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No. 1630

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF

ST. HELENA, 1932

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FOR 1932**

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

ST. HELENA.

St. Helena, 47 square miles in area, the size of Jersey, lies in latitude 15°55' South and longitude 5°42' West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies about a fortnight, and from Cape Town five days.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is not attractive. The Island rises abruptly in steep cliffs, 400 to 2,000 feet in height, pierced by deep narrow valleys. Behind its sombre appearance,

however, the ground advances through pleasant scenery to a serrated ridge stretched across the middle of the Island. There are three peaks with altitudes of approximately 2,700 feet on this ridge from which magnificent views are obtainable.

Situated in the midst of the South-East Trades, far from other lands, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

ASCENSION.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7°53' South and longitude 14°18' West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the Island and affords pasture for about 600 sheep and cattle.

At the present time the Island is an important Cable Station, and its only inhabitants are English and St. Helena employees of the Cable Company.

The St. Helena Development Company, which has interests in the phosphate and mineral deposits on the Island, has temporarily suspended local operations.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1,475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd of April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor, and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th day of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, and fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by "The St. Helena Order in Council, 1929," revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* members, and of such other per-

sons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three Unofficial members of Council.

Subject to the reservation of power for legislation by Parliament and by the Privy Council the Order of 1863 provides for the making of laws by the Governor. It is also laid down under "The Interpretation and General Law Ordinance, 1895," that "a copy of the draft of every Ordinance shall be affixed to a board in front of the Court House for the inspection of the Public for one month before the passing thereof; . . . provided always that in any case in which the Governor-in-Council thinks it urgently necessary to dispense with such public notification . . . he may do so."

ASCENSION.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The Manager of the Eastern Telegraph Company is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502 St. Helena was uninhabited, and so it remained until the East India Company, a century and a-half later, assumed possession and introduced settlers from England.

As a depot for ships trading from the Far East, the Island attracted settlers of Asiatic origin; and for many years St. Helena was also a depot for African slaves who had been liberated after the capture of the slave traders by His Majesty's ships. The Island population to-day is largely of mixed origin.

The English environment which was created by the English colonists was firmly established, and the language of the Island has always been English.

The population as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under:—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Islanders	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents	77	65	142
Other Nationals	2	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Jamestown, including the Briars and Rupert's Valley	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison)	227	263	490
St. Pauls	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain	140	155	295
Blue Hill	140	124	264
Sandy Bay... ..	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate	391	407	798
	<u>1,904</u>	<u>2,091</u>	<u>3,995</u>

<i>Births and Deaths 1932.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000.</i>
Births	152 36.65
Deaths	58 13.99
Infant mortality per 1,000 births ...	131.57

The population of Ascension as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under:—

St. Helenians	152
Other British residents	36
	<u>188</u>

IV.—HEALTH.

The medical establishment during the year consisted of a Colonial Surgeon, a Surgeon Dentist, and at the hospital one English nurse and three St. Helena women in training as probationers.

The Board of Health, composed of three members elected by rate-payers and a Chairman and three members nominated by the Governor, met regularly during the year. Questions relating to the measles epidemic, the isolation of a leper, the quarantine station, the town water-supply, and the medical inspection of schools were considered by the Board.

During the epidemic of measles in the year 1932 there were approximately 2,200 cases or nearly 60 per cent. of the population; but there were no deaths. The epidemic imposed a heavy task on the Health Authorities and brought much distress to the Island. The institution of quarantine measures caused to be thrown out of employment for a time the casual labourers who earn their living by attending to the needs of shipping. The general health of the Island was otherwise good during the year.

The Civil Hospital maintained by the Government is an institution of 14 beds. The attendance of out-patients during the year was 5,471 and there were 152 admissions involving 30 major and 48 minor operations.

Two dressing stations are established at convenient centres in the country districts where 2,807 and 960 cases were treated respectively. Vaccination, as a precautionary measure, is carried out under the Ordinance although there have been no cases of smallpox.

The Poor House, under the management of a Poor Relief Board of five members elected by rate-payers and meeting every fortnight, was visited weekly by the Colonial Surgeon. The health of inmates, who number 26, was good.

A Lunatic Asylum is maintained under the direction and management of the Poor Relief Board, subject to the general control of the Governor. The number of inmates at the end of the year was five. It is visited weekly by the Colonial Surgeon. The health of the inmates during the year was good.

V.—HOUSING.

There have been no developments in this direction during the year, the various projects for building cottages and installing smallholders having had to be postponed until an improvement in the general financial situation.

The schemes for the restoration of some of the dilapidated Government buildings chiefly in Jamestown, and for a new Poor House and Asylum at a cost of £8,500 have been prepared, but owing to lack of funds cannot be proceeded with.

The general situation as regards housing in the Island is unsatisfactory. There is a great shortage of houses in a reasonable state of repair suitable for intending residents. The Government has the utmost difficulty in finding houses for its officials as all its properties, available as residences, require extensive repairs and in part rebuilding.

Over-crowding amongst the working and agricultural classes is serious and is reflected in the high rates for infant mortality with a correspondingly high birth-rate. There is much slum property in Jamestown and in the country a lack of means and land prevents the agricultural classes from building cottages for themselves and working the land. Some doubts have been expressed as to whether the townsmen have the necessary physical development to withstand the more invigorating climate and harder life of the country highlands.

The only legislation dealing with over-crowding is a provision in "The Public Health Ordinance, 1899," which gives the Board

of Health or any Justice of the Peace power to decide the number of persons who may live in any house or room, the minimum space allowed being three hundred cubic feet for each adult.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The prosperity of St. Helena is solely dependent on cultivation of the land. Mr. Mason, an agricultural expert from South Africa, who visited the Island in 1921, came to the conclusion that St. Helena "was a country for the smallholder."

Fibre Production.—The only industry of importance at the present time is the cultivation of *Phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax) and the manufacture of fibre and tow from its leaves.

Flax appears in the agricultural returns for 1873, when 100 acres were said to be given over to its cultivation. In the following year machinery was set up for the extraction of fibre from aloe and from *Phormium tenax*, and from 1875 to 1881 there were exports of fibre from both plants, the highest returns being 100 tons and 83 tons in 1879 and 1880 respectively. Prices then fell, and after 1881 the export ceased.

In June, 1906, a deputation interviewed the Secretary of State for the Colonies and urged the establishment of a Government flax mill in the Island. With the assistance of a grant-in-aid, flax planting was encouraged, an expert was obtained from New Zealand, and the Government Mill was opened in 1907. In 1913 Solomon and Company opened their first mill, followed three years later by Deason Brothers, and in 1923 W. A. Thorpe & Sons also began milling operations. The Government Mill is now leased to Solomon and Company, and under the terms of their lease they are required to accept leaves from the smallholders. At the present price obtaining for fibrous products the Government Mill is the only market the smallholders have for their leaves.

The cultivable, pasture, and forest areas of land approximate 8,600 acres of which 3,250 are now cultivated with flax.

Early in 1932 owing to the fall in price of hemp to £15 all the nine mills on the Island closed down thus causing serious unemployment and privation throughout the Island. As a means for relieving unemployment a subsidy of £3 15s. per ton of fibre produced was approved and the mills were reopened in November.

Particulars of the production, exports, and value of fibre and tow are appended:—

1932.	Produced. Tons.	Exported. Tons.	Average price. London.			
			£	s.	d.	
Fibre	291	234	14	0	0	per ton.
Tow	168	144	8	15	0	„

A factory for the manufacture of rope and twine from the local fibre has been operated for some years by Captain Mainwaring.

Horticulture.—Throughout the year the Union Castle Company placed small but regular orders for the supply to their ships calling at St. Helena of vegetables, fruit, and eggs. The value of the commodities supplied was £316.

Farming.—Farming is carried on to a limited extent to supply local needs in meat, vegetables, and dairy produce, and also to supply His Majesty's ships when visiting St. Helena; and bullocks and vegetables are supplied regularly to Ascension.

Lace Making.—This industry was started in St. Helena in 1897 by Mrs. Jackson, a resident in the Island. She had been impressed with its possibility as an industry for women and girls from the success which had attended a similar enterprise in Madagascar. In 1907 the Imperial Treasury gave a grant to assist and develop the industry and an Association was formed under the presidency of the Bishop with a committee of ladies to assist in the management. The Association dissolved the following year and the industry passed into Government control. A Government lace school was established; but in 1916 the manageress was compelled on account of ill-health to resign her appointment and the school was then closed and has not since been re-opened. Messrs. Solomon and Company have opened a depot in Jamestown where the lace can now be purchased, but the St. Helena lace finds difficulty in competing with machine-made lace and with work of cheaper quality. The efforts to establish this industry have, however, resulted in many Island homes being able to make a small monthly income.

ASCENSION.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during 1932 was 113 of which 60 were exported during the year. In former years the export of turtles was on a considerable scale, 750 being exported in 1834, 600 in 1850 and 650 in 1853.

At Green Mountain the Eastern Telegraph Company possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 27 cattle, 399 sheep, and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £38,360 as compared with £59,182 for the previous year. Imports showed a decrease of £11,654 and exports a decrease of £9,168.

The following table shows under the principal heads the respective values for the past five years:—

<i>Imports.</i>		1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
		£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco ...		29,694	26,596	24,095	23,347	17,122
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...		2,056	2,078	1,088	608	149
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...		16,136	17,960	18,754	19,405	14,167
Miscellaneous and unclassified ...		1,144	771	474	523	791
		<u>49,030</u>	<u>47,405</u>	<u>44,411</u>	<u>43,883</u>	<u>32,229</u>
Bullion and specie ...		—	—	—	—	4,000
Total Imports ...		<u>49,030</u>	<u>47,405</u>	<u>44,411</u>	<u>43,883</u>	<u>36,229</u>
<i>Exports.</i>		1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
		£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand fibre ...		22,515	26,759	11,890	10,975	3,265
„ tow ...		6,933	9,191	4,915	3,693	1,353
„ rope and twine ...		1,246	2,006	2,243	301	925
Other articles ...		573	615	730	330	588
		<u>31,267</u>	<u>38,571</u>	<u>19,778</u>	<u>15,299</u>	<u>6,131</u>
Bullion and specie ...		—	—	67	828	749
Total exports ...		<u>31,267</u>	<u>38,571</u>	<u>19,845</u>	<u>16,127</u>	<u>6,880</u>

Imports.

The decrease in the value of imports, while partly due to reduction in prices of commodities, may also be attributed to the fall in the quantity and value of the principal exports of the Colony, namely fibre and tow, and the consequent reduction in the purchasing power of the people.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported during the years 1931 and 1932 together with the decreases or increases:—

	1931.	1932.	Decrease — Increase +
	£	£	£
Provisions ...	19,835	14,401	— 5,434
Drapery ...	6,417	3,355	— 3,062
Motor-cars and lorries ...	1,195	3,193	+ 1,998
Petrol and oil ...	963	2,500	+ 1,537
Hardware ...	1,079	1,115	+ 36
Beer, wines, and spirits ...	1,546	1,413	— 133
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	920	1,325	+ 405

The undermentioned quantities may also be recorded:—

	1931.	1932.	Decrease — Increase +
Beer, wines, and spirits ...	5,484 gals.	5,278 gals.	— 206 gals.
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	5,623 lb.	5,909 lb.	+ 286 lb.

The countries of origin were as follows :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	39,735	34,848	36,160	35,920	28,732
South Africa	7,595	8,051	5,101	5,218	3,136
United States of America	—	3,112	1,543	900	3,550
Other Foreign Countries	1,700	1,394	1,607	1,845	811

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of food, grain, wine, and tobacco while those from the United States of America comprised petrol, paraffin oil, and motor-cars. Those from other foreign countries were food-stuffs, drink, and hardware.

Exports.

The decrease in the value of exports which call for comment, namely fibre and tow, is due to the fall in market prices of these commodities and the consequent suspension of milling operations and reduction of the quantity shipped. Statistics of these quantities during the past five years are shown in the following table :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Fibre	770	889	540	644	234
Tow... ..	380	505	342	296	144
Rope and twine	26	51	52	23	37

Rope and twine are shipped to England and South Africa while fibre and tow are exported to England and occasionally to South Africa.

The distribution of the total exports of the Colony during the past five years has been as follows :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	29,321	36,175	18,699	15,569	5,774
South Africa	1,946	2,396	1,146	558	1,106

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 3s. to 5s. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. 3d. per day, amounting to 13s. 6d. for a week of forty-five hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is 1s. 9d. for an eight or nine hour day. The wages paid to women are 1s. per day.

In the rope works the average wage for men is 15s. per week, and for women 10s.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is two hundred and thirty-five and in the rope works twelve.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £4 5s., and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

The cost of living is moderate. Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb.; fish is cheap; eggs vary, according to season, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen; and fresh butter is 3s. per lb. while imported butter is 2s. 8d. per lb., fresh milk and fresh vegetables are usually obtainable at reasonable prices; and rice, which with fish forms the staple diet of the St. Helenian, is 2d. per lb.

From time to time accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a genial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £450 to £500 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education in the Colony is limited to primary education. There are three Government schools, one for boys and one for girls in Jamestown, and a mixed school in the country. Three schools are maintained by the Hussey Charity, established in 1865 from the bequest of Rebecca Hussey. Another school is maintained by the St. Helena Benevolent Society founded in 1814, and another is supported out of St. Helena Diocesan Fund which is itself dependent upon voluntary contributions.

A Government grant of £100 is given to the Hussey Charity schools, of £20 to the Benevolent Society School, and of £15 to the Diocesan Fund School. The Government expenditure on education during the year amounted to £848.

The number of children attending the Government schools is 313, and the number at the other schools is 424.

The education is sound in its elementary character and the schools are cheerful and the children bright. The handwriting generally is good, and the girls' needlework is often excellent.

As regards technical education for boys there are some opportunities for training apprentices in the Public Works and Horticultural Departments. St. Helena girls when trained make good domestic servants, and opportunities for their employment and for the employment of youths offer in Ascension, South Africa, and occasionally in England.

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance is under consideration, but there is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness. Most of the Islanders however are members of Friendly Societies which were formed for affording relief and maintenance in sickness and advanced age.

There is a Poor Relief Board, established under the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1914. Its members are elected annually by the rate-payers. The annual revenue of the Board is about £900 to £1,000, derived from a 5d. rate, and a Government contribution of £82.

The average daily number of inmates in the Poor House was 31 during the year.

There are four Friendly Societies for men with a recorded membership of 1,517, but many persons are members of more than one society. The male population of the Island over fourteen years of age may be estimated at approximately 1,218.

A note on the Friendly Societies will be found in the Annual Report for 1931.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union Castle Intermediate steamers. In addition an American steamer running between New York and Cape Town called on three occasions.

Three of His Majesty's ships visited St. Helena during the year, and visits were made by one Portuguese warship and three naval training ships—1 Argentine, 1 Spanish, and 1 German.

A comparison with the shipping before the opening of the Suez Canal is not without interest.

Vessels touching at the Port of Jamestown.

1862.	1932.
249	43

There are 60 miles of road maintained by the Public Works Department, and 51 motor lorries and cars are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire Short-wave Broadcasting Service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balance of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Balance of deposits at 31st December.
	£
1928	16,098
1929	17,369
1930	17,135
1931	18,770
1932	20,620

The increase in 1932 is attributable to the two largest individual accounts which are of comparatively recent date.

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1932, was 216, as compared with 228 on the same date in 1931.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of the year is represented by Stock of the mean market value of £18,083.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom, and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on recurrent works during the year was as under :—

	£
Current repairs	325
Maintenance of roads	800
Maintenance of water system	449

and in addition the sum of £750 was expended on relief works for the unemployed. These works took the form of stone crushing and road repair, and the expenditure includes an amount of £158 representing the cost of clearing the Jamestown Valley water-course which had become choked with boulders and rocks washed down during an exceptional rain storm in the month of May, 1932.

The expenditure on maintenance of the water system includes £110 being the cost of replacing the water piping which was washed away, and augmenting the supply for Jamestown from another spring.

During the year the Public Works Department undertook minor works on behalf of the Admiralty on which the sum of £603 was expended.

No major works were undertaken during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony is so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

By Royal Order in Council of 13th February, 1839, the Supreme Court of St. Helena was established. The Governor acts as Chief Justice and may be assisted by Assessors, who must be Members of Council or Justices of the Peace. By Ordinance 4 of 1927 the Court is empowered to hold Civil and Criminal Sessions at Ascension.

There were one criminal and six civil cases before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court cases are dealt with by the Police Magistrate or by Justices of the Peace.

The number of cases reported to the Police was 127. In 54 cases action was taken in the Police Court resulting in 39 convictions. Of these convictions four were for offences against the person, eight for offences against property, and the others were for minor offences against Ordinances in force.

The Police Force consists in St. Helena of a sergeant and five constables and in Ascension of two constables.

There is a Small Debts Court established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Its jurisdiction is over all requests for the recovery of sums not exceeding £25. The Judge of this Court is usually the Police Magistrate. There were 22 cases brought before this Court during the year, as compared with none in 1931.

Gaol.—The number of persons committed to prison during the year was 19, and six were placed on remand; the daily average being 2.5 as compared with 2.01 in 1931.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Fifteen Ordinances were passed during the year:—

- No. 1.—Co-operative Credit Societies.
- No. 2.—Customs (Consolidation) Amendment.
- No. 3.—Tax Amendment Ordinance.
- No. 4.—Customs (Consolidation) Further Amendment.
- No. 5.—Workmen's Compensation.
- No. 6.—Registration of United Kingdom Patents Amendment Ordinance.
- No. 7.—United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Amendment Ordinance.
- No. 8.—Further Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1930.
- No. 9.—Appropriation Ordinance, 1932.
- No. 10.—Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance.
- No. 11.—Minimum Wages Ordinance.

No. 12.—Customs (Consolidation) Third Amendment Ordinance.

No. 13.—Commissions of Enquiry (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 14.—Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1931.

No. 15.—Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Grants by	Grants-in-	Total	Expenditure.
		Colonial	aid by His		
		Development	Majesty's	Revenue.	
	£	Fund.	Treasury.	£	£
1928	15,549	—	—	15,549	19,671
1929	16,456	—	4,000	20,456	22,385
1930	12,570	—	6,000	18,570	25,820
1931	11,940	6,340	7,000	25,820	27,109
1932	13,817	560	13,500	27,877	18,906

The revenue for the year 1932 as compared with the preceding year is summarized hereunder :—

	1931.	1932.
	£	£
Customs	4,622	4,248
Licences, taxes, etc.	742	642
Fees of office, reimbursements, etc.	1,316	1,025
Rents	916	1,001
Interest	434	431
Post Office	846	769
Miscellaneous	77	2,936
Sale of land	12	17
Ascension	3,515	2,748
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,480	13,817
Colonial Development Fund	6,340	560
Grants-in-aid	7,000	13,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25,820	27,877

The expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under :—

	1931.	1932.
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	920	1,185
Governor and Legal	1,122	1,186
Secretariat	1,100	1,052
Treasury, Customs and Port	762	552
Savings Bank	421	397
Police and Gaol	710	712
Medical	2,683	2,344
Education	840	848
Post Office	378	463
Agriculture and Forestry	1,188	1,008
Public Works Department and Recurrent	3,884	3,748
Miscellaneous	4,193	674
Ascension	2,012	2,025
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Works Extraordinary	20,213	16,194
Reconstruction of Roads, etc., from Colonial Development Fund	3,182	1,412
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,714	1,300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	27,109	18,906

The revenue under the head Customs for the year 1932 shows a falling off of £374 in comparison with the revenue for the preceding year. The decrease would have been substantially greater but for the fact that wharfage dues were increased in the month of April by 50 per cent. under Ordinance No. 4 of 1932, and import duties were increased in December by Ordinance No. 15 of 1932.

The fall in the Customs duties was due to the decreased spending power of the Islanders. The services of labourers from St. Helena engaged by the St. Helena Colony Development Company at Ascension had been dispensed with by September, 1931, and the reconstruction of roads from grants from the Colonial Development Fund had been completed early in the year 1932. Unemployment was further and seriously accentuated when the flax millers, in consequence of the fall in the market price of hemp, suspended milling operations in April, 1932. The situation was alleviated by the expenditure of £750 on relief works and by the recommencement of flax cutting and milling operations in November, 1932, on payment of a Government subsidy of £3 15s. per ton of hemp produced, subject to reduction in the event of a rise in the market price in London.

The revenue for the year 1932 includes under the head Miscellaneous an amount of £2,675 in respect of the appreciation of Savings Bank and other investments held by Government. In the

preceding year the sum of £3,290 was charged to expenditure under the head Miscellaneous in respect of the depreciation of investments.

A statement of the Assets and Liabilities is appended:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash—						
Local Treasury ...	1,415	1	4			
At Crown Agents ...	315	13	11			
Remittances in transit to Crown Agents ...	405	12	10			
				2,136	8	1
Advances—						
Postmaster ...	729	16	11			
Telephone Fund ...	142	5	3			
Other Advances ...	1,413	13	5			
				2,285	15	7
Investments—						
Savings Bank ...	18,083	8	1			
Alexander Bequest ...	1,114	1	11			
Red Cross Society ...	124	6	8			
Botley's Fund ...	6	17	1			
				19,328	13	9
Flax Mill and Machinery				807	10	9
Unallocated Stores ...				1,145	4	8
				£25,703	12	10

Liabilities.

Deposits—						
Savings Bank ...	20,620	0	6			
Postmaster ...	494	1	7			
Alexander Bequest ...	1,114	1	11			
Red Cross Society ...	124	6	8			
Botley's Fund ...	6	17	1			
Alexander Bequest (In- terest a/c) ...	13	6	10			
Telephone Fund ...	90	1	11			
Other Deposits ...	88	12	5			
				22,551	8	11
Bills of Exchange ...				452	19	5
Excess of Assets over Liabilities (Surplus) ...				2,699	4	6
				£25,703	12	10

There is no public debt.

Taxation.

The principal sources of taxation and the yield during the year 1932 are as follows:—

	£
Customs—	
Import duties	2,339
Port and wharfage dues—	
Shipping dues	154
Wharfage dues	1,569
Licences—	
Carriages, carts and horses	74
Motor-cars and lorries	118
Boats	116
Fire-arms and game	48
Liquor	125
Rates—	
Water	76

The Customs tariff was revised by Ordinance No. 15 of 1932 with effect from 10th December. The tariff, while increasing duties on spirits, wines, beer, and tobacco and including a variety of goods not hitherto subject to import duties, excluded essential commodities such as flour, wheat, rice, margarine, milk, cotton piece-goods, drugs and dressings, timber and a variety of building materials, agricultural implements and fertilizers, etc., and imposed light duties on other essential commodities such as sugar (½d. per lb.), tea (5 per cent.), etc. The duty on spirits is £1 8s. 6d. per proof gallon, on sparkling wines 8s. per gallon, on still wines 4s. to 5s. per gallon, on beer and ale in bottles 1s. 4d. per gallon and in wood 8d. per gallon, on cigars 7s. 6d. per lb., cigarettes 5s. per lb., manufactured tobacco 4s. per lb., and unmanufactured tobacco 1s. per lb.

The export duty of 10s. per ton on fibre and 5s. per ton on tow was abolished by Ordinance No. 15 of 1932.

Shipping dues are at the rate of 1s. per ton.

The minimum wharfage dues on a small package of 3 cubic feet and under is 6d. and a similar charge is made for a package containing 10 liquid gallons and under. The charge is increased at the rate of 1s. 6d. for every additional 20 cubic feet and at the rate of 1s. for every additional 20 gallons. The wharfage on bags or sacks varies from 6d. to 2s. each according to weight. Other rates are prescribed for articles not baled, crated, or encased and for animals.

Taxes on carriages and cars are at the rate of 10s. per wheel; on horses and dogs 10s. each, and on boats, according to their capacity, up to £3 for a boat capable of carrying twenty passengers.

Licences under the Liquor (Licensing) Ordinance, 1907, are fifty pounds for a hotel or tavern licence in Jamestown, and twenty-five pounds for a licence in the country. A wholesale licence is £25 and a temporary retail licence is 10s.

Water rates vary from 2s. 6d. on a house the rental value of which is under £10 to £2 when the rental value is £80 or over.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands.

The area of St. Helena is approximately 30,000 acres. Of this area 21,400 acres are uncultivable. The area of cultivable lands is estimated at 8,600 acres.

The number of properties on the Government rent roll amounts to about 608, from which rents approximating £1,100 are derived.

It is difficult owing to the paucity of transactions to arrive at the market value of land.

The only legislation dealing with land is "The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893," which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

General.

Sir Charles Harper, K.B.E., C.M.G., who had been Governor of St. Helena since 1925 left the Island on the 8th of August, and Sir Spencer Davis, C.M.G., assumed office as Governor on the 13th October. During the intervening period Major C. A. C. Lucas, O.B.E., R.M., administered the Government.

Mr. G. C. Kitching, O.B.E., arrived in the Colony and assumed office as Government Secretary on the 13th October.

APPENDIX.

BOOKS ON ST. HELENA OF GENERAL INTEREST.

<i>Title.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>	<i>Price.</i>
"A History of the Island of St. Helena", 1808, by T. H. Brook.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena, 1875" by J. C. Mellis.	L. Reeve & Co., London.	£2 2s.
"St. Helena—the Historic Island", 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
"Napoleon in Exile", 1915, by Norwood Young (Two volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12s.
"St. Helena Who's Who", 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—

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