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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1938

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Island of St. Helena, about 10½ miles long and 6½ broad, lies in the South Atlantic Ocean in latitude 15° 55' South and longitude 5° 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.

The Crown did not assume occupation of the Island until the 24th February, 1836, when Major-General Middlemore landed with a small garrison. With the increase in shipping

from the East the Colony enjoyed about 30 years of great prosperity but the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 caused trade to be diverted to the Mediterranean. With the number of ships calling at Jamestown steadily decreasing every year St. Helena entered on a severe economic decline from which it has not yet emerged.

The climate of St. Helena has been the subject of acute controversy in the past, but it is now generally conceded that it is mild and equable and very healthy.

The four seasons of the year are not sharply differentiated. Spring may be said to exist from October to December, summer from January to March, autumn from April to June and winter from July to September.

Although the Island is situated in the heart of the South East Trades and surrounded by the cold South Atlantic current there are considerable varieties of temperature and rainfall between the coastal and hill zones.

In Jamestown the average annual rainfall is about 9 inches whilst in the hills it averages between 30 and 40 inches. Temperatures show similar differences. In Jamestown it varies between 68° and 90° in summer and between 57° and 70° in the winter. On the hills it is about 10° colder.

Storms are very uncommon and although the trade wind blows steadily throughout the year it rarely exceeds 50 miles per hour. Thunderstorms are almost unknown, the last one recorded being in 1897 when hail fell. Four earthquake tremors have been recorded in 200 years, the last being in 1864.

The climate, generally, is completely free from any of the evils of tropical or sub-tropical climates and no particular precautions are needed. The sun may be oppressive at times of exceptional drought and in the summer in Jamestown, but fatal results from exposure to it are extremely rare.

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.

TRISTAN DA CUNHA.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of January, 1938, Tristan Da Cunha and the associated Islands of Nightingale, Inaccessible and Gough were made Dependencies 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 ships of all 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. This was followed in 1840 by a considerable influx of liberated African slaves. A few years later the St. Helena Regiment was recruited in England for service in the Island. The men of this Regiment were given certain facilities in regard to the acquisition of land and many of them formed permanent associations with the Island by intermarriage.

The Island population to-day is largely of mixed origin. Many of the present inhabitants bear the same names as the early settlers and some families are able to trace their descent to

the refugees from the City of London after its destruction by fire in 1666. The language of the Island has always been English, and the English environment has become firmly established.

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 tables:—

<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, 1938, was 4,474.

Births and Deaths, 1932-1938.

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Births	152	116	101	150	134	132	168
Deaths	58	68	47	45	66	32	61
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	131.5	172.4	138.6	80.00	126.87	45.45	107.14
Still-births (not included in above) ... ..	...	...	7	8	8	8	5
Illegitimate births (included in above) ... ..	...	...	33	36	25	38	38
Deaths of infants under 1 year old ... ..	...	...	12	17	6	18	18

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>

The population on the 31st December, 1938, was:—

St. Helenians	108
Other British Residents	51
	<u>159</u>

IV.—HEALTH.

The Medical Establishment of the Colony is as follows:—

Senior Medical Officer.
Medical Officer.
Matron.
Nursing Sister.
Four Nurses.

Towards the end of the year the Government entered into an arrangement with a private dental practitioner whereby; in return for a fixed grant from Government funds, he is to provide free dental services to school children and to the poor.

The general health of the population throughout the year was affected by lack of employment and increased malnutrition was evident. The people as a whole have always been susceptible to ailments of the influenza type and there was a marked increase in this disease throughout the year particularly during an unusually severe winter.

A case of anthrax was unusual, this disease not having been recorded for very many years. Cases of mild chickenpox appeared among the school children from time to time. Five cases of Beri-beri were admitted to hospital in the year and efforts to combat this disease are being made by the free issue of vegetables and yeast tablets to the poorer members of the population.

Civil Hospital.—There are 19 beds at the civil hospital and the number of admissions was 321. This figure is unusually high, but the inhabitants are encouraged to enter the hospital for treatment rather than to remain at home, often in the most unsatisfactory surroundings.

Infant Welfare Clinics.—Two centres for Child Welfare were opened during the year and have been well attended. The first centre was opened in Jamestown in February and the second at Hutt's Gate in October, the former has 70 children on the register with an average attendance of 25, the corresponding figures for the Hutt's Gate Centre are 77 and 65.

Much valuable work has been done at these centres.

Poor House and Lunatic Asylum.—These two institutions are under the management and control of the Poor Relief Board, the medical supervision being the charge of the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates has been good, but there is wide scope for improvement in the accommodation provided at both places.

Port Health.—The Senior Medical Officer is also Port Health Officer.

V.—HOUSING.

The conditions of the housing throughout the Colony is one of the chief problems before the Government. During the year, five new cottages each with an acre of good cultivable land were completed and the construction of two others was begun. It is hoped to accelerate this programme in the future.

The preliminary work has also been undertaken for the repair and reconstruction of cottages in the country districts by the issue of material against repayment by instalments. In Jamestown the problem of improving the housing is more complex and cannot be undertaken without skilled advice. The appointment of a qualified Public Works Engineer has, however, been approved.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Agricultural and Horticultural Products.

Much progress has been made during the year with the development of the agricultural station in order that it may become the centre for agricultural and horticultural information based upon the results of experiment.

Measures for the prevention of soil erosion have also been taken at Half Tree Hollow and a beginning has been made with the introduction of "terracing" in the gardens that form part of the Government's Country Housing Scheme. The planting of "live" hedges around the Government estates has also been completed and experience gained in the construction of dry stone walls.

Lily Bulbs.—During April, 9,250 bulbs of *Lilium longiflorum* were exported. This was an increase of 3,500 over the previous year. The progress made by this industry continues to be very promising. With the help of the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, a display of the lilies in flower was arranged for a few weeks at the St. Helena stall in the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow. Photographs of a field of lilies in full flower, taken in St. Helena, were also exhibited. At the close of the Exhibition these were passed to the Director of the Imperial Institute for permanent display. Copies were also made for future use at various exhibitions by the Colonial Empire Marketing Board.

The small plots of *Lilium speciosum rubrum* and *Lilium myriophyllum* var. *superbum* (*L. sulphureum*) were increased as much as possible and the prospects for producing the bulbs of these lilies for export continues to be promising.

Five hundred bulbs of the Japanese *Lilium longiflorum* were imported from England in March and commenced to grow

immediately after being planted. The first flowering took place in June-July, and, after a brief rest, the plants made a secondary growth towards the end of the year, which brought them into line with the flowering season of the local lilies. It is satisfactory to record that the second growth was stronger than the first and the number of flowers borne by each stem increased by more than 100 per cent.

Pyrethrum.—The small plots established in the trial grounds of the department again flowered very well at the end of the year and continue to justify the view that the production of pyrethrum for export is well worth following up.

The wet weather during the flowering period has shown that the drying of flowers on any large scale will require provision for drying sheds at Jamestown where the fresh flowers could be taken and prepared for shipment.

New Potatoes.—Previous attempts to ship potatoes to England for the Christmas market have been inconclusive, and it is considered that the packing was mainly responsible for failures. Compared with other exporting countries the difficulties of despatch from St. Helena are the time which must elapse between digging and arrival at the market, which amounts to some 18 to 21 days, and the fact that the potatoes must be carried through the equatorial belt. Attempts have, therefore, been made to ascertain the best method of packing and, at the end of November, 18 packages containing 936 lb. of potatoes were despatched to England for inspection by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The report of the Department on the different methods of packing which were used in this shipment has not yet been received.

Geranium Oil.—A still of much larger capacity than the one previously used was constructed locally and erected on a suitable site at the Agricultural Station. Although the still cannot be considered entirely satisfactory for experimental work, a few ounces of oil of each of the five different kinds of Pelargoniums under cultivation were obtained by the end of the year. It is planned to obtain about 1½ lb. of oil from each variety before submitting them for examination, but, as the geranium plots are small, it is estimated that this amount cannot be obtained before the latter part of 1939.

A quantity of lemon grass was distilled and gave a good clear oil.

Five pints of Eucalyptus oil (*Eucalyptus globulus*) was also distilled and sent to the hospital. This proved to be very useful during the epidemic of colds and influenza which prevailed during the winter months.

Carob Beans (*Ceratonia Siliqua*).—Early in the year seeds of this tree were obtained from France. Some 200 plants were raised and planted and are growing satisfactorily.

Fodder Crops.—Uba Cane. The plants in the Nursery continue to flourish and a few were used to provide material for planting two small plots in the field below Plantation House.

Napier Grass.—These plants were raised from seeds obtained from Amani and proved a better type than those propagated from the solitary plant discovered at Prospect and removed to Scotland in 1936. They have made good growth and will provide a good quantity of planting material.

Dunn's Finger Grass.—This grass has proved to be the most successful of five different kinds obtained from the Department of Agriculture, South Africa, and a larger plot has been planted on a steep slope where the soil is of a friable and dusty nature. By the end of the year the grass was forming an excellent cover.

St. Helena Growers' Association.—Progress was made in the sale of produce to vessels of the Union-Castle Line, and the gross receipts since the inauguration of this trade were:—1931, £250; 1932, £339; 1933, £318; 1934, £368; 1935, £427; 1936, £578; 1937, £645; and 1938, £724.

Rat Campaign.—26,946 rats were destroyed during the course of the year.

Fibre Industry.—All the flax mills were closed for the greater part of the year on account of the fall in world prices.

Particulars of production and exports, etc., are as follows:—

	Produced	Exported	Average price per ton London		
			£	s.	d.
	Tons	Tons	£	s.	d.
1934—Fibre	821	568	12	0	0
Tow	401	447	8	0	0
1935—Fibre	578	857	13	15	0
Tow	220	319	9	10	0
1936—Fibre	850	804	17	8	4
Tow	426	425	13	4	2
1937—Fibre	1,046	1,090	23	5	0
Tow	486	418	15	3	0
1938—Fibre	329	284	16	7	6
Tow	200	200	11	11	8

ASCENSION.

At Green Mountain, Cable and Wireless, Limited, 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, 496 sheep and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The main foodstuffs that are required to be imported into the Colony are flour, rice, sugar, lard and lard substitutes, margarine, salted meat and provisions.

The principal exports are New Zealand Fibre (*Phormium Tenax*) and its bi-product tow, which together form 87 per cent. of the total exports.

There is a small trade in supplying vegetables to ships.

During the year under review the London market price of fibre fell to a lower level than that obtaining for two years past and resulted in the closing of a number of flax mills and a substantial decrease in the exports of this commodity.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £44,394, as compared with £63,771 for the previous year. Imports showed a decrease of £215 and exports a decrease of £19,162.

The following tables show the principal heads and respective values for the past five years:—

<i>Imports</i>					
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco ...	17,545	17,487	18,861	21,241	21,756
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	1,145	.966	1,152	1,315	1,053
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	13,986	11,371	12,823	15,272	14,804
Miscellaneous and unclassified	—	—	—	—	—
	32,676	29,824	32,836	37,828	37,613
Bullion and specie ...	800	—	—	—	—
	£33,476	29,824	32,836	37,828	37,613
<i>Domestic Exports</i>					
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand fibre ...	5,759	9,782	12,989	21,210	4,006
New Zealand tow ...	2,457	2,005	4,299	4,107	1,891
New Zealand rope and twine	498	237	417	292	337
Other articles (wool, etc.) ...	100	503	161	334	547
	£8,814	12,527	17,866	25,943	6,781
<i>Re-exports</i>					
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
	£	£	£	£	£
Other articles ...	100	258	387	431	1,933
Bullion and specie ...	35	1,440	300	30	—
	£135	1,698	687	461	1,933

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	1934		1935		1936		1937		1938	
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	21,329	65	18,964	63	22,130	67	26,687	70	23,553	63
South Africa ...	6,345	20	2,303	8	2,824	9	2,946	8	1,953	5
British India ...			1,678	6	2,414	7	2,192	6	2,282	6
Rest of Empire }			2,384	8	2,148	7	2,348	6	1,870	5
Total Empire ...	27,674		25,329		29,516		34,173		29,658	
Foreign Countries...	5,002	15	4,495	15	3,320	10	3,655	10	7,955	21
Total ...	32,676		29,824		32,836		37,828		37,613	

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 U.S.A., value £1,717), meat, tea, milk, lard, flour, matches and timber.

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	1934		1935		1936		1937		1938	
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	8,392	95	11,155	89	15,570	87	25,651	99	5,993	88
South Africa ...	422	5	1,202	10	2,296	13	292	1	440	7
Total Empire ...	8,814		12,357		17,866		25,943		6,433	
Foreign Countries...			170	1					348	5
Total ...	8,814		12,527		17,866		25,943		6,781	

The decrease in the value of exports is due to the closing of eight fibre mills owing to the decrease in the market value of fibre.

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	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
United Kingdom... ..	19	123	15	75	12
South Africa	81	135	372	356	173
High Seas (Cables) Norseman)	—	—	—	—	1,700*
Argentina... ..	—	—	—	—	48
	100	258	387	431	1,933

* Submarine Cable.

IMPORTS.

The following table shows the values of the principal imports for the years 1937 and 1938, together with the increases or decreases, and the principal sources of supply:—

Commodity	Principal source of supply	1937 £	1938 £	Decrease— Increase+ £
Lard and lard substitutes and margarine	United Kingdom, Argentina ...	2,222	2,153	— 69
Butter	South Africa, Eire, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina ...	687	862	+ 175
Meat	United Kingdom, Denmark, Argentina, Lithuania ...	954	1,276	+ 322
Confectionery	United Kingdom	646	706	+ 60
Flour	United Kingdom, Australia, S. Africa, Argentina ...	5,138	4,582	— 556
Provisions	United Kingdom	1,105	1,743	+ 638
Rice	British India, Argentina, Siam...	2,056	2,418	+ 362
Sugar	United Kingdom	1,923	1,867	— 56
Tobacco and cigarettes	United Kingdom and S. Africa	1,080	1,037	— 43
Drapery, apparel, etc.	United Kingdom	2,902	3,261	+ 359
Motor cars and lorries, parts and accessories ...	United Kingdom	1,785	740	— 1,045
Petrol and oil ...	U.S.A.	926	1,787	+ 861
Coal and coke ...	United Kingdom and S. Africa ...	1,236	324	— 912
Hardware, Machinery, etc.	United Kingdom	2,373	2,813	+ 440
Beer, wines and spirits	United Kingdom and S. Africa ...	1,656	1,697	+ 41

The undermentioned quantities are also recorded:—

	1937	1938	Decrease — Increase +
Beer, wines and spirits ...	6,823 gal.	7,208 gal.	+ 385 gal.
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	6,643 lb.	7,061 lb.	+ 418 lb.

There was an increase in the value of imports under food, drink and tobacco (£515), and a decrease under raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured (£262), and articles wholly or mainly manufactured (£468). The principal increases in importations being butter, meat, provisions, rice, drapery, petrol and oil, hardware and machinery. The principal decreases occurred in importations of flour, motor cars and lorries, etc., and coal and coke.

EXPORTS.

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

Commodity	1934 Tons	1935 Tons	1936 Tons	1937 Tons	1938 Tons
Fibre	568	857	804	1,090	284
Tow	447	319	425½	418	199½
Rope and Twine	25	11	17½	11½	14
Totals... ..	1,040	1,187	1,247	1,519½	497½

The decrease in tonnage of exports is accounted for by the closing of eight flax mills owing to the decrease in the market value of fibre.

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:—

Imports of coin and notes	1934 £	1935 £	1936 £	1937 £	1938 £
Coin	800	—	—	—	—
Notes	200	—	—	1,000	—
Totals	£1,000	—	—	1,000	—

Exports of coin and notes	1934 £	1935 £	1936 £	1937 £	1938 £
Coin	35	1,440	300	30	—
Notes	—	361	900	3,000	1,300
Totals	£35	1,801	1,200	3,030	1,300

VIII.—LABOUR.

The labour position in the Colony continues to be unsatisfactory, and the closing of all the fibre mills for the greater part of the year necessitated the employment of large numbers of unemployed on various minor works as a form of relief.

At the close of the year arrangements were being completed for four mills to be operated on a Government subsidy. The agreement provides for paid holidays, a minimum wage of 10s. 6d. per week, overtime rates and a 50-hour week for the workers.

The numbers for whom no permanent employment can be provided continue to increase, and if the claims of youths between the ages of 18 and 21 are taken into consideration, it is estimated that with all the flax mills in operation 180-200 men would still have no permanent work and would have to be employed on public relief works. It is only rarely, however, that the total number of mills, nine in all, are in operation continuously.

The most notable advance in the improvement of labour conditions was the increase in the Government rate of wage from 12s. to 15s. per week.

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. 6d. per day amounting to 15s. 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 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day.

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.

Good meat 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 lb.

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 including the cost of motor transport, which is heavy, 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 1938. There are eight elementary schools and the Superintendent's class for pupil teachers and for those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of continuing their studies in some subjects, which include 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 management of the three Government schools comes directly under the Board of Education. Of the five other schools, the three Hussey Charity Schools are managed by the Local Trustees of the Charity, the Sandy Bay School by the St. Helena Benevolent Society and the Holbech Memorial School at Blue Hill by the diocese of St. Helena.

The expenditure on education as approved in the Colony's Estimates was £1,180 which included a grant-in-aid to the non-official schools of £280.

The numbers of children attending the eight schools are as follows:—

Government:

The Boys' School	...	...	...	82
The Girls' School	...	...	...	142
The Country School	...	...	...	108

332

Non-Government:

Half Tree Hollow	...	...	...	121
Hussey Charity	...	...	...	120
Hutt's Gate	...	...	...	147
Sandy Bay	...	...	...	57
Blue Hill	...	...	...	35

480

Total 812

There is no secondary education in the Colony. There are no exclusively European schools in the Colony and all the schools are of the same class and standing. Education is wholly primary with the exception of a pupil teachers class held one day a week by the Superintendent of Education.

The teaching staffs are recruited under a system of pupil teachers who take a four years' course under the direction of the Superintendent of Education.

Vocational Training.

The woodwork class at the Government Boys' School has been extended and has proved useful in teaching the senior boys of the two town schools the elements of carpentry and how to handle and take care of tools.

The continuation class for girls, also started during the year, is a continuance of the needlework begun at the primary school and belongs to the post-elementary period.

The medical officers keep in touch with the schools and send in their own reports to the Government. Instruction in simple hygiene is part of the school's curriculum.

The facilities for playing games at the schools are poor and should be improved as soon as funds permit. Outside of school the boys enjoy opportunities of cricket and football practice in which many learn to excel and later on take their places in the Island leagues.

There is also room for a great deal of improvement in school buildings and equipment.

Religious instruction is given in all the schools and, of the 344 school population in Jamestown, 240 attend the Church Sunday School and others the Baptist and Salvation Army Sunday Schools. In addition there are vigorous groups of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides who, considering the poverty of the children and the very limited resources, reflect much credit on both movements and the labours of the organizers.

The close of the year marks the end of the Rev. Canon Walcott's long association with education in the Colony. His work, carried out often in the face of great difficulties, is deserving of the highest praise.

Welfare Institutions.

Infant Welfare Clinics have been opened at Jamestown and Hutt's Gate and it is hoped that two more clinics will be established in other areas in the coming year. The appointment of a Health Visitor has been approved. The grant of children's allowances in connection with unemployment relief, and the

free issue of cod liver oil and marmite to school children are other measures that have been adopted to deal with the prevailing poverty.

The local Friendly Societies have continued to maintain and improve their position in spite of heavy calls made upon them due to epidemics of influenza.

The Mechanics Society celebrated the centenary of its foundation in November when the anniversary meeting provided a remarkable demonstration of the strength and well-being of the Society.

Particulars of the societies are appended below:—

ST. HELENA FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Name.	Men.		Membership.	Invested Funds £
Ancient Order of Foresters	350	1,493
Mechanics Society	509	1,183
Working Men's Christian Association	325	395
Poor Society	376	3,675
Total	1,560	
	Women.			
Church Provident Society for Women	533	1,125
	Children.			
Children's Benefit Society	246	138
Grand Total	2,339	

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

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

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

British vessels ... ..	...	...	...	...	31
British warships ... ..	...	...	...	...	5
American vessels ... ..	...	...	...	...	2
Other foreign vessels ... ..	...	...	...	...	4
Yachts ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
					43

Forty-one miles of road 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-eight 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.

Unemployment relief measures have thrown a considerable burden on the Public Works Department throughout the year and much work has been done in repairing by-roads and paths in the country districts that are used by large numbers of pedestrians.

The road, water and drainage systems have been maintained at their usual standard.

The department has also completed three cottages in Jamestown, five in the country districts as well as an office and store for the Agricultural Department.

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 Cases. 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 eight criminal cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. There were 60 cases dealt with during the year as compared with 82 the previous year.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905.

Nine cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with two the previous year.

Gaol.—During the year 16 persons were committed to prison as compared with 18 in 1937.

Police.—There have been no serious criminal cases.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were enacted during the year, of which the most important were the Pasturage (Government Lands) Ordinance, repealing the Man and Horse and Botleys Lay (Regulations) Ordinance, 1843; Juries (Amendment) Ordinance; Plants Protection Ordinance; and the Recreation and Play Grounds 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 depositors at 31st December £</i>
1934	...	...	...	...	...	...	21,200
1935	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,527
1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,744
1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,033
1938	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,701

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1938, was 237 as compared with 240 on the corresponding day of 1937.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank Deposits at the end of the year is represented by stock of the mean market value of £22,651.

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 £1,542 from the Colonial Development Fund, amounted to £26,912 being £41 below the Estimates, and showing a decrease of £14,524 as compared with the revenue of the previous year. Revenue, excluding Colonial Development Fund, was £560 below the Estimates. There was no grant-in-aid in 1938.

The decrease of Revenue as compared with the Estimates was mainly due to sales of stamps at St. Helena and Ascension being £1,064 below the estimate, and to waiving of the payment by Messrs. Cable and Wireless, Ltd., as from 25th April, 1938, on account of their occupation of Ascension Island which caused a decrease of £1,019; against which there were increases under customs duties £1,001 due to importation of petrol, oil, cigarettes and wines being greater than the amount estimated for and also under the following heads—port and marine, wharfage £162, rent of Government properties £181, and interest £109.

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

Year.	Revenue.	Grants by	Grants-in-	Total	Total
		Colonial	aid by His		
		Development	Majesty's	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	Fund.	Treasury.	£	£
1934	21,974	—	2,500	24,474	23,792
1935 ...	21,089	—	—	21,089	20,487
1936 ...	20,198	—	3,000	23,198	19,569
1937 ...	41,186	250	—	41,436	23,191
1938 ...	25,370	1,542	—	26,912	29,930

The Revenue for the year 1938 as compared with the preceding year is summarised hereunder:—

	1937.	1938.
	£	£
Customs ...	5,276	6,251
Port and Marine ...	1,588	1,554
Licences, Taxes, etc. ...	676	648
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements...	740	770
Post Office ...	14,446	6,774
Revenue from Government Properties ...	1,125	1,441
Interest ...	226	459
Miscellaneous ...	39	67
Ascension ...	17,070	7,406
Grant-in-aid ...	—	—
Grant from Colonial Development Fund ...	250	1,542
	<u>£41,436</u>	<u>£26,912</u>

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

	1937.	1938.
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	1,542	1,120
Governor	1,087	1,604
Secretariat	1,565	1,356
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine... ..	871	965
Post Office	1,117	1,034
Public Health	3,213	3,666
Education	1,207	1,270
Agriculture and Forestry	1,339	1,496
Police and Gaol... ..	880	943
Public Works Department and Recurrent	3,249	4,207
Miscellaneous	1,253	1,344
Ascension	2,521	2,787
Public Works Extraordinary	3,114	1,777
Colonial Development Fund	233	1,542
Unemployment Relief	—	4,819
	£23,191	£29,930

The Statement of the Assets and Liabilities of St. Helena as at 31st December, 1938, shows:

Assets £50,818. Liabilities £28,049.

Taxation.

The principal sources of taxation and the yield during the year 1938 were as follows:—

	£
Customs :—	
Import Duties	6,251
Port and Marine Dues :—	
Shipping Dues	192
Wharfage Dues	1,362
Licences :—	
Carriages, Carts, and Horses	36
Motor Cars and Lorries	261
Boats	122
Firearms and Game	28
Rates :—	
Water	135

Under the Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, the following alterations were made to the Customs Tariff (Part I of Schedule II):—

Item	
37c Rice	General tariff 1s. 6d. per 112 lb. reduced to "Free."
50 Lard and lard substitutes.	Preferential tariff 2s. 1d. per 100 lb. reduced to "Free." General tariff 2s. 6d. per 100 lb. reduced to 2s. 1d.

These alterations were effective from 16th October, 1937.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

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

During the year five 1-acre plots of good cultivable land have been leased to St. Helenians in connection with the Colonial Development Fund Housing Scheme. The object of this scheme is to improve housing and by making a plot available for each cottage to assist the islanders in improving their standard of life.

Apart from unoccupied land known as " Crown Waste ", the Island is divided into large and small holdings, many of which however are held by a small number of persons. The acreages of these holdings are as follows:—

	<i>No. of Holdings.</i>
Under 10 acres	414
Over 10 and under 50	57
Over 50 and under 100	9
Over 100 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 the registration of deeds.

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

XVIII.—GENERAL.

His Excellency Henry Guy Pilling, C.M.G., assumed office as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on the 16th March, 1938.

APPENDIX.

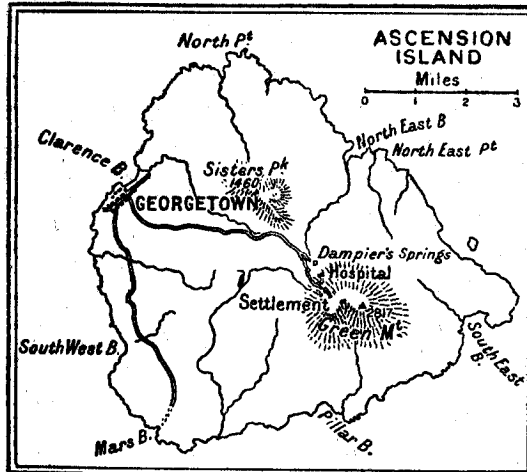
BOOKS ON ST. HELENA OF GENERAL INTEREST.

<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.	—
"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. Janisch, C.M.G., 2nd Edition, 1908.	"Guardian" Printing Office, Jamestown.	—
"History of St. Helena," by Sir William Foster (English Historical Review, 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.	—	—
"St. Hélène," par Octave Aubry ...	Flammarion, Paris.	25 francs.
"St. Helena," (English translation of "St. Hélène" by Octave Aubry).	Victor Gollancz & Co. Ltd.	18s.
"IslandLife," by A. R. Wallace, 1880	MacMillan & Co., London.	—
"St. Helena, 1502-1938" by Philip Gosse, 1938.	Cassell & Co., Ltd.	15s.

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