

No. 448.

ST. HELENA.

R E P O R T F O R 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 403.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1905.



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GOVERNOR GALLWEY to MR. LYTTTELTON.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

23rd February, 1905

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the St. Helena Blue Book for the year 1904, together with my Annual Report covering the same.

2. Under the head of "Vital Statistics" I have pointed out the incorrect figures in connection with the population of the Colony which were given in the Blue Books for the years 1902 and 1903.

I have &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and

Commander-in-Chief.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1904.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) REVENUE.

The total revenue collected during the year under review amounted to £14,102 15s. 9d., being £728 15s. 9d. above the original estimate and £971 over the receipts of the previous year.

The increase is chiefly attributable to the disposal of the entire stock of the Victorian issue of postage stamps, which realised £817 odd. Other causes of excess were increases in the Customs of £895, chiefly under the sub-head "Spirituous Liquors," due to increased imports of beer in hogsheads; and under "Wharfage," largely owing to building material and cables imported by the Eastern Telegraph Company.

On the other hand, there were shortfalls of revenue below the estimate, *e.g.*, (a) only £741 was refunded by householders for cost of house connections under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances, whereas it was anticipated that £1,500 would be so recovered; (b) surplus funds in the hands of the Crown Agents, on which the Colony received interest, were refunded to the Colony and expended for general purposes; (c) a decrease of £65 in receipts on account of commissions on bills of exchange. The surmise I made in my Annual Report for 1903 that the Customs receipts would exceed £6,000 in 1904 has proved correct, the total amount being £7,140.

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure for the same period was £18,551 12s. 8d., as against £21,382 14s. 8d. in 1903. The expenditure actually exceeded the estimate by £623 11s. 8d., although when the estimate was framed no provision was made therein to pay off the balance of £1,000 of the loan made to the Colony, without interest, by the Imperial Exchequer in 1872. This balance was, however, paid off and caused the excess in expenditure over estimate mentioned above. In reality the expenditure was £376 8s. 4d. below the estimate as framed. The deficit on the year's transactions therefore amounted to £4,448 16s. 11d., solely due to the large expenditure which the Colony had to face in connection with the new drainage and water systems in Jamestown. The payment of the balance of the debt referred to above was the only important excess of expenditure over the estimate. On the other hand, the principal savings effected were:—(a) pensions, £33. Three pensioners died during the year, and two were added to the list (b) Customs, £153, under rebate of wharfage on coal to His Majesty's ships. (c) Medical, £115. Savings under "Provisions," and office of nurse being vacant part of the year. (d) Education, £92.

Office of head master to Boys' School being vacant part of the year. Other casual savings amounted to £106.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December, 1904, the assets of the Colony amounted to £35,990 10s. 2d., and the current liabilities were £31,823 5s. 9d., showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £4,167 4s. 5d., a decrease of £2,051 6s. 8d. in the credit balance of the Colony as compared with the previous year. Only a very small portion of this £4,167 4s. 5d. is available for current expenditure, as no less a sum than £3,876 9s. 2d. is due by householders, under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances, for the cost of the house connections and water services of private properties.

(D.) CURRENCY.

Government bills on the Crown Agents amounting to £29,477 7s. 1d. were granted during the year under review, as against £40,947 in 1903. The commissions paid on same amounted to £221 12s. 11d. (£299 in 1903), out of which sum, however, £73 12s. 6d. was paid to the Imperial Government in remittance charges.

There was no import of specie during year, and the export thereof amounted to only £250.

(E.) FINANCIAL RETURNS.

The following financial statements are attached to this report:—

- (1) Revenue for the years 1903 and 1904, showing increases and decreases—marked K.
- (2) Expenditure for the years 1903 and 1904, showing increases and decreases—marked L.
- (3) Revenue and expenditure for last 5 years—marked M.
- (4) Assets and liabilities—marked N.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

The Customs receipts under all sub-heads during the year amounted to £7,140 11s. 10d., being a decrease of £50 18s. 6d. as compared with the previous year. I consider these figures fairly satisfactory. Attached to this report is a statement, marked P, giving the Customs revenue for the last five years, including the year under review. The decreases come under the headings "Permits," "Duties," "Tonnage," and "Water."

There was a falling off in home consumption of 798 gallons of spirits, 593 gallons of wine, and 135 dozen bottles of ale. The decrease in tonnage dues is equal to about 1,000 tons cargo less in the imports and exports of goods; and as regards water, probably 400 tons less were supplied owing to the falling off in the number of His Majesty's ships and other vessels calling at the port of Jamestown.

The increase of £266 odd under "Wharfage" is principally due to the imports of cable and plant by the Eastern Telegraph Company, and to the increase in the number of hogsheads of beer imported. There were 1,082 hogsheads of beer imported during the year under review, as against 767 in the previous year. There is a wharfage charge of 3s. on each hogshead. The Supervisor of Customs considers that this excess may be inferred owing to the fact that since April last a large percentage of the troops of all ranks received 6d. per diem in excess of their previous pay. I attach a return, marked P, showing the value of trade for the last five years. Only £90 worth of farm produce was exported during the year. Other exports included ox hides, £180; wool, £40; and sheep skins, £15. These figures serve to show that the island is practically without an export trade. The total value of the imports was £75,987, being an increase of £15,519, as compared with 1903. Nearly the whole of this increase, however, was taken up in cable and plant imported by the Eastern Telegraph Company, the cost of cable alone amounting to £15,270.

The principal imports were:—

Articles.	Value.
	£
Telegraph cable	15,270
Oilman's stores	12,605
Drapery and dry goods ...	7,625
Beer	4,597
Flour	2,829
Sugar	2,734
Butter	2,614
Coal	2,400
Hardware	2,374
Rice	2,362
Spirits	1,861
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco ...	1,852
Grain and seed	1,794
Wines	1,789
Beef and pork	1,690
Leather	1,641
Furniture	1,635

There is practically no difference between the figures of 1903 and 1904, either as regards Customs revenue or value of trade (not including the telegraph cable).

So long as the garrison remains at the present strength I consider that the following figures represent a nominal year:—

	£
Customs revenue	7,000
Value of imports	60,000

(B.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The Colony still remains without an industry. There is, however, some hope that a company may shortly be formed with a view to working the flax plant. A number of gentlemen in London, as also an exploitation in Johannesburg, approached the Government with a view to starting the industry referred to. No definite decision appears to have been yet arrived at so far as my knowledge goes. Flax thrives in St. Helena as does the *Furcraea* aloe, from which excellent fibre is obtained. Samples of both these products have been sent home and have been well reported on. Some years ago a company did start operations, but failed, chiefly owing, I understand, to unbusinesslike methods. On the other hand, the Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, informed me, in reply to a communication I addressed to him on the subject, that he considered the flax plant (*Linum usitatissimum*) "quite unsuitable for cultivation within the tropics." Sir. Thiselton Dyer also gave his opinion that "no useful purpose would be served by attempts to establish the industry in St. Helena." The highlands of St. Helena possess a climate that is in no sense tropical. The sun is never really too hot. In fact, it is difficult to believe that St. Helena is in the tropics when once one reaches the high grass lands.

Early in the year I called together a meeting of all persons interested in fruit growing, with a view to deciding on the best methods to be employed in making an effort to eradicate the insect pest known as the "peach fly" (*ceratitis citriperda*), which has prevented any progress being made in fruit growing for the last 23 years. The meeting were generally of opinion that the enactment of an Ordinance treating with the evil would be a move in the right direction. I accordingly enacted an Ordinance (No. 7 of 1904) entitled "An Ordinance for the extermination of the fly (*ceratitis citriperda*) known as the peach fly." The Ordinance compels persons owning fruit trees to destroy all maggot-infested fruit. It prohibits the sale of fruit in which the maggot has developed, and it further prohibits the exportation of fruit from those countries where the fly exists. The Ordinance provides for penalties against offenders; and inspectors were appointed under the Ordinance with a view to enforcing the provisions thereof. As the Ordinance was only enacted in October, it is not yet possible to say if it is a success or otherwise. I have, however, been

informed that fruit owners who hitherto never attempted to sell their peaches, but allowed the fruit to fall on the ground and breed maggots, have been cutting their trees down. As such trees were the ones that assisted the fly to do the most harm, it is to be hoped that the action of the owners thereof may prove beneficial.

The Government imported a large number of pear, apple, plum, and other fruit trees from the Cape during the year, which were sold to the public. The trees are almost without exception in the most flourishing condition. There is no doubt that fruit trees imported from South Africa thrive better than those imported from England. Some very useful efforts were made during the year by the Government foresters in tree planting, including trees on each side of the road for a considerable distance between Plantation and Ladder Hill. The majority of these trees look most promising, and in a few years the appearance of the road in question will be generally improved when the trees attain a respectable height. Similar efforts to grow trees in this particular region have been made for many years, but until now have been completely unsuccessful. The authorities at Kew kindly supplied this Government with the seed of a large number of trees and shrubs for experimental purposes. I distributed the seeds to the several land owners I considered would take an interest in rearing the same, but I regret to say that the results were very disappointing, the only seeds that gave any real satisfaction being the eucalyptus species, of which there were many varieties. There were one or two other exceptions. The Commissioner of Agriculture in the West Indies was good enough to supply this Government, free of cost, with a quantity of cotton seed for experimental purposes. This seed was distributed, together with instructions how it was to be treated. It is too early yet to report on the result of the experiment. There does not appear, however, to be any doubt that cotton would thrive in certain parts of the island, but sufficient level ground does not exist. I am afraid, too, that the cost of labour, and the unsatisfactory water supply, would prevent the growing of cotton in small quantities to be a profitable undertaking. There is, unfortunately, no botanical authority in the island, and consequently any efforts to raise trees and shrubs can only be very experimental. The cost and difficulty of watering young trees is also a decided bar to successful rearing, even by amateurs. The sale of fruit from the Government garden in Jamestown produced £18 odd during the year under review. Trees to the value of £19 were sold to the public for firewood during the same period. The year 1904 was unusually favourable to agriculture. The usual dry weather from November to March, entailing shortness of food for stock and scarcity of water, was for the second year in succession conspicuous by its absence. The hay crops at the beginning of the year were the most abundant known for years, and were generally

secured in good condition. Cattle thrived well during the year. Potatoes were fairly plentiful, but I understand that the quality was poor. It has been suggested that potato growers would do well to try some of the new disease-resisting kinds. It appears that St. Helena potatoes do not now fetch the price they used to at the Cape, as since the war in South Africa that country is so well served that it can grow its own potatoes.

(C.) FISHERIES.

No attempt can be made by this Government to develop the fishing industry until such time as the finances of the Colony are in a more flourishing condition. An ex-Boer stated his intention to start a fish-curing factory at Ruperts. I am not aware that any progress has been made in the project, nor do I know from what source the necessary capital is to be obtained.

(D.) SHIPPING.

Attached to the report are two returns, marked R and S, respectively, one being a general abstract of vessels which touched at the port of Jamestown during the year under review, and the other a comparative statement of shipping, entered and cleared, during the past five years, including the year under review.

The number of vessels that touched at St. Helena during the year was 107, the lowest on record, being 18 less than in the previous year. The total tonnage of the vessels, however, shows an increase of 3,843 tons over 1903. This increase was caused by the arrival of five war-ships and transports over the arrivals under those heads in the previous year.

It was generally supposed that when the island was once connected by cable with the outside world that the cases of ships calling for telegraphic orders would greatly increase, and thereby add to the prosperity of the Colony. This has unhappily not proved to be the case, only five vessels calling for that purpose during the year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Of the seven Ordinances enacted during the year under review, the most important were:—

No. 2.—“Repeal of Laws Ordinance.” 26 old Ordinances, together with five Orders in Council and two Proclamations, made between the years 1839 and 1902, having become unnecessary, were repealed. There is no properly compiled volume of the laws of St. Helena, nor can such a compilation be attempted at present owing to want of funds. The removal therefore of obsolete and superfluous Ordinances tend to make it less difficult for the public to become acquainted with the laws actually in force.

No. 6.—“The Drainage Ordinance.” This Ordinance repealed Ordinances No. 9 of 1902 and No. 3 of 1904, and is in every way more comprehensive than the repealed Ordinances. It provides for the repayment by householders to the Colonial Government of the cost of the drainage of private properties. At least one-fifteenth of the principal must be paid every year for 15 years. After the expiration of one year from the date that the Drainage Authority notifies in writing to the owner that the work of laying the drainage to his property is complete, interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is charged on such portion of the principal that remains outstanding at the end of the year. Further, this rate of interest is increased to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum after the expiration of six years from the date of the Drainage Authority's notification to the owner.

By adopting this system of annual payments the probability of a number of properties being thrown on the Government's hands, through confiscation for non-payment of principal, is reduced to a minimum.

No. 7.—“The Peach Fly Ordinance.” This Ordinance is referred to as to its aims and working under the head of “Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.”

In addition to the Ordinances there were three Proclamations issued during the year, two of which were in connection with the neutrality of His Majesty the King, and setting forth certain rules and regulations to be observed during the continuance of hostilities between the Empires of Russia and Japan. Among the Regulations issued was one under Section XV. of the “Water Works Ordinance, 1902,” by which householders were called upon to repay to the Colonial Government the cost of the water services to their private properties within a maximum period of three years, one-third of the principal at least to be paid each year. After the completion of one year, interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum per annum to be charged on any portion of the cost remaining unpaid at the end of each year.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools in the Colony was increased during the year by one, caused by the re-opening of the Hussey Charity School at Hutt's Gate, which had been closed for over a year owing to lack of funds. The nine schools are as follows:—four Government, three Hussey Charity, and two Benevolent Society. The total number of scholars attending the schools was 646 of which 325 were boys. Of the total given, 302 scholars were taught in the Government Schools. The attendance at all the schools considerably improved during the year under review. This was consequent upon the enforcement of a new Elementary Education Ordinance which came into force on January 1st, 1904. The Ordinance provides for compulsory attendance at school of all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years. It also prohibits the employment of children under the age of 13 years, and lays down certain conditions under which children who have attained the age of 13 years may be employed. The Inspector of Schools, the Reverend Canon Porter, reports that the result of the satisfactory working of the Ordinance referred to has relieved teachers of a great deal of anxiety and worry, by making the general work more even, whilst it has ensured for these children who formerly were wont to play truant an elementary education such as is within their reach. The Inspector also remarks that some of the scholars who made the most marked improvement and progress were amongst those who, before the passing of the compulsory attendance Ordinance, it was most difficult to bring to school. Formerly a School Board existed only in name, without being of any practical use in either furthering the education of the children or of superintending the running of the several schools. Under the new Ordinance an efficient Board, presided over by the Governor, was appointed, in addition to a School Inspector and an Attendance Officer. The Board has proved itself to be a most useful body; and it is to a great extent owing to the exertions of the members thereof, to whom my thanks are due, that the working of the provisions of the Ordinance have proved so satisfactory. The Board meet every month, and oftener when necessary. My thanks are particularly due to the Reverend T. Aitken, Honorary Secretary of the Board, whose duties as such incur a considerable amount of clerical labour. Mr. Aitken's services are given gratuitously, there being no salary attached to the post. As the Inspector points out, the elementary instruction imparted in the schools is not of a superior order; indeed, it is of a crude form, and nothing approaching the excellence of elementary instruction elsewhere. The method of instruction employed in most of the schools is chiefly “cram,” which does not tend to impart true knowledge in any subject, nor is it likely to

exercise the intelligence of the scholars. In short, to use the School Inspector's own words: "There is lacking in these schools a system of definite oral instruction." This has always been the case, except perhaps in the Government Girls' School and in the Government Boys' School, since the arrival in the Colony during the year of a certificated teacher from England. The head teachers of the schools have always been severely handicapped in the large number of classes or grades allotted to their superintendence. The modern fashion is to teach by word of mouth and not by text book. Indeed, the small text book in the hands of an elementary school boy is a puzzle. The teaching staff, especially in the Government Schools, as at present constituted, is so small in proportion to the number of classes that it is impossible to give continuous oral instruction. *Experientia docet*. On the 1st March, 1905, an entirely new scheme will come into force as far as the Government Schools in Jamestown are concerned. The Boys', Girls', and Infants' Schools as now constituted will cease to exist. Under the new scheme the children will be divided into three sections—infants, juniors, and seniors. Each section will be a mixed section in a school of its own. By this method the number of classes will be reduced from 19 to about 8. Each teacher will have about half the number of classes to look after, and so will be better able to concentrate his attention, with the result that the several subjects dealt with will be more likely to be taught intelligently. The "oral" system will be introduced and the use of text books entirely abolished. The new scheme is being organised from suggestions made by Mr. Tucker, the lately appointed Head Teacher to the Government Boys' School. It has the full approval of the School Board and of the School Inspector. A detailed syllabus of work for the year in each subject, and for each class, will be drawn up. I am confident that in my next annual report I shall be in a position to report very favourably on the working of the new scheme. There were 58 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance of parents for the non-attendance of their children during the year under review. Before any prosecutions are undertaken the Attendance Officer personally visits the homes of the absentees in order to ascertain if a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming for the non-attendance reported.

The greatest handicap against the introduction of improvements in the education of the children of St. Helena is the want of funds. The existing schools are overcrowded as it is, and yet the building of class rooms is prohibited for lack of the necessary funds. At least two more schools are required in order to avoid children being called upon to walk very considerable distances to and from school, up and down steep hills, in all weathers. Under the Ordinance children living over two miles from a school are not compelled to attend,

whereas in the country districts a large number of children, from seven years upwards, walk four or five miles to school on most days of the week. This eight or ten miles walk a day in a wet climate is not conducive to promote the popularity of education among such children. The Government, however, are powerless in the matter. Indeed, if it was not for the great assistance rendered by the Hussey Charity and Benevolent Society Schools the means at the Government's disposal would only allow of about 300 children receiving the benefits of elementary education.

There is pressing need for the means of providing Secondary Education to the children in the Colony. This, however, must I fear remain as a castle in the air for some time to come.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There were 112 admissions to the Civil Hospital during the year. Of these, 66 were males and 46 females. There were 3 deaths—giving a mortality of 2·68 per cent. of the total admissions, as compared with 8·7 in 1903.

The Colonial Surgeon points out that the number of admissions during the year was smaller than would otherwise have been the case, owing to the fact that only one ward was in occupation for some months. This was necessary whilst the new scheme of drainage and water supply was being carried out. These works were completed during the year under review, give the greatest satisfaction, and have effected a great improvement in the sanitation of the hospital, and have further added very considerably to the convenience of the nursing staff. Another great improvement was effected by the erection of a verandah, with doorways to open thereon from each ward. As Dr. Arnold points out, it will now be possible to treat in the open air, with great advantage, many cases, both medical and surgical; and the verandah is already greatly appreciated by all convalescent patients. There were about 1,000 attendances at the hospital of out-patients.

The following is a table of the principal diseases in 1904 and 1903:—

Principal Diseases in 1904 and 1903.

Disease.	Number.	
	1904.	1903.
Intestinal	10	12
Beri-beri	2	9
Tubercle	9	17
Nervous system	3	10
Respiratory	3	10
Enteric fever	8	2
Eye disease... ..	3	18
Bone disease	8	5
Dysentery	9	4
Local injuries	12	16

The decrease in the number of cases of beri-beri is a satisfactory sign.

Miss Williams, the Lady Superintendent, was compelled through serious illness to relinquish her duties for several weeks in the earlier part of the year. The two remaining members of the nursing staff admirably carried out their duties under trying circumstances till in part relieved by the arrival of a lady (Mrs. Ellis) from England, who acted temporarily as Lady Superintendent. My thanks are due to Mrs. Ellis for her ready assistance, she having placed her services gratuitously at the disposal of the Government. Mrs. Ellis' sea passages to and from the Colony were paid by the Government, although she was quite prepared to pay them herself if necessary. My thanks are also due to Miss Hart for coming from South Africa and acting as a nurse when the staff was below its complement. Miss Hart, too, gave her services gratuitously, and also paid her own passages.

Two nurses arrived during the year to fill vacancies. The nursing staff carried out their duties in the most satisfactory manner.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

The annual statement of the Savings Bank, as furnished by the Manager, for the year under review may be considered satisfactory.

The number of depositors decreased by 13, some having left the island and others having closed their accounts owing to dullness of trade. The withdrawals during the year were £4,543 19s. 1d. less than in the previous year. The amount remaining in the Treasury on the 31st December, 1904, was £28,097 15s. 8d., being £209 12s. 5d. in excess of the reserve on the same date of the previous year.

The market value of the invested capital on the 31st December, 1904, was £29,504 8s. 5d., which returned £1,070 1s. 10d. interest. This interest exceeded the expenditure of the Bank (Manager's salary, £40, and interest to depositors, £695 15s. 7d.) by £334 6s. 3d., and was also £189 5s. more than in 1903.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.—There were four convictions at the Quarterly Sessions during 1904, viz.:—One common assault, two thefts, and one assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Police Court.—The number of cases heard in this Court during the year under review was 217, as against 197 in the previous year. The majority of the cases, exclusive of those under the Education Ordinance, were for drunkenness, using obscene language, and common assault. There were 58 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance by the School Board Officers; the majority of the defendants were convicted. There were no convictions for gambling during the year, or against the good order of any of the public houses, nor was there a single case against a sailor under the Merchant Shipping Act during the same period. Ten search warrants were issued in cases of theft, and in only two cases were there no convictions. The number of prostitutes does not appear to have increased, and the Police Magistrate reports a slight decrease in the number of charges against those of the worst kind.

The following table shows 163 convictions, as compared with 165 during 1903:—

	1904.	1903.
Assaults and other offences against the person	16	17
Malicious injury to property	1	4
Offences against property other than malicious	6	4
Offences against highways	8	7
Other offences, such as soliciting, drunkenness, &c.	132	133
Total	163	165

The Police Magistrate informs me that in years past on the occasions of the anniversary meetings of the several Friendly Societies there were always cases of drunkenness to be tried the following day, but that in the last two years or three years there has been a decided improvement in this respect, and it is very satisfactory to be able to record that during the year under review there was not a single case against any member of any one of the numerous societies. A series of burglaries were committed in the Longwood District during the year.

These have all since been confessed to by one or other of the two men who were found guilty of wilful murder at the January Quarter Sessions, 1905. The execution of these two men, which took place in February, 1905, does not come within the scope of this report, but I trust that their fate may prove an example to the law breakers in the Colony generally.

(B.) PRISONS.

There is only one gaol in the Colony, but this is quite sufficient for all requirements. Compared with the daily average number of prisoners in gaol during 1903, the year under review shows an increase of 1.4. This is accounted for by the fact that several persons were sentenced to what may for St. Helena be called long terms of imprisonment, varying from 3 to 18 months. There were also for the last two months of the year two men awaiting trial at the January, 1905, Quarter Sessions. On the other hand, the actual number of prisoners committed to gaol during the year was less than in 1903.

The number of prisoners admitted to the gaol during 1904 amounted to 41 (of which 16 were women), as against 50 in 1903. The number discharged during 1904 was 43 (of which 16 were women), as compared with 45 the previous year. On the 31st December, 1904, there were three prisoners undergoing sentences, and two awaiting trial at the Assizes. The health of the prisoners throughout the year was excellent. This was chiefly due to the sanitary condition of the gaol having been greatly improved. A new drainage and water system was inaugurated, and the gaol yard was paved with concrete in place of the uneven cobble stones. At an early date I propose, on the strong recommendation of the Colonial Surgeon, to carry out certain improvements in the lighting and ventilation of the cells and females' ward.

(C.) POLICE FORCE.

The force remains at the same strength as shown in last year's report. The Inspector makes a satisfactory report on the efficiency and conduct of the force during the year. In fact, he states that there was no serious case of misconduct on the part of a constable during that period. I am satisfied that there is a decided improvement in efficiency among the constables, and a desire on their part to do credit to the force. This is due to the energy of the Police Inspector and to the good feeling that exists between himself and his subordinates. The number of cases reported to, or noticed by, the police during the year was in excess of that of 1903. There was a total of 320 cases in all, of which 219 were dealt with by the Police Magistrate, whilst 101 were enquired into, and settled, by the police, such cases being of a trivial nature and not requiring Police Court action—the figures in 1903 being 270 and 73 respectively.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The population of the Colony, including the garrison and shipping, was 3,882, of which the Civil population numbered 3,458. This is a decrease in the Civil population on the number shown in my last two years' reports, where in reality the population has slightly increased. Shortly after my arrival in the Colony I found that there was no proper system employed by which a reliable estimate of the Civil population could be arrived at, and the figures given by me in my annual report for 1902, viz., 3,400, were as calculated by Lieutenant-Colonel Mosse, the Acting-Colonial Surgeon. The Blue Book, however, gave 4,158 as the population for that year. In the same way my calculation of the population, as given in my report for the year 1903, was 3,500, as against 4,585 given in the Blue Book. I was perfectly satisfied that the Blue Book figures were incorrect, as the system adopted for checking such figures was unpractical and could not be expected to arrive at a correct solution. My surmise proved to be correct, and the total of the Civil population given above for the year under review may be taken as reliable and will tally with the figures given in the Blue Book for 1904. I regret that I omitted in my last two reports to explain the reason of the discrepancy between my calculation of the population and that as shown in the Blue Book. The last Census in this Colony was taken in April, 1901, when the total of the Civil population was shown to be 3,342. The wharfinger, whose figures were taken in 1902 and 1903, had managed to mix up indiscriminately Boers, troops, and other persons in order to arrive at the correct total for those years. The result was, taking the Blue Book figures, that the Civil population increased from 3,342 in April, 1901, to 4,585 on the 31st December, 1903. Now that the figures have been carefully checked the increase of 1,243 in two years and nine months is converted into an increase of only 116 in three years and nine months.

The following figures show very fairly correctly the Civil population of the Colony for the last four years, taking 3,342 as having been the number on the night of the 7th April, 1901:—

Population on 31st December, 1901	...	3,374
" " " 1902	...	3,392
" " " 1903	...	3,403
" " " 1904	...	3,458

The Registrar of births and deaths will in future be responsible for a correct return of the population being kept. There

were 122 births during the year under review, of which 4 were still-births and 24 were illegitimate. 52 deaths were registered during the same period, which include 1 soldier, and 1 seaman landed for hospital treatment. These figures, as compared with 1903, show a decrease of 24 births and 17 deaths. The number of emigrants and immigrants practically balanced each other, there being 83 emigrants and 81 immigrants. There were 29 marriages during the year, being a decrease of 3 as compared with the previous year.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Colonial Surgeon's report for the year under review shows a decided improvement in the health of the Colony as indicated by the death-rate, as compared with 1903. The deaths numbered 52, of which 50 were amongst the Civil population. These figures give a total death-rate of 13.3 per 1,000, or, amongst the Civil population alone, of 14.4 per 1,000, as compared with 19.7 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The death-rate for the year under review is the lowest recorded since 1897. In the months of February and March influenza was very prevalent in the island. Amongst the cases were 28 complicated with lobar pneumonia. This was the type of influenza which visited the Colony so severely in 1900. Only one death, however, resulted from pneumonia, the patient being over 84 years of age. There were 16 cases of enteric fever amongst the Civil population during the year, equally distributed between Jamestown and the country districts. There was one death, equivalent to a mortality of 6.2 per cent. The Colonial Surgeon reports that the enteric in Jamestown appeared shortly after the heavy floods that took place in April, and gives it as his opinion that it is possible that some contaminated matter was washed down from the high lands and reached, what was then, the part source of the Jamestown water supply. In one house where a case of enteric fever occurred, a man over 50 years of age, and the only fatal case, the new pipes had only just been laid, conveying to the house a mixed supply, that is, partly spring and partly stream water. The occupants were warned not to use this water for drinking purposes, but to continue to draw from the tanks in the streets as formerly, until such time as pure spring water only would be conveyed into the house service. This warning was, however, totally disregarded, and the mixed water used for drinking purposes. The Colonial Surgeon considers that in all probability this was the source of the disease, and that the other cases in Jamestown had a similar origin.

As soon as enteric fever appeared notices were posted throughout the Colony that all drinking water, milk, &c., should be boiled, and other precautions were taken. I concur with Dr. Arnold in thinking that these precautions were effective

in limiting the number of cases. The enteric cases in the country were practically confined to two families, and occurred at a later season of the year than those in Jamestown. The origin of the cases in the country is uncertain, owing to the isolated position of the dwellings. In one family, however, the Colonial Surgeon is satisfied that the disease arose from overcrowding, where children were compelled to occupy the same room as the sick, and, in some cases, even the same bed. The sick room, too, was used as a living room. One of the greatest evils amongst the poorer classes of the community is this overcrowding. The Commissioners of Crown Property have, for the last year and a half, refused to allow any tenant of Government land to build a cottage thereon until a plan has been submitted showing interior area, number of rooms, windows, doors, &c., and the number in family. Permission to build is only then given after the Colonial Surgeon has approved of the plan. Had this been done in former years there is no doubt that much disease would have been prevented.

(C.) SANITARY.

The Colonial Surgeon, as Health Officer, reports that the Board of Health met once in each month throughout the year under review. Various matters affecting public health were carefully considered, and in several instances breaches of the Health Ordinance were referred to the jurisdiction of the Law Courts. Alterations in the construction of houses and tenements with a view to their better ventilation are being steadily insisted upon. Galvanised iron is almost exclusively used as roofing material throughout the Colony. The Colonial Surgeon points out that especially in the dwellings of the poorer classes this iron roofing, in a hot climate, has an undoubtedly deteriorating influence on health. Consequently, to remedy the evil, the insertion of a canvas ceiling beneath the iron roof is being gradually made compulsory. Earth floors are being slowly abolished, but the poverty of the householders is a decided bar to rapid changes in this direction. Dr. Arnold reports that the Sanitary Inspector has been most assiduous in seeing that the public carry out the Sanitary Regulations. As I pointed out under the head of "Public Health," the plans of new buildings on Government land are now submitted to the Colonial Surgeon; and in every instance it has so far been necessary to make alterations in the original plans to effect proper ventilation. Ideas on this subject have hitherto been most rudimentary, buildings having formerly been erected in such a manner as to make ventilation impossible. Prior to 1904 vaccination had fallen somewhat into abeyance. During the year under review, however, 409 vaccinations were performed. Of these 97.18 per cent were successful. Three centres of attendance have been fixed for the island, and vaccination is performed at each of these centres once a month.

The Colonial Surgeon formed a class of instruction in "first aid" during the year for the purpose of imparting an idea of this important branch of elementary knowledge to the police force. The men have displayed an intelligent interest in the subject.

The Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Arnold, is indefatigable in his exertions to improve the sanitary conditions of the Colony, and his efforts have been most successful. Dr. Arnold is the only civil practitioner in the Colony, and he practically has sole medical charge of the entire civil population of St. Helena.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The Meteorological Station remains at Hutt's Gate, 1,900 feet above sea level.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28.139 inches, the mean for the past five years being 28.142 inches.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 60.4°, as against 60.0° in 1903, the maximum 77.6° being recorded on the 20th March. In the previous year 77.0° was the maximum temperature, recorded on the 31st March. The absolute minimum was 49.6° on the 21st August, the same as in 1903.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the year under review was 45.73 inches, being an excess of 3.10 inches over the fall of the previous year. Very heavy rains fell during the latter part of March and first few days of April, resulting in heavy floods. The damage caused by these floods is dealt with under the head "Miscellaneous." The heaviest fall in one day was on the 2nd April, viz., 2.18 inches. The total rainfall for April was 10 inches, the highest recorded in one month for many years. Rain fell on 257 days of the year, as compared with 291 in 1903.

Wind.—The anemograph was dismantled on the 18th August, and the recording portions of the instrument were sent to London for repair. They have not yet been returned.

The mean force of the wind up to the 18th August inclusive was 2.5, which is equivalent to 14 miles an hour. The direction of the wind during the same period was:—S.E., 88 days; E.S.E., 115 days; S.S.E., 3 days; and E., 12 days. There were 13 days of calm.

The above statistics only give an idea of the weather conditions of the highlands of the island. The mean temperature in Jamestown was 75°. The maximum reached 81° on the 1st February, and the minimum 65° on the 27th July. There is no record kept by anyone of the rainfall in Jamestown, but I am told it amounts to from 5 to 6 inches during an ordinary year.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POSTAL.

The postal revenue for the year under review amounted to £1,700 16s. 5d., of which £817 8s. 3d. was realized by the sale of the entire stock of the Victorian issues of stamps, the face value of which was £8,638 7s. 8d. The postal revenue exceeded that of the previous year by £212. The expenditure for the year amounted to £414 8s. 9d., being £1,007 16s. 1d. less than in 1903. The expenditure, however, for 1903 was abnormally large, as explained in my annual report for that year. The mail matter despatched to and from the Colony increased under several heads, the principal increase of 3,204 being under post cards, due to the large assortment of pictorial cards purchased by the public; 261 bags of mails and 2,561 parcel post packages were received from the United Kingdom during the year, as against 258 and 2,560 respectively in the previous year. From Cape Colony and Natal 75 bags of mails and 202 parcel post packages were received, compared with 61 and 177 respectively in 1903.

41,129 letters, post cards, newspapers, and book packets were despatched to the United Kingdom, and 16,151 to Cape Colony and Natal—being a decrease of 545 and 90 respectively as compared with the previous year; 281 parcel post packages were despatched to the United Kingdom during the year, and 176 to Cape Colony and Natal, as against 395 and 172 in 1903.

The number of registered and insured articles (none of which were lost), in addition to the above totals, which passed through the Post Office numbered 3,409, being a decrease of 335 as compared with the previous year. On the 1st October of the year under review the postal order system was introduced into the Colony. Prior to this date the money order system only existed. The postal order system provides means to the public for remitting small sums of money at lower rates than charged for money orders. The new system appears to be working well. The following is the commission charged on postal orders:—

For sums of 6d. to 1s. 6d.	... 1d.
For sums of 2s. to 10s. 6d.	... 2d.
For sums of 11s. to 21s.	... 3d.

Half of such commissions are credited to the United Kingdom. Postal orders, in addition to being exchanged with the United Kingdom, are exchanged between St. Helena and the following Colonies:—Gibraltar, Malta, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Barbados, British Honduras, Gambia, Gold Coast, Grenada,

Hong Kong, Jamaica, Cyprus, Bermuda, Leeward Islands (including Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands), St. Vincent, Straits Settlements, Sierra Leone, St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands, and at the British postal agencies at Ascension, Constantinople, Panama, Salonica, and Smyrna.

During the year under review the maximum amount of a money order was raised from £10 to £40.

The following table shows the total transactions in money orders and postal orders during 1903 and 1904:—

—	1903.	1904.
	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	3,908	4,660
To South Africa ...	707	705
From United Kingdom ...	568	402
From South Africa ...	1,221	820

The above figures show a total increase of £183 in favour of 1904. Commissions to the value of £60 were received during the year, as compared with £56 in 1903.

(B.) TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

The Eastern Telegraph Company increased their staff by one, making a total of 28. I understand that before very long the strength will be still further increased to a total of 40. The cost of telegrams per word remains generally the same as last reported. There is an excellent telephone service throughout the island, controlled entirely by the Imperial Government. The length of wire open for traffic was:—Administrative system, 41 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles; command system, 31 miles. Seven stations are maintained (including 3 signal stations). The staff consists of 3 signalmen, 5 operators, and 5 messengers; 9,477 messages were dealt with during the year under review, of which 7,849 were official.

The annual grant paid by the Colonial Government towards the maintenance of the telephone service remains at £45.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The approved establishment of the garrison for the year 1904 was 20 officers and 511 non-commissioned officers and men. The actual strength on the 31st December of that year was 15 officers and 414 non-commissioned officers and men. The expenditure in connection with these Imperial Government troops need not be given here.

In addition to the Regulars, there is a local corps, the St. Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters, with an approved establishment of 3 officers and 100 rank and file. The actual strength amounted to 4 officers (1 supernumerary) and 93 of other ranks. The corps certainly improved in efficiency and discipline during the year. A great deal of attention is paid to rifle shooting, but the shooting on the whole is not good. This is partly due to the difficult conditions as to light and background that exist at the Ladder Hill Rifle Range. The shooting should, however, have been better than it was, as the corps has a Rifle Association which holds fortnightly meetings, and by which members are enabled to fire 14 rounds per month for the sum of one shilling. Instructions in semaphore signalling were carried out during the year, by which two signallers per section were trained. The progress shown by the men of the corps in extended order and skirmishing drill was made apparent on the few occasions on which they worked with the regular troops. The annual Easter camp proved of little practical use, as abnormally heavy rains prevented much real work being attempted. The Adjutant of the corps, Lieutenant H. Winterbotham, R.E., has been very energetic in doing his best to improve the efficiency thereof; and that officer informs me that he considers the discipline, obedience to their non-commissioned officers, and attention to duty of the Volunteers to be deserving of notice. A good *esprit* exists among the men, and they very much appreciate being called upon to work with the Regulars. Such opportunities do not often occur, but on the occasions that the corps co-operated with the regular troops during a "Practice mobilization" in November the Officer Commanding Troops made a very satisfactory report of the work done and the keenness shown. It would be a great benefit to the corps if the members thereof were called out for four days every year, receiving pay and rations during that period. Such an arrangement would be a great improvement on the Easter camp. It would, too, add to the efficiency of the corps, and would, I consider, attract the best class of men to enlist therein.

The total expenditure in connection with the corps during the year under review amounted to £163.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

ROADS.

The Imperial Government maintained under repair 48 miles of country roads at a cost of £396. The mileage of the roads kept in repair is about 12 miles less than it was two years ago. Only those roads and bridges needful for defence purposes are now kept in repair by the military authorities. £75 was expended by the Colonial Government in the extraordinary repair of the streets in Jamestown during the year, and £29 in ordinary repairs. A further sum of £53 was expended by the Colony in special repairs to country roads made necessary by the damage caused thereto by the severe floods at Easter. This sum, however, is being refunded by the War Office.

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

Excellent progress was made during the year under review in the work connected with the new drainage and water schemes.

When Mr. Chadwick furnished his report to the Crown Agents in 1901 on the drainage and water systems of Jamestown he estimated that a sum of £4,000 would be required for house drainage connections and £1,000 for house water services. Unfortunately, Mr. Chadwick's figures are very much below the mark, especially as regards the £4,000 estimate. The total expenditure in connection with the drainage of private properties up to the 31st December, 1904, amounted to £3,813 17s. 6d., and only half of the properties had been dealt with. The engineer-in-charge estimates that a further sum of £2,600 is required to complete the works in 1905, the total sum required exceeding the original estimate by £2,413 17s. 6d. The amount spent on the water services of private properties up to the 31st December, 1904, amounted to £849 19s. 5d. A further sum of £550 is required to complete in 1905, the total required being £399 19s. 5d. in excess of the original estimate. There can be no doubt that when Mr. Chadwick prepared his estimate for the drainage of private properties he based his calculations on the assumption that some of the existing house sewerage systems would probably be found sufficiently sound to permit, with the remedying of slight defects, of their remaining in use, and that entire reconstruction would not in every case be required. It has been found, however, as explained in Mr. Chisholm's report, quoted later on, that it has been necessary to introduce an entirely new drainage system in every property so far dealt with. Again, it is probable Mr. Chadwick made no allowance for the demands from owners of properties for baths, kitchen sinks, additional closets, &c. The

number of such demands has been very considerable. Large areas of open yards have, too, had to be provided, with channels for carrying away surface water to meet the requirements of the Ordinance. Mr. Chadwick allowed an average cost of £20 a property, whereas the cost so far averages £34. It is true that at the top end of Jamestown there are many small single tenements which will probably be drained for even less than £20, but not many. I cannot do better than quote Mr. Chisholm's report verbatim on the progress made in the works referred to during 1904. The report runs as follows:—

(A.) Main Drainage.

“The main drainage, of which about 3 per cent. of the entire scheme remained unfinished on the 31st December, 1903, was completed in the early part of the year, thus providing the town of Jamestown with a most complete and modern system of public sewers.

“The estimated cost of the drainage scheme was £4,000, and the actual cost £4,042 15s. 5d., but the latter amount includes a sum of £48 13s. 4d. which had been expended in repairing the injury caused to the main and outfall sewers, after their completion, by the heavy floods of the 3rd and 4th of April last.

“The damage to the main sewer was chiefly confined to the vicinity of the “Run,” which overflowed its banks and washed away, at three different points, the covering of the sewer, exposing the pipes, some of which got cracked and broken by the stones and débris carried along by the huge volume of water, and had to be replaced. A portion of the outfall sewer, along the West Rocks Road, also suffered injury from a fall of rocks from the cliff above, but considering the magnitude of the flood the damage done to the newly completed sewerage system was comparatively small.

(B.) House Drainage.

“On the completion of the main drainage in the early part of the year the tradesmen and more capable artisans employed thereon were available for house drainage work, and this increase of skilled labour enabled much better progress to be made with the latter scheme than, for lack of tradesmen, was possible since its commencement in August, 1903.

“The properties in Jamestown, including Colonial Government buildings but exclusive of those of the War Department to which the drainage Ordinance applies, number 206. Of these the drainage of 84 was completed on the 31st December, 1904, including all Government properties—16 in number—and that of 10 was in progress, leaving a total of 112 premises to be dealt with in 1905.

"Six public latrines were erected throughout the town during the year, and connected with the main sewer.

"The amount expended in connection with house drainage up to the 31st December, 1904, was as follows, viz.:—

(a) Private properties	...	...	£3,813	17	6
(b) Government properties (including public latrines)	...	...	1,223	3	3
Total	...	...	£5,037	0	9

"Item (a) includes certain imported materials which were in hand at the end of the year and which are being used in house drainage work during 1905.

"Excluding the Civil Hospital, which can scarcely be considered an ordinary property and which cost £254 19s. 3d. to complete, the greatest amount expended in the drainage of any single private premises up to the end of the year was £107 12s. 2d., and the least £14 5s. 5d., the average cost being at the rate of £38 per property.

"The premises on which house drainage has so far been completed include the larger buildings and more extensive tenements in the lower part of the town; but as the works extend upwards the properties to be dealt with are mainly of a much smaller size, so that the labour and materials required in connection with the drainage of these will be proportionately less.

"In every property dealt with an entirely new system of house drainage has had to be instituted, the uncovering of the old drains in almost every case exposing a most deplorable sanitary state of matters; pipes of various sizes and of different quality, badly jointed, if jointed at all, and laid regardless of line or gradient, frequently having the fall the wrong way, and often half full of solid matter; closets untrapped and drains unventilated constitute the old system of house drainage in Jamestown.

"The necessity for thus having to provide an entirely new system in every premises, together with the fact that the properties dealt with during 1904 were the larger and more extensive ones, accounts for what, at first sight, may possibly appear to be a high average cost of the carrying out of house drainage work.

"It is to be noted, too, that the owners of most of these premises, principally the wealthy members of the community, have had, at their own request, baths and kitchen sinks provided and fitted, and instead of one w.c. frequently two, and sometimes three, were asked for, and a building erected to contain them.

"In tenements occupied by several families the Board of Health requires that two, and even three, w.c.'s should be provided; and for these, also, buildings have to be constructed to contain them.

"On closer observation, therefore, it will be found that the average cost of £38 per property is, in the circumstances, a moderate one.

"It is worthy of note that although the main drainage scheme received considerable opposition on its commencement in 1902, the work of house drainage is now welcomed by property owners and householders, who afford every assistance in facilitating the starting and carrying out of the work on their respective properties. The difference between the old order of things and the new is apparently recognized and appreciated by them.

"With one single exception, no complaint of any sort has, so far, been received from property owners respecting the drainage of their premises.

(C.) Waterworks.

"The new waterworks extension scheme, of which about 13 per cent. remained unfinished on the 31st December, 1903, was completed during 1904, and Jamestown is now provided with an abundant supply of excellent spring water.

"Four cast iron tanks, situated at the top end of the town at an elevation of about 290 feet above sea level, now act as a service reservoir. These tanks, formerly reserved for fire emergency purposes only, are of a capacity of about 12,000 gallons each, and are connected together by means of 3-inch pipes fixed near the bottoms, making them, for all practical purposes, one tank of 48,000 gallons, or 214 tuns.

"The sources of supply are known as Chubb's Upper and Lower Springs, the former situated at Drummer's Point at an elevation of about 612 feet above sea level, and the latter about 600 feet further down the valley, its elevation being 590 feet above the sea.

"The joint flow of the springs amounts to about 51,280 gallons per day, which, since the checking of much waste and the renewing of many defective house services throughout the town, proves to be more than ample for the present requirements of Jamestown.

"The Lower Chubb's supply is collected at its source into small concrete gathering tanks, and conveyed in 4-inch cast iron pipes to a concrete break-off-pressure tank outside Mr. Bell's lower entrance gate, where it joins the supply from Chubb's Upper Spring, which is taken in 6-inch cast iron pipes from the tank beside its source at Drummer's Point.

"From this break-off-pressure tank the water is conveyed in 6-inch cast iron pipes to the service reservoir at the top end of the town, and from there it is carried in 6-inch cast iron pipes along Market Street and Main Street, through the Public Gardens and along the Wharf, terminating at the landing steps, where a "scour out" has been placed for cleansing purposes. Four-inch cast iron pipes serve for the supply of Napoleon Street, and 3-inch cast iron pipes for that of Back Street. To relieve the pressure of the service piping in the lower part of the town, a break-off-pressure tank has been built opposite the Middle Burial Ground, at an elevation of about 150 feet above sea level.

"The pipes throughout the entire system have been jointed with molten lead, well caulked, which enable them to withstand considerable pressure.

"Numerous fire hydrants have been provided, so that in the event of fire it will be possible to direct a powerful jet upon any house throughout the town. In connection with this it is satisfactory to note that the reservoir tanks, at the top end of the town, can always be relied upon as containing a full supply at any time during the day or night, for it is observed that at the hours of greatest consumption the fall of water in these tanks never exceeds three or four inches.

"The building of an elevated water tank on the east wharf for the supplying of ships was undertaken and completed during the year. The tank, which was of cast iron and had a capacity of 12,000 gallons or 53 tons, was supported by brick and concrete columns, carried up to a height of 25 feet above level of the wharf. It proved a considerable improvement on the old method of watering ships, but, unfortunately, the structure collapsed during a period of heavy rollers early in January of this year; the collapse, it is believed, being due to the concussion caused by the unusually heavy sea which had been running at the time.

"The amount sanctioned for the waterworks extension scheme was £1,500, and the actual cost amounted to £1,690 8s. 2d., but the latter sum includes a sum of £10 16s. 9d. expended in repairing the damage caused to the works by the heavy floods in April last, which, if deducted from the actual expenditure, would show the amount originally sanctioned to be exceeded by £179 11s. 5d.

"With regard to this excess I would explain that no estimate was ever prepared for the water works extension scheme like there had been for the drainage. Mr. Chadwick, in paragraph 19 of his report to the Crown Agents on the water supply, dated the 25th November, 1901, states:—

"It is difficult, if not impossible, to estimate with any degree of accuracy, the probable cost of these works, consisting as they do mainly of alterations and repairs. His

Excellency the Governor has, I learn, included in the estimate of the coming year a sum of £1,500; I recommend that this sum be sanctioned provisionally, and that the reorganisation of the water supply should go on concurrently with the sewerage works referred to in another report."

(D.) *House Services.*

"House service work continues to be carried on simultaneously with house drainage.

"During the earlier part of the year the work of renewing house services became somewhat in arrear for lack of plumbers, and it was found necessary to obtain the services of a "journeyman plumber" from England. He arrived in September, and this additional hand has enabled house service work to be kept abreast of house drainage.

"Lead piping is used, in most cases, for service work, property owners preferring it to wrought iron tubing, which, though much cheaper, is supposed to be more liable to corrode than lead.

"The renewing of so many of the old house services, which is in every case in a very worn and perished condition, has arrested considerable waste of water, with the result that the spring water, although found to be inadequate when turned on in July last as the town's sole supply, now proves more than abundant for all requirements of the town; and it is expected that further checking of waste will be effected as the work of renewing proceeds.

"The total expenditure in connection with house services up to the 31st December, 1904, amounted to:—

(a) Private properties	...	...	£849 19 5
(b) Government properties	...	...	261 10 1
			<hr/> £1,111 9 6"

Another important work carried out during the year was the erection of a verandah at the Civil Hospital on a level with the wards. This was a much needed addition, as it allows the patients being moved into the open air without undue labour on the part of the nursing staff. Previous to the erection of the verandah patients had to be carried on heavy beds by the nurses down and up a narrow stairway in order that the patients might be given the benefits of the open air. The ordinary duties falling to the lot of hospital nurses are severe enough without them being called upon to perform such manual labour as was required in moving patients up and down stairs

The collapse of the new elevated tank on the wharf, alluded to above in Mr. Chisholm's report, was a serious loss to the Colony. The ancient system of watering the shipping has had to be reverted to, and I am afraid the Colony will not for many years be in a position to attempt to expend money in providing an entirely new system. I consider, however, that the old means of watering ships is quite good enough, except in the case of His Majesty's ships, for the few ships that now visit the Port of Jamestown.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

Only one grant of Government waste land, one acre in extent, was made during the year, at an annual rental of 7s. 6d. Eleven transfers of land were effected in the General Register by authority of the Commissioners of Crown Property during the same period.

The total sum received during the year in respect to rents for Government properties amounted to £934 18s. 5d. The value of land remains unchanged.

RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

There was no marked change in the rate of wages, except, perhaps, as far as skilled labour was concerned. This refers especially to carpenters, there being very few in the island. They can consequently command a wage in excess of what they are really worth as mechanics. The ordinary labourer gets 2s. 6d. per diem, a very good wage considering the amount of work the majority get through in a day. Hay makers and mowers receive from 3s. 6d. to 4s. a day during the harvest. Carpenters are paid from 7s. 6d. to 5s., but there are only 3 good men of that trade in the Colony. In addition, however, there are at least a couple of good carpenters in the Royal Engineer Department, and the Commanding Royal Engineer is always ready to lend them to the Colonial Government when they can be spared. Such assistance is most helpful. I really do not know how the Public Works Department could get on without it.

The cost of the necessities of life was, if anything, less than in the previous year. This was owing to competition among shopkeepers. The same remark also applies to the fishermen as regards fish, the price being normal. There is no doubt that the cost of living to the better classes in the Colony is unduly high. The freight on articles imported over sea is abnormally high. Thanks, however, to competition, the Union Castle S.S. Company towards the end of the year curtailed their rates of freight somewhat, and may have to do so even to a lower figure if that company wishes to have a monopoly of the small import trade carried on between the Mother Country and St. Helena. On the other hand, however, the cost of living among the poorer

classes is not high, as they live almost entirely on fish and rice. Those persons who catch their own fish can, by selling what they do not require for themselves and their families, provide themselves with the necessary funds with which to purchase rice.

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

I have already in this report dealt with most departments under their respective heads. There only remain the Public Works and the Printing Departments. The expenditure under public works recurrent amounted to £1,750 during the year under review, being a saving of £41 on the amount sanctioned in the estimate, whilst £767 was expended under public works extraordinary out of an authorized expenditure of £812. These figures are exclusive of the monies spent in carrying out the drainage and water works schemes. New roofs were placed on a portion of the Town Boys' School, on the Customs House, the Colonial Surgery, and the Town Girls' School, in place of the old roofs, which leaked like sieves. Satisfactory progress in carrying out even ordinary works is made very difficult owing to the lack of skilled labour. £75 was expended during the year in special repairs to the Jamestown streets, which had been taken up in laying the new drainage and water systems. A verandah was erected at the Civil Hospital. The money expended in the repairs necessary owing to damage to the "Run" and to the roads by floods is referred to under the head "Miscellaneous." The upkeep and repair of the ancient water mains in the country districts absorb a considerable amount of money every year, and must continue to do so until new pipes are put down. The sale of stores during the year brought in a sum of £879 10s. 2d., of which £523 9s. 4d. was realized by the sale of cypress wood to the public and to the Imperial Government.

Fairly satisfactory work was performed by the Printing Department during the year. This Department is, however, the least satisfactory of all the Departments. Fourteen and a quarter reams of paper were used during the year.

The receipts and expenditure for the last five years of the Poor Board and Public Market were as given below:—

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure
	£	£
1900	857	871
1901	933	855
1902	897	899
1903	829	821
1904	872	855

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900	238	202
1901	242	173
1902	197	186
1903	124	194
1904	325	208

MISCELLANEOUS.

Abnormally heavy rains during the first week in April resulted in most serious floods, which caused widespread damage throughout the Colony. It would be difficult to exaggerate the extent of the damage done to roads, which in many cases were converted into mere watercourses. This especially refers to the roads leading into Jamestown, which for some days were closed to wheeled traffic. These roads, too, especially between Ladder Hill and Jamestown, were rendered very unsafe owing to the falls of rock that took place from time to time. Only persons who have seen Jamestown can understand what a death-trap the place would be as regards a large number of the houses were any serious fall of rocks to take place. Fortunately on this occasion there was no loss of life. The last serious fall of rock took place one night in 1890, when nine persons were killed in their beds. The new drainage and water works suffered considerable damage. The small streams that run down the several valleys were converted into small torrents, which carried rocks, trees, and everything before them. The larger of these streams find their outlet to the sea by way of the "Run" through Jamestown. This "Run" is a large open drain made of masonry and concrete, and it was severely damaged by the rush of water and débris. A clean sweep was made of trees, yams, &c., growing near the "Run" from the country downwards. In my opinion the "Run" saved Jamestown from suffering considerably more damage than it did. By undertaking only such repairs as were absolutely necessary, the damage caused by the floods cost the Government £418, of which £150 was expended in repairing the "Run." Considering the serious nature of the floods it is surprising how very little actual distress was caused among the poorer inhabitants. I appointed a Relief Committee, who were indefatigable in their efforts to inquire into all cases when the damage done affected people who were in really poor circumstances and who could not in any way attempt to repair their damaged cottages. In some cases houses were completely gutted, and in the country districts entire garden patches, both soil and crops, were washed down the hill sides. Although the majority of the people

of St. Helena are certainly poor, there is very little real poverty. This fact was clearly demonstrated by the Relief Committee receiving only thirty applications for help, and of these only 21 were considered as deserving of assistance. In addition to labour and material supplied by the Government to such persons, only £13 in actual cash was paid out by the Committee. The military authorities kindly placed the unoccupied Jamestown Barracks at the disposal of several families who had been washed out of their homes, and whose houses were in danger of being demolished by falling rocks. In fact, the Imperial Government, as is usual on such occasions, rendered me the most willing assistance in every way. The thanks of the Colony are due to the Officer Commanding the Troops for his ready co-operation. It is twenty-six years since the Colony was visited by such severe floods. In 1878, however, the down-pour which caused the floods was of short duration, although very serious damage was caused. In this case the floods were successive, day after day for a week, each flood being more severe than its predecessor.

The Colony suffered a loss during the year by the death of the Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Reverend John Garraway Holmes, M.A. The late Bishop was highly respected by all classes. He will best be remembered in the Colony for the assistance he rendered this Government in advising as to the best means of improving the facilities by which the children in the island might receive the benefits of elementary education. Bishop Holmes had great experience in educational matters, and I am indebted to him for his valuable advice, which he always gave so readily, in helping me to introduce into St. Helena an Education Ordinance which compelled parents to send their children to school. The success of this Ordinance has already been remarked on in another part of this report.

The number of vessels that touched at the island during the year under review was smaller than ever, being 107—the lowest on record, a portentous sign of the waning of the Colony's prosperity. In the fifties and sixties the average number of vessels that paid tonnage dues at the Port of Jamestown amounted to over 900. This was, of course, before the opening of the Suez Canal. A visit from one of His Majesty's ships of war is now an event in the island. The fact is that as far as His Majesty's ships are concerned the island is on the road to "nowhere." During the year only three British warships called at St. Helena, in each case bound for England on the completion of commission. Comparing this with forty years ago, we find that in 1864 no less than 17 ships of war touched at the Island, and in those days the Navy was very small in comparison to its present strength. On the other hand, however, an unusual number of warships of other nations called at the island, numbering nine in all, including the United States of America South Atlantic Squadron, under the command of

Rear-Admiral Chadwick. The advent of the American Squadron was quite an event; everything was done to make the stay of our friends, which lasted for 8 days, a pleasant one. The benefit arising from such a visit, especially to the merchants and shop-owners in the Colony, was naturally much appreciated. Considering the proximity of St. Helena to the West African Coast, and the splendid climate of the island, it is to be wondered that it is not used as a sanatorium by His Majesty's Navy. The salvation of the island, as far as I can see, depends upon an industry of some kind being started. It would be a God-send to the people of St. Helena if an industry could be introduced and worked successfully.

A gloom was cast over the island early in November owing to a most cowardly and cold-blooded murder taking place, the victim being a most respectable, honest, and much-esteemed man, who was employed by the Imperial Government as signal-man at Prosperous Bay Signal Station. The motive of the murderers was of the meanest, that of robbery. Their plans were carefully made, but the sum total of their haul amounted to a few articles of no great value and 2s. 9d. in cash. An event of this nature is almost unique in the annals of the Colony since the Imperial Government assumed the administration of the island in 1834. In fact it is now over fifty years since a death sentence was carried out in St. Helena. The two murderers were tried and convicted at the January Quarter Sessions, 1905.

The contoured survey undertaken by Lieutenant F. B. Legh, R.E., in 1903 has resulted in the publication of an excellent map of the island.

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
23rd February, 1905.

K.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for 1903 and 1904, classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	7,191	7,141	—	50
Licenses, taxes, auction dues ...	905	906	1	—
Fines, fees of office, and reimbursements in aid.	861	1,997	1,136	—
Post Office	1,489	1,701	212	—
Rents of Government property	941	935	—	6
Miscellaneous receipts	382	244	—	138
Interest	1,363	1,179	—	184
Total	13,132	14,103	1,349	378

L.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of expenditure for 1903 and 1904:—

Head.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sharpshooters	140	163	23	—
Public debt	1,000	1,000	—	—
Pensions	1,000	1,072	72	—
The Governor	989	999	10	—
Colonial Secretary	657	657	—	—
Customs	1,787	717	—	1,070
Legal	331	323	—	8
Savings Bank	795	808	13	—
Police	363	795	—	68
Medical	1,564	1,342	—	222
Education	556	615	59	—
Post Office	1,423	415	—	1,008
Miscellaneous Services	292	430	138	—
Colonial Engineer	251	251	—	—
Public works recurrent	1,847	1,750	—	97
Public works extraordinary...	7,092	6,498	—	531
Port and Marine	524	527	3	—
Gratuities	158	—	—	158
Gaol	176	190	14	—
Total	21,382	18,552	332	3,162

M.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1900	£ 15,391	£ 12,603
1901	24,614	14,927
1902	23,055	18,613
1903	13,123	21,383
1904	14,103	18,552

N.

Statement of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Arrears due by Colony	—	In Colonial Chest	220 1 2
Personal	—	With Crown Agents	—
Pensions (<i>see</i> page 38)	96 8 1	Remittances in transit to C.A.	2,350 0 0
Miscellaneous (<i>see</i> page 38)	2,572 6 0	Advances due to Colony (<i>see</i> page 38)	39 11 5
Due to Savings Bank... ..	28,097 15 8	Arrears of Revenue (<i>see</i> page 38)	—
Due to Crown Agents, amount overpaid on their General Account, 31st December, 1904.	1,048 12 9	Parliamentary Grants... ..	—
Due to G.P.O., London Postal Account	8 3 3	Grants in Aid	—
	31,823 5 9	Mail Service	—
		Invested for Savings Bank (Market value)	29,504 8 5 ^a
		Due by householders for labour and material in connection with new drainage on 31st December, 1904.	3,876 9 2
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	4,167 4 5		
	35,990 10 2		35,990 10 2

* Nominal value—£30,999 17s. 11d.

ADVANCES DUE TO COLONY.

—	Amount.	
Board of Trade	£ s. d.	
Sharpshooters	13 0 0	
"	14 17 11	
"	11 13 6	
Total...	39 11 5	

ARREARS OF REVENUE.

Nil.

PENSIONS.

—	Amount	
James Hercules	£ s. d.	
Edward Samuel	3 8 6	
Reverend T. Goodwin	3 0 10	
John O. Melliss	3 13 4	
Richard C. Pennell	46 11 8	
Richard Dowling	34 7 6	
Total...	5 6 3	
Total..	96 8 1	

MISCELLANEOUS.

—	Amount.	
Bills of Exchange (unpaid)	£ s. d.	
Fees due to Emigration Agent	2,566 0 0	
"	6 6 0	
Total...	2,572 6 0	

P.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF CUSTOMS REVENUE for the YEARS 1900 to 1904 inclusive.

—	Permits	Wharfage.	Duty.	Tonnage Dues.	Warehouse Rent.	Water.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900	49 17 0	2,277 11 5	6,527 17 2	920 12 0	86 4 5	564 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
1904	33 4 0	2,067 5 5	4,471 18 0	340 14 6	90 7 5	137 2 6	7,140 11 10

Q.

VALUE OF TRADE, 1900 to 1904.
Imports from

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
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
1904 ...	71,652	4,294	32	75,978

* Specie imported.

Exports to

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
1900 ... {	£ 4,075 *3,785	£ 140	£ —	£ 4,215
1901 ... {	4,724 *4,035	—	—	4,724
1902 ... {	1,168 *250	—	—	1,755
1903 ...	235	+12,000	—	12,235
1904 ... {	594 *250	146	—	740

* Specie exported by merchants.
+ Specie exported by Imperial Government.

R.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at this PORT from JANUARY 1st, 1904, to
DECEMBER 31st, 1904.

Class.	American.		British.		Spanish.		Portu- guese.		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.	4	15,027	5	23,488	1	1,500	1	600	2	10,227	1	5,885	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	56,727
Mail and Merchant Steamers.	—	—	43	145,436	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	145,436
Merchant Sailing Vessels	2	2,293	25	30,905	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	915	1	1,798	17	13,622	1	794	1	942	48	51,269
Whalers	2	637	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	637
Total ...	8	17,957	73	199,829	1	1,500	1	600	2	10,227	2	6,800	1	1,798	17	13,622	1	794	1	942	107	254,069

Tonnage of Men-of-War and Transports... 56,727
 " " Steamers ... 145,436
 " " Sailing Vessels ... 51,906
 Total Tonnage... 254,069

1903. Number of Vessels ... 125
 " Tonnage ... 250,226

S.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SHIPPING ENTERED and
CLEARED from 1900 to 1904.

	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British—										
Steam	41	155,542	74	248,089	66	228,337	34	164,994	40	198,718
Sailing	9	4,944	6	4,654	7	5,687	6	3,921	6	3,012
Foreign—										
Sailing	3	1 546	2	859	1	419	1	479	—	—
Total	53	162,032	82	253,602	74	234,443	41	169,344	46	201,730

The following recent 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.
427	Lagos	1903
428	Bahamas	1903-1904
429	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903-1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements...	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	1903-1904
438	Jamaica	1903-1904
439	Malta	1902-1903 & 1903-1904
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1903-1904
441	British Guiana	"
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia	"
444	Basutoland	"
445	Leeward Islands	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
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.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon... ..	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simons.