

to Kafir corn (*amabele*, a kind of millet). By the Europeans oats, hay, and potatoes are grown in large quantities.

The cultivation of coffee shows signs of revival, and the sugar-cane crop of the coast districts has nearly doubled during the year under report; the quantity of sugar made having been 8,450 tons in 1879, and 16,143 during 1880.

The prices of all sorts of farm produce did not fall to the extent that was expected, much capital was invested in farms, and I confidently look forward to being able to report a considerable advance in the agriculture of the Colony during the year 1881.

Closing Remarks.

In closing my report I must not fail to draw attention to the growing importance of this Colony.

In revenue and expenditure but two of Her Majesty's Colonies not having responsible government, Ceylon and Mauritius, exceed Natal. As a consumer of English manufactures this Colony takes a high place. Goods of nearly 2,000,000*l.* (1,980,211*l.*) in value having been imported from the United Kingdom during 1880. Ceylon in 1878, the last year on which I have statistics, took direct from England but little over 1,250,000*l.*, Mauritius under 500,000*l.*, Jamaica 750,000*l.*, Barbadoes 350,000*l.*, Trinidad 644,000*l.*, British Guiana a little over 1,000,000*l.*, Tasmania 373,000*l.*, and Western Australia 153,000*l.*

As an exporting Colony Natal does not occupy so prominent a position, but in this respect signs are not wanting of improvement. The European population is steadily if slowly increasing, capital is being invested, railways are being made, bridges and other public works are being constructed, and if the unfortunate war that has occurred with the Boers in the Transvaal since the year under report terminated does not react on the trade and progress of this Colony, the day is not far distant when Natal may claim to take her place among the most prosperous communities under Her Majesty's rule.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) C. B. H. MITCHELL,
The Earl of Kimberley, Administrator.
&c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No. 18.

Governor JANISCH, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, St. Helena, February 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book Returns for the year 1880.

2. The revenue for the year, estimated at 13,017*l.*, amounts to 11,950*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*; and the expenditure, estimated at 12,098*l.* 6*s.*, amounts to 11,869*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

3. The decrease of 1,066*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* in the estimated receipts arises from the circumstance that during the year there had been no receipts (beyond a trivial sum) from vessels resorting to the Port for repairs and using the wharf and cranes for the discharge and reshipment of their cargo. The receipts from this source have averaged annually about 1,200*l.*, the direct loss to the revenue of this amount during the past year is also necessarily attended with the further loss to the Island of a large amount spent on such occasions in the employment of labour, &c., in the unloading, reloading, and repairing of vessels. These receipts are in their nature dependent on accidents and contingencies which are less likely to occur in proportion as increasing care is taken to prevent the sending of unseaworthy ships on long and perilous voyages; there has also been much depression in the general trade of the Island in the last year, which may be partly attributable to the above cause and partly to the languishing state of employment for sailing vessels in the Eastern trade, for when such vessels fail to obtain remunerative freights they are the more careful to shun the expenses of intermediate ports of call.

4. The expenditure includes this year a further sum of 521*l.*, expended in repairing damages caused by the flood in 1878; the outlay on this account will cease at the end of 1881. The repairs of public buildings urgently necessary have required a sum of 298*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* in excess of the estimates; the chief portion of this amount (199*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*) was required for repairs to the roof and floors of the gaol, damaged by white ants, the gaol being one of the few public buildings which had not yet undergone the necessary reconstruction with materials capable of resisting the attacks of the ant.

5. In the Report of last year it was stated that the amount advanced by the Government of the Cape of Good Hope to St. Helena pensioners resident in that Colony had not been reclaimed; these accounts have not yet been received, but the amount due and reserved in the chest for that service will be about 1,180*l.* to the close of 1880.

6. The Pension List, which amounted to 2,816*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* at the close of 1879, has been reduced to 2,276*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.* by the decease of the following pensioners:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. William Wilde - - -	440	0	0
„ William Browne - - -	31	15	5
„ R. Hawkes - - -	14	0	6
„ Michael Lee - - -	17	0	8
„ I. Mahomet - - -	10	0	0
„ John Smith - - -	26	15	4
Total - - -	539	11	11

Of the above list, 451*l.* have fallen in since the estimates for 1881 were prepared and transmitted, and a saving to that amount will therefore be effected in those estimates.

7. The Public Debt has been further reduced by the annual payment of 750*l.* on account of debentures, leaving a total now outstanding of 10,750*l.*

8. In the Foreign Consulates Mr. H. I. Crouch has been appointed to succeed Mr. George W. Roosevelt as Consul for the United States, and Mr. Henry James Bovell has been appointed Vice-Consul for Brazils.

9. The Imports of the year amount to 54,272*l.* as against 64,585*l.* in 1879, and the Exports 3,485*l.* against 5,127*l.* in 1879; these figures are exclusive of the amount of oil transhipped at this Port from the Southern Whale Fishery amounting to 50,730*l.* against 30,190*l.* in 1879. The amount of fibre of Island produce exported is nearly the same as that for the previous year, and amounted to 502 bales, valued at 1,890*l.*

10. The total number of vessels calling at the Port was 564, of these 26 were vessels of war and transports, one yacht, 46 whalers, 41 merchant steamers, and 450 merchant sailing vessels.

11. The returns under the heads of schools, gaols, hospitals, and asylums are similar to those of the previous year, and are satisfactory; there have been no convictions in the Supreme Court for indictable offences, and the summary cases before the magistrates have further diminished to a total of 195. The lunatic asylum contains only two inmates, who have both been under care for several years past.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

SIERRA LEONE.

SIERRA
LEONE.

No. 19.

Governor A. E. HAVELOCK, C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the
EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

Government House,
July 20, 1881.
MY LORD,
I HAVE the honour to transmit in duplicate the Blue Book of Sierra Leone for the year 1880, together with a report thereon, by the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. HAVELOCK,
Governor-in-Chief
The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

REPORT on the SIERRA LEONE BLUE BOOK for 1880.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The net revenue of 1880 was 72,559*l.*, and is the largest recorded within the last five years, which period, for purposes of comparison, is dealt with throughout this report.

2. The expenditure was 68,129*l.*, at least 10,000*l.* higher than in the preceding year, but this may be accounted for as follows:—

A repayment to the Imperial Government of 5,000*l.* on account of the loan of 38,000*l.*, and about 3,400*l.* incurred in connexion with the demonetisation of dollars, together with the sum of 1,600*l.* written off, previously standing as an asset against the Harbour Works Department. Owing to the large balance, 12,842*l.* brought forward from the preceding year, together with the favourable difference between the payments and receipts in 1880, the Colony was enabled to pay off a further sum of 16,000*l.* in liquidation of the debt to Mr. C. Heddle incurred in June 1876. A comparative table of the receipts and disbursements for the past five years is appended.