

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 420.

ST. HELENA.

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REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, see No. 392.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.  
*July, 1904.*

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No. 420.

## ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1902 *see* No. 392.)

GOVERNOR GALLWEY to MR. LYTTTELTON.

The Castle,  
St. Helena,

23rd March, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1903, together with my Annual Report covering the same.

2. In addition to the usual returns that accompany such Reports, I have added a copy of the Report of the Commissioners on the Fishing Industry. I respectfully request you will sanction that Report being printed for future reference and being considered as part and parcel of my Annual Report.

I have, &amp;c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,  
*Governor.*

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1903.

## I.—FINANCIAL.

## (A.) REVENUE.

The Revenue reached the total of £13,132, being £9,963 less than that of the previous year. The Revenue collected was less than the amount estimated by £3,388, which is explained by the fact that when the original Estimate was submitted it was not anticipated that the Boer prisoners would have left the Island prior to 1st January, 1903.

The decreases appear under "Customs," "Fees and Fines," "Rent," and "Miscellaneous"; and the increases under "Licenses," and "Interest." Under "Customs" the receipts under all sub-heads declined as compared with 1902. This is attributable to the departure of the prisoners of war and their guards in the latter part of 1902. In nearly all the other cases where shrinkage of Revenue occurred, the same reason was the direct cause of such shrinkage.

The increase under "Interest" is due to the Colony having invested all surplus Savings Bank Funds.

As must always be the case, the principal source of Revenue was the Customs receipts. These amounted to £7,191, being a decrease of £9,436 as compared with the previous year.

In my last year's report I put down £6,000 as being the average annual Customs receipts under normal conditions. My calculation would appear to be a low one, as I am fairly sanguine that the Customs receipts for 1904 will reach the amount collected in the year under review provided that the strength of the present garrison is maintained.

## (B.) EXPENDITURE.

The Expenditure for the year amounted to £21,382, the highest reached since 1872; a net increase as compared with 1902 of £2,769.

The principal increases in Expenditure were under "Customs," "Savings Bank," "Police," "Post Office," "Works Extraordinary," and "Gratuities." The increase under "Customs" is due to the grant made to the troops for rebate of duty on beer imported into the Colony during the time the Boer prisoners were interned on the Island. Rebate thus paid

amounted in all to £1,549 5s. 9d., of which £1,161 5s. 9d. was included in the Expenditure of the year under review. The increase under "Savings Bank" was due to the increase of deposits. Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum is now granted on unlimited sums.

The appointment of a corporal to the Police Force accounts for nearly the whole of the increase under that head. The increase under "Post Office" is due to the Colony being supplied with new postage stamp die and plates. A stock of the new issue of stamps was also obtained during the year. The main item of increase comes under "Works Extraordinary," and is due to additional works being taken in hand during the year in connection with the drainage of private houses and the connecting the same to the main sewer, and also due to a large extent to the cost of a shipment of cypress wood, which was obtained from New Orleans at a cost of £2,674. The increase under "Gratuities" is due to special gratuities having been made to Customs and other officials in connection with the extra work thrown on their shoulders whilst the Boer prisoners were in the Colony.

Of the decreases in Expenditure the most important are:—£1,158 under head of "Public Debt"—due to a lesser instalment being paid to the Imperial Exchequer. £1,000 of the debt was paid during the year under review. This reduces the Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1903, to £1,000 at no interest.

There were certain savings (£364) effected under "Sanitary Precautions," consequent on the departure of the Boer prisoners. There was a decrease of £731 under "Works Recurrent," due chiefly to over estimation and to savings effected, as compared to 1902.

The Expenditure exceeded the Revenue by £8,250. To meet the outlay of available funds, as mentioned above, in connection with the house drainage and water improvement schemes, it is apparent that some sacrifice is necessary in the shape of stringent economy under other heads. In order to ensure the Colony maintaining a credit balance in future it might become necessary to increase taxation. This, however, should, I think, be a last resource, as there is no doubt the future prospects of the St. Helenians are not bright, there being no regular industry in the Island.

## (C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December, 1903, there was an excess of assets over liabilities of £6,218, being a decrease in the credit balance of the Colony of £7,529 as compared with the same date of the previous year. The balance of the debt due to the Imperial Government is not included in the liabilities.

## (D.) CURRENCY.

No specie was imported during the year under review, but the Imperial Government exported £12,000 to Cape Town.

Government bills on the Crown Agents to the value of £40,947 were granted during the year, for which commissions amounting to £299 were paid.

## (E.) FINANCIAL RETURNS.

Attached to this report are the following statements:—

- (1.) Revenue for the years 1902 and 1903 shewing increases and decreases.—Marked K.
- (2.) Expenditure for the years 1902 and 1903 shewing increases and decreases.—Marked L.
- (3.) Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years.—Marked M.
- (4.) Assets and Liabilities.—Marked N.
- (5.) Investments on 31st December, 1903.—Marked O.\*

## II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

## (A.) TRADE.

I attach a statement marked P shewing the Customs Receipts under all sub-heads for the last five years including the year under review. The presence of the Boer prisoners in the Colony during the years 1900, 1901, and 1902, was the cause of abnormal receipts under every sub-head, and consequently comparisons with these years serve no useful purpose. The receipts for the year under review may be considered as representing normal conditions, and, taking all circumstances into consideration, I consider them satisfactory.

A return marked Q is attached shewing the value of trade for the last five years. The figures for the year under review are not encouraging. I especially refer to the exports, which were practically nil. They consisted of empty casks, iron tanks, hides and wool. There was no export of farm produce of any

\* Not printed.

kind. It appears to me that the future welfare of this Island depends upon the export of farm produce, especially potatoes, to South Africa. Shortly after my arrival in the Colony I approached the Union-Castle S.S. Company with a view to a reduction being made in the freight charges on fruit and vegetables to South Africa. The Company courteously responded to my appeal by reducing the freight from 42s. per ton to 25s. with ten per cent. primage. The result of my successful effort in this direction was not taken advantage of by the farmers even to the extent of one shipment. In my Annual Report for 1902 I gave the reason for there being no export in farm produce during that year as being owing to the large demand for the same due to the presence of the Boer prisoners in the Colony. I was evidently mistaken in my surmise, and can only give as the real reason the want of energy and enterprise on the part of growers generally. I am afraid that the St. Helenian, so long as he can live comfortably, will not look ahead, his motto being "Sufficient unto the day."

The principal goods imported were:—

	Value.
	£
Oilman's stores ... ..	11,356
Drapery and dry goods ... ..	8,107
Spirits, wines and beer ... ..	7,874
Coal ... ..	3,074
Butter ... ..	2,494
Sugar ... ..	2,494
Flour ... ..	2,379
Grain, seeds, &c. ... ..	2,213
Beef and pork ... ..	2,116
Rice ... ..	2,075

## (B.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The Government Gardens in Jamestown are the nearest approach to a Botanical Station in the Colony. The soil is very poor, which, added to the fact that the annual rainfall in Jamestown is only seven inches, makes it impossible, with the unskilled labour and small funds available, to attempt more than a careful supervision of the fruit trees in the gardens. The fruit throughout the Island has for the last 22 years been more or less destroyed by the ravages of an insect pest called "ceratitis citriperda." It is supposed to have been imported from South Africa in 1882 in a shipment of grapes. I propose legislating towards the extermination of this pest during the present year (1904).

A considerable amount of tree planting was undertaken in the Government woods. An experiment was also made of planting trees upon the hillside in Jamestown and at the Quarantine Station at Lemon Valley. The former was fairly successful; the latter proved a failure. The greatest enemies to tree planting are the goats. Every blade of vegetation is devoured by these animals as soon as it appears. Even barbed wire fencing proved ineffectual to keep out these destructive animals. About 200 years ago the Governor was petitioned to remedy the evil caused by the wholesale destruction of the ebony trees by the goats. The Governor in Council considered the petition frivolous, saying that the goats were more valuable than the ebony. A remedy for the goat nuisance exists in the Trespass Ordinance, but the absence of a sufficient number of police constables makes it impossible to rigidly enforce the terms of the Ordinance. There is no doubt that tree planting on the waste lands, from 1,500 feet above the sea downwards, can only be successful if the holes for the trees are manured and good soil put in, and if regular watering takes place after planting. All this means money; consequently one's efforts are considerably handicapped, and any great success therefrom cannot well be expected. The profits on the sale of fruit from the Jamestown Government Garden during the year amounted to £17. Dead and fallen trees, sold to inhabitants for firewood, brought in £37 for the same period. The year 1903 was a full average for all crops, such as potatoes, forage, and vegetables. Scarcely any blight made its appearance among the potatoes. This is probably accounted for owing to large importations of new seed.

The hay was far above the average on account of the unusual quantity of rain which fell during the last three months of the year.

All stock did well. The unusual quantity of rain during the spring months caused the pastures to be full of grass. I am told that it is years since the cattle have been in such good condition.

#### (C.) FISHERIES.

Early in the year I appointed a commission to enquire into the state of the fishing industry. I attach the report of the Commissioners, marked S, which speaks for itself. The fishermen, very few in number, control the market and catch only as much fish as they think will enable them to procure a comfortable living.

The remedy proposed by the Commissioners is, unfortunately, not practicable at present as far as the Government is concerned, owing to lack of the necessary funds. There appears, too, some doubt as to whether the fish in these waters are local or for the most part only passing

fish. If the former, there is no doubt that with a little enterprise a very good business could be done by any person setting up a fish-curing factory in the Island. The demand for dried fish in South Africa alone would, I consider, ensure the prosperity of such an undertaking. It would, I think, be a sound move for the Government, if funds were available, to carry out the suggestion of the Committee as to purchasing a launch and boats, and so ensure an ample and continuous supply of fish to the islanders at a small cost. This cannot, however, be attempted at present. I fear, too, that the initial outlay would considerably exceed £2,000, the sum named by the Commissioners.

#### (D.) SHIPPING.

Attached is a return, marked R, which shews the number and tonnage of vessels, both steam and sail, which entered and cleared with cargo and in ballast during the last five years. Also a return, marked R<sup>1</sup>, which shews the number of vessels which touched at St. Helena, and were boarded by the Harbour Master during the year under review.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

There were 12 Ordinances enacted during the year, of which the most important were:—

No. 4.—“The Military Lands Ordinance.”

All lands acquired for military purposes are vested in His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for War; and power is given to the officer commanding the troops to perform specific acts thereunder.

No. 7.—“An Ordinance to regulate pensions, gratuities, and other allowances to be granted in respect of offices held in His Majesty's Service in this Colony.”

No. 11.—“An Ordinance to make other provision for securing to children in the Island of St. Helena the benefits of Elementary Education.”

This Ordinance came into force on January 1st, 1904. The school age limit is from 6 to 14 years. Between these ages no child is exempt, if there is a school within two miles which the child can attend. The employment of children under 13 years of age is forbidden. In addition to the above eight Proclamations were enacted during the year; the most important of which was No. 8 prohibiting the landing or importing of any horned cattle, sheep, and goats from all parts of South

Africa or from Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa, to St. Paul de Loanda on the West Coast of Africa.

This prohibition is necessary owing to the prevalence of cattle disease in the countries named.

#### IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools in the Colony remained the same as in 1902, viz., eight. There is also a Military School. During the year 571 children were under instruction in the eight schools, being a slight increase over the numbers in the previous year. The actual standard of excellence reached in any one school is not a high one, owing to the inability to obtain teachers who have themselves been brought up to modern methods of teaching.

An Ordinance was enacted early in the year "to secure to children in the Island the benefits of Elementary Education." This Ordinance repealed the old Education Ordinance of 1874, which was not in keeping with ordinary requirements. The new Ordinance made attendance at school compulsory, but owing to the want of funds it was not found practicable during the year to appoint the necessary "attendance officers," who would see that the terms of the Ordinance were rigidly enforced. The Ordinance referred to was eventually repealed by an improved Ordinance, which, however, did not come into force until January 1st, 1904. I look for a great improvement in the Education Department generally, when this new Ordinance becomes law. The standard of excellence must be a low one unless compulsory attendance is enforced. There is one district in the Island without the means of education, except such as may be obtained from a private school opened in Longwood by a lady residing there. This lady has since left the Island. There was a Hussey Charity School at Hutts Gate, which the Trustees of the Charity closed in 1902, their reason being that the income of the Charity had decreased somewhat. The closing of this school is inevitably a loss to the community, and a continued closure cannot but tend to increase vice and crime. I had hoped to re-open this school as a Government School during the year under review, but funds were not available. I made provision in the 1904 estimates for the opening of the school, but it was found necessary to cut down the expenditure for that year to a considerable extent with the result that the school cannot yet be re-opened.

The Government Girls' School occupies the premier position amongst the schools of the Island. There is more methodical work done there, as shewn in the Annual Examination.

This fact is due to the efforts of the Head Teacher, Miss Short, who is most indefatigable and enthusiastic in the carrying out of her duties. She also has the benefit of two assistant teachers, whereas the other Government Schools only have one. There is no doubt that the Head Teacher and his assistant in the other two Government Schools have no easy task set them to teach 100 scholars, approximately the number in each of the schools. This question is again a matter of funds, and I hope that before long it may be possible to remedy the evil. A certificated Head Teacher for the Boys Town School is expected to shortly arrive in the Colony. He will also train pupil teachers—thus supplying a want long felt.

During the year a mass meeting of the ratepayers in the Island was called at my request, in order to ascertain if they would be willing to raise an annual sum of £115—being a rate of 3*d.* in the pound on the rateable value of property—in order to assist the Government in improving the facilities and standard of education in the Colony. My proposal was rejected by a fairly large majority. Curiously enough the colored ratepayers were nearly all in favour of the rate being levied. The want of any form of industrial education is badly felt in the Colony. The absence of skilled labour is particularly noticeable, and is a source of the greatest inconvenience to the Government and the public generally. This year (1904) I am training four boys as apprentices in the following trades:—carpenter, printer, blacksmith and plumber. I trust that in my next Annual Report I shall be able to shew that there has been a decided improvement in education matters generally.

#### V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

##### (A.) HOSPITALS.

There are two hospitals in the Colony, the Civil Hospital and the Military Hospital; the latter, however, does not come within the scope of this report. The number of patients admitted to the Civil Hospital during the year was 137. There were 12 deaths, *i.e.*, 8·7 per cent., of the total admissions. In three cases, however, the patients were moribund on admission; omitting these the ordinary death rate would be 6·5 per cent.

The principal diseases may be subdivided as follows:—

Disease.	No.	Disease.	No.
Intestinal ... ..	12	Enteric fever ... ..	2
Beri-beri ... ..	9	Eye disease... ..	18
Tubercle ... ..	17	Bone disease ... ..	5
Rheumatism ... ..	7	Dysentery ... ..	4
Nervous system ... ..	10	Local injuries ... ..	16
Respiratory ... ..	10		

The most noticeable feature in connection with the above table is the great decrease in the number of enteric fever cases, there having been 37 such cases in 1902. The Lady Superintendent and her staff of nurses gave, as usual, every satisfaction. For the first time in the history of the Hospital the nursing staff was placed upon a satisfactory footing in 1902, when the staff was fixed at a Lady Superintendent and three nurses. The work that has fallen on the staff since this new arrangement was made, has, I consider, proved that the increased number of nurses is the irreducible minimum consistent with efficiency.

#### (B.) SAVINGS BANK.

The report of the Manager of the Savings Bank for the year under review shews a satisfactory state of affairs. The number of depositors during the year was 203, or a decrease of 18, as compared with 1902. The amount deposited was £5,129; and £9,743 was withdrawn, as compared with £11,409 and £8,274 respectively in the previous year. These decreases, as the Manager points out, are easily accounted for, and were inevitable: (a) the absence of the prisoners of war and their guards; (b) the large decrease in the number of persons employed by the Imperial Government and other persons; and (c) the fact of eight regular large depositors withdrawing their savings for investment elsewhere.

In my report for 1902 I pointed out that the capital of the bank amounted to £31,747 on the 31st December, 1902. This figure rose to close on £33,000 in January of the year under review, but the large withdrawals during the year caused the figures on the 31st December, 1903, to stand at £27,888. This is exclusive of the interest due for the year.

The increase in withdrawals was also due to the necessity of many depositors being compelled to withdraw part of their savings for want of steady employment.

Against this, however, the value of the moneys invested on the 31st December, 1903 (£29,805) shewed an increase of £2,356 over the amount invested on the same date of the previous year.

The revenue of the bank (£952) exceeded that of the previous year by £195. The expenditure (£807) was in excess of that of 1902 by £32. After paying the Manager's salary for the year of £40, the Colony benefited to the extent of £145 on the year's work. Reviewing the work done by the bank during the year the Manager points out that the deposits were steady from the more prudent of the inhabitants, though they were in much smaller amounts than in many of the preceding years. The increase in withdrawals was naturally to be expected as soon as the internment of the Boer prisoners came to an end. A satisfactory point in connection with the withdrawals is that in the case of some of the larger withdrawals—amounting to probably £5,000—they have been re-invested by the owners on improvements on their landed property.

The "Friendly Benefit Society" withdrew their money in order to re-invest it in landed property at a higher rate of interest than that paid by the Government.

#### VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

##### (A.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

*Supreme Court.*—At the Quarterly Sessions of the Supreme Court there was one conviction for larceny.

*Police Court.*—The Police Magistrate reports that the number of cases heard in this Court were less than in 1901 and 1902. This decrease is accounted for by the departure of the Boer prisoners from the Island, and also from the fact that there was less money in circulation during 1903 than in the two previous years; consequently intoxicating liquors were not so heavy a charge on the pockets of the labouring class.

I am glad to say that with one or two exceptions the women do not frequent the public houses. The number of prostitutes in Jamestown appears to be on the decrease. Not a single case of gambling in the public houses came to the notice of the police during the year. On the whole the tone of these houses has somewhat improved since the departure of the prisoners of war.

The Police Magistrate heard 197 cases during the year under review, as compared with 312 in 1902. Convictions:—

Cases.	1903.	1902.
Assaults and other offences against the person ... ..	17	33
Malicious injury to property ... ..	4	5
Offences against property other than malicious ... ..	4	20
Offences against highways, ... ..	7	13
Other offences such as soliciting, drunkenness, &c. ...	133	177

The above table shews 165 convictions, as compared with 248 in 1902.

#### (B.) PRISONS.

The only gaol in the Colony is situated in Jamestown. The number of prisoners admitted into gaol during the year was 50, as compared with 83 in 1902. There were 45 prisoners discharged during the year, as against 88 in 1902.

The decrease in figures is chiefly due to the departure of the Boer prisoners; but there is no doubt that there was a decided decrease of crime generally.

There were six convicted prisoners in gaol on the 1st January, 1904, and one prisoner awaiting trial.

#### (C.) POLICE FORCE.

The Police Force consists of 1 inspector, 1 corporal, and 7 constables. Two of the latter are employed in the rural districts, leaving 1 corporal and 5 constables for duty in Jamestown. The numerical strength of the Force is inadequate—but the financial state of the Colony will not allow any increase at present. On the occasion of ships-of-war visiting the Island special constables are sworn in, as otherwise the Police would be quite unable to do the work required of them.

The number of cases dealt with by the Police during the year under review was 270, of which 73 were frivolous or of a trivial nature, the remaining 197 being dealt with by the Police Magistrate.

## VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

### (A.) POPULATION.

The civil population amounted roughly to 3,500. The births numbered 146 (including 6 still births), as against 165 (including 10 still births) in 1902. 28 per cent. of the births registered were illegitimate. The deaths amounted to 69, as compared with 118 in the previous year.

Emigration exceeded immigration by 63—the figures being 129 and 66 respectively.

The last of the Boer “irreconcilables” left the Colony in June.

### (B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Colonial Surgeon reports that the state of health of the civil community as indicated by the death-rate for the year under review shows a very distinct improvement, as compared with the previous year.

The total number of deaths in the Colony amounted to 76. Amongst these are included the deaths of 3 seamen, 3 soldiers, and 1 ex-prisoner of war; leaving 69 deaths among the inhabitants proper.

With an estimated population of 3,500 (the strength of the garrison being omitted) the death-rate was 19·7 per thousand inhabitants, as against 34·7 in 1902.\*

There is no doubt, as the Colonial Surgeon points out, that the health of the population suffered very considerably from the presence of the Boer prisoners. In 1899, the year before the arrival of the Boers, the death-rate was 17·3 per thousand. During the three years the Boer prisoners were interned in the Island the death-rate among the inhabitants proper averaged 28·4 per thousand. Epidemics of enteric fever and a severe form of influenza, both introduced by the prisoners of war, would partly account for this—but there is no doubt that other diseases increased. The people lived at unaccustomed pressure, and their habits as to eating and drinking were considerably disturbed by the altered conditions. A few cases of beri-beri have been observed amongst the civil population, and these cases, the Colonial Surgeon states, must be regarded as a legacy left by the prisoners. An epidemic of this disease prevailed for many months in the Boer camps, and it is a question whether or not this insidious disease, observed for the

\* The percentage of deaths was incorrectly printed in the Report for 1902 as 0·75; it should have been 3·47.

first time among the Islanders, has come to stay. It is noteworthy that 33·3 per cent. of the deaths during 1903 were those of children under 2 years of age. In most cases death was caused by disease of the bowel, due very largely to improper feeding and a prevailing ignorance as to the dietetic and hygienic management of children. This could only be counteracted to some extent by the diffusion of a knowledge of the simpler laws of health through school teaching and other ways.

During the first half of the year under review whooping cough was epidemic among the children, very few of whom escaped an attack. Only one death was attributable to this disease, which fact the Colonial Surgeon considers to be somewhat remarkable, seeing that in England whooping cough invariably raises the mortality amongst children to a considerable degree.

Scarlet fever made its appearance in the Island in the month of May. It was brought from the Cape by the men of a detachment of the 3rd Battalion Manchester Regiment. Four cases occurred amongst the troops of this detachment, and during the next few months several cases occurred amongst the civil population, a total of 10 being recorded. There were no deaths from the disease. It is noteworthy that although some of the cases were severe ones and occurred at different centres, the disease did not shew a tendency to spread. Very careful precautions in disinfection and isolation were reverted to where possible—though this could not be the case where the civil population was concerned, owing to the poor and crowded surroundings of most of the patients. The Quarantine Station at Lemon Valley was enlarged and generally improved during the year.

In the month of May of the year under review quarantine for plague on vessels from South African ports was removed after having been continuously in force for fifteen months. It was, however, immediately necessary to impose quarantine on vessels from the same ports on account of small pox having broken out in South Africa. Such quarantine was not removed until October of the same year.

#### (C.) SANITARY.

The construction of the new main sewer in Jamestown was completed during the year. An entirely new system of house drainage is now in progress, and connections are being made to the new sewer. The Sanitary Inspector in his Annual Report points out that although the greatest care has been taken by the Engineer-in-Charge of the drainage works to place gullies, traps, etc., of such pattern, and in such a manner, that only the ignorant neglect and unclean habits of certain householders can cause their premises to get insanitary, yet in the very short time that the new drainage has existed in certain

premises the old habit of throwing slops on to the pavements in the yards is still continued, and traps are thus allowed to fill up with solid matter. It will take some time before such matters can be satisfactorily remedied—and it depends entirely upon the regular and careful watch kept on such people as to how soon they can be taught to recognise a state of cleanliness as imperative to good health.

The new system of water supply will greatly add to the improvement of the sanitary condition of Jamestown. The new service is carried to the nearest point for domestic purposes, with a high pressure, and constant supply to sinks, baths, etc., so doing away with the old storage tanks found on many premises in the full glare of the sun and partly filled with sediment. Efforts were made during the year to improve the means of transport and staff in connection with the scavenging of Jamestown. There is still much room for improvement in this direction, and every effort is being made to establish a quicker system of scavenging, which would undoubtedly be beneficial to public health.

There is a considerable amount of overcrowding among the poorer people in Jamestown. Earth floors are very common. The roofs of houses are mostly of iron, and with no ceiling; this causes the small compartments to be very hot and unhealthy. In many cases the living and sleeping room are in one. The Board of Health have taken steps to make such tenements more healthy by ordering ventilators to be placed in the walls and a ceiling or canvas being placed beneath the iron roof.

A serious outbreak of anthrax occurred both at Deadwood and in Jamestown in June among the cattle imported from England by the Imperial Government. The most stringent measures for isolating the cattle and disinfecting the vicinity of the outbreak were observed. The outbreak, however, assumed so serious a character that I found it necessary to act promptly in the matter, and I ordered the immediate destruction of the infected animals together with any who had been in contact with same. This meant the entire stock of Imperial Government cattle, numbering 85. The loss to the Imperial Government was very considerable, but the destruction of the cattle, combined with other measures, was effectual in at once checking the spread of the disease. There was not a single case of infection among the Island cattle. There is a belief among more than one of the leading stock owners in the Island that Island-bred cattle are immune from anthrax.

#### (D.) CLIMATE.

The Government Meteorological Station is at Hutt's Gate, situated 1,900 feet above the sea.

The mean barometric pressure for the year was 28·14 inches. I do not fancy, however, that barometers are of much, if any, use in the Tropics.

The mean temperature was 60°, the highest temperature in the shade being 77°, this being recorded on the 31st March. The lowest maximum was 63°, on the 23rd October. The lowest minimum was recorded on the 9th September, being 49·6°. There is very little difference between these figures and those recorded in 1902.

The total rainfall for the year was 42·63 inches. This is the highest fall in one year recorded since 1899, when it was 47·31 inches. The maximum fall in one day was 3·17 inches. This was on the 8th February, and is the greatest fall recorded in 24 hours since the present Meteorological Station was established in 1892. It rained on 291 days of the year, as against 257 days in the previous year.

The mean force of the wind for the year was 14 miles. A force of 49½ miles per hour was registered on the 25th October. This force had not been reached since September 25th, 1894.

The direction of the wind for the year was as follows:—

Direction.	Days.
S.E.	179
E.S.E.	122
S.S.E.	55
E.	7

There were two days of calm.

The mean temperature in Jamestown was 74·6°. No record of rainfall was kept; but the annual fall averages about 7 inches.

It is a curious fact that thunder and lightning are comparatively unknown in St. Helena. It would be interesting to know why this should be.

## VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

### (A.) POSTAL.

The departure of the Boer prisoners and their guards naturally caused a considerable falling off in the Postal Revenue for the year under review, as compared with the two previous years. The revenue amounted to £1,488—whereas in 1902 it was £2,029 (shewn in error in last year's report as £2,099).

The expenditure shewed an increase of £909 over that of 1902—the figures being £1,422 and £513 respectively. In last year's report the expenditure for 1902 was shewn as £429, which was only the local expenditure.

The large increase in expenditure, as compared with the previous year is due to the sum of £823 having been expended in the purchase of a new postage stamp die and a supply of the new issue of stamps. Sea carriage of mails for two years, 1901 and 1902, was also included in the expenditure of the year, amounting to £265. During the year 258 bags of mails and 2,560 parcel post packages were received from the United Kingdom, as against 507 and 4,107 respectively in the previous year.

From Cape Colony and Natal 61 bags of mails and 177 parcel post packages were received, compared with 132 and 32 respectively in 1902.

41,674 letters, newspapers, post-cards and book packets were despatched to the United Kingdom, and 16,241 to Cape Colony and Natal, the figures in the previous year having been 83,262 and 77,595 respectively. 395 parcel post packages were despatched to the United Kingdom during the year and 172 to Cape Colony and Natal, as compared with 1,404 and 714 respectively the previous year.

In addition to the above postal matter, 3,744 registered articles and insured letters passed through the Post Office, being a decrease of 7,679, as compared with 1902.

One registered article was reported as lost during the year.

The following figures give the detail of business done in money orders during the past two years.

	1902.	1903.
	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	8,425	3,908
To South Africa ...	895	707
From United Kingdom ...	1,729	568
From South Africa ...	3,793	1,221

The total commission received on money orders during the year was £56, as compared with £109 in 1902. The above comparisons with 1902, as regards both mail matter and money orders, do not serve any very useful purpose, except to show the abnormal condition of affairs during the internment of the Boer prisoners on the Island, the decrease in registered articles being particularly noticeable.

#### (B.) TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

The Eastern Telegraph Company's staff was increased during the year by five operators, making a total of 27. This was necessary owing to the great increase in the Australian and South African traffic with the United Kingdom. New instruments will shortly be erected by the company, which will result in an augmentation in the speed of transmitting messages by at least 25 per cent. The cost per word to Great Britain and Europe remained at 2s. 6d. viâ St. Vincent, and 7s. viâ Cape Town.

The Colonial Government have no control over the telephone service, which is entirely a military concern. The total mileage of wire amounts to 38 miles administrative system, and 31 miles command system. Five operators and six messengers are employed in the service.

The number of messages dealt with during the year under review amounted to 9,300, of which 2,402 were private messages, the remainder being official. An annual grant of £45 is paid by the Colonial Government towards the maintenance of the service.

#### IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The total establishment of regular troops for the year 1903 was 18 officers and 491 rank and file. The actual strength was 18 officers and 414 rank and file. The regular garrison hardly, however, comes within the scope of this report.

The Local Corps, the St. Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters, was increased during the year to six officers, including a medical officer, and 100 rank and file. The corps was more or less re-organised and placed under the immediate supervision of the officer commanding the troops. From Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive the corps went under canvas, and were inspected by the officer commanding troops in addition to being instructed in out-post and other duties, and drilled in conjunction with the regulars. It is intended to make this camp an annual affair. An excellent spirit exists among

the majority of the men, but there are naturally a few skulkers who by degrees will be weeded out of the corps. Such must always be the case in a volunteer corps, where the men are not ruled by military law. This body of men would prove most useful in the event of mobilisation, when they would be under the strict control of martial law. The majority are keen rifle shots, and periodical shooting matches are held with the regulars, on which occasions the corps can hold its own. The expenditure in connection with the corps amounted to £140 during the year. The total amount allowed, viz., £175, was not required, as the capitation grant of 35s. per man is only drawn for "efficient," that is those members who attend a certain number of drills (24) during the year, and who go through the annual musketry course. An "efficient" has also to attend the annual Easter camp. If, however, he is unavoidably prevented attending, he is allowed to substitute 12 additional drills in lieu thereof. The corps is very much indebted to Captain J. Gellibrand, 3rd Manchester Regiment, acting-adjutant, for the great trouble and interest he took in the corps generally. It was chiefly through this officer's exertions that the Easter camp was instituted—the value of which it is hard to exaggerate in that it gives the volunteers the opportunity of manœuvring with trained troops.

#### X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

##### ROADS.

The upkeep of the country roads remained with the Imperial Government—£250 being expended thereon during the year.

No new roads were made, the mileage remaining as last year.

Only very ordinary repairs were attempted by the Colonial Government on the Jamestown roads, as the whole length of them were "up" at one time or other during the year owing to the works in connection with the new drainage and water systems. In fact, on account of these works the Jamestown roads are in a sad state, and it will take about three years and a considerable amount of money to thoroughly put them in order again. A start in this direction is being made this year (1904).

PUBLIC WORKS OF IMPORTANCE CARRIED OUT IN  
WHOLE OR PART DURING THE YEAR.

Work in connection with the new drainage and water systems, which were commenced in 1902, made excellent progress.

*Main Drainage.*—The laying of the main and the necessary branch sewers was all but completed during the year, and form a most complete and modern system. Manholes or inspection chambers of brick and concrete have been built at all bends and changes of direction; the pipes between them being laid to a perfectly true gradient, so that the likelihood of a stoppage in the sewers is reduced to a minimum. Owing to the rapid gradients throughout it has been possible to use pipes of a comparatively small diameter. All pipes throughout the entire system were carefully tested under water pressure before the trenches were refilled; and defective or leaky joints were made good and again tested and proved sound before being covered or concealed. Ample provision has been made for the ventilation of the sewers. Ventilating shafts carried up to a height of from 20 to 24 feet have been provided for this purpose. The following is a summary of the amount of work executed in connection with the main drainage during the year under review.

- (a) Sewers laid, 2 miles and 50 yards.
- (b) 79 manholes or inspection chambers built—their depth being from 2' 4" to 4' 9".
- (c) 10 ventilation columns erected at the highest points.

97 per cent. of the entire system was completed on the 31st December, 1903.

The laying of the sewers was greatly impeded in consequence of the large amount of rock met with in some of the excavations, the removal of which necessitated continuous blasting. I regret to have to record one fatal blasting accident which resulted in the death of a labourer. This is the only accident of any kind since the commencement of the work, and was not in any way due to the fault of the engineer-in-charge of the works, who had laid down specific instructions regarding blasting, and had such instruction been adhered to the accident could not have happened.

In the early part of the year a considerable scarcity of labour was experienced, which for a time threatened to bring the works practically to a standstill. This state of affairs continued till the beginning of March, when, to remedy the difficulty, I

arranged that a bonus, in addition to their ordinary wage, should be paid to those workmen who attended regularly and were well reported on as good workers. This ensured an ample and immediate supply of labour. The bonus was limited to a maximum of 4d. per diem, payable at the end of six months. At the expiration of that period a sum of £51 was paid in bonus, viz., £40, to men employed on the drainage works, and £11 to those employed on the water works. Labour by then being more plentiful, the bonus was discontinued. £2,183 was expended during the year on the main drainage, making a total of £3,884 expended up to 31st December, 1903.

*House Drainage.*—Work in connection with house drainage was begun in the month of August, but the work could only be undertaken to a limited extent, as, owing to the main sewerage and water works being still in progress, very few tradesmen and artisans capable of performing this class of work could be transferred from the main schemes. On the 31st December, 1903, the drainage of 19 properties had been completed or was in progress. As in the case of the main drainage the same testing of pipes under water pressure was carried out. A ground plan of each property is prepared shewing distinctly the lines of sewers and the position of all inspection chambers, etc. The system employed in carrying out the house drainage reduces to a minimum the likelihood of any stoppage, and which, if it does occur, can readily be got at. £466 was expended during the year in connection with house drainage, which, with £323 expended in material in 1902, makes a total expenditure of £789 up to the 31st December, 1903.

*Waterworks Extension.*—Works on the water supply which were practically stopped in November, 1902, for want of sufficient hands, and until a competent man had been obtained from England to do the necessary connections and repairs to house services, were resumed in the month of May, a plumber having arrived. Briefly the amount of work done in connection with the waterworks extension scheme during the year under review was as follows:—

- (a) 6,326 lineal feet of main taken up and relaid.
- (b) 2,625 lineal feet of branch mains laid.
- (c) Two concrete break-of-pressure tanks built.
- (d) 45 fire hydrants fixed.

On the 31st December, 1903, 87 per cent. of this scheme had been completed.

£806 was expended in this work during the year, making a total of £1,478 up to December 31st, 1903.

*House Service Work.*—This work was carried on simultaneously with the house drainage. Owing to the worn and

defective condition of existing service piping entirely new piping has to be substituted. Wrought iron tubing coated with Dr. Angus Smith's solution is being used in Government properties instead of lead. Although the tubing is perhaps a little more liable to corrode than lead, the cost is so much less that it was considered well worth while using it. Owners of private property have also the option of using it instead of lead piping, but in the majority of cases they prefer the latter.

A total sum of £332 was expended in connection with house services up to the 31st December, 1903, of which £237 was expended during the year under review. I consider that most satisfactory progress was made generally in the several works above referred to during the year, and great credit is due to Mr. Chisholm, the engineer-in-charge, for the progress made.

#### LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

There were six grants of land during the year, with a total area of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres, at the rate of 7s. 6d. per acre per annum. Six transfers of ownership of land were allowed by the Commissioners of Crown lands during the year under review.

The rents for Government properties amounted to £899. The value of land remained as it has been for years past, as far as one could judge.

#### RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The rate of wages remained as in 1902. The same remark applied to the cost of living, which was abnormally high, when compared with the years before the advent of the Boer prisoners.

The staple diet of the people, fish, remained at an excessively high price. I ascertained that when the fish market was glutted, as happened occasionally, and the high price could not be obtained, that the fishermen allowed the fish to spoil rather than accept a lower figure. Mackerel sells at from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a dozen, or 100 per cent. higher than was asked a few years ago.

#### DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

The only departments not dealt with under other heads are the printing and public works departments. The printing department got through a fair amount of work during the year; but as the printing staff only consisted of two men, the department can hardly meet ordinary requirements. The work it does perform is always well turned out. Sixteen and a half reams of paper were used during the year.

The expenditure in the Public Works Department amounted to £4,600 during the year. This included the cost of a shipment

of cypress wood from America, amounting to £2,674. It does not, however, include the expenditure under "Public Works Extraordinary," which is dealt with under another head. Referring to the cypress wood mentioned above, this wood is white ant resistant, and the amount imported is estimated to last for about four years. The public have the privilege of buying the timber, and did so to the extent of £151 during the year under review.

Certain improvements were made in the water supply of the Island in different places. The work was performed conjointly with the Imperial Government, and the thanks of this Government are due to the military authorities for their ready co-operation in the work. Fair progress was made during the year in repairs to public buildings, especially in connection with the Civil Hospital and Quarantine Station. In the latter case additional accommodation was also provided.

Below are comparative statements of the receipts and expenditure of the Poor Board and Public Market for the last five years, including the year under review.

#### Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	862	899
1900	857	871
1901	933	855
1902	897	899
1903	829	821

#### Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	191	172
1900	238	202
1901	242	173
1902	197	186
1903	124	194

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The financial position of the Colony was fairly satisfactory at the close of the year, but this state of affairs cannot long continue owing to the large expenditure necessary under the house drainage and water systems. The money thus expended will in reality only be a loan to householders, but I foresee that

it will be repaid by slow degrees. A maximum term of 15 years is allowed for the repayment by householders to the Government of the cost of the house connections. A very great benefit is likely before long to be conferred on the Colony by the Admiralty undertaking to repair and improve the wharf and sea wall at Jamestown. The need for the work being undertaken at an early date is very pressing; and had not the Admiralty come to the rescue I hardly see how the Colony could have borne the expense, which will not probably run far short of £11,000. Needless to say, this Government is very much indebted to the Admiralty for their timely and useful assistance in a most important matter. Mr. Macfarlane, the Admiralty Civil Engineer at Simonstown, visited the Island in October, and went fully and carefully into the question of repairs and extension of existing works. The works in connection with these probable improvements are of vital interest to the labouring class in this Colony. Before the end of 1904 a large number of hands will be thrown out of work on the completion of the drainage and water works schemes. There will be no immediate nor regular employment for the majority of these men, and therefore the early starting of the sea wall works will be a great boon to a large number of the islanders.

W. J. J. Arnold, Esquire, M.B., was appointed Colonial Surgeon in the month of April, the duties of the office having for two years previous been performed most satisfactorily by Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. D. Mosse, R.A.M.C., P.M.O. Mr. Storer, Head Teacher of the Government Country School, retired on a pension on 1st July, after having served the Government faithfully and well for a period of over 40 years. He retired with the satisfaction of having borne no inconsiderable part in imparting to a large number of scholars, through a great number of years, the best education that was within their reach.

The tendency to emigrate among the inhabitants was noticeable during the year under review. This tendency must inevitably increase, as the outlook for the labouring class is not very promising, seeing that there is no industry in the Colony—and no inclination visible on the part of the people to create one. South Africa is a great market for labour and is near at hand; but the immigration laws in force there are a decided check on emigration from this Colony, as all immigrants must be able to read and write, whereas a very large portion of the St. Helenian poorer classes do not fulfil this condition.

H. L. GALLWEY,

*Governor*

The Castle,  
St. Helena,  
23rd March, 1904.

### K.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for 1902 and 1903, classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs... ..	16,627	7,191	—	9,436
2. Licenses, taxes, auction dues ...	825	905	80	—
3. Fines, fees of court or office, and reimbursements in aid ...	1,040	861	—	179
4. Post Office ... ..	2,030	1,489	—	541
5. Rents of Government property	996	941	—	55
6. Miscellaneous receipts ... ..	647	382	—	265
7. Interest ... ..	930	1,363	433	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>23,095</b>	<b>13,132</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>10,476</b>

### L.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of Expenditure for 1902 and 1903:—

Head.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sharpshooters ... ..	95	140	45	—
Public debt ... ..	2,158	1,000	—	1,158
Pensions ... ..	1,029	1,000	—	29
The Governor ... ..	969	989	20	—
Colonial Secretary ... ..	674	657	—	17
Customs ... ..	1,305	1,787	482	—
Legal ... ..	321	331	10	—
Savings Bank ... ..	628	795	167	—
Police ... ..	762	863	101	—
Medical ... ..	1,558	1,564	6	—
Education ... ..	541	556	15	—
Post Office ... ..	513	1,423	910	—
Miscellaneous Services ... ..	656	292	—	364
Colonial Engineer ... ..	191	251	60	—
Public works recurrent ... ..	2,578	1,847	—	731
Public works extraordinary... ..	3,845	7,029	3,184	—
Port and Marine ... ..	545	524	—	21
Gratuities ... ..	—	158	158	—
Gaol ... ..	245	176	—	69
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>18,613</b>	<b>21,382</b>	<b>5,158</b>	<b>2,389</b>

## M.

The following table shows the Revenue and Expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1899	£ 11,593	£ 11,422
1900	15,391	12,603
1901	24,614	14,927
1902	23,065	18,613
1903	13,132	21,383

## N.

## Statement of ASSETS and LIABILITIES, on the 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Arrears due by Colony ... ..	—	In Colonial Chest ... ..	249 9 0
Personal ... ..	—	With Crown Agents ... ..	—
Pensions ... ..	126 12 3	Remittances in transit to C. A. ... ..	1,600 0 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	2,581 15 0	Advances due to Colony ... ..	5,089 12 6
Due to Savings Bank... ..	27,888 3 3	Arrears of Revenue ... ..	7 16 10
Due Crown Agents, amount overpaid on their General Account, 31st December, 1903.	1,129 8 2	Parliamentary Grants... ..	—
Due G. P. O. London Postal Account ... ..	2 8 7	Grants in Aid ... ..	—
	31,728 7 3	Mail Service ... ..	—
	6,218 11 1*	Invested for Savings Bank ... ..	31,000 0 0
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ... ..	37,946 18 4		37,946 18 4

\* This does not include the Expenditure for labour under House Drainage, &c., up to 31st December, 1903, of £266 1s. 4d., which is recoverable from householders.

NOTE.—Balance of Parliamentary Grant of £1,000 is not included in the Liabilities.

## P.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CUSTOMS REVENUE for the past FIVE YEARS, 1899 to 1903.

	Permits.	Wharfage.	Duty.	Tonnage Dues.	Rent.	Water.	Total.
	£ s. d.						
1899	42 2 0	1,898 4 1	3,765 1 7	401 7 0	91 5 11	350 5 0	6,548 5 7
1900	49 17 0	2,277 11 5	6,527 17 2	920 12 0	86 4 5	504 3 3	10,426 8 3
1901	40 2 0	2,980 10 3	10,891 17 0	1,410 14 6	112 8 4	429 16 3	15,865 18 4
1902	46 3 0	3,321 3 7	11,326 12 0	1,354 13 0	146 14 3	432 1 3	16,627 7 1
1903	33 18 9	1 840 18 11	4,620 0 10	393 12 0	86 7 4	216 12 6	7,191 10 4

## Q.

## VALUE OF TRADE, 1899-1903.

## Imports from

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1899 ... }	80,232 *9,000	7,598	†3,869	91,699
1900 ... }	159,573 °15,000	8,709	—	168,282
1901 ... }	100,675 °16,650	4,970	—	105,645
1902 ... }	93,920 *15,000	6,558	—	100,478
1903 ...	55,120	3,111	2,228	60,459

° Specie imported.

† Whale oil transhipped.

## Exports to

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1899 ... }	3,849 °3,594	743	—	4,592
1900 ... }	4,075 *3,785	140	—	4,215
1901 ... }	4,724 *4,035	—	—	4,724
1902 ... }	1,168 °250	587	—	1,755
1903 ...	235	†12,000	—	12,235

° Specie exported by merchants.

† Specie exported by Imperial Government to South Africa.

## R.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SHIPPING ENTERED and  
Cleared from 1899 to 1903.

	1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.								
British— Steam Sailing	30	100,814	41	155,542	74	248,089	66	228,337	34	164,944
Foreign— Sailing	9	6,54	9	4,944	6	4,654	7	5,687	6	3,921
Total	43	108,639	53	162,032	82	253,602	74	234,443	41	169,344

R<sup>1</sup>.GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at this PORT, from JANUARY 1st, 1903, to  
DECEMBER 31st, 1903.

Class.	American.		British.		Dutch.		Austrian.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Swedish.		Russian.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Vessels of War and Transports.	—	—	8	13,775	—	—	1	2,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	16,275
Mail and Merchant Steamers and Transports.	—	—	39	137,319	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	436	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	137,755
Merchant sailing Vessels	5	10,328	36	52,943	2	2,839	—	—	2	3,323	4	3,857	4	3,833	18	15,736	1	485	2	2,323	74	95,067
Whalers ... ..	2	529	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	529
Total ...	7	10,857	83	204,037	2	2,839	1	2,500	2	3,323	5	4,293	4	3,833	18	15,736	1	485	2	2,323	125	250,226

Tonnage of Men-of-War and Transports...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,275
"    "    Steamers ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137,755
"    "    Sailing Vessels ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96,196
Total Tonnage...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	250,226

1902 Number of Vessels ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
"    Tonnage ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	426,499

## S.

## REPORT ON THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

St. Helena,

8th May, 1903.

SIR,

WE have the honour to state that in compliance with your letter of the 4th March last, the Commissioners appointed by His Excellency the Governor met and obtained evidence (a) "on the reasons for the present unsatisfactory state of the Fishing Industry," and (b) "our opinion as to the best way of remedying the evil," and we beg to report thereon as follows:—

2. The initial difficulty having been overcome by the ready assistance given us by Mr. James Boyd of the Customs Department, who kept a book and noted for a period of thirty days the number of boats and men arriving with the quantity and different kinds of fish each morning; this work compelled our assistant to be out on the landing place an hour before the fishermen could enter the town, as the line gates are open at 5 a.m. The record is only as regards the fish brought to the wharf for sale in the market, and does not in any way give a record of the fish caught along the coast line and taken direct to the country. The quantity of fish brought to Jamestown during the 30 days in March and April is herewith given, viz.:—

Fish.	Quantity.
	Dozens.
Mackerel... ..	918
Bull's eyes ... ..	384
Old wives ... ..	40
Silver fish ... ..	8
Stoney brass ... ..	22
Soldiers ... ..	3
Mixed cavally, jacks, congers, &c. ... ..	168
	No.
Albicore, weighing from 40lbs. to 150lbs. each	101
Barracouta ... ..	6
Bonito ... ..	5
Coal fish ... ..	2
Yellow tail ... ..	10
Sword fish ... ..	1
Porpoise ... ..	1
Sharks ... ..	10
Turtle (Weight 312lbs ) ... ..	1
	Dozens.
Stumps ... ..	32½

The prices set opposite the daily sales were given to us by the police, who had been on night duty and were present at the market building each morning. The ruling price for albicore was sixpence for a slice weighing about 1¼ lbs.; this is about 20s. for each albicore on the average, and is at least 400 to 500 per cent. higher than previous to the internment of the prisoners of war. As regards the price of the mackerel, the increase is still more marked, and they (except on three days) realised 2s. a dozen, or 1,200 per cent. higher than formerly. The other fish were much in the same proportion, and the market was only a little more than half supplied. The total amount of money received for 30 days was at the lowest estimate £265 14s., which gave to each man engaged in the boats 8s. per day. The estimate for the year for fish is therefore £3,188 8s. We should have been able to have given the exact figures, had the Market Committee or their clerk attended to the collection of the fee of 5 per cent., authorised by the Governor in Council, but owing to the laxity of the market authorities the full return of 5 per cent. was not collected, the reason being herein-after referred to. Upon the sum last mentioned the Market Committee might very reasonably have received under the Market Rules for the use of the market at least £150 a year, perhaps more. It appears the fish market is only credited with the following fees for 1902:—

Month.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
January ... ..	1 19 5
February and March ... ..	4 4 8
April ... ..	2 5 8
May ... ..	2 14 3
June and July ... ..	3 12 11
August ... ..	1 16 4
September ... ..	17 10
October ... ..	2 3 11
November ... ..	2 2 3
December ... ..	15 0
	22 12 3

The reason for so small an amount being credited to the market is that the collection of the 5 per cent. is left to an old man, who does not appear at the market till 7 a.m., when very little fish remains unsold, all, or very nearly all, having been disposed of between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.; and the payment he receives for collecting the dues is half-a-crown per month, hence the collector takes no interest in his work. If the 5 per cent. is to be collected at all, the collector should be fairly well remunerated for the work and he should be at the landing place not later than 5 a.m. daily, otherwise the Market Committee

will in time receive nothing. At the same time we wish to observe that for the use of the small iron structure, where the fish is sold, the charge of 5 per cent. is too high and is out of proportion to its value or the convenience received by the fishermen, as £50 is the outside value of the structure.

3. Of the 11 licensed fishing boats only two are really well equipped whale boats, the others are more or less unseaworthy, they are manned by a class who do not depend on fishing for a living. In some of the boats the single men only want to make enough money to last for two or three days, and when that is spent they make a fresh start. Some of the boats are very small and are engaged mostly catching mackerel in the bay. They are manned by bonâ fide fishermen, who occasionally remain on shore for a day's work or go into the passage boats for employment, consequently there is no fish at times. Excepting the men who own and work in the two whale boats referred to, and by whom the fish market is ruled the others are indifferent and have no energy to better their condition. All the fishermen who have been examined state that the fish is scarce and they would catch more if they could. The reason is they go to leeward and constantly over the same ground because the sea is calm there. It is plain that more fish could be taken if they were not so idle. They very seldom go to the windward part of the Island, where private parties go for amusement and return with plenty of fish. Yet, by the high price they obtain, they can afford to make it appear they make a very poor living, and so they minimise the amount of money received. The facts, however, are different to their statements, and we can only come to one conclusion, that a "ring" has been formed to bring in just sufficient fish as will give a big day's wages to each boat. The eleven boats employ about 34 men, and the fish are caught with hook and line only.

4. The open boats are not suited for fishing to windward, and when they are worn out and no others are imported to replace them, unless some improvement takes place, greater hardship will, without doubt, fall on the inhabitants. We therefore respectfully venture to submit our opinion to remedy the evil, but the first requisite is money. If that is forthcoming the first necessity is a good steam launch and three life boats of about ten tons each. These boats should be decked, coppered, and equipped for fishing in deep water, say, from 80 to 120 fathoms, and able to withstand unfavourable weather. The boats should be towed to their anchorage and left till the following morning, when the launch should bring the fish from two boats with the third boat in tow to discharge all fish at the wharf, the boat's crew having a run on shore for the day and to be ready to return to relieve the second boat, and so on. Each boat's crew would have one day on shore in every three. In the launch the men would be under the person in charge,

and in the boats the foreman should be made to keep a record of everything, and the crews paid at a given salary per month, say, at the rate of 3s. per day, viz.:—

	Per Annum.
	£
1 Engineer ... ..	120
4 men in launch at 3s. say ... ..	220
12 men in 3 boats at 3s. ... ..	660
Incidentals, Gear &c. ... ..	150
	1,150
For the launch and 3 boats say ... ..	2,000
	3,150
Total ... ..	

The initial outlay is all that is required, viz., £2,000, as it is estimated the daily catch and sale of the fish would amply refund all outlay. All fish to be the property of the boat proprietors, who would most likely appoint a committee to carry out the details, and arrange for a sinking fund for the launch and boats. We would also suggest that each boat should be furnished with a trammel net. One was used by the captain of one of His Majesty's ships a few years ago, and was found to answer admirably, and another was imported by the present harbour master. These nets are especially valuable on account of the ease with which they can be set and taken up, two men being sufficient for either operation.

We have, &c.,

J. HOMAGEE,  
President.

ROBT. R. BRUCE,  
Harbour Master.

G. LIDDY,  
W. H. MARRIOTT.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
399	Fiji ... ..	1902
400	Lagos ... ..	"
401	British Solomon Islands ... ..	1902-1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands ... ..	1903
403	St. Vincent ... ..	1902-1903
404	Grenada ... ..	1903
405	Southern Nigeria ... ..	1902
406	Straits Settlements ... ..	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago ... ..	1902-1903
408	Basutoland ... ..	"
409	Northern Nigeria ... ..	1902
410	Malta ... ..	1902-1903
411	St. Lucia ... ..	1902
412	Mauritius ... ..	"
413	British Guiana ... ..	1902-1903
414	Jamaica ... ..	"
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1,985])	1902
415	Falkland Islands ... ..	1903
416	Leeward Islands ... ..	1902-1903
417	British Honduras ... ..	1903
418	Bermuda ... ..	"
419	Weihaiwei ... ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada ... ..	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ... ..	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ... ..	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong ... ..	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ... ..	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei ... ..	General Report.
21	Dominica ... ..	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles ... ..	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica ... ..	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada... ..	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong ... ..	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria ... ..	Mineral and Vegetable Products.