaces.

Police Court.—The number of convictions in this Court during the year was ten less than in the previous year, the figures being 153 and 163, respectively.

They are classed as follows:—

	1905.	1904.
Assaults and other offences against the person	10	16
Malicious injury to property	—	1
Offences, other than malicious, against property	23	6
Offences against highways	35	8
Offences against the Education Ordinance	24	33
Other offences, such as soliciting, drunkenness, &c.	61	99
Totals	153	163

There were very few cases of petty theft. There were no offences by seamen under the Merchant Shipping Act or otherwise. There was a decided decrease in the number of offences connected with drunkenness. This is partly accounted for by the large number of people out of employment who have been debarred by want of funds from purchasing liquor. There is no doubt, too, that the Friendly Societies have a great moral hold over their members of both sexes.

(B.) PRISONS.

The actual number of prisoners admitted to the gaol during the year under review showed a decrease on the previous year.

On the 1st January, 1905, there were three prisoners undergoing sentence and two awaiting trial at the Assizes. The admittances during the year amounted to 39 (of which 16 were women), including remanded prisoners. On the other hand, 38 prisoners (of which 15 were women) were discharged during the same period, and two were executed. Thus on the 31st December, 1905, there were three men and one woman undergoing sentence. The daily average number in gaol during the year was 3.65.

The health of the prisoners and the sanitary condition of the gaol were excellent.

(C.) POLICE FORCE.

The inspector's report as to the conduct of the police and the efficiency of the force was generally satisfactory. The strength of the force remained as heretofore, but a considerable reduction therein took place on the 1st January, 1906, when an entire reorganisation of the force was effected. It is very difficult in St. Helena to get the right type of man for the post of police constable. A system is therefore being given a trial by which it is hoped that, with increased supervision, greater efficiency will be secured with a less number of police constables. Special constables will be sworn in when the occasion requires it.

The number of offences noticed by, or reported to, the police during the year was approximately the same as in 1905—the numbers being 310 and 320, respectively, a decrease of ten. Of the 310 cases, 195 were dealt with by the Magistrate, and 115 enquired into and settled by the police.

Four boys were sentenced to whipping by the Police Magistrate during the year. Such sentences are always carried out under the supervision of the Inspector of Police.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

There was a small increase in the civil population during the year, the total on the 31st December, 1905, amounting to 3,512 as against 3,458 on the same date in 1904. The strength of the garrison on the same date was 211 with 58 women and children, making a total population of 3,781.

The emigrants exceeded the immigrants by 16. The figures being 85 and 69, respectively.

There were 136 births (of which 26 were illegitimate) during the year, of which 124 were among the civil population. This shows an increase of 14 over the previous year.

The number of deaths amounted to 56; this figure includes two soldiers and one seaman, also two men who were executed for murder. The total number of deaths in 1904 was 52. The death-rate is given below under the head of "Public Health." Eighteen marriages were solemnised during the year as against 29 in 1904.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The death-rate was practically the same as in the previous year. The Colonial Surgeon reports that the health of the Colony remained satisfactory during the year under review. There were 56 deaths in all, of which 53 were among the civil population. In the latter category, as stated above, were two men who were executed for murder during the year and who are not, therefore, taken into account in arriving at the death-rate. The ordinary death-rate for the year amongst the civil population works out at 14.5 per 1,000 as against 14.4 in 1904.

The chief event of the year from a public health point of view was an outbreak of measles which assumed epidemic form over the greater part of the Colony. The disease was imported in March by a non-commissioned officer and his family, who were suffering from the disease on arrival. They were isolated by the Military Authorities in their quarters in Jamestown, but in April cases appeared among the civil population, and the disease rapidly spread. The number of persons attacked exceeded 500, the last case being reported on August 28th. Only one death took place during the actual epidemic. This was the case of a patient, aged 52, who died of pneumonia and who was also the subject of malignant disease. One other death might be, in the Colonial Surgeon's opinion, attributable to the epidemic, that of a patient, aged 57, who died, some weeks after recovery from measles complicated with pneumonia, from heart failure, due to the presence of a fatty heart. This would give a death-rate of 0.4 per cent. Dr. Arnold considers that

this low mortality is noteworthy, especially when it is considered that the type of the disease was quite as severe as is ordinarily met with at home, and that the temperature during the onset rose in a large number of cases to 150° and further taking into consideration the fact that sixteen years had elapsed since the last epidemic of measles in St. Helena. It is true that a few cases of measles were imported amongst the Boer prisoners in 1901, but these cases were very strictly isolated and the disease did not spread beyond the confines of the Boer Hospital in Jamestown, with the result that none of the inhabitants caught the infection. The south-west district of the Island was the only one which practically escaped the epidemic of 1905, one single case occurring. The Colonial Surgeon explains that this was due to the facts that the district is an isolated one, the houses therein are very scattered, and the Country School was closed before a case had occurred amongst the scholars.

(C.) SANTARY.

The new system of drainage and water-supply for Jamestown was completed during the year. This places Jamestown in the front rank of towns as regards sanitary arrangements. In fact, for its size and population, Jamestown probably compares most favourably with any town in the British Empire in this particular respect. The very poorest tenements are provided with the most modern water-closet fittings, and a branch from the main conveys the purest spring water to every house. When contrasted with the deplorable condition which previously prevailed, Jamestown is now in a particularly fortunate position so far as an excellent drainage and water system is concerned. It would be extremely regrettable if neglect or carelessness on the part of the inhabitants should lead to the introduction of dangers inseparable from any system of drainage that is allowed to get out of repair. The Health Officer, however, reports that so far there is no indication of this, and that the inhabitants as a whole appear to appreciate the benefits of the new scheme, and are anxious to maintain it in good working order.

A state of overcrowding in many houses, and defective ventilation in a greater number, point to the direction in which there are still much needed improvements. On the other hand, great improvements were made in the ventilation and accommodation of the Government Schools, adding greatly to the well-being and health of the children and their teachers.

The Health Officer recommends an increase in the number of scavengers employed. This is, no doubt, very desirable in order to maintain the roadways in that state of cleanliness that is so desirable in a warm climate. The Colonial Government, however, is not in a position as regards funds to introduce the improvement at present.

Useful work was done by the Board of Health during the year under review. The Board held monthly meetings under the chairmanship of the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Arnold, who is indefatigable in his efforts to improve sanitation. He is well supported by the Acting Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Pegge, who is assiduous in the execution of his duties, and who has been very successful in bringing to light sanitary irregularities.

A new Port Health Ordinance was enacted during the year, and is referred to under the head of "Legislation."

There were 211 vaccinations during the year, the invariable rule being to make four marks. Of this number 96 per cent. were successful.

Under the head "Education" I have referred to a course of lectures on elementary hygiene having been delivered during the year by Dr. Arnold to the teachers of the several schools. As the Colonial Surgeon remarks, great benefit cannot fail to follow the teaching of the first principles of hygiene in the schools of the Colony as it is henceforth intended shall be done. The regular airing of the school-rooms, after each lesson, also referred to under "Education," was adopted on the recommendation of the Colonial Surgeon. By this system the children are given a ten minutes' interval for recreation in the open air after each lesson. There is no doubt that two of the main evils of school life are confinement in a vitiated atmosphere and the overstrain of powers of attention, which evils are disastrous to the age of childhood. The system now observed in the schools will largely obviate the evils named, and cannot but improve the stamina of the rising generation.

(D.) CLIMATE.

There is only one regular meteorological station in the Island, which is at Hutt's Gate at an altitude of 1,900 feet. Records of temperature and rainfall are also kept at the Castle in Jamestown, and two residents keep regular records of the rainfall.

Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure was 28.123 inches as compared with 28.139 in the previous year.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 61.1° as against 60.4° in 1904. The maximum recorded was 80° on the 27th April. In the previous year this record was 77.6°. The lowest maximum was registered on the 3rd August, being 67°. The absolute minimum was 51°, recorded on the 4th and 14th September, as compared with 49.6° on 21st August, 1904.

Rainfall.—The total fall amounted to 32.45 inches, being a decrease of 13.28 inches on the previous year. The heaviest

fall was 1.87 inches on the 8th December. The number of days on which rain fell was 256, being only one less than in 1904.

Wind.—The recording portion of the anemograph was under repair in England during the first five months of the year. The record here given is, therefore, only for the last seven months of the year, commencing with the 1st June. The mean force of the wind was 2.6, which is equivalent to 14 miles, the same as in the previous year, when it was actually 2.5. The direction of the wind was as follows:—

S.S.E.	...	...	...	...	153 days.
E.S.E.	...	...	...	...	12 "
E.	...	...	...	...	2 "
S.	...	...	...	...	3 "
S.E.	...	...	...	...	38 "
Calm	...	...	...	...	6 "

Jamestown.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 73.6° as against 72.6° in 1904. The maximum temperature of 83° was recorded on May 11th as against 81° on the 1st February in the previous year. The minimum temperature was registered on the 12th September, being 66° as compared with 65° recorded on the 27th July, 10th August, and 4th September in 1904.

Rainfall.—From the 22nd May (the date on which the rain-gauge was brought into use) to the end of the year the rainfall amounted to 3.92 inches. There were 51 days on which rain fell during that period, the maximum fall being .43 inches on the 8th December.

The rainfall at Oak Bank, situated 1½ miles due west of Hutt's Gate, was 38.41 inches for the year under review as against 48.02 inches in 1904.

The fall at Woodlands, situated in the western district of the Island, two miles W.S.W. of Oak Bank, amounted to only 16.51 inches as against 30.47 inches in 1904.

The record of the rainfall in the four cases given, point to a marked difference in the fall in different localities. The Honourable George Moss, of Woodlands, informs me that the 1905 rainfall in that district is the smallest ever recorded by him in a period of over twenty years.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POSTAL.

The gross revenue from all sources amounted to £767 1s. 8d., a decrease of £933 14s. 9d. as compared with the previous year. £817 odd of this decrease is accounted for by that amount being realised by the sale of the entire stock of the Victorian issues of stamps in the latter part of 1904. The further decrease of £115 may be put down to the reduction in the garrison which took place early in the year by the withdrawal of the infantry detachment. Another cause for the decrease referred to is owing to the fact that the Colony possesses only eight values of postage stamps as against twenty values in 1904. The consequence is that the demands for stamps by non-residents fell off considerably during the year under review.

The expenditure amounted to £400 2s. 11d., being £14 15s. 10d. less than in 1904. This small decrease is due to retrenchments made in the sorting department and in the expense of the land-carriage of mails.

The following figures show the mail matter that passed through the Post Office during the year under review as compared with the previous year:—

From the United Kingdom.

	1905.	1904.
Bags of mails	251	291
Registered articles	597	728
Parcels	2,235	2,561
Insured letters	1	1

To the United Kingdom.

	1905.	1904.
Bags of mails	91	90
Letters, ordinary	20,331	25,523
Postcards	12,507	12,670
Newspapers and other packets	2,729	2,936
Parcels	244	281
Registered articles	2,108	2,073
Insured letters	—	1

From South Africa.

	1905.	1904.
Bags of mails	65	75
Parcels	171	202
Registered articles	310	328

To South Africa.

	1905.	1904.
Bags of mails	79	65
Letters, ordinary	13,943	12,548
Postcards	1,998	1,363
Newspapers and other packets	2,276	2,239
Parcels	127	176
Registered articles	274	278

The figures given in the first two tables above include postal matter to and from the Islands of Ascension, Teneriffe, and Las Palmas, which forms a very small proportion of the totals. The figures for the United Kingdom show a general decrease for 1905 as compared with the previous year, the most noticeable item being a decrease of over 5,300 in the number of letters and postcards despatched. On the other hand, there was an increase of over 2,000 in the number of those articles despatched to South Africa as compared with 1904.

The following is a synopsis of the last two years' (including the year under review) transactions in money and postal orders:—

	1905.	1904.
To United Kingdom	£ 5,109	£ 4,660
From United Kingdom	434	402
To South Africa	629	705
From South Africa	613	820
	6,785	6,587

The increase of £373 in orders despatched from the Colony during the year would under ordinary circumstances lead one to think that such increase pointed to increased prosperity. This, however, is unfortunately not the case. The increase is entirely due to the trading community taking advantage of remitting money to the United Kingdom by means of money

orders in preference to taking out bills of exchange on the Crown Agents. The maximum amount issued in one order is £40, which money is paid at sight. On the other hand, bills of exchange are at three days' sight. As I have already pointed out under the head of "Currency" in the early part of this report, although the remittances by the public to the United Kingdom by means of money and postal orders showed an increase over similar remittances in 1904, on the other hand the amount remitted by means of bills of exchange showed a corresponding decrease of no less than £7,017.

Commissions to the amount of £50 11s. 1d. were received on money and postal orders during the year as against £60 in 1904. This decrease was more than covered under the head of "Money Orders," whereas there was an increase under commissions on postal orders as compared with the previous year to the extent of £8 11s. 0d. This fact is accounted for by the public preferring remitting by postal orders in the case of small sums of money. The postal order system was introduced into the Colony in October, 1904. Calculation shows that the Colony lost about £20 in commission for the year under review by the existence of the postal order system, presuming that the same amount would have been remitted by money order, had the former system not been in force. The difference in the rates of commission charged on the two kinds of orders is as follows:—

Money Orders.—From 6d. to £2 a commission of 6d. is charged.

Postal Orders.

	Value.	Commission.
	6d. to 1s. 6d.	1d.
	2s. to 10s. 6d.	2d.
	11s. to 21s.	3d.

In the case of money order commissions, the Colony pays the United Kingdom one-half per cent. commission, and half of the commission in the case of postal orders.

The following British Possessions introduced the system of Imperial postal orders during the year:—British Guiana, Natal, Orange River Colony, Transvaal, Falkland Islands, Bahamas, Lagos, Malta, Mauritius, India (including Aden), and British Bushire. Egypt, Zanzibar, and the Indian Field Post Office in North China also introduced the system.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Telegraphs.—The Eastern Telegraph Company's tariff remained practically the same as in 1905, with the exception of a slight reduction in the cost of messages to Egypt. On the 31st December, 1905, the Company's staff numbered 42, being an increase of no less than 14, as compared with the previous year.

Telephones.—There were 50½ miles of wire under the Administrative system open for traffic during the year, and 31 miles under the command system. The upkeep of the service cost £409, towards which the Colonial Government contributed £45. A sum of £12 18s. 4d. was received from the public for private messages. The number of official messages dealt with during the year was 3,596, being less than half the number in 1904. The number of private messages amounted to 683 as against 1,628 in the previous year. There were eight public telephone offices open during the year, two of which were in private houses. The number of private telephones was thirteen. The staff consisted of 12 employés, including signalmen employed in the three signal stations, which are also telephone offices.

The telephone system is entirely controlled by the Imperial Government.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The actual strength of the garrison on the 31st December, 1905, was eight officers, two warrant officers, and 201 rank and file, being slightly less than one-half the strength on the corresponding date of the previous year. The number of men decreases every month owing to the departure of time-expired men and other details whose places are not being filled. By the 1st April, 1906, this steady decline will have reduced the garrison to about 170 of all ranks.

I am not in a position to report favourably on the progress made by the St. Helena Volunteers during the year under review. The withdrawal of the regular infantry from the Colony had a marked adverse effect on the keenness of the members of the corps. There is a feeling among the community generally, and especially among the volunteers, that the existence of this local corps was one of the reasons for the withdrawal of the infantry—the idea being that the War Office Authorities consider the volunteers to be sufficient infantry for mobilisation purposes. It was this very feeling which prevented a successful effort being made some years ago to raise a local

militia in St. Helena. As the Volunteers look upon the withdrawal of the infantry in this light, it is not to be wondered at that the spirit of keenness that had previously been shown by the majority of the corps has been seriously affected. The members are almost entirely drawn from the labouring class, which class has suffered severely by the reduction of the garrison, and of which a very large number are now out of employment. In fact, the present state of the labour market is one of grave concern, and it is the general testimony of the older inhabitants that a darker period in the history of St. Helena cannot be remembered by them. In the early "seventies" the garrison was slightly less than it was on the 31st December, 1905, but in those days between 650 and 800 ships called at the port of Jamestown during the year, whereas in the year under review the number was 99, the lowest on record. The strength of the Volunteers on the 31st December, 1905, was three officers and 71 rank and file. Only 64 per cent. of the men proved efficient during the year in arms and musketry. The Rifle Association connected with the corps fell through early in the year owing to lack of support by the members. The annual Easter camp was held, but the absence of regular troops did not allow of any really useful and interesting work being done—the two working days in camp being chiefly taken up with skirmishing drill and practice in extended order. Lieutenant H. Winterbotham, R.E., the Adjutant of the Corps, resigned his post at the end of the year owing to his approaching departure from the Island. This officer during his two years of office did his best to promote efficiency, but found the task a very difficult one during the latter part of the period under review. He received every assistance from Lieutenant Hands and 2nd Lieutenant Pegge, Officers of the Corps. The fact, however, remains that an improved state of affairs cannot well be looked for unless relief of a fairly permanent nature comes to the labouring classes. The cost of maintaining the corps during the year amounted to £153.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

ROADS.

The length of country roads kept under repair by the Imperial Government was $37\frac{1}{2}$ miles for wheel traffic and $25\frac{3}{4}$ miles for infantry and pack animals, the expenditure amounting to £500.

The expenditure incurred by the Colonial Government in the upkeep of the streets in Jamestown amounted to £57 7s. 3d.

PUBLIC WORKS OF IMPORTANCE CARRIED OUT IN THE WHOLE OR IN PART DURING THE YEAR.

The year 1905 saw the completion of the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes. These works were commenced in August, 1902, and completed in December, 1905. The greatest credit is due to Mr. G. S. Chisholm, the Engineer-in-Charge, who superintended the works from start to finish. He worked indefatigably, and successfully overcame difficulties which are especially peculiar to St. Helena, particularly as regards the dearth of skilled labour.

Attached to this report is a return (marked U), giving a complete statement of expenditure incurred in connection with the main sewers, water mains, house connections, and house services.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

There were three grants of land made during the year under review—a rent of 2s. 6d. a year being imposed in each case. The number of transfers of land during the same period amounted to seven, and were effected by the approval of the Commissioners of Crown Property.

The value of land showed no change.

The total rents of Government properties amounted to £944 8s. 1d., being a slight increase over the rents collected in the previous year.

RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The rate of wages and cost of living remained the same as in the previous year, except towards the last few months of that period, when labourers were only too glad to take 2s. a day. A large number of the people, for want of employment, only had an existence, and looking at the question in that light, the cost of living in such cases was less. The Friendly Societies were called upon to afford relief to an extent not before remembered by the members thereof. Many members of these societies, owing entirely to hard times, were struck off the roll during the year owing to their inability to pay their weekly subscriptions. In one society alone, "The Working Men's Christian Association," twelve members suffered in this way—mostly aged men who are too old to be admitted into other societies.

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

The Public Works and the Printing Departments are the only two departments not dealt with under special heads.

The work of the Printing Department was handicapped owing to the absence of the printer, through illness, for the last few months of the year. This official, Mr. C. W. Bruce, retired on a pension at the close of the year, after a service of 29 years under the St. Helena Government. In spite of the printer's absence referred to, very satisfactory work was performed by the department concerned. The assistant printer, Mr. Adams, proved himself to be a useful man in an emergency, and he received great assistance from time to time from Mr. B. E. Grant, the post office clerk, and was thus enabled to turn out a large amount of work. Mr. Grant succeeded Mr. Bruce as Government printer on the 1st January, 1906. Nearly three times the amount of paper was used as compared with the previous year—the figures being 39½ and 14½ reams, respectively. A considerable amount of paper was used in printing the many forms required under the new Customs Ordinance which was enacted during the year under review.

The Public Works Department had a satisfactory record of work during the year. Owing to the want of funds no attempt was made to carry out any extraordinary works other than those connected with the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes, which are dealt with under a separate head. The total expenditure under "Public Works Recurrent" amounted to £1,710 14s. 10d.; of this amount £341 8s. 1d. was expended under the sub-head "Water," and £720 12s. 3d. under "Repairs to buildings and furniture, and purchase of stores for sale." The maintenance of the main water service pipes outside Jamestown requires continual expenditure owing to the leaky state of the piping. Constant patching and tinkering of these pipes is necessary in order to ensure ordinary efficiency. A considerable number of additions and useful repairs were carried out in connection with the Government School Houses—two class-rooms being built, and new floors being laid in two of the schools. The lavatory and latrine accommodation in all the schools was greatly improved. Improvements were made in the Civil Hospital as regards the exits to and from the new verandah. New floors were laid in the post and printing offices, and new roofs provided to the oil store and Castle balcony, whilst a room was erected to house the disinfecter.

Other items of expenditure in this department which call for no special remarks were:—Scavenging of Jamestown, £183 18s. 7d.; upkeep of town roads, £57 7s. 3d.; furniture for public buildings, £39 5s. 1d.; forests and gardens, £230 0s. 3d.

A sum of £409 17s. 8d. was realised during the year by the sale of stores, of which cypress timber accounted for £264 7s. 7d.; the figures in the previous year were £879 10s. 2d. and £523 9s. 4d., respectively.

Below are given receipts and expenditure for the last five years of the Poor Board and Public Market:—

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	933	855
1902	897	899
1903	829	821
1904	872	855
1905	881	881

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	242	173
1902	197	186
1903	124	194
1904	325	208
1905	144	250

MISCELLANEOUS.

The prosperity of the Colony, already waning, received a severe and unlooked-for blow through the withdrawal of the entire infantry garrison in the early part of the year under review. Something like consternation was caused among the people of the Island when they learnt that the Imperial Government had decided not to replace the Lancashire Fusilier detachment. This reduction of a small garrison by more than half its numbers meant a very serious financial loss to the trading community and to farmers. In fact, the whole community has suffered thereby. Ever since the shipping calling at St. Helena was reduced to a minimum, the slight prosperity enjoyed by the inhabitants has been dependent almost entirely on the presence of the troops.

The loss referred to to an already poor community can only be regarded in a most serious light. The reduction of the garrison, too, came at a most unfortunate time. A large number of men were thrown out of employment on the completion of the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes. The final decision of the Admiralty not to undertake the extension and repairs to the wharf, crushed the hopes that had been

raised of employment being found for even more than the number of men referred to above. By the end of the year under review the number of unemployed men caused grave concern. The Colonial Government is, unfortunately, helpless in the way of providing a remedy, as the state of the Colony's finances will not at present allow of any expenditure on works extraordinary that would give employment to any considerable number of the unemployed. With a garrison of 429 officers and men, at which number it stood on the 1st January, 1905, the inhabitants obtained employment in various ways under the Imperial Government, and by service under private individuals who benefit by the presence of troops.

With one exception, the discovery of large deposits of manganese ore in the Colony, which I shall refer to later, everything seemed to tend towards exaggerating the bad times that had come to the Island. The efforts to start the flax industry, as stated elsewhere in this report, were not of a very encouraging nature.

Another cause that contributed towards exaggerating the evil complained of, was the fact that the number of vessels that touched at the port of Jamestown during the year was even lower than in the previous year. The steady decrease in the number of "calling ships" contributes largely towards the distress of the community, more especially of the town folk.

The discovery of large deposits of manganese ore, referred to above as the bright exception at the present time, has again raised hopes that better times are in store for St. Helena. In December of the year under review a mining prospector arrived in the Colony, having been sent here by the Cape Manganese Ore Company, Limited. This gentleman succeeded in finding large deposits of manganese ore of good quality. Towards the end of the year he proceeded to England in order to report matters to his Directors, when he took with him samples of the ore named.

The expenses of working the ore in Cape Colony are decidedly higher than they would be in St. Helena. In Cape Colony 3s. a day is paid for labour, and, further, it is necessary to bag the ore and transport it by rail to the port of shipment. In St. Helena labour could be obtained at from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day, and it would not be necessary to bag the ore, as it could be placed on board ships anchored quite close to the works. These reasons make one sanguine that the Company will decide to work the ore, and so bring relief to a large portion of the community. Should one's hopes be realised, a new era of prosperity will arise in St. Helena. The term "discovery," as used above, is apt to be misleading. The existence of manganese ore in St. Helena has been known for years, but no serious effort has been made before to work the mineral, or even to ascertain in what quantities it exists.

The Right Reverend William Arthur Holbech, D.D., was appointed Bishop of the Diocese in succession to the Right Reverend John Garraway Holmes, M.A., who died in 1904. His Lordship arrived in the Colony on the 31st July, 1905, and was enthroned at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 4th of the following month.

A past and a present member of the Colonial Government were awarded medals during the year. Ex-police constable William Kennedy was awarded the Imperial Service Medal by His Majesty for long and faithful service under the St. Helena Government. Kennedy retired on a pension, in 1904, after having served for 38 years. The other award was by the Royal Humane Society, who conferred their bronze medal on police constable John Moyce for his gallantry in saving Mr. Weidner from drowning on the 18th July, 1905.

The two men known as the Prosperous Bay murderers, suffered the extreme penalty of the law on the 2nd February of the year under review, they having been tried and convicted at the January Quarter Sessions.

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
8th March, 1906.

K.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for 1904 and 1905 classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	7,141	5,720	—	1,421
Licenses, taxes, auction dues ...	906	903	—	3
Fines, fees of office, and reimbursements in aid.	1,255	691	—	564
Post Office	1,701	767	—	934
Rents of Government property	935	945	10	—
Miscellaneous receipts	244	247	3	—
Interest	1,179	1,015	—	164
Total	13,361	10,288	13	3,086

L.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of expenditure for 1904 and 1905:—

Head.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sharpshooters	163	153	—	10
Public debt	1,000	—	—	1,000
Pensions	1,071	742	—	329
The Governor	999	1,000	1	—
Colonial Secretary	657	661	4	—
Customs	717	777	60	—
Legal	323	347	24	—
Savings Bank	808	736	—	72
Police	795	784	—	11
Medical	1,342	1,362	20	—
Education	615	711	96	—
Post Office	415	400	—	15
Miscellaneous Services	430	410	—	20
Colonial Engineer	251	1,947	—	54
Public works recurrent	1,750		—	—
Public works extraordinary... ..	6,498	4,255	—	2,243
Port and Marine	527	512	—	15
Gaol	190	172	—	18
Total	18,551	14,969	205	3,787

M.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	24,614	14,927
1902	23,055	18,613
1903	13,123	21,383
1904	13,361	18,552
1905	10,288	14,969

N. STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 31st DECEMBER, 1905.

	Amount.	Amount.
Liabilities.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Arrears due by Colony	—	—
Personal	51 18 2	—
Pensions (see page 41)	752 18 8	—
Miscellaneous (see page 41)	26,057 6 0	—
Due to Savings Bank... ..	4,428 1 8	—
Due Crown Agents amount overpaid on their Account, 31st December, 1905.	1,500 0 0	—
Due Crown Agents Advances to Colony	32,790 4 6	—
Assets over Liabilities	4,142 10 10	36,932 15 4
Assets.		
In Colonial Chest	—	339 6 11
With Crown Agents	—	—
Remittances in transit to C.A.	—	—
Advances due to Colony (see page 41)	—	13 0 0
Arrears of Revenue (see page 41)	—	3 5 6
Due by G.P.O. London	—	8 7 6
(Grants in Aid	—	—
Mail Service	—	—
Invested for Savings Bank (<i>Actual cost</i>)	—	31,233 1 7 ^c
Due by householders for labour and material in connection with new drainage and water works.	—	5,335 13 10
Total	36,932 15 4	36,932 15 4

* Market value on 31st December, 1905—£29,797 8s. 2d.

ADVANCES DUE TO COLONY.

—		Amount.
		£ s. d.
Board of Trade		13 0 0
Total... ..		13 0 0

ARREARS OF REVENUE.

—		Amount.
		£ s. d.
Assessed Taxes		0 7 6
Rents		2 18 0
Total... ..		3 5 6

PENSIONS.

—		Amount.
		£ s. d.
James Hercules		2 5 8
Edward Samuel		3 0 10
John C. Melliss		46 11 8
Total		51 18 2

MISCELLANEOUS.

—		Amount.
		£ s. d.
Bills of Exchange (unpaid)		675 0 0
Fees due to Emigration Agent		9 9 0
McDonald's Estate		66 19 8
Imperial Pension Fund ...		1 10 0
Total... ..		752 18 8

O.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of CUSTOMS REVENUE for the YEARS 1901 to 1905 inclusive.

Year.	Permits.	Wharfage.	Duty.	Tonnage Dues.	Warehouse Rent.	Water.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*1901	40 2 0	2,980 10 3	10,891 17 0	1,410 14 6	112 8 4	429 16 3	15,865 18 4
*1902	46 3 0	3,321 3 7	11,326 12 0	1,354 13 0	146 14 3	432 1 3	16,227 7 1
1903	33 18 9	1,849 18 11	4,620 0 10	383 12 0	86 7 4	216 12 6	7,191 10 4
1904	33 4 0	2,067 5 5	4,471 18 0	340 14 6	90 7 5	137 2 6	7,140 11 10
1905	30 14 0	1,788 19 4	3,348 4 3	268 12 0	105 2 8	178 7 6	5,719 19 9

* During these years the Boer prisoners-of-war were interned in the Colony.

P.

TABLE showing VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the YEARS 1901-1905 inclusive.

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1901 ...	°100,675	4,970	—	105,645
1902 ...	†93,920	6,558	—	100,478
1903 ...	55,120	3,111	2,228	60,459
1904 ...	71,652	4,294	32	75,978
1905 ...	46,283	6,307	197	52,787

° Includes £16,650 Specie.

† " £15,000 "

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1901 ...	*4,724	—	—	4,724
1902 ...	†1,168	587	—	1,755
1903 ...	235	\$12,000	—	12,235
1904 ...	594	146	—	740
1905 ...	‡570	||7,065	—	7,635

° Includes £4,035 Specie.

† " £250 "

‡ " £200 "

§ Specie.

|| Includes £7,000 Specie.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SHIPPING ENTERED and CLEARED from 1901 to 1905.

	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British— Steam	74	248,089	66	228,337	34	164,944	40	198,718	38	206,238
Sailing	6	4,654	7	5,687	6	3,921	6	3,012	2	3,452
Foreign— Sailing	2	859	1	419	1	479	—	—	—	—
Total	82	253,602	74	234,443	41	169,344	46	201,730	40	209,690

R.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at the PORT OF JAMESTOWN from JANUARY 1st, 1905, to DECEMBER 31st, 1905.

Class.	American.		British.		Danish.		Dutch.		French.		Spanish.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Swedish.		Russian.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Vessels of War and Transports.	—	—	7	22,719	—	—	—	—	1	7,700	1	1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	31,949
Mail and Merchant	—	—	43	154,366	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	154,366
Steamers.	1	2,086	19	31,738	3	1,141	1	702	3	3,911	—	—	1	2,157	14	11,246	1	885	1	1,191	44	55,057
Merchant Sailing Vessels	3	769	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	769
Whalers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	2,855	69	208,853	3	1,141	1	702	4	11,611	1	1,500	1	2,157	14	11,246	1	885	1	1,191	99	242,141

1905.		1906.	
Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
Tonnage of Men-of-War and Transports...	...	9	31,949
" " Steamers	...	48	154,366
" " Sailing Vessels...	...	47	55,826
Total	...	99	242,141

1904 Number of Vessels ... 107
 1904 Tonnage ... 254,069

S.—RETURN OF DISEASES and DEATHS in the CIVIL HOSPITAL, St. HELENA, during 1904 and 1905.

Disease.	1905.		1904.		Disease.	1905.		1904.		INJURIES. General. Local ..	1905.		1904.			
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.		
GENERAL DISEASES.																
Influenza	4	—	4	—	LOCAL DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM. (Neuritis Meningitis Myelitis Hydrocephalus Encephalitis Apoplexy Paralysis Epilepsy Hysteria Melancholia Mania (acute delirious)	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Enteric Fever	5	1	8	—		3	2	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	10	2
Dysentery	1	—	9	1		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
Beriberi	6	—	2	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	1	10	—
Pneumonia	2	—	5	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—
Pyæmia	1	1	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septicæmia	2	2	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	1	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercle	8	2	3	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delirium Tremens.. .. .	—	—	1	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Growth, non-malignant	—	—	1	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Growth, malignant	1	1	1	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anæmia	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diabetes Mellitus	2	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Debility	2	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rheumatic Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals	38	7	36	1	Totals	8	3	5	—	Totals	71	5	60	2	—	

* All landed from Ships.

T.

BALANCE SHEET—JAMESTOWN SEWERAGE and WATER-WORKS, HOUSE DRAINAGE and HOUSE SERVICE WORKS.

	Amount.		Amount.
To amount received from Colonial Treasury, including Crown Agents accounts.	£ 8,446 s. 15 d. 0	By Balances "Returns Book" recoverable from Household-ers on 31st December 1905.	£ 5,335 s. 13 d. 10½
To Crown Agents accounts not yet received by the Colony :—		By Materials on hand	520 4 9
Place and Sons .. 1 5 11	£ 5 19 8	By amount not recoverable from Household-ers.	285 10 7
Darwen: Sanitary Pipes 4 13 9			By amount refunded by Household-ers up to 31st December, 1905.	2,192 4 8
	8,452 14 8	By Breakages	119 0 9½
			8,452 14 8

U.

COMPLETE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE in connection with MAIN SEWERS, WATER MAINS, HOUSE DRAINAGE, and HOUSE SERVICE WORKS, on JAMESTOWN SEWERAGE and WATERWORKS, also showing amount recovered from Householders up to December 31, 1905.

—	Estimate.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		Totals.		Amount refunded by Householders.		Remarks.
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Sewerage Mains ..	4,000	0 0	252	8 2	1,448	0 11	2,183	8 11	158	17 5	—	—	4,042	15 5	—	—	*£5,19s. 8d. C.A.'s further charges included.
Water Mains ..	1,680	0 0	245	3 8	427	5 6	805	18 3	212	0 9	—	—	1,680	8 2	—	—	
House Drainage...	4,000	0 0	—	—	323	16 2	456	5 4	3,023	16 0	3,285	8 3	*7,089	5 9	—	—	
House Services ..	1,000	0 0	—	—	95	11 6	237	6 5	517	1 6	503	9 6	1,353	8 11	—	—	
Government properties, Drainage.	1,085	0 0	—	—	—	—	125	13 9	1,191	7 11	—	—	1,484	18 4	—	—	
Government properties, Water.	177	0 0	—	—	—	—	26	16 5	140	15 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Engineer-in-charge ..	—	—	—	—	92	14 10	325	0 0	336	16 5	400	0 0	1,154	11 3	—	—	
Foreman ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	105	0 0	150	0 0	62	10 0	817	10 0	—	—	
Totals ..	—	—	497	11 10	2,387	8 11	4,275	9 1	5,730	15 3	4,251	7 9	17,142	12 10	2,192	4 8	

N.B.—In addition to the above a sum of £129 3s. 0d. for certain Sea-passages was charged under other Heads in the Colony's Estimates.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
459	Straits Settlements	1904
459	Southern Nigeria	"
460	Sierra Leone	"
461	British Solomon Islands	1903-1905
462	Malta	1904-1905
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	"
465	Gold Coast	"
466	Barbados... ..	1904-1905
467	Uganda Protectorate	"
468	Somaliland Protectorate	"
469	Trinidad and Tobago	"
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas	1904-1905
472	British Central Africa Protectorate	"
473	Mauritius... ..	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904-1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904-1905
478	Leeward Islands... ..	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ..	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone... ..	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do.	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do. do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.