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No. 526.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 486.)

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

June, 1907.



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No. 526.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1905, see No. 486.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

22nd April, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1906, together with my Annual Report thereon.

2. I retain the opinion that St. Helena is capable of progress. I must, however, confess that the hopes I expressed in my despatch of the 8th March 1906 (covering the Blue Book and Annual Report for 1905) of prosperity returning to St. Helena in the near future received a rude check by the withdrawal of the garrison and in the unfavourable reports of the experts on the manganese deposits.

3. The financial, social, and economic situation in St. Helena to-day is decidedly depressing, and the state of the labour market is a source of grave anxiety to the Colonial Government. My thanks are due to all officials for the loyal and willing support they continue to accord me during a somewhat trying period.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1906.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) REVENUE.

The revenue collected during the year under review amounted to £8,889 6s. 10*d.*, being £1,735 13s. 2*d.* less than the original estimate, but £863 6s. 10*d.* in excess of the revised estimate. As compared with 1905 the revenue showed a falling off of £1,398 6s. 11*d.*

The chief heads under which the revenue failed to come up to the amounts estimated were:—

Customs. A shortage of	£1,035
Fines, fees, &c. A shortage of	421
Post Office. A shortage of	320
Miscellaneous receipts. A shortage of	148

Against these was an excess of revenue of £233 under "Interest." This excess was due to two causes. By an oversight no provision was made in the estimate for the interest due from householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. This amounted to £112 during the year. Further, it was calculated that more of the Colony's securities would have been realised during the period under review, thereby decreasing the interest received in that direction.

The above figures are not encouraging. The decrease of the revenue, as compared with the previous year, was almost entirely due to the withdrawal of the garrison in October, 1906. Prior to that date the garrison dwindled in numbers every month owing to the departure of time-expired men whose places were not filled. This gradual decrease in the strength of the garrison naturally had a serious effect upon trade, the troops being large purchasers of dutiable goods. The continual decline in shipping also contributed considerably towards the falling off in revenue, and seriously affected trade generally, especially in the farming industry. The final withdrawal of the garrison brought about a grave state of affairs among the labouring classes of the Colony. Large numbers of men were thrown out of employment, and to these were added numbers of others discharged by the farmers, who, on the withdrawal of the troops, were forced to cut down expenses to the lowest possible figure. All this added to the general depression, and, indirectly, adversely affected the revenue.

Apart from the revenue, the sum of £1,097 was received from householders during the year—made up as follows:—Repayments of principal, £985; interest, £112.

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £10,279 16s. 11*d.*, being a saving of £373 1s. 10*d.* on the estimate, and £4,689 11s. 4*d.* less than in 1905. These figures show that the expenditure for 1906 exceeded the revenue by £1,390 10s. 1*d.*

The decrease in expenditure, as compared with the previous year, was chiefly due to the large expenditure incurred in 1905 in completing the Jamestown drainage and water works schemes.

The most important savings under the estimate were:—Medical, £103; and St. Helena Volunteers, £122. The former chiefly due to fewer patients being admitted to the hospital, and to a marked reduction in the cost of provisions; and the latter due to the corps named (having practically ceased to exist early in the year) being finally disbanded in October, 1906.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

On the 31st December, 1906, the Colony's assets showed an excess over liabilities of £2,348 0s. 5*d.*, as compared with an excess of £4,142 10s. 10*d.* on 31st December, 1905—or a decrease of £1,794 10s. 5*d.*

In the table of Assets and Liabilities, attached to this report (marked N), it will be seen that the Colony's investments are shown as amounting to £22,464 15s. 6*d.*, the cost price of the securities held. Their market value, however, on the 31st December 1906, was only £21,246 15s. 9*d.*—being a deficit of £1,217 19s. 9*d.* Among the assets, too, is the sum of £4,350 5s. 5*d.* due from householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances and which will not be fully repaid until about the year 1919. These figures point to the Colony's finances as being in a parlous condition, and it is difficult at present to surmise how the necessary funds to carry on the administration with efficiency in the near future are to be raised. Matters will no doubt improve considerably as soon as the flax industry is firmly established in the Colony. This, however, must take time; and one's anxiety is connected more with the three or four years that must elapse before the benefits from the industry are really felt.

On the 31st December, 1906, the Colony owed the sum of £3,185 17s. 1*d.* to the Crown Agents for monies advanced in the account current. Interest at Bank rate is charged on the sum named.

During the year under review £8,355 19s. 1*d.* was realised by the sale of securities in order to meet withdrawals from the Savings Bank and with a view to clearing off as much as possible an overdraft due to the Crown Agents.

(D.) CURRENCY.

Bills on the Crown Agents were issued to the public during the year amounting to £16,075 5s., as compared with £24,248 2s.

in the previous year. In addition to these bills the sum of £4,954 was remitted to the United Kingdom by the public through the Post Office, as against £5,109 in the previous year. £110 6s. was received in commissions on bills of exchange, as against £168 19s. 2d. in 1905. Against these commissions the sum of £30 3s. was paid to the Imperial Government in remittance charges, being £22 3s. 6d. less than in 1905.

The Imperial Treasury Chest was closed, as far as receiving specie from the Colonial Government went, towards the latter end of the third quarter of the year. This necessitated a certain amount of specie being exported by the merchants and by the Post Office, as the Colonial Government could only issue bills on the Crown Agents when money was required to meet local payments. The total amount of specie exported during the year was £8,815.

(E.) FINANCIAL RETURNS.

Attached to this report are the following financial returns:—

- (1.) Revenue for the years 1905 and 1906, showing increases and decreases in detail, marked K.
- (2.) Expenditure for the years 1905 and 1906, showing increases and decreases in detail, marked L.
- (3.) Revenue and expenditure from 1902 to 1906, inclusive, marked M.
- (4.) Table of assets and liabilities, marked N.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £4,864 13s. 8d., being £855 6s. 1d. less than in 1905.

The decreases were:—Permits, £3 17s.; warehouse rent, £42 14s. 7d.; and import duties, £970 13s. 3d.

These latter two decreases were almost entirely due to the withdrawal of the garrison during the latter part of the year.

The following figures show the deficit in the importation of specific dutiable goods as compared with 1905:—

	1906.	1905.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
Spirits	2,411	3,571
Wine	3,557	4,019
	Hhds.	Hhds.
Beer	358	567
	Dozen.	Dozen.
"	743	974
	lbs.	lbs.
Tobacco	6,981	9,389

Only 14 hogsheads of beer were imported in the last three months of the year, plainly showing that the principal

consumers of that beverage were the troops. The general depression owing to scarcity of employment, a considerable number of men having been discharged by the Imperial Government, served indirectly to lessen the imports generally, but especially of liquor and tobacco.

Increases occurred under the following heads:—

(1.) Wharfage, £24 6s. 9d. This increase is accounted for by the large quantity of coal imported by the Admiralty contractors. In 1905 only 1,451 tons were imported, whereas in 1906 the importation amounted to 4,193 tons, including 1,117 tons of patent fuel.

(2.) Tonnage dues, £93 7s. Due to increased import of coal and to the export of 840 tons of Imperial Government stores to England on the withdrawal of the garrison.

(3.) Water, £44 5s. Due to Commodore Sir Alfred Paget's Squadron taking in nearly 600 tons of water.

A comparative statement, marked O, is attached to this report, showing the Customs revenue for the last five years, including the year under review.

Goods to the value of £41,391 were imported during the year exclusive of Imperial Government stores. This is £11,396 less than the previous year. As soon as the merchants received the news of the intended removal of the entire garrison, they reduced their imports as much as possible. A large decrease occurred under "Flour and Grain," no Australian vessel having called at the island. These two items alone show a decrease, as compared with 1905, of £4,389. There were, too, considerable decreases under "Drapery," "Oilman's Stores," "Butter," "Leather," and "Hardware." Decreases under all specific dutiable goods and increase in coal have been referred to already. There was a large increase under "Rice," which, with fish, constitutes the chief diet of the islanders.

The chief imports are given in the following table:—

Articles.	1906.	1905.
	£	£
Beer	1,921	2,535
Beef and pork	1,203	1,148
Butter	1,477	2,544
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco	810	1,248
Coal and patent fuel	8,130	2,250
Drapery, &c.	2,885	6,551
Flour	1,898	3,559
Oilcake, grain, and seed	934	3,662
Hardware	758	1,496
Leather, boots, &c.	764	1,451
Rice	3,325	1,970
Sugar	2,294	2,184
Oilman's stores	7,838	10,131
Spirits	1,015	1,607
Wine	766	1,210

Exports were practically nil. Hides to the value of £70 were exported to the United Kingdom, and potatoes, valued at £372 to Cape Colony. The imposition of a duty of £2 per ton on potatoes imported into Cape Colony has practically shut that market against St. Helena, Cape Colony, too, being the only possible market for the produce referred to.

A statement, marked P, is attached to this report showing the value of imports and exports for the years 1902-6, inclusive.

There was an increase in the expenditure under "Customs" during 1906 of £106 1s. 9d., as compared with 1905. This is more than accounted for by the refund of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's ships, which amounted to £372 10s., or an increase of £176 18s. as compared with the previous year. The amount of duty refunded on beer consumed by the troops fell from £104 8s. 6d. in 1905 to £47 10s. 11d. during the year under review. This is accounted for by the garrison being gradually reduced during the first nine months of the latter year, and being entirely removed towards the end of that year. There is no doubt that had the garrison not been removed the Customs revenue for 1906 would have more than equalled that of 1905.

(B.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The year 1906 was a satisfactory one as regards production for agriculture generally, but in all cases the supply greatly exceeded the demand. The removal of the garrison, coupled with the continued falling off in the shipping, deprives the island of the chief markets for farm produce. The poverty of the islanders was, too, a great bar to local purchases. Potatoes and green vegetables did unusually well, but through lack of a market large quantities were fed to cattle and dairy stock. The exportation of potatoes to Cape Colony was, as already stated, practically put an end to by the imposition thereon of a duty of 2s. per 100 lbs., which absorbed nearly the entire profit. Indian corn, grain, and roots were above the average. Very little hay was made, the demand being small. Large quantities, too, of the 1905 crop were still available. Pasture lands were short owing to being overstocked. In spite of this, cattle kept in good condition. Young stock at present look very promising, especially those bred from the several shorthorns imported a few years ago with a view to meeting the demands of the Imperial Government. Stockowners have not yet suffered very much as regards the condition of their cattle, but if some market for the surplus animals is not forthcoming by the end of 1907 there will be very few animals fit for slaughter on the island, especially if the year at all resembles 1905. Stockowners are in a position to supply from 80,000 lbs. to 100,000 lbs. of beef annually. During the year under review not more than 40,000 lbs. were consumed, and this including

the wants of a garrison for ten months of the year. If an outside market is not found the probable quantity required in 1907 will not exceed 15,000 lbs., and the price will probably fall to 6d. a lb., which will leave no margin for profit. Sheep, like other stock, did well.

The Colony still remains in the unenviable position of being without an industry. There can be no doubt that the islanders themselves are partly to blame for this state of affairs. In the past they have been content to live entirely upon what they could make out of the garrison and the shipping. These facts, however, do not help to remedy matters. The economic situation existing in St. Helena to-day constitutes a very difficult problem. This fact is exaggerated by the utter helplessness of the islanders to do much for themselves without material assistance from outside. The wants of these people are really very small; and, in the past, so long as a man got a few days' work occasionally he was quite content to sit down during the intervals. This unfortunate trait in the St. Helenians' character is really a legacy passed on to them by their forbears who were too well treated by the old John Company. Now a very great change has come upon the land, and employment, except for a very few, is unobtainable. How large numbers of the people live under existing circumstances it is difficult to conceive. There can be no doubt that the equable and mild climate of St. Helena, coupled with the large number of fish in the sea, save the situation from being much worse than it is. I am, however, digressing from the subject to be dealt with, namely, industries. As I stated above, there is no industry in St. Helena, but by the middle of 1907 it is to be hoped that good progress will have been made in establishing the flax industry which should form a decided advance towards winning back in the near future some of the island's lost prosperity. Thirty years ago the flax industry proved a failure, owing chiefly, I fancy, to lack of business methods. The industry about to be started is to be run on the most modern lines, and will for the first few months be supervised by experts from New Zealand. The working of the industry will lie with the Government, but the profits accruing therefrom will go chiefly to the flax growers. I do not propose dealing further with the scheme which has been drawn up after the most careful consideration at the Colonial Office, as it does not come within the period covered by this report. I shall hope, however, to be able in my next report to announce the start of the industry as being a decided success. There can be no doubt that the industry when once fairly started must prove a great boon to a large number of persons, especially landowners. There is, however, not a great quantity of mature flax available with which to feed the machines, and it therefore must be some four or five years before the real benefits of the industry become apparent. It is this interval that has to be got through somehow. I would

add that the Imperial Government are providing the funds to start the industry and to run it for a few months. After this, it is calculated the industry will pay its own way.

The hopes raised in my last report as to great benefits coming out of the manganese ore deposits are, I regret to say, doomed to disappointment. The Cape Manganese Ore Company, Limited, sent an expert, Mr. Kilburn Scott, to the Colony in May, of the year under review, to report on the deposits in question. This report was unfavourable, and was to the effect that there was not sufficient ore of marketable value to make exploratory work advisable. The Company referred to, therefore, threw the matter up. Then Messrs. James Morrison and Company, Limited, of London, secured concessions with the sole right of working the manganese and other base mineral deposits in St. Helena. They also secured similar rights to work the guano deposits. Their expert, Mr. W. H. Herdsman, has lately (March, 1907) completed his investigations as to the value of the several deposits covered by Messrs. Morrison's concessions. His report on the manganese confirms Mr. Scott's verdict. Mr. Herdsman is of opinion that there is not more than 3,000 tons of the ore in the island, most of which is not only highly siliceous but is of a low metallic value, and not worth more than 25s. a ton. The quantity of ore containing 40 per cent. metal, Mr. Herdsman describes as "minute"; and that gentleman expressed the opinion that the deposits could not by any means be worked at a profit. Thus the manganese question is finally disposed of.

Further hopes, however, have been raised through the discovery by Mr. Herdsman of enormous deposits of phosphates (old guano), in which a very important and valuable export trade might be established in the near future. Everything depends, however, upon the result of the analysis of samples lately sent to England.

A considerable amount of tree planting was carried out during the year under review. About 650 trees were laid down on Government lands, and about 500 distributed free of cost to landowners. These trees were all reared in the Plantation nurseries. The result of the last four years planting shows large numbers of Norfolk pines, eucalyptus, and cedars growing in various parts of the country where before nothing but willows and the fir tree prevailed. Successful tree planting in the lower lands is sadly handicapped by the want of irrigation. Watering by hand is too costly a process, and, therefore, one is entirely dependent on the elements as to the success or otherwise of one's efforts. In view of the proposed establishment of the flax industry in the Colony, the Colonial Government planted a certain amount of flax during the year, chiefly experimentally, to ascertain how the plant would thrive on waste lands. About 5,000 suckers in all were put down. Only one landowner did any extensive planting. He put down about 50,000 suckers, covering an area of about 50 acres. The fact

is, that this planting of suckers before there are any machines to deal with the leaves cut away is a sad waste of material. This fact alone made it inadvisable that any very extensive planting should take place. As the leaves are cut for the machines when erected, so the suckers will be freed for planting purposes. The Colonial Government sowed a certain amount of Ramie seed in September in the Plantation nurseries. The plants were bedded out in January, 1907, but are coming on slowly. When large enough, some plants will be sent to the Imperial Institute for report as to quality, &c., and with a view to ascertaining whether the cultivation of Ramie in St. Helena is likely to be worthy of attention.

In order to encourage fruit culture a considerable number of fruit trees were imported from Cape Colony and sold to the public at cost price. A certain number of vines and fruit trees were issued to poor people free of cost.

There was a decided decrease in the number of the peach fly during the year, but that pest is not yet entirely eradicated. It is only by continual worrying that the apathetic islanders will exert themselves to assist towards getting rid of the fly by destroying all maggot-infested fruit. As I stated in a former report, the peach fly's existence being due to an act of God, is quite sufficient reason for the more ignorant of the people to consider as misdirected any efforts made by the Government to get rid of the fly.

The sale of fallen and dead trees for fuel realised £17 5s. 9d. during the year; and fruit from Maldivia Garden to the value of £32 4s. 4½d. was sold to the public during the same period.

(C.) FISHERIES.

I cannot help thinking that, if some capitalist would take the trouble to go into the matter, fish-curing would prove to be an enterprise well worth trying in St. Helena. The moot point appears to be whether the majority of fish are local or merely "passing." In any case, capital is the first necessity, and this unfortunately is not forthcoming in St. Helena.

(D.) SHIPPING.

To this report are attached two returns, marked Q and R, respectively, which give detailed information of shipping entered and cleared at the Customs for the years 1902-6, inclusive, and of the vessels which touched at the Port of Jamestown during the year under review. These returns are not encouraging reading, and point very plainly to one of the two chief factors which have contributed to St. Helena having become, for the time being, little better than a derelict rock in the ocean. The continual decrease in the shipping shows no cessation. St. Helena, in her distress, appears to be avoided

as much as possible. Only 201 ships were sighted by the signal stations during the year, of which 142 communicated by signal. This is the fifth annual report on St. Helena I have written, and even in that short period the number of calling ships, which are the only ones that benefit the island, has fallen from 199, with a tonnage of 426,499 tons, to 86, with a tonnage of 215,217 tons. As compared with the previous year, the following figures show a decrease in every case with one small exception:—

	1906.	1905.
Calling ships ...	86	99
Ships entered and cleared ...	32	40
Ships sighted...	201	212
Ships communicated by signal ...	142	154
Passing ships boarded by licensed traders...	31	29

I feel convinced that the St. Helena farmers themselves are to a great extent to blame for the falling off in the number of sailing vessels that call at the island now-a-days. I refer to the foolish and unbusinesslike policy followed of late years by the farmers of demanding exorbitant prices for their produce. I know of more than one case where the master of a sailing vessel has stated that shipowners warn their masters not to call at St. Helena for provisions owing to the abnormally high prices ruling there. When times are hard and very few ships call, it is naturally the wisest policy to sell as cheaply as possible, and so encourage other ships to provision at the island. But no; the St. Helenian farmer says, "Trade being so bad, and opportunities few, I must get the highest possible price for my goods." The result of such short-sighted policy can only be to the detriment of those who follow it. This has struck me as having been the attitude of the farmers in the past. There is, however, I fancy, a tendency to-day to reverse the misguided course hitherto pursued. I trust this may prove to be the case, and that it may succeed in bringing more calling ships to the island in the near future. It is to be regretted that lower prices were not instituted years ago instead of waiting for the débâcle as regards shipping that has come upon the Colony. In past years, more especially before the Suez Canal was opened, St. Helena's prosperity was due almost entirely to the large amount of shipping that called at the Port of Jamestown. In looking at the Colony's records it is plain that a considerable revenue was collected from leaking ships whose cargoes had to be landed and on which certain Customs dues were levied. Such ships, too, provided work for large numbers of carpenters, rivetters, fitters, and other skilled labour. It is a noteworthy fact that in the four years I have been in the Colony not a single leaking ship has called at the island. I do not deplore this fact in its moral aspect, as it points to the probability that

only sound ships go to sea now-a-days, and that the state of affairs in the mercantile world has vastly improved since the days described in Sir A. Conan Doyle's book "The Firm of Girdlestone." I mention the fact of there being no leaking ships now-a-days simply to illustrate another factor that accounts for the difference in the value to the island of the shipping to-day as compared with 30 years ago.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The legislative publications of the year consisted of seven Ordinances and three Proclamations. The Ordinances worthy of note were:—

No. 2.—"The Mineral Lands Leasing Ordinance," empowering the Governor in Council to fix the extent of land to be included in any lease; the amount of annual rent to be paid; the amount of royalty to be paid on every ton weight exported; and to extend, or refuse to extend, the terms of any lease.

No. 4.—"The Emigrants Protection Ordinance," to provide for engagement of workmen for service beyond the Colony; and to facilitate the recovery of sums due to them by way of wages or otherwise from employers not resident in the Colony; and providing for all contracts of foreign service to be in writing with a separate contract for each workman engaged.

No. 6.—"The Tax Ordinance," to provide for the levying and collection of taxes and rates.

No. 7.—"The Liquor Licence Ordinance," bringing the laws governing the sale of intoxicating liquors up to modern requirements.

The only Proclamation of any importance was No. 3 of the 22nd October, 1906, by which the "St. Helena Volunteers (Sharpshooters)" were disbanded.

The "Stallion Donkeys Ordinance, 1905," has now run for a year and has proved to be an unqualified success. I doubt if there is a single donkey owner now in the island who does not view the Ordinance with favour. There were no deaths from castration during the year under review.

The necessity for introducing the "Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905," was made very apparent when it came to the readjusting and stamping of weights and scales prior to the conditions of the Ordinance coming into force. The number of machines stamped was 125—of which 46 required readjusting; whilst the number of weights stamped was 732—of which no less than 430 were too light and 49 too heavy.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The expenditure under this head during the year under review was practically the same as in the previous year, the amounts being £710 and £711, respectively.

The number of schools remained the same, namely, three Government schools and five non-Government. The number of children attending school was 625, of which 311 were boys. These figures show a decrease of 29 and 11, respectively, as compared with 1905. This decrease is probably accounted for by the number of children reaching the age of 14 being in excess of the number attaining school age. There are very few children in the island who escape attending school between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

Good progress was made in the Government schools particularly during the year in the methods of teaching in consequence of the inauguration of training classes for pupil teachers. The old system of cram may be said to have received its death-blow. This improvement, the Inspector of Schools remarks, is especially evident in the Government schools in which the certificated pupil teachers are employed—but signs are not wanting which show a universal endeavour to work on modern lines.

A satisfactory feature of the year's school work was the extension of physical exercises, both in the school and in the playground; likewise the introduction of more frequent breaks during school hours, which are of great benefit in giving rest to the brain, thus invigorating it for further effort. Lessons on hygiene and simple mechanics are now included in the schools' curriculum. This does not apply yet to all schools, but it is hoped that such will be the case before long. Such lessons are calculated not only to improve the mind and extend general knowledge, but they also enlarge the vocabulary of the children and, therefore, of the people in general.

Early in the year under review, the very necessary work of training the pupil teachers was taken in hand. Mr. L. Tucker, Head Master of the Government Senior School, after about a year's instruction on the methods and art of teaching, presented seven pupil teachers for examination, with the result that four were granted First Class and three Second Class Certificates. The Rev. Canon Porter, Government Inspector of Schools, remarks:—"These seven, the first fruits of the system, which is new to St. Helena, are now in a fair way to becoming expert teachers, and with a continuation of the training classes thus begun, the teaching power of the island will be insured." Unfortunately, only Government pupil teachers attended Mr. Tucker's classes. This is particularly to be regretted, as the time will most likely come, and that very soon, when none but certificated teachers will be employed in any of the schools in the island. This is a consummation to be

earnestly hoped for, both for the sake of the scholars and also for the sake of the reputation of the island's education system.

The Board of Education met regularly once a month, and my thanks are due to the Honorary Secretary of that body, the Rev. W. J. Buchanan, for his willing and gratuitous assistance.

His Majesty's birthday and Empire Day were celebrated as usual by the children being given an "outing," the Flag being formally saluted by the children on the latter anniversary.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There were 104 admissions to the hospital during the year, of which 50 were treated in the male ward and 54 in the female ward. The number of admissions shows a decrease of 23 as compared with 1905.

There were 3 deaths, giving a percentage of 2·8 as compared with 15 deaths and a percentage of 11·8 in 1905. Attached to this Report is a Return (marked S) of diseases and deaths in the Hospital for the years 1905 and 1906. The number of admissions is the smallest recorded since the inauguration of the Hospital. This is chiefly accounted for by the diminution in the number of seamen admitted. In former years seamen constituted the larger proportion of patients, whereas now almost all patients are natives of the Island, only four seamen having been landed for treatment during the year under review. In 1873 the number treated was 131. In the decade preceding 1906 the average number was 18; whereas in the decades 1880-1889 and 1890-1899 the average was 61·2 and 31·3 respectively. Again, until a few years ago the Islanders had an aversion to going to Hospital. Their feelings, however, on this point are quite the reverse now, and chiefly accounted for by the excellent and efficient system under which the Hospital is run by the Colonial Surgeon and his staff of nurses. This tendency of the Islanders to go to Hospital when necessary, instead of avoiding such a step, is satisfactory under the conditions now existing in St. Helena. When the troops were withdrawn in October of the year under review the Colony was left with one doctor. On Doctor Arnold's shoulders falls the responsibility of the medical care of the population. Consequently it is desirable to move all bad cases to Hospital where they can be immediately under the eyes of the Colonial Surgeon and the nursing staff. The Hospital Staff sustained a severe loss during the year in the retirement, through illness, of Miss Williams, the Lady Superintendent. Miss Williams completed the good work begun by Miss Blennerhasset, and under her wise, and energetic control the nursing arrangements were brought into line with modern ideas. Miss Williams held the post of

Lady Superintendent for over eleven years. The Colonial Surgeon remarks that although Miss Williams worked for the greater part of her service with far too small a staff, she always insisted that the work in the Hospital should be on a par with the highest European standards, so far as the resources of the institution would allow; and she never spared herself in achieving this object. Dr. Arnold further remarks that Miss Williams' abilities fitted her for a wider sphere than was her lot in St. Helena. There can be no doubt that the serious nature of Miss Williams' illness was aggravated to no small extent by her devotion to duty. The efficient system prevailing in the Hospital to-day is chiefly due to Miss Williams' untiring energies; and now that there is only one doctor in the Colony it is imperative that this system be continued, which means that the present nursing staff should not be reduced in numbers. Miss Hart, late Matron at Kokstad Hospital, South Africa, who formerly served as a nurse under Miss Williams in St. Helena, succeeded that lady in the post of Lady Superintendent.

Towards the end of the year Miss Wormald, the senior nurse, left the Colony after four years of devoted service. During the last few months of her service Miss Wormald acted as Lady Superintendent, in which position she gave the greatest satisfaction.

The Colonial Surgeon was granted six months' leave of absence during the year, during which time his duties were admirably performed by Dr. H. E. Scoones.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

The Bank's revenue for the year amounted to £982 18s. 3d., being £31 14s. 8d. less than in 1905. The expenditure for the same period was £634 0s. 4d., as compared with £724 15s. 3d. in the previous year. These figures are satisfactory, shewing a profit to the Bank during the year of £348 17s. 11d.

The number of depositors was 119, being 2 more than in 1905. Twenty-three new accounts were opened and 21 closed during the year. Among the latter category were 8 persons who left the Colony to take up their permanent residence abroad, and who withdrew between them over £3,000. The remainder closed their accounts owing to the want of steady employment, of which there was a great scarcity during the year under review. The Manager of the Bank states that in the whole of his experience, extending over half-a-century, 1906 was the worst year for employment in St. Helena known to anyone.

The total amount deposited during the year was £3,386 1s. 0d., being an increase of £1,271 17s. 0d. over 1905. The withdrawals amounted to £8,965 19s. 4d., or an increase over the previous year of £4,115 10s. 1d.

In addition to the £3,000 referred to above as having been withdrawn by eight persons, the withdrawals were abnormally large to a great part owing to the monies required by depositors to meet repayments to the Colonial Government under the Drainage and Waterworks Ordinances, but the greater part of the withdrawals were owing to the general depression in trade.

The amount of money held by the Colonial Government on behalf of the Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1906, was £21,162 2s. 11d., being £4,895 3s. 1d. less than on the same date in 1905. Considering the unsatisfactory state of the economic situation in St. Helena to-day, I consider that the reserve speaks well for the thrift of the depositors, among whom are several Friendly Societies with a total membership of over 2,000 persons of both sexes. These persons make every endeavour to retain their membership chiefly on account of the relief afforded to them by the Societies in the time of sickness, and so avoid becoming a burden on the Parish Rates.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.—There were two criminal cases during the year, namely: one for larceny and the other a misdemeanour. In the former case, owing to the youth of the prisoner, a sentence of only three months hard labour was imposed; in the latter case the prisoner pleaded guilty, and was bound over to appear for judgment when called upon. It was a case of attempted suicide.

Police Court.—There was a considerable falling off in the number of convictions in this Court as compared with 1905, as shewn in the following table:—

Cases.	1906.	1905.
1. Assaults and other offences against the person ...	13	10
2. Malicious injury to property	—	—
3. Offences against property other than malicious ...	2	23
4. Offences against highways and other Acts relating to the social economy of the Colony.	53	59
5. Soliciting, drunkenness, &c.	50	61
Totals	118	153

Among the 53 convictions under the fourth sub-head above were 10 under the Education Ordinance, being a decrease of 14 as compared with the previous year. There were no convictions during the year for gambling, keeping disorderly houses or brothels, or against the good order of any of the public-houses. The offences were for the most part trivial.

When one looks at other countries it is the rule to find that any serious depression in trade, such as St. Helena is now experiencing, leads to an increase in crime, actuated no doubt by the want of employment and the necessary hunger attaching to such a contingency. In such cases the prospect of capture and any punishment which may follow are not necessarily powerful deterrents. The good behaviour of the Islanders is therefore accentuated and the marked freedom from serious crime during the year under review is all the more to their credit. Four sentences of flogging were imposed on boys by the magistrates during the year, being a similar number to those in 1905.

(B.) PRISONS.

The actual number of prisoners committed to the Jamestown Gaol during the year was practically the same as in 1905, but the daily average number in confinement was decidedly less, consequent on the fact that the average duration of sentences was shorter. The daily average was 2·65 during the year under review, as compared with 3·65 in the previous year. The following are the details:—

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number of prisoners in gaol on 31st Dec., 1905	3	1	4
" " " admitted, 1906	18	17	35
" " " discharged, 1906	18	17	35
" " " in gaol on 31st Dec., 1906	3	1	4

The health of the prisoners and the sanitary condition of the gaol were satisfactory in every way.

(C.) POLICE FORCE.

The Inspector of Police reports satisfactorily on the conduct and efficiency of the Force during the year. As from the 1st January, 1906, the strength of the police force was reduced to one inspector, one corporal, and three constables, special constables being employed on special occasions. Two out of the three constables are detailed for duty in Jamestown. Under the circumstances it was not possible for any regular night duty to be performed. In fact, as was anticipated, the patrolling of the town by police after 11 p.m. is really unnecessary except when ships are lying in port, which is not often the case now-a-days. After, however, the troops were withdrawn it was found necessary to detail one constable for night duty, particularly with a view to patrolling the lower part of Jamestown where the Castle and other Colonial Government buildings are situated. Consequently from the 1st November, 1906, the police force was increased by one constable.

The system advocated by me in my last report on the Colony, that is, fewer constables and increased supervision, has

proved a distinct success, especially considering the saving of expenditure effected by such a system. The cost of maintaining the police force in 1905 was £784, whereas it amounted to £584 in the year under review.

The number of offences treated by the police during the year was 230, or 80 less than in the previous year. 139 of these were dealt with by the magistrates, resulting in 118 convictions. The remaining cases were trivial, and were dealt with by the police. As in past years the most common offences were drunkenness and petty thefts.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1906, was 3,526, being an increase of 14 in the 12 months. The population on the same date, including the garrison and shipping, was 3,544.

There were 118 births (including 2 among the garrison) during the period under review, of which 3 were still-born and 37 illegitimate. Now that the troops have been withdrawn the number of births under the latter category will undoubtedly be less in future.

The birth-rate per 1,000 works out at 33·1 as against 35·9 in 1905.

Forty-six deaths occurred (including 3 seamen and 1 soldier) during the year, being a decrease of 10 as compared with the previous year. The death-rate among the civil population was 11·9 per 1,000 as compared with 14·5 in 1905.

Only 11 marriages were solemnized, as against 18 in 1905.

The emigrants numbered 97 and the immigrants 38, as compared with 85 and 69 respectively in the previous year.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the Colony was excellent, the death-rate, 11·9 per 1,000, given above, being the lowest recorded for ten years. There were no epidemics of any zymotic disease. Two cases of diphtheria occurred in Jamestown in the month of March, it being now several years since cases of this disease were observed. Altogether the year was remarkable for the small amount of illness that prevailed. The Colonial Surgeon gives it as his opinion that lack of employment for lengthened periods, and the extreme poverty consequent thereon, may in some cases lead to the diseases usually attendant on destitution. It is in this direction the health of the Island will probably suffer through the withdrawal of the troops. There were 94 successful cases of vaccination during the year.

(C.) SANITARY.

The new drainage and water systems in Jamestown have worked well, and it has been found that, contrary to expectation, the inhabitants of the town have exercised a commendable amount of care in the use of the new fittings, no serious instance of negligence or damage being brought to light. One defect in the drainage system calls for remedying as soon as funds are available for that purpose. This is to be found in the height of the ventilating pipes, which in many places are not carried sufficiently high above the roof, thus leading to the entrance of foul air into adjoining dwellings.

The water supply of a large district outside Jamestown, known as Half-Tree-Hollow, is still stored in wooden barrels sunk in the earth. The Colonial Surgeon points out that water stored in this manner can easily get contaminated, and urges the desirability of a sounder system of water storage being inaugurated. This is entirely a matter of funds, and cannot be attempted under present financial conditions.

(D.) CLIMATE.

Hutt's Gate.

Borometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·147, the figures for 1905 having been 28·123.

Temperature.

	1906.	1905.
Mean	60·3	61·1
Maximum	75 on 20th March and 25th April.	80 on 27th April.
Lowest maximum	64·6 on 12th July.	67 on 3rd August.
Lowest minimum	48·5 on 15th September.	51 on 4th and 14th Sept.

Rainfall.

	1906.	1905.
Total fall	49·77 inches.	32·45 inches.
Maximum fall	1·91 on 15th June.	1·87 on 8th December.
Number of days' rain ...	277	256

The rainfall for the year under review was the heaviest experienced for many years. July was the wettest month,

there being 28 days on which rain fell. The total in June, however, was greater with 21 days' rain.

Wind.—The mean force was 2·4, which is equivalent to 14 miles—being the same rate as in the three previous years. In fact, in my experience the mean force is practically the same from year to year. The direction of the wind was as follows:—

	Days.
S.S.E.	251
S.E.	70
E.S.E.	21
S.	3
E.	—
Calm	17

The anemograph was not running for three days of the year owing to repairs. It is not possible to give comparisons with 1905, as during that year the anemograph was under repair in England for five months.

*Jamestown.**Temperature.*

	1906.	1905.
Mean	72·7	73·6
Maximum	80 on 14th February and 2nd March.	83 on 1st February.
Minimum	66 on 4th July and 11th August.	66 on 12th September.

Rainfall.—There were 112 rainy days during the year with a total fall of 9·53 inches, the maximum fall being 0·43 inches on the 31st March and the 6th April. No comparison is made with 1905, as the rain gauge was in use for only seven months of that year.

Oakbank.

Rainfall.—Total fall, 48·51 inches, on 228 days of rain, as against 38·41 inches in 1905.

No record of rainfall was kept at Woodlands during the year under review.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POSTAL.

The postal revenue for the year amounted to £629 18s. 11d., being £137 2s. 9d. less than in 1905. The causes which led to this decrease were the withdrawal of the garrison, fewer calling ships, and less demand for stamps by collectors and non-residents. Calling ships are good customers in every sense, even in Post Office matters. Shipping spends on an average from 5s. to 20s. per vessel in postage.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to £362 3s. 6d., of £37 19s. 5d. less than in the preceding year, the decrease being accounted for by dispensing with the services of one clerk and reducing the number of sorters.

Mail matter, both despatched and received, decreased under nearly every head. The following tables give details of all postal matter dealt with during the year under review as compared with 1905:—

From the United Kingdom.

	1906.	1905.
No. of mails from: England	15	23
" " bags mails received	240	251
" " cases parcel post	194	202
" " registered articles... ..	365	597
" " parcels	1,771	2,285
" " insured letters	1	1

To the United Kingdom.

	1906.	1905.
No. of mails to England	17	18
" " bags mail England (and Ascension)	71	91
" " letters (ordinary)... ..	20,732	20,331
" " postcards	10,886	12,507
" " other articles (papers and books)	2,552	2,729
" " parcels	260	244
" " registered articles... ..	1,401	2,108
" " insured letters	nil	nil

From South Africa.

	1906.	1905.
No. of mails from Cape Colony and Natal	14	15
" " bags mail received	58	65
" " parcels	208	171
" " registered articles... ..	317	310
" " insured letters	nil	nil

To South Africa.

	1906.	1905.
No. of mails to Cape Colony, Natal and Australia	15	16
" " bags mail sent	41	79
" " parcels	142	127
" " registered articles... ..	204	274
" " insured letters	nil	nil
" " letters (ordinary)	10,282	13,943
" " postcards	775	1,998
" " other articles (papers and books)	1,716	2,276

It will be noted that the total number of registered and insured articles that passed through the Post Office during the year was 853 less than in 1905. Parcels from the United Kingdom fell from 2,285 in 1905 to 1,771 during the year under review.

The transactions in money and postal orders during the years 1905 and 1906 were as follows:—

	1906.	1905.
To United Kingdom	£ 4,954	£ 5,109
To South Africa	545	629
From United Kingdom	678	434
From South Africa	678	613
Totals	£ 6,855	6,587

Commissions received on the above during the year amounted to £44 12s. 10d., as compared with £50 11s. 1d. in 1905.

The value of money orders to the United Kingdom decreased by £580 11s. 9d., whereas there was an increase of £426 14s. 8d. in postal orders, as compared with 1905. These differences are accounted for by the fact that the public prefer remitting by postal orders owing to the commissions thereon being at a lower rate than on money orders. During the year under review the commissions on all postal orders between the values of 2s. and 15s., inclusive, were lowered by one half-penny. This reduction affected the United Kingdom only, and not the Colony. The small increase of £268 in the total remittances during the year, as compared with 1905, is apt to be misleading. More money was remitted through the Post Office in 1906 than in 1905, simply because the Imperial Treasury Chest was closed to the Colonial Government in September of the year under review, thus debarring the public from remitting home by means of bills on the Crown Agents. The total amount remitted to the United Kingdom by the public by means of these

bills, through the Post Office, and by the export of specie, was £23,644 during the year under review, as against £29,357 in 1905, a falling off of nearly £6,000.

The rate of postage between St. Helena and Egypt was reduced from 2½*d.* to 1*d.* half-ounce during the year.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Telegraphs.—The staff of the Eastern Telegraph Company was increased by one during the year, making a total of 43.

Telephones.—The length of wire open for traffic was the same as in 1905. During the first ten months of the year the system was run by the Imperial Government. In that period 2,340 messages were dealt with, of which only 506 were private messages. The number of telephone offices and the staff employed was as in 1905. The upkeep of the service for the ten months cost £360. This sum does not include the pay of a staff-sergeant and a sapper linesman, who were solely employed on telephone work. Nor does it include the cost of transport. £10 odd was received during the same period for private messages, and the Colonial Government contributed £37 10*s.* towards the maintenance of the service.

For the last two months of the year the Colonial Government maintained the system at a cost of £42. During this period three public stations were closed, and the length of wire open to traffic was considerably lessened owing to the command lines not being required, and to the Prosperous Bay signal station having been vacated when the troops left. In the same period 393 messages were dealt with, of which 239 were official, a sum of £2 odd being received for private messages sent.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The entire garrison, with the exception of a small detachment, embarked on board the steamship "Cluny Castle," and sailed for England on the 30th October of the year under review. The same ship carried away all ammunition, stores, &c., that were of any value. The actual strength of the so-called garrison on the 31st December, 1906, was 1 officer and 17 rank and file. All but 1 officer and 1 non-commissioned officer left the Colony two days later. St. Helena for the first time in her history as a British possession was left without a garrison of any kind. *Sic transit gloria S. Helenae.*

Towards the end of the year the local Volunteer force, known as the "St. Helena Volunteers (Sharpshooters)," was disbanded by Proclamation. The corps had practically ceased to exist some months before the actual disbandment took place, the first cause to damp the ardour of the members of the corps being the withdrawal of the infantry detachment early in

1905. Then came the news early in the year under review that the entire garrison was to be withdrawn in the autumn. This information proved to be the last straw, and with one or two notable exceptions all interest in the welfare of the volunteer movement in St. Helena seemed to disappear. The ultimate disbandment of the corps was the only alternative to adopt, although every effort had been made to preserve efficiency during a trying time.

The expenditure in connection with the St. Helena volunteers amounted to only £21 during the year under review, being £132 less than in 1905. Fifty rifles held by the corps on loan from the Imperial Government were returned prior to the departure of the garrison from the Colony.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) ROADS.

The length of roads kept under repair by the Imperial Government was supposed to be the same as in 1905, but the amount expended thereon was only £270 during the first nine months of the year, the maintenance being abandoned on the 1st October. After that date no repairs were possible as the finances of the Colonial Government would not allow of any expenditure. Fortunately the last three months of the year were free from much rain and the roads consequently did not suffer to any great extent.

Eighty pounds was spent by the Colonial Government in repairs to the streets of Jamestown during the year under review.

(B.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

Eight grants of land were made during the year, covering a total area of 15¼ acres. The Commissioners of Crown Property approved of three transfers of land during the same period.

Owing to the general depression prevailing, the value of land fell considerably. Rents were similarly affected. The sum of £905 15*s.* was collected in rents during the year, being £38 13*s.* 1*d.* less than in 1905.

(C.) RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Very little money was in circulation, especially during the latter end of the year under review, consequently little business was done by merchants and shopkeepers, thus reducing the cost of the necessaries of life. In fact, by the end of the year the cost of living generally had been reduced to a minimum. The cost of dairy produce, however, underwent no change. Those few people who can indulge in fresh butter have to continue paying the iniquitous price of 2*s.* 4*d.* a pound—the same price that ruled four years ago when times were fairly prosperous. The demand for fresh butter is certainly very

small, but that is no argument why the few people who indulge in it should be victimised as they are. The best tinned butter costs 1s. 6d. a pound. One wonders why the farmers do not put fresh butter on the market at that price or even less, and so ensure a ready sale. Enterprise is sadly lacking among St. Helenian farmers. I think the genial climate must be to a great extent accountable for the general apathy of the islanders. The supply of fish all through the year was greater than the demand, although fish is the staple diet (with rice) of the majority of the people. The price of mackerel fell to 1d. a dozen, whereas the price was 2s. four years ago when there was a ready sale for all kinds of fish. Even at the low price reached the supply exceeded the demand, and many scores of dozens of mackerel were thrown back into the sea every day. All fish are caught with hook and line. Nets are not used in St. Helena.

The withdrawal of the garrison caused employers to reduce the number of their employés and to reduce the wages of those kept on. Wages fell considerably, varying from 33 per cent. to 20 per cent. Begging petitions became the order of the day during the latter part of the year, and, needless to say, they still continue. During my first three and a half years in the Colony begging was almost unknown. In fact the actual "beggar" did not exist in the island. The situation in the labour market at the end of the year under review constituted a serious problem. An effort was made during the year to get employment for 200 men in the Transvaal mines. More than that number had applied to go, and were ready to accept any reasonable terms. Unfortunately, however, the conditions governing the importation of labour into the Transvaal debarred St. Helenians being employed in the mines. This failure to obtain what was at first considered as certain employment for at least 200 men, served to exaggerate the gravity of the situation, and the large number of unemployed able-bodied men continues to be a source of anxiety. The serious depression prevailing in St. Helena to-day is chiefly felt by the people of the Jamestown and Half-Tree-Hollow districts. Beyond these points the people are, and have been, above actual want, owing to the majority of them owning small garden plots where they cultivate potatoes and other vegetables. The demand for such produce is very small, but it serves to stave off hunger. Although there is plenty of fish to be bought at an absurdly low price, and although fish is the chief article of diet, nature, even in a good climate, will not bear up on fish alone. This fact has been forcibly brought to the attention of the charitably disposed by the number of begging petitions already referred to.

(D.) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

Most of the Departments have already been dealt with in this report. The Public Works Department expenditure for

the year amounted to £1,594. There was no extraordinary expenditure. £600 odd was expended in effecting repairs to buildings. Most of the Government buildings in Jamestown are very old and require continual repairing. The great enemy of all buildings in Jamestown, the white ant, has practically been conquered during the last five-and-twenty years through the use of teak, cypress, and jarrah wood. These woods are white-ant proof, and that pest has almost entirely disappeared, and exists only in houses where the owners thereof have disregarded the necessity of carrying out repairs with an ant-resisting wood.

The upkeep of the water system in the island cost £243 during the year under review. The time is not far distant when the country mains, especially that from Red Hill to Ladder Hill, will require renewing. When this necessity arises it is to be hoped funds will be available. These country mains at present require the most careful supervision. The expenditure under "Water" included the cost of repairing and improving the dam at the south end of Jamestown, which had suffered considerably from the heavy April rains. A decided improvement, too, was commenced in connection with the Rupert's water supply by the erection of a large reserve tank. The work, to complete this addition, will be carried on as funds permit.

Expenditure under other sub-heads worth mentioning was:— Forests and gardens, £238; scavenging, Jamestown, £190; Jamestown streets, £80; and relief works, £49.

The expenditure under "Relief Works" was almost entirely confined to rewards for rat killing. One penny a rat was offered during the last four months of the year, with the result that over 10,000 were killed. By this means a systematic war was waged against the rodents, and many poor families were enabled, by being of use to the community generally, to earn a small sum every week.

Good work was done by the Printing Department during the year. Mr. B. E. Grant was appointed Government Printer, as from the 1st January, 1906, vice Mr. C. W. Bruce, retired on pension. I regret to say Mr. Bruce died in October last.

The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Board and Public Market for the last five years, including the year under review, are given below:—

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902	897	899
1903	829	821
1904	872	855
1905	881	881
1906	857	900

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902	197	186
1903	124	194
1904	325	208
1905	144	250
1906	102	117

I regret to state that the system (if it can be called such) under which the Market is run is far from satisfactory, both as to its finances and its general organization. The Market is run by a committee, appointed each year at the annual meeting of ratepayers, under Ordinance No. 8 of 1895. Each year since I came to the Colony, on the occasions of the annual audit of Market accounts by the Government Auditor, I have made suggestions to the Committee with a view to the Market being run on more modern lines. My suggestions have, however, so far fallen on barren ground. The Committee has a very incomplete system of check on the monies received and paid out. In fact, a dishonest employé would have no difficulty in feathering his own nest out of market takings without great fear of detection under the present system.

(E.) MISCELLANEOUS.

The year 1906 must long be remembered by the present generation of St. Helenians as the year in which the Colony was entirely denuded of troops for the first time in its history. The news that the garrison was to be withdrawn was received in the colony early in the year and caused general consternation. As was anticipated, the removal of the troops seriously effected the economic situation in the Island. Suffice it is to say the withdrawal of the garrison is a *fait accompli*, and was part and parcel of one large scheme which embraced the distribution of the land forces throughout the Empire. No sane person would ever suggest that garrisons should be maintained in places simply for the benefit of the inhabitants. There can be no doubt, however, that the Governor of a Colony is afforded great moral support by the presence of even a small garrison, especially in a place isolated as is St. Helena. The several references I have made in this Report to the withdrawal of the troops have been made in no spirit of criticism, but simply with the view of representing the effect such withdrawal has had upon the economic situation. It is now fully recognised that St. Helena has in future to get along without her soldiers; and there is no reason, when once a start is made, why in time the Island should not regain much greater pros-

perity than was ever lost by the withdrawal of a small garrison. It may be, too, that such withdrawal will in the long run prove to be a blessing in disguise, as there can be no doubt that the departure of the troops has drawn attention to St. Helena in a manner, and to an extent, that could not have happened had the troops remained in the Colony. In fact, it is more than probable that very large numbers of the British public have, owing to St. Helena's plight, learnt for the first time where the Island is to be found on the map. In the past, knowledge of St. Helena has been more or less confined to the travelling and reading public. Any interest taken in the Island, other than by persons who have resided there, has been almost entirely of an historic nature. There are, I fancy, very few records connected with British enterprise more interesting than those dealing with the administration of St. Helena by the East India Company from 1673 to 1834. These records, with the exception of those volumes covering the years of Napoleon's captivity, are intact (in manuscript) at the present time, and are kept at the Castle in Jamestown.

These records besides being most interesting are at times most quaint reading and sometimes very saddening. It is to be hoped that some day the Colony's finances will allow of printing of them. They occupy no less than 246 large volumes, two of which are unfortunately missing, having been burnt in Governor Drummond Hay's time.

It will long remain in evidence that St. Helena was once a military post. In every conceivable spot are dotted about the ruins of the numerous batteries and emplacements erected by the East India Company. To these are now added the empty barracks, stores, etc., lately vacated by the troops, together with the modern 6-inch guns, in their unsightly tarpaulin covers, standing prominently out on the batteries at Ladder Hill and Munden's.

In April of the year under review, the inhabitants of the Island addressed a Petition to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in which was clearly set forth the serious consequences that would necessarily ensue when the troops were withdrawn. The Petitioners made no complaint nor did they in any way question the judgment of His Majesty's Government in withdrawing the troops. They merely called attention to the serious results such withdrawal must mean to them, and prayed that some thought might be taken of their future welfare. Deputations waited upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Secretary of State for War with a view to supporting the Petition.

I would make one last reference in this Report in connection with the withdrawal of the garrison from St. Helena. There can be no question but that such withdrawal has been a most serious loss to the Colony generally. Every class of the com-

munity suffers in some degree therefrom, especially the stock owners, who are harder hit than any other class. The fact remains, however, that even with a garrison of 200 men the prosperity of the Island had reached a very low ebb. Even if a small garrison had been retained it would still have been imperative to find some means by which St. Helena's lost prosperity could to some extent be restored to her. The fact is that St. Helena's plight to-day, although aggravated by the withdrawal of the garrison, is due (as the "Morning Post" said) to a change in the conditions of the world's trade. The Island is no longer, at all events in peace time, a port of any importance to shipping. The falling off in the number of calling ships, starting from the opening of the Suez Canal, has more than anything else brought St. Helena to the position in which the Colony finds itself to-day. There can be no doubt that St. Helena would rise in importance in time of war, more especially if the Suez Canal became closed. We have here, however, to consider the Island's situation as existing in the times of peace.

In concluding this Report I would again testify to the wonderful patience and good behaviour shewn by the inhabitants of St. Helena during a time of unusual stress. Instead of crime increasing there has been a marked decrease thereof. I doubt if in all His Majesty's dominions there is a more law-abiding community than the St. Helenians, or one which gives less trouble to the administration. These facts are particularly apparent when it is considered that a population of 3,500 persons, scattered over an area of forty-seven square miles, more or less, is kept in order by a police force numbering six men in all. I take this opportunity of placing on record that the good behaviour of the Islanders has contributed not a little towards making the task of administration during a somewhat anxious period very much easier than it otherwise would have been.

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena.
April 16th, 1907.

APPENDICES.

K.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for 1905 and 1906, classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	5,720	4,865	—	855
Licences, taxes, auction dues ...	903	872	—	31
Fines, fees of office, and reimbursements in aid.	691	399	—	292
Post Office	767	630	—	137
Rents of Government property ...	945	906	—	39
Miscellaneous receipts	247	122	—	125
Interest	1,015	1,095	80	—
Total	10,288	8,889	80	1,479

L.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of expenditure for 1905 and 1906:—

Head.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sharpshooters... ..	153	21	—	132
Public debt	—	—	—	—
Pensions	742	735	—	7
The Governor	1,000	998	—	2
Colonial Secretary	661	655	—	6
Customs	777	883	106	—
Legal	347	326	—	21
Savings Bank... ..	736	725	—	11
Police	784	585	—	199
Medical	1,362	1,258	—	104
Education	711	710	—	1
Post Office	400	362	—	38
Miscellaneous Services	410	490	80	—
Public works recurrent	1,947	1,905	—	42
Public works extraordinary... ..	4,255	—	—	4,255
Port and Marine	512	464	—	48
Gaol	172	163	—	9
Total	14,969	10,280	186	4,875

M.

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

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902	23,505	18,613
1903	13,123	21,383
1904	13,361	18,552
1905	10,288	14,969
1906	8,889	10,280

N.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 31st DECEMBER, 1906.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
Arrears due by Colony	£	In Colonial Chest	£
Personal	—	With Crown Agents	214 18 8
Pensions (see page 34)	51 18 2	Remittances in transit to C.A.	100 0 0
Miscellaneous (see page 34)	421 10 0	Advances due to Colony (see page 34)	4,369 13 9
Due to Savings Bank	21,162 2 11	Arrears of Revenue (see page 34)	17 4 1
Due G.P.O. London	—	Parliamentary Grants	—
Due G.P.O. Capetown	1 14 10	Grants in Aid	—
Due Crown Agents amount overpaid on their Account Current, on 31st December, 1906,	3,815 17 1	Mail Service Due by G.P.O. London	4 11 5
	24,823 3 0	Invested for Savings Bank (<i>Actual cost</i>)	22,464 15 6*
Assets over Liabilities	2,348 0 5		
	27,171 3 5		27,171 3 5

* Market value £21,246 15s. 9d.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.
ADVANCES DUE TO COLONY.

		Amount.
		£ s. d.
Board of Trade ...	...	11 0 0
Due by householders on account of drainage.	4,350 5 5	
Trinidad Government ...	...	3 3 4
War Office ...	...	5 5 0
Total...	4,369 13 9	

ARREARS OF REVENUE.

		Amount.
		£ s. d.
Rents ...	...	14 6 7
Assessed Taxes ...	...	1 7 6
Interest due on drainage accounts.	...	1 10 0
Total...	...	17 4 1

PENSIONS.

		Amount.
		£ s. d.
James Hercules ...	...	2 5 8
Edward Samuel ...	...	3 0 10
John C. Melliss ...	...	46 11 8
Total ...	...	51 18 2

MISCELLANEOUS.

		Amount.
		£ s. d.
Bills of Exchange (unpaid)	...	405 15 0
Fees due to Emigration Agent	...	15 15 0
Total...	...	421 10 0

O.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of CUSTOMS REVENUE for the YEARS 1902 to 1906 inclusive.

Year.	Permits.	Wharfage.	Duty.	Tonnage Dues.	Warehouse Rent.	Water.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*1902	46 3 0	3,321 3 7	11,326 12 0	1,354 13 0	146 14 3	432 1 3	16,227 7 1
1903	33 18 9	1,849 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
1905	30 14 0	1,788 19 4	3,348 4 3	268 12 0	105 2 8	178 7 6	5,719 19 9
1906	26 17 0	1,813 6 1	2,377 11 0	361 19 0	62 8 1	222 12 6	4,864 13 8

* During these years the Boer prisoners-of-war were interned in the Colony.

P.

TABLE showing VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the YEARS 1902-1906 inclusive.

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902 ...	*93,920	6,558	—	100,478
1903 ...	55,120	3,111	2,228	60,459
1904 ...	71,652	4,294	32	75,978
1905 ...	46,283	6,307	197	52,787
1906 ...	38,812	2,563	16	41,391

* Includes £15,000 Specie.

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902 ...	*1,168	587	—	1,755
1903 ...	235	\$12,000	—	12,235
1904 ...	594	146	—	740
1905 ...	†570	‡7,065	—	7,635
1906 ...	‡2,620	¶6,642	—	9,262

* Includes £250 Specie.

§ Specie. £12,000.

† " £200 "

‡ Includes £7,000 Specie.

‡ " £2,615 "

¶ " £6,200 "

Q.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SHIPPING ENTERED and CLEARED from 1902 to 1906.

	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British— Steam Sailing	66 7	228,337 5,687	34 6	164,944 3,921	40 6	198,718 3,012	38 2	206,238 3,452	30 1	177,004 1,540
Foreign— Sailing	1	419	1	479	—	—	—	—	1	551
Total	74	234,443	41	169,344	46	201,730	40	209,690	32	179,095

R.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at the PORT OF JAMESTOWN from JANUARY 1st, 1906, to DECEMBER 31st, 1906.

Class.	American.		British.		Danish.		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.	
Vessels of War and Transports, Merchant Mail and	—	—	7	32,270	—	—	—	—	1	686	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	32,656
Steamers.	—	—	37	128,621	—	—	—	—	1	2,284	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	130,905
Merchant Sailing Vessels	1	2,460	17	26,494	—	—	—	504	3	3,749	3	4,566	7	6,251	—	—	—	—	37	50,709	
Whalers ...	3	647	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	647	
Total ...	4	3,107	61	187,885	—	—	—	504	5	6,719	3	4,566	7	6,251	—	—	—	—	86	215,217	

	Ships.	Tonnage.
Tonnage of <i>Merchant Sailing Vessels</i>	9	31,849
" " <i>Steamers</i>	43	154,866
" " <i>Whalers</i>	47	55,826
Total	99	242,141

99 ... 242,141

S. RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS IN THE CIVIL HOSPITAL, ST. HELENA, during 1906 and 1905.

Disease.	1906.		1905.		Disease.	1906.		1905.		INJURIES. General. Local ..	1906.		1905.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
GENERAL DISEASES.					LOCAL DISEASES.									
Influenza	4	—	1	—	Disease of the Eye ..	4	—	—	—	General.	16	—	—	
Enteric Fever	3	—	3	2	Disease of Circulatory System.	3	2	6	1	Local ..	—	—	10	
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	Disease of Respiratory System.	2	—	1	—					
Beriberi	1	—	—	—	Disease of Digestive System.	19	1	22	1					
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	Abscess of the Liver ..	1	—	—	—					
Pyæmia	—	—	—	—	Disease of Lymphatic System.	4	—	—	—					
Septicæmia	—	—	—	—	Disease of Urinary System.	1	—	3	1					
Tetanus	—	—	—	—	Disease of Generative System.	—	—	—	—					
Tubercle	—	—	—	—	Disease of Male Organs.	1	—	1	—					
Delirium Tremens..	—	—	—	—	Disease of Female Organs.	3	—	3	—					
New Growth, non-malignant ..	—	—	—	—	Disease of Bone	5	—	11	—					
New Growth, malignant ..	1	—	—	—	Disease of Joints	6	—	4	—					
Anæmia	—	—	—	—	Disease of Cellular Tissue.	13	—	12	—					
Diabetes Mellitus ..	—	—	—	—	Disease of Skin	—	—	5	—					
Debility	—	—	—	—	Totals	92	3	71	5			16	—	
Rheumatic Fever ..	1	—	—	—										
Totals	19	—	3	8									10	
	7	—	3	8										

COLONIAL REPORTS.

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.
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	1905
496	Bahamas... .. .	1905-1906
497	Barbados	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905-1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905
502	Strait Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905-1906
505	St. Lucia... .. .	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland	1905-1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905-1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905-1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
33	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agricultural (1884).
39	Jamaica... .. .	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Forests of Kenya.