

## COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., 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, etc.	Year.
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1131	Basutoland .. .. .	1921-1922
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1141	St. Lucia .. .. .	"
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1161	New Hebrides .. .. .	1921 & 1922
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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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84	West Indies .. .. .	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria .. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria .. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon .. .. .	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute .. .. .	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria .. .. .	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent .. .. .	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate .. .. .	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General .. .. .	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island .. .. .	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

## COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1164.

## ST. HELENA.

## REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1129.)



LONDON:

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE  
at the following addresses: Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and  
28 Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1; York Street, Manchester;  
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1923.

Price 6d. Net.



**ST. HELENA.**

## ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1922.

## I.—FINANCIAL.

## (A) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year, including a Grant-in-Aid of £3,000, amounted to £16,282 7s. 8d., being £6,053 more than the sum received in 1921, a net increase of £4,221 7s. 8d. over the estimate for the year, and the largest amount collected since 1902, the last year of the South African War, when large numbers of Boer prisoners, with the troops needed to guard them, were quartered in the Colony. The increase is, however, almost entirely due to Post Office receipts in connection with the new issue of stamps for St. Helena and Ascension, otherwise the revenue would have remained practically stationary.

## (B) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure amounted to £11,621 7s. 8d., showing a saving of £254 11s. 3d. on the estimate.

Increases of expenditure occurred under six heads, and amounted to £191 2s. 7d.; while decreases occurred under nine, showing a total of £445 13s. 10d., the principal being £207 17s. under Legal, owing to the non-appointment of a Law Officer and Crown Prosecutor.

## (C) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Under a new form of accounting desired by the Treasury, the deficit stated in the Annual Report for 1921 as being £1,950 was increased to £7,030 9s. 7d.; this was reduced owing to the year's working to £1,290 11s. 9d. on 31st December, 1922.

## (D) CURRENCY.

Bills on the Crown Agents amounted to £7,051 13s. 7d. during the year.

Specie to the value of £2,277 was exported to South Africa during the year. This was in silver coin and in connection with the closing of the local branch of the National Bank of South Africa. The amount of currency in the Colony is sufficient for local requirements. There were no imports of coin during the year under report.

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

## (A) TRADE.

*Revenue.*

The Customs Revenue for the year 1922 amounted to £3,096 7s. 11d., as against £3,249 13s. 7d. in the previous year; showing a decrease of £1,153 5s. 8d.

The Revenue for 1921 under the sub-heads "Wharfage" and "Tonnage Dues" was inflated to the extent of £850 by dues collected from colliers in distress, so it will be observed that the revenue for 1922 shows a healthier aspect generally. An increase of £199 0s. 1d. occurs under "Import Duties," and £109 7s. 11d. under "Special War Dues," also £96 18s. 6d. under "Export Wharfage" due to 688 tons of fibre and tow being exported as against 448 tons in 1921.

A decrease of £408 8s. 11d. under "Wharfage Dues" and £122 5s. 6d. under "Tonnage Dues" is more than accounted for by the above-mentioned inflation in 1921.

*Expenditure.*

The Customs Expenditure for 1922 amounted to £370 14s. 5d., as against £390 5s. 4d. in 1921, showing a decrease of £19 10s. 11d., due mainly to personal emoluments in 1922 being £344 7s. 6d., as against £358 13s. in 1921.

*Imports.*

The total value of imports in 1922 amounted to £44,636, as against £44,647 in 1921, giving a decrease of £11. This does not mean that the quantities imported were less than in 1921, but that prices had fallen considerably, so reducing values. Increases in value during the year appear under Beef and Pork, £273; Boats, £230; Chemicals, Drugs, etc., £389; Drapery and Dry Goods, £2,278; Hardware, Metals, etc., £243; Foodstuffs (other than enumerated), £891; Spirits, £237; Stationery, £1,010 (large importations by Eastern Telegraph Company); and Sugar, £962.

The principal decreases appear under Animals, £379; Flour, £2,365; Grain, Seed, and Oilcake, £300; Machinery, £1,358; and Wines, £222. These decreases, except Machinery, are mainly due to falling prices.

*Exports.*

The total value of exports amounted to £24,418, as against £14,344 in 1921, showing an increase of £10,074. This is due to about one-third more fibre and tow being exported than in the previous year, viz. :—



1921—448 tons valued at	...	...	£11,984
1922—688 „ „ „	...	...	£18,643
Increase	...	...	£6,659

About 2½ tons of Aloe fibre and tow were exported during the year, valued at £88, and approximately 18 tons of St. Helena rope, valued at £820. Specie to the amount of £2,277 was exported in 1922, and wool valued at £721, as against none in the previous year.

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

The year under review may be considered generally as fairly satisfactory to agriculturists. The rainfall was sufficient and well distributed.

Potatoes and sweet potatoes were plentiful, and prices remained low.

*Maldivia Garden.*—Sale of fruit from “Maldivia” amounted to £77 3s. 7d.; the balance of this fund stands at £7 14s. 11d. at the end of the year. Besides paying the gardener’s wages, various small sums are expended from this fund for the benefit of Government gardens generally: for instance, £7 10s. for guano, £3 14s. 4d. for arsenate of lead and sugar for the destruction of Peach Fly by spraying, and £3 for the purchase of syringes for the same purpose. The experiment has been generally successful where the directions have been carefully complied with, and might with advantage be extended.

The Government pasture lands at “Botley’s Lay” produced a revenue of £79 18s. 11d., as against an expenditure of £74 3s. 4d. The balance standing to the credit of this account now amounts to £32 11s. 1d. Expenditure may have to be incurred in the near future for improving the water supply there, which is indifferent.

(C) INDUSTRIES.

*Fibre.*—The Government Flax Mill worked for 254 days during the year, as compared with 159 in 1921, producing 130 tons of fibre and 48½ tons of tow, as against 76 tons of fibre and 38½ tons of tow in the previous year.

The average price obtained on the London market was £29 7s. a ton for fibre, and £20 11s. for tow, as compared with £33 and £17 respectively in 1921. Though prices were a little below those of 1921, the market in London was rather steadier which made “selling to arrive” the rule rather than the exception. This difference is of considerable importance with regard to the net price realised for shipments as it does away with the possible heavy cost of storage in England before sale.

*Private Mills.*—Messrs. Solomon’s mill at “Sandy Bay” ran throughout the year, and produced 120 tons of fibre and 42 tons of tow. Their mill at “Broadbottom” was closed.

Messrs. Deason produced 236 tons of fibre and 93 tons of tow at “Hutts Gate.” Messrs. Solomon employed 36 men and seven women at their mill, and Messrs. Deason 80 men and 30 women.

*Rope.*—Captain Mainwaring employed 18 men and boys rope-making, and produced 18 tons of rope of an approximate value of £820.

(D) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels calling at St. Helena during the year was 31, being five more than in the previous year. All of these were British, with the exception of one Danish training ship.

The total number of vessels sighted at the station was 47, as compared with 42 in 1921.

Twenty-eight vessels entered and cleared at the Port of Jamestown, their total net tonnage being 128,604 as compared with 87,708 in 1921.

The mail service was more regular than during the previous year.

III.—EDUCATION.

There are eight elementary schools in the Island, of which three are Government schools.

The numbers attending may be taken at:—

Government schools	...	...	...	249
Other schools	...	...	...	324
				573*

as compared with 612 in 1921. The average attendance at all schools is excellent, and the Attendance Officer had no cases to bring forward during the year.

The Superintendent visited the schools regularly, and examined the children at the end of each quarter; he reports that he was well satisfied with the work done and the evidence of progress made. The Governor, who is Chairman of the Board of Education, frequently visited the schools at uncertain intervals, and always found a good attendance and much interest shown by the children in their lessons. The children appear to like going to school, and appreciate being there. The pupil teacher class has been very successful. The Superintendent reports: “It is an encouraging class, for each of these junior teachers is keen to improve, and so all take pains with the work given to them to do.” The rearrangement with regard to the town schools referred to in the last report has now been in operation long enough for it to have been found to work admirably, and both schools are doing good work.



It would be of advantage if needlework could be taught in the Girls' School, and a grant of £10 a year is needed for material. It would be a similar advantage to the boys if some arrangement could be made for those in the senior classes to be allowed to assist in the Public Works Department, especially in the carpenter's shop, for a few hours a week, and this could be done without additional expense.

#### IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

##### (A) HOSPITAL.

There were 174 admissions to the hospital during the year as compared with 197 in 1921.

There were four deaths, representing a mortality of 2·2 per cent. on the number of admissions as against 2·5 per cent. in 1921, 3·0 in 1920, and 2·8 in 1919.

##### (B) SAVINGS BANK.

On the 31st December, 1922, there were 148 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank as against 107 on the same date in 1921, and 141 in 1920.

Cash deposits amounted to £4,190 14s. 11d. as against £602 13s. 3d. in the year before. This increase is principally due to the closing of the local branch of the National Bank of South Africa.

Repayments to depositors in 1922 amounted to £1,719 5s. 1d. as compared with £5,448 12s. 5d. in 1921.

Stock to the value of £9,205, actual value, was invested on Savings Bank account on 31st December, 1922.

#### V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

##### (A) CRIMINAL.

*Supreme Court.*—No case has been brought before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

*Police Court.*—Eighty-eight cases were dealt with in the Police Court as compared with 70 in the previous year. There were 52 convictions as compared with 62, a decrease of ten.

*Dog Tax.*—£80 10s. was collected under Dog Tax as compared with £82 10s. in 1921, and £80 10s. in 1920.

##### (B) PRISONS.

Twenty-eight persons were committed to gaol or placed on remand during the year as compared with 30 in 1921. The daily average number in gaol was 1·3 as compared with 1·4 in 1921, and 4·8 in 1920.

There was no sickness among the prisoners during the year. The cost of maintaining the gaol was £108 5s. 2d. as compared with £126 16s. 5d. in 1921, and £240 15s. 3d. in 1920.

#### VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

##### (A) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1922, amounted to 3,658, showing a decrease of 12 below that of 1921. Civil emigrants in 1922 numbered 174, and immigrants 102, as against 144 and 67 respectively in the previous year. The number of deaths during the year was 37 as compared with 24 in 1921; of these 12 were under the age of one year. Births registered numbered 97 as compared with 93. Twenty-nine illegitimate births took place. The death-rate in 1922 was 9·87 per 1,000 as compared with the exceptionally low rate of 6·5 the previous year—this may be taken as working back to the average of about 8·5 per 1,000.

The birth-rate was 25·88 per 1,000 as compared with 25·3 in the previous year.

Marriages in 1922 numbered 20, the same figure as that for 1921.

##### (B) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the community continued to be satisfactory.

Influenza of a mild type prevailed in the months of January and February to a moderate extent.

A case of measles, complicated by appendicitis, was landed from a mail steamer in January and taken to the hospital, and a severe case of diphtheria occurred in Jamestown in March, but no further cases followed in either instance. A medical examination of all the Island children was carried out during the year.

The town school children showed a lower state of nutrition than those in country schools, and a larger number of cases of defective cleanliness, though even in Jamestown the latter were not numerous.

The proportion of children showing defective teeth would compare most favourably with similar children in England. The vast majority of the younger children showed excellent teeth.

Cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids were conspicuous by their absence. A single case of ear disease was discovered.

##### (C) SANITARY.

The Board of Health met monthly, and matters of a minor nature were dealt with. There were no prosecutions under the Public Health Ordinance during the year.



## (D) CLIMATE.

*Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.*

*Barometer.*—The mean pressure for the year was 28·107 as compared with 28·123 in 1921, and 28·108 in 1920.

*Temperature.*—The mean temperature was 61·1° (62·9° in 1921). The absolute maximum, 81·6°, was recorded on 18th February, 83·6°, on 26th February, being the maximum for the year before. The absolute minimum temperature was 50·5°, recorded on the 6th July.

*Rainfall.*—The total rainfall measured at Hutts Gate was 42·83 in., at Plantation 37·12 in., and in Jamestown 7·55 in.

The maximum fall was recorded on 19th May, and read 1·06 inches. 5·14 in. fell in February and 5·15 in August; during the latter month rain was recorded on 29 days. The number of rainy days totalled 204 at Hutts Gate and 236 at Plantation.

*Wind.*—The mean force for the year was 2·4. There were 11 calm days. The direction for the year was as follows:—

E.	...	...	...	6 days.
E.S.E.	...	...	...	35 "
S.E.	...	...	...	245 "
S.S.E.	...	...	...	68 "
Calm	...	...	...	11 "

Generally speaking the year was a wet one; the rains, however, were well distributed.

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

## (A) POST OFFICE.

*Revenue.*—The Postal Revenue for the year amounted to £7,286 8s. 7d. as compared with £741 15s. 2d. in 1921, or an increase of £6,524 13s. 5d., due to large sales of the new issue of stamps.

*Expenditure.*—The expenditure of the Department amounted to £1,067 10s. 1d., an increase of £649 11s. 6d. over expenditure in 1921, which was principally due to a charge of £526 18s. 9d. for printing new stamps, and a charge of £249 15s. 4d. for sea carriage of mails as compared with £128 16s. 3d. in the previous year.

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

	1921.	1922.
To the United Kingdom and South Africa	£1,587	£6,378
From the United Kingdom and South Africa	£1,357	£1,788

Commission received on the above transactions during the year amounted to £71 7s. 5d. as compared with £20 9s. 9d. in 1921 and £25 16s. 1d. in 1920.

## (B) TELEGRAPHS.

There were no changes in the Telegraph tariff during the year. The Eastern Telegraph Company's staff consisted of a Superintendent and 16 other officials.

## (C) TELEPHONES.

Receipts for the year under review amounted to £124 2s. 9d., and expenditure to £95 8s. 7d. as compared with £97 13s. 11d. and £93 10s. respectively in 1921.

## VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

## (A) ROADS.

The amount spent on the repair and maintenance of rural roads came to £832 0s. 9d., to which the tax on fibre and tow contributed £298 3s. 6d., as against an expenditure of £940 10s. 11d. in the previous year.

Greater expenditure is, however, required if the condition of the roads is to be made in any way permanently satisfactory. The cost of repairs to buildings was high, owing to the large amount of work necessary to deal with the ravages of white ants, particularly at Plantation and Francis Plain House. The importation of ant-resisting wood for repairs is of vital necessity. The Government buildings from the Wharf to the Court House were colour-washed and painted this year, the last occasion having been in 1911.

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance was £69 3s. as compared with £68 5s. in 1921. A considerable number of men are now employed at Ascension. There were 25 prosecutions under this Ordinance.

## (B) LAND GRANTS.

There were no grants of Crown Waste Land in the year under review, though several are pending for 1923.

The general value of land remained unaltered.

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

From the following comparative table it will be seen that the cost of necessary foodstuffs in 1922 dropped further, though it remains at just over 100 per cent. higher (for all commodities) as compared with pre-war, that is to say, that while in 1920 the figure was 176·08 per cent. above, in 1921 134·54, in 1922 it may be taken at 100. There was an ample supply of fish.



	1921.	1922.
Flour	... 4½ <i>d.</i> per lb.	... 3½ <i>d.</i> per lb.
Bread	... 5½ <i>d.</i> per 1½ lb.	... 4 <i>d.</i> per 1½ lb.
Sugar	... 10 <i>d.</i> per lb.	... 5 <i>d.</i> per lb.
Dripping	... 1/2 per lb.	... 1/- per lb.
Tea	2/- to 3/- per lb.	2/- to 3/- per lb.
Salt	... 4 <i>d.</i> per lb.	... 3 <i>d.</i> per lb.
Rice	... 2 <i>d.</i> per lb.	... 2 <i>d.</i> per lb.

*Rate of Wages.*—The same as in 1921, viz.: 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* daily. Unemployment was somewhat relieved towards the end of the year owing to the engagement by the Eastern Telegraph Company of an additional 50 men for work at Ascension.

The Red Gate Food Depôt continued its good work by handing a weekly ration to 67 very old people on Fridays. The Soup Kitchen, too, remained of the utmost benefit to many very poor people in Jamestown who received a daily meal. Strenuous endeavours are, however, needed if both these institutions are to continue on their present scale.

#### (D) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

During the year under review an expenditure of £2,351 4*s.* 10*d.* was incurred under "Works Recurrent," of which sum £832 0*s.* 9*d.* was expended on the repair of rural roads, being less by £92 11*s.* 1*d.* than that expended during the previous year. This saving cannot, however, be regarded as satisfactory, being entirely caused by the stern demand for economy.

##### *Poor Board.*

The Revenue of the Poor Board amounted to £1,189 16*s.* 10*d.*, and the Expenditure of £1,055 7*s.* 9*d.*, as against £964 10*s.* and £969 14*s.* 6*d.* respectively in 1921.

##### *Public Market.*

The Revenue received was £46 3*s.* 8*d.*, and Expenditure £26 10*s.* 5*d.*, a considerable improvement on the previous year when the amounts were £21 11*s.* 5*d.* and £15 3*s.* 5*d.* respectively.

#### (E) MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. H. J. Pink was appointed Colonial Treasurer vice Mr. R. R. Bruce, who retired on pension, and arrived in the Colony on 25th December.

The outstanding event of the year as far as the Colony was concerned was the transfer of the Island of Ascension from the Admiralty to the jurisdiction of the St. Helena Government. Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena on 27th October, and reports bearing on its progress will duly appear in this summary in future years.

R. F. PEEL,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

THE CASTLE,

ST. HELENA,

20th May, 1923.