

No. 1010.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 974.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1919.



LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses :
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ABINGDON STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER ; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF ;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH ;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN

1919.

No. 1010.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1918.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) REVENUE.

The revenue collected during 1918, exclusive of a grant-in-aid of £8,000 received from the Imperial Exchequer, amounted to £7,639, being an increase of £530 on that collected in 1917, and £1,120 less than the estimated revenue for 1918. The Government Flax Mill Fund was to contribute a sum of £1,200 to the general revenue of the Colony. This sum, however, was not transferred by the Crown Agents during 1918 to the Colony's account; had it been so transferred the revenue collected would have exceeded the estimate by £80.

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The Colony's expenditure for all services during the year amounted to £12,548, or £491 less than the estimated expenditure, and a decrease of £3,418 on the expenditure for 1917.

Savings amounting to £1,190 were effected under eleven heads, some of these being due to savings on personal salaries, certain offices being vacant for the greater part of the year. On the other hand, expenditure over estimate amounting to £699 is shown under five heads, the principal of which, £610, was incurred under "Miscellaneous," due mainly to interest on overdrafts with the Crown Agents for purchase of foodstuffs, and expenses connected with the examination of the books of the Government Savings Bank by an official of the Colonial Audit Department.

(C.) COMPARISON OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

It is interesting to note that the revenue collected, exclusive of Grants-in-Aid, during the years of war shows a gradual increase, whilst the coming of peace should show a substantial reduction in expenditure, and therefore the necessity of a smaller Grant-in-Aid.

Revenue. Grant-in-Aid. Expenditure.

Year.	£	£	£
1914	8,060	8,300	15,884
1915	6,466	3,200	15,852
1916	6,947	13,678	18,244
1917	7,109	2,200	15,966
1918	7,639	8,000	12,548

(D.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Colony's liabilities on 31st December, 1918, exceeded its assets by £2,108, being an improvement of £3,091 as compared with the same date in 1917.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year 1918 amounted to £3,896 1 ls. 7d., or £232 5s. 3d., more than in 1917, a further graduated increase of

the export tax on fibre and tow under Ordinance No. 2 of 1918 came into force on 31st May. The total sum collected from this tax during the year amounted to £998 3s. 4d., and another £318 would have been collected if tonnage had been available for an accumulation of fibre and tow towards the end of the year. In accordance with the terms of the Ordinance a sum of £355 from these proceeds was expended on the rural roads.

The chief decrease of Customs revenue, £313, is shown under Import Duties, less alcoholic liquor having been imported owing to high first cost.

Expenditure.

Customs expenditure for the year amounted to £360 9s. 10d. as against £589 4s. 4d. in 1917. This decrease was due to savings under Personal Emoluments, and a largely reduced rebate of duty on liquor and tobacco consumed by the garrison.

Imports.

The total value of imports during the year was £49,487, being £1,814 less than in 1917, in which year, however, £4,000 specie was imported.

Increases in value appear under Beer (£628), Flour (£867), Machinery (£1,209), Oilmen's Stores (£1,902), Sugar (£1,674), and Tea (£383).

The principal decreases appear under Coal (£1,805), Drapery (£639), and Rice (£491), owing to smaller amounts imported.

Exports.

The total value of exports, namely £63,502, again exceeded that of imports, and shows an increase of £8,672 on the value for 1917. Although a smaller quantity of fibre and tow was exported than in 1917, the higher average price per ton obtained in London accounts for most of this increase. An increased export trade in potatoes might be promising if cool storage and reasonable freights were obtainable. Two crops are grown per year, maturing in June and December respectively. The latter could arrive in England at a time when good prices might be obtained, whilst a market could probably be found on the West Coast of Africa for both crops were communication available.

Government Food Supply.

As mentioned in the final paragraph of the Annual Report for 1917, the Government had to undertake the supply of essential foodstuffs to the inhabitants. With the ready help and assistance of the Government of the Union of South Africa, to whom the grateful thanks of the Colony are due, a full six months' supply, based on the imports during 1915-1917, of sugar, flour, tea, fats, salt, oats, and mealies arrived from South Africa towards the end of March. A further large consignment of the same supplies was obtained at the end of September. A weekly supply, requisitioned for by retailers, was issued on repayment every Friday, the amounts issued to each being as large as possible to meet their requirements and at the same time ensure the stocks lasting their prescribed period. Retail prices to consumers were permitted at a profit to the retailers similar to those allowed in England. This system, which continued into 1919, was satisfactory to, and eagerly made use of by, all retailers with the exception of those who hitherto had enjoyed the practical monopoly of food imports into the colony, but who had themselves refused to order large consignments.

The total amount advanced by the Crown Agents during the year for foodstuffs obtained from Mauritius and South Africa was £19,165 8s. 7d. Receipts from sales to retailers to 31st December, 1918, amounted to £15,173 16s. Od. whilst stocks in hand on that date were valued at £4,932 5s. 2d. As a result of this supply by Government retail prices were kept low and practically stationary, whilst with the exception of a few weeks without rice owing to non trans-shipment at Durban of a consignment from Mauritius, supply to the inhabitants was plentiful and constant ; in fact the amounts consumed have been considerably above the average of pre-War years.

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

The year was a bad one from an agricultural point of view owing to want of rain. Dry early in the year, during August and September, when rain is most wanted for all crops, there was practically no rainfall. Forage and hay crops were therefore bad, and potatoes particularly so. Again the want of reliable seed of all kinds was badly felt, the usual sources of supply being closed by the War. Cattle and other stock suffered considerably from poor pasture and want of water. As a consequence the fresh milk supply was generally inadequate to meet the demand, and locally-made butter was almost unprocurable. The farming industry—if it can be called one—is on the wane, flax-growing being far more profitable with far less trouble.

It is much to be regretted that two or three owners of land on the ridges commenced considerable clearing of the indigenous ferns and vegetation growing there in order to plant flax. Setting aside the interest from a botanical point of view of this vegetation, its great importance due to its effect on the rainfall and water supply of the Island should never be overlooked, and great stress was laid on it by Sir D. Morris in a Report made by him in 1884.* The condition which the Island, its crops, and its population would be in with a much reduced rainfall needs no explanation, and it is to be hoped that no more clearing on the ridge lands will be carried out.

The sale of fruit from the Maldivia Garden amounted to £102 3s. 7d. as compared with £40 12s. in the previous year. After paying the gardener's wages this fund was utilised in partially clearing Government gardens of the destructive Blue Weed (*Ageratum*) which is very prolific and is spreading badly.

The Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay produced a revenue of £95 4s. 3d., as against £88 5s. 7d. during 1917, and the balance in hand on 31st December, 1918 was £25 11s. 5d.

(C.) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—During the year this industry has been very profitable, the bulk of the fibre shipped to the United Kingdom having fetched the maximum controlled price of £97 per ton. Total shipments from the Colony amounted to 516 tons of fibre and 222 tons of tow, against 528 and 214 tons respectively during 1917. The total value of 1918 shipments was £61,136 against £53,113 for 1917. The position therefore of the flax grower and producer in St. Helena, where the wage standard is low, must compare very favourably with that in other countries where the wage standard is higher. Moreover, the exceedingly fortunate position of the Colony in getting practically the whole of this, its main product, shipped during a world-wide shortage of

*Colonial Report—Miscellaneous, No. 38.

tonnage, thus enabling the high prices to be obtained, shows that the Colony has rather benefitted than otherwise from the War. There were eight opportunities for shipment to the United Kingdom during the year.

Leaves and ginger stalks were purchased from 84 different growers as against 68 in 1917. Those who were wise enough to take up land and plant flax in years gone by have done well during 1917 and 1918. Owing to the great rise in freight and increase in Export Tax during 1918 larger deductions had to be made from the amount paid per ton for leaves to help meet these higher charges. The maximum paid by the Government Mill in 1917 was 92s. per ton, and for the greater part of 1918 88s. per ton was paid. In 1915 the maximum paid was 32s. 6d. per ton, and in 1916 50s. The result of these high prices, however, has been that growers have harvested their leaves in a too wholesale manner and as a rule far too young, the inevitable result being that shortage of supply was felt at various periods during the year, and it is probable that for long periods in 1919 no leaves at all will be forthcoming.

During 1918 a further 7 plots of Crown land, approximating to a total of 7 acres, were granted to small growers for the purpose of planting flax, and 99,000 suckers costing £162 were issued for planting these plots and other plots granted during 1917. Planting by the Government was also carried out to the extent of 12k acres, viz., 1½ acres at Plantation, 2 acres round the outskirts of the drying field at the Mill, which had to be cleaned for the purpose, 1k acres at Longwood New House, and 7k acres of a portion of Great Deadwood resumed for the purpose before renewal of the lease of the property to Messrs. Deason Brothers. Considerable clearing of weed and prickly pear was necessary before planting this last piece of ground, but the very great advantages of having plantations near the mill to save the cost of transport obviously make clearing well worth while. The long continued dry weather of 1918 was a great handicap to flax growth in general, and more especially to suckers planted during the year. It has been found that white ants will attack and destroy newly planted suckers unless the ground is sufficiently wet for them to start making root at once. White ants have also been found, in a few instances at Plantation, in clumps of matured flax when being harvested, but the leaves did not appear to have suffered—probably because they had not been long attacked.

The plant and machinery at the Government Mill worked satisfactorily and throughout the year 25 men were regularly employed at wages varying from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per day.

Ginger Fibre.—Late in 1917, when the shortage of flax leaves was foreseen, Mr. A. Hands, Government Chief Clerk, assisted by John H. Moyce, one of the Government Mill employees, developed the idea of obtaining fibre from the stalks of wild ginger (*Alpinia Nutans*) which grows abundantly and quickly in many parts of the Island and is a pest very difficult to eradicate. Under their superintendence certain modifications were made in the stripping machine, and the stalks were successfully milled for nine weeks in the early part of the year as an experiment, during a time when no flax was available. A total of 255½ tons of stalks were milled, producing only 3 tons 16 cwt. of fibre, and 7 tons 14 cwt. of tow. Although the former fetched £70 and the

latter £50 per ton in London, these were war prices, and in normal times it would certainly not pay for milling.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon & Company's two mills and Messrs. Deason Brothers' mill were at work throughout the year. The former firm milled a total of 1,969 tons of leaves and exported 196 tons of fibre and 63½ tons of tow, whilst Messrs. Deason Brothers milled 2,300 tons of leaves and exported 211½ tons of fibre and 76 tons of tow.

At the end of 1918 there were 183 males and 59 females exclusively employed in the flax industry at the four mills as against 175 males and 42 females at the end of 1917.

The estimated area of land under flax cultivation increased during the year from 900 acres to about 1,000 acres.

Lace Industry.—In view of the need for economy at the time, and the resignation through ill health of the Manageress, the Government Lace School was closed at the beginning of 1917 for one year or more during which time it was thought that a judgment might be formed as to the ability and willingness of women and girls to carry on the industry without the school's supervision and encouragement. The period that has since elapsed has not been helpful in forming such a judgment owing to various causes. With the presence of the War Garrison and Embodied Volunteer Force, a large Eastern Telegraph Company's Staff, and high prices of labour in the flax industry, there was considerably more money about than usual, and therefore there was not the inducement or necessity to turn to lace-making for a living. Added to this, the absence of female passengers in mail steamers and the reduced number of vessels calling at the Island reduced this outlet for local sales to a minimum, and such lace as was disposed of to members of the Garrison, etc., had to be made of inferior thread.

Certain facts, however, are self evident. Lace-making by the islanders will never progress without expert supervision by a non-permanent resident, neither will it become an industry of any lasting character and benefit to the Islanders without an outside market, which they cannot obtain for themselves. These wants are interdependent and point to the desirability of a supervisor, or teacher, closely connected with, or even employed by, a lace dealing business house. So conducted, the making of lace might give permanent employment at a fixed wage to the women and girls of the Island and at the same time be profitable as a business concern.

(D.) SHIPPING.

35 vessels with a total tonnage of 130,916 called at the port of Jamestown during the year, being 16 less than during 1917. These were of the following nationalities, viz. :—British 30, American 1, Russian 1, Norwegian 3.

The mail service was carried out by various war vessels and steamers as opportunity offered, 20 vessels bringing mails to the Colony from England or South Africa. Mails were despatched by 32 vessels. The vessels of the Union-Castle Company made 4 outward calls and 8 homeward calls, the normal number in peace time being one vessel each way per month.

In addition to the above, 34 vessels were sighted from the Island, but were not boarded. Sixteen vessels entered and cleared at the Customs during the year with cargo for the Island, shipping and discharging 5.023 tons as compared with 4,976 tons in 1917.

There are eight elementary schools in the Island, three of these being Government Schools. In these the usual elementary subjects are taught, viz. :—The three R's, geography, map-drawing, history, composition, grammar, English, recitation, hygiene, and needlework.

Kindergarten exercises are taken with the infants. Exercises in physical drill are taken in all the schools.

Pupil Teachers.—During the year there were eight pupil teachers under instruction, 5 from Government Schools and 3 from other schools. These met weekly for instruction but during the last term of the course, i.e. October to December, the class was not held owing to the indisposition of the Acting Supervisor, who was granted three months' sick leave. Classes were resumed and the usual examination was held after the expiration of her leave.

The number of scholars on the rolls during the year was :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total
Government Schools ..	154	191	345
Other Schools	183	156	339

The Acting Supervisor reports that the work of the different schools has progressed favourably through the year.

The numbers and attendances have been well maintained.

Prosecutions under the Education Ordinance numbered 11, a decrease of 13 on those during 1917.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITAL.

There were 164 admissions to the hospital during the year, 86 being males and 78 females, or an increase of 25 as compared with 1917. The daily average of patients was 7.8. There were 8 deaths in hospital, being a percentage of 4.8. The nursing staff was under strength for the greater part of the year, there being only two nurses up to the end of September, one of these being untrained. In that month a second qualified nurse, obtained by the Colonial Nursing Association, arrived. This shortness of staff was uncomplainingly met by the Lady Superintendent, Miss Hart, on whose shoulders a lot of extra work and responsibility fell. Out-patients numbered above 4,000.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors on 31st December, 1918, was 142, as against 145 on 31st December, 1917.

The total sum deposited during the year amounted to 18,895 17s. 10d., but of this sum £4,828 13s. was a deposit made by the Colonial Treasury, representing the total various embezzlements by the late bank manager over a period of years. The discovery of these necessitated expert investigation of the bank accounts which was carried out locally by Mr. H. E. C. Merrick, of the Colonial Audit Department, Sierra Leone. The late bank manager was subsequently convicted for these offences and sentenced to penal servitude.

Ordinary deposits during the year amounted therefore to £4,067 4s. 10d. which is a satisfactory increase of £1,340 2s. 10d. over those of 1917.

Withdrawals amounted to £2,166 8s. 7d., an increase of £263 on those for 1917.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1918, was £16,666 16s. 6d., whilst the expenditure of the bank, viz., £360 lie. 3d., was £18 in excess of its revenue.

Mr. S. Cullen, acting manager, throughout the year had a difficult task in straightening the books of the bank, and credit is due to him for the large amount of extra work involved and the manner of its performance.

VI.-JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIMINAL.

Supreme Court.-There were no cases committed for trial before the Supreme Court during the year.

Police Court.-112 cases were dealt with by the Police Magistrate, of which 11 were dismissed-a decrease of 98 cases compared with 1917. Offences included 15 assaults and other offences against the person, 11 under the Education and 2 under the Road Tax Ordinances, 2 under Control of Prices, and 1 under Censorship Orders.

90 trivial cases were dealt with by the police without bringing them into Court.

There were 15 cases of flogging during the year, viz., 9 for petty thefts, 1 juvenile smoking, and 5 other offences.

(BO PRISONS.

Thirty-seven persons were committed to gaol during the year, an increase of one compared with 1917. The daily average number in gaol was 28.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £101 17s.

(C.) POLICE FORCE.

There were no changes in the regular police force, which consists of one sergeant and four constables.

VII.-VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on 31st December, 1918, was 3,654, an increase of 20 on that on the same date of 1917.

Emigrants numbered 79, and immigrants 23, compared with 54 and 38 respectively in 1916.

Civilian deaths numbered 36, or a rate of 9'85 per thousand, the lowest since 1909. Births numbered 112, or 30'65 per thousand, the highest for the last 10 years. Illegitimate children registered numbered 36 (not including 2 still-born), as against 28 in 1917. Of the deaths registered 9 were over 70, 3 over 80, and 1 of 92 years of age. 19 deaths occurred in Jamestown and 17 in the country districts.

Marriages in 1918 were 37, an increase of 4 over 1917.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Acting Colonial Surgeon reports a slow but steady decline in the general health of the Colony as evidenced by mild epidemics of influenza, dysentery, and chicken pox, none of which, however, was serious. Cases of phthisis and tuberculosis were rare, and only one death was due to these diseases. Dental caries is very prevalent, and runs riot

as there is no dentist in the Colony. It is very largely responsible for the low stamina of the inhabitants and their inability to resist minor diseases. The Island has been fortunate in entirely escaping the universal and so-called Spanish influenza.

(C.) SANITARY.

There is nothing of interest to report from a sanitary point of view.

In the country districts the water supply was somewhat short towards the latter part of the year owing to the continued dry weather.

(D.) CLIMATE.

METEOROLOGICAL STATION, HUTTS GATE.

Barometer.-The mean pressure for the year under report was 28 091, as against 28.104 in 1917.

Temperature.--The mean temperature was 61°·4 compared with 61°·5 for the previous year. 80°·9 was the absolute maximum and this was recorded on the 9th March; 84°·0 was the maximum in the previous year. The lowest maximum, 71°·0, was recorded on the 2nd July. The absolute minimum, 50°·0 was registered on the 12th of August compared with 50°·9 on the 5th September, 1917.

Rainfall.-The total rainfall of 40.13 inches was less than that of the preceding year by 9.30 inches, the total for 1917 having been 49.43 inches. The maximum fall, 172 inches, was registered on the 9th June-9 inches of rain fell in February. August, which is always looked upon a wet month, was particularly dry and mild, only 0.59 of an inch was recorded, which covered a period of eleven days. The number of rainy days was 247, as against 278 in the year before.

Wind.-The mean force was 2·2 which is normal. November was windy, 4 calm days were recorded, 3 days in January and 1 in December. The direction of the wind for the year was :-

E.S.E.	••	..	14 days.
E.		..	3
S.E.		..	238
S.S.E.		..	103
S.		..	3
Calm			4

VIII.-POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.--The gross revenue for the year from all sources amounted to £660 16s. 3d., a decrease of £119 15s. 7d. as compared with 1917. Sales of stamps and postcards (£481) show a decrease of £211.

Expenditure.-Total expenditure amounted to £229 4s. 6d., the lowest recorded for many years.

Money and Postal Orders.-Received and Issued were as follows :- To United Kingdom and Ascension, £2,351 5s. 3d., a decrease of £496 13s. ld.; from United Kingdom and Ascension, £1,191 10s., an increase of £38; to South Africa, £2,114 13s. 9d., an increase of £818 14s. 3d.; from South Africa, £315 4s. 6d., an increase of £75 5s. 10d. Total transactions in these showed a net decrease of £377 compared with 1917.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

Communication by the Eastern Telegraph Company's cables was maintained throughout the year, whilst no changes were made in the

tariff charges. The Company's staff has been permanently reduced and on 31st December numbered 13.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

Receipts for 1918 were £85 5s. 10d. and expenditure £80, as against £64 12s. 4d. ; and £79 1s. 9d. respectively for 1917.

IX.-GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) ROADS.

The year, a very dry one, has been bad for country roads ; it is difficult to say if they deteriorate most in wet or dry weather. A total sum of £900 was expended on them during the year, of which sum £355 3s. 3d. was the proportion of the export tax on fibre and tow to be expended on rural roads. This total sum represents an average of under £24 per mile of road. An average weekly number of 27 men and women was maintained at roadwork and stone breaking throughout the year. A proportion of the men so employed worked in two gangs, each continuously under a volunteering non-commissioned officer from the garrison, a system which proved entirely successful and resulted in considerably more and better work being done. The distances that road metal has to be transported and the fact that it has all to be broken by hand makes road work a slow and laborious business, and without more transport and mechanical contrivances for stone breaking and rolling, the rural roads will continue to be destroyed by the heavy flax traffic.

Roads and bridges in Jamestown were kept in order at an expenditure of £67 11s. 5d.

The amount collected during the year under the Road Tax Ordinance was £58 10s., paid by 390 persons. There were two prosecutions for non-payment of the tax.

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

Seven plots of land about an acre *apiece* were granted by the Commissioners of Crown Property for flax-planting.

The Oakbank estate comprising the dwelling house and 40 acres of land, mostly pasture and wooded, changed hands during the year at a figure representing approximately £27 15s. per acre with the house.

Another freehold property in the west of the island of 69 acres of pasture land without buildings changed hands at slightly above £5 4s. per acre.

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

The rise of wages of 3d. per day to all labour employed by the Government granted towards the end of 1917 has remained in force throughout the year. It appears that the lead thus given to private employers of labour has not been followed in every case.

Owing to Government supply the cost of essential foodstuffs has remained practically stationary, prices throughout the year being as follows :-Flour, 4d. lb. ; bread, 5d. per 1i lbs. ; sugar, 4d. to 5d. lb. ; rice, 3d. lb. and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. lb. for the latter half of the year ; lard, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 1b. ; dripping, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. lb. ; tea, 1s. 8d. and 2s. 2d. lb. ; salt, lid. lb.

Clothes, footwear, and other requirements of life have generally been of inferior quality and high price, rendering existence for the labouring man a difficult problem.

(D.) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

Public Works Department.

Total expenditure for the year under Works Recurrent " amounted to £2,143 6s. 9d. No new constructional work was undertaken, neither could any much needed painting of woodwork, etc., of Government buildings be carried out owing to want of materials.

Public Market.

Early in the year the Board of Guardians decided to close the Public Market in Jamestown, the accounts showing a continually decreasing amount in hand at the end of each year. Any deficit would have had to be met by the ratepayers. From all but the sentimental point of view the step taken seemed a wise one since the market, as such, was of little use to anyone.

(E.) MISCELLANEOUS.

With the close of the War and the probable withdrawal of the war garrison and disbandment of the local Volunteer Corps, the question of the employment of surplus labour will become an important one. The presence of a war garrison, though not affording much in the way of actual labour, has meant much to the poorer inhabitants in numerous ways, and also means a larger circulation of money, which benefits all. The disbandment of sixty odd embodied Volunteers will throw this number of able bodied and young men on to a labour market which in all probability will be unable to absorb them. Possibly when the flax industry is again in full swing, sometime in 1920, there will be more labour required, but with the exception of employment by the Eastern Telegraph Company at Ascension and in their Cable Ship, there is now no outlet for male labour, and none whatever for females. Up to 1913 the natural outlet, South Africa, was much taken advantage of by both sexes, and many females were taken and gave satisfaction as domestic servants. Now, however, the many who would emigrate have to wait for a chance to get away elsewhere, and such chances with the necessary certain employment in view, are extremely rare. With this lack of opportunity for emigration and an insufficiency of work in the Island for an increasing population, a still further lowering of the standard wage and consequent greater penury seems inevitable. In this connection it may be remarked that few who have left the Island in years gone by have returned as unfit for, or undesirable in, the employment to which they went.

The ravages of white ants still continue unchecked, and without expert study to discover some means for their destruction, they will continue. Little seems to be known by entomologists of the one species prevalent in the Island which, with its small area, would make an excellent centre for such study. It is feared that Government House at Plantation, if not already attacked, will shortly be so, as tree stumps fifty yards from the house have been found infested. In default of iron work, the use of white ant-proof wood is the only protection in buildings, but of this there is practically no supply in the Island, and the expense of its importation is a serious consideration.

W. DIXON,

14t.-Colonel R.M.A., Acting Governor.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

19th June, 1910.