

**COLONIAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT ON
ST. HELENA
FOR THE YEAR
1947**



THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN DURING THEIR VISIT TO ST. HELENA

		Contents	PAGE
PART I		Summary of important matters of general interest during the year 1947.	2
PART II	CHAPTER I	Population	8
	CHAPTER II	Labour Organization, Wages and Occupations	9
	CHAPTER III	Public Finance and Taxation	10
	CHAPTER IV	Currency and Banking	18
	CHAPTER V	Commerce	18
	CHAPTER VI	Production	21
	CHAPTER VII	Social Services : Education	24
		Social Welfare	25
		Housing	25
		Health	26
	CHAPTER VIII	Legislation	28
	CHAPTER IX	Justice, Police and Prisons	29
	CHAPTER X	Public Utilities	30
	CHAPTER XI	Communications	31
PART III	CHAPTER I	Geography and Climate	32
	CHAPTER II	History	35
	CHAPTER III	Administration	36
	CHAPTER IV	Weights and Measures	37
	CHAPTER V	Newspapers and Periodicals	37
APPENDIX I		50 years statistics of Population, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Divorces and Judicial Separations	38
APPENDIX II		10 years statistics of Supreme Court Cases	39
APPENDIX III		10 years statistics of other Courts	40
		Bibliography	43

**LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1949**

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PART I.

Summary of matters of general interest during the year 1947.

The year was a memorable and historic one for the Colony owing to the Royal Visit on April 29th when Their Majesties The King and Queen accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Margaret landed from H.M.S. Vanguard and toured the Island. This was the first occasion on which a reigning Sovereign had ever visited the Colony and it was marked by scenes of the greatest enthusiasm by the loyal Islanders. H.M.S. Vanguard hove to on May 1st at the Island of Ascension whilst the local populace circled the Royal vessel cheering Their Majesties who, with their family, stood waving on the quarter deck.

Administratively the year was marked by the appointment of a new Governor, Mr. George Andrew Joy, C.M.G., who arrived on 31st May, 1947, and a new Government Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Howard Clarke, M.B.E., who arrived on 25th January to fill a post which had been vacant for nearly two years. Lieutenant-Colonel F. E. Gilpin, Royal Artillery, Officer Commanding Troops, acted as Governor from 17th August, 1946, when the retiring Governor, Major William Bain Gray left for England.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Island economy. The year was notable for continuous rainfall and the loss of the two principal markets for the sale of vegetables through the departure of the local garrison at the end of 1946 and the withdrawal of the United States Forces from Ascension.

An interesting change of diet was brought about during the war years. Before 1939 the staple foods of the islanders were bread, rice, and corned or salted beef. These two latter items were imported. As a result of the shortage of rice potatoes and fish have almost wholly replaced the diet of rice and salted beef.

The chief export of the Colony is the fibre of New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) and this industry was maintained at maximum production. 784 English tons of Hemp and 394 tons of Tow were exported in 1947 to the United Kingdom under contract to the Board of Trade. A rise in price of £15 per ton on Hemp and £15 per ton on Tow was granted by the Board of Trade from July, 1947. By mutual agreement between the Government and the flax Millers the latter increased the wages to their mill workers to the standard rate paid by Government.

SUMMARY.

A plan was completed by the end of the year for the rehabilitation of the flax mill buildings and the industry in general; the finance to be provided by the contributions of the millers themselves to a fund at a rate of £11. 5. 0. per ton of hemp exported. This plan was the result of co-operation between the Millers and Government and marks a major step forward in the relations between them in connection with the industry. In furtherance of this plan the sum of £900 was set aside under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for the visit of a flax expert from New Zealand to advise Government and the Millers on these matters.

Rope Manufacture.

A small quantity of fibre was manufactured locally into rope, twine and matting; 61 tons being exported to South Africa.

Lily Culture.

The cultivation of the exquisite St. Helena Christmas lily (*Lilium longiflorum*) lapsed somewhat during the war years but 3,800 bulbs were exported to England during 1948. Efforts are being made to increase production. Bulbs from St. Helena have an advantage over Japanese bulbs in regard to the time of arrival in the United Kingdom. The local bulbs if planted in the open in England in early summer flower in late August or early September but are used mainly for hot-house cultivation for blooming at Christmas.

Some 4,000 bulbs of the exotic lily (*Lilium speciosum rubrum*) have been planted during the year at the Government Agricultural Station and are doing well. A sample shipment of these bulbs sent to the United Kingdom received a good report.

Essential Oils.

A satisfactory yield of leaf has been obtained from peppermint (*Mentha piperita*) grown locally on a test plot by the Agricultural Department for oil extraction having an oil content of 0.114 per cent; a sample of this oil was submitted to the Imperial Institute for analysis and trade reports but the results were disappointing as the oil was reported as being of an abnormal character. However one firm made an offer to take half a ton per annum. The question of proceeding with production is receiving consideration.

The possibilities of producing Geranium Oil is being explored.

Fruit Culture.

Numbers of fruit trees, vines and berries were imported from South Africa by Government and a small quantity by private growers.

The fruits include apples, pears, plums, peaches, apricots, cherries, almonds, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, red currants and loganberries and six varieties of grapes.

Livestock.

Improvements were made at the Government Stock Centre and paddocks planted with paspalum and cocksfoot grasses. The services of a Dairy Shorthorn bull and two donkey stallions were available to livestock owners.

Disease.

There were two cases only of Anthrax and the usual precautions were taken on each occasion.

Forestry.

The re-afforestation and anti-soil erosion programme was pursued energetically; the excellent total of 21,500 trees being planted out in various areas throughout the Island. These included 8,400 acacias, 6,900 pinus pinaster, 2,400 eucalyptus spp. and numbers of casuarinas and cypress.

Finance.

Total expenditure on Agriculture including grants under Colonial Development and Welfare Acts was £10,945.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department has been fully extended throughout the year.

Building.

In continuance of the housing scheme financed by funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, 26 new dwelling houses were completed. Also under these arrangements two new schools were built in the last three years the largest in the Island known as the Country School being completed at the end of 1947. This building is a good example of the ability of local craftsmen and artisans under skilled supervision.

The Government Mill at Longwood was completely rebuilt at the end of the year. The former mill was burnt to the ground in 1946. The layout of the new mill incorporated the experience gained over many years by the mill owners.

Some assistance has been afforded to small house owners in the shape of material on easy payments. In certain cases where improvements or new work will relieve overcrowding small subsidies have been given towards the cost of imported materials.

Considerable and long-delayed maintenance of Government buildings was carried out during the year and made good some of the delapidations caused by neglect during the war years.

Roads.

Great improvements can be seen and felt in the main roads. Considerable lengths have been remade and tar-surfaced. The cost of the water-proofing is borne by a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme and provides for the two principal roads from Jamestown to the Cathedral at St. Paul's and Jamestown to Longwood. Other parts of the road system will be water-bound; this can now be done satisfactorily as the result of the importation of a heavy diesel roller. It is of interest to note that tar-surfacing has increased tyre mileage by 50 per cent on Government vehicles compared with previous years and will of course reduce road-maintenance costs considerably.

The total expenditure on all public works for the year including expenditure under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes, amounted to £32,930.

EDUCATION.

Education is compulsory in the Colony between the ages of 5 and 15 years and attendance is good. The school population at the end of 1947 was 1,154 a nett increase during the year of 86.

The staff position is causing concern owing to the emigration of the young pupil teachers to South Africa. There are only two expatriate officers in the Department and all local entrants have to be trained by the Education Department. Teachers' Refresher Courses are held during the vacations.

A survey of general intelligence is being carried out and this, together with the use of standardized attainment and performance tests, should yield valuable information on which to formulate future policy.

The end of the first year of the Secondary School shows that considerable educational and physical benefit has been derived by the pupils. This is particularly noticeable in their English composition.

It is desired to improve general education to a point where a reasonable number of Island children can qualify for training overseas in order that some of them may hold posts of a higher standard of responsibility in the Island than has hitherto been possible.

Encouragement of friendly Parent-Teacher relations and attention to the social aspects of this organization are receiving constant consideration.

School Buildings.

The buildings of the 12 schools of the Island are receiving attention. Two new schools were completed during 1946 and 1947 and two more will be built in 1948. Owing to the growth of the School population overcrowding is becoming increasingly noticeable in the older schools. The plans of all new schools allow for expansion.

Total expenditure on Education including grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts amounted to £7,466. This sum does not include the cost of school buildings.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Death Rate and Birth Rate.

The health of the population during 1947 has been good. There was no serious epidemic and the number of deaths was 31 which is less than any year since 1923. The death rate remained low at 6.2 per 1,000 of the population. Ante-natal and child welfare clinics were well attended. The birth rate was high at 33.2 per 1,000 population and the infant mortality rate was 36.36 per 1,000 live births.

Regular medical and dental inspection of school children was carried out throughout the year.

Nurses.

Great difficulty is being experienced in obtaining the right type of local girl to take up nursing as a profession. It is hoped to introduce measures next year which will make nursing more attractive.

Hospital.

Plans are in course of preparation for a new Hospital, Poor House and Mental Asylum and it is hoped that a start will be made during 1949. The new buildings will be financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

During the year the former Military Hospital, next door to the Civil Hospital, was taken over for use as a Health Centre.

The total expenditure on Public Health amounted to £7,265.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND POOR RELIEF.

With the departure of the United States Forces from Ascension 65 labourers returned to St. Helena raising the unemployed roll to 140. This number was in receipt of relief and employed on various works of a public nature. Unless employment outside the Colony can be found this figure is likely to increase. Expenditure on Unemployment Relief amounted to £4,350. A sum of £500 annually is granted to the Municipal Poor Relief Board towards the cost of maintenance of the Poor House, Mental Asylum and outdoor relief to the aged and poor.

CRIME.

There was little serious crime. Six men were convicted of sheep stealing and sent to prison for two years. One youth was convicted of manslaughter and four cases of petty larceny and one of wounding were dealt with. 30 minor offences were tried.

The daily average prison population was 6.7 (six of these being the sheep stealers).

It is interesting to note that the families of the sheep stealers in most cases became recipients of outdoor relief as their bread winners were no longer at liberty to support them.

FISHERIES.

During the latter part of the year an exploratory licence was granted to a South African concern to explore the fishing possibilities of the waters of St. Helena and Ascension with a view to commercial exploitation of the fish products. The terms of the licence ensure that labour required will be drawn from St. Helena thus reducing the number of unemployed.

COMMERCE AND FINANCE.

Imports during the year were valued at £107,459 and exports at £48,043.

Revenue amounted to £34,458. The Grant-in-Aid was £27,000 which with Colonial Development and Welfare grants amounting to £22,170 made a total of £83,628. Expenditure amounted to £96,278. There was a surplus balance of £14,259 at the commencement of the year.

ASCENSION ISLAND.

Ascension is a dependency of the Colony and is normally occupied and controlled by Cable and Wireless Company, Limited. During the war the United States were permitted to build an aerodrome on the Island and maintain a garrison and ground staff. The last of these forces left the Island in May, 1947. The population of Ascension on the 31st December was 126 males and 47 females. The health of the people was reported as good, there were no deaths and two births. There was no crime. Rainfall was normal. 21 freighters discharged or loaded during 1947.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

ST. HELENA.

The Island population to-day is of mixed origin, being descended from settlers brought from Great Britain by the East India Company and slaves introduced from Africa and Asia. The language of the Island has always been English, and the English way of life has become firmly established.

The population as ascertained by the Census taken in October, 1946, is classified as under:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Helenians	2,154	2,546	4,700
Other British Subjects	26	19	45
Other Nationals	1	2	3
	<u>2,181</u>	<u>2,567</u>	<u>4,748</u>

The distribution of the population is shown in the following tables:—

District.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jamestown, including the Briars and Rupert's Valley	676	871	1,547
Country Districts, outside Jamestown	1,505	1,696	3,201
	<u>2,181</u>	<u>2,567</u>	<u>4,748</u>

The estimated population on 31st December, 1947, was 4,969.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births and Deaths 1945-1947.

	1945.	1946.	1947.
Births	193	139	165
Deaths	65	53	31
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	67.36	108	36.36
Still Births (not included in above)	11	2	3
Illegitimate Births (included in above)	47	32	87
Deaths of Infants under 1 year old	13	15	6

See Appendix III for 50 years statistics.

LABOUR ORGANIZATION

The population of Ascension on the 31st December, 1947, was:—

St. Helenians	130
Other British Subjects	53
	<u>183</u>

	1945.	1946.	1947.
Birth Rate per 1,000	39.05	28.85	32.2
Death Rate per 1,000	13.15	11.00	6.2

CHAPTER II: Labour Organization.

LABOUR.

The principal categories of wage earners as shown by the Census returns are as follows:—

Flax Industrial Workers	177
Agricultural Labourers	164
Skilled and General Labourers	344
Building Tradesmen and Apprentices	87
Fishermen and Boatmen	51
Mechanics, Engine and Motor Drivers	71

The labour supply was in excess of local requirements and the withdrawal of the military forces and the disbandment of the St. Helena Regiment had the result that by the end of the year the unemployment figure had risen to 140. The building and road improvement programmes under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes have assisted unemployment but a substantial portion of funds available under those schemes is expended on the importation of material from the United Kingdom.

WAGES.

The average daily rates of wages are as follows:—

	Male.	Female
Flax Workers	3/5	2/6
Agricultural Labourers—		
Government	3/5	
Commercial and Private	2/9-3/-	2/3
General Labourers—		
Government	3/5	2/9
Commercial and Private	3/-	2/3
Average for skilled male labour	4/2	

Hours of work:— 48 per week.

There is no unofficial occupational organisation and relations between employer and employee are regulated, and disputes settled by consultation with Government.

There were no industrial disputes during 1947.

LABOUR LEGISLATION.

The principal laws in force for the protection of the labourer are:—

- The St. Helena Factories Ordinance, No. 7 of 1937.
- The St. Helena Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No. 3 of 1946, brought into force on the 1st April, 1947.

MIGRATION OF LABOUR.

There is no internal movement of labour but some emigration of domestic servants to South Africa and the United Kingdom takes place.

CHAPTER III : Public Finance and Taxation.

The estimated revenue for the year under report was well maintained save in the case of Post Office receipts for sale of stamps and Customs Import Duties. The actual revenue amounted to £34,458. There was a considerable falling off in receipts from customs duties as compared to the year 1946 owing to the withdrawal of the wartime garrison. This factor coupled with the rising costs of imported commodities had the anticipated depressing effect on commerce. The effect was most marked amongst growers of local produce who had been supplying the garrison at relatively good prices and had extended their marketing facilities to meet this wartime need.

The ordinary expenditure for the year totalled £74,108. The anticipated deficit to be met from a Grant-in-Aid is placed at £25,391 after taking into account a surplus balance of £8,387 brought forward from 1946 and adjustments of various items under Colonial Development and Welfare amounting to £5,872.

Expenditure on approved schemes from grants under Colonial Development and Welfare amounted to £22,170. The principal expenditure was incurred by the Public Works on housing and the Agricultural Department on soil conservation, re-afforestation and other agricultural developments.

Essential consumable commodities, in particular flour, were subsidized throughout the year and the price to consumers was controlled. The total amount paid in subsidies was £12,750.

As a result of the disbandment of the local defence force it became necessary to introduce Unemployment Relief Work and the expenditure under this head amounted to £4,350.

The financial effect of the necessity of maintaining subsidies and finding work for the unemployed was considerable and accounted for 23 per cent of the ordinary expenditure. In the absence of a general increase in wage levels or a substantial fall in prices of essential imported foodstuffs (mainly flour) the necessity for subsidies will remain.

I.—Principal Heads of Revenue and Expenditure for 1947:—

REVENUE.	£
Customs	12,000
Port and Marine	1,610
Licences, Taxes, Court fees, etc.	3,034
Post Office	4,713
Rentals, etc.	2,280
Interest on investments	400
Miscellaneous	5,059
Ascension (Postal)	5,362
	<u>34,458</u>
Colonial Development and Welfare grants	22,170
Total Revenue	<u>56,628</u>
EXPENDITURE.	£
Pensions	1,102
Governor	2,745
Secretariat and Printing Office	2,651
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine	1,800
Post Office	775
Health	6,565
Education	5,966
Agriculture and Forestry	4,235
Police and Gaol	2,097
Public Works Department	2,020
Public Works recurrent	8,620
Contributions, Special Allowances & Miscellaneous	2,635
Poor relief	2,850
Ascension	1,861
Total ordinary	<u>47,922</u>
Public Works extraordinary	9,110
Emergency expenditure	17,076
Total extraordinary	<u>26,186</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>£74,108</u>
Colonial Development and Welfare	22,170
Grand Total	<u>£96,278</u>

II.—*Estimated Revenue in 1947 compared with actual revenue in previous four years.*

	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Customs	10,071	16,826	17,909	15,161	12,000
Port and Marine	1,444	2,037	1,764	1,509	1,610
Licences, Taxes, Court Fees, etc.	2,693	4,097	4,101	4,283	3,034
Post Office	3,157	9,194	7,097	14,038	4,713
Rentals, etc.	2,263	2,539	2,284	2,208	2,280
Interest	88	210	686	590	400
Miscellaneous	808	1,031	1,626	1,659	5,059
Ascension	3,290	15,426	8,344	14,496	5,362
	<u>23,814</u>	<u>51,360</u>	<u>43,811</u>	<u>53,944</u>	<u>34,458</u>
Grant in Aid	37,000	15,000	—	25,000	—
Total	60,814	66,360	43,811	78,944	34,458
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants	9,743	17,580	19,904	19,650	22,170
Grand total	<u>70,557</u>	<u>83,940</u>	<u>63,715</u>	<u>98,594</u>	<u>56,628</u>

III.—*Estimated Expenditure in 1947 compared with actual expenditure in previous four years.*

	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Pensions	1,236	912	1,350	1,036	1,102
Governor	1,824	1,871	1,847	1,837	2,745
Secretariat and Printing Office	2,077	1,965	2,133	2,024	2,651
Treasury Customs Port and Marine	1,195	1,406	1,566	1,978	1,800
Post Office	878	935	751	910	775
Health	6,317	4,996	7,412	7,678	6,565
Education	4,430	4,497	4,855	5,062	5,966
Agriculture and Forestry	3,527	4,059	3,745	3,679	4,235
Police and Gaol	1,155	1,292	1,713	1,591	2,097
Public Works Department	2,928	6,417	5,195	3,540	2,020
Public Works recurrent	5,288	6,745	7,820	7,852	8,620
Contributions Special Allow- ances and Miscellaneous	2,676	6,776	2,711	3,916	2,635
Poor relief	1,104	500	691	2,532	4,850
Ascension	1,576	3,211	2,326	2,407	1,861
Total ordinary	<u>36,211</u>	<u>45,582</u>	<u>44,115</u>	<u>46,042</u>	<u>47,922</u>

Carried forward.



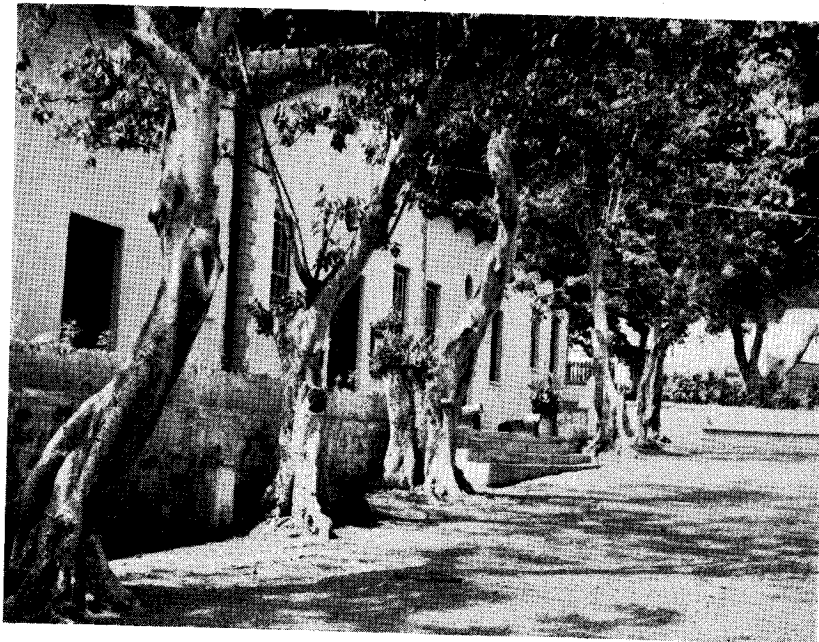
JACOB'S LADDER

Estimated Expenditure continued.

Public Works extraordinary	3,027	4,218	2,687	2,408	9,110
War Expenditure	20,637	9,903	15,894	16,829	17,075
	<u>23,664</u>	<u>14,121</u>	<u>18,581</u>	<u>19,237</u>	<u>26,186</u>
Total	59,875	59,703	62,696	65,279	74,108
Colonial Development and Welfare	10,899	14,788	21,357	23,543	22,170
Grand total	<u>70,774</u>	<u>74,491</u>	<u>84,053</u>	<u>88,822</u>	<u>96,278</u>

IV.—Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st December, 1946.

LIABILITIES	£	s.	d.	ASSETS	£	s.	d.
DEPOSITS:—				CASH:—			
Invested or partly invested	75,616	15	10	Local, Crown Agents and Ascension	14,513	5	7
Colonial Develop- ment & Welfare	2,165	18	2	Remittances in tran- sit to Crown Agents	2,454	5	6
Other Deposits	12,243	10	8	Investment of Available Balances	31,000	0	0
Foodstocks and Other Essential Supplies Revolv- ing Fund	47,309	8	2	Investment of Deposits	73,566	5	2
Balance of Assets over Liabilities	8,386	10	11	Advances	22,212	4	4
				Reciprocal Aid	1,976	3	2
	<u>145,722</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>145,722</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>
Due by Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	£5,872	7	2				
St. Helena War Savings Certificates accrued interest on 31st December, 1946	£ 334	16	3				
General Revenue Balance:—							
Deficit at 1st January, 1946	£1,384	15	8				
Add Surplus and Deficit Account, 1946	£9,771	6	7				
	£8,386	10	11				
Appreciation or Depreciation of Invest- ments, 1946	—	—	—				
Surplus Balance at 31st December, 1946	£8,386	10	11				



THE LAW COURTS, JAMESTOWN

TAXATION.

The principal sources of taxation and the yield of each during the year 1946 were as follows:—

Customs :	£
Import duties	15,161
<i>Port & Marine.</i>	
Wharfage	985
Shipping dues	336
Cranage	150
<i>Licenses, taxes, etc:</i>	
Boats	80
Road Vehicles	286
Cinema	50
Dogs and Horses	193
Firearms	33
Game	27
Liquor	48
Import tax	306
Entertainment tax	152
Shops, butchers, refreshments rooms, confectioners, etc.	136
Water rates	173

Following is a description of the principal heads of taxation:—

Customs duties. The main features of the Customs Tariff are as follows:—

Commodity.	Duty.		
	Rate or Unit.	Preferential.	General.
<i>Clothing.</i>			
(i) Ready to wear outer clothing (except jerseys, cardigans and other knitted garments) made from:—			
(a) Wool or mixture of wool and cotton	ad valorem	Free	2½ p.c.
(b) Cotton	do.	10 p.c.	12 p.c.
(c) Any other material	do.	30 p.c.	35 p.c.
(d) Jerseys, cardigans, pullovers and other knitted outer garments	do.	10 p.c.	12½ p.c.

Commodity.	Rate or Unit.	Preferential.	General.
(ii) Ready to wear underclothing—			
(a) Machine made or woven in wool cotton or a mixture of both	ad valorem	Free	12½ p.c.
(b) Hand knitted in wool, cotton or mixture of both	do.	10 p.c.	12½ p.c.
(c) any other material	do.	30 p.c.	35 p.c.
(iii) Footwear—			
(a) Heavy out-door boots and shoes and all children's shoes	do.	Free	2½ p.c.
(b) Others		10 p.c.	12½ p.c.
(iv) Haberdashery and millinery	do.	15 p.c.	20 p.c.
(v) Hosiery made from—			
(a) Cotton, wool and mixtures	do.	Free	2½ p.c.
(b) Silk and art silk	do.	30 p.c.	35 p.c.
Jewellery	do.	30 p.c.	35 p.c.
Linen, manufactured	do.	20 p.c.	25 p.c.
Silk and art silk	do.	30 p.c.	35 p.c.
Perfumery—			
(a) Toilet preparations and perfumed spirits	do.	30 p.c.	35 p.c.
(b) Dentifrices	do.	Free	5 p.c.
Soap—			
(a) Common	per 100 lb	2s. 1d.	2s. 6d.
(b) Toilet	ad valorem	15 p.c.	20 p.c.
Provisions—			
Butter and cheese	per 100 lbs	4s. 2d.	5s. 0d.
Canned meat	per 100 lbs	6s. 3d.	7s. 6d.
Canned fish	ad valorem	15 p.c.	20 p.c.
Canned fruit	per 100 lbs	9s. 4d.	10s. 0d.
Jams	per 100 lbs	6s. 3d.	9s. 4d.
Provisions not enumerated elsewhere	ad valorem	10 p.c.	12½ p.c.
Firearms—			
(a) Pistols and revolvers	each	15s. 0d.	18s. 0d.
(b) Others	each	£1. 10. 0.	£1. 17. 6.
(c) Parts and accessories	ad valorem	22½ p.c.	30 p.c.
(d) Ammunition	do.	30 p.c.	35 p.c.
Metal manufactures—			
Clocks, watches and parts thereof	do.	30 p.c.	32½ p.c.

Commodity.	Rate or Unit.	Preferential.	General.
<i>Metal manufactures continued</i>			
Gramophones and Phonographs including loud speakers and accessories	ad valorem	30 p.c.	32½ p.c.
Wireless instruments, apparatus and accessories	do.	15 p.c.	20 p.c.
Motor cars	per 100 lbs	12s. 6d.	13s. 9d.
Lorries and tractors	do.	10s. 0d.	12s. 6d.
Machinery and parts	do.	Free	5 p.c.
Musical instruments	do.	30 p.c.	32½ p.c.
Plate and plated ware	do.	30 p.c.	35 p.c.
<i>Spirits—</i>			
(a) Brandy, Gin, Rum and Whisky			
(i) Not exceeding the strength of proof	per gallon	£4. 2. 6.	£4. 10. 0.
(ii) Exceeding the strength of proof	per proof gallon	£4. 2. 6.	£4. 10. 0.
(b) Cordials and Liqueurs, all kinds, including bitters and flavouring extracts containing spirits	per gallon	£4. 2. 6.	£4. 10. 0.
<i>Wine—</i>			
(a) Sparkling	per gallon	£1. 5. 0.	£1. 7. 0.
(b) Still—In bottles and in wood	per gallon	£1. 5. 0.	£1. 6. 3.
<i>Tobacco—</i>			
(a) Cigars and Cheroots	per lb	£1. 5. 0.	£1. 7. 0.
(b) Cigarettes	per lb	12s. 0d.	16s. 0d.
(c) Other manufactured tobacco			
(i) Manufactured in the Empire entirely from Empire grown tobacco	per lb	10s. 0d.	—
(ii) Manufactured in the Empire partly from Foreign grown tobacco	per lb	12s. 0d.	—
<i>Fuel oils—</i>			
Motor Spirit	per gallon	4d.	6d.
Illuminating	per gallon	2d.	2½d.

Death Duties.

Duties are payable in accordance with Ordinance No. 3 of 1942 on all property real and personal which passes on the death of a person. The duties are divided into—

- (a) *Estate Duty* which is a charge on the body of the Estate on a scale commencing with ½ per cent over £100 and not exceeding £1,500 increasing by an additional ½ per cent for each £1,000 up to £4,000. It then increases by 1 per cent for each £1,000 up to £6,000 scaling up to 10 per cent for £25,000 or over.
- (b) *Succession Duty* is imposed in addition to the Estate Duty and is collected on a scale varying with the relationship of the successor. The scale commences with succession value over £20 and not exceeding £500 the rate in the three classes are ½ per cent for a husband, lineal descendant or ancestor of the predecessor; 2 per cent for a brother or sister or their descendants and 5 per cent for any other degree of relationship or a stranger.

Stamp Duties.

These are charges levied on all classes of instruments scheduled in the Stamp Duties Ordinance, No. 3 of 1922, and are collected by means of Postage Stamps under authority contained in Order by the Governor-in-Council, No. 3 of 1943 (all duties were doubled). Some of the principal duties are:—

Affidavits, declarations, etc.	5/-
Contracts or agreements under £10	2/6
" " " over £10	5/-
Arbitration awards under £50	5/-
" " " over £50	10/-
Authentication certificate	20/-
Mortgage bonds per £100 up to £500	2/-
" " " £1,000	3/-
" " " £2,000	4/-
" " " exceeding £2,000	10/-
Leases according to tenure and rental from	1/- to £2. 0. 0.
Notarial act or instrument	5/-
Power of Attorney—special power	2/-
general power	10/-
Deed of transfer of immovable property for every £10	1/-

Entertainment Tax.

There is a tax under Ordinance No. 6 of 1947 on every ticket sold for any public entertainment on a scale of 1d. on a ticket not exceeding 1/-, 2d. on a ticket exceeding 1/- but not exceeding 2/-, and 3d. on any ticket costing more than 2/-.

Import Tax.

This was imposed by Ordinance No. 1 of 1941 and involves payment of 10/- per £100 value of goods imported into St. Helena.

CHAPTER IV : Currency and Banking.

The St. Helena coinage order 1925, provided that all coins which are legal tender in the United Kingdom under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 and all silver coins which are legal tender in the Union of South Africa under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena but the revision of this order is under consideration. The amount of currency in circulation at the end of 1947 is estimated at £40,000.

There is no Bank operating in the Colony

The Government Savings Bank is the only Banking institution in the Colony. The aggregate of depositors accounts during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Balances of Deposits at 31st December.
1943	£50,987
1944	£66,194
1945	£67,264
1946	£66,413
1947	£67,120

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1947, was 496 as compared with 561 on the corresponding day of 1946.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank Deposits at the end of the year 1947 is represented by stock of the mean Market value of £61,965.

CHAPTER V : Commerce.

The main foodstuffs imported into the Colony are flour, rice, sugar, butter, lard substitutes, margarine, milk, grains, meat and provisions.

The principal exports are New Zealand Fibre (*Phormium tenax*) and its by-product Tow which together form 90½ per cent of the total exports.

There is a small trade in vegetables to ships and to Ascension Island.

The price of fibre rose from £39 to £53. 10. 0. per ton f.o.b. during the year under review. Tow also increased in price from £22. 5. 0. to £37. 5. 0. per ton for No. 1 and from £18. 15. 0. to £33. 15. 0. per ton for No. 2 f.o.b.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £155,502 as compared with £126,165 for the previous year. Imports show an increase of £13,084 and exports an increase of £16,253.

Imports.

The following tables show the principal heads and respective values for the past three years:—

Imports.	1945.	1946.	1947.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco	41,894	59,691	57,485
Raw materials and articles mainly manufactured	5,366	637	6,116
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	40,092	33,952	43,837
Miscellaneous and unclassified	130	95	21
	<u>87,482</u>	<u>94,375</u>	<u>107,459</u>

Supplying Country.	1945.	1946.	1947.
	£ per cent	£ per cent	£ per cent
United Kingdom	43,479 49½	51,292 54½	55,075 51½
South Africa	17,027 19½	25,540 27	21,460 20
British India	13	28	50
Rest of Empire	16,349 18½	5,390 5½	15,099 14
	<u>76,868</u>	<u>82,250</u>	<u>91,684</u>
Other Countries	10,614 12	12,125 12½	15,775 14½
	<u>87,482</u>	<u>94,375</u>	<u>107,459</u>

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of flour, sugar, grains, dried fruits, jam, confectionery, wines, spirits, tobacco, beer, coal and candles.

Importation of goods originating from the United Kingdom and Empire countries consisted mainly of flour, lard substitutes, margarine, butter, tea, cheese, milk, timber, hardware, drapery, spirits, cigarettes, cotton piece goods, soap, motor vehicles, machinery and building materials.

Importation of goods originating in foreign countries consisted mainly of paraffin oil, petrol, canned meats and rice.

Exports.

The following tables show the quantity, value and percentage of the principal exports for the past three years, and the countries of destination.

Commodity.	1945.		1946.		1947.	
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Fibre	956		704		783 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Tow	357		332 $\frac{1}{2}$		393 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Rope and Twine	37		66 $\frac{1}{2}$		60 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	1,350		1,103		1,237 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	1945.		1946.		1946.	
	£		£		£	
Fibre	26,785		22,142		33,725	
Tow	5,696		5,224		9,735	
Rope and Twine	1,950		3,540		3,17	
Other articles (Wool, etc.)	769		884		1,4058	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	35,200		31,790		48,043	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Country.	1945.		1946.		1947.	
	£	p.c.	£	p.c.	£	p.c.
United Kingdom	32,743	93	27,874	87 $\frac{3}{4}$	44,487	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Africa	1,963	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,540	11	3,178	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
	35,200		31,790		48,043	
Other Countries	494	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	376	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	378	$\frac{3}{4}$
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total	35,200		31,790		48,043	

The increase in the value of exports as compared with the previous year was mainly due to the increased price of Fibre and Tow and to the slightly increased tonnage exported.

There was a decrease in the value of imports of food, drink and tobacco (£2,202), but increases in raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured (£5,479), articles wholly or mainly manufactured (£9,885) and a decrease in miscellaneous and unclassified (£74).

The principal increases in importations were cement, machinery and parts, motor cars and parts, kerosene oil, motor spirits, soap, coal and timber; and the principal decreases were biscuits (all kinds), flour, margarine, meat (all kinds), milk, rice, spirits, tobacco and cigarettes, wearing apparel, hardware, boots and shoes.

CHAPTER VI: Production.

Flax.

The production of *Phormium tenax* hemp is the main agricultural industry of the Colony. There were 6 mills in operation during the year. Production increased slightly as comparative figures show.

	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	Value.
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	£
Hemp	1,051	909	—	704	783·75	33,725
Tow	373	324	—	332	393·25	9,735
Rope and Twine	59	33·5	—	—	60·5	3,178
Mattings and Sacks	—	—	—	—	2·25	291

The Government-owned mill at Longwood leased to a local firm was destroyed by fire in 1946 and was rebuilt during 1947. It is expected to be in operation early in 1948. Fairyland mill was closed in 1945 owing to there being insufficient leaf in its area ready for milling. This mill is also expected to reopen early in 1948.

There is only one factory for the production of rope and twine. The small quantity of fibre used for the making of matting and sacks produced 1,086 yards of matting 3 feet in width and 400 sacks.

The production of *Phormium tenax* is almost wholly in the hands of three local firms. These firms own the bulk of the leaf areas and operate all the mills for extracting the fibre.

There are a number of small holders and tenants of Crown land who own small areas of leaf which is usually purchased by the millers.

With the object of increasing output and improving the quality of the flax fibre exported a plan for the rehabilitation of the Mills and machinery was made with the full co-operation of the Mill owners. The financing of the scheme is by contribution by each miller at a rate of £11. 5. 0. per ton of hemp exported. At the same time the sum of £900 has been set aside under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for the visit of a New Zealand Flax Expert to advise on these matters.

Lily Bulbs.

Lilium longiflorum. Only 3,838 bulbs were exported to the United Kingdom during 1947. Bulbs of 4 grades were exported namely 2,377 8 inch in circumference, 1,023 9 inch, 136 10 inch and 302 double crown bulbs. After all expenses had been deducted the growers received payment for their bulbs at 8d., 9d., 10d. and 11d. each respectively, the total amount received by them amounting to approximately £138. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry purchased all planting material not required by individual growers and distributed it free of charge to other growers who had no stocks or insufficient stocks.

Lilium speciosum rubrum. No bulbs of this lily were exported and the total stocks were planted out by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry with a view to increasing the stocks as quickly as possible.

Food Crops.

There was a large increase in the production of potatoes. It is estimated that the total weight of this crop for the year will exceed 300 tons. About 30 tons of sweet potatoes were also grown for human consumption. The Government continued to subsidize both crops at the rate of 6/8d. per cwt. for the former and 4/8d. per cwt. for the latter. The retail prices of both commodities were controlled during the year at 12/- and 6/8d. per cwt. respectively before the 22nd June and 9/4d. and 5/4d. per cwt. after that date. There was also an increase in the production of fresh vegetables and the pumpkin crop was particularly heavy. Altogether 25½ tons of potatoes, valued at £445, and 9,400 lbs. mixed vegetables, valued at £102, were exported to Ascension and also supplied to ships.

Production of all agricultural crops is by small holders with one exception in the case of a farm of more than 80 acres of arable land. With the exception of Phormium and lily bulbs practically the whole agricultural productivity of the Colony is devoted to producing food for local consumption.

Animal Husbandry.

The annual livestock census taken at the end of 1947 showed a general increase in the numbers of livestock. For comparison the figures for 1946 and 1947 are given below :—

	Cattle.	Horses.	Donkeys.	Sheep.	Goats.	Pigs.	Poultry.
1946	841	48	1,236	3,156	2,075	239	8,177
1947	900	43	1,274	3,315	2,178	222	8,230
	plus 59	-5	plus 38	plus 159	plus 103	-17	plus 53

Improvements are being made gradually in the various classes of stock by the introduction of superior breeding stock. The Government Stock Centre now includes a Dairy shorthorn bull, two donkey stallions, several Toggenburg milch-goats, a large Black boar and several gilts and numbers of Rhode Island Red, White Leghorn and Australorp poultry. The Government also holds a half share in a second Dairy shorthorn bull. Selective breeding is carried out with the object of forming a sizeable nucleus for the distribution of improved strains of livestock.

During the year 125 cattle, 351 sheep and 104 pigs were slaughtered for consumption. The number of goats slaughtered is not recorded. Sales of meat in the public market amounted to 38,261 lbs. beef, 9,831 lbs. mutton and 4,470 lbs. pork. The price of fresh beef, mutton and pork remained steady at 1/2d. per lb. throughout the year.

There was an increase in the amount of fresh milk for consumption but figures are not recorded. The price remained constant at 2/- per gallon with 6d. per gallon extra for delivery.

Increases in both food production and animal husbandry are accounted for by the exceptionally high rainfall experienced throughout the Colony in 1947.

A large proportion of the livestock, particularly cattle and sheep, are owned and reared by the same firms, who operate the flax mills and own the greater part of the pasture lands of the Island.

Forestry.

Re-afforestation was carried out by the Agricultural and Forestry Department from funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts and during the year 21,500 trees were planted in various areas throughout the Island. Some tree seedlings were also sent to Ascension.

Timber cut was almost wholly for fuel, only a small proportion being felled for building purposes. It is estimated that approximately 260 tons of wood were used for fuel during 1947.

Growers' Association.

The St. Helena Growers' Association is the only form of co-operative society in existence on the Colony and its activities are devoted at present entirely to marketing the produce of its members. The Association suffered a considerable set back as the result of the withdrawal of the Garrison in 1946 and also the American Forces from Ascension in 1947 with the consequent loss of two of the largest markets for produce. To compensate for this the Association opened

a green-grocery store in Jamestown to gain a bigger hold on the local market. This store proved very successful during its first year of business marketing approximately £550 worth of produce and at the same time showing a small profit.

The question of the co-operative purchase of garden tools, etc., is under consideration by the members.

Fishery.

Local fishermen employ 32 boats for supplying the local market. An exploratory licence has been granted to a South African Company to test the commercial possibilities of the waters of St. Helena and Ascension Island with a view to the production of fish oils, canned crayfish and other fish, salted fish and fertilizers.

CHAPTER VII: Social Services.

Education.

Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15 years under the provisions of the Education Ordinance, No. 10 of 1941. Eleven primary schools and one secondary school are provided by Government and the total school population during 1947 was 1,154 approximately 24 per cent of the whole population. There are 27 local teachers in the Department of Education which is controlled by an expatriate Education Officer (Mr. R. C. Thompson). There is also an expatriate lady teacher for secondary school education which is financed from a Colonial Development and Welfare grant.

Efforts are being made to improve Infant and Junior school methods. Teachers are encouraged to experiment in individual and group techniques so far as condition allow. Pupil teachers under training are encouraged in particular to cultivate an interest in the history and problems in their own Island and to compare them with developments in the outside world.

All teachers are encouraged to improve their own general education and school libraries are being approved to this end.

A survey of the general intelligence of the school population is being made. This in conjunction with the use of standardized attainment tests and performance tests should yield valuable information as a basis on which to formulate future policy.

Higher Education.

There are no opportunities for higher education in the Colony, but it is hoped in the course of the next few years to present a small number of candidates from among Pupil teachers and Secondary school pupils for entry into institutions for higher education in the United Kingdom.

Adult Education.

Evening classes in general educational subjects are held one night a week in Jamestown and St. Paul's, but are not well attended. Efforts are being made to cultivate an interest in current affairs by showing silent films in the country districts supplemented by short commentaries by the Education Officer.

Two classes for the instruction of women and girls in embroidery and lace making are held at Jamestown and Longwood and are well attended.

Vocational Training.

Boys attending the Senior schools receive instruction in carpentry and wood carving to fit them for apprenticeship with the Public Works Department. Girls are taught lace making, embroidery and other needlework, and in Jamestown Domestic Science.

Social Welfare.

There are town and country units of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Brownies.

The care and relief of the destitute is in the hands of a statutory body, The Poor Relief Board. An annual grant of £500 is made to this Board by Government and about twice as much collected by means of rates. The Board consists of two Government Officials nominated by the Governor, two members of the Advisory Council nominated and two members elected by the ratepayers. The members of the Advisory Council are also ratepayers. The Board maintains a Poor House and a Mental Asylum (eight inmates only).

There are six Friendly Societies with a total membership of 2,536. The functions of the societies differ, some providing for sick relief, some for burial whilst others provide for both. They are subject to regulation by the St. Helena Friendly Societies Ordinance, No. 1 of 1939.

Housing.

There is a condition of overcrowding in houses in some areas but a Colonial Development and Welfare Housing Scheme is improving the position. 26 new dwelling houses were built in 1947 and 65 houses were constructed during 1945 and 1946.

These houses are of good design and contain built-in cupboards, closets, internal water supply sinks and draining boards in the kitchens; houses in the country also have a garden store shed supplied. They are built with concrete blocks and roofed with corrugated asbestos sheeting. Windows are of the metal type.

The rental charged is low and amounts to approximately 2·7 p.c. on the capital outlay.

Building aid.

Help is given in several ways to Islanders who build their own homes. By means of a Housing Loan Revolving Fund provided under a Colonial Development Scheme small subsidies are given when required and when certain conditions as to size and construction are fulfilled. Purchase of material imported from the United Kingdom by Government can also be arranged on easy payments. Technical advice is available free of charge.

Health.

The general health has been excellent. The only infectious disease experienced was a small and mild outbreak of chicken-pox. Vital statistics are given in Chapter 1 but the analysis of deaths may be of interest.

Age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year	4	2	6
1 and under 10	—	1	1
10 and under 20	1	—	1
20 and under 30	1	1	2
30 and under 40	2	—	2
40 and under 50	—	1	1
50 and under 60	2	2	3
60 and under 70	1	2	4
70 and under 80	2	4	5
80 and under 90	1	4	6
90 and over	—	—	—
	14	17	31

Infant Mortality.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1 day	1	—	1
2 days	1	—	1
3 days	1	—	1
1 month	1	—	1
2 months	—	1	1
9 months	—	1	1
	4	2	6

Registration of Deaths is compulsory and reliable.

The health of the European population was good. There was one death from heart failure.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Attendances at the Clinics have been excellent as the following figures show:—

Ante-natal Clinics (5) 1,154 attendances in 159 sessions.

Child Welfare Clinics (6) 7,223 attendances in 248 sessions.

The proportion of maternity cases coming to the hospital for confinement is increasing, 96 being admitted during the year.

Each school is visited in turn once weekly by the Medical Officer and the Dental Surgeon. A card index system ensures a permanent record of the medical history of each child during its school years from the age of 5 years to 15 years.

The Health Sister made 1,061 visits to patients in their homes during the year.

Hospital.

There is one hospital at Jamestown with 32 beds in 4 general wards and one private ward. The medical staff consists of two European medical officers, Dental officer, Sister-in-Charge, Health sister, six St. Helenian nurses and one midwife.

Surgery.

There is little surgical work. During the year 15 major and 65 minor operations were performed. Of these the most important were:—

Caesarean sections	2
Hysterectomy for ectopic gestation and fibroids	1
Amputation of breast for carcinoma	1
Amputation of thigh for diabetic gangrene	1
Relief of congenital stenosis of the pylorus	1
Removal of ovarian dermoid cyst	1
Inguinal hernias	6

No deaths were due to operation. There were only 15 deaths in the Hospital during the year.

Deaths were caused by the following diseases—

Cancer of the stomach	3
Cancer of the intestines	1
Cancer or other malignant tumor of the female genital organs	1
Dysentery (undefined)	1
Diabetes	1
Apoplexy (Thrombosis)	2
Mitral stenosis	1
Myocarditis	3
Pyloric stenosis	1
Stabbing	1

Chief diseases causing hospitalization were:—

Epidemic diarrhoea	32
Varicose ulcers	9
Broncho-pneumonia	7
Chronic rheumatism	8
Gastritis	12
Ascaris	20
Nephritis	7
Pyelitis	11
Cystitis	11
Normal labour	77
Abortion	13
Boils and carbuncles	11
Whitlow	21
Cellulitis	30
Fractures	12

Out-patient Clinics.

There are five out-patient clinics including one at the Hospital, Jamestown. During the year 3,757 new cases were dealt with involving 9,040 attendances. Medical officers paid 995 visits to patients in their houses.

Mental Asylum.

No new admissions were made to the mental asylum the number of inmates remaining at 3 men and 5 women.

CHAPTER VIII : Legislation.

The following legislation was enacted or brought into force during the year.

Ordinances.

The Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1, 23rd October. Providing finances for the services for 1947.

The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 2, 23rd October Exempting from Customs duty articles imported by the Governor.

The Game and Wild Birds (Protection) (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 3, 23rd October. Removing wild rabbits from the protection afforded in the principal ordinance.

In addition to the above enactments the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No. 3 of 1946 and the Regulations made thereunder were brought into force with effect from 1st April, 1947. This ordinance provides for compensation in the case of injury or death of certain classes of worker.

Proclamations.

The Game Proclamation, 1947. 14th January. Proclaiming the Game Seasons for 1947.

Rules.

The Phormium (Crop Protection and Soil Conservation) Rules, 1947, 14th January. Prohibiting the transfer of diseased suckers from one locality to another and the removal of suckers from any locality in which the Phormium tenax is preventing soil erosion.

The Post Office (Air Mail Rates) Rules, 1947, 13th October. Regulating air carriage rates on postal packets sent by sea mail from St. Helena and Ascension to the United Kingdom for onward transmission by air.

The Post Office (Air Mail Rates) Amendment Rules, 1947, 1st December. Regulating air carriage rates on postal packets sent by sea mail from St. Helena and Ascension to South Africa for onward transmission by air.

CHAPTER IX : Justice, Police and Prisons.*Justice.*

The Judicial organisation consists of—

The Supreme Court. Presided over by the Governor.

The Magistrate's Court. The Government Secretary is appointed Magistrate and there are also four Justices of the Peace any two of whom can sit in the Magistrate's Court.

The Small Debts Court. Two of the Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Governor as Judges of this Court.

The Juvenile Court. This is held by the Magistrate but the only other persons present in Court are the Police Prosecutor and the parents of the accused child. Children are not imprisoned. There is no remand home.

At Ascension the Manager of Cable and Wireless Company Limited is appointed by the Governor as Resident Magistrate and one official of the Company is appointed by the Governor as a Justice of the Peace.

All Judicial Posts are honorary.

Statistics showing the analysis of all cases tried and resulting in conviction over the last ten years are given in Appendices II and III.

Police.

The Police Force consists of a European Superintendent of Police with a locally enlisted establishment of 1 Corporal, 4 Constables First Class and 6 Constables Second Class.

Two Second Class Constables are stationed at Ascension and are relieved at intervals of six months.

Prison.

There is one prison at Jamestown with three large cells to hold two prisoners each. A new bathroom has been added recently with a hot water geyser.

The prison population was high with a daily average of 6.7 owing to the incarceration of six sheep stealers. Six prisoners were employed near the prison operating a stone crusher for the Public Works.

There were no cases requiring the use of prison disciplinary action.

The Chaplain to the Prison held Divine Service every Sunday.

The Prison is inspected every month by the Governor and the Government Secretary and weekly by the Medical Officer.

There were no deaths in the Prison.

Penal Administration.

The Governor sits in the Supreme Court as Chief Justice and may call upon the Justices of the Peace to sit with him if he so desires. The Court sits with a jury of eight.

The Magistrate or any two of the Justices of the Peace sit in the Police (or Magistrate's) Court and have summary powers.

The Magistrate sits in the Juvenile Court and the Public may be excluded therefrom.

The Lower Courts sit as required whilst the Supreme Court follows the sessional times of the English Law Courts.

All civil recovery of debts of over £25 are heard by the Supreme Court, lesser amounts being heard in the Small Debts Court by Judges specially appointed to that Court by the Governor.

CHAPTER X : Public Utilities.*Water.*

The water supply is piped from springs and is excellent both in quantity and quality. The Jamestown supply at times suffers from flood water washing the sand from the filter beds and a subsequent discoloration but this is usually of short duration and has no harmful results.

Much of the piping is lead pipe and this is progressively being taken up and replaced by iron pipe.

Lighting.

There is no electricity supply. Hurricane lamps are used for street lighting on nights when there is not sufficient moonlight. It is hoped to improve the lighting of the town during 1948.

Transport.

There is no public transport system.

Telephones.

There is one exchange with a capacity of 75 lines of which 65 are connected to subscribers. The lines are underground cable from the exchange to various points on the Island and thereafter overhead wires. The system is Government owned and managed by a Committee appointed by the Governor. Staff employed are three operators at the exchange and one linesman with an apprentice. Subscribers pay £4. 15. 0. per annum. Public call officers charge 3d. per call.

CHAPTER XI : Communications.*Shipping.*

29 ships called during the year ; 14 going to South Africa and 15 to the United Kingdom. The only port is Jamestown which is an open roadstead.

Roads.

There are 64½ miles of metalled roads of which 37½ are all weather. The roads are motorable but have steep gradients.

There is no air or rail transport and there are no inland waterways.

Post and Telegraph.

At St. Helena there is one Post Office, one Money Order Office and one Telegraph Office for the Cable and Wireless Company station.

At Ascension there is one Post Office and likewise a Telegraph office for Cable and Wireless Company Limited.

PART III.

Chapter I: Geography and Climate.

Geography.

ST. HELENA is situated in the South Atlantic Ocean, 955 miles South of the Equator, 760 miles South East of Ascension Island and 4,477 miles from Southampton in Latitude 15° 55' South and Longitude 5° 42' West. The nearest point of the West African continent is 1,140 miles and the South American coast is 1,800 miles to the westward.

St. Helena Island is 10½ miles long by 6½ miles wide and has an area of 47 square miles of rugged and mountainous country of volcanic origin. The highest peaks are Actaeon and Diana of approximately 2,700 feet. The only town and port is Jamestown. Greenwich Mean Time is used both in St. Helena and Ascension Islands.

ASCENSION ISLAND lies in Latitude 7° 55' 55" South and Longitude 14° 25' 55" West and is 3,717 miles from Southampton and 900 miles from Cape Palmas and the West African Coast. The Island is of volcanic origin and flat rising to a peak in the centre called Green Mountain to a height of 2,800 feet. The Island is 7½ miles long and 6 miles in breadth having an area of 38 square miles. The only town and port is Georgetown.

OTHER DEPENDENCIES

TRISTAN DA CUNHA chief of a group of islands of volcanic origin in Latitude 37° 6' South and Longitude 12° 2' West discovered in 1506 by the Portugese Admiral Tristan da Cunha. The mainland is about 2,000 miles West of Capetown and 4,000 miles North East of Cape Horn and is S.S.W 1,500 miles from St. Helena.

Capital, Edinburgh, named after the Duke of Edinburgh who visited the Island in 1867.

NIGHTINGALE ISLANDS are three of which the largest is 1 mile long by ¾ mile wide and takes its name from a British Naval Officer who visited it in 1760. The other two are called Stolten hoff and Middle and are scarcely more than large rocks.

INACCESSIBLE ISLAND is a lofty mass of rock 2 miles long and is the resort of penguins and sea birds.

GOUGH ISLAND (Diego Alvarez) lies in Latitude 40° 20' South and Longitude 9° 44' West and is about 250 miles S.S.E. of Tristan da Cunha. The Island is about 8 miles by 4 with a total area of 40 square miles. It has been a British possession since 1816 and has valuable guano deposits.

Climate.

St. Helena, although within the tropics enjoys a mild and equable climate owing to the constant South-East Trade wind. At Jamestown the maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 90° and the minimum is rarely below 57° whilst upland temperatures average 10° lower.

Rainfall figures over the past ten years are as follows:—

	1933.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Plantation	35·14	38·02	43·25	34·04	30·88	32·76	27·97	31·21	30·30	41·19
Hutts's Gate	34·87	38·20	41·68	33·90	30·95	28·05	21·44	25·28	23·03	42·26
Briars	17·88	24·00	27·42	22·26	16·96	16·32	18·41	16·10	17·91	25·70
Jamestown	6·66	8·98	9·84	7·39	6·29	5·57	7·54	6·44	5·67	9·26

The St. Helena Meteorological Station at Hutt's Gate (2,066 feet) recorded the following observations during 1947:—

Months.	Amt. Cloud.	Rainfall.			Weather No. of days of.				Wind No. of observations of.							
	Mean.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Rain.	Fog.	Clear Sky.	Over-cast.	N.E.	E.	E.S.E.	S.E.	S.S.E.	S.	S.S.W.	Calm.
January	9·1	3·36	0·5	13	24	21	0	10	-	6	4	38	64	12	-	-
February	8·3	4·05	1·25	20	19	18	0	9	-	-	4	49	37	21	-	-
March	8·9	6·12	1·04	5	29	24	0	9	1	1	6	39	70	8	-	-
April	8·4	4·15	0·62	26	24	20	0	7	2	5	13	47	45	8	-	-
May	7·8	4·47	1·13	30	18	10	2	5	1	1	8	36	46	19	1	-
June	8·2	4·45	0·54	29	19	13	1	5	-	2	11	36	51	19	1	-
July	9·2	4·26	0·68	27	24	17	0	17	-	3	16	50	37	17	1	-
August	9·4	2·08	0·42	13	17	22	0	14	1	5	12	50	40	14	-	2
September	8·8	4·93	0·72	3	24	22	1	10	1	2	4	71	29	13	-	-
October	9·5	2·77	0·37	5	20	21	0	17	1	4	8	48	49	14	-	-
November	9·3	0·74	0·21	8	13	17	0	18	-	-	3	64	43	10	-	-
December	8·8	0·88	0·30	6	12	14	0	4	-	-	5	99	16	4	-	-
Year	8·8	42·26			243	215	4	125	7	29	94	639	527	159	3	2

Months.	Mean Pressure.	Air Temperature						Tension of Vapour.	Relative Humidity.	
		Means of Absolute Min. & Max.								
		Mean.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Date	Max.			Date
January	1014·1	61·8	59·3	65·1	58	5	72	8	17·5	93·4
February	1013·1	64·6	62·0	70·8	59	1	78	5	19·5	93·3
March	1014·5	64·8	62·3	70·2	60	4	74	2	19·5	93·3
April	1014·9	63·7	61·1	69·0	58	18	72	4	18·8	93·3
May	1015·8	63·0	59·2	68·4	57	16	78	23	17·6	93·4
June	1018·5	58·3	55·9	65·3	52	29	68	2	15·6	92·9
July	1019·3	55·8	53·9	60·6	52	19	64	11	14·5	93·9
August	1018·5	55·8	54·0	61·0	52	16	69	10	14·4	93·8
September	1018·5	55·2	52·6	60·1	51	4	67	29	14·1	94·5
October	1017·0	57·0	53·4	62·0	52	5	68	25	14·3	94·3
November	1015·5	57·6	55·5	63·8	54	2	67	4	15·7	92·9
December	1014·8	60·1	57·1	63·6	55	8	70	24	15·9	90·7
Year	1016·2	59·8	57·2	64·9	55		70·6		16·4	93·3

From the foregoing report the Supervisor comments:—

“The outstanding characteristic is that it was one of the wettest years on record with a rainfall of 42·16 inches, rain falling on 243 days. This is in strong contrast with 1946, one of the driest years, having a rainfall 23·59 inches with 205 days of rain. The average for the years 1939–1947 inclusive is 31·76 inches. 1940 also recorded a heavy rainfall of 44·05 inches. It is interesting to note that in a year predominantly rainy and overcast, one of the finest days was April 29th, the occasion of the Royal Family's Visit to the Island.”

The highest temperature was 80° on May 24th, although February and March are usually the hottest they only recorded 78° and 74° respectively.

The lowest temperature —51°— was recorded on September 3rd, 4th and 5th while 52° was registered on 29th June and in July, August and October.

From this it will be observed that St. Helena's winter is from July to October and the summer from December to May, the mean temperature being about 60°.

The high average relative humidity at 93·3 p.c. is normal for that part of the Island.

Ascension.

This Island also enjoys a salubrious climate, but is drier and hotter than St. Helena, although also enjoying the South East Trade Winds. Above 1800 feet on the Green Mountain the climate is damp and foggy and the rainfall statistics show the difference between the mountain area and the sea level area to a marked degree.

Month.	Georgetown. m/m	Mountain. m/m
January	7	87
February	6	72
March	1	9
April	50	130
May	2	24
June	14	63
July	10	62
August	8	27
September	10	71
October	12	66
November	7	91
December	6	50
Total for 1947	133mms. or 5·3 ins.	752mms. or 30·1 ins.

Water Supply.

All fresh water is rain water stored in tanks there being 3815 English tons in store at the end of 1947. Salt water is pumped up by windmills for ablution purposes in Georgetown.

The mean maximum temperature recorded on Green Mountain for the year was 73° F.

The temperatures in Georgetown were very much higher maximum being 95° and minimum 68° whilst average maximum temperature was 84·5 and average minimum temperature 73·8.

Fauna and Flora.

St. Helena. There is only one indigenous species, the Wire Bird, (*Algalitis sanctaehelenae*) which is increasing in numbers considerably. Imported species include Pheasant and Partridge, Mynah (*gracula religiosa*), Canary (*serinus flaviventris*), Cardinal (*Emplictes magadascariensis*) Averdevert (*Estrelida astrid*) Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*), Ground Dove (*geopelia tranquilla*). Of sea birds the commonest are terns. There are no snakes but a few geckoes and frogs. There is one giant land tortoise at Plantation House reputed to be very ancient. Rabbits are to be found but not in pre-war numbers since protection was removed from them. All birds are protected.

Ascension. Is noted for its “Wide-awake” fair. The sooty tern or “wide-awake” nests on the island in vast numbers every eight months and like all other birds is protected fully. There are small numbers of partridges which are also protected. Turtles lay their eggs on the sandy beaches from January to May. The waters of Ascension teem with fish of every description particularly sharks and barracuda of the larger species.

CHAPTER II : History.

Discovery 1502.

St. Helena was discovered by the Portuguese Navigator, Joao de Nova Castella, on the 21st of May, 1502, the anniversary of St. Helena mother of Emperor Constantine. He landed at the valley where Jamestown now stands and built a chapel there which gave the valley the name by which it is still locally known.

The Portuguese kept the discovery of the Island secret as a port of call for their East India Fleet. However, in 1589 Captain (later Sir) Thomas Cavendish, Commanding H. M. S. Desire, called at St. Helena on his voyage round the world. He stayed 12 days and recorded the presence of pheasants and partridges, which are still to be found, and quantities of fruit in Chapel Valley.

Thereafter the English and Dutch merchant ships called frequently to water and refit. In 1633 the Island was annexed by the Dutch but not occupied. The English East India Company seized St. Helena in 1659 but the Dutch re-took it on New Year's Day 1673.

East India Company Charter.

On the 5th of May, 1673, the English recaptured the Island and the East India Company held it under Charter from Charles II until 1834. During the period 1815 to 1821 the Emperor Napoleon was exiled on the Island until his death on the 5th of May, 1821.

On 22nd April, 1834, the Island was brought under the direct Government of the Crown after the Honourable East India Company had administered it for 182 years. In those days the annual expenditure was about £90,000.

In 1840 the French Frigate, *La Belle Poule*, arrived with His Royal Highness the Prince de Joinville to remove Napoleon's remains to France, and departed on the 8th of October.

The first Bishop of St. Helena, Dr. Piers C. Claughton, landed on the 30th October, 1859.

In 1860 His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh visited St. Helena.

In 1874 the first New Zealand Flax (*Phormium tenax*) was introduced and although at first the experiment offered little hope of commercial success hemp is now the principal export of the Colony and the growing and manufacture of it the main industry.

In 1890 the Zulu Chief, Denizula, son of the great Cetewayo, was interned in St. Helena until 1897 when he and his retinue were sent back to Zululand.

In November, 1899, the submarine cable from Capetown was landed at St. Helena by the Eastern Telegraph Company and was the first stage of the England to South Africa cable,

In 1900 General Cronje and his wife were sent to St. Helena with over 500 Boer prisoners of war. By 1902 there was a total of nearly 6,000 prisoners of war on the Island.

On August 4th, 1925, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, landed from H.M.S. "Repulse" and remained on the Island for 2 days.

CHAPTER III : Administration.

The Government is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive and an Advisory Council. The Governor alone makes ordinances, there being no Legislative Council, but power is reserved to legislate by order of His Majesty in Council.

The Executive Council consists of the Senior Military Officer in command of the regular forces, the Government Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer, all of whom are ex officio members, and such other nominated members as may be approved.

The Advisory Council consists of six persons not holding any office under the Crown, appointed by the Governor under the Public Seal of the Island. The chief executive officer is the Secretary to the Government and there is the usual departmental organisation.

By Letters Patent dated 12th September, 1922, Ascension Island was made a Dependency of St. Helena. The residents on Ascension are all employees of Cable and Wireless who own and operate an important cable station which connects the Colony with St. Helena and various parts of the world. The Government of St. Helena is represented in the Dependency by the local manager of Cable and Wireless, who is appointed a Justice of the Peace and Resident Magistrate for this purpose. Postal duties are performed by an employee of the Company.

By Letters Patent dated 12th January, 1938, Tristan da Cunha, Nightingale, Inaccessible and Gough Islands were made dependencies of St. Helena. There are 230 residents on Tristan da Cunha, but the other three islands are uninhabited. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts maintains a Chaplain on the Island who performs the functions of a Government representative. The Island is administered by the Colonial Office in consultation with the Admiralty.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1940 a Poor Relief Board was created with powers to impose and collect local rates and taxes. The Board is responsible for the maintenance of the Poor House and carries out other duties of a municipal nature. The Board consists of two official members, two nominated members being ratepayers and two members elected annually by the ratepayers. The Chairman is nominated by the Governor.

CHAPTER IV : Weights and Measures.

The Law relating to weights and measures is governed by Ordinance No. 6 of 1905. All weights and measures in force in the Colony are the same as those in use in England.

CHAPTER V : Newspapers and Periodicals.

There are no newspapers. The St. Helena Magazine published monthly by the Reverend Canon L. C. Walcott has been issued since 1921 and costs 3d. per copy.

The official Gazette is published periodically at 6d. per copy. The Information Officer publishes a weekly news sheet compiled from the B.B.C. news bulletins.

There are 150 radio receivers in the Island but there is no local broadcasting station.

Appendix I.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Divorces.	Judicial Separations.
1898	4545	242	83	18	—	—
1899	4270	139	74	29	—	—
1900	5316	116	162	35	—	—
1901	5244	129	125	39	—	—
1902	5009	165	235	26	—	—
1903	9850 (includes 4655 P.O.W.)	146	76	32	—	—
1904	3458 (includes 424 Garrison).	122	52	29	—	—
1905	3781 (includes 269 Garrison).	136	56	18	—	—
1906	3544	118	46	11	—	—
1907	3485	134	36	17	—	—
1908	3517	84	37	19	—	—
1909	3553	96	27	17	—	—
1910	3441	87	40	22	—	—
1911	3482	95	39	20	1	—
1912	3519	104	44	26	1	1
1913	3514	101	51	22	—	—
1914	3563	84	55	22	1	—
1915	3594	87	53	26	—	1
1916	3604	108	51	24	—	—
1917	3634	96	50	33	—	—
1918	3654	112	36	37	1	—
1919	3648	125	29	27	1	—
1920	3718	85	33	17	4	—
1921	3670	93	24	20	—	—
1922	3658	97	37	20	—	—
1923	3654	114	28	20	1	—
1924	3703	106	38	21	—	—
1925	3747	111	44	29	—	—
1926	3747	111	67	41	—	—
1927	3747	99	63	36	1	1
1928	3995	123	69	31	2	—
1929	3747	121	40	34	3	—
1930	3747	120	40	30	3	—
1931	3995	126	59	28	—	—
1932	4144	152	58	32	1	—
1933	4170	116	68	31	1	—
1934	4224	101	47	26	—	—
1935	4318	150	45	40	—	—
1936	4341	134	66	23	—	—
1937	4415	132	32	42	—	—
1938	4474	168	61	21	—	—
1939	4622	123	49	24	2	1
1940	4710	158	47	30	2	—
1941	4702	157	45	40	3	—
1942	4860	151	54	40	3	—
1943	4992	196	35	43	1	1*
1944	4992	155	36	31	1	1
1945	4942	193	65	38	2	1*
1946	4897	139	53	23	1	—
1947	4969	165	31	25	3	—

*Same couple.

Appendix II.

Criminal Cases tried by the Supreme Court of St. Helena, from 1st January, 1938, to 31st December, 1947.

YEAR.	CHARGES.	NO. OF CASES.
1938	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	2
	Incest	1
	Endeavouring to conceal birth of child	1
1939	Larceny	3
	Appeal against conviction in Magistrate's Court	1
1940	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	1
1941	Appeal against conviction in Magistrate's Court	2
1942	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	1
	Offence against the Imports (Emergency Powers) Ordinance, 1940	1
1943	Nil	—
1944	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	3
1945	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	2
1946	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	1
1947	Larceny	6
	Manslaughter	1
		—
		26
		—

Summary of cases tried.

Appeals against conviction in Magistrate's Court	3
Carnal knowledge of girls under the age of 16 years	10
Endeavouring to conceal birth of child	1
Incest	1
Larceny	9
Manslaughter	1
Offence against the Imports (Emergency Powers) Ordinance, 1940	1
	—
Total	26
	—

Appendix III.

Ten Years' Statistics of convictions in the Magistrate's Court
NOT resulting in imprisonment.

OFFENCE.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Assault	6	4	4	5	2	4	2	1	2	3
Assaulting Police	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Animals Diseases Regulations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Employers and Workmen's Act	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Failure to obey order of Magistrate	4	—	—	1	8	7	8	1	8	1
Customs Ordinance	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	9	—	—
Disorderly Conduct	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
Children and Young Persons Act	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Drunk and Disorderly	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Education Ordinance	—	—	11	4	11	3	2	7	4	7
Defence Regulations	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	11	—	1
Firearms Ordinance	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Larceny	3	6	4	7	5	8	5	1	2	1
Liquor Licencing	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Production Order	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Using obscene language	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	3	—
Public Health Ordinance	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Police Ordinance	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Receiving stolen goods	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Road Traffic Ordinance	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	8	2
Stowaway on ship	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Selling Bread underweight	8	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stallion Donkey Rules	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Trespass Ordinance	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vagrancy	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Unlicenced Dog	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maintenance Orders for Wives and Children.	1	—	12	4	2	2	7	3	7	12
	31	12	38	36	36	28	31	38	40	29

Ten Years' Statistics of offences for which prison sentences were served.

OFFENCE.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Manslaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wounding	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Carnal Knowledge	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	—
Sheep Stealing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Larceny	3	3	5	3	7	7	3	—	1	4
Receiving stolen goods	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Embezzlement	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Assault	1	—	3	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
Assaulting Police	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aiding and Abetting Larceny	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Incest	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indecent Assault	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vagrancy	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Concealment of Birth	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Contempt of Court	—	2	2	2	3	1	—	—	—	—
Drunk and Disorderly	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neglect of Children	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Evading Customs Dues	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Offences against Conservation of Food Order	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offences against Defence Regulations Abuse and Stone-throwing	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	11	8	12	10	13	10	8	3	2	12

Total number of prison sentences during 10 years 89.

Average number of prison sentences per annum 8.9.

SMALL DEBTS COURT.

Ten Years' Statistics of cases heard in the Small Debts Court.

1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
9	15	27	16	51	15	35	18	24	14

JUVENILE COURT.

Ten Years' Statistics of offences tried in the Juvenile Court for which the boys were caned.

OFFENCE.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Attempting Carnal Knowledge	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assault	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Using Abusive Language	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cruelty to Donkey Using Obscene Language	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Larceny	6	—	2	1	—	6	—	—	4	—

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