

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 675.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, see No. 638.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
June, 1911.



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SKETCH MAP.

No. 675.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 638.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
9th March, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1910, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Vernon Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.
&c., &c., &c.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1910.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year under review amounted to £6,806 3s. 1d., excluding a grant-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer of £2,500. The revenue collected exceeded the estimate by £516 3s. 1d., and showed an increase of £527 7s. 9d. over the revenue of the previous year.

The improvement over 1909 was due to the presence of the Eastern Telegraph Company's cable repairing ship "Britannia," St. Helena becoming that vessel's headquarters in May of the year under review. Against the benefits derived from the presence of the vessel named, the fibre industry received a serious set-back owing to the Government mill having to shut down for over half the year. Further, the mackerel-curing industry proved a failure on account of the abnormally small supply of that fish. Both these matters are dealt with in their proper places in this Report.

The excess in revenue over the estimate was practically confined to two heads, namely: "Customs," £344 3s. 4d., and "Post Office," £211 8s. 11d. The former was due to the presence in port of the cable repairing ship "Britannia," and the latter to a larger sale than anticipated of stamps to the outside public.

The only short-fall worth mentioning in revenue under the estimate was £46 6s. 6d. under "Licences, Taxes, &c." This was chiefly due to no game licences being taken out, owing to pheasant shooting having been closed during the year under review.

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The year's expenditure amounted to £9,596 1s. 11d., being an increase of £550 12s. 5d. over that of the previous year, and £549 4s. 6d. in excess of the original estimate.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December, 1910, the Colony's assets exceeded the liabilities by £186 11s. 4d., being a decrease of £422 17s. 7d. as compared with the previous year, due to the deficit in the year's transactions. The assets include a balance of £3,370 due from Jamestown householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. I regret to state that a large part of that amount can never be recovered. Further, £30 odd of the arrears in rents will have to be written off, as the defaulting tenant, an old man, 80 years of age, has lately died and left his family penniless.

The Colony's investments on the last day of the year had a

market value of £13,394 10s. 10d., representing stock to the value of £14,835 13s. 1d. Stock to the value of £2,122 4s. 8d. was realised during the year in order to cover withdrawals from the Savings Bank. The only debt owed by the Colony is the overdraft to the Crown Agents which amounted to £4,627 13s. 6d. on 31st December, 1910.

(D.) CURRENCY.

The amount of specie in the Colony was depleted during the year owing to the persistent exportation of that article by Messrs. Thorpe & Sons. The firm named exported no less than £5,300 during the year. Against this exportation, specie to the value of £3,655 was imported.

The closing down of the Government flax mill in May naturally lessened the cash circulation. Against this, however, were the monies spent in the Colony by the officers and crew of the cable repairing ship "Britannia."

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £3,344 3s. 4d., being an increase of £450 8s. 11d. over the previous year. An increase occurred under every head, with the exception of "Tonnage Dues," which showed a decrease of £49 15s. as compared with 1909.

The increases were:—

- (a.) "Wharfage," £267 18s. 7d.
- (b.) "Import Duties," £181 7s. 1d.
- (c.) "Warehouse rent," £2 13s. 3d.
- (d.) "Water," £47 14s.

All the above increases were chiefly due to the presence of the cable ship "Britannia."

Expenditure.

The expenditure for 1910 amounted to £764 17s., being £167 14s. 2d. in excess of 1909. The refund of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's Navy during the year was £392, as against £215 in 1909, thus more than accounting for the increase in 1910.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1910 amounted to £37,570, being an excess of £8,267 as compared with 1909.

Comparative statement of the principal imports during the years 1909 and 1910:—

| Articles. | 1909. | 1910. |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | £ | £ |
| Beef and pork | 378 | 829 |
| Beer | 460 | 592 |
| Butter and margarine | 1,363 | 1,014 |
| Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco... .. | 524 | 575 |
| Chemicals, drugs, &c. | 469 | 310 |
| Coals and patent fuel | 2,814 | 4,910 |
| Drapery and dry goods | 4,143 | 3,894 |
| Flour | 3,021 | 3,620 |
| Fish and fruit industry... .. | — | 195 |
| Grain, seed, and oilcake | 1,194 | 1,300 |
| Hardware, metals, &c. | 396 | 270 |
| Leather, boots, &c. | 399 | 310 |
| Machinery | 118 | 391 |
| Oilmen's stores | 5,451 | 5,684 |
| Oil, paraffin | 616 | 496 |
| Rice | 1,802 | 2,097 |
| Specie | — | 3,655 |
| Spirits | 640 | 732 |
| Stationery | 604 | 740 |
| Sugar | 2,065 | 2,708 |
| Sundries | 477 | 432 |
| Tea | 512 | 357 |
| Wine | 473 | 583 |

It will be seen from the above table that there were increases under almost every head in 1910, as compared with the previous year. Specie had to be imported to meet large exports of that article by a private firm. A few items only showed a decrease in value as compared with 1909. For example: Paraffin oil, £120, accounted for by the closing down of the Government flax mill in May of the year under review; and tea, £155, which is very difficult to account for—probably a large reserve was on hand from the previous year.

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year under review amounted to £9,234, being an increase of £1,432 over 1909, and is accounted for chiefly by the exportation of £5,300 in specie, as against £2,700 in the previous year.

The exports include sealskins to the value of £1,000, which were landed at St. Helena by a small sealing vessel from Gough's Island and shipped to England. The fact of the flax mill only running for half of the year under review naturally considerably affected the export trade.

The principal exports, as compared with 1909, were:—

| | 1909. | 1910. |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| | £ | £ |
| Fibre and tow | 2,979 | 1,369 |
| Hides and skins | 187 | 52 |
| Old metal... .. | 741 | 61 |
| Cattle | 90 | 329 |

| | 1909. | 1910. |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| | £ | £ |
| Sheep | 868 | 616 |
| Wool | 177 | 164 |
| Potatoes | 150 | 136 |
| Mackerel | — | 177 |
| Specie | 2,700 | 5,300 |

(B.) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

The year was an average one as far as agriculture was concerned. All crops were satisfactory. The supply of produce was more than equal to the demand, and prices ruled low in consequence. Potatoes suffered in the western district of the island from excess of rain. Hay was a fair crop, and more than usual was secured in good weather. All stock did well, and the demand for cattle and sheep from the Naval Establishment at Ascension prevented a serious overstocking of the pasture lands.

Four hundred and seventy-nine boxes of new potatoes and 378 boxes of pears (cooking) were shipped to London during the year. The prices realised were not encouraging; but, on Mr. Mosely's advice, further shipments will be made in 1911.

With a view to the islanders being able in the near future to produce locally-cured ham and bacon, Mr. Mosely generously presented some of the leading farmers with pedigree Berkshire pigs.

A fine breed of donkeys is springing up in the island, and as each year passes the excellent results of the "Stallion Donkeys Ordinance" of 1905 becomes more apparent.

About 1,300 young trees were issued from the Government nurseries during the year under review. Much damage to trees, especially at Plantation, resulted from high winds in August and September. Trees to the value of £17 18s. 6d. were sold to the public (for firewood) during the year, as against £18 15s. 9d. in 1909. The sale of fruit from Maldivia garden amounted to £20 17s. 3d., being £9 16s. 10d. less than in the previous year.

(C.) INDUSTRIES.

1910 was not a satisfactory year as far as the progress made in two out of the three industries was concerned. The lace industry alone continued to make excellent progress, and the prospects thereof are most encouraging. The set-back experienced in the fibre industry, and the comparative failure of the fish-curing industry, will be referred to in their proper places in this report. Mr. Mosely is still endeavouring to discover and introduce an industry that will provide employment for the St. Helena youth immediately he leaves school, and so save a large number of the rising generation from growing up to be wasters and loafers. The girls of the island are well provided with a congenial industry in the shape of fine needlework and lace-making. It is the boys of St. Helena who are sadly handicapped through no fault of their own, and for whom it is imperative that some employment should be found that will convert

them into useful and industrious members of the community. There is no doubt that the islanders, of both sexes, are very handy, and readily take to any new handicraft that they may be put to. In fact, the successful manner in which the girls of the island have taken to lace-making has called forth very high praise from a leading expert in the trade in London. The greatest difficulty in introducing any industry into St. Helena is the want of capital. The hopes of the rising generation of island boys are now centred in Mr. Mosely, who has already done so much for St. Helena, and who, as I stated above, is doing all he can to find a suitable industry, and the necessary capital to sustain it, for those boys.

Fibre.—In May of the year under review, the supply of mature flax leaves fit for milling became exhausted, which necessitated the mill being closed down. This serious set-back to the industry had long been foreseen. Given good soil, flax leaves should be fit to reap from three to four years after the plants are put down. With the very poor soil existing in St. Helena it was soon, however, clear that the growth of the plant here was very slow compared to what one is led to understand is the case in New Zealand. Plants put down five years ago are still too short in the leaf to be milled at a profit. The fibre of such leaves is good, but leaves must reach a certain length in order that a sufficient quantity may be put through the stripping machine in a given time, if no loss is to be incurred on the transaction. I entered fully into this matter in my Report on the Colony for 1909 (page 13).

The mill was open during 21 weeks of the year, including five weeks in October and November when the mill was run solely in order that Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught could see the industry in all its stages. 411 tons of leaves were treated during the year, producing 46½ tons of fibre and 13 tons of tow, of a net value of £1,183 10s. 1d. The total receipts for the year amounted to £1,327 7s. 5d., against an expenditure of £1,380 14s. 8d. There was, at the same time, fibre and tow unsold on hand on the last day of the year valued at, approximately, £128 net. It is not possible to make any comparison between the mill's transactions of 1910 as compared with 1909, as in the former year the establishment was only open for six months as against ten months in 1909. The average price realised for fibre and tow during the year was £24 and £11 per ton, respectively, being an improvement on 1909. Since June, 1910, the fibre market has been in an unusually depressed condition, and it is probable that had the mill remained open during the whole of that year a financial loss would have resulted.

Mr. A. W. Hall, the New Zealand expert, who had managed the mill from the start, left the Colony in April of the year under review, on the expiration of his three years' engagement under the Colonial Government.

Hopes as to the future success of the fibre industry have been considerably damped owing to the unexpectedly slow growth of the young phormium plants. This drawback to progress was never anticipated by either the farmers of the Colony or by the

New Zealand expert. There is no doubt that the soil in St. Helena is unusually poor, and to ensure quick growth it is imperative to manure the plants. This, however, cannot be done in St. Helena, owing to the hilly nature of the country, except at a prohibitive cost. As far as can be seen at present, the only alternative, in order to allow the mill to deal with shorter leaves, is for the growers to accept a lower price for their produce. The transport difficulty handicaps the industry to an abnormal extent. However, the mill will not remain inactive longer than can possibly be helped. It remains for the growers to make some sacrifices in order to co-operate with the Government in making the industry a success. Without such co-operation St. Helena can never rise from her ashes.

Lace-making.—Most satisfactory progress was made in this industry during the year, but I regret to say that the Government Lace School is not yet a self-supporting institution. Had the school, however, been able to dispose of all its work during the year, there would have been no occasion to call upon the Colonial Government for the annual grant of £120.

The school's transactions during 1910 were as follows:—

| <i>Receipts.</i> | | | | | £ | s. | d. |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| Work sold | ... | ... | ... | ... | 624 | 16 | 5 |
| Donations | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 | 5 | 0 |
| Colonial Government grant | ... | ... | ... | ... | 120 | 0 | 0 |
| Bank interest | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | | £771 | 4 | 9 |

| <i>Payments.</i> | | | | | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| Salaries | ... | ... | ... | ... | 160 | 15 | 0 |
| Pay of workers... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 502 | 6 | 6 |
| Material | ... | ... | ... | ... | 123 | 3 | 3 |
| Incidental | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 | 17 | 7 |
| | | | | | £826 | 2 | 4 |

The above figures show a deficit on the year's working of £54 17s. 7d., or without the Government grant, of £174 17s. 7d. Against this, however, no less than £277 4s. 2d. of unsold work remained in hand on the last day of the year. The cash balance in the hands of the school on the date named was £77 4s. 2d.

The progress made in 1910, as compared with 1909, is best shown by the following figures:—

| | | 1910. | | | 1909. | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|----|----|-------|----|----|
| | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Work sold | ... | 624 | 16 | 5 | 371 | 15 | 8 |
| Pay of workers | ... | 502 | 6 | 6 | 274 | 15 | 0 |

Again, on the last day of the year 1909 goods to the value of £99 8s. 6d. remained unsold or unpaid for by customers, whilst on the same date in 1910 no less than £277 4s. 2d. worth of unsold work remained to the credit of the school.

The reason that the school's output was so far in excess of the demand for its lace and needlework is that the St. Helena article is too good, both in workmanship and material, to be able to compete successfully in the London market with inferior foreign goods of a like nature. This fact has its encouraging aspect, in so far that it is a plain proof that the island girls can be quickly trained to be clever workers. Mrs. Ord Marshall, who continues to work indefatigably in the school's interests, consulted one of the best London lace experts with a view to advancing the interests of the lace-making industry in St. Helena. The expert's opinion of the quality of the St. Helena article is most gratifying. He stated that there is now no lace in the London market, of the description made in St. Helena, which can compare with the St. Helena article, either as regards workmanship or material. This opinion was also expressed by one of the large business houses in London. The expert referred to considers the patterns turned out by the school, although good of their kind, to be quite unworthy of lace of this very fine quality and execution, for these patterns are largely used by foreign workers whose lace is inferior in make and is sold at low prices. The expert suggested that, to put the St. Helena industry on a business footing, two courses were open: either to degrade the lace now turned out and let the workers produce an inferior article which could be more quickly made and, therefore, sold at a lower price, or to adopt patterns worthy of workers of such high quality. He considered that to take the first alternative would be unwise, as it would arrest all progress; whilst the difficulty of adopting the second alternative lay in the fact that the sale of valuable lace is more restricted than that of the cheaper kinds. The expert's general conclusion was that the school was established on a most excellent basis, and that the workers were fully capable to take up more advanced work. He therefore recommended that the school should at once adopt old Italian patterns. His opinion was that if, after practice with these patterns, the workers could produce something original, a very great success for the school would result.

Needless to say, the school management lost no time in acting on the sound advice given, and Miss Girdwood has already made an excellent start in instructing the more efficient workers in the Italian patterns. These workers are most keen in their desire to excel in the making of the beautiful patterns which we all hope will bring prosperity to the industry. The idea is that the school shall have a speciality of its own in the near future. The design for such speciality will be obtained from a professional designer in England when the time comes. The end aimed at is that the pattern decided upon shall easily be adaptable to every article of lace turned out by the school. Whilst the more efficient workers are learning the Italian patterns, the less experienced continue to turn out the more readily saleable of the other patterns, the prices of which will be gradually

reduced. By this system it is hoped that the school before long will be in a position to compete in the open market more successfully than has been the case in the past. Quicker work and lower prices will alone allow successful competition in the torchon market. As regards the school's prices, however, there are no complaints on that score from the many lady patrons in England and South Africa. Such complaints are practically confined to steamer passengers, who purchase very little. Such persons, with, of course, occasional exceptions, appear to gauge the value of lace from the cheap article sold at places like Santa Cruz and Las Palmas, where the material used is, as a rule, of very inferior quality.

As Miss Girdwood points out, the school has so far chiefly consisted of the embroidery and needlework departments; the lace made being used chiefly as a necessary finish to the articles turned out. 1911, however, will see a change in this state of affairs. In her annual report on the school, Miss Girdwood, *inter alia*, writes:—"The Lace School proper is now showing signs of developing on lines of its own, and quite independently of the needlework, a new departure having also been made here with large possibilities before it. A class has been started to take up lace of the old Italian style, in the hope of this some day being made capable of developing into designs exclusively St. Helenian. This has been at the suggestion of Mrs. Ord Marshall, aided by the very generous help of other ladies of the League of the Empire. Specimens of valuable old laces have been sent out as patterns, and as soon as these have been copied they will be sent to England for criticism and orders. This lace, while very beautiful, takes a long time to work, and will thus be rather expensive and quite beyond the means of ordinary purchasers, so that the workers will have to aim at developing sufficient skill to enable them to compete with the best class of lace workers in England. As a first step toward this end, the girls in training are keenly interested in what they are doing. All good work here, as in embroidery, takes time, so that with these specimens having to be sent home, returned and set going again, exactly as the public requires, other girls trained, and the work fairly set in order, we shall have cause for thankfulness if the close of 1911 sees the accomplishment of all this. We shall then, with the corresponding advance of the needlework section, have taken such a march forward that the prospects of the Lace School as an established industry should be assured beyond failure."

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Mosely, who provided the necessary funds, Miss Girdwood was able to maintain lace-making classes both in the country and in Jamestown. By this means almost every girl on the island has had, and is still having, a chance to benefit, if she is only ready to take the trouble. The Manageress reports the response of the girls to be most gratifying. Mr. Mosely has again come to our aid, and has sent me the necessary funds to maintain the classes referred to during the year 1911. By the means of these "Mosely Classes," and by "Special Children's Needlework Classes" which Miss Girdwood holds in the country, all the children in the island will in time become skilful workers. No matter therefore, however much the

school may expand, there will always be a sufficient supply of recruits to meet its demands for fresh workers, and thus the present difficulty of working with adult beginners will vanish.

To quote once more from Miss Girdwood's annual report:—
 "Taking the development and progress of the Lace School in general for the year, everything seems to be working together for the good of the whole. The willingness of the workers to co-operate in anything that may tell for the good of the school, even when this may not be very much to their immediate advantage, is one of the chief factors in enabling the work to be carried on. There is also a strong and growing desire on the part of the Assistants to prove themselves worthy of the trust and responsibility their position requires. This, and their awakening pride in the welfare of their school, are marked features in the development of the past year, and give a very encouraging outlook for the progress of 1911."

Any success attained by the school so far is in great measure due to the capable and untiring management of Miss Girdwood.

A great honour was paid to the school on the 24th October of the year under review, when the institution was visited by Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, and Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia. The Royal visitors displayed the greatest interest in the school's work, and made large purchases. Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia most graciously accepted articles of fine needlework and lace from the school. Their Royal Highnesses also strongly urged that the school should without delay take up the old Italian patterns, feeling sure that, judging from the beautiful work they had seen, the school and the workers would derive greater benefits therefrom than by confining their attention to the Torchon patterns. The practical and sympathetic interest which the Duchess and Princess Patricia have taken in the Lace School can only work for the great good of the lace-making industry in St. Helena.

Fisheries.—A mackerel-curing factory was opened in Jamestown by Mr. Mosely on the 26th February. Great expectations had been formed as to how the new industry would prosper, and many of us hoped that the effort would go no little way towards alleviating the distress among the poorer classes in Jamestown. I regret to say that those hopes have not been realised. It would appear that the conditions governing the catching of mackerel are the same in St. Helena as exist everywhere else in the world. That fish is at times caught in large numbers, whilst at other times, although present in large shoals, they will not look at the bait. The total number of mackerel landed in Jamestown during the year was 11,449½ dozen. Looking at the records of about 100 years ago, we find that 12,597 dozen mackerel were caught in one month alone—September, 1813. There is no doubt that the year 1910 was an abnormally bad year for fish of every description. The fishermen seem totally ignorant of why this should have been, while the superstitious put all such happenings down to the comet. During the 10 months the factory was open, only 3,429 dozen of mackerel were delivered there. This quantity

represented 98 barrels, 85 of which were shipped to New York. The first lot (52 barrels) fetched quite a good price, and yet there was a loss of over 7s. a barrel on the transaction. This pretty plainly shows that mackerel-curing is not going to pay in St. Helena. In fact, Mr. Mosely closed the factory early in 1911. In addition to the large outlay in preliminary expenses, referred to in last year's report, Mr. Mosely purchased two fishing boats, which are leased out on easy terms. Besides the effort made to develop the mackerel industry, a Mr. Dunn, on behalf of Mr. Mosely, visited St. Helena early in 1910 with a view to seeing if anything could be made out of the albicore (tunny) fisheries. Mr. Dunn's report was, unfortunately, not favourable, and it is plain now (looking at the total catch for the year) that had the tunny industry been attempted the result would probably have been a financial failure, as the total catch of that fish for the year amounted to only 2,001. The total number of fish of all kinds landed in Jamestown during the year amounted to 16,200 dozen, of which 11,449 dozen were mackerel. This extraordinary shortage in the supply of what is the staple food of the labouring classes in St. Helena was a source of embarrassment at times, as the fishermen regulate the price according to the catch, and allow no feelings of sentiment to interfere with their demands. In the East India Company's days the price of mackerel and albicore was regulated by law, thereby preventing the vendors from victimising their poorer clients. At the season of the year when mackerel, as a rule, are most plentiful, the price of that fish ranged in 1910 from 1s. to 1s. 6d. a dozen, whereas in an ordinary year the price would have been 2d. to 4d. a dozen.

Whaling.—There is no doubt that St. Helena is well situated as a whaling centre. This fact has at last been recognised; and, provided no unforeseen difficulties arise, I hope to see a whaling station and factory established in Rupert's Valley during the year 1911. The matter is in the hands of a British syndicate, whose expert has already visited St. Helena and reported very favourably on the suitability of the island as a whaling station.

(D.) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that called at the island during the year under review was 51 (the lowest on record) as compared with 59 in the previous year. The tonnage of those 51 vessels was 181,071, as against a tonnage of 159,915 in 1909. Eleven sailing ships called during the year, and only 2 of these were British. In addition to the calling vessels, 20 passing ships were boarded by licensed traders, being 4 more than in the preceding year.

Among the calling ships were 7 British men-of-war, including H.M.S. "Balmoral Castle," in which vessel Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Connaught, the Duchess of Connaught, and Princess Patricia, paid an informal visit to the Colony on their way to South Africa.

Three American whalers (sailing vessels) put in to the island for the purpose of giving their crews liberty and in order to take in supplies of fresh provisions. The "catch" of these vessels

amounted to 2,340 barrels of oil and 10,200 lbs. of bone, valued at approximately £9,360 and £2,040 respectively.

Twenty-eight vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. Of these no less than 26 were the Union-Castle Company's mail steamers.

In view of the probability of St. Helena shortly becoming an important whaling station, it will not be out of place to give a few particulars in connection with that industry in the days when St. Helena was a regular port of call for the American whaling fleet in the South Atlantic. Up to 1884 that fleet, composed of some 30 to 40 vessels (ranging from 100 to 300 tons) called regularly at St. Helena twice a year, in March and September, in order to give liberty to their crews, to take in green vegetables, potatoes, and water, and replenish with stores from America, which were sent out in schooners, which vessels returned with the "catch" of oil and bone. The value of the "catches" ranged from £22,000 to £50,000 yearly. The value of sperm oil was then worth £4 for 31½ American gallons. Only the oil and bone were saved, the remainder of the carcass was not used as is now done at shore stations. The value of humpback oil was about £2 for 31½ gallons. The majority of this fleet used to sail south of St. Helena to whale in the summer months, and went north of the island and on the West Coast of Africa during the winter.

The reasons assigned for these vessels abandoning St. Helena as a port of call to tranship their catches, &c., were as follows:—

Firstly: up to 1886 they had to pay transshipment dues on their catch; secondly: the cost of potatoes was then 16s. to 20s. per cwt. —a vessel's supply was usually 40 to 50 bags per half year; thirdly: the price of fresh water was 10s. a ton; fourthly: the price of oil went down in the American market; and lastly: the natives of St. Helena demanded too big an advance in cash on first shipping as deck hands. All these objections have since been removed. The transshipment charges have been abolished; the price of good potatoes now stands at 6s. to 8s. per cwt.; water taken in from the Government hose is only 2s. per ton; oil has gone up in price; the demand for big cash advances by the islanders is no longer to be feared; and generally the price of provisions has since come down considerably.

I am glad to say that these whaling vessels are slowly returning to St. Helena, and it is expected that an American schooner from New Bedford will in future call at the Island twice a year, to bring out stores and take home the half yearly "catches." This arrangement will be very beneficial to the island community, as oil, timber, oil-cake for cattle, oats, and such like, can be purchased cheap in America and imported in the schooner named at reasonable freight charges.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were six Ordinances enacted during the year under review, two being in connection with public expenditure.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are three Government Schools and five schools that are known as Church Schools. The number of children attending the schools during the year was:—

| — | Boys. | Girls. | Total. |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Government Schools | 165 | 184 | 349 |
| Church Schools | 194 | 152 | 346 |
| Grand Total | ... | ... | 695 |

The above figures show an increase of 56 over the previous year's attendance.

On the 1st January, 1910, Mr. Tucker was given supervision over all the Government Schools instead of confining his attention to the Senior School only. The new arrangement has worked satisfactorily, and good progress was made during the year. In the Senior School particularly the quarterly examinations showed a steady improvement in the case of nearly every child on the roll. Being the first year under the new organization scheme, there were many difficulties to contend with and many defects to put right where the country and junior schools were concerned, but everything points to the fact that the schools generally have decidedly benefited under the new régime. A practical course of instruction in Swedish physical exercises was given to a class formed of most of the teachers in the island. The instruction has been passed on to the children not only in the Government, but also in several of the Church Schools.

The teaching of simple hygiene in the Government Schools continues to bear good results; and I am glad to say more attention to that important subject appears to be now given in the Church Schools. In the former schools the chief aim has been so to prepare the pupil teachers that the truths of health may be presented to the children in an intelligent manner, but impressively rather than scientifically.

The pupil teacher classes were well attended throughout the year. Attendance at those classes is compulsory where Government pupil teachers are concerned, but teachers from the church schools appear to attend or not according as the whim may seize them. During the last half of the year three teachers from the latter schools attended the classes and were very well reported on at the end of the year when the examinations were held.

Miss Girdwood kindly undertook, gratuitously, to supervise the needlework classes of the several schools, and that lady reports a marked improvement in the work for the year. Miss Girdwood's methods of grading the work to suit the capacity of the various classes, and a systematic advancement from one stage to another, has altered the whole tone of needlework teaching in St. Helena. That those girls are capable of turning out work of very high

quality has been fully proved in the results attained by the Government Lace School.

The expenditure under Education for the year under review amounted to £602 4s. 3d. as compared with £659 13s. 6d. in 1909

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITAL.

One hundred and fifty-one patients were admitted to the Hospital during the year, as compared with 164 in 1909. Of the number admitted 100 were males. There were six deaths, equivalent to a rate of 3·97 per cent. of admissions. The nature of diseases did not vary very strikingly from the previous year. There were no cases of pneumonia as contrasted with 10 cases in 1909. The Colonial Surgeon accounts for this fact as being due to the absence of influenza in the Colony during the year.

There were over 4,000 attendances registered in the out-patients department, being about 1,000 more than in the previous year.

The Hospital Emergency Fund continues to be of great service in assisting to defray the expenses of the poorer patients.

On the 24th October the Hospital was honoured by a visit paid by Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and by Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia. The Royal visitors spent a short time in each of the wards, where they spoke individually to the patients. Their Royal Highnesses' gracious words, and the charming interest they displayed in everything connected with the Hospital, will not easily be forgotten by the doctors, nurses, and patients.

Under the zealous and capable superintendence of the Matron, Miss Hart, the nursing duties were carried out with admirable efficiency.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

On the 31st December there were 130 depositors on the books of the Savings Bank, as against 143 on the same date in the previous year. The total sum deposited during the year amounted to £803 12s., or a decrease of £779 3s. as compared with 1909. On the other hand the withdrawals were abnormally large, amounting to £3,820 3s. 5d. as against £3,191 1s. 9d. in the previous year. The above figures show that the withdrawals exceeded the deposits by £3,016 11s. 5d. during the year. This fact was due to the general depression which still hangs over the Colony, which depression was added to by the temporary shutting-down of the Government Flax Mill and unexpected failure of the fish-curing industry.

The Bank's transactions for the year showed an excess of £111 18s. 11d. in revenue over expenditure.

On the last day of the year £13,814 15s. 11d. was due to depositors, not including the interest for that year. The amount due on the same date in 1909 was £16,397 0s. 7d. Against the amount

due to depositors on the 31st December, 1910, stock to the value (purchase price) of £14,835 13s. 1d. was invested. The market value of this stock was only £13,394 10s. 10d. on the date named.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.—Two prisoners were arraigned and convicted in this court during the year (being one more than in the previous year), namely, one for shop-breaking and larceny and the other for sheep-stealing. The first was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour, and the other to penal servitude for four years.

Police Court.—240 cases were dealt with in this Court, as against 135 in 1909. This large increase was entirely due to the poverty existing among the poorer classes of the community. There were no less than 81 cases for arrears of poor rates extending over several quarters, as against 18 in 1909.

(B.) PRISONS.

Forty-five prisoners (including 15 women) were committed to the gaol during the year as compared with 53 in 1909. The daily average number in gaol was 3·67, being an increase of ·52 over the preceding year. This increase is accounted for by the admission of two long-term prisoners early in the year. Only six men were committed to prison under the Road Tax Ordinance during the year, as against 25 in the previous year. The cost of maintaining the gaol amounted to £104 4s. 3d., an increase of £10 2s. 1d. over 1909. On the 31st December, 1910, three prisoners remained in gaol, two of whom are undergoing sentences of penal servitude.

The Zulu prisoners, 18 in number, left the Colony on November 29th, 1910, having been granted a free pardon by the Governor-General of South Africa on the occasion of the opening of the Union Parliament at Cape Town. During the 3½ years the prisoners were confined in the Colony seven deaths occurred among them. Six of these deaths were the result of organic diseases contracted before the prisoners' arrival in the Colony, and were in no way due to local climatic causes. The conduct of the prisoners throughout their incarceration was exemplary. The cost of maintenance of the Zulu prison amounted to £807 during the year, being a decrease of £58 as compared with the previous year.

(C.) POLICE FORCE.

The force gave satisfaction during the year. 101 trivial cases were dealt with by the police, apart from 234 cases dealt with in the Police Court.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1910, was 3,441, as compared with 3,553 in the previous year. This decrease was more than accounted for by the excess of the number of emigrants over immigrants.

There were 203 emigrants and 27 immigrants during the year, as against 79 and 43 respectively in 1909. Included among the emigrants were 66 domestic servants for South Africa and Ascension. Every month, several women of this class proceed to South Africa. 52 island men, forming part of the crew of the cable ship "Britannia," were at sea on the 31st December, 1910, and are therefore not included in the population for the year.

There were 87 births (including five still-born) during the year, as compared with 99 (including three still-born) in the previous year. The number of illegitimate births was 21, being six less than in 1909.

The death rate in 1910 among the civil population was 10·7 per 1,000, being 4·3 per 1,000 more than in the previous year. There were 40 deaths in all, including three Zulu prisoners. 26 out of the 40 deaths took place in the town district. There were nine deaths of persons over 70 years of age, and four of children under one year.

Marriages increased from 17 in 1909 to 22 in 1910.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The community maintained a satisfactory standard of health, although the death rate increased from 6·4 per 1,000 in 1909 to 10·7 per 1,000 in 1910. In this connection Dr. Arnold points out that: "a continuance of the low death rate of 1909 was, however desirable, hardly to be expected where neglect of the laws of health opens so many avenues to disease and death, though there is distinct evidence that a better understanding of the care of health prevails generally amongst the people."

There were no deaths during the year between the ages of three months and five years. There were four deaths under three months, three of which were due to congenital debility. There were three deaths from Tuberculosis, two of which were old standing cases, and the other a freshly developed acute case. Three cases of Enteric Fever and two of Diphtheria were recorded during the year.

My Colonial Surgeon reports that for the first time during a period of 10 years, Influenza was not epidemic during any part of the year. Every previous year since 1900 was marked by an epidemic of more or less severity.

The infant mortality rate during 1910 was 48·7 per 1,000 births, the lowest yet recorded. Comparing this rate with the two preceding periods of five years, a very marked decline in infant mortality becomes apparent. In 1900 the death rate per 1,000

registered births was 120·6; in 1905 the rate was 80·8 per 1,000; whilst in the year under review it had fallen, as stated, to 48·7 per 1,000.

The medical staff of the Colony, which since 1906 has consisted of one medical officer, was reinforced towards the end of the year by the appointment of an assistant to the Colonial Surgeon.

(C.) SANITARY.

Meetings of the Board of Health were held monthly, and various matters of a minor nature were dealt with by that body in connection with the sanitation of Jamestown and the island generally. Effectual supervision is exercised over slaughter-houses, mineral water factories and such like. There was only one prosecution during the year under the Public Health Ordinance.

The Leper establishment in Rupert's Valley was closed early in the year on the death of the only inmate, a child of eight years of age.

(D.) CLIMATE.

Meteorological Station, Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for 1910 was 28·122 inches, as against 28·132 inches in 1909.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 56·4°; 59·8° being the mean in 1909. The absolute maximum occurred on the 1st and 27th March, the reading being 78° as against 75·5° on the 9th December in the previous year. The lowest maximum, 64·8°, was recorded on the 27th October; the lowest in 1909 was 64·1° on the 22nd August of that year. The absolute minimum, 51°, was recorded on the 20th and 23rd August, and 30th September; 49·9° was the corresponding reading in 1909, on the 9th September.

Rainfall.—44·38 inches on 271 days was the total fall for the year, as compared with 42·36 inches on 267 days in 1909. The maximum fall took place on the 8th March and read 1·38 inches, as against 1·70 inches on the 3rd May in 1909. June's total was the largest monthly fall, and amounted to 5·61 inches on 27 days; in October, with not so large a fall, the number of days on which rain fell totalled 29.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·3, which is equivalent to slightly over 14 miles, practically the same as in 1909. August, October, and November were the windiest months. In August a velocity of 36 miles was recorded on the 9th, 10th, 18th, and 29th. 36 miles was also recorded in the previous year on the 11th and 21st August and 7th September. Five calm days were registered as against six in the previous year.

The following table gives the direction for the year:—

| | No. of days. |
|---------------|--------------|
| S.S.E. | 117 |
| S.E. | 235 |
| E.S.E. | 8 |
| Calm | 5 |

Jamestown.

Temperature.

| | 1909. | 1910. |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Mean | 72·7° | 73·2° |
| Absolute maximum ... | 80·0° on 17th April | 80·0° on 19th May. |
| Absolute minimum ... | 65·0° on 1st Sept. | 65·0° 29th Sept and 1st Oct. |

Rainfall.

| | 1909. | 1910. |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total | 7·43 inches | 6·74 inches. |
| Number of rainy days | 56 | 54 |
| Maximum fall ... | 0·43 inches on 1st March. | 0·68 inches on 8th June. |

In addition to the rain gauges at Hutt's Gate and Jamestown, a number of residents kept a record of the rainfall during the whole or part of the year. The following are the only two records kept throughout the entire year:—

| | Total fall. Inches. | Number of days on which rain fell. |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Farm Lodge ... | 38·07 | 233 |
| Oak Bank ... | 48·58 | 229 |

The two properties named are situated about the same height above the sea, and are only distant from each other about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles as the crow flies, and yet there is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches difference of rainfall between the two.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.—The revenue amounted to £873 8s.11d. during the year under review, as compared with £609 11s. 9d. in the previous year. This increase was almost entirely accounted for under the sale of stamps and post cards, which realised £277 9s. more than in 1909. On the other hand there was a decrease of nearly £30 under commissions on Money and Postal Orders, as compared with the previous year. The total value of stamps sold was £783 5s. 10d., of which £414 4s. was contributed by non-residents.

Expenditure.—The year's expenditure amounted to £385 8s. 11d., or £16 6s. 7d. less than in 1909.

Mail matter.—The following figures give the mail matter dealt with during the year as compared with 1909:—

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

| | 1910. | 1909. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Bags of mails | 213 | 220 |
| Parcels | 2,171 | 2,131 |
| Registered articles ... | 1,102 | 943 |
| Insured letters | 6 | 7 |

To the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

| | 1910. | 1909. |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| Bags of mails | 120 | 134 |
| Parcels | 420 | 483 |
| Registered articles ... | 2,639 | 1,915 |
| Insured letters - | 6 | 1 |

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head were as follows:—

| | 1910. | 1909. |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Money Orders received... | 934 18 7 | 761 7 2 |
| Postal ,, ,, ... | 1,376 0 10 | 1,691 13 4 |
| Money Orders issued ... | 1,277 16 9 | 3,033 4 10 |
| Postal ,, ,, ... | 1,785 14 0½ | 1,510 3 4 |

Commission received on the above during the year under review amounted to £37 1s. 8d., as compared with £66 7s. 2d. in 1909.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

There were no changes in tariff during the year under review. The Colony receives a most excellent and inexpensive news service of daily messages from Reuter—the charge being only £30 for an annual service of 5,800 words, that is, a daily message (Sundays excepted) of nearly 200 words at a cost of about 1d. for every eight words.

The neighbouring island of Ascension will soon be a very important cable station. During the year a cable was laid connecting that island with Buenos Aires, whilst a duplicate cable was laid between Ascension and St. Vincent.

In May the Directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company transferred the headquarters of one of their cable-repairing ships from St. Paul de Loando to St. Helena. This gives the opportunity for a considerable number of islanders to obtain employment of a suitable nature. The vessel referred to gives continual employment when in port and at sea to 20 men or more, whilst another 30 odd are taken on whenever the vessel puts to sea on cable repairing service.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) ROADS.

The roads of the Colony were maintained at a cost of £400 during the year. In addition to this, £60 was expended in keeping the streets of Jamestown in order. The latter amount is barely sufficient for the purpose; but prison labour is to a great extent used in the repairs of those streets, thus supplementing the paid labourers.

The Road Tax brought in £94 13s. 6d., practically the same amount as in 1909. 631 persons paid the tax.

(B.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

There was no change in the value of land. There were six transfers and two grants during the year. Government rents realised £848 during the year, as compared with £814 in 1909.

(C.) RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

There was no material change under this head during the year under review, as compared with 1909. The price of rice and flour was reduced during the year, in each case by $\frac{1}{2}d.$ a pound. Beef and vegetables remained cheap. As mentioned earlier in this report, fish were scarcer during 1910 than in any other year in the memory of the people. For the last six or seven months of the year mackerel fetched from 1s. to 2s. a dozen, whereas in ordinary years the price would have been from 2d. to 4d. a dozen. These famine prices caused increased hardships to the poorer classes, whose staple diet is fish and rice. The introduction of farthings into the Colony during the year proved of real benefit to the poor.

(D.) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department's expenditure for the year amounted to £2,232, as compared with £1,934 in the previous year.

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board for the year amounted to £822, against an expenditure of £783. The figures in the previous year were £848 and £847, respectively.

Public Market.

The year's transactions showed a revenue of £95 and an expenditure of £88, as compared with £116 and £80, respectively, in 1909.

(E.) MISCELLANEOUS.

The news of the death of His late Majesty King Edward VII. came unexpectedly on the early morning of May 7th, 1910. The grievous loss which the nation had suffered caused profound sorrow throughout the island. The sorrow felt on the occasion was, even in this isolated outpost of the Empire, to a great extent personal, owing to the fact that the late King had so entirely gained the affection, confidence, and devotion of his people in all parts of his dominions. The high sense of duty and patriotism which marked His late Majesty's rule made a great and lasting impression even among those of his subjects who had never seen him. It was probably the late King's humaneness, more than any other of his many good qualities, that appealed to such people.

The Accession to the Throne of His Majesty King George V. was formally proclaimed in the Colony on May 9th, 1910. The new Sovereign's message to his people beyond the seas, issued a few days later, created a most favourable impression, and the hearts of the people of St. Helena went out to their new King with the same feelings of loyalty and devotion which had animated their hearts for the King they had lost.

October 24th and 25th of the year under review will always be remembered as golden letter days in the annals of the Colony by those who were privileged to welcome Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, and Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia of Connaught, who paid an informal visit to the island, on the dates named, on their way to South Africa, to which country His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught was proceeding in order to inaugurate, in the King's name, the Constitution of the Union of South Africa. Only on one other occasion has a member of the Royal Family visited St. Helena, and that was in 1860, when His Royal Highness the late Duke of Edinburgh, landed in the Colony for a few hours from H.M.S. "Euryalus," in which vessel His Royal Highness was serving as a midshipman. Consequently, the Royal visit of 1910 was acclaimed by the islanders as a mark of special honour to St. Helena. Their Royal Highnesses arrived in H.M.S. "Balmoral Castle" on the morning of 24th October, and proceeded on their voyage to South Africa on the following evening. The warm welcome accorded to the Royal visitors by the islanders was as genuine as it was enthusiastic and loyal. St. Helena is, unfortunately, not in a position to make any great display on an occasion of this kind. The absence of troops, and the financial conditions now existing, made any attempt at pomp and ceremony impossible. The welcome accorded to Their Royal Highnesses was none the less thoroughly genuine and sincere. The people of the island gladly seized the opportunity of the happily conceived visit to testify in a practical manner their loyalty and devotion to His Majesty's throne and person. The visit was an unqualified success in every way. Nothing happened to mar that success, thanks to the gracious kindness of their Royal Highnesses, and to the sympathetic interest they took in the island, its people, and its industries. The most charming side of the visit was the "personal" element. Their Royal Highnesses won all hearts, and created a feeling not short of devotion among the islanders, very few of whom had ever before been privileged to look upon a member of the Royal family. Addresses were presented to Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught by the inhabitants of St. Helena and by the Freemasons. His Royal Highness presented a colour to the Church Lads Brigade, and gave the boys some excellent advice on the occasion. The Royal party visited the Castle, the hospital, the Government lace school, and the flax mill. Longwood was also visited, where Their Royal Highnesses were intensely interested in everything they saw connected with the Emperor Napoleon's captivity.

A full-dress investiture was held on the first day of the visit, on board H.M.S. "Balmoral Castle," when His Royal Highness the

Duke of Connaught, in the King's name, invested the Governor of the Colony as a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. On the same day Their Royal Highnesses gave a dinner party on board the vessel named, to which the Governor of the Colony and several of the leading residents had the honour of being invited. On the second day of the visit Their Royal Highnesses were entertained at luncheon by the Governor at Government House; after which there was a garden party, at which all the leading residents of the island had the honour of being presented to the Royal visitors.

On leaving the Colony His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught issued the following farewell message to the inhabitants:—

“His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught asks His Excellency the Governor if he will kindly convey to the inhabitants of St. Helena his great appreciation of the kind reception given him, and to the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, during their interesting visit.

“He much appreciated the universal mark of loyalty as evinced by the general decoration of the Island wherever he went, for he knows how much thought and trouble this must have entailed.

“In wishing farewell to the island and to its inhabitants he desires to say that he will carry with him the pleasantest recollection of his visit to St. Helena.”

This gracious message, and the kind thought which prompted its issue, was a fitting finale to a most charming and memorable event. The impression left behind by the Royal visitors could not possibly have been happier.

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
February 15th, 1911.

SKETCH MAP OF ST. HELENA.

INDICATING THE

THREE ZONES OF VEGETATION.

Col. Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on pp 3 and 4 of Colonial Report [Miscellaneous] No 38 [Cd. 3248.]

-  Coast Zone.
-  Middle Zone.
-  Central Zone.

