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No. 99.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1892.

(For Report for 1891, see Colonial Report [Annual] No. 63.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1894.



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1894.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
59	Straits Settlements	1891
60	Ceylon	"
61	Natal	1891-92
62	Basutoland	"
63	St. Helena	1891
64	Sierra Leone	"
65	Jamaica	1891-92
66	Trinidad and Tobago	1891
67	Newfoundland	"
68	British New Guinea	1891-92
69	Victoria	1891
70	Rodrigues	"
71	Bermuda	1892
72	Fiji	1891
73	British Honduras	"
74	Turks and Caicos Islands	1892
75	Gibraltar	"
76	Bahamas	"
77	Leeward Islands	"
78	Trinidad and Tobago	"
79	Malta	"
80	Gambia	"
81	Straits Settlements	"
82	Grenada	"
83	Barbados	"
84	St. Vincent	"
85	Hong Kong	"
86	St. Lucia	"
87	Falkland Islands	"
88	Gold Coast	"
89	Basutoland	1892-93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	"
92	Mauritius	"
93	Labuan	"
94	British Honduras	"
95	Lagos	"
96	Sierra Leone	"
97	Fiji	"
98	Rodrigues	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 99.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

[For Report for 1891, see Colonial Report (Annual) No. 63.]

Governor GREY WILSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

The Castle, St. Helena,

July 17, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1892.

The improvement in our general condition, to which I looked forward in closing my last report, was, I am glad to say, fully realised; and, although this improvement lacks many indications of genuine stability, it has afforded us a little respite from the harassing yet hopeless task of maintaining an equilibrium by endeavouring to devise means to reduce the expenditure to the level of the revenue.

These endeavours impose great hardships upon the Civil Servants, and are not conducive to efficiency:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue was 7,691*l.* (817*l.* more than in 1891, but yet 1,037*l.* less than in 1890), and the expenditure 7,445*l.* (843*l.* less than in 1891, and 1,587*l.* less than in 1890); so that there was a surplus at the close of the year of 246*l.*, which can only be regarded as nominal, in view of the amount by which our assets still fall short of our liabilities, an unsound condition that only commenced in 1890.

It is doubtless satisfactory to be able to realise a surplus, however small, but the financial year yields very little cause for genuine satisfaction when compared with previous years, for, with the exception of 1891, the most financially disastrous year the Colony has seen, 1892 takes the very lowest place.

The Customs revenue yielded the chief increase and rose from 3,704*l.* to 4,352*l.* The Post Office receipts rose from 786*l.* to 912*l.*, the highest point ever reached. But, upon the other hand, the revenue from Licences and Taxes fell heavily.

Mr. Antrobus, in his report upon the Blue Book for 1889, gave returns of the shipping, and of the receipts and expenditure for

ST. HELENA,
1892.

the 24 previous years, and I have continued these returns (*see* Appendices 1 to 3) up to the end of 1892, and they show a somewhat less continuous decline than that to which Mr. Antrobus directed special attention.

Taxation.

No alteration took place either in the taxes or licences nevertheless the taxation rose nominally from 1*l.* 3*s.* to 1*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population. I say nominally, because the increased revenue from taxation meant only that the garrison, men-of-war, and calling ships, consumed more dutiable liquor and tobacco.

Proof of this is, I think, afforded by the fact that the revenue in 1892 was less than in 1891 from liquor, tea, coffee, boat and game licences, and also from the carriage, cart and horse tax, and water rate—in fact, from all sources save the duty on intoxicants and tobacco.

No taxes remained unpaid at the close of the year.

Local Bodies.

The want of interest taken in the local bodies exhibited the continued deplorable inertia of the inhabitants.

Public Debt.

The loan of 19,500*l.* raised by Sir Charles Elliot between 1868 and 1872, at 7 per cent. per annum, was finally extinguished in April by the payment of the last instalment due of 250*l.* There is, however, a debt of 5,158*l.* for a loan made by the Imperial Government in 1872 to this Colony, but I trust that Her Majesty's Government may, in view of the supreme efforts and sacrifices that the Colony and the Civil Servants have made to maintain a condition of solvency, release the Island from this heavy encumbrance.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st of December the assets of the Colony were 13,629*l.*, and the liabilities 14,233*l.*, excluding the Imperial loan of 5,158*l.*

In 1890 our assets were 813*l.* in excess of our liabilities; in 1891 the liabilities exceeded the assets by 786*l.*; and in 1892, after absorbing the surplus of 246*l.* available on the year's account, our liabilities still exceeded our assets by 604*l.* and even this poor result was only achieved by the saving during the year of 253*l.*, the value of offices temporarily vacant.

Military.

The garrison was increased on the 23rd of March by the arrival of 68 officers and men of the Royal Artillery, bringing

ST. HELENA,
1892.

their strength up to 86, and the total strength of the garrison up to 218, of which number 115 belonged to a company of the East Yorkshire Regiment, which, under the command of Major Garnett, replaced one of the York and Lancaster Regiment on July the 11th.

No progress was made locally with the formation of a Militia, and the subject is still engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government, Lieutenant-Colonel Maclean, late Royal Artillery, being retained here by the Imperial Government to watch and report upon the progress of events.

Public Works.

1,096*l.* was expended upon public works, including the contribution in aid of the maintenance of the local telegraph and signal stations, and the entire cost of the time ball office, water supply, town roads, gardens, and repair of buildings.

Against this expenditure must be set the following revenue:—

	£
Sale of stores, trees, and engineer's work	- 215
Sale of water, supplied to shipping	- 398
Water rate	- 179
Rent of house property, model square, artisans' dwellings, &c.	- 160
Rents from bonded store	- 62
	<hr/>
	£1,014

In the foregoing reimbursements I have not included the rent of houses upon which nothing was spent, or the rents of lands upon which nothing, or upon which only fencing and cleaning, was done, which revenues appear under the heading of Rents; nor have I included any of the revenue from wharfage, which is brought to account under the heading of Customs, although the entire cost of maintaining the wharf and repairing and renewing the cranes falls under the Public Works expenditure.

During 1892 nearly 200*l.* was spent upon a new crane, and in removing rocks overhanging the wharf which endangered the traffic thereon.

Legislation.

Four Ordinances were passed during the year. Numbers 1 and 3 relate to the office of Coroner. The appointment of Coroner had been an elective one, but it is now vested in Her Majesty; and power is given to hold, with the Governor's consent, an inquisition without the aid of a jury.

Numbers 2 and 4 are Supply Ordinances.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

Council.

Captain R. C. A. Howe, of the York and Lancaster Regiment, was superseded in March by Captain H. B. Gundry, Royal Artillery, who brought the detachment of Artillery out and was a member of Council from April 6th to the 2nd of August, when Major R. de Villamil, Royal Engineers, who landed on July 11th, was sworn in. Mr. Saul Solomon was absent from the Island during the whole of the year.

Civil Establishment.

The office of Harbour Master was vacant during the year pending the appointment of a retired Naval officer. Mr. James Boyd continued to perform the duties in conjunction with his other work.

Mr. J. Homagee was absent on leave from March 30th to July 11th. Mr. R. M. L. Pritchard (retired) acted for him as Supervisor of Customs. The Honourable T. E. Fowler and Colonel Allen Maclean, late Royal Artillery, acted as Police Magistrates, and Mr. H. S. Hands acted as Clerk of the Peace and Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Doctor F. E. Welby, the Colonial Surgeon, was absent from the Island from February 13th to May 16th. The coolie ship "Bann," bound to Demerara, lost her surgeon on the voyage, and I was compelled to send Doctor Welby on in charge of her.

Fortunately the Flagship was in harbour at the time and I obtained from her the services of Surgeon Bowden, R.N., to act as Colonial Surgeon, which, by the courtesy of the Admiralty, he continued to do until Doctor Welby returned.

George Ward, Governor's Messenger, resigned, and James Peters was appointed in his place.

Mr. G. Fuller, Assistant Master of the Country School, resigned, on appointment as Master of the Hussey Charity Country School.

The Honourable T. E. Fowler, who had been Coroner for 37 years, retired on pension, and Mr. Wm. A. Thorpe was appointed to the office, the remuneration of which is now by fees in lieu of a fixed salary.

Mr. R. G. Short was appointed Sheriff.

Pensions.

Mr. John Young, Collector of Customs, who was pensioned in 1852, died during the year at the age of 89, having drawn his pension for a few days over 40 years.

The annual amount for which the Colony was, on the 31st December, liable on account of pensions, was 1,758*l.*, or nearly a quarter of our entire revenue.

The ages of two of our pensioners who draw the largest pensions were, in 1892, 84 and 94 respectively.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

Population.

The population may be estimated at 4,000.

Education.

The number of scholars on the rolls shows a slight decrease (from 837 to 829).

The Government schools are suffering from the want of assistant teachers, whom in our present financial straits it is not easy to provide.

The examinations yielded on the whole better results than in 1891.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports was 30,386*l.*, an improvement of 3,004*l.* over 1891; and the exports, including 6,721*l.* in specie, were of the value of 7,863*l.*

In addition to the foregoing imports and exports, whalebone and oil, to the value of 20,685*l.*, was transhipped to American vessels by the American whaling fleet in Jamestown Harbour.

The consumption of beer rose from 157 hogsheads in 1891 to 301 in 1892, and from 200 dozen bottles in 1891 to 273 in 1892, and wines and spirits show a corresponding increase, the total increase in the revenue under these heads being nearly 400*l.* A satisfactory rise took place in the revenue from water supplied to ships, tonnage dues, and wharfage.

Shipping.

562 vessels were sighted during the year, and of these 223 "called" and 189 traded with licensed boatmen. This number (412) is 51 less than in 1891, there being an increase of 12 in the number of vessels calling, *i.e.*, anchoring, and a decrease of 63 in the number of vessels trading without anchoring.

From January 1st, 1892, a record was kept of every sail sighted, and not, as previously, only of vessels communicating by signal, calling, *i.e.*, anchoring, or trading without calling. Had the record been kept upon the lines previously adopted, only 462 instead of 562 would appear as sighted (*see* Appendix 3).

Criminal Statistics.

136 cases were reported to the police, 107 persons were summarily convicted, 4 cases were dismissed, and 13 persons were discharged. Four persons were indicted in the Supreme Court. In three cases a verdict was given for the prisoner, and a charge of manslaughter fell through. The total cost of the gaol for the year was 139*l.*, and the daily average number in prison was 2.23. No deaths occurred.

ST. HELENA
1892.

Hospital.

The health of the Island during the year was very satisfactory, the number of deaths (56) being the same as in 1891, representing a death-rate of 13·4 per 1,000. The number of cases treated in the Hospital rose from 94 in 1891 to 137 in 1892; the number of deaths (7) being the same in each year; 44 of the patients treated in 1892 were sailors.

Meteorology.

The year was an important one for the Island. The Meteorological Council of the United Kingdom equipped a station at Hutts Gate, at an altitude of 1,900 feet, with the following instruments:—

- One anemograph.
- One barometer.
- Six ordinary thermometers.
- One maximum registering thermometer.
- One minimum registering thermometer.
- One 8-inch rain gauge.

The Council also provided the salary of the officer in charge. Observations were commenced in February, and have since been regularly recorded.

It is hoped that valuable results may be obtained from this station, which is under the care of Mr. H. S. Hands, a zealous young Civil Servant who takes a keen interest in the work. The lowest temperature in the country recorded during the year was 48°, and the highest 78°. The lowest recorded in town was 66° and the highest 80°. 1892 was markedly cooler than 1891, when 86 degrees of heat were registered.

The rainfall at Longwood, to the eastward of the Island, was 24½ inches; at Hutts Gate, in the centre of the Island, 34¼ inches; and at Woodlands, in the western district, 29¾ inches. The greatest fall in the Island was 2·36 inches in 18 hours, which was recorded at the last station on 10th June. Thirty inches being taken as an average annual rainfall, the year must be recorded as a somewhat dry one, for previous to 1892 the rainfall was only taken in the eastern and western sides, and not at Hutts Gate, in the centre, which, from the year's records, appears to be the wettest locality.

The anemograph record, owing to mechanical difficulties which have been overcome, was not satisfactory during part of the year, but doubtless a more reliable record will be obtained in 1893.

The greatest force of wind recorded during the time the record was taken was 40 miles an hour in November, and the least 8 miles, with an average number of calm days of 7½ per cent.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

Savings Bank.

2,465*l.* was deposited and 1,240*l.*, including interest, withdrawn. The total deposits rose from 10,125*l.* to 11,870*l.*, while the number of investors fell from 112 to 108. The net profit upon the year's transaction was only 14*l.*, as the Government was compelled to appropriate, for current expenses, a portion of the deposits which should have been invested to meet our liabilities to the depositors.

To meet these liabilities, amounting to 11,870*l.* on the 31st of December, we held stock and bonds to the nominal value of only 9,487*l.*, and of the market value of about 9,200*l.*

In connexion with the small number of depositors, it should be remembered that there is no other bank in the Colony, that there is no limit to the amount that may be deposited, and that all the Friendly Societies, who hold the bulk of the people's savings, use the bank.

Post Office.

The gross revenue from the Post Office was 912*l.*—the largest during the last 12 years, and the expenditure was 177*l.*

The increase in the revenue as compared with 1891 is 125% and the large sum of 139*l.* received from stamp dealers throughout the world, has contributed largely to this satisfactory result.

11,790 letters were sent from here to the United Kingdom, and 5,616 to other places; and, though the number of letters received is not known, it may be estimated at 18,000. 837 parcels were received and 215 despatched. The money order business amounted to 4,530*l.*

At the close of 1892 a substantial reduction was made in the postal rate of letters to the eastward of the Cape. One shilling and twopence per half ounce had been charged, and of that sum 1*s.* was paid to the Cape Government. The reduced rate is 7½*d.* per half ounce to all places other than the United Kingdom.

I do not expect that 1893 will show such a satisfactory postal revenue as 1892. I am, however, not without hope that, if Her Majesty's Government will continue to pay the Colony the postage upon official letters upon the present scale, it may be possible in 1894 to reduce other postage from 6*d.* to 2½*d.*, the half ounce.

Cotton-growing and Sericulture.

The experiments in the cultivation of cotton and in sericulture, conducted by the Rev. J. H. Daine, yielded no decisively satisfactory results during the year, but they are, upon the whole, not discouraging.

Although it is open to question whether Mr. Daine, with the limited means at his disposal, is not conducting experiments somewhat too varied and extensive, yet his enterprise in a country so devoid of it as this cannot but be commended, and I hope that he may be able to instil into the people of this Island some of his versatile energy.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

It will be seen from Mr. Daine's reports, which I transmit herewith, that, pending the development of the mulberry cuttings, experiments have been tried with the castor oil silkworm. It was, however, found that the castor oil plant of St. Helena is not the *Ricinus Communis*, and, seeds of that plant having been imported, farther experiments will be conducted by Mr. Daine.

A very misleading printer's error occurred in my last year's report upon the Blue Book. The total expenditure upon lands in connection with sericulture was 10,000*l.*; and of this sum 9,000*l.* (and not 900*l.* as printed) was paid for two properties at the Briars, which were subsequently sold together by Government for 400*l.*

Shells.

During the years 1884-6 Capt. W. H. Turton, R.E., who was then stationed in St. Helena, made a very extensive and valuable collection of shells, which he subsequently presented to the British Museum.

Mr. Edgar A. Smith, of the Natural History Section, has now reported upon the collection and on the marine molluscan fauna of this Island,* and in doing so says, "The greatest praise is due to Capt. Turton for the excellent manner in which the collection was made and put up for transmission to this country, and the amount of time and labour bestowed upon it must have been very considerable."

Mr. Melliss, in his work on St. Helena, enumerates only 41 marine species; but, thanks to Capt. Turton's energy, no less than 138 additional named species are now added to the list, yet this, as Mr. Smith says, does not at all approximate the total of the species which really exist around St. Helena.

The marine molluscan fauna of St. Helena appears most to resemble that of the West Indies; for of the known species in Capt. Turton's collection just 50 per cent. are common to the two localities. About 25 species or 30 per cent. are identical with Mediterranean forms, and about six occur in all three localities.

A report upon the land shells of St. Helena, also based chiefly upon collections made by Capt. Turton, has likewise been published by Mr. Smith.† In it nearly all the known species, both living and extinct, are figured.

General.

In February the Bishop of St. Helena paid a visit to Tristan d'Acunha, distant 1,500 miles. His Lordship reports that the social and moral condition of the few inhabitants was of a very satisfactory nature.

The population was still somewhat upon the decrease, owing to emigration, and now numbers little over 50.

* Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, 1890, pp. 247-317, plates XXI.-XXIV. Annals and Magazine of Natural History, 1892, Vol. X., pp. 129-135, plate XII.

† Op. Cit., 1892, pp. 258-270, plates XXI.-XXII.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

During the year the Government of Brazil intimated to this Government that they did not intend to continue to maintain a consular representative in St. Helena, and that consulate was accordingly abolished.

The Colonial Government has for several years fostered the cultivation of potatoes by the annual importation of seed potatoes, which are most generously brought to the Island freight free by the Union Steamship Company. There is no doubt whatever that the small grower has been enormously benefited by these importations, and from my personal experience I can state that the Island potatoes have greatly improved. I hope shortly to transmit to your Lordship a report* upon this matter from a practical farmer.

I must, with regret, record the lamentable fact that, with a decreasing population, it became necessary to make a considerable increase in the accommodation of the Lunatic Asylum. The additional rooms are in every way satisfactory and suitable, and I trust will more than suffice for any calls that may be made on them in future years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

REPORT ON SERICULTURE, 1892.

St. Helena,

July 16, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the following facts on sericulture, extracted from my diary, together with samples of silk for the year 1892.

In October of 1892, eggs hatched with greater simultaneity than the education of April to May of the same year, which permitted the feeder more leisure than in the preceding occasions, as the worms fed and were dormant, with little exception, for the usual term.

There was a total exemption from pebrine, and the failures were too trifling to record; a few died from eating leaves rather too succulent, which might be termed mild flacherie.

As the educations for 1892 were merely for observation, and reproduction of seed, together with the collection of samples, no commercial statistics can be rendered, as the necessary food, mulberry leaves, is not yet in sufficient quantity to re-commence the cocoonery.

The report on the samples of reeled silk and cocoons sent by me to the Kimberley Exhibition, grown at Maldivia, St. Helena, has not reached me.

The specimens of silk enclosed were reeled by Mr. Wardle, President of the Silk Association of Great Britain and Ireland, Author of "Wild Silks of India," and other sericultural works,

* See page 14.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

who is good enough to interest himself, and has rendered me great help in my effort to establish a silk industry in St. Helena.

This gentleman is of opinion that, when there is sufficient food in proximity to the cocooneries, silk in St. Helena will be made in commercially paying quantities.

The end of the years '93 and '94 will decide the problem of silk in St. Helena, as quite a quantity of mulberry cuttings are now rooted, not by any means sufficient, but such a quantity as would justify (if the next educations are manipulated cheaply and healthily) a speculator to take up lands and plant mulberry trees.

Pending the growth of mulberry trees, I have been much struck with the possibility of the acclimatization of the Castor-oil silkworm, the *Attacus ricini*, or *Eria* silkworm.

I have received from Mr. Nitya Mukerji, Special Sericulturist to the Government of India, a few specimens of *Eria* cocoons; these arrived desiccated, and quite dead. I applied to many sources for this species of silkworm, but failed on several different occasions. I heard, also, that the authorities at the Royal Gardens, Kew, had some for me, but they did not reach St. Helena.

I had given up hope of being able to import these chrysalides alive, when quite unexpectedly the Chamber of Commerce of Silk, Lyons, France, who are also benevolently interested in the establishment of this industry in St. Helena, sent me a second package of cocoons, which happily emerged in a few days after their arrival.

The moths were very vigorous and beautiful. In a few days I had some 20,000 eggs and anticipated a large return of cocoons; to my astonishment I found that the newly-hatched worms would not feed upon the St. Helena castor-oil plant, and as the presumed *Ailanthus* at Plantation (a leaf the *Eria* will also feed upon), was not in foliage, I had with grief to watch my treasured *Eria* die by the thousands. On investigation it turns out that our supposed castor-oil of St. Helena is the *Curcas purgans*, and if there ever were castor-oil plants in the Island they have hybridized with the former. I have been promised a few more *Eria* cocoons and have received a dozen castor-oil seeds which have germinated, and show that the soil of St. Helena is suitable to them. Your Excellency has also promised me a supply of seed, and His Lordship the Bishop of Charadon, the Roman Catholic Bishop in Cape Town, has kindly sent 5*l.* to His Grace the Archbishop of Bombay to be expended in *Eria* cocoons and the cost of transit to St. Helena.

The *Eria* silkworm makes seven crops per annum, the castor-oil is perennial in this Island, and from the few plants, and cocoons already received I feel almost confident that if the mulberry silk should turn out indifferently, the *Eria* or castor-oil will be a success, instead of waiting three to four years for food for the Bombyx Mori, or mulberry silkworm. In three months tons of *Ricinus communis* castor-oil can be raised, the food of the *Attacus ricini*, *Eria*, or castor-oil, silkworm. I shall have the honour in due course to inform you of the results of my observations and investigations.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. DAINE.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

REPORT ON COTTON, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the pleasure to inform you that the cotton planted in the Briars field, kindly lent to me for experiment by the Honourable George Moss, member of your Excellency's Council, has turned out better than expected.

One pound of cotton in the boll has yielded 11 ounces of seed and five of lint.

A tree averages, in full growth, one pound of cotton; an acre should carry 2,000 plants, which would give a bale of cotton of, more or less, 600 pounds of lint, and about 1,350, more or less, pounds of cotton seed, which in its raw state is worth more than cotton-cake as a feeding stuff. It can be fed, as Indian corn is, to oxen and cows.

These figures would assure the cultivator at least 10*l.* per acre per annum; for the seed will pay for ginning, carriage, and the etceteras of shipping. This would be a great help to the small agricultural landholders in the Island.

I would advocate other varieties of cotton than that which I have planted at the Briars, which is *Gossypium herbaceum*, the United States species ripening much more rapidly and admitting a greater number of trees to the acre. They are of a more dwarf nature, and, from specimens I have cultivated in other parts of the Island, are even heavier croppers than the St. Helena variety, and the staple of lint was valued by the Liverpool Cotton Brokers' Association at higher figures than the *Gossypium herbaceum* of the Briars field.

I may add that the Briars field has not received the cultivation due to the cotton plant, and has been ploughed but once, and hoed once only; one half of the plants encountered a severe drought, from which they have not yet fully recovered, whereas the other half bid fair to become forest trees.

This little auxiliary industry would find employment for a gin, conjointly with a small fibre machine such as is used in Guatemala and Yucatan and other Central States of America; such a fibre machine I have imported, and when I have obtained a horse-wind, or oil-engine motor, I hope to be able to give an interesting report upon an experiment to utilize the fibrous plants of St. Helena.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. DAINE.

W. Grey Wilson, Esq., C.M.G.,
Governor of St. Helena,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

REPORT ON SEED POTATOES.

Governor GREY WILSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

The Castle, Saint Helena,
September 4, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Report from Mr. H. B. Morrice, one of the leading gentlemen farmers of this island, upon the results of the importation by the Government of seed potatoes.

2. Mr. Morrice, it will be seen, is of opinion that nothing but good has resulted from the experiment which, with Lord Knutsford's consent, I originated in 1889; and as these importations* have cost the Government nothing, I trust your Lordship will sanction the continuance of annual importations.

3. I am not able to concur in Mr. Morrice's view that the small growers do not as a rule purchase the seed direct from Government, as, out of 19 purchasers in 1893, 14 were undoubtedly growers in a small way.

4. I venture to suggest that this report would enhance the value of, and interest in, my report on the Blue Book for 1892 if printed with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

Enclosure.

H. B. MORRICE, Esq., to the GOVERNOR.

St. Helena,
September 2, 1893.

SIR,
AT your request I have gathered information as to the effect upon the island potato crops of the seed imported by the Government, and have the honour to report to your Excellency as follows:—

The purchasers of the seed are unanimously of opinion that it must be beneficial to have fresh seed imported from England, but owing to the fact that twice out of the three times that the Government has imported it the seasons have been exceptionally bad, only a few are able to say positively that they have had better crops. One grower says that from 100 lbs. of seed he

* Three importations:—February 1889, February 1892, and January 1893.

planted last February he got 7 cwt. and but for the rot he computes he would have had 10 cwt., whilst from his old seed he never got more than four or five fold. Another planter states that he considers he gets fully fourteen fold from Government seed, of a better quality of potato, and that he has only been successful with potatoes since he bought that seed. On the other hand, several purchasers report a total loss of crops.

In answer to your question "can it be said that the small grower has benefited?" I can only say that though few have done so directly, many, I think, have indirectly.

The price of the first two lots of seed imported put them quite out of reach of the poor man, but as he buys his seed from the larger growers he probably benefited in the end. Now that, owing to the generosity of the Union Company in bringing the potatoes out freight free, the price has come down, the small growers will probably buy direct from the Government; but whether they do so or not there is no doubt that the importation of seed is a universal benefit to all potato growers, because if the small grower buys seed from the larger grower the more often the latter is able to renew his seed the better for the former.

The opposition on the part of many business men in Jamestown to this encouragement given by the Government to a branch of agriculture which brings some hundreds of pounds yearly into the Island is, to me, inexplicable, seeing that probably the whole of this money eventually finds its way into their shops. If the cultivation of potatoes interfered with the sale of rice one could understand it, but it is not so; St. Helenians are not a potato-eating race, and, with the exception of what is sold to the garrison, nearly the whole of the crop is sold to shipping, or is exported, so that it brings in money which would otherwise be totally lost to the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. B. MORRICE.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

St. HELENA.
1892.

APPENDIX 1.

SHIPPING, 1866-92.*

Year.	Merchant Sailing Vessels.		Ships of War and Mail Steamers.	Total.	Difference from previous Year.			
	British.	Foreign.			Decrease.	Increase.		
1866	529	322	07	918	—	68		
1867	503	309	66	878	40	—		
1868	501	318	72	891	—	13		
1869	456	319	78	853	38	—	Suez Canal opened.	
1870	416	322	69	807	46	—		
1871	380	308	70	758	49	—		
1872	319	285	63	667	91	—		
1873	370	291	56	717	—	50		
1874	380	247	57	684	33	—		
1875	298	242	65	605	79	—	Average Annual Decrease 1870-81, 27½	
1876	306	222	54	582	23	—		
1877	335	266	63	664	—	82		
1878	362	251	56	669	—	5		
1879	310	228	65	603	66	—		
1880	306	191	67	564	39	—		
1881	245	215	65	525	39	—		
1882	233	203	61	497	28	—	Tonnage Dues abolished.	
1883	250	213	58	521	—	24		
1884	188	160	66	414	107	—	Average Annual Decrease 1883-5, 15½	
1885	225	160	65	450	—	36	1884-6, 48	
1886	166	153	58	377	73	—	Passing Ships Ordinance enacted.	
1887	150	111	56	317	60	—		
1888	142	122	64	330	—	13	Average Annual Decrease 1887-9, 29½	
1889	134	110	44	288	42	—		
1890	90	83	38	211	77	—		
1891	89	76	46	211	—	—	Average Annual Decrease 1890-2, 21½	
1892	85	99	39	223	—	12		
Net decrease since 1869					852	222		Average Annual Decrease 1870-92, 27½

* This return includes only ships which "called."

APPENDIX 2.

St. HELENA.
1892.

RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE, 1866-92.

Year.	Revenue.		Total Revenue exclusive of Grants and Loans.	Total Expenditure including repayment of Debt.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Grants and Loans from Parliament.	Loans bearing interest.
	Customs.	Other Sources.						
1866	£ 17,257	£ 5,895	£ 23,152	£ 26,110	—	£ 2,958	—	£ 5,000
1867	17,159	5,867	23,026	27,113	—	4,087	—	—
1868	13,402	5,304	18,706	26,263	—	7,497	3,000	5,000
1869	15,076	5,704	20,780	24,626	—	3,846	—	5,000
1870	11,094	4,880	15,974	18,943	—	2,969	—	1,250
1871	10,621	4,937	15,558	18,439	—	2,881	950	—
1872	10,121	3,807	13,928	27,376	—	13,448	4,298	8,250
1873	11,138	3,842	14,980	16,609	—	1,719	—	—
1874	10,003	3,979	13,982	14,522	—	540	—	—
1875	10,941	3,575	13,516	14,940	—	424	—	—
1876	9,555	3,612	13,167	13,329	—	162	—	—
1877	9,808	2,973	12,781	18,607	—	5,226	5,500	—
1878	10,517	3,681	14,198	12,815	1,383	—	—	—
1879	10,470	3,685	14,155	12,486	1,669	—	—	—
1880	8,547	3,403	11,950	11,870	80	—	—	—
1881	9,198	3,228	12,426	12,801	—	375	—	—
1882	8,253	3,247	11,500	11,212	288	—	Grants for Mail Service.	—
1883	7,091	3,175	10,266	11,145	—	879	—	—
1884	6,611	3,300	9,911	10,807	—	836	450	—
1885	6,017	3,032	9,049	*13,099	—	4,050	2,050	—
1886	6,580	3,606	10,186	*11,210	—	1,024	1,914	—
1887	4,590	3,454	8,044	*11,382	—	3,338	3,000	—
1888	5,841	3,425	9,266	*10,448	—	1,182	2,275	—
1889	4,891	3,518	8,409	*8,979	—	570	100	—
1890	5,656	3,073	8,729	9,032	—	303	—	—
1891	3,704	3,170	6,874	8,288	—	1,414	—	—
1892	4,352	3,339	7,691	7,445	246	—	—	—
Total grant in aid for Mail Service -							£9,789	—
* Including payments for Mail Service amounting in the five years to -							£9,848	—

ST. HELENA.
1892.

APPENDIX 3.

Year.	Ships* Signalled.	Passed without trading.	Traded with Boatmen.	Called.	Called and traded with Boatmen.
1886 - -	686	290	90	377	396
1887 - -	619	193	109	317	427
1888 - -	641	145	166	330	496
1889 - -	604	55	261	288	549
1890 - -	480	73	196	211	407
1891 - -	502	39	252	211	463
1892 - -	462	50	189	223	412

* In 1892 a record was kept of every ship sighted, and 100 were sighted in addition to the 462 which were signalled.