

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 799.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 756.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

July, 1914.



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MAP

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THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

11th May, 1914.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1913, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable

Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1913.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year under review, excluding a grant-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer of £2,000, amounted to £9,411 3s. 5d., being £1,369 more than the revenue of the previous year, and £1,450 in excess of the estimated revenue. It is satisfactory to be able to record that the revenue collected during the past year is the highest reached since 1905, being the year preceding the withdrawal of the garrison from the Colony.

The principal increases were under Customs and Post Office. Receipts under the former head amounted to £4,111, or £353 more than in 1912. This was largely due to a gradual revival of trade, as indicated by the fact that the declared value of imports was more by £1,645 than in 1912, thus giving a larger revenue under wharfage dues and duty on spirits. Under Post Office there was increase of £841 as compared with 1912, the total revenue for the year amounting to £2,792 6s. 9d., towards which the sale of the new issue of postage stamps alone contributed a sum of £2,525.

There were no changes in taxation during the year under review.

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The year's expenditure amounted to £10,632 13s. 4d., being an increase of £1,184 over that of the previous year, and £39 in excess of the estimated expenditure.

The principal increase occurred under the head Public Works Extraordinary, a sum of £734 representing the cost of sending out an engineer to inspect and report on the condition of the Jamestown Wharf, together with the cost of certain material for effecting preliminary repairs. Other increases of expenditure occur under the following heads:—

Customs £357. Due to the refund of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's ships.

Medical £148. The cost of provisions and of living generally was higher during the year, and a number of patients remained in hospital for longer periods.

Post Office £147. Due to the cost of printing new sets of postage stamps.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December, 1913, the Colony's assets exceeded its liabilities by £1,342 0s. 7d., an improvement of £569 3s. 2d. on the previous year's figures.

The assets include a sum of £7,100 representing expenditure incurred by the Colony in connection with the wreck of the s.s. "Papanui." Negotiations for the payment of this long standing debt together with the interest are still proceeding.

Liabilities include a sum of £11,826 1s. 9d. due to depositors in the Savings Bank, and an overdraft with the Crown Agents of the Colonies amounting to £10,000.

The Colony's investments on the 31st of December, 1913, amounted to £13,235 13s. 1d., with a market value on the same date of £11,173 9s. 11d.

(D.) CURRENCY.

The cash circulation at the end of the year under review is estimated at £6,000.

Bills on the Crown Agents to the amount of £3,512 were issued during the year, as compared with £2,100 in 1912.

Specie to the amount of £500 was imported and £720 exported, showing an excess of £220 on the export side.

Remittances by money and postal orders amounted to £6,022, as compared with £5,330 in 1912.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

REVENUE.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £4,110 16s. 3d., being an increase of £353 1s. 2d. as compared with the previous year, and the highest figure reached since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906.

With the exception of a slight decrease under the head Permits, substantial increases occurred under all heads, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
(a) Wharfage	166	7	1
(b) Import duties	140	6	4
(c) Tonnage dues	34	11	6
(d) Warehouse rent	1	13	3
(e) Water	11	14	0

The first four increases are due to the impetus given to trade by the gradual extension of the local flax industry. The additional

employment thereby given and the consequent increase in the cash circulation enabled the labouring classes to spend more freely in the purchase of provisions and other necessaries, and also to indulge in such luxuries as tobacco and liquor.

The increase under water is due to the large number of ships-of-war, both British and foreign, which visited the Island.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure in 1913 amounted to £903 13s. 11d., being £356 16s. 11d. in excess of 1912. The refund of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's Navy during the year was £458, as against £215 in 1912. In addition a refund of duty on beer supplied to the Royal Naval establishment, amounting to £21, was made.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports in 1913 amounted to £43,394, which, if the value of specie is excluded, shows an increase of £1,145 on the previous year.

An increase of £268 under Dutiable Articles, which more than balances the previous year's decrease of £219, may be attributed to the larger number of visits by ships-of-war, and also to the greater purchasing power of the labouring classes. To the latter fact must also be attributed a net increase of £808 under Provisions, particularly rice, flour, and oilmen's stores. Under Miscellaneous a net increase of £422 is principally under coal, hardware, and machinery—the latter being due to the importation of an engine and plant for a private flax mill erected during the year.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports during 1913 amounted to £7,568, or, excluding specie, an increase of £2,248 over the figures of the preceding year.

The principal exports, as compared with 1912, were :—

	1912.	1913.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Fibre and Tow	3,393	5,372	1,979	—
Hides and Skins	99	321	222	—
Metal, old	92	130	38	—
Sheep, Oxen, and Calves..	502	478	—	24
Wool	162	357	195	—
Specie	1,550	720	—	830

The most noticeable increase is under Fibre and Tow, which to the value of £4,100 was exported by the Government Flax Mill, the remaining £1,272 representing the value of fibre and tow exported by Messrs. Solomon and Company's new mill in the Sandy Bay District.

The following figures of imports and exports, exclusive of specie, since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906 show the effect of the flax industry on the general trade of the Colony :—

	Imports.	Exports.	
	£	£	
1907	34,364	1,787	
1908	35,716	4,585	Government Flax Mill working throughout the year.
1909	29,303	5,192	Government Flax Mill working throughout the year.
1910	33,915	3,934	Government Flax Mill working for 6 months of year.
1911	37,102	2,159	Government Flax Mill working for 2 months of year.
1912	41,749	4,600	Government Flax Mill working throughout the year.
1913	42,894	6,848	Government Flax Mill working throughout the year. Private mill working for 5 months of year.

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

The year under review may be regarded as very satisfactory from an agricultural point of view. Owing to good rainfall, root, grain and hay crops were all above the average. Pasture was plentiful and live stock did well. Potato crops varied. In the drier localities the yield was exceptionally good, both in quantity and quality, but in less favoured situations heavy losses had to be faced owing to blight and rot, the latter due to excessive rain. Many of the smaller cultivators lost practically the whole crop and were unable to save seed. There were the usual importations of seed, about seven tons having been obtained by the Colonial Government from Messrs. Sutton and Sons and sold at cost price to growers. A quantity of assorted vegetable seeds were also imported, most of which was issued free to the poorest growers and market gardeners.

A fair number of young trees were issued from the plantation nurseries during the year under review, though not so many as in the previous year owing to the ravages of grubs and other insect pests amongst the young seedlings. About 400 young trees were planted out upon Crown lands, and about 100 issued to the public. A large number of eucalyptus trees, however, were planted in one of the Government forests which is being gradually eaten up by white ants. It is hoped in time to replant the whole of this area with eucalyptus, which, besides being immune to the ravages of white ants, is a quick-growing tree providing excellent timber.

The sale of fruit from the Maldivia garden amounted to £27 0s. 11½d., whilst the sale of trees from Government forests realised £59 6s. 8d. The figures for the previous year were £29 1s. 11½d., and £34 6s. 0d. respectively.

The Government pasture lands known as Botley's Lay produced a revenue of £80 5s. 0d. as against an expenditure of £84 14s. 2d.

(C.) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—The working of the Government mill during the year under review has been in every way satisfactory. No large profit has been made, but the mill has more than cleared working expenses.

The following figures give the results of the year's working :—

Leaves milled	..	..	..	..	tons	1,296
Fibre produced	..	..	..	..	"	128
Tow produced	..	..	..	..	"	39
Receipts from sale of produce	..	..	..	..	£	4,143
Expenditure	..	..	..	..	£	4,006

These figures constitute a record for the six years during which the mill has been running, both the quantity of leaf dealt with and the receipts from the sale of the finished product being greater than in any previous year. The favourable condition of the London market largely contributed towards this result, the prices for fibre and tow during the year averaging £28½ and £14½ per ton respectively. There was an unlimited supply of mature leaves ready for milling, and, in spite of a temporary breakdown in the middle of the year, the mill ran for 269 working days as compared with 249 in the previous year.

On the other hand expenditure was somewhat high, the total of £4,006 being made up as follows :—

<i>Local charges.</i>	£
Purchase of leaves	1,764
Cartage and local shipping charges	249
Salaries and wages	950
Miscellaneous	135
	3,098
<i>London charges.</i>	
Freight	522
Oil	304
Miscellaneous	82
	908
	£4,006

As the price paid to growers for green leaves throughout the year was 5 per cent. on the current price of fibre on the London market, expenditure under this head naturally increases with high market prices. Similarly, the items Salaries and Shipping Charges and Freight show an increase in proportion to the increased output. The cost of oil, too, has risen and is likely to go still higher. Under Miscellaneous are included certain abnormally heavy charges for repairs to engine and buildings and purchase of spare parts, amounting to over £100. But for these non-recurring charges, the profit of £137 on the year's working would have been considerably larger. As it

is, however, the result of the Government mill's work during the past year may be regarded as highly satisfactory. The main object is to keep the mill running continuously without a loss. Owing to the fluctuating value of fibre on the London market this cannot be ensured unless the mill can make sufficient profit in good years to form a reserve fund with which to tide over bad years when prices rule low. The profits made during the last two years have considerably strengthened the financial position of the mill, its surplus of assets over liabilities having increased by nearly £500 during that period, excluding a sum of £133 written off on account of depreciation of buildings, machinery, and plant. There is no doubt that a much larger profit could be made if a cheaper form of power were introduced, such as suction gas. This form of power is being employed with most satisfactory results at a new flax mill which was opened in July last by a private firm, Messrs. Solomon and Company. The amount of green leaf dealt with by this mill up to the end of the year was 589 tons, resulting in the output of 38 tons of fibre and 14½ tons of tow. The establishment of this mill marks a most important advance in the development of the fibre industry, which may now be regarded as the staple industry of the Island. The amount of flax now under cultivation is calculated to be ample to ensure a continuous supply of leaves for the two mills. Further planting is being carried out every year, and before long there should be sufficient flax to justify the erection of a third mill.

Lace-making.—The following figures give the transactions of the Government Lace School during the year under review :—

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Work sold	..	502	10	4
Colonial Government Grant	..	120	0	0
		£622	10	4
EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Salaries	..	155	17	0
Pay of Workers	..	341	14	9
Material	..	37	11	0
Incidentals	..	38	13	0
		£573	15	9

These figures show a satisfactory profit of £48 14s. 7d. on the year's working, to which must be added the value of goods remaining unsold on the 31st December, 1913, amounting to £150.

Although the Government Lace School cannot yet claim to be a self-supporting institution, steady progress has been made in extending and popularising the industry—and the benefits, both material and moral, which it confers on the female population of the Island cannot well be over-estimated. The results of the first year's working at the new style of lace and embroideries are most satisfactory, thanks to the untiring energies of the local Manageress, Miss Girdwood, and to

the practical interest and assistance given to the School's work by the St. Helena Lace Committee, which was recently formed by the League of Empire. The success of the first sale of the new work, which was held in London at the end of last year, augurs well for the future.

The Manageress, Miss Girdwood, reports as follows on the general progress made during the year :—

"This year began with excellent prospects and has been one of rapid and most satisfactory progress.

"Our development on the lines specially indicated by the Lady Ampthill has been gratifying in every detail of the School's work.

"The previous year had been chiefly occupied in marking time until these special lines could be considered and their outlet provided for by the bi-annual sales, which are now under the Presidency of Lady Ampthill and the Lace School Committee.

"The first of these sales took place in November last, and proved in every way an entire success. This gave encouragement to proceed, and all workers are keenly interested and are putting out their best energies in the development of the new style of work. This consists of old Italian designs in filet work, old Italian cutwork, and embroidery ornamented with old Florentine edgings and insertions—the articles turned out being sofa and chair backs, tea-cloths, sideboard and table runners, centre-pieces, sachets, &c.

"The standard of work aimed at throughout the School being very high, no one is allowed to remain a worker who shews any tendency to slovenliness in work or person, and the strictest weeding out and sifting is necessarily kept up.

"It is only in this way that the numbers can be kept below 200 and the high standard of excellence retained—thus the 165 names on the roll can be safely trusted to carry on the high class of work required for the School's existence, for only so long as this is kept up will the outlet provided by the bi-annual sales in London be continued.

"One very pleasing feature of the School's progress is the eagerness of the younger generation to follow suit. Little ones of nine and ten years now easily accomplish much that the adult learner formerly found a labour.

"Thousands of handkerchiefs have been hemstitched and sold during the year, and these are made entirely by children from seven to ten years of age. Several little girls of ten and eleven are trusted with dainty fine linen babies' frocks to hemstitch, and these are returned beautifully clean and well done.

"The entire work of the School is graded in difficulty from the tiny handkerchief to the bedspread, and children beginning young will, on leaving school, be fully qualified to do any part of the School's embroidery.

"The sifting applies chiefly to the younger children at handkerchiefs, and is absolutely necessary even from an economical point of view, for only those who have satisfactorily passed this stage of training are promoted to embroidery; consequently little or no work is spoiled and every step is mastered before the next is attempted.

"There are between 30 and 40 little handkerchief workers in regular employ doing good work, batches of half-a-dozen at a time being promoted and their places again taken by beginners.

"To meet another need in the Lace School, netting taken up in the same way would be of infinite value, besides being an excellent training to the boys in developing daintiness and deftness of touch, together with the habits of industry and cleanliness which would benefit them through life; and possibly reduce the number of loafers after the school-going age.

"There being so much less need now for Cluny lace, the best of these workers have been put upon netting instead. This they have eagerly learned and find to be much more interesting work. These keep the filet workers supplied, but the need for large quantities of netting is almost unlimited.

"Another gratifying feature in the School's work is the number of young married women who, instead of giving up on their marriage, continue to remain members of the School, and so occupy their time daily after household matters are disposed of.

"This has a good effect on the community, and some of the young husbands are being induced also to occupy their spare hours taking up netting in the

evenings, all of which not only makes a welcome addition to the earnings of the household, but encourages steadiness and industry in both sexes.

"The School has much to be grateful for in the keen interest of His Excellency and Mrs. Cordeaux, who are unfailing in ready sympathy and help in every detail which may make for the welfare of the industry.

"To Mrs. Ord Marshall also and her Council for unwearied and successful efforts to interest the public and to organise the series of sales which are now an accepted and regular outlet for the St. Helena work.

"The year 1913 has been specially marked by two important steps which indicate the progress of the Lace School—a residential centre from which all branches of the School's work can be attended to, and a grant from the Imperial Government for an Assistant Manageress.

"This being a very important position to fill, and requiring great tact, firmness, and skill in managing the workers, in addition to general culture and professional knowledge—it may be some time before the right person is secured, and any other would be quite disastrous to the School's interests."

(D.) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that called at the Island during the year under review was 60, which, though the same number as in 1912, gave an aggregate tonnage of 210,609 as against a tonnage of 157,707, or an increase of 52,902, principally due to a larger number of war vessels visiting the Island. These numbered thirteen, of which nine were British, one German, one French, one Japanese, and one Argentine. The three latter were training ships. The British vessels include the battle cruiser "New Zealand," of 18,800 tons, which is the largest and most modern class of fighting vessel that has touched at St. Helena. Rear-Admiral H. G. King-Hall visited the Colony during the year in H.M.S. "Hyacinth," accompanied by the other two ships of the Cape Squadron.

Six whalers put in for provisions and bunker coal and for the purpose of giving their crews liberty.

The American surveying yacht "Carnegie," owned by the Carnegie Institute, put in here twice for the purpose of making observations on shore.

In addition to the above, six vessels called off the port to post letters and obtain provisions through the medium of licensed traders.

Thirty vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. The cargo shipped and discharged by these vessels amounted to 7,383 tons, as compared with 7,008 in 1912.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were five Ordinances enacted during the year under review, two of which were in connection with public expenditure.

Two Proclamations were issued, one regulating the season for killing game, and the other bringing into force the "General Rules regulating the Practice and Procedure in Admiralty cases in the Supreme Court of St. Helena."

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of children attending the schools during the year was :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Government Schools. . .	141	186	327
Church Schools . . .	202	156	358

Satisfactory progress has been maintained in the development of the present educational system. That system is excellent as far as it goes, and in so far as it is intended to provide a good sound elementary education it leaves little to be desired. But some form of continuation school, supplemented by technical instruction, is sadly needed. Owing to lack of funds, however, it has not yet been possible to make a start in this direction.

Mr. Tucker's classes for pupil teachers were well attended both by the Government teachers (whose attendance is compulsory) and also by the Hussey Charity School teachers. Good progress was made both in the general subject of instruction as well as in theoretical and practical teaching.

Miss Girdwood, who continues to supervise the needlework classes of the various schools, reports a very marked improvement in the work of the year. All the teachers have made successful efforts to conform to the syllabus of graded needlework, which Miss Girdwood has drawn up to suit the capacity of the various classes, and this it is hoped will permit of a uniform test in marking being adopted next year. As Miss Girdwood writes: "If worked steadily and unanimously along the right lines there is every possibility of the School's needlework developing, as it should, into a little industry of its own."

The total expenditure under Education for the year under review was £671 2s. 5d., as compared with £632 1s. 11d. in 1912.

There were 15 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance during the year, as compared with 18 the previous year.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There were 139 admissions during the year, of which 68 were to the male and 71 to the female ward. There were eight deaths, being a mortality of 5·7 per cent., the percentage the previous year having been 5·3 per cent. The nature of the cases treated bore a close resemblance to former years and does not call for remark. There were no structural alterations effected during the year, but the need for a separate operating room was much felt on several occasions.

Miss Barnes completed her three years' engagement in September, and was replaced by Miss Sherlock. Both nurses were selected by the Colonial Nursing Association.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

On the 31st December there were 140 depositors on the books of the Savings Bank, as against 135 on the same date in the previous year.

The total sum deposited during the year amounted to £4,239, or an increase of £2,359 as compared with 1913. Of this, however, £1,500 represents the value of an executory estate which had been previously deposited, and re-deposited individually by the several receivers—consequently the actual increase in deposits is £859.

Withdrawals, including the sum of £1,500 above referred to, amounted to £4,975, thus exceeding deposits by £736, but much of this was for local investments, notably for cleaning and planting land with flax.

The Bank's transactions for the year showed an excess of £61 4s. 6d. in revenue over expenditure.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1913, was £11,826 1s. 9d. Against this amount stock to the value (purchase price) of £13,235 13s. 1d. is invested. The market value of this stock was only £11,173 9s. 11d. on the date named.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIMINAL.

Supreme Court.—Three prisoners were arraigned and convicted in this Court during the year, one being a Police Constable who for an assault on the Police Sergeant was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for one year. The other two were convicted of burglary from the premises of the Eastern Telegraph Company, and received sentence of two years' and of eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Police Court.—In this Court 123 cases were dealt with, as against 130 in the previous year. This number includes four prosecutions under the Road Tax Ordinance and 15 under the Education Ordinance.

In addition to the above, 128 trivial cases were dealt with by the Police without having recourse to the Police Court.

(B.) PRISONS.

The number of prisoners committed to the gaol during the year was 21—ten less than in the previous year. The daily average number in gaol was 3·7, being an increase of 1·03 over the preceding year, there being two additional long term prisoners in gaol. The cost of maintaining the gaol was £116 4s. 0d.

The number of prisoners remaining in gaol on the 31st December, 1913, was two.

There were seven cases of flogging during the year, one being a conviction under the Juvenile Smoking Ordinance, five for malicious mischief, and one for theft.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1913, amounted to 3,514, to which must be added the Royal Marine establishment, numbering 56, and the crew of the cable ship "Britannia," 80, bringing the total up to 3,650. The civil population shows a decrease of five. There were 95 emigrants as against 40 immigrants, whilst on the other hand the number of births, 101, exceeded the number of deaths, 51, by 50. There were also four births and three arrivals in the Royal Marine establishment.

The birth rate amongst the civil population was 28·7, as against 28·4 per 1,000 in 1912. The number of illegitimate births registered was 22, or one less than in 1912.

The death rate increased from 12·5 per 1,000 in 1912 to 14·5 in 1913. Of the 51 deaths, three were due to accidents, seven were under the age of 10 years, and eighteen over 70 years, one of whom was a centenarian.

Marriages solemnized during the year numbered 22, being four less than in 1912.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The Colonial Surgeon reports as follows :—

"There is nothing of special note to record as regards the health of the community during 1913. There were 51 deaths, three of which were accidental and eighteen over the age of 70 years; in the case of one old woman the age was 101. There was an increase in the mortality rate, this having reached 14·5 per 1,000, as compared with 12·5 per 1,000 in 1912.

"There were six deaths from tuberculosis, being a mortality rate of 1·7 per 1,000 living.

"The infant mortality rate was 58·3 per thousand births. In the first half of the year nine cases of scarlet fever occurred, the number of cases in all which occurred between 1912 and 1913 being 35. The last case was notified in June, 1913, and the Military Hospital, which had been used as an Isolation Quarter, was handed back to the Military authorities in November.

"There were 35 successful vaccinations in the country and 33 in the town.

"The water supply in many of the country districts is, and always has been, very unsatisfactory. The ailments of children are very commonly aggravated by the almost universal prevalence of intestinal worms, these parasites being due to defective water in the majority of instances.

"The comparatively thickly populated district of Half Tree Hollow has long suffered from the effects of the drinking water being stored in wooden barrels sunk in the earth, which permit of the absorp-

tion by the water of much deleterious matter. The substitution of galvanized iron tanks for the decayed receptacles would undoubtedly improve the physical fitness of the people in this neighbourhood. Many instances of lamentable overcrowding continue to exist in Jamestown. A beginning at least was made in the right direction by the demolition of an offending tenement house known as 'Byrnes Buildings,' and it is to be hoped that similar operations may be undertaken in the future.

"So far as the finances of the Colony would permit, the erection of small houses for the occupation of the well-doing poor might be considered as a legitimate function of Government, under the conditions that rule in St. Helena."

(D.) CLIMATE.

(a) METEOROLOGICAL STATION, HUTT'S GATE.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·003 inches, as against 28·098 in 1912.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 62·4°, 61·6° being the mean in the previous year. The absolute maximum was recorded on the 9th February, the reading being 81·6°, as against 78·5° on the 1st, 9th, and 12th February in the preceding year. The lowest-maximum, 68·0°, was recorded on the 3rd and 26th September. The absolute minimum, 51·0°, was recorded on the 19th August, the corresponding reading in 1912 being 50·1° on the 9th September.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall during the year was 43·63 inches, or 0·71 inches less than the fall in the previous year. The maximum fall was registered on the 28th May at 1·12 inches, as compared with 1·28 inches on the 10th May, 1912. The number of rainy days totalled 273, as compared with 275 in the previous year. May's total was the largest monthly fall, and amounted to 6·43 inches on 29 days. A "clear sky" was recorded on the 31st of the same month—a very unusual observation.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 1·9 which, according to the "Beaufort Scale," is equivalent to a velocity of between 7 and 14 miles per hour. The force was lower than in 1912. Thirteen calm days were recorded, as against ten in the preceding year.

The following table gives the direction for the year :—

S.E.	..	192 days.
S.S.E.	..	132 "
E.S.E.	..	25 "
S.	..	2 "
E.	..	1 "
Calm	..	13 "
		365

(b) JAMESTOWN.

Temperature.

	1912	1913
Mean.	72·4°	70·4°
Absolute maximum.	80·0° on 27th Feb.	80·0° on 15th Feb. and 16th April.
Absolute minimum.	60·0° on 15th Aug. and 1st Sept.	65·0° on 1st Oct.

Rainfall.

Total.	9·21 ins.	13·75 ins.
Number of rainy days.	97.	126.
Maximum daily fall.	0·55 on 10th May.	1·35 on 27th Feb.

(c) PRIVATE STATIONS.

The following statistics have been compiled from records kept by residents in different parts of the Island :—

	Total Rainfall. Inches.	Number of rainy days.	Maximum fall. Inches.	Date.
Plantation	40·50	203	1·20	20th February.
Farm Lodge	39·35	210	1·79	22nd "
Oak Bank	46·79	227	1·29	6th "
Willowdene	35·52	220	1·58	27th "
The Briars	26·66	228	1·60	28th "

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.—The revenue derived from the Post Office for the year under review amounted to £2,792 6s. 0d., being an increase of £839 14s. 1d. as compared with the previous year, and representing a net profit on the year's transactions of £2,003 15s. 11d. This large increase is almost entirely accounted for by sales of stamps and postcards to non-residents. Stamp orders received from abroad amounted to £2,180 9s. 3d. Visits by foreign men-of-war and training ships largely increased sales.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the department amounted to £788 10s. 1d., or £147 2s. 0d. more than in the previous year, due to the additional cost of printing the large number of stamps in demand.

A large increase in the number of registered articles is due to stamp dealers preferring stamps affixed to envelopes and sent by registered post. It is satisfactory to note that, notwithstanding this large increase in the number of registered articles, no registered or insured article was lost during the year.

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

	1913			1912		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Money orders received..	813	10	10	1,002	2	6
Postal orders received..	1,022	1	8	4,352	10	0
Money orders issued ..	3,213	18	1	2,558	8	7
Postal orders issued ..	2,809	1	0	2,772	0	1½

Commission received on the above transactions amounted to £61 16s. 3½d., as compared with £53 3s. 1d. in 1912.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

There were no changes in tariff during the year under review.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

The telephone system continues to work satisfactorily. It is maintained entirely by private subscriptions.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) ROADS.

A sum of £400 was expended during the year on repairs to the principal rural roads. With this limited expenditure it has been found increasingly difficult to keep pace with the wear and tear of increased traffic caused by the growing flax industry, with the result that, generally speaking, the condition of the roads gradually deteriorates from year to year. The expenditure of a capital sum on general repairs is likely to be necessary in the near future, in order to bring the roads up to a general level of efficiency.

The town streets are kept in order at an annual expenditure of £60.

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance during the year was £87 3s. 0d., or slightly more than in the previous year. The tax was paid by 581 males, being six more than in 1912. There were only four prosecutions for non-payment, as compared with 39 in the previous year.

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

There were four grants of land made during the year. The value of land has remained the same.

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

Although the rate of wages remained at the same low level for the greater part of the year under review, there was every indication of an impending rise, especially in the country districts. The establishment of a second flax mill in the southern district of the Island and the extension of the fibre industry generally had the effect of creating a greater demand for labour in the country, with the result that at the close of the year wages rose from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. and 2s. 0d. a day, and are likely to go still higher. Wages in the town districts, where the unemployment problem is acutest, were not

affected, but the forthcoming works on the Jamestown wharf will create a demand for labour sufficient to raise the wages of the town labourer at least up to a level with those of his country brethren.

On the other hand the cost of the actual necessities of life was higher than in the previous year. Fresh meat was dearer, beef selling at 10*d.* a pound and mutton at 1*s.* 0*d.* a pound. Fish, the staple diet of the St. Helenian, was particularly scarce, the small quantity brought in by the fishermen being sold at fancy prices. The supply of both albacore and mackerel was far short of the demand—the former in previous years could be purchased for 1*d.* per pound, whereas in the year under review it was difficult to obtain for 3*d.* Mackerel, which used to sell at from 2*d.* to 4*d.* a dozen, went up to the amazing price of 1*s.* 0*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* These inflated prices press particularly hard on the poorer classes. The situation is entirely due to the indolence of the fishermen, who by restricting the supply keep prices up and so earn an easy living at a minimum expenditure of their labour. A small fishing business run by a local syndicate would soon reduce the price of fish to its proper level.

(D.) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £2,716 2*s.* 0*d.*, of which £1,134 3*s.* 7*d.* was under Works Extraordinary. Under the latter head a sum of £250 was devoted to relief works, principally the breaking of stone by female labour. A sum of £638 was expended on carrying out certain temporary repairs to the wharf at Jamestown and in obtaining the services of an engineer to report on its condition, with a view to the undertaking of works of a more permanent nature.

The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Relief Board and Public Market for the last five years, including the year under review, are given below:—

POOR RELIEF BOARD.

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	£	..	£	..
1909	848	..	847	..
1910	822	..	783	..
1911	851	..	846	..
1912	837	..	796	..
1913	753	..	728	..

PUBLIC MARKET.

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	£	..	£	..
1909	116	..	80	..
1910	95	..	88	..
1911	92	..	90	..
1912	78	..	86	..
1913	78	..	86	..

SKETCH MAP OF ST HELENA



-  Coast Zone
-  Middle Zone
-  Central Zone

A full explanation of the three Zones of Vegetation indicated on this Map is given on p. 3 & 4 of Colonial Report (Miscellaneous) No. 36 (Cd. 3248). Briefly it may be said that—

The Coast Zone, which extends about a mile to a mile and a half around the island, is dry, barren, soilless, and almost entirely devoid of vegetation. Deep wide valleys, & rocky, almost inaccessible ridges, run from the central ridge towards the sea, breaking up the coast zone into numerous, almost detached prominences & ledges.

The Middle Zone, which extends about three quarters of a mile inland from the boundary of the coast zone, has a less rocky surface, with shallower valleys and more grassy slopes: the temperature is lower, and numerous Australian, Cape, and American shrubs and trees have become established, forming thickets of considerable size. Among the chief features of this middle zone are the furze-clad slopes, with occasionally the indigenous gum woods, & in moist sheltered hollows, the larger ferns.

The Central Zone, which occupies a certain extent of land on each side of the central ridge, is altogether about 3 miles long and 2 miles wide; in some places the rocks are precipitous, in others, the land possesses an undulating character, with grassy slopes, meadows, hayfields, a few farms & gardens, and well-wooded glens of oak and acacias.

(E) MISCELLANEOUS.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the gradual improvement in the economic condition of the Island which was noticed in the Annual Reports for the two preceding years has been steadily maintained during the year under review. This improvement is mainly to be attributed to the development of the fibre industry, which this year has received a valuable impetus from the establishment of a private flax mill in the southern district of the Island. This mill, together with the Government mill in the eastern district, gives direct employment to over a hundred hands, and puts into circulation some £600 a month in wages and purchase of green leaves. The benefits accruing from the fibre industry are seen in the increased revenue of the Colony for the past year, which is the largest collected since the period of depression which followed on the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906. Imports and exports both show substantial increases, pointing to a steady revival of trade. There has been less depression in the labour market, and wages show a distinct upward tendency owing to the increasing demand for labour, especially in the country districts. This improvement has reacted to a certain extent on the town districts, where there has been less distress during the past year. But the unemployment problem in Jamestown still awaits permanent solution, though the forthcoming works in connection with the repairs of the wharf will provide ample employment for the next two years at least.

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

11th May, 1914.
