

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1870

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of

ST. HELENA, 1937

(For Reports for 1935 and 1936 see Nos. 1777 and 1827
respectively (Price 1s. od. each).)

Crown Copyright Reserved



LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2;
26 York Street, Manchester 1; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;
or through any bookseller

1938

Price 9d. net

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1937

CHAPTER.	CONTENTS.	PAGE.
I.	GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY	2
II.	GOVERNMENT	3
III.	POPULATION	3
IV.	HEALTH	5
V.	HOUSING	6
VI.	NATURAL RESOURCES	6
VII.	COMMERCE	9
VIII.	LABOUR	12
IX.	WAGES AND COST OF LIVING	13
X.	EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS	13
XI.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT	15
XII.	PUBLIC WORKS	16
XIII.	JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	16
XIV.	LEGISLATION	16
XV.	BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	17
XVI.	PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION... ..	17
XVII.	MISCELLANEOUS	19
XVIII.	GENERAL	19
	APPENDIX—BIBLIOGRAPHY	20
	MAP.	

I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Island of St. Helena, about $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and $6\frac{1}{2}$ broad, lies in the South Atlantic Ocean in latitude $15^{\circ} 55'$ South and longitude $5^{\circ} 42'$ West. It was discovered by João da Nova, probably in May, 1502, on his return voyage to Lisbon from India. Until 1588, when Cavendish visited it, the situation of the Island was kept a secret, and it then served as a place of refuge and refreshment for the vessels of all nations until 1659 when it was annexed by the East India Company. With the exception of a few months when it was captured on New Year's Day, 1673, by the Dutch and recaptured on the 5th May, 1673, by Sir Richard Munden, it remained in possession of the Company until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct Government of the Crown by the Government of India Act of 1833.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands under the East India Company.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd 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 of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, when 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.

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 local Manager of Cable and Wireless, Limited, 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. From 1502 until 1659 it was used by the ships of various nations as a place where travellers and seamen might recuperate, and where fresh water and supplies might be obtained. In 1659 the East India Company sent John Dutton with a few soldiers and followers to annex the Island and form a settlement. These persons constituted the original European settlement of the Island, which from time to time was added to by more settlers and soldiers from England. Slaves from Africa and Asia, and in particular from Madagascar, were introduced, and in 1810 there was a large importation of Chinese workmen. In 1840 there was a considerable influx of liberated African

slaves. A few years later a St. Helena Regiment was recruited in England for service in the Island.

The Island population of to-day is largely of mixed origin. The language of the Island has always been English; but the exceptional English environment is not generally realized by those unacquainted with its people. All St. Helenians receive a primary education and their homes, social life and outlook follows entirely the English tradition.

The population as revealed by the vital statistics shows a rapid and substantial increase. In previous decades a great measure of relief was obtained from emigration to South Africa; but this source of employment is no longer available as the Island people are unable to compete with the cheaper and more powerful coloured labour. Their physique is slight, and, by nature and habit, they are deft and polite, and admirably suited to light trades and employment and domestic service.

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 Ruperts 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, 1937, was 4,415.

Births and Deaths, 1933-1937.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Births	116	101	150	134	132
Deaths	68	47	45	66	32
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	172.4	138.6	80.00	126.87	45.45
Still-births (not included in above) ... ..	...	...	...	...	8
Illegitimate births (included in above) ... ..	...	...	...	...	25
Deaths of infants under 1 year old ... ..	...	...	...	...	6

The population of Ascension on 31st December, 1937, was:—

St. Helenians	...	...	...	...	...	110
Other British Residents	...	...	...	...	...	44
						<hr/> 154 <hr/>

IV.—HEALTH.

The medical establishment of the Island during the year consisted of:—

Senior Medical Officer,
 Medical Officer,
 Dental Surgeon,
 Sister-in-Charge,
 Four Nurses.

From February to November there was only one medical officer resident in the Island.

An additional European Sister was appointed in August.

The Dental Surgeon left the Colony on grounds of ill-health in December and no new appointment had been made at the end of the year under review.

The general health of the population was good throughout the year except in June when there was an outbreak of influenza. Many of these cases were complicated by lobar pneumonia, but none were fatal.

The heavy incidence of malignant disease on this Island is notable. In 1936 out of ten deaths in the hospital two were due to this disease and in their homes two succumbed. In 1937 out of thirteen deaths in the hospital one was due to cancer, and in their homes four succumbed.

Deaths from cancer:—1910-9, 25 deaths; 1920-9, 18 deaths; 1930-7, 29 deaths; and during 1937, two cases left the Island, one cancer of the tongue and one of the floor of the mouth. There is no record of cases of this disease sent away for operation in other years.

The only infectious disease was mild chicken pox.

Scabies is rife amongst the children of the poorer classes.

There was one fatal case of tetanus.

There is one case of leprosy on the Island.

The Civil Hospital in Jamestown has 17 beds.

There is but little surgery in St. Helena, the bulk of the surgical work done consisting of minor operations and dental extractions.

The two dressing stations in the country at Sandy Bay and Hutt's Gate have been visited weekly throughout the year.

Vaccination of all children is carried out under the Vaccination Ordinance of 1854.

The Poor House, which is under the management of a Poor Relief Board, was visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates has been good. The Lunatic Asylum was also visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer and the health of the inmates has been good during the year.

All ships calling at the Island are boarded by the Port Health Officer.

V.—HOUSING.

The condition of the housing throughout the Colony is still the cause of much anxiety. In the course of the year approval was received for the construction of cottages in the country districts by a grant from the Colonial Development Fund. The construction of additional dwellings in Jamestown was also begun. It is evident that measures of a more far reaching character will require to be adopted before any substantial improvements can be expected.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Agricultural and Horticultural Products.

Lily bulbs.—A total of 5,646 bulbs were despatched in two consignments to Messrs. Tucker & Co., during March and April. The bulbs realized good prices at London, and after the Agent's charges, costs of freight, packing, etc., had been deducted the sum of £107 1s. 5d. was available for distribution to the twelve growers who had supplied them. Payments ranged between 10s. 5d. and £28 10s. 6d. to each grower.

Reports as to the growth and flowering of these bulbs in England have been satisfactory. Considerable publicity has been given to the "St. Helena Lily" by nurserymen's advertisements and letters and articles which have appeared in well known periodicals, leading to the view that for the next two years at least, the demand is likely to be well ahead of the supply.

An experiment, on a scale larger than was possible in the previous year, is being conducted in England to ascertain the effects of cold storage on the bulbs in order to determine whether treated bulbs can be used for providing cut flowers for market from November to February.

Some hundred plants of *Lilium sulphurcum* grown from bulbils received from Kew in September, 1936, and a few plants of *L. speciosum rubram* propagated from a single bulb, are flourishing in a nursery bed. This small-scale experiment indicates that the prospect of ultimately producing bulbs of these two species for export is good.

Seeds of 11 other varieties of lilies, the bulbs of which are in demand in Europe, were obtained for trial.

Pyrethrum.—Small samples of dried flower heads (3 lbs.), and of stalks ($3\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.), were collected and prepared over a period of several weeks, from the small plot in the nursery, and despatched to the Imperial Institute in March. The report subsequently furnished stated that the flowers contained a satisfactory pyrethrum content, but that the stalks had no commercial value.

Whilst the quantity of pyrethrum that could possibly be exported from St. Helena would never approach that of other exporting countries it appears there would be no difficulty of finding a market for smaller shipments providing the product reaches a good standard of quality.

New Potatoes.—A consignment consisting of four tons (200 cases) grown in two districts differing in soil types and quantity of rainfall, were packed and shipped to England at the end of November. They reached Covent Garden 24 days after despatch. It was first reported that they had arrived in an unsaleable condition but a later telegram stated that sufficient had been sold to cover the costs of freight. Further experimental shipments will be made.

Geranium Oil.—The work of extending the Geranium plots and of building a still of sufficient capacity to permit the production of sufficient oil for a final test, is contemplated for 1938.

Roman Hyacinths.—The bulbs obtained from Kew and Messrs. C. G. Van Tubergen of Holland at the end of 1936 have now completed two growths and appear to have adapted themselves to the different seasons and conditions.

Lavender.—Several of the plants received from Kew a year ago have made satisfactory growth but no expression of opinion as to the commercial possibilities of this crop is justified at present.

Olives.—Of the 30 young olives purchased from a South African nurseryman and planted in September, 1936, six have succumbed to attack by termites, the remainder now appear to be well established and have made excellent growth during the recent growing season.

Forestry.—No planting could be undertaken during the year and work was mostly confined to cleaning the young plantings of *Podocarpus* and *Cedrela*, and clearing old and damaged trees from areas near the Scotland side of Plantation. Two very large Norfolk Island Pines were removed at White Gate. One of these was in a very dangerous condition, termites having destroyed the centre of the tree for several feet above the ground, leaving a thin cylinder of sound wood underneath the bark. The susceptibility of this species, and of the common

IMPORTS.

The following table shows the value and percentage of the total imports (excluding bullion and specie) for the past five years, and the principal supplying countries:—

Country	1933		1934		1935		1936		1937
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£
United Kingdom...	23,338	78.0	21,329	65.0	18,964	63.0	22,130	67.0	26,687
South Africa	3,010	10.0	6,345	20.0	2,303	8.0	2,824	9.0	2,946
British India					1,678	6.0	2,414	7.0	2,192
Rest of Empire ...					2,384	8.0	2,148	7.0	2,348
Total Empire	26,348		27,674		25,329		29,516		34,173
Foreign Countries...	3,751	12.0	5,032	15.0	4,495	15.0	3,320	10.0	3,655
Totals ...	£30,099		32,676		29,824		32,836		37,828

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of grain, meal, wines, tobacco, fruit and coal.

Importations from other Empire Countries consisted mainly of rice, flour, butter, tea and cheese.

Importations from Foreign Countries consisted mainly of petrol and paraffin oil (from United States of America, value £860), meat, tea, milk and matches.

EXPORTS.

The following table shows the value and percentage of the total domestic exports for the past five years and the principal countries of destination:—

Country	1933		1934		1935		1936		1937
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£
United Kingdom...	10,319	98.0	8,392	95.0	11,155	89.0	15,570	87.0	25,651
South African	165	1.0	422	5.0	1,202	10.0	2,296	13.0	292
Total Empire	10,484		8,814		12,357		17,866		25,943
Foreign Countries...	82	1.0			170	1.0			
Totals ...	£10,566		8,814		12,527		17,866		25,943

The increase in the value of exports is due to an increase in the market value of fibre and to increased exports of this commodity.

RE-EXPORTS.

The following table shows the value of re-exports (excluding bullion and specie) for the past five years, and countries of destination:—

Country	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
United Kingdom ...	£ 5	£ 19	£ 123	£ 15	£ 75
South Africa ...	168	81	135	372	356
Totals ...	£173	100	258	387	431

The following table shows the values of the principal imports for the years 1936 and 1937 together with the increases or decreases and the principal sources of supply:—

Commodity	Principal source of supply	1936 £	1937 £	Decrease— Increase + £
Lard and substitutes and margarine ...	United Kingdom	2,041	2,222	+ 181
Butter ...	United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia ...	701	687	— 14
Meat ...	United Kingdom, Denmark ...	798	954	+ 156
Confectionery ...	United Kingdom	637	646	+ 9
Flour ...	United Kingdom, Australia ...	3,451	5,138	+1,687
Provisions ...	United Kingdom	1,632	1,105	— 527
Rice ...	British India ...	2,225	2,056	— 169
Sugar ...	United Kingdom	1,967	1,923	— 44
Tobacco and cigarettes	United Kingdom	1,088	1,080	— 8
Submarine cable ...	United Kingdom	1,712	—	—1,712
Drapery, apparel, etc.	United Kingdom	2,649	2,902	+ 253
Motor cars and lorries, parts and accessories ...	United Kingdom	1,539	1,785	+ 246
Petrol and oil ...	U.S.A. ...	1,234	926	+ 308
Coal and coke ...	United Kingdom and S. Africa ...	998	1,236	+ 238
Hardware, Machinery, etc.	United Kingdom	1,449	2,373	+ 924
Beer, wines and spirits	United Kingdom and S. Africa ...	1,388	1,656	+ 268

The undermentioned quantities are also recorded:—

	1936	1937	Decrease — Increase +
Beer, wines and spirits ...	6,037 gal.	6,823 gal.	+ 786 gal.
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	6,337 lb.	6,643 lb.	+ 306 lb.

There was an increase in the value of imports principally under food, drink and tobacco (£2,380), raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured (£163), and articles wholly or mainly manufactured (£2,449). The principal increases in

importations being flour, drapery and apparel, motor cars, parts and accessories, hardware and machinery, beer, wines and spirits and coal and coke. Decreases occurred in importations of provisions, rice, submarine cable, petrol and paraffin oil.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

The following table shows the quantities of the principal domestic exports during the past five years:—

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>1933 Tons</i>	<i>1934 Tons</i>	<i>1935 Tons</i>	<i>1936 Tons</i>	<i>1937 Tons</i>
Fibre	668	568	857	804	1,090
Tow	285	447	319	425½	418
Rope and Twine	45	25	11	17½	11½
Totals	998	1,040	1,187	1,247	1,519½

The increase in tonnage of exports is accounted for by an increase in the market value of fibre causing increased sales overseas.

Fibre and tow is shipped to England and rope and twine to South Africa.

The following tables show the imports and exports respectively of coin and notes:—

<i>Imports</i>	<i>1933 £</i>	<i>1934 £</i>	<i>1935 £</i>	<i>1936 £</i>	<i>1937 £</i>
Coin	1,020	800	—	—	—
Notes	—	200	—	—	1,000
Totals	£1,020	1,000	—	—	1,000

<i>Exports</i>	<i>1933 £</i>	<i>1934 £</i>	<i>1935 £</i>	<i>1936 £</i>	<i>1937 £</i>
Coin	32	35	1,440	300	30
Notes	—	—	361	900	3,000
Totals	£32	35	1,801	1,200	3,030

VIII.—LABOUR.

The labour position in the Colony is far from satisfactory as the supply is greatly in excess of the demand. The flax industry in full operation does not employ more than about 320 persons and about 260 are absorbed in Government employment, domestic service and farming, leaving a balance of approximately 100 for whom there is no permanent employment.

To alleviate distress caused by unemployment, relief works are instituted by Government from time to time.

IX.—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. per week of 45 hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

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

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is 324, and in the rope works 15.

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.

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. 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 6d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lbs.

Limited accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a congenial 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.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There was no change in the educational system during the year 1937. There are eight elementary schools and the Superintendent's class for pupil teachers and those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of continuing their studies in some advanced work, which includes English, French, Latin, arithmetic, algebra and book-keeping.

Of these eight elementary or primary schools three are under Government direction, viz.:—

The Boys' School in Jamestown.

The Girls' School in Jamestown.

The Country School at St. Paul's.

The other five schools are under the management respectively of the Hussey Charity Trustees, the St. Helena Benevolent Society and the Diocese of St. Helena and are in receipt of grants-in-aid. These are:—

The three Hussey Charity Schools, Jamestown, Half-Tree Hollow and Hutt's Gate.

The Benevolent Society School at Sandy Bay.

The Holbeach Memorial Diocesan School at Blue Hill.

The number of children attending school continues to increase, 809 being on the roll in 1937, compared to 785 in 1936. Of these 397 were boys and 412 girls. There were 10 pupils in the Superintendent's class.

The work of the schools throughout the year was satisfactory.

There are, as is inevitable, a few instances wherein children have been slack in attendance. These on investigation have usually been due to extreme poverty or domestic difficulties when mothers have been sick and needed a child's attention or been obliged to go out to work with no one to look after the home and the baby. These are exceptional cases for which prosecutions present no cure. There has been remarkably little actual truancy. Generally speaking the value of education is as much appreciated by the parents as by the children. It is only necessary to call to mind the poverty of so many of the homes, the long distance some of the children have to travel, the weather they have to face to realise the sacrifices that are daily being made for the sake of attaining knowledge.

The Children's Lunch Fund, a voluntary effort to which Government in the year under review contributed £30 has proved to be of great benefit in assuring that no poor child shall continue hungry or face a long return journey home unfed. The money received for the purpose proved insufficient to cover the cost during the whole year.

The Coronation festival was marked by a treat and sports day for children on Francis Plain. They were entertained to lunch and tea, and money prizes were given to the winners in the various contests.

Good and useful work was done at the woodwork shop attached to the Boys' School, which is open to all the schools on the Island. Among other things particularly useful work was done in the making of the woodwork parts of dual desks of which the steel supports had been obtained from England.

The Church Lads Brigade, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides continue to do a valuable work in the training of the Island's youth, and naturally receive every encouragement, apart from financial assistance, from the authorities.

Welfare Institutions.

It is hoped that an Infant Welfare Clinic will be established in 1938. The absence of other Welfare Institutions is in some measure compensated for by the local Friendly Societies of which a note will be found in the Annual Report for 1931—Colonial Report No. 1568. The particulars of the Societies are appended below:—

ST. HELENA FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Name.	Men.		Membership.	Invested Funds £
Ancient Order of Foresters	356	1,493
Mechanics Society	510	1,173
Working Men's Christian Association	325	451
Poor Society	402	3,856
<i>Women.</i>				
Church Provident Society for Women	527	1,100
<i>Children.</i>				
Children's Benefit Society	244	145

These Societies offer medical and sick benefits and the subscription varies from 3d. to 1s. per week. The fees are a heavy drain on the meagre wages earned generally in the Island, and the fact is of importance in a general study of local economic conditions. The Mechanic's Society will celebrate its centenary in 1938.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is a regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union-Castle intermediate steamers. In addition an American steamer of the American-African Line called on three occasions.

The vessels which called during the year were as follows:—

British vessels	28
British warships	5
American vessels	3
Other foreign vessels	2
Yachts	3
	41

Forty-one miles of roads are maintained by the Public Works Department, and although grades are steep and in some places narrow, the roads of the Island compare very favourably with those in other countries.

Eighty-three motor cars and lorries 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.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The usual programme of road works, the maintenance of water supplies of the Island, the drainage system in Jamestown and various minor works have been undertaken in the course of the year. Important items have been the repair of the wharf steps, reconstruction of the Briars-New Bridge Road and the reconstruction of New Bridge.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

In addition to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony consists of so much of the law of England for the time being as is applicable in the light of local circumstances.

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 an Order in Council of the 3rd October, 1935, it is lawful for the Supreme Court to be held before the Governor of the Colony or other proper person appointed by him; and the Governor may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be Members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

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

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. There were 82 cases dealt with during the year as compared with 137 the previous year.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Two cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with the same number the previous year.

Gaol.—During the year 18 persons were committed to prison as compared with 19 in 1936.

Police.—There have been no serious criminal cases.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Nine Ordinances were enacted during the year, of which the most important were the Liquor (Licensing) Ordinance, repealing the Liquor (Licensing) Ordinance, 1907; the Pharmacy and

~~Poisons Ordinance~~; the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, repealing ~~the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1929~~; the Factories Ordinance, and the Forestry Ordinance.

XV.—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>
	<i>£</i>
1933	20,958
1934	21,200
1935	22,527
1936	23,744
1937	25,033

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1937, was 240 as compared with 244 on the corresponding day of 1936.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank Deposits at the end of the year is represented by stock of the mean market value of £22,282.

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.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue collected during the year, including a free grant of £250 from the Colonial Development Fund, amounted to £41,436 being £22,476 in excess of the Estimates, and showing an increase of £18,238 over the revenue of the previous year. There was no grant-in-aid in 1937.

The increase of Revenue over the Estimates was mainly attributable to large sales of St. Helena and Ascension Coronation stamps to dealers overseas, namely increases of £10,240 and £11,022 respectively, and to customs duties (increase £526), port and marine, wharfage and shipping dues (£188),

due to importations of cigarettes, tobacco and alcoholic spirits being greater than the amount estimated for, and increased tonnages of imports and exports.

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

Year.	Revenue.	Grants by Colonial Development Fund.	Grants-in- aid by His Majesty's Treasury.	Total Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£	£
1933 ...	13,548	—	5,000	18,548	18,600
1934 ...	21,974	—	2,500	24,474	23,700
1935 ...	21,089	—	—	21,089	20,400
1936 ...	20,198	—	3,000	23,198	19,500
1937 ...	41,186	250	—	41,436	23,100

The Revenue for the year 1937 as compared with the preceding year is summarised hereunder:—

	1936.	1937.
	£	£
Customs ...	5,037	5,270
Port and Marine ...	1,498	1,580
Licences, Taxes, etc. ...	660	670
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements...	660	740
Post Office ...	4,462	14,400
Revenue from Government Properties ...	1,264	1,120
Interest ...	20	220
Miscellaneous ...	24	300
Ascension ...	6,573	17,070
Grant-in-aid ...	3,000	—
Grant from Colonial Development Fund ...	—	2,500
	<u>£23,198</u>	<u>£41,436</u>

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

	1936.	1937.
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities ...	1,026	1,540
Governor ...	1,289	1,080
Secretariat ...	1,063	1,500
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine...	867	800
Post Office ...	682	1,100
Public Health ...	2,628	3,200
Education ...	1,000	1,200
Agriculture and Forestry ...	1,346	1,300
Police and Gaol... ..	824	800
Public Works Department and Recurrent ...	3,049	3,200
Miscellaneous ...	1,671	1,200
Ascension ...	2,225	2,500
Public Works Extraordinary ...	1,899	3,100
Colonial Development Fund ...	—	2,500
	<u>£19,569</u>	<u>£23,100</u>

The statement of the Assets and Liabilities of St. Helena as at 31st December, 1937, shows: assets £53,122, liabilities £27,335.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands.

A note on the land tenures of the Island will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

The distribution of land is approximately as follows:—

	<i>Number of Holdings.</i>
Under 10 acres	414
Over 10 and under 50	57
Over 50 and under 100	9
Over 100 and under 500	7
Over 500 and under 1,000	2
Over 1,000	Nil

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

The area of the Island is approximately 30,000 acres of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable.

XVIII.—GENERAL.

The Governor of the Colony, Sir Spencer Davis, C.M.G., left the Colony on retirement on the 25th October.

APPENDIX.

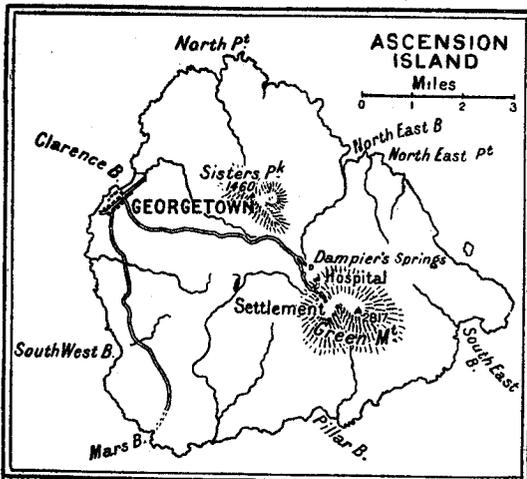
BOOKS ON ST. HELENA OF GENERAL INTEREST.

<i>Title.</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>	<i>Price.</i>
"A History of the Island of St. Helena," 1808, by T. H. Brooke. 2nd Edition, 1824.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena," by J. C. Mellis, 1875 ...	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.	—
"On board a Union Steamer," 1822, by Capt. S. P. Oliver.	W. H. Allen & Co., Ltd., London.	8s.
"Campbell's Political Survey of Great Britain," 1774.	—	—
"A Tour through St. Helena," by Capt. John Barnes, R.N., 1817.	J. M. Richardson, London.	—
"Six months on Ascension," by Mrs. Gill, 1878.	John Murray, London.	Out of print.
"Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena," by Beatson, London, 1816.	G. and W. Nicol, and J. Booth, London.	—
"Extracts from Records of St. Helena," by H. R. Jantsch, C.M.G., 2nd Edition, 1908.	"Guardian" Printing Office, Jamestown.	—
"History of St. Helena," English Historical Review, by Sir William Foster, July, 1919.	—	—
"The Loss and Recapture of St. Helena," by C. R. Boxer, The Mariners Mirror No. 4, October, 1930.	—	—
"The Earliest Exile of St. Helena Fernao Lopez," by Hugh Clifford, Blackwoods Magazine, May, 1903.	—	—
"Report to the Secretary of State for India in Council on the Records of the India Office," by F. C. Danvers, 1888.	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	—
"The Africa Pilot," Part II, 8th Edition, 1930.	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	—
"A Historical Geography of the British Colonies," by Sir C. P. Lucas, Vol. III, Oxford, 1913.	—	—
"The Voyage of the Beagle," by Charles Darwin, Many Editions.	—	—
"Ste. Hélène," by E. Masselin, Henri Plon, Paris, 1862.	—	—
"St. Helena by a Bird of Passage," 1865.	Houlston and Wright, London.	—
"A Guide to St. Helena," by Joseph Lockwood, 1851.	Geo. Gibb, St. Helena.	—
"A Few Notes on St. Helena," by Benjamin Grant, 1883.	—	—

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

<i>Title</i>	<i>Publishers or Agents.</i>	<i>Price.</i>
"A Description of the Island of St. Helena," Anonymous. 1805.	R. Phillips, London.	—
"Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena," by D. Morris, Reprinted in 1906. (Cd. 3248, Colonial Report Misc. No. 38.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	3½d.
"Geological Notes on St. Helena, by various writers, with remarks on the Economic Geology of that Island, and Geological Map," by Sir Albert Kitson, C.M.G., C.B.E., April, 1931, (Colonial No. 66).	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1s. 3d.
"Report on the Fisheries of St. Helena," by J. T. Cunningham, M.A., F.Z.S., 1910. (Cd. 4998, Colonial Report Misc. No. 69.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1½d.
"Report on the Marine Molluscan Fauna of the Island of St. Helena," by Edgar A. Smith, 1890. Proceedings of Zoological Society of London, 1890, Part II, pp. 247-317.	—	—
"The Marine Fisheries and Invertebrates of St. Helena," by J. T. Cunningham, 1911.	—	—
"The Manatee of St. Helena," by T. H. Mortensen, Copenhagen, 1933.	—	—
"Ste. Hélène," par Octave Aubry ...	Flammarion, Paris.	25 francs.
"Island Life," by A. R. Wallace, 1880	MacMillan & Co., London.	—

(13371-47) W.L. 2728-4154 625 12/38 P. St. G 37717.



1st. Class Roads ———
(suitable for Motor Vehicles)
2nd. Class Roads ———

ST HELENA I.

