

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 714.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 675.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
June, 1912.



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No. 714.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1910, see No. 675.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,

16th April, 1912.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1911, together with the Report thereon.

2. As I did not arrive in this Colony until after the close of the year under report I have been unable to write from personal knowledge or observation of the several matters dealt with, and have mainly confined myself to embodying the reports of the heads of the various departments concerned.

3. The List of Colonial Government Properties with their rentals does not accompany the Blue Book as usual. A revision of the list is being made, and as soon as printed, which will take some little time, the list will be transmitted to you. I have thought it desirable not to hold back the Blue Book for the document named.

I have, &c.,

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1911.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) REVENUE.

The revenue collected during the year under review amounted to £8,622 16s. 1d., being £1,509 16s. 1d., in excess of the estimate, and showing an increase of £1,816 13s. over the revenue of the preceding year.

This increase of revenue was mainly due to abnormally large Post Office receipts, namely, £1,573 more than the figures of the previous year, owing to an exceptionally large sale of stamps to dealers outside the Colony. There was also a noticeable increase, amounting to £435, under Customs receipts, which may be attributed partly to a slight revival of trade, and partly to the presence in port, during the greater part of the year, of the Eastern Telegraph Company's cable-repairing ship "Britannia."

Against this increase there were shortfalls, under four heads, amounting to £226.

The revenue of the year was £506 10s. 8d. less than the expenditure, this being the smallest deficit since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906. It should be noted, however, that the increase in revenue is, for the most part, due to causes which cannot be regarded as permanent, namely, abnormal Post Office receipts. But, even so, the revenue still shows a substantial increase, which may be taken as an indication of improved conditions in the Colony.

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £9,129 6s. 9d., being £61 5s. 11d. less than the estimate, and a decrease of £466 15s. 2d. as compared with the figures of the previous year. Decreases were effected under nine heads, amounting to £776, against which have to be put increases amounting to £309 under three principal heads, namely, Medical, £139, due to the admission of a larger number of patients and to the higher rate paid for provisions; Post Office £88, representing the cost of printing stamps, and commission paid on stamps sold to non-residents; and Port and Marine £44, being the purchase price of a new boat.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1911, amounted to £25,220 17s. 7d., and the liabilities £25,113 17s. 7d., thus giving a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to £107 as compared with £186 11s. 4d. of the preceding year.

Under assets, a sum of £1,949 was written off during the year, as an act of grace on the occasion of Their Majesties' Coronation,

householders on account of drainage and water claims, thus leaving a balance of £1,352 still due at the end of the year under review. Under assets, also, is included a sum of £8,279, representing the expenditure incurred by the Colony in connection with repatriation of the emigrant passengers of the wrecked "Papanui." The Colony's investments on 31st December, 1911, amounted to £13,835 13s. 1d. at cost, with a market value on the same date of £12,530 18s. 4d., showing a depreciation of £1,304 14s. 7d.

The liabilities include a sum of £12,570 5s. 3d. due to depositors in the Savings Bank, and an overdraft with the Crown Agents for the Colonies of £12,395.

(D.) CURRENCY.

The cash circulation at the commencement of the year under review was estimated at £5,000.

Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies to the amount of £3,277 were issued during the year, as against £3,822 in 1910.

Specie to the value of £5,310 was imported, and £7,800 exported.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

Revenue.

The Customs Revenue for the year amounted to £3,778 15s. 6d., being £434 12s. 2d. in excess of that of the previous year. An increase is shewn under every head, with the exception of a small decrease under "Warehouse Rent," due to the small stock of dutiable goods in bond, and quick clearance. The principal increases were under the following heads:—

"Wharfage," £285 1s. 0d., due to unusually large imports of coal, namely 2,960 tons more than in the previous year—realising £444. This indicates a falling off in other imported goods.

"Import Duties," £56 15s. 5d., due to the presence in port of the cable ship "Britannia."

"Tonnage Dues," £63 17s. 0d. The increase of coal imports above referred to accounts for this.

"Water," £30 14s. 9d. The cable ship "Britannia" took 767 tons and H.M. Navy 221 tons, both being an increase over 1910.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £585 0s. 9d., being £179 16s. 3d. less than in 1910. This is accounted for by the fact that £215 was refunded on coal supplied to H.M. ships as compared with £392 in the previous year.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1911 amounted to £42,412, being an excess of £4,842 as compared with 1910. The following table compares the value of the principal imports during the years 1910 and 1911:—

Articles.	1910. £	1911. £
Beef and pork	829	642
Beer	592	566
Butter and margarine	1,014	1,456
Cement and lime	92	232
Chemicals	310	447
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco	575	641
Coals and patent fuel	4,190	7,150
Drapery and dry goods	3,894	3,448
Flour	3,620	3,370
Grain, seed, and oilcake	1,300	1,875
Hardware	270	953
Leather, boots, &c.	310	569
Machinery	391	142
Oilman's stores	5,684	7,213
Paraffin oil	496	701
Rice	2,097	1,630
Specie	3,655	5,310
Spirits	732	804
Stationery	740	394
Sugar	2,708	2,662
Sundries	432	446
Tea	357	376
Wine	583	579

The increases occur under Butter, £442; Coal and patent fuel, £2,960; Grain, seed, and oilcake, £575; Hardware, £683; Oilman's stores, £1,655. A slight decrease is shown under other items.

Exports.

The total value of exports in 1911 amounted to £9,959 as against £9,324 in 1910. Specie shows a marked increase, being £7,800 as compared with £5,300 in the previous year. The comparative value of the principal exports during the last two years was:—

	1910. £	1911. £
Fibre and tow	1,369	386
Hides and skins	52	127
Sheep, oxen, and calves	935	1,251
Specie	5,300	7,800

The falling off in the export of fibre and tow is due to the fact that the Government flax mill had to be closed down for the greater part of the year.

(B.) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

The year under review was, on the whole, a bad one for stock-owners. The drought which prevailed for the first four months of the year resulted in cattle getting into low condition, and the period of heavy rain which followed found them in a condition least able to stand it. Again, the last four months of the year were exceptionally dry, which caused heavy losses amongst cattle.

Both cattle and sheep were raised at large expense, chiefly by imported food, to supply the Naval Establishment at Ascension.

The potato crop was also adversely affected by the unfavourable weather. In some parts of the Island potatoes remained in the ground for a long time, there not being enough moisture to bring them on. Consequently they suffered from rot, and potatoes became scarce and dear at times.

Green vegetables did badly and were scarce for the same reasons.

Hay was also unsatisfactory, the crop being very short. In most lands grass was not worth cutting.

About 350 young trees were issued to landowners free of cost from the Plantation nurseries during the year, and about 650 were planted out on Government lands.

The sale of fruit from Maldivia Garden amounted to £19 4s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the amount realised by the sale of trees (as firewood) from Government lands was £22 8s. 7d.

(C.) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—Mr. H. J. Broadway, the Manager of the Government Flax Mill, reports as follows:—

His Excellency Sir H. L. Galway was anxious to reopen the mill in January of the year under review, but owing to the scarcity of leaves of the required length, viz., 6 feet, an experiment with those from 3 to 5 feet was made with a view of ascertaining if a sufficient quantity could be daily milled profitably, when it was found, as a result, that only 3 to 4 tons could be handled per day, which would not cover working expenses. Consequently, the mill remained closed till April, when a further effort was made to reopen it by offering the growers 20s. per ton for leaves delivered from 4 feet upwards in length. The growers objected to this arrangement, desiring to be paid as heretofore, viz., 5 per cent. on the London market—this, however, failed. No further operations were carried on until November, when, after some little further trouble with the growers as to the length of leaves, His Excellency the Acting Governor approved of the mill being opened for a couple of months to handle flax from 4 feet upwards as a further trial. Work was therefore resumed on the 13th November, and to the 31st December 172 tons of leaves were treated, producing 21 tons of fibre and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of tow. The only produce yet sold is 2 tons of tow, realising £14 5s. per ton, which is the highest price obtained for the article since the starting of the mill in 1907.

The cash balance to the credit of the Flax Mill Account on 31st December, 1911, was £324 8s. excluding fibre and tow unsold.

Lace-making.—In her annual report on the Government Lace School, the manageress, Miss Girdwood, writes:—

The Government Lace School has steadily continued to progress during the last twelve months, though several rather serious setbacks have had to be overcome. The first of these was in the early part of the year, and for some time gave cause for anxiety. This was a strong wave of emigration fever passing over the Island. For the previous two years nearly all the emigrants were of the most respectable and well-to-do class, and

good homes in South Africa as domestic servants. The increased demand, together with the glowing accounts of the first impressions of the girls coming by every mail stirred the whole Island to follow suit.

After the slow and labourious training of the Lace and Needlework School, there is no wonder that this seemed a pleasant and easy way to earn a living, for the St. Helenian is not, as a rule, gifted with the power of seeing both sides of a question, and the only item that loomed large before them was the, to them, extravagant wage offered as compared to the small earnings of the Lace School. Consequently, the whole school became unsettled, but after a few weeks of steady individual pressure, their common-sense asserted itself and we recovered with the loss of one, and became more firmly established than before.

Another drawback was the necessity of supplying goods for the Crystal Palace in connexion with the Coronation festivities. This was done to the extent of £98 8s.; but it was afterwards found that no sales would be permitted until the close of the season, and that goods were retained for display, and, consequently, locked away from us financially. To make up for this Mrs. Ord Marshall urgently pressed for more goods for exhibition and sale at Caxton Hall, by which she hoped to continue her usual monthly cheque. Goods, therefore, to the value of £61 9s. were despatched in the month of May—thus we were now lying out of £159 17s. for this year alone.

In addition, the large orders for lace cabled out in March and despatched in August had to be paid for as the work came in, and so at the end of that month we found our resources drained to the utmost. For though the Caxton Hall cheques amounted to nearly £100 for the first six months of the year, they also had a balance of goods in hand from 1910, which meant that we still had goods there to the value of over £100.

A small loan from the Colonial Treasury relieved our difficulties at this time, and Sir Henry Galway's personal representations at the Colonial Office resulted in a further loan on which to draw in time of need. This, however, has not yet been required.

Our next apparent misfortune was the departure from St. Helena of our late Governor, Sir Henry Galway. He, however, worked so energetically at the Colonial Office, League of Empire, and elsewhere, that we received considerable impetus and benefit in many ways from his labours in our behalf.

The number of workers in the Lace School continues steady, and, during the year under review, few, if any, new workers have been admitted, the aim being to level up those already proved to be worth the trouble, and to drop those who by carelessness and slovenliness were any cost to the school. Consequently, all the work now turned out is of good quality, and will soon be quite uniform, the second-rate workers aiming to receive the $\frac{1}{4}d.$ or $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per yard, of which they are in the meantime deprived.

Regular classes have been dropped, workers only coming to receive advice or whatever instruction is required individually—the assistants being now fully occupied in the business side of the school's affairs—*i.e.*, keeping books of receipts and issues of work, cutting out and preparing this, attending to sales—entries, invoices, packing, posting, &c.

That there is a healthy spirit prevailing is shown by the fact that although the Lace School has given up teaching beginners, the knowledge is being rapidly spread from one to another, especially to younger members of the same family, who are only admitted as workers, if required, and if their ability places them above being any cost to the school.

After four years of experience, I have not the slightest hesitation in affirming that, with a few individual exceptions, the natural talent of the St. Helenian is strongly in favour of the needle rather than the pillow. It is this that appeals to the hereditary taste lying dormant for generations and now awakening with sufficient force to overcome the indolence and apathy produced by physical degeneration and the want of any interest in life to raise them above themselves. This pleasure in their work is very keen, and is clearly shown by their pride in keeping it so beautifully fresh and dainty. This indicates that the houses in which this style of work is produced must also partake in great measure of the same cleanliness and pride in appearance shown in the person of the worker.

It need not be long before the embroidery department could be carried on independently of a school, by means of an agency, which would be responsible for importing prepared linen goods, such as the stamped linen robes at present under consideration by Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, and exporting these when completed to whatever firms may be under arrangement to keep the workers supplied.

A local and qualified sub-agent would necessarily be employed to receive and criticise the work before payment, and to see that the workers' requirements were attended to, and that all was properly invoiced and packed. The Lace School would thus be developed into an industry in one of its branches, and the other would not be long in following suit.

We have a natural and unforced proof of the prevailing taste of the St. Helenian in that it is needlework and embroidery which is spreading, by teaching each other, in preference to lace. Mothers take pride in purchasing material to be turned into handkerchiefs for themselves by their children, and many of these handkerchiefs, nicely hemstitched, as for the Lace School, have little attempts at initials and moon-flower embroidery, drawn out by themselves, to add to their adornment. Scraps of calico are hemstitched up into tray cloths for their own use, often bordered with "rejected" pieces of lace. Their own blouses and pinafores, too, all show what is being done with work the Lace School refuses to accept. All this goes to indicate assured success to the special development of the embroidery department which we are so anxious to see placed on an independent footing of its own.

As one result of Sir Henry Galway's exertions in London, Messrs. Debenham and Freebody have undertaken to send trial orders of linen embroidery to our best workers. One such order, to the value of £26, has already been executed and despatched, and a further order of linen robes, shaped and ready stamped with a new unique design of their own, to be our speciality, is in course of preparation, and will be sent out as soon as possible. Should these be satisfactory, our fifteen first-grade workers will be provided with regular work and thus become the nucleus of our future industry. But these things cannot be hurried, and to have any chance of success they must work themselves out steadily and thoroughly.

Owing to the large orders received and executed during the last twelve months for Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, and other large American firms, we have been obliged to discourage, in great measure, the growing demand from the Cape, and also to discontinue our depôt at Cape Town altogether, owing to the impossibility of supplying this with unpaid-for goods. The Women's Industrial Union, who were our agents there, quite understand the necessity of this step, and to show their good-will are now prepaying all articles they order for sale purposes.

Private orders, sometimes to amounts of £6—£10, are also prepaid, hence the execution of these cannot be disregarded; although Caxton Hall orders always have precedence and no consideration whatever has ever come in the way of executing these trade and other orders, which are the outcome of so much exertion on the part of the League of Empire to help us on to an independent footing.

The number of workers in the Lace School for 1911 stands thus:—

Embroidery workers:—						
First grade	...	...	...	...	...	15
Second grade	...	...	...	...	...	9
						— 24
Lace makers:—						
First grade	...	...	...	...	...	36
Second grade	...	...	...	...	...	14
						— 50
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	74
						—

These numbers exclude children, who have so little time in which to work, and occasional workers, who do not do good work, which we are always glad to get, but who cannot be depended on for orders.

Over 4,000 yards of lace have been made during the year.

The school's transactions during 1911 were as follows:—

<i>Receipts.</i>						£	s.	d.
Work sold	...	...	...	...	...	550	3	9
Donations	...	...	...	...	...	13	0	0
Colonial Government Grant	...	...	...	...	...	120	0	0
" " Loan	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0
						733	3	9

<i>Payments.</i>						£	s.	d.
Salaries	...	...	...	...	...	176	0	0
Pay of workers	...	...	...	...	...	510	11	6
Material	...	...	...	...	...	108	4	6
Incidental	...	...	...	...	...	48	14	1
						£843	10	1

These figures show a deficit on the year's working of £110 6s. 4d., or, without the Government grant and loan, of £280 6s. 4d. Against this, however, must be put the value of work remaining unsold on the 31st December, 1911, amounting to £238.

Whaling.—Unfortunately there seems to be little prospect at present of a satisfactory result from the negotiations, which are still proceeding, for the establishment of a whaling station and factory in Rupert's Valley.

(D.) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that called at the Island during the year under review was 64, with a tonnage of 186,420, as compared with 51, and tonnage of 181,071, of the previous year. Among the calling ships were five British men-of-war. Sixteen sailing ships called during the year, and only six were British. Of the remainder, seven were American whalers, which put into the Island for the purpose of giving their crews liberty and in order to take in fresh provisions. Their "catch" amounted to 4,570 barrels of oil and 3,000 lbs of bone.

In addition to the above figures, 19 passing vessels were boarded by licensed traders, being one less than in the previous year.

Thirty-one vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 141,573 entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. The cargo discharged by these vessels amounted to 5,893 tons, an increase of 1,582 tons as compared with the previous year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Three Ordinances were enacted during the year under review—two being in connection with public expenditure, and an Ordinance to amend "The Seamen's Deserters Ordinance, 1895.

IV.—EDUCATION.

A general improvement in the Island's Schools was manifest during the year under review. The number of schools remained at 10, of which three are Government and the remainder Church Schools. The number of children attending the schools during the year was:—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Government schools (3)	151	165	316
Church schools (7)	218	171	389
Totals	369	336	705

The arrangement, instituted in January, 1910, under which Mr. Tucker was given general supervision over all the Government Schools has continued to work satisfactorily, and good progress was maintained. The quarterly examinations gave good results, and showed that real progress has been made amongst the children almost without exception.

The pupil teachers' classes, commenced in 1905, continue to give good results. The attendance at these classes during the year under review was exceptionally good, 15 pupil teachers having attended. Of these nine are employed in Government, five in Hussey Charity, and one in the Benevolent Society's Schools. It is satisfactory to note that greater interest and application has been shown by the majority of the non-Government pupil teachers than in the previous year. The Hussey Charity Schools will now have three teachers holding Board of Education certificates.

Miss Girdwood continued to supervise the needlework classes of the several schools, and is able to report satisfactory progress on the whole, especially in the case of the junior school.

The expenditure on Education during the year amounted to £627 6s. 9d.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITAL.

The Colonial Surgeon reports as follows:—

There were 157 admissions to the hospital during the year, and of these 82 were males and 75 females.

There were four deaths, equivalent to 2·5 per cent. of the admissions. The previous year showed 151 admissions and six deaths.

In 1910 the plan of a small operating room, to be added on to the west verandah on the second floor, was drawn up. The work was not proceeded with, but the need for such a room is keenly felt from time to time. Though operations are not numerous, yet it is undesirable that they should have to be performed in the wards.

The nursing staff was altered by the departure of Miss Woodward, who had completed her three years' service, her place being taken by Miss Perkins, who arrived in December. The Colonial Nursing Association generously continue to supplement the salaries of the nurses they send to the Colony.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

At the end of the year under review there were 126 depositors in the Savings Bank, being four less than in 1910. The total deposits during the year amounted to £1,667 as compared with £803 12s. 0d. in the previous year, an increase of nearly 100 per cent. This increase was not so much due to a revival of trade as to a few depositors having received money from abroad.

The withdrawals were large, though less than in the previous year by £535.

The Bank's revenue for the year amounted to £510 5s. 2d., and the expenditure to £367 13s. 3d., thus showing a profit of nearly £143 on the year's transactions.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIMINAL.

Supreme Court.—There were no cases for trial in this Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—There were 142 cases dealt with in this Court as compared with 240 in 1910—none being of a serious nature. Of this number 24 were under the Road Tax Ordinance, and 29 under the Education Ordinance. There were 17 cases of offences by seamen, and 18 cases of drunkenness—a number considerably less than in any preceding year.

(B.) PRISONS.

The number of cases committed to the gaol during the year was 44, two less than in the previous year. The daily average number in gaol was 4·71, being an increase of 1·04 over the previous year—due to the number of convictions of seamen above referred to. Only two men were committed to prison under the Road Tax Ordinance.

The cost of maintaining the gaol during the year amounted to £117 17s. 11d., being an increase of £13 13s. 8d. as compared with 1910.

(C.) POLICE FORCE.

The force performed its duties satisfactorily during the year. In addition to the 142 cases dealt with by the Police Magistrate in his Court, 112 trivial cases were disposed of by the police.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

On the 31st December, 1911, the estimated civil population was 3,482 as compared with 3,441 on the same date a year previous. In addition to the civil population on the date given were 44 persons belonging to the Royal Marine Detachment and 66 crew of the cable ship "Britannia."

There were 186 emigrants and 122 immigrants during the year, as compared with 203 and 27 respectively in 1910. Among the emigrants were 54 domestic servants.

There were 95 births (including two still-born) during the year as compared with 87 (including five still-born) in 1910. The number of illegitimate births was 29, being eight in excess of 1910.

The death-rate was 10·9 per 1,000—a very slight increase over 1910. The total number of deaths was 39, of which six were children under one year of age, and sixteen of persons over 70 years of age.

There were 20 marriages in 1911, as against 22 in the previous year.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

There is nothing noteworthy to record on the state of the public health as compared with the previous year. The rate of mortality was practically the same, namely, 10·8 per 1,000, being 10·7 per 1,000 in 1910.

There were no deaths from zymotic disease, nor were any deaths recorded between the ages of 7 months and 10 years. The infant mortality was 53·7 per 1,000 births, a slight increase on the previous year, which afforded a rate of 48·7 per 1,000 births, though satisfactorily low, as compared with the high infantile mortality in most parts of the world. It is less than half the average rate in the British Isles. The occurrence of a large number of cases of enteritis, and other forms of intestinal disturbance is annually contemporaneous with the fruit season of the Island, pears and peaches being the main feature of that season. The children consume these fruits in large quantities. Few escape some evil effects and many are made seriously ill. The island pear contains a large percentage of cellulose and woody fibre, and when eaten in its entirety, skin and all, as is the common practice, is a cause of many internal ills. When cooked it is comparatively harmless though even then should be avoided by anyone with a susceptible digestive system. Dysentery among adults is most prevalent in the fruit season, though there have been fewer cases in recent years.

(C.) SANITARY.

During the year a failure of the water supply to the lower part of Jamestown took place on several occasions. The matter was considered by the Board of Health. The conclusion reached was a recommendation that large storage tanks should be erected

on the wharf from which water for supply of ships could be drawn. This would do away with the necessity of drawing water for ships direct from the main, as at present.

The result of the existing system is that when shipping is being supplied the house services are depleted, owing to the fall of pressure in the main.

Water carriage being now the only method of sewage removal in Jamestown, its complete suspension from lack of water, as happened on two or three days, might have very serious consequences to the public health.

A hose, adapted for attachment to the main, to be used for watering the streets in dry weather, was added to the sanitary equipment.

(D.) CLIMATE.

Meteorological Station, Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·103 inches, 28·122 inches being the mean in 1910.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 60·7° as against 56·4° in the previous year. The absolute maximum, 79·0°, was recorded on 30th March; in 1910 78·0° was the maximum on the 1st and 27th March of that year. The lowest maximum was registered on 20th August, being 65·5°; the lowest in 1910 was 64·8° on the 27th October.

The absolute minimum, 50·0°, took place on the 20th August, as against 51·0° on 20th and 23rd August of the previous year.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the year under report was 31·650 inches, which is less by 12·730 inches as compared with the total of 1910. The maximum fall occurred on 20th June and read 8·50 inches, the corresponding maximum for the previous year having been 1·380 inches on the 8th March. Rain fell on 229 days, being a decrease of 24 days on the number for 1910. The last four months of the year were exceptionally dry—the total fall for that period reaching 3·410 inches only on 40 days.

Wind.—A continuous record of wind was kept during the year. The mean force was 2·0 which is equivalent to 14 miles. August and September were the most windy months. Seven calm days were recorded as against five in 1910.

The following table gives the direction for the year:—

	Days.
S.S.E.	144
S.E.	181
E.S.E.	30
E.	1
S.	2
Calm	7

Jamestown.

Temperature.	1910.	1911.
Mean	73·2°	72·5°
Absolute maximum ...	80·0° on 19th May	80·0° on 22nd Feb.
Absolute minimum ...	65·0° on 20th Sept. and 1st Oct.	65·0° on 11th August and 3rd Oct.

Rainfall.	1910.	1911.
Total	7·43 inches	8·10 inches
Number of rainy days	56	100
Maximum fall	0·43 inches on 1st March.	0·35 inches on 18th May.

The following records of rainfall were kept in addition:—

	Total fall. inches.	Number of days on which rain fell.
Plantation	29·95	156
Farm Lodge	28·69	183
Oak Bank	34·05	183

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.—The postal revenue for the year amounted to £2,445 16s. 8d., being an increase of £1,572 12s. 4d. over the receipts for the previous year. This large increase was almost entirely due to the sale of postage stamps to non-resident collectors and dealers—there having been a great demand for 2½d., 4d., and 6d. of the small King's Head issue. It may be noted that only 100 sheets of the 2½d. stamp are now remaining unsold. There was also a substantial increase of postage on mail matter, as noted below.

Expenditure.—The expenditure for the year amounted to £472 11s. 10d., being an increase of £87 2s. 11d. over the figures of the previous year. This increase is accounted for by the amount paid in commission (2½ per cent.) to the Chief Clerk and Postmaster on stamps sold to non-residents, and by the cost of printing a new supply of 2½d., 4d., and 6d. stamps.

Mail matter.—The following table gives the mail matter dealt with during the year as compared with 1910:—

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

	1911.	1910.	Increase.
Bags of mails	240	213	27
Parcels	2,687	2,171	516
Registered articles	1,297	1,102	195
Insured letters	27	6	21

To the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

	1911.	1910.	Increase.
Bags of mails	135	120	15
Parcels	484	420	64
Registered articles	2,854	2,639	215
Insured letters	16	6	10

Money and Postal Orders:—Transactions under this head were as follows:—

	1911.			1910.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Money Orders received...	1,144	0	0	934	18	7
Postal „ „ ...	3,327	1	8	1,376	0	10
Money Orders issued ...	1,832	6	6	1,277	16	9
Postal „ „ ...	1,745	4	10	1,785	14	0½

Commission received on the above during the year was £43 7s. 5d., as compared with £37 1s. 8d. in 1910.

Parcel Post Rates.—The following reductions in parcel post rates to the countries mentioned came into force in July of the year under review:—

Transvaal and Orange Free State—From 11d. to 8d. per lb.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

There were no changes in tariff during the year.

Telephones.—The telephone system continues to work satisfactorily.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) ROADS.

A sum of £400 was expended during the year under review in maintaining the chief rural roads in repair. Further progress was made with the scheme of gradually replacing surface by covered drains, about 30 drains having been dealt with in the course of the year.

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

There was no change in the value of land. There was only one grant of land during the year.

Government rents amounted to £764 during the year, as compared with £848 in 1910.

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

The rate of wages remained unchanged, though the cost of living was higher than it has been for many years past. Owing to the bad season both meat and vegetables increased in price. Fish, too, the staple diet of the poorer classes, was scarce, and the supply fell short of the demand. Mackerel went up from the usual price of 3d. per dozen to 1s. 6d. and 2s. per dozen. The presence in the island of the emigrants and crew of the wrecked steamship “Papanui,” numbering some 500 souls, also caused prices to advance considerably.

(D.) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

Public Works Department.

The expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year amounted to £2,149 14s. 0d., of which £572 4s. 4d. was under “Works Extraordinary.” Of this latter sum, the amount of £74 was expended in the purchase and distribution of food to the poorest families in the Island and in the provision of a meal to all the school children on the occasion of Their Majesties’ Coronation. A sum of £248 18s. 0d. was expended in relief works, and £149 18s. 0d. in “Renewal of House Services” in Jamestown, 29 properties having been dealt with during the year. Under recurrent expenditure, the most important work was the provision of a new water supply for the houses in the neighbourhood of “Francis Plain.”

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board in 1911 was £851, and the expenditure £846, as against £822 and £783 respectively in the previous year.

Public Market.

The revenue for the year amounted to £92, and the expenditure to £90, as compared with £95 and £88 respectively in 1910.

(E.) MISCELLANEOUS.

The year under review appears to have witnessed an improvement in the economic condition of the Island, and it is hoped that this improvement will be maintained. Much will depend on the progress made by the three industries recently started in the Island. In this connection it is sad to record the death in its infancy of the fish-curing industry, as also the temporary disablement of the fibre industry owing to a shortage of mature leaves, which necessitated shutting down the Government Mill for the first nine months of the year. It is to be hoped that in time the whaling industry may be re-established at St. Helena.

The most important event of the year was the occasion of the Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen, which was enthusiastically celebrated throughout the Island. A loyal Address, contained in a silver casket, was presented to His Majesty the King by the inhabitants of the Colony.

Portraits of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, graciously presented by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught to commemorate the Royal Visit of 1910, were received in May of the year under review. The gracious gift is greatly prized by the inhabitants.

In September Lt.-Colonel Sir H. L. Galway, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., left the Colony to take over the administration of the Government of the Gambia.

In the same month the steamship “Papanui,” bound to Fremantle, Western Australia, with 364 emigrants on board,

put into Jamestown Harbour on fire. Shortly after anchoring, an explosion occurred and the ship burst into a mass of flame. With the assistance of the cable ship "Britannia" and shore boats all the passengers and crew were safely landed, though very little of the emigrants' belongings were saved. Arrangements had to be improvised for the housing and feeding of some 500 persons, who after a stay of five weeks were sent on to their destination in the s.s. "Opawa." The "Papanui" was totally destroyed and now lies, partially submerged, a total wreck in Jamestown Harbour.

December witnessed the arrival of the detachment of Royal Marines, under the command of Captain G. Mathew, of the Royal Marine Artillery.




H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
15th April, 1912.

SKETCH MAP OF ST HELENA.

INDICATING THE THREE ZONES OF VEGETATION.

Col. Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on pp 3 and 4 of Colonial Report. [Miscellaneous] N° 38 [Cd. 3248.]

-  Coast Zone.
-  Middle Zone.
-  Central Zone.

