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No. 1677

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

ST. HELENA, 1933

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FOR 1933**

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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 Capetown. The voyage from England occupies about a fortnight, and from Capetown 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.

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.

St. Helena was discovered by the Portuguese Commander Juan de Novo Castella on St. Helena's Day, 21st May, 1502. The situation of the Island was kept secret from other nations until 1588, when it was visited by Captain Cavendish on his return from a voyage round the world. With the increase of commerce to the east the Island became a port of call for ships of various nations returning from the east. In 1633 it was formally annexed by Jacques Specz on behalf of the States General; but no attempt at colonization was made by the Dutch. On 5th May, 1659, it was annexed by Captain John Dutton who was sent out by the East India Company with an expedition for the purpose. Captain Dutton constructed the Castle, the present headquarters of the Government, where a stone inscribed by him can still be seen.

In a general Charter issued to the East India Company in 1661, the Company was confirmed in its possession of St. Helena, but in January, 1673, the Island was attacked and captured by the Dutch who were driven out the following May by Captain Richard Munden. A Charter was issued by Charles II in December, 1673, regranting the Island to the Company but reserving the allegiance of the people to His Majesty. It remained in the Company's hands until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct government of the Crown by an Act of Parliament of 1833. Modifications in the form of Government were made during the period of the Emperor Napoleon's captivity when the Governor, Sir Hudson Lowe, was nominated by the Crown but appointed by the Company.

ASCENSION.

Ascension Island lies in latitude $7^{\circ} 53'$ South and longitude $14^{\circ} 18'$ 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.

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 persons 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 until it was formally annexed by the East India Company in 1659 there was no settled population. The Island was used during this period as a place of refuge for seamen and others who remained

for varying periods. Some of these left a record of their stay in the Island by inscribing stones with the dates they arrived, and the vessels they came in. With the advent of the East India Company a small population was established, which was added to from time to time by the arrival of officials and merchants, and by time-expired soldiers who remained on the Island. The East India Company also employed large numbers of slaves many of whom were brought to the Island from the Far East, and in 1810 large numbers of Chinese labourers were imported owing to the scarcity of labour in the Island. 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 |
| | <u>1,904</u> | <u>2,091</u> | <u>3,995</u> |

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. Paul's | 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> |

The estimated population on 31st December, 1933, was 4,170.

| <i>Births and Deaths, 1933.</i> | <i>Rate per 1,000.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Births | 116 |
| Deaths | 68 |
| Infant mortality per 1,000 deaths | 172.41 |
| 25354 | A 3 |

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 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 188 |
| | <hr/> |

The population on 31st December, 1933, was :—

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| St. Helenians | 113 |
| Other British residents | 57 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 170 |
| | <hr/> |

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. At the close of the year the appointment of a Second Medical Officer was sanctioned.

The Board of Health, composed of three members elected by rate-payers and a Chairman and three members nominated by the Government, met regularly during the year. The Board had under consideration questions concerned with overcrowding, the cleaning and gutting of fish, and improvements in sanitation.

The general health of the Island during the year has been good. For the first time in the history of the Island a serious motor accident, in which fortunately there were no deaths, placed for a short time a severe strain on the surgical resources of the Civil Hospital. Influenza of a mild type was prevalent in the months of September, October, and November.

The Civil Hospital maintained by the Government is an institution of 14 beds. The attendance of out-patients during the year was 4,560 and there were 128 admissions involving 19 major and 65 minor operations.

Two dressing stations are established at convenient centres in the country districts where 712 and 270 cases were treated respectively. 2,138 visits were made in Jamestown and 781 in the country districts. Vaccination, as a precautionary measure, is carried out under the Ordinance although there have been no cases of small-pox.

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 22, 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.

The general conditions as regards housing continues to be unsatisfactory. In the country areas an attempt at improvement has been made by the Diocesan Finance Board allotting the land forming part of the Episcopal Endowment for smallholdings to be held on a 21 years' lease at a very moderate rental. The allotments have all been taken up, but the resources of the holders, with one exception, have not yet permitted the construction of cottages.

In the latter part of the year information was received of the appointment of an Agricultural Officer, part of whose duties will be to investigate the possibility of establishing smallholdings. These, if successful, will bring some relief in the present shortage of cottages in the country districts.

In Jamestown, where there is much slum property, overcrowding amongst the working classes is assuming serious proportions. Owing to the steep valley in which the town is situated there is very little room for expansion. There are certain vacated military sites where tenements could be constructed, but owing to lack of funds these cannot be proceeded with.

There is also an acute shortage of houses in a reasonable state of repair suitable for intending residents, and the Government has the utmost difficulty in finding houses for its officials. One of the principal firms in the Island has recently purchased two dilapidated properties with the intention of reconstructing and furnishing them, so as to provide suitable accommodation for visitors making a few months' stay in the Island.

The only legislation dealing with overcrowding is a provision in the Public Health Ordinance, 1869, which gives the Board of Health power to decide the number of persons who may live in any one room.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

During the year under review St. Helena experienced one of the severe droughts which were frequently experienced in the earlier history of the Island. The results on farm and vegetable produce and stock have been serious.

The pasturage on the Island, owing to lack of lime is not good; high rates of freight make the cost of importation of fertilizers prohibitive; and the lack of rain was therefore felt severely.

The two years 1932 and 1933 will be remembered in the Island as being the driest within living memory.

The average yearly rainfall may be taken as being from 36 to 39 inches. A drought started in October, 1932, and the total rainfall for the year 1st October, 1932, to 30th September, 1933, was 21.08 inches, being no less than 14.92 inches below the lowest average.

Although during the months of March, May, and July, 1932, exceptionally heavy rains were experienced, the figures being 6.43, 6.46, and 5.50 inches respectively, the total (34.48 inches) for that year was 1.52 inches below the lowest average.

The total for 1933 is 21.65 inches, being 14.35 inches below the lowest average.

The grand total for the two years 1932 and 1933 being 56.13 inches, the final result is, therefore, 15.87 inches below the minimum average.

A remarkable peculiarity, however, about the rainfall of this Island with its small area of 47 square miles is the marked difference in the figures recorded in the various districts.

Fibre Production.—The fibre market showed no improvement during the year and prices continued to be the lowest recorded since the inauguration of the industry in 1907. The manufacture of fibre and tow from New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) is the principal industry in the Island. The effects of a collapse in the market since 1930 have probably been most felt by the smallholders who planted their holdings with flax in the boom period, and who have now no market other than the Government mill for their leaves, or ground available which they can put to other cultivation. About 3,250 acres are now cultivated with flax. Of the nine mills in the Island five have been in operation throughout the year working on an average subsidy of £3 15s. per ton of fibre produced as a measure of unemployment relief.

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

| 1933. | | | | <i>Produced.</i> | <i>Exported.</i> | <i>Average price.</i> | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----|----|----------|
| | | | | <i>Tons.</i> | <i>Tons.</i> | <i>London.</i> | | | |
| | | | | | | £ | s. | d. | |
| Fibre | ... | ... | ... | 855 | 668 | 12 | 18 | 0 | per ton. |
| Tow | ... | ... | ... | 336 | 285 | 9 | 0 | 0 | „ |

Rope Industry.—Small consignments of rope have been exported from time to time by the small factory operated by Messrs. Deason Bros.

Horticulture.—The drought has had a severe effect on potato cultivation, one of the principal crops of St. Helena. The price during the year rose to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb. and for a few weeks the product was unobtainable. Vegetable production was also affected, and a serious shortage was felt during the last half of the year.

The Union Castle Mail Steamship Company have continued to place small but regular orders for vegetables, fruit, and eggs, and much attention is given to fostering this important trade. The value of commodities supplied was £311.

Farming.—Farming is now carried on by only one firm in the Island to supply local needs in meat and dairy produce, and serious losses were occasioned by the drought.

ASCENSION.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during 1933 was 55, of which 48 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 21 cattle, 273 sheep, and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £40,838 as compared with £38,360 for the previous year. Imports showed a decrease of £2,130 and exports an increase of £4,608.

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

| <i>Imports.</i> | 1929. | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Food, drink, and tobacco ... | 26,596 | 24,095 | 23,347 | 17,122 | 17,359 |
| Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ... | 2,078 | 1,088 | 608 | 149 | 620 |
| Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ... | 17,960 | 18,754 | 19,405 | 14,167 | 11,219 |
| Miscellaneous and unclassified ... | 771 | 474 | 523 | 791 | 901 |
| | 47,405 | 44,411 | 43,883 | 32,229 | 30,099 |
| Bullion and specie ... | — | — | — | 4,000 | 1,020 |
| Total imports ... | 47,405 | 44,411 | 43,883 | 36,229 | 31,119 |

| <i>Exports.</i> | | 1929. | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| New Zealand fibre | | 26,759 | 11,890 | 10,975 | 3,265 | 7,553 |
| „ tow | | 9,191 | 4,915 | 3,693 | 1,353 | 1,873 |
| „ rope and twine | | 2,006 | 2,243 | 301 | 925 | 968 |
| Other articles | | 615 | 730 | 330 | 588 | 345 |
| | | 38,571 | 19,778 | 15,299 | 6,131 | 10,739 |
| Bullion and specie | | — | 67 | 828 | 749 | 32 |
| Total exports | | 38,571 | 19,845 | 16,127 | 6,880 | 10,771 |

Imports.

It will be observed that there was a slight increase in the value of imports of food, drink, and tobacco. The decrease under wholly or mainly manufactured articles is attributed to the importation of a large consignment of petrol and oil and more motor cars during the year 1932.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported during the years 1932 and 1933 together with the decreases or increases :—

| | 1932. | 1933. | Decrease — | Increase + |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Provisions | 14,401 | 14,777 | + | 376 |
| Drapery | 3,355 | 3,404 | + | 49 |
| Motor-cars and lorries | 3,193 | 1,101 | — | 2,092 |
| Petrol and oil | 2,500 | 41 | — | 2,459 |
| Hardware | 1,115 | 1,721 | + | 606 |
| Beer, wines, and spirits | 1,413 | 1,527 | + | 114 |
| Tobacco and cigarettes | 1,325 | 1,055 | — | 270 |

The undermentioned quantities may also be recorded :—

| | 1932. | 1933. | Decrease — | Increase + |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Beer, wines, and spirits | 5,278 gals. | 6,667 gals. | + | 1,389 gals. |
| Tobacco and cigarettes | 5,909 lb. | 5,640 lb. | — | 269 lb. |

The countries of origin were as follows :—

| | 1929. | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| United Kingdom | 34,848 | 36,160 | 35,920 | 28,732 | 24,358 |
| South Africa | 8,051 | 5,101 | 5,218 | 3,136 | 3,010 |
| United States of America | 3,112 | 1,543 | 900 | 3,550 | 156 |
| Other Foreign Countries | 1,394 | 1,607 | 1,845 | 811 | 3,595 |

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of food, grain, wine, and tobacco. Those from other foreign countries included building material from France to the value of £1,063, and foodstuffs from the Argentine valued at £681, while the remainder from other foreign countries were foodstuffs, drink, and hardware.

Exports.

The increase in value of exports is accounted for by the continued milling of fibre throughout the year, under subsidy, as a measure of unemployment relief. Statistics of these exports during the past five years are shown in the following table :—

| | 1929. | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. | Tons. |
| Fibre | 889 | 540 | 644 | 234 | 668 |
| Tow... .. | 505 | 342 | 296 | 144 | 285 |
| Rope and twine | 51 | 52 | 23 | 37 | 45 |

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 :—

| | 1929. | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| United Kingdom | 36,175 | 18,699 | 15,569 | 5,774 | 10,356 |
| South Africa | 2,396 | 1,146 | 558 | 1,106 | 333 |
| Argentine | — | — | — | — | 82 |

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. per day, amounting to 12s. 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 slightly under 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day. The wages paid to women are slightly under 1s. per day.

In the rope works the average wage for men is 12s. per week, and for women 5s.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is 222 and in the rope works 11.

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

The cost of living varies greatly. Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb., fish is very cheap, but the supply is extremely limited and scarce in the country districts. Eggs vary according to season from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen, fresh butter is 3s. per lb., and imported butter 2s. 8d. per lb.; fresh milk is 5d. per imperial pint, and the price of fresh vegetables varies with the supply which is very limited at certain seasons. Rice which forms the staple article of diet of St. Helenians is 2½d. per lb.

and potatoes vary throughout the year from 8d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb. The cost of imported groceries on account of lack of communications and freight rates is higher than in the United Kingdom.

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 £500 to £550 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education on the Island is carried on in eight primary schools, while a few children receive private tuition in their own homes. Of these eight schools three are wholly under Government control, two—one for boys and the other for girls—in town, and one mixed school in the country. Three schools are administered by a local board under a Charity Trust, another is administered by the St. Helena Benevolent Society, which was founded in 1814, and the last of the eight, now known as the Holbech Memorial School, after its founder, looks to the Church for its maintenance.

The number of children attending these eight schools during 1933 was as follows:—

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Three Government schools | ... | ... | ... | 291 |
| Three Hussey Charity | ... | ... | ... | 326 |
| St. Helena Benevolent Society | | ... | ... | 59 |
| Holbech Memorial | ... | ... | ... | 42 |

All five non-government schools receive Government assistance, but their financial position is far from satisfactory and application has been made for increased help. Buildings need repairs, more desks and more material are needed; and current expenses exceed their total income.

The work of all the schools has proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year. The children of the Government schools are examined quarterly by the Superintendent of Education, and the other schools annually.

Weekly classes for pupil teachers in their four years' course, and for some of the older children who wish to improve, are conducted by the Superintendent of Education.

On the technical side the boys attend a woodwork class twice a week, where considering the short time they can give to it they produce good work. The girls are taught needlework, knitting, darning, and patching. Their work was examined at the end of the year by competent persons and was highly praised.

There is need for training in domestic economy or for domestic service, if and when funds permit.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness. Most of the Islanders, however, are members of Friendly Societies, which are 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 quarterly 5d. rate, and a Government contribution of £82. The average daily number of inmates in the Poor House was 25 during the year.

There are four Friendly Societies for men with a recorded membership of 1,543, but many persons are members of more than one society. The male population of the Island over 14 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 of the American-South African Line called on four occasions.

The number of vessels which called during the year are as follows :—

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| British vessels | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| British warships | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| American vessel—4 visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Argentine vessel | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Finnish barques | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| | | | | | | | — |
| | | | | | | | 40 |
| | | | | | | | — |

There are 60 miles of road maintained by the Public Works Department, and 56 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, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

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

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

| <i>Year.</i> | <i>Balance of Deposits at 31st December.</i> |
|--------------|--|
| | £ |
| 1929 | 17,369 |
| 1930 | 17,135 |
| 1931 | 18,770 |
| 1932 | 20,620 |
| 1933 | 20,958 |

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1933, was 207 as compared with 216 on the same date in 1932.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of the year is represented by Stock of the mean market value of £19,350.

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 | 225 |
| Maintenance of roads | 942 |
| Maintenance of water system | 296 |

Construction of a Treasury strong room was completed during the year, but with this exception no major works were undertaken. The Department is principally engaged in the current work of maintenance of roads, repairs to Government buildings, and maintenance of domestic water-supplies. The drought experienced during the year made the upkeep of the roads, with the funds available, less difficult than usual. The roads maintained by the Department are the main roads of the Island only, and many secondary roads used by horse and pack transport are in need of repair and improvement. The upkeep of Government buildings is

the cause of much concern to the Department. Ravages of termites and lack of funds in the past have left the Government with a legacy of many public buildings in urgent need of repairs. In spite of the serious drought no shortage of water for domestic purposes was experienced, and supplies were also maintained for the service of shipping. Renewals and repairs have also been carried out to the drainage system in Jamestown.

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.

The Supreme Court of St. Helena which is a Court of Record, was established by Order-in-Council of 13th February, 1839. Subsequent Orders extended its jurisdiction to Matrimonial and Divorce Causes. By Order-in-Council of the 5th of April, 1852, the Governor, in the absence of the Chief Justice, may act as Chief Justice, or appoint some other person to act. The Acting Chief Justice may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be Members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

There were one criminal and four civil cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. One hundred and twenty-three cases were reported to the police during the year. In 54 cases action was taken in the Court resulting in 33 convictions, of which four were for offences against the person, thirteen for offences against property, three for offences against the Motor Regulations, and the others for minor offences against Ordinances in force.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Seven cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with twenty-two in 1932.

Gaol.—Fourteen persons were committed to prison during the year as compared with 19 in 1932; the daily average being 0·8 as compared with 2·5 in 1932.

Police.—The increase in motor traffic has thrown many additional duties on the police.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Nine Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the more important were:—

- No. 1. Customs (Consolidation) Amendment.
- No. 5. Customs (Consolidation) Second Amendment.
- No. 6. Customs Exemption Ordinance, 1933.
- No. 7. Crayfish Export Ordinance, 1933.

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. | £ | £ |
| 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 |
| 1933 | 13,548 | — | 5,000 | 18,548 | 18,617 |

The revenue for the year 1933 as compared with the preceding year is summarised hereunder :—

| | 1932. | 1933. |
|---|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| Customs | 2,362 | 4,754 |
| Port and Marine | 1,723 | 1,471 |
| Licences, Taxes, etc. | 642 | 619 |
| Fees of Court or Office and Re- imbursements | 1,100 | 735 |
| Post Office | 769 | 911 |
| Revenue from Government Pro- perties | 1,089 | 1,119 |
| Interest | 431 | 627 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,936 | 383 |
| Sale of Land | 17 | 3 |
| Ascension | 2,748 | 2,926 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 13,817 | 13,548 |
| Colonial Development Fund | 560 | — |
| Grants-in-aid | 13,500 | 5,000 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 27,877 | 18,548 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |

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

| | 1932. | 1933. |
|--|--------|--------|
| | £ | £ |
| Pensions and Gratuities | 1,185 | 1,059 |
| Governor and Legal | 1,186 | 1,097 |
| Secretariat | 1,052 | 1,021 |
| Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine | 552 | 914 |
| Post Office | 463 | 412 |
| Public Health | 2,344 | 1,997 |
| Education | 848 | 845 |
| Agriculture and Forestry | 1,008 | 560 |
| Police and Gaol | 712 | 649 |
| Public Works Department and Recurrent | 3,748 | 3,324 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,071 | 1,424 |
| Ascension | 2,025 | 2,035 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 16,194 | 15,337 |
| Relief of Unemployment (Flax Subsidy) | — | 3,119 |
| Works Extraordinary | 1,412 | 136 |
| Colonial Development Fund— | | |
| Reconstruction of Roads | 1,300 | — |
| Improvement of Telephone System | — | 25 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 18,906 | 18,617 |

The receipts under the head Customs show an increase of £2,392 in comparison with the revenue for the previous year. This is mainly attributable to the new import duties imposed under the Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance, 1932, which became operative as from the 10th of December of that year, and to these duties becoming preferential rates of duty under the Customs (Consolidation) Second Amendment Ordinance, 1933, which also provided for a General Tariff which came into effect as from the 1st of September.

The decrease of revenue under Miscellaneous is principally due to the inclusion under this head of an amount of £2,675 in respect of the appreciation of Savings Bank investments in the year 1932, as against a sum of £242 during the year 1933.

A statement of the Assets and Liabilities is appended:—

| <i>Assets.</i> | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|--------|----|----|---------|----|----|
| <i>Cash—</i> | | | | | | |
| Local Treasury | 1,894 | 14 | 5 | | | |
| At Crown Agents | 286 | 0 | 5 | | | |
| Remittances in transit to Crown Agents | 489 | 5 | 9 | | | |
| | | | | 2,670 | 0 | 7 |
| <i>Advances—</i> | | | | | | |
| Postmaster | 110 | 8 | 1 | | | |
| Other Advances | 1,186 | 15 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | 1,297 | 3 | 1 |
| <i>Investments—</i> | | | | | | |
| Savings Bank | 19,349 | 19 | 11 | | | |
| Alexander Bequest | 1,092 | 9 | 5 | | | |
| Red Cross Society | 132 | 7 | 3 | | | |
| Botley's Fund | 1 | 6 | 4 | | | |
| | | | | 20,576 | 2 | 11 |
| Flax Mill and Machinery | | | | 734 | 5 | 11 |
| Unallocated Stores | | | | 1,016 | 13 | 2 |
| | | | | £26,294 | 5 | 8 |
| <i>Liabilities.</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>Deposits—</i> | | | | | | |
| Savings Bank | 20,957 | 14 | 11 | | | |
| Postmaster | 277 | 5 | 4 | | | |
| Alexander Bequest | 1,092 | 9 | 5 | | | |
| Red Cross Society | 132 | 7 | 3 | | | |
| Botley's Fund | 1 | 6 | 4 | | | |
| Alexander Bequest (Interest Account) | 13 | 14 | 11 | | | |
| Telephone Fund | 36 | 15 | 8 | | | |
| Other Deposits | 428 | 12 | 9 | | | |
| | | | | 22,940 | 6 | 7 |
| Bills of Exchange | | | | 723 | 17 | 10 |
| Excess of Assets over Liabilities (Surplus) | | | | 2,630 | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | £26,294 | 5 | 8 |

There is no public debt.

Taxation.

The principal sources of taxation and the yield during the year 1933 are as follows :—

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Customs— | £ |
| Import duties | 4,690 |
| Port and wharfage dues— | |
| Shipping dues | 231 |
| Wharfage dues | 1,240 |
| Licences— | |
| Carriages, carts and horses | 68 |
| Motor cars and lorries | 137 |
| Boats | 113 |
| Firearms and game | 49 |
| Liquor | 125 |
| Rates— | |
| Water | 229 |

Provision of a Preferential and General Customs Tariff was made by Ordinance No. 5 of 1933 with effect from the 1st of September. This Ordinance provides for the Customs import duties under the Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance, 1932, to be the preferential rates applying to goods the growth, produce, or manufacture of the British Empire and imposes on other goods increased rates and duties on all imports with only a few exceptions as the General Tariff. Of the commodities admitted thereunder the Preferential Tariff excludes 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 imposes light duties on other essential commodities such as sugar ($\frac{1}{4}$ d. 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 General Tariff imposes on rice, flour, and wheat a duty at the rate of 2s. 1d. per 100 lb. and in addition thereto a surtax of one-quarter of the duty payable; on other goods enumerated in the Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance, 1932, the rates of duty therein prescribed and in addition a surtax of one-quarter of the duty payable; and on goods not particularly enumerated in the Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance, 1932, with a few exceptions a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* and in addition thereto a surtax of one-quarter of the duty payable.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.**Lands.**

The area of St. Helena is approximately 30,000 acres, of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable. Of the cultivable area approximately 4,261 acres are owned by the Government and are in occupation under forms of tenure classified as Crown lease, permanent tenure, and freehold subject to quit rent.

Originally the land of the Island was the property of the East India Company and leased to settlers. These leases at various times were converted in many cases to a permanent occupation subject to the annual payment of a quit rent.

The balance of 4,339 acres is held as freehold property acquired by persons who were permitted to commute their quit rents for a cash payment.

During the year one important land transaction occurred, but the paucity of transactions makes it difficult 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.

Work was begun in December on the reconstruction of those parts of Longwood Old House—the house occupied by the Emperor Napoleon—which had not been completed at the restoration of the building when it was handed over to the French Government in 1858. The work is being carried out by the Société des Amis de Sainte-Hélène from funds obtained by private subscription. At the same time certain articles of furniture in possession of the Government which had been used by Napoleon were presented to the French Government to form the nucleus of a museum which the Société hopes to establish at Longwood.

Mr. P. F. Barton, V.D., arrived in the Colony and assumed office as Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Customs on the 31st March.

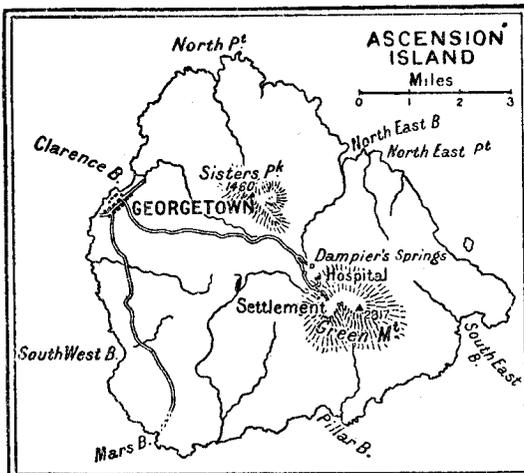
APPENDIX.

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. | — |
| "Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena", by Beatson, London, 1816. | | |
| "Extracts from Records of St. Helena", by H. R. Janisch, C.M.G., Jamestown, 1885. | | |
| "History of St. Helena", English Historical Review, by Sir William Foster, July, 1919. | | |
| "Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena", by D. Morris. His Majesty's Stationery Office. Reprinted 1906. | | |

* This work contains a bibliography of 172 publications referring to the captivity of the Emperor Napoleon in St. Helena.

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