

COLONIAL OFFICE
REPORT ON
ST. HELENA
 FOR THE YEARS
 1950 and 1951

Contents

	PAGE
PART I Review of the Years 1950 and 1951	3
PART II CHAPTER 1 Population	5
CHAPTER 2 Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation	6
CHAPTER 3 Public Finance and Taxation	7
CHAPTER 4 Currency and Banking	14
CHAPTER 5 Commerce	15
CHAPTER 6 Production	17
CHAPTER 7 Social Services	20
CHAPTER 8 Legislation	25
CHAPTER 9 Justice, Police and Prisons	27
CHAPTER 10 Public Utilities	28
CHAPTER 11 Communications	29
PART III CHAPTER 1 Geography and Climate	30
CHAPTER 2 History	32
CHAPTER 3 Administration	33
CHAPTER 4 Weights and Measures	33
CHAPTER 5 Newspapers and Periodicals	33
PART IV Ascension	34
PART V Tristan da Cunha	36
APPENDIX I Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	47
II Fifty years' statistics of Population, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Divorces and Judicial Separations	48
III Ten years' statistics of Supreme Court cases	49
IV Ten years' statistics of other Court cases	50
READING LIST	52
MAPS	<i>At end</i>

LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
 1952

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PART I

Review of the Years 1950 and 1951

THE Governor, Sir George Joy, K.B.E., C.M.G., returned to the Island from leave on 21st May, 1950.

From 6th to 11th July, 1951, the Governor paid an official visit to the Dependency of Ascension Island.

Mr. K. H. Clarke, the Government Secretary, was awarded the O.B.E. in the Birthday Honours, 1950. Mr. Clarke left the island in May, 1950, on completion of his tour, and was succeeded by Mr. Cecil Rankin who had arrived in the Colony in March, 1950.

For the first time in the history of the Island Police Force, an immediate award of the B.E.M. was made in November, 1951, to Police Sergeant John Cecil Dillon for his gallantry in attempting the rescue of an old resident of the Island, Mr. William Hurn, M.B.E., who had fallen into the sea while leaving a ship.

In December, 1951, awards were made to three St. Helenians by the Royal Humane Society for saving a boy from drowning in the sea.

The sloop, H.M.S. *Actaeon* (Commander Viscount Kelburn, D.S.C., R.N.) visited St. Helena in February, 1950, and the cruiser H.M.S. *Bermuda* (Captain H. P. Currey, O.B.E., R.N.) in December, 1951. Both ships stayed for three days and their visits were greatly enjoyed by the whole Island.

At a ceremony held at Longwood on 28th April, 1950, the Acting Governor formally presented to the Vice-Consul for France, Monsieur Georges Peugeot, two gates which had originally been erected at the entrance to the Emperor Napoleon's Tomb, subsequently removed to South Africa, and later donated to the St. Helena Government. They have now been re-erected at the entrance to Napoleon's Old House at Longwood.

On 16th April, 1951, the death occurred, at the age of 71, of Canon L. C. Walcott who first came to St. Helena in 1909. From 1921 to 1938, he acted as Superintendent of Schools. He was a member of the Board of Education from 1941 until the time of his death. He had always taken a great interest in youth work, and he was the Scout Commissioner in St. Helena for many years. His death was a great loss to the Island.

In July, 1951, a London Company acquired the interests of two of the oldest established businesses on the Island, Messrs. Solomon and Company and Messrs. Deason Brothers, who had also been pioneers in the flax-milling industry. The businesses will continue to be conducted from St. Helena under the title of Solomon & Co. (St. Helena) Ltd.

Mr. T. Hirst, a member of the Mineral Resources Division of the Colonial Geological Surveys, and formerly Director of Geological Surveys in the Gold Coast, visited St. Helena in April, 1951, to survey the mineral resources of the Island. The results of the survey were, however, disappointing in so far as economic deposits of minerals are concerned.

During November and December, 1951, a Salaries Revision Commissioner, Mr. A. C. Hands, C.B.E., formerly Director of Audit, Nigeria, visited the Island to review generally the emoluments of all Government servants and the rates of wages paid to Government labour.

The ten-year Development Plan has made steady progress, although during 1950 the housing scheme was delayed because of the necessity to rehabilitate all buildings connected with the flax mills. A table of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes is given at Appendix I.

Work on the housing scheme was started again early in 1951 and four semi-detached houses were almost completed by the end of the year, and good progress had been made with some ten other new houses in Jamestown. An average of 180 labourers were employed by the Public Works Department in the period under review.

The Agricultural Development programme continued, particular attention having been paid to soil conservation and re-forestation. In connection with the latter some 45,000 seedlings of different varieties suitable for the Island have been planted.

The production of *Phormium tenax*, the Island's chief industry, remained at about the same level as in 1949, though owing to the rise in the price of hemp, the value of the crop was greatly enhanced.

The lily bulb industry, which had been ruined by eelworm, received special attention and a treatment has been evolved which will again enable healthy bulbs to be exported.

The local Growers Association was formed into a co-operative society during 1951 and is doing well.

A Young Farmers Club was formed in April, 1951, to encourage the younger generation of St. Helenians in the scientific care and use of their land, and Government has made available a suitable building for use as a club room.

A successful Agricultural Show was held in November, 1950.

PART II

Chapter I : Population

THE Island population to-day is largely of mixed origin, being descended from settlers from Great Britain under the East India Company and employees or 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 according to the census taken in 1946 was:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Islanders	2,154	2,546	4,700
Other British Residents	26	19	45
Other Nationals	1	2	3
	<u>2,181</u>	<u>2,567</u>	<u>4,748</u>

The distribution of population was as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Jamestown, including Briars and Ruperts 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 the 31st December, 1951 was also 4,748.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1949	1950	1951
Births	149	136	134
Deaths	56	50	48
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	60.40	22.06	74.6
Still births	6	6	3
Illegitimate births	38	53	35
Deaths of infants under 1 year old	9	3	10
Birth-rate per 1,000	31.95	28.99	28.2
Death-rate per 1,000	12.01	10.65	10.1
Immigrants	142	197	205
Emigrants	428	252	238

A table of population from 1902 to 1951 is given at Appendix II.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

OCCUPATIONS

The principal categories of wage earners as recorded in the 1946 census are as follows:

Flax industrial workers	205
Agricultural labourers	165
Skilled and general labourers	350
Building tradesmen and apprentices	85
Fishermen and boatmen	50
Mechanics, engine- and motor-drivers	70

The labour supply was in excess of requirements, but the large building programme enabled the Public Works Department to provide regular employment for an average of 180 workmen, and the number of apprentices increased to 20.

WAGES

Wages were further increased during 1950 and 1951. A comparative table of daily rates is given below:

	1950		1951	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Flax mill operatives	5s. 1d.	4s. 4d.	5s. 7d.	4s. 10d.
Agricultural labourers:				
Government	5s. 1d.	4s. 4d.	5s. 7d.	4s. 10d.
Commercial	4s. 1d.	—	4s. 7d.	—
General labourers:				
Government	6s. 1d.	—	6s. 1d.	—
Commercial	5s. 0d.	—	5s. 0d.	—
Skilled labour employed by Government:				
Carpenters	7s. 4d.	—	7s. 4d.	—
Masons, Plumbers, Wood Machinists	7s. 8d.	—	7s. 8d.	—

The average hours of work are 48 per week.

There is no Labour department. Relations between employer and employee are regulated and disputes settled in consultation with Government.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The principal laws in force for the protection of workers are:

- The Factories Ordinance, No. 7 of 1937.
- The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No. 3 of 1946.
- The Contracts of Service Ordinance, 1951.

MIGRATION OF LABOUR

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

A small number of the 100 agricultural workers who went to the United Kingdom in 1949 returned to St. Helena during 1951. The remainder secured employment in the United Kingdom.

Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

	1950 £	1951 £
Expenditure	97,405	101,615
Revenue	91,478	119,557
Deficit	5,927	Surplus 17,942

The Revenue figures are composed of the following:

	1950 £	1951 £
Revenue raised in the Colony	50,615	56,833
Grant-in-Aid	30,000	48,500
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants	11,863	14,224
	91,478	119,557

The broad classification of expenditure is:

	1950 £	1951 £
Recurrent Services	59,298	59,786
Extraordinary Works	3,189	594
Emergency Expenditure	23,466	26,747
Colonial Development and Welfare	11,452	14,488
	97,405	101,615

The Colony relies on a substantial grant-in-aid to balance its budget and on grants from the Colonial Development and Welfare funds to finance development expenditure. It will be observed from the above figures that local revenue accounted only for about 50 per cent. of the total expenditure.

Revenue collection in 1951 showed an increase of about £6,000 as compared with 1950 due to a wind-fall under "Estate and Succession Duties," an increase in the export tax on hemp and also to additional receipts in respect of private works carried out by the Public Works Department. Import duties also produced additional revenue because of the increase in world prices.

Recurrent expenditure totalled about the same in 1951 as in 1950 but emergency expenditure increased by about £3,000 chiefly due to the award of an increase in the cost-of-living allowances to Government employees.

The financial position as at 31st December, 1951, showed a surplus balance of £21,872 arrived at as follows:

	£
Surplus balance at 31st December, 1950	3,930
Add surplus, 1951	17,942
	<hr/>
Surplus balance at 31st December, 1951	21,872

PRINCIPAL HEADS OF REVENUE, 1947-51

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
	£	£	£	£	£
Customs	13,824	14,949	17,523	17,813	27,840
Port and Marine	1,747	1,881	2,247	2,027	2,260
Licences, Taxes, etc.	1,549	2,438	1,701	2,988	5,327
Court Fees, etc.	1,784	2,315	3,765	4,386	6,034
Post Office	4,802	15,362	14,182	3,001	3,213
Rentals, etc.	2,174	2,612	3,216	2,666	2,342
Interest	376	93	318	718	369
Miscellaneous	5,517	2,011	3,703	5,411	4,687
Ascension	5,302	15,234	15,642	1,981	1,761
Revenue from Foodstocks					
Revolving Fund	—	15,000	8,000	9,624	3,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Grant-in-aid	37,079	71,895	70,297	50,615	56,833
	—	30,000	40,000	30,000	48,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	37,079	101,895	110,297	80,615	105,333
Colonial Development					
and Welfare Grants	23,588	24,918	19,726	10,863	14,224
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
GRAND TOTAL	60,668	126,813	130,023	91,478	119,557

PRINCIPAL HEADS OF EXPENDITURE, 1947-51

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
	£	£	£	£	£
Pensions	1,140	1,101	1,478	1,234	3,125
Governor	2,636	3,059	2,668	2,726	2,708
Secretariat and Printing					
Office	2,236	3,460	3,385	4,854	3,700
Treasury, Customs, Port					
and Marine	1,791	2,299	3,156	3,321	3,322
Post Office	799	1,123	1,874	1,102	1,417
Health	7,585	7,214	8,650	7,939	9,040
Education	7,385	6,076	6,694	7,271	8,164
Agriculture and Forestry	11,169	5,128	5,338	5,877	5,758
Police and Gaol	2,053	1,448	1,473	2,146	1,858
Audit	—	1,815	931	748	1,640
Public Works Depart-					
ment	5,247	1,661	13,934	3,804	-1,463*
Public Works Recurrent.	8,547	9,235	10,096	10,178	10,810
Telephones	—	—	—	—	401
Miscellaneous	3,308	4,364	2,338	3,686	3,242
Poor Relief	4,784	3,948	4,489	2,841	4,043
Ascension	1,743	1,628	2,540	1,571	2,021
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TOTAL ORDINARY	60,431	53,559	69,044	59,298	59,786
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Public Works Extra-					
ordinary	23,761	4,071	3,335	3,189	594
Emergency Expenditure.	16,773	15,315	29,785	23,466	26,747
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40,535	19,386	33,120	26,655	27,341
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	100,966	72,945	102,164	85,953	87,127
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Colonial Development					
and Welfare	23,790	26,681	13,277	11,452	14,488
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
GRAND TOTAL	124,756	99,626	115,441	97,405	101,615

*Due to reimbursements in respect of the issue of stores previously unallocated.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1951

<i>Liabilities</i>			<i>Assets</i>		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Deposits, invested or partly invested	128,643	0	Cash held locally and at Crown		
Other Deposits	5,862	18 10	Agents	12,699	18 2
Foodstocks and other Essential Supplies Revolving Fund	18,678	4 4	Investment of available balances	42,000	0 0
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	21,871	18 9	Investment of Deposits	115,438	3 5
			Advances	4,918	0 7
	<u>£175,056</u>	<u>2 2</u>		<u>£175,056</u>	<u>2 2</u>
			£	s.	d.
Due by Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes			2,240	3	8
St. Helena War Savings Certificates accrued interest on 31st December, 1950			1,071	12	1
General Revenue Balance:					
Surplus at 1st January, 1951			3,929	13	6
Add surplus, 1951			17,942	5	3
Surplus at 31st December, 1951			£21,871	18	9
Contingent Liability to Government Savings Bank			£7,239	15	9

TAXATION

The principal sources of taxation and the yield from each during 1950 and 1951 were as follows:

	1950	1951
	£	£
Customs:		
Import duties	15,717	19,282
Export duties	2,096	8,558
Port and Marine:		
Wharfage	1,378	1,587
Shipping dues	437	467
Crannage	150	112
Licences, Taxes, etc.:		
Boats	83	84
Road Vehicles	370	384
Cinema	25	25
Dogs and Horses	177	180
Estate and succession duties	1,369	3,371

Import tax	452	590
Entertainment tax	90	210
Shops, butchers, etc.	132	202
Water rates	129	168

Customs Duties

The main features of the Customs Tariff are as follows:

Import Duties

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Rate or Unit</i>	<i>Preferential</i>	<i>General</i>
<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	<i>ad valorem</i>	free	2½ per cent.
(b) Cotton	"	10 per cent.	12 per cent.
(c) Any other material	"	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
(d) Jerseys, cardigans, pullovers and other knitted outer garments	"	10 per cent.	12½ per cent.
(ii) Ready to wear under-clothing—			
(a) Machine-made or woven in wool cotton or a mixture of both	"	free	12½ per cent.
(b) Handknitted in wool, cotton or mixture of both	"	10 per cent.	12½ per cent.
(c) Any other material	"	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
(iii) Footwear—			
(a) Heavy outdoor boots and shoes and all children's shoes	"	free	2½ per cent.
(b) Others	"	10 per cent.	12½ per cent.
(iv) Haberdashery and millinery	"	15 per cent.	20 per cent.
(v) Hosiery made from—			
(a) Cotton, wool and mixtures	"	free	2½ per cent.
(b) Silk and art silk	"	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
Jewellery	"	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
Linen, manufactured	"	20 per cent.	25 per cent.
Silk and art silk	"	30 per cent.	35 per cent.

Commodity	Rate or Unit	Preferential	General
Perfumery—			
(a) Toilet preparations and and perfumed spirits.	<i>ad valorem</i>	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
(b) Dentifrices	"	free	5 per cent.
Soap—			
(a) Common	per 100 lb.	2s. 1d.	2s. 6d.
(b) Toilet	<i>ad valorem</i>	15 per cent.	20 per cent.
Provisions—			
Butter and Cheese	per 100 lb.	4s. 2d.	5s. 0d.
Canned meat	"	6s. 3d.	7s. 6d.
Canned fish	<i>ad valorem</i>	15 per cent.	20 per cent.
Canned fruit	per 100 lb.	8s. 4d.	10s. 0d.
Jams	"	6s. 3d.	9s. 4d.
Provisions not enumerated elsewhere	<i>ad valorem</i>	10 per cent.	12½ per cent.
Firearms—			
(a) Pistols and revolvers	each	15s. 0d.	18s. 0d.
(b) Others	each	£1 10s. 0d.	£1 17s. 6d.
(c) Parts and accessories	<i>ad valorem</i>	22½ per cent.	30 per cent.
(d) Ammunition	"	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
Metal manufactures—			
Clocks, watches and parts thereof	"	30 per cent.	32½ per cent.
Gramophones and phono- graphs, including loud speakers and accessories	"	30 per cent.	32½ per cent.
Wireless instruments, ap- paratus and accessories	"	15 per cent.	20 per cent.
Motor cars	per 100 lb.	12s. 6d.	13s. 9d.
Lorries and tractors	"	10s. 0d.	12s. 6d.
Machinery and parts	<i>ad valorem</i>	free	5 per cent.
Musical instruments	"	30 per cent.	32½ per cent.
Plate and plate ware	"	30 per cent.	35 per cent.
Spirits—			
(a) Brandy, gin, rum and whisky			
(i) Not exceeding the strength of proof	per gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.
(ii) Exceeding the strength of proof	per proof gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.
(b) Cordials and liqueurs all kinds, including bitters and flavouring extracts containing spirits	per gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.

Commodity	Rate or Unit	Preferential	General
Wine—			
(a) Sparkling	per gallon	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 7s. 0d.
(b) Still—in bottles and in wood	"	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 6s. 3d.
Tobacco—			
(a) Cigars and cheroots	per lb.	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 7s. 0d.
(b) Cigarettes	"	12s. 0d.	16s. 0d.
(c) Other manufactured tobacco—			
(i) Manufactured in the Empire entirely from Empire grown tob- bacco	per lb.	10s. 0d.	—
(ii) Manufactured in the Empire partly from Foreign-grown tobacco	"	12s. 0d.	—
Fuel Oils—			
Motor spirit	per gallon	4d.	6d.
Illuminating	"	2d.	2½d.
Export Duties (1951 rates)			
Commodity	Unit	Rate of duty	
Hemp	per ton dead-weight	£8	
Tow	"	£3	
Stripper Tow	"	£1	
Phormium tenax suckers	per 1,000	12s. 6d.	

Death Duties

Duties are payable in accordance with Ordinance No. 3 of 1942 as amended by Ordinances No. 2 of 1948 and No. 17 of 1949, on all real and personal property which passes on the death of a person. The duties are divided into—

- Estate duty, which is a charge on the body of the estate, on a scale of ½ per cent over £250 and not exceeding £500, 1 per cent to £1,000, 2 per cent to £2,000, 4, 6 and 8 per cent to £3,000, £5,000 and £7,000 respectively, and scaling up to 25 per cent on estates over £60,000. No duty is payable on estates not exceeding £250.
- Succession duty is imposed in addition to the estate duty and is collected at rates varying with the relationship of the successor. The scale commences with succession value over £250 and not exceeding £500, the rates in the three classes concerned being ½ per cent for a husband, lineal descendant or ancestor of the deceased, 2 per cent for a brother or sister or their descendants, and 4 per cent in the case of any other degree of relationship or a stranger. The rates increase to 1, 4 and 8 per cent on a succession value not exceeding £1,000, to 2, 10 and 20 per cent up

to £10,000 and thereafter scale up to 4, 15 and 25 per cent on a value in excess of £30,000. No duty is payable on a value not exceeding £250.

Provision is also made for the transfer to Government of real property in lieu of cash where duties are payable in respect of such property.

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. Some of the principal duties are:

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

Entertainment Tax

There is a tax under Ordinance No. 6 of 1950 on every ticket sold for any public entertainment on a scale of 1d. on a ticket not exceeding 1s., 2d. on a ticket exceeding 1s. but not exceeding 2s., and 3d. on any ticket costing more than 2s.

Import Tax

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

Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

THE St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, was revoked by Proclamation during 1949 and replaced by the Currency, Coinage and Legal Tender Ordinance No. 5 of 1948, as amended by Ordinance No. 12 of 1949, which provided *inter alia* that the Colony's currency should be Bank of England notes and United Kingdom coins which are legal tender in the United Kingdom.

The amount of currency in circulation at the end of 1951, including South African notes and silver, is estimated at £40,000.

There is no commercial bank operating in the Colony. The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution. The aggregates of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows:

Year	Balances of Deposits at 31st December
1947	£67,120
1948	£84,596
1949	£77,209
1950	£110,203
1951	£105,315

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1951, was 518 as compared with 512 on the corresponding day of 1950.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of 1951 is represented by stock of the mean market value of £90,628.

Chapter 5 : 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-products, which together form 98 per cent of the total exports. There is a small trade in supplying fresh vegetables to ships and to Ascension Island.

The London price of fibre rose to £180 per ton in June, 1951, but dropped to £155 by December. The corresponding prices for Tow No. 1 were £115 and £85. Stripper Tow at the end of the year stood at £65 per ton nominal.

Total imports (excluding bullion and specie) were valued at £120,132 in 1950 and £163,605 in 1951; total exports were £140,212 in 1950 and £214,537 in 1951.

IMPORTS

The following table shows the principal heads and respective values for the past three years:

	1949	1950	1951
<i>Imports</i>	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco	74,959	57,430	87,459
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	5,065	5,618	3,726
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	54,093	56,964	72,420
Miscellaneous and unclassified	963	120	—
	<u>135,080</u>	<u>120,132</u>	<u>163,605</u>

ST. HELENA

Source of Imports	1949		1950		1951	
	£	%	£	%	£	%
United Kingdom	70,994	52½	74,968	62½	97,105	59½
South Africa	30,297	22½	23,038	19½	30,292	18½
Australia	6,421	4¾	780	¾	1,494	1
New Zealand	1,945	1½	1,960	1½	3,698	2½
Canada	2,034	1½	—	—	—	—
Rest of the Commonwealth	4,638	3½	6,163	5	7,355	4½
	<u>116,329</u>		<u>106,909</u>		<u>139,944</u>	
Other Countries	18,751	13¾	13,223	11	23,661	14½
	<u>135,080</u>		<u>120,132</u>		<u>163,605</u>	

Imports from South Africa consisted mainly of flour, sugar, grains, provisions, confectionery, wines, spirits, beer, tobacco, coal and candles.

Goods originating in the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries consisted mainly of flour, lard substitutes, margarine, butter, tea, cheese, milk, provisions, timber, hardware, drapery, spirits, cigarettes, cotton piece-goods, soap, motor vehicles, machinery and building materials.

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

The increases in the value of imports in 1951 were due partly to the increased quantities imported under certain heads and partly to increased prices.

The principal increases in quantities imported were under butter, confectionery, flour, lard, margarine, tea, mineral oil and motor spirits, and the principal decreases were under beer, milk, timber, cement and cotton piece-goods.

EXPORTS

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

	1949		1950		1951	
	tons	£	tons	£	tons	£
Fibre	1,243	83,400	1,200	103,912	1,130	158,973
Tow.	537	20,843	643	31,132	573	43,748
Rope and Twine.	30½	2,071	36	3,611	53	8,523
Other articles	—	567	—	1,557	—	3,293
TOTAL		<u>£106,881</u>		<u>£140,212</u>		<u>£214,537</u>

PRODUCTION

Country of Destination	1949		1950		1951	
	£	%	£	%	£	%
United Kingdom	98,361	92	134,526	96	197,558	92
South Africa	8,470	8	5,686	4	13,179	6
	<u>106,831</u>		<u>140,212</u>		<u>210,737</u>	
Other Countries	50	—	—	—	3,800	2
	<u>£106,881</u>		<u>£140,212</u>		<u>£214,537</u>	

The increase in the value of exports as compared with the previous year was due to the greatly increased price of fibre and tow.

Chapter 6 : Production

FLAX

THE production of Phormium hemp is the main agricultural industry of the Colony. There are eight mills in operation, although individual mills are closed temporarily from time to time for various reasons, mainly on account of shortages of fuel and occasionally because of a shortage of leaf. The new mills and other buildings were designed and put up very successfully by the Public Works Department, and the work was practically completed by the end of 1951.

Hemp and tow were decontrolled in the United Kingdom during 1949 resulting in enhanced prices. The price of hemp rose during 1950 and by June, 1951, had reached £180 per ton, dropping to £155 a ton by the end of the year.

Comparative production figures are:

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Hemp	783¾	940	1,243	1,200	1,130
Tow.	393¼	377½	537	643	573
Rope and twine	60½	40½	33¾	36	53

Total value of flax products exported in 1950 and 1951 were £138,655 and £211,244 respectively.

The production of *Phormium tenax* is now in the hands of two firms who own the bulk of the leaf growing areas and operate all the mills. The Government owns one mill at Longwood which is leased to one of the firms on condition that the lessee shall purchase all small-growers' leaf offered at the mill at a price of 4 per cent of the London market price for every ton of green leaf.

Contributions by hemp exporters to the fund for the rehabilitation of the industry have continued throughout 1950 and 1951 but the rate of the contribution was reduced in January, 1951, from £11 5s. per ton to £7 2s. per ton exported.

LILY BULBS

The lily bulb industry, after several years of decline, completely collapsed in the 1949-50 season owing to the continued deterioration of the crop. A study of the causes of the trouble was begun with the collaboration of Mr. L. Ogilvie, Advisory Plant Pathologist to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, investigations being carried out both at St. Helena and in England. It was established at the end of 1950 that the plants had become heavily infested with eelworm, and hot water treatment of bulbs was adopted for the 1951-52 season. The results to date have been promising and it would appear that the eelworm has played a large part in the decline of the industry. At the same time, it is also clear that the soil exhaustion has also been concerned in the trouble. The investigation is continuing and it is hoped that in due course it may be possible to restore the industry to the position it formerly occupied.

FOOD CROPS

Continuous cropping of food gardens during and after the war has led to widespread soil exhaustion which has shown itself in declining yields. Pests and diseases have caused serious losses and the damage they have caused is not unlikely to have been increased by the low state of fertility common to-day. Potatoes were never plentiful in 1951 and at times were almost impossible to buy. One of the chief causes of this shortage has been the prevalence of "blight."

To improve production a general overhaul of food gardens is being undertaken, aimed at making it possible for growers to raise the fertility of their land. At the same time, encouragement and assistance are being given to the more general adoption of control measures against pests and diseases.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Soil erosion is a major problem in the Island. Great damage was done in the past through widespread denudation of the natural forests. To-day, the evil is continuing in the higher lands where over-grazing of pastures and misuse of arable lands are threatening to destroy the agricultural life of the Island. During the period under review, good progress was made with the conservation of Crown lands in the high country and favourable weather assisted in the natural regeneration of vegetation on a limited area of denuded wastes, but the main task still lies ahead. Steps were taken to try to arouse public appreciation of the danger, and at the end of the year a booklet was published outlining Government's general policy and explaining simply the principles that underlie that policy. At the same time, draft legislation was prepared for enactment at an early date.

By the end of 1951, small demonstrations of methods of soil and water conservation had been made and staff were being trained in the methods that will have to be adopted generally if this menace is to be removed.

RE-AFFORESTATION

The extension of Crown forests has continued steadily, mainly with the object of increasing fuel supplies as quickly as possible. The stage has now been reached, however, where there may be some conflict between this objective and the need for ensuring/satisfactory soil and water conservation in the catchment areas. Careful thought, therefore, is being given as to the types of trees and the methods of management which should be used on the very steep slopes that are a feature of St. Helena. New species are being introduced for trial and a policy of selective felling has been adopted.

There is still a far greater demand for fuel than can be met from present resources and a policy of rationing was introduced to check excessive felling. In the circumstances it has been possible to provide these limited quantities without harming the forests. Nevertheless, the position remains critical and encouragement has been given to users to adopt other sources of supply, rather than continue to rely on wood for fuel.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There was a sharp decline in most classes of livestock in 1950 but some recovery took place in 1951.

	Cattle	Horses	Donkeys	Sheep	Pigs	Goats	Poultry
1949	1,038	42	1,235	2,652	256	2,372	7,768
1951	996	44	1,240	2,780	210	2,216	7,205

Over-grazing is serious throughout the grassland country and it is regrettable, but inevitable, that there will have to be a considerable reduction in the already inadequate numbers of stock if the pastures are to be restored. Parasitic infestations are also general and probably largely account for the animals being generally under-sized. Plans are being made by the largest private firm for tackling this problem of poor management and Government's general policy in this matter has been outlined in the booklet already mentioned.

The herd of Ayrshire cattle at Longwood has been an important source of milk during the period under review. The first progeny of these cows have now reached the breeding stage and should be calving in the second half of 1952 and early 1953. These young heifers have been brought up on enclosed lands where rotational grazing is practised and have made very satisfactory growth. Two young bulls have also been brought into service for use by local farmers. There is, in fact, much promise in this herd, but performance must depend in the future on a general raising of the standard of management throughout the Island.

At the Government Stock Centre free services continued to be provided by the Shorthorn bull, the Catalan donkey stallion and the Large Black Boar. No steps have yet been taken to import new sheep because it is considered that little good would result from doing so until sheep management has been drastically improved.

During 1951, 178 cattle, 893 sheep and 70 pigs were slaughtered for food consumption, compared with 207 cattle, 530 sheep and 95 pigs

in 1949. Sales of meat were 41,171 lb. beef, 14,953 lb. mutton and 11,217 lb. pork. The price of meat at the end of 1951 was: beef and mutton 1s. 4d. per lb. and pork 1s. 6d. per lb.

The price of milk remained at 2s. per gallon at the dairy. The price is very low when present day costs are considered. Only very limited quantities of butter were produced though the demand for fresh butter was much greater than could be satisfied. The price of this butter at the end of 1951 was 3s. 8d. per lb. while imported butter costs 4s. per lb.

FISHERIES

Although fish of many kinds are plentiful in the waters round St. Helena, all attempts to establish a fish canning industry have so far failed.

Fishermen employ about 26 boats for supplying the local market.

The method of fishing is almost entirely by line, and catches have on the whole been good. The commonest fish caught are albacore, tuna, rock-cod, and small mackerel, and the retail price averages about 6d. per lb.

CO-OPERATION

During 1951 the legislation relating to co-operative societies was amended and Rules similar to those in force in other territories were promulgated. The St. Helena Growers' Association, which for many years has been engaged on the marketing of market garden produce, decided towards the end of 1950 to turn itself into a true co-operative with share capital. This experiment has made a good beginning and the society is now feeling its way towards a broadening of its activities.

The total sales of the Society during 1951 were £2,125 5s. 1d., of this £257 4s. 2d. worth of produce were sold to Cable and Wireless Ltd. at Ascension and £509 10s. 8d. to ships calling at the Island. The society now assists its members by supplying vegetable seeds, seed potatoes and agricultural implements.

Chapter 7 : Social Services

EDUCATION

DURING the period under review, the primary school population has remained fairly steady, the figures at the end of 1950 and 1951 being respectively 1,256 and 1,251.

The serious wastage of teaching staff through emigration, which has figured prominently in reports of recent years, abated considerably during this period; a bonus scheme and new scales of cost-of-living allowance were no doubt partly responsible for this, together with the fact that the Department had been obliged to recruit pupil-teachers

at so low an age that the parents were unwilling to allow them to emigrate.

In September, 1950, the first officer to be appointed specifically for teacher-training duties for many years arrived in the Colony. It is already becoming possible to see some improvements in the infant teaching on the Island, although in view of the youthfulness and the very moderate educational standard of most pupil teachers progress must necessarily be slow.

In December, 1950, five pupil teachers completed the four-year course prescribed in accordance with Board of Education Regulations, reached the required standard in examination, and were awarded temporary certificates as assistant teachers. These teachers were the first to complete the course since 1946.

Work towards the revision of the primary school syllabus which had been introduced in 1946, continues and should be completed in 1952. The general standard of work in the primary schools has for the most part been maintained, although work in the Jamestown Senior School (Pilling School) inevitably suffered as a result of the untimely deaths in 1950 of the Headmaster, Mr. William Corker, M.B.E., and the Domestic Science Teacher, Mrs. Constable.

Fifty-seven children attended the secondary school. Largely owing to staff difficulties, progress has been slow; but the school is now settling down and the outlook is more promising.

Good work continues to be done in the schools in handicrafts and, in 1950, an exhibition of work done at all schools was held in the Pilling School, Jamestown, and was generally considered to be the best ever held in the Island in quality and variety. Exhibits included wood-work, woodcarving, lacemaking, embroidery, dressmaking, knitting, felt crafts, soft toy making, school garden products and flax fibre mats.

In April, 1950, it became necessary to suspend the schools meals scheme because of lack of funds; the free distribution of milk to all school children has been continued.

The opening of a new classroom in December, 1950, has improved substantially the accommodation at the overcrowded Jamestown Infant School.

Except during epidemics of influenza, measles and mumps attendance at all schools has continued to be excellent and there has been some abatement of the absenteeism which has always prevailed in two areas of the Island—Longwood and Half Tree Hollow.

HEALTH

The general health of the population remained good until the end of October, 1950, when there occurred one of the most widespread epidemics of influenza the Island has ever suffered. Fortunately the mortality rate was low, but over 90 per cent of the population must have been affected. Then, in January, 1951, an outbreak of measles began and as it was many years since the disease last appeared in the Colony it, too, spread rapidly in the schools and amongst the adult

population, involving about 80 per cent of the Islanders. Again the Colony was fortunate in that the illness was of a mild type and there were comparatively few cases with any complications.

An outbreak of bronchitis followed the measles epidemic and there were quite a number of cases of infantile pneumonia, with two deaths.

Later in 1951 mumps appeared, and as it had not been reported in the Colony for many years almost the whole population was affected and fresh cases still occur. A feature of the mumps epidemic has been the very high percentage of cases with concurrent orchitis. This complication appeared in only one boy of school age, all the other cases being adult males.

The registration of births and deaths is compulsory and the figures are reliable. Vital statistics are given on page 5, but it must be remembered that in dealing with a small population such as this Colony has (total under 5,000) the percentage figures will alter greatly with only a small alteration in any one figure. This is well exemplified in the case of the infant mortality rates:

	1950	1951
Number of Births	136	134
Number of infant deaths	3	10
Birth rate per 1,000	28.99	28.20
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000	22.06	74.60

Maternity and Child Welfare

There were 229 sessions of the Ante-Natal Clinics with 898 attendances and 289 sessions of the Child Welfare Clinics with 6,334 attendances. One hundred and eight children were vaccinated and 85 were immunised.

School Medical Inspection

Every school child was examined at least once during the year.

School Dental Service

The Colony was without a Dental Officer from April till November, 1950, but during 1951, the work has been taken up with energy and brought almost up to date.

Out-Patient Clinics

Five out-patient dispensaries are situated at convenient centres in the Island and are regularly visited by the doctors, who also visit the patients in their own homes when necessary. Statistics of dispensary patients were as follows:

New Cases	5,362
Attendances	14,079
Home Visits	987

Mental Asylum

The number of inmates at this institution has remained almost stationary:

	Male	Female	Total
1950.	2	6	8
1951.	2	5	7

Leper Hospital

The same three adult patients continued to receive treatment in this isolation hospital. Sulphetrone continued to benefit two of the patients but the third developed an idiosyncrasy to the drug and it had to be withheld. Instead he has been given tablets of "D.A.D.P.S." and this drug appears to be doing him good.

General Hospital

There is one hospital in the Colony, situated in Jamestown. After much consideration, it was decided to modernise and extend it on its present site and plans are in course of preparation. Various improvements have already been carried out and it is hoped that a start will be made with the main work during 1952.

The St. Helenian staff nurse who was sent to Britain in 1949 to take the full training of a state registered nurse is making satisfactory progress and it is hoped that, in due course, she will return as a sister. There have also been other changes in the local staff due to emigration and illness.

The number of cases treated in the hospital is as follows:

	1950	1951
Patients admitted	585	483
Patients "carried forward"	11	10
Total number of cases treated	596	493
Deaths in hospital	23	23

The 596 patients spent a total of 7,852 days in hospital in 1950, the 493 patients 6229 days in 1951. The average number of patients per day was 21.50 in 1950 and 17 in 1951. (This average excludes infants born in hospital).

The admissions were made up as follows:

	1950	1951
Adult Male	122	130
Adult Female	147	120
Children	218	164
Maternity	109	179

One hundred and four infants were born alive in hospital in 1950 and 76 in 1951.

There were 135 cases operated on in hospital during 1950, of which 128 were minor cases and seven major; in 1951 the figures showed a slight fall.

SOCIAL WELFARE

There are town and country units of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Brownies, and the annual camps were attended by 83 Scouts and 45 Guides in 1950 and 84 Scouts and 42 Guides in 1951. A small grant is made annually to these movements from Government funds.

The care and relief of the destitute is in the hands of the Poor Relief Board, a statutory body. An annual grant is made to the Board by Government and about twice as much is collected by the Board by means

of rates. The composition of the Board is laid down by Ordinance; it consists of two Government officials nominated by the Governor, two members of the Advisory Council nominated by the Governor and two elected ratepayers. There is at all times a ratepayers' majority on the Board.

The Board maintained a poor house with 20 and 24 inmates respectively in 1950 and 1951 and a mental asylum with eight patients in 1950 and seven in 1951.

There are six friendly societies with a total membership of approximately 2,700. The functions of these societies differ, some providing for sick relief pay, some for burial and others for both these services. They are subject to control by regulation under the Friendly Societies Ordinance, No. 1 of 1939.

During 1950 and 1951, seven St. Helenian girls left the Island to take up employment as ward maids in United Kingdom hospitals under a scheme sponsored by Her Majesty's Government.

HOUSING

Owing to the very heavy commitments on other works, mainly the rehabilitation of mills, work on the housing scheme was at a standstill during 1950. Work was re-started during the early part of 1951 and has been speeded up as the work on the mills decreased, although only one house was actually completed and occupied during this period.

Thompson's Yard, Jamestown, a small slum area which housed over 30 persons in several small, tumble-down buildings was completely demolished and work commenced on the erection of two pairs of two-storey houses. By the end of 1951 these houses were almost ready for occupation.

At the end of 1951 work was begun on clearing a disused cemetery at China Lane for the erection of a further six houses of the same type as at Thompson's Yard.

It is anticipated that the Housing programme will be speeded up during 1952.

Building Loans

Assistance has been given to a considerable number of Islanders who are building their own homes; this has been in the form of issues of building materials from the Public Works Department on easy repayment terms.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

The following legislation enacted during 1950 and 1951 is of interest:

1950

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ordinance No. 2 | Wild Life (Tristan da Cunha) Protection Ordinance protects absolutely certain species of birds and provides for the hunting of other game to be controlled. |
| " " | 3 Exchange Control (Exports) Ordinance prohibits the export of goods to countries outside the sterling area, except with the permission of the competent authority. It applies to Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. |
| " " | 6 Entertainment Tax (Consolidation) Ordinance consolidates the pre-existing law on the subject. |
| " " | 7 Pensions Consolidation (Amendment) Ordinance recognises various new offices as pensionable and also recognises death resulting from an aircraft accident when travelling on duty as a circumstance qualifying for benefits under the principal Ordinance. |
| " " | 10 Births and Deaths (Registration) (Amendment) Ordinance requires the registration of still-births, reduces from 42 days to 21 days the period of grace allowed for the registration of a birth and improves the drafting of various Sections of the principal Ordinance. |
| " " | 11 Consular Conventions Ordinance provides that when H. M. Government has concluded a Consular Convention with a Foreign State, the privileges mutually conferred shall be enjoyed by any Consular Officer of such state as may be exercising his functions in St. Helena. |
| " " | 14 Dilapidated Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance simplifies the procedure for dealing with a building in a dangerous state and repeals the provision whereby the Colonial Surveyor formerly received fees from private individuals for his services. |

1951

- Ordinance No. 1 Phormium Mills Fund (Amendment) Ordinance abolishes the cess on exports of *Phormium tenax* fibre. The cess had been imposed to form a fund for replacing, renewing, repairing or improving the plant and buildings used in the phormium milling industry.
- „ „ 2 Exchange Control Ordinance applies to the Colony and its Dependencies as many of the provisions of the Model Exchange Control Ordinance as have practical application in local conditions.
- „ „ 3 Contracts of Service Ordinance makes it unlawful to induce any person to enter employment overseas except under an agreement providing for adequate wages and other conditions of employment, including the provision of free passages to and from the place of work.
- „ „ 6 Minerals (Vesting) Ordinance vests in the Crown all minerals under whomsoever's land they lie. Provision is made for the payment of royalties to the landowners under whose land minerals may be found. The Ordinance applies to Ascension.
- „ „ 9 Liquor (Licensing) (Amendment) Ordinance introduces a club liquor licence and extends the closing hours in hotels for non-resident patrons who have lunched or dined.
- „ „ 11 Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance governs the introduction of a complete revision of the Colony's laws.
- „ „ 13 Tristan da Cunha Ordinances (Application) (Amendment) Ordinance applies as much of the Post Office Ordinance, 1898, as is necessary to enable Tristan da Cunha to operate a postal service.
- „ „ 15 Road Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance makes it an offence for any person to do anything which may vitiate the third party insurance policy which is required to be taken out under the principal Ordinance.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The judicial organisation consists of :

The Supreme Court. The Governor as Acting Chief Justice presides over this Court. Appendix III analyses the cases resulting in conviction in the Supreme Court from 1942 to 1951.

The Magistrate's Court. The Government Secretary is the 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 Court hears civil cases for the recovery of debts below £25.

The Juvenile Court. This is held by the Magistrate or Justices, and 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.

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

All judicial posts are honorary and unpaid.

Statistics showing the analyses of all cases resulting in conviction over the last ten years are shown in Appendix IV.

POLICE

The Police Force consists of a European Superintendent of Police with a locally enlisted establishment of two sergeants, four constables first class and six constables second class. Two second class constables are stationed at Ascension and are relieved at intervals of 12 months.

PRISON

The prison is situated in Jamestown and has three large cells and modern bath and sanitary arrangements. There is a women's wing with accommodation for two females with adjacent quarters for the Prison Warder and Matron. There is a large sitting-room and a separate dining-room. Papers from the Public Library are made available to the prisoners. The prison is visited monthly by the Governor and the Government Secretary separately, and weekly by the Medical Officer. All Justices of the Peace and members of the Advisory Council are official visitors to the gaol. No cases requiring prison disciplinary action have been dealt with for some years.

There were no deaths in prison.

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities

Water

The water supplies of the Island were well maintained during 1950 and 1951. It was not found necessary to impose any restriction on the use of water during this period. Ships requiring water were supplied in full.

Many improvements were made to the supplies, the main items being the improvement and extension of the Half Tree Hollow water supply to Cleugh's Plain to serve a number of householders who previously had no piped supply, and during at least half the year had to carry water nearly half a mile when their rainwater tanks failed. This work was carried out under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme.

A 100,000-gallon concrete storage tank and filter beds were constructed under another scheme to improve the supplies to the Deadwood and Longwood area. This improvement should obviate the necessity of restricting supplies during the dry seasons.

Several extensions to the Longwood-Deadwood service were made, thereby saving many householders the necessity of carrying water for considerable distances over very hilly paths.

Lighting

There is an electric lighting system in Jamestown only, the charge being 5s. a month for each point. Elsewhere, apart from privately-owned lighting plants, pressure lamps and ordinary paraffin lamps are in general use.

Transport

There is no public transport system, but privately-owned taxis and buses are available for hire.

Telephones

There is one exchange with a capacity of 75 lines of which 65 are in use. The lines are by underground cable from the exchange to various points in the Island and thereafter by over-head wires. The system is owned by Government, and the staff consists of three operators and one linesman with an apprentice. A 24-hour service is provided, the annual charge per subscriber being £6 10s. Public call offices charge 4d. per call between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.; and 6d. per call outside those hours.

Broadcasting

There are about 200 radio receivers in the Island. There is no local broadcasting station.

Chapter 11 : Communications

Shipping

Twenty-eight merchant ships of a total tonnage of 213,340 called during 1951, 11 being *en route* to South African ports, 15 to the United Kingdom and 2 to the United States of America; H.M.S. *Bermuda* also visited the Colony in December, 1951.

The only port in St. Helena is Jamestown which is an open roadstead with good anchorages for ships of any size. The port of Ascension is Georgetown.

Roads

There are 64½ miles of motor roads on the Island the majority of which are now usable by motor traffic in all weather. Work on the roads has proceeded continuously during 1950 and 1951. Many miles of the more important roads have been remade, while much work has also been done on secondary roads.

The roads are suitable for most cars and lorries in spite of steep gradients and numerous hairpin bends.

The eight miles of tarred roads have stood up well during this period, resurfacing having been carried out as required to approximately one-third of this mileage. It has been found that tarred roads need a light re-surface treatment at approximately three to four year intervals to keep them in good order.

Post and Telegraphs

There is one Postal and Money Order Office situated in Jamestown. Telegrams are accepted by Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd.

In October, 1951, the postal rates for parcels to the United Kingdom and foreign countries were increased.

All King George V. postage and revenue stamps were invalidated in April, 1951.

Surface mails are carried by the Union Castle intermediate steamers and arrive approximately at four-weekly intervals from the United Kingdom and similarly from South Africa.

There is an arrangement whereby air mails and air letters may be sent to South Africa and the United Kingdom by surface mail for onward transmission by air to destinations beyond those countries. During 1949 arrangements were concluded for air mail destined for the Island to be forwarded from South Africa and the United Kingdom by sea.

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

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 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.

St. Helena, although within the tropics, enjoys a mild and equable climate owing to the constant south-east trade winds. At Jamestown the maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 90° and the minimum is rarely below 57° while upland temperatures average 10° lower.

Rainfall figures (in inches) over the past ten years are as follows:

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Plantation	30.88	32.76	27.97	31.21	30.30	41.19	33.61	32.98	38.45	34.42
Hutts Gate	30.95	28.05	21.44	25.28	23.03	42.26	33.23	33.04	43.23	37.33
Briars	16.96	16.32	18.41	16.10	17.91	25.70	21.44	21.59	27.48	19.81
Jamestown	6.29	5.57	7.54	6.44	5.67	9.26	8.33	6.39	17.19	6.39

The St. Helena Meteorological Station at Hutt's Gate (2,066 feet) recorded the following observations during 1950:

Months	Amt. of Cloud	Rainfall inches			Weather No. of days of				Wind No. of observations of						
	Mean	Total	Max.	Date	Rain	Fog	Clear Sky	Over-cast	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	Calm
January	7.3	2.76	.59	15	17	6	4	4	1	1	1	55	35	1	1
February	7.3	5.52	1.08	12	24	3	2	2	1	1	1	39	61	10	1
March	7.4	7.54	1.58	21	23	2	2	4	1	1	3	62	66	2	1
April	7.1	3.48	.87	6	19	4	5	5	1	3	5	46	63	3	1
May	7.0	3.09	.43	10	17	2	4	8	1	1	1	61	61	1	1
June	6.5	3.04	.73	30	20	4	5	1	5	4	3	50	53	2	1
July	7.6	6.89	.75	27	28	2	0	1	1	1	7	61	56	1	1
August	7.4	3.43	.79	22	17	5	4	5	1	1	2	68	51	3	1
September	7.6	3.37	.45	30	23	4	0	4	1	1	1	58	63	1	1
October	7.7	1.22	.2	26	15	5	0	11	1	1	1	39	85	3	1
November	7.4	1.07	.23	6	17	8	3	2	1	1	6	49	50	3	1
December	7.5	1.82	.27	16	20	2	1	8	1	1	4	50	69	1	1
TOTAL	87.8	43.23			240	47	30	55	5	11	33	633	813	26	1

Months	Mean Pressure	Air Temperatures						Tension of Vapour	Relative Humidity	
		Means of Absolute Minimum and			Maximum					
		Mean	Min.	Max.	Min.	Date	Max.	Date	Mean	Mean
January	1012.8	63.2	59.8	66.3	58	8	74	31	17.7	90.3
February	1013.3	65.1	62.3	71.1	60	15	79	2	19.5	71.1
March	1013.0	64.9	62.7	67.7	61	31	75	10	19.8	94.7
April	1013.6	64.9	61.3	68.0	60	29	79	17	19.2	92.9
May	1015.5	62.0	59.3	65.2	57	25	71	31	17.4	92.9
June	1016.3	60.2	57.1	63.5	55	29	73	2	16.1	90.5
July	1018.8	57.4	55.3	59.3	53	31	65	20	15.1	94.6
August	1018.7	56.5	54.3	59.1	52	16	66	24	14.4	91.9
September	1018.9	56.1	54.1	58.2	52	16	64	25	14.4	93.3
October	1016.8	56.5	54.3	59.1	53	27	70	8	14.5	92.4
November	1015.1	57.6	54.5	60.7	53	19	71	19	14.5	89.6
December	1015.0	59.5	56.6	62.7	55	22	69	2	15.7	90.7
TOTAL	12187.8	723.9	691.6	760.9	669		856		198.3	1084.9
AVERAGE	1015.7	60.3	57.6	63.4	55.8		71.3		16.5	90.4

Observations for 1951 were as follows:

Months	Amt. of Cloud	Rainfall inches			Weather No. of days of				Wind No. of observations of								
		Total	Max.	Date	Rain	Fog	Clear Sky	Over-cast	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Calm
January	6.8	1.92	0.32	6	18	6	3	5	1	3	3	47	63	4	1	4	
February	7.1	6.30	0.84	6	22	3	0	2	1	1	1	41	60	5	1	1	
March	7.0	4.03	0.44	1	26	2	0	3	1	1	1	51	61	5	1	2	
April	6.2	2.30	0.34	15	21	3	3	1	1	1	6	43	63	3	1	1	
May	7.0	2.95	0.29	15	28	2	0	1	1	1	10	67	40	2	1	4	
June	6.9	4.79	0.97	16	26	3	0	1	1	1	11	63	41	4	1	1	
July	7.3	3.83	0.59	28	18	8	1	8	1	1	8	48	54	13	1	1	
August	7.3	3.37	0.64	31	20	4	1	6	1	1	7	12	34	37	1	1	
September	7.0	1.99	0.29	11	17	17	3	13	1	1	14	80	25	1	1	1	
October	7.4	1.97	0.26	1	21	7	2	8	1	2	18	68	35	1	1	1	
November	7.8	1.68	0.27	23	15	15	0	18	1	1	4	75	41	1	1	1	
December	7.4	2.20	0.38	20	20	0	2	10	1	1	3	72	49	1	1	1	
TOTAL	85.2	37.33			252	82	15	75	1	17	99	709	569	38	5	2	15

Months	Mean Pressure	Air Temperatures						Tension of Vapour	Relative Humidity	
		Means of Absolute Minimum and			Maximum					
		Mean	Min.	Max.	Min.	Date	Max.	Date	Mean	Mean
January	1014.6	61.5	58.1	65.1	55	16	76	19	16.4	89.1
February	1013.6	63.9	61.3	66.9	58	1	75	4	19.6	93.5
March	1013.1	64.0	61.7	66.9	60	23	76	6	18.9	93.0
April	1014.9	63.7	60.4	65.3	58	21	75	21	18.1	90.0
May	1016.1	61.6	59.1	64.2	56	26	71	10	16.9	90.3
June	1018.1	59.1	56.7	61.7	54	27	68	2	15.5	90.4
July	1019.3	57.5	55.3	59.8	53	30	66	13	14.7	90.9
August	1017.9	57.4	54.7	60.1	52	10	69	12	14.4	89.8
September	1017.5	57.0	54.5	59.5	52	30	66	7	14.5	91.9
October	1016.7	56.7	54.3	59.3	52	4	71	23	14.3	91.7
November	1015.7	58.6	56.6	62.0	54	10	71	9	15.2	90.4
December	1015.3	59.9	57.5	62.8	55	3	68	27	16.5	93.7
TOTAL	12192.8	720.9	690.2	753.6	659		852		195.0	1094.7
AVERAGE	1016.1	60.1	57.5	61.9	55		71		16.2	91.2

Chapter 2 : History

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

The Portuguese kept the discovery of the Island a secret and used it as a port of call for their East India Fleet. However, in 1588 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.

On 5th 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 May, 1821.

On 22nd April, 1834, the Island was brought under the direct government of the Crown after the 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*, with the Prince of Joinville on board removed Napoleon's remains to France.

The first Bishop of St. Helena, Dr. Piers C. Claughton, landed on 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 is 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 4th August, 1925, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales landed from H.M.S. *Repulse* and remained on the Island for two days.

On 29th April, 1947, Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Margaret, landed from H.M.S. *Vanguard* and toured the Island. His Majesty presented the Colony with his Royal Standard as a memento of this unofficial visit.

Chapter 3 : 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 Her Majesty in Council to legislate by Order.

The Executive Council consists of the Government Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer as *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 Colony. Two Councillors are appointed from nominees submitted by the Friendly Societies and one Councillor represents the interests of the Phormium flax industry.

Under the provisions of the Poor Relief Ordinance, No. 4 of 1940, a Board was created with powers to impose and collect local rates on immovable property. The Board is responsible for the maintenance of the poor house and mental asylum and for outdoor relief of the poor and distressed. The Board also carries out duties of a municipal nature, such as control of the Public Market and slaughter-house and street lighting. The Board consists of two official members nominated by the Governor, two ratepaying members of Advisory Council nominated by the Governor, and two ratepayers elected by the ratepayers at their annual meeting; there is, therefore, a non-official majority. The chairman is nominated by the Governor from amongst the members.

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

THE law relating to weights and measures is governed by Ordinance No. 6 of 1905. Imperial weights and measures are in use.

The Superintendent of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures, and undertakes all necessary inspections.

Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

THERE are no newspapers. The *St. Helena Magazine* which had been published monthly since 1921 by the Reverend Canon L. C. Walcott ceased publication after his death in April, 1951.

The *Official Gazette* was published periodically at 6d. per copy. The Information Officer publishes a weekly news sheet compiled from B.B.C. news bulletins.

PART IV

Ascension

Geography and Climate

The Island of Ascension lies in the South Atlantic in latitude 7° 56' south and longitude 14° 25' west and has an area of some 34 square miles. The Island is a barren, rocky peak of volcanic origin and destitute of vegetation except at the top of the peak called Green Mountain (height 2,870 feet), but despite this the land supports considerable livestock.

The climate is definitely tropical but dry. Rainfall in 1950 was 7.2 inches in Georgetown and 26.9 inches on Green Mountain whilst in 1951 only 3.14 inches were recorded in Georgetown and 25.1 inches on Green Mountain. In Georgetown the maximum temperature recorded in 1950 was 92°F. and minimum 69°F. In 1951, temperatures recorded were slightly lower.

The phenomenon known as "rollers," when very heavy swells are experienced was reported on only 10 occasions during 1950, but in 1951 the "rollers" were reported 38 times, including very large "rollers" on 16 occasions.

History

The Island was discovered on Ascension Day by a Portuguese navigator and remained uninhabited until after the arrival of Napoleon in St. Helena in 1815 when a Naval garrison was placed there. The Island was under the supervision of the Admiralty until it was made a Dependency of St. Helena by Letters Patent dated 12th September, 1922, and placed in the control of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Administration

The administration of the Island is a purely domestic affair as there are no inhabitants unconnected with Cable and Wireless, Limited, other than two constables. The Government of St. Helena is represented by the Manager of the Company, who is appointed by the Governor as Resident Magistrate, and another selected officer of the Company who is appointed Justice of the Peace, and two St. Helena police constables. The Resident Magistrate is responsible for law and order in the Dependency.

Postal work is undertaken by the wife of a member of the Company, appointed by the Governor.

Population

In 1950, the European employees of Cable and Wireless, together with their families, totalled 46 (25 males and 21 females) and St. Helenian employees, with their families, including domestics, amounted

to 111 men and 16 women. With the two St. Helenian policemen and the wife of one of them, the total was 176. There was one death in 1950 and no marriages. Three births were registered, two male Europeans and one female St. Helenian.

In 1951, the total population was 174, composed of 47 Europeans and 127 St. Helenians. There were no marriages and no deaths. Two births were registered, one male European and one female St. Helenian.

Health

The Company has a medical officer and during 1950 he paid 100 visits and treated 758 patients. In 1951, the figures were 145 visits and a total of 437 patients treated. The health of the community was good and there were no serious illnesses or accidents. There was an epidemic of influenza in October, 1950.

Agriculture

A farm is maintained by the Company on Green Mountain and the following are the figures of stock:

	1950	1951		1950	1951
Bulls	1	1	Boars	1	1
Cows	7	7	Sows	5	5
Heifers	3	2	Store Pigs	14	5
Steers	1	5	Piglets	13	4
Yearlings	5	Nil	Donkeys	5	4
Calves	5	8			

Sheep and lambs were estimated at 760 in 1950 and 750 in 1951.

The farm produced the following quantities of foodstuffs during 1950 and 1951:

	1950	1951
Meat	6,751 lb.	10,150 lb.
Bananas	12,648	12,686
Granadillas	60	Nil
Pawpaws	24	106
Vegetables	17,895 lb.	29,800 lb.
Milk	14,496 pints	22,150 pints
Potatoes (new)	10,966 lb.	15,860 lb.
Potatoes (sweet)	79,000 lb.	82,930 lb.

Animals Slaughtered

	1950	1951
Pigs	30	25
Cattle	1	3
Sheep	116	225

Wild Life

There are some wild donkeys, rabbits, wild cats and a few goats. A few partridges exist. Only rabbits and wild cats are permitted to be shot.

Sea-bird life is very plentiful; in particular the Island is famed for the vast numbers of the Wide-awake or Hack-backed tern (*Sterna fuliginosa*) which breed there.

All wild life is rigidly protected by Ordinance. Turtles abound at certain seasons and the catching of them is controlled by licence.

The waters around the Island teem with fish; shark are very numerous as are also barracuda, tuna, bonito and a local small fish in multitudes called Black fish.

Visitors

The Governor visited the Island from 6th to 11th July, 1951. His Lordship the Bishop of St. Helena paid a visit in May, 1950 and again early in 1951 for another month.

H.M.S. *Bermuda* visited the Island from 8th to 10th December, 1951. A Danish Naval Training Ship *Danmark* was present for three days in January, 1951. Two yachts called at different times during 1951.

PART V

Tristan Da Cunha

General Review

TRISTAN DA CUNHA has now had nearly ten years of renewed contact with the outside world, bringing with it experience of money, medicine, machines, and the other trappings of civilisation. But it must be remembered that the period of complete isolation which preceded the arrival of the Naval Garrison in 1942, during which visits of ships or of people who had not lived all their lives on the island were few and far between, had exceeded a quarter of a century, a period, moreover, covering great advances in trade and technology, as well as the first World War. But even the naval occupation did not play any very great part in the life of the ordinary islander, and it was not until the advent of the Fishing Company in 1949 that the opportunity really recurred of re-establishing island life on the basis of trade and monetary economy, a regular inter-change of ideas and information and the comings and goings of all types of people—a situation which had not existed since the palmy days of whaling well beyond the memory of any but the very oldest. It is not perhaps, therefore, surprising that progress has been to a certain extent slow and stumbling.

While therefore the advent of the Fishing Company in 1949 offered the islander the chance of economic independence and the incentive to work for wages in order to acquire not only imported foodstuffs and clothing but such novelties as gramophones and accordions, it must be remembered that he had been conditioned by many years of charity

to assume that his wants would ultimately be taken care of without any effort on his own part, and to avoid looking too far into the future. This partially explains his inability to link the success of the Fishing Company with his own future welfare, and his attempt to have the best of both worlds by fishing only at his own convenience. It must also be remembered that the Company itself has had a number of setbacks, particularly with the earlier vessel M.V. *Pequena*, which were not calculated to give the islander confidence.

Nonetheless, although it is still mainly true that the habits and outlook of the islander have shown little change during the past two years, and that no responsible leadership has evolved, the figures of increased earnings, output, and purchases in 1951, and a growing interest in new things show that something has been achieved, and that willy nilly the islander is becoming habituated to a new way of life. Perhaps 10 per cent of the total employment roll, principally the mechanics, handymen, and domestic servants, can be said to have adopted new standards and to take some pleasure and pride in their work and what they can do with their earnings. It is common enough for mankind to forget the bad and remember only the good, and certainly the memory of the long years of isolation is no bogey for the average islander. But if patience and willingness to make the best use of human material can be maintained, and attention is constantly directed to building up incentives, there is every hope that the potential prosperity of Tristan inherent in its rich fishing beds will be realised, without impairing the well-balanced indigenous economy built up over the last 125 years.

Geography and Climate

The main island, which is about 2,000 miles west of Cape Town and 1,500 miles south-south-west of St. Helena, is a volcanic cone 6,760 feet high with a crater lake near the summit and numerous subsidiary craters, set on a roughly rectangular plinth which is bounded by precipices of one or two thousand feet in height. Below these precipices are a number of plateaus on the largest of which, on the north-west of the island, is situated the Settlement of Edinburgh (the only permanently inhabited locality in the group). The island is nearly circular in shape with an area of 40 square miles. Below 5,000 feet the island is thickly covered with vegetation, the eastern half being densely wooded. Permanent springs provide the settlement with abundant water.

The uninhabited islands of the group are Inaccessible and Nightingale, about 20 miles west-south-west and south-south-west respectively of Tristan, and Gough Island, 230 miles south-south-west. Inaccessible is rather like Tristan in appearance with precipices rising from small coastal plateaus in the north and elsewhere from very narrow beaches; it is three miles by one and a half miles in area. Nightingale is only one mile by three-quarters of a mile in area; it is covered by dense tussock grass and there are a few patches of woodland round the two peaks, the taller of which rises to 1,200 feet. Adjoining Nightingale are two small islets to the north, Middle and Stoltenhoff. Gough Island has an area of 35 square miles and is well wooded and watered.

All the islands are surrounded by extensive beds of kelp which have some effect in moderating the swell. In the absence of any sheltered inlets or anchorages, landing is wholly dependent on there being sufficient lee.

The climate is temperate and typically oceanic, with a well distributed rainfall, rather high humidity, tendency to strong winds and to rapid changes of weather and temperature.

Regular weather observations were first made by the Norwegian Scientific Expedition in 1938. In 1942 a meteorological station was established by the Royal Navy which was taken over by the South African Government after the war. The maximum temperature recorded since 1942 is 78.1 degrees Fahrenheit and the minimum 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall averages about 66 inches a year.

Between June and October the upper part of the Peak is often snow covered and sleety snow and hail are occasionally experienced to sea level. Thunderstorms are rare, but violent gales occur three to four times a year.

History and Administration

The islands were discovered by a Portuguese fleet under the command of Admiral Tristao da Cunha in March, 1506, and first sighted by a British vessel, *The Globe*, in 1610. The first recorded landing was by a party from the Dutch ship *Heemstede* on 7th February, 1643.

In 1655 an expedition was sent by Van Riebeeck, Governor of the Cape, to make a thorough exploration of the potentialities of the islands, but reported unfavourably, as did a Dutch East India Company survey in 1696. The East India Company had also planned an expedition in 1684 which came to nothing, and it was not until 1760 that the English captain Nightingale is presumed at least to have landed at the island which now bears his name. In 1790 a party of American sealers spent seven months ashore and traces of their encampment were found by a French expedition of 1793, which made the first favourable report on the islands.

On 27th December, 1810, three Americans settled on Tristan, which since then has never been without inhabitants, though by 1812 their number was for a time reduced to one. These settlers, after a short-lived show of independence, had sought British protection, but it was not till Napoleon's exile to St. Helena that on 14th August, 1816, H.M.S. *Falmouth* landed a small British garrison and laid formal claim to the islands. The garrison was withdrawn in 1817, and the flag hauled down, but three of them headed by Corporal William Glass of Kelso, Scotland, his wife and two children, elected to remain and founded the present colony.

Its status remained somewhat uncertain until 1876, when an Order in Council, declaring Tristan da Cunha and its subsidiary islands to be under the British Crown and making some provision as to judicial supervision by visiting naval vessels, was drafted and acted upon, though the Order was never formally completed. By this time the population had increased to 85; new settlers included English, Dutch,

American and St. Helenian elements (to which a few years later were added strong Italian and Irish strains).

The years from 1817 to 1876 had been prosperous, frequent contact with the outside world being maintained through the visits of whalers, East Indiamen and men-o'-war. Outstanding events of the period had been the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh (after whom the Settlement was named) in 1867, and the despatch to the island by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel of the first missionary and teacher, the Reverend W. F. Taylor, who stayed from 1851 to 1857. He was not, however, replaced until 1881 when the Reverend E. H. Dodgson, brother of Lewis Carroll, was appointed and stayed till 1884, returning again for three more years in 1886 after receiving the news of the Boat Disaster of 1885.

This significant event, which involved the disappearance of 15 men on their way to or from a passing ship, marked the beginning of decline. The loss of most of the able-bodied men was in fact less responsible for this decline than the infestation of the island by rats dating from a shipwreck in 1882, and the extermination of most of the seals and whales. As early as 1888 the replacement of sail by steam had resulted in only five ships being sighted in a full year.

By 1904 the population was down to 71. No mail was received from England between 1906 and 1916. Finally the Reverend J. G. Barrow, who served on the island from 1906 to 1909, was not replaced until 1922. From that date a missionary teacher has been maintained on the island with only short breaks. But the deterioration resulting from nearly half a century's isolation and dependence on charity, marked by illiteracy and pauperisation and accentuated by increasing population with no parallel increase of resources, is still far from being overcome.

In 1932 the Reverend A. G. Partridge, who was on his second tour of service, was officially recognised as Honorary Commissioner and Magistrate (a step taken because a Brazilian scientific expedition, which never materialised, was due to visit the islands). In this capacity he appointed a headman and headwoman and set up an Island Council to which leading citizens were nominated. These appointments have since been continued.

By Letters Patent dated 12th January, 1938, the status of Tristan da Cunha including Nightingale, Inaccessible and Gough Islands, was finally clarified, when they were made dependencies of St. Helena. It is of interest to note that Tristan has belonged to the Diocese of St. Helena since 1859, but that it is now proposed that the island should revert to the Archbishopial Diocese of Cape Town.

In 1937-38 a Norwegian Scientific Expedition visited the islands for four months and the first accurate survey of the main island was completed by Mr. A. B. Crawford, an Englishman attached to the expedition. In 1942 a unit of the South African Defence Force built a meteorological and wireless station which was manned for the duration of the war by the Royal Navy. After the war it was taken over and maintained by the South African Government.

The opening of this station not only brought to an end the period of the island's isolation but paved the way to freedom from dependence on charity; for it was the Royal Navy chaplain, the Reverend C. P. Lawrence, who recognised the possibilities of a crayfish industry at Tristan. Largely owing to his efforts an agreement for the development of this industry was concluded with a South African company on 9th December, 1948, following an exploratory expedition at the beginning of the year. The agreement led to the appointment of an Administrator, following the enactment of St. Helena Ordinance No. 8 of 1948. The application of certain laws of St. Helena was provided for under Ordinance No. 3 of 1949.

On 25th January, 1949, the Tristan Exploration Company (now the Tristan da Cunha Development Company) began its operations. The S.P.G. Chaplain, the Reverend D. I. Luard, was appointed the first Acting Administrator. The substantive Administrator, Mr. H. F. I. Elliott, took up his duties on 31st January, 1950. The existing semi-official Island Council was re-organised; its members comprise 10 men and five women, the Headman, the Headwoman, the Resident Chaplain, Company representatives and the Administrator, and it has an Island Council Fund to cover local revenue and expenditure. Legislation has since been enacted giving legal sanction to the Island Council and empowering the Administrator to make and enforce bye-laws and to levy local rates and taxes.

Finance

There is a Tristan Administration Fund for general administrative purposes, an Island Council Fund, and a Trust Fund.

During the years under review, almost the sole source of revenue of the Administration Fund has been the minimum annual payment of £1,500 by the Development Company under the terms of the concession. From this amount must be paid the Administrator's salary, general administrative expenditure, and contributions to the Trust Fund. On 31st December, 1951, the balance of the Administration Fund stood at £225 19s. 11d. With the introduction of full postal services on 1st January, 1952, considerably increased revenues will accrue to the Fund.

The Island Council Fund corresponds to a local government fund and was set up primarily to administer the cess of 6d. per case of canned crawfish, or 3d. per case of frozen tails, which is payable by the Company under the terms of the concession "for the social benefit and betterment of the Islanders." Revenue from the cess in 1950 was £177 11s. 3d. (including some payments from 1949 catches) and in 1951 £148. With the enactment of the Bye Laws Ordinance, the Fund will have an additional source of revenue from local rates and taxes and, occasionally, fines. During the two years under review the Fund has spent money on medical and educational supplies and incidentals, agricultural supplies and equipment, roads and water supplies. At 31st December, 1951, the Fund had a balance of £52 5s. 6d.

A Deed of Trust was completed towards the end of 1951 establishing a Trust Fund in South Africa for the provision of scholarships, the

construction and maintenance of communal buildings, the provision of special medical treatment and similar objects. The main source of revenue consists of grants authorised by the Secretary of State from the Administration Fund. The Trustees consist of nominees of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the Tristan da Cunha Development Company.

Population

There were 270 people on the island on 31st December, 1951, compared with 266 in 1950. In 1951 there were five births and three deaths among the islanders, compared with four births and no deaths in 1950. There were two marriages in 1951—the first for nearly two years. The deaths included that of the oldest woman aged 83 whose mother, a daughter of Corporal William Glass, was born in 1821, only four years after the founding of the Colony. There were two non-islander births in 1951, but one child died a few minutes after birth.

The population at 31st December, 1950 and 1951, was as follows (children are taken as 15 years—the school-leaving age—or under):

	ISLANDERS						NON-ISLANDERS					
	Adults		Children		Total	Adults		Children		Total		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F			
1950	84	73	35	48	240	10	9	4	3	26		
1951	89	74	32	47	242	15	8	4	1	28		

The number of islanders in six selected years between 1851 and 1951 was as follows:

1851	1880	1901	1925	1939	1951
85	102	73	135	c.180	242

There are 63 island families housed in 46 separate buildings.

Health

There were 1,213 cases of illness in 1951 compared with 634 in 1950; they were mainly trivial complaints, but there was an epidemic of chickenpox and influenza in December/January, 1950-51 and a severe outbreak of influenza in November/December, 1951, which tended to develop into broncho-pneumonia. These outbreaks have always occurred after the arrival of a ship; and this lack of immunity to ship-borne infection, which is apt to incapacitate a large proportion of the labour force when it is most needed, is a major problem and very far from solution.

Emergency hospital accommodation was provided in June, 1951, and paid for by the Trust Fund; it consists of an operating theatre, a two-bed ward and a small kitchen.

Education

There is one school—St. Mary's—which was attended by an average of 59 children in 1951 and 56 in 1950. The school is under the control of the S.P.G. and the resident chaplain is the manager. Progress in school subjects is slow and is partly due to the smallness and isolation of the

community and partly to the difficulty of teaching children of such different ages (5 to 15) and abilities with a limited staff. There is also great difficulty in maintaining a reasonable standard of literacy among the adults; the night school was closed for lack of patronage. During the years under review there has been only one full-time paid teacher who has been assisted to a varying degree by voluntary helpers. A Colonial Development and Welfare grant has, however, now been authorised, providing the salary of a second teacher.

Law and Order

The Administrator is the Magistrate. No cases came before him in 1950 and 1951. There is a certain amount of petty pilfering and breaches of regulations, but it is difficult to catch offenders. There is neither police nor prison on the island, but it is hoped that in time the Island Council which now has power to make and enforce bye-laws will win the support of the islanders in preventing petty crime.

Agriculture

The island's staple crop is potatoes, which are grown on the level shelf at the north-west of the island, known as the Potato Patches. The 1950 crop was very fair, but severe gales towards the end of 1950 caused such damage that the potato harvest in February, 1951, was the worst for many years. Some families had run out of eating potatoes by August and the rest by October; but what would have been a disaster in earlier years was prevented by the availability of flour in the Canteen operated by the Fishing Company, and no actual hardship resulted.

By the terms of its concession, the Fishing Company is required to maintain an agriculturist on the island to advise the islanders on methods of cultivation and production, and to run a non-profit-making farm with the object of augmenting the islanders' food supplies to the extent to which these are depleted through their employment on the Company's fishing activities. This farm is at Sandy Point, at the extreme east of the island, where about seven acres of ground have been cleared and cultivated. Potatoes planted here, mainly imported varieties with a view to establishing a seed potato industry, escaped the heavy gales in November, 1950, and prolific yields of over 50 to 1 were obtained from some strains. Unfortunately however a 2 per cent leaf-roll virus infection was discovered in the sample sent to South Africa, and the development of this export trade must await further research into whether this infection can be eliminated. The island potato is resistant to disease, and as a result of demonstrations of improved methods of cultivation and pest control at Sandy Point, and of favourable weather, a record potato harvest is expected from the Patches in 1952.

Other useful work done at Sandy Point was the establishment of 2,500 Insignis Pine seedlings for eventual use as windbreaks, the growing of vegetables, the planting of 34 tested and certified apple trees, the pruning and pest-control of the islander's apple and peach trees which led to greatly increased crops, and a successful experiment in the cultivation of high quality flowers, especially gladioli and other bulbs. Despite

this good work, the future of Sandy Point Farm is at present under review, chiefly because of the difficulty and expense of communications. Estimated numbers of livestock for the two years were as follows:

	Settlement		Sandy Point		Stoney Beach and Cave Point		Inaccessible Island		Anchor Stock		The Peak		Total	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
Cattle	150	165	14	20	100	90	2	5					266	280
Sheep	400	450					75	80	50	70	100	120	625	720
Goats													20	25
Donkeys													60	50
Pig													1	1
Geese													200	250
Fowls													400	350
Ducks													10	5

Rewards were offered for every wild goat killed, but up to the end of the year none of the hunting parties had been successful. Two dozen certified Rhode Island Red and Australorp fowls were imported with the object of restoring declining yields and improving local stock. The presence of too many geese and donkeys and the gathering of all cattle dung for manure has led to some impoverishment of pasture near the Settlement, but it is hoped to effect an improvement by the development of winter pasturage at Sandy Point.

The Fishing Industry, Wages, and Employment

As already mentioned, the Tristan Exploration Company (now the Tristan da Cunha Development Company) began operations in 1949, following on the conclusion of a concession Agreement on 9th December, 1948. Under this Agreement the Company was granted the fishing rights in Tristan waters for a period of 15 years, which has since been extended to 25 years. In return, in addition to rent and royalties and certain other commitments, the Company undertook to provide for the benefit of the islanders the services of a doctor, nurse, and agriculturalist, and the salary of a teacher to be appointed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

The principal catch is the Tristan crawfish, which is sold mainly to American markets. Owing to bad weather during the southern winter, fishing by ocean-going vessels is confined to the period between late August and early May. In 1950, as a result of the operations of the Company's vessel *M.V. Pequena*, 118,497 lb. of frozen tails were exported, valued at £13,540 on the basis of a selling price of £4 per 35 lb. case. The *Pequena*, however, had not proved entirely reliable or suitable, and following on the participation of the Colonial Development Corporation, who became majority shareholders in the undertaking, 1951 saw the introduction of a larger vessel, the *M.V. Tristania*. With both vessels in operation simultaneously for the last few months of the year, 1951 exports of frozen tails were 218,415 lb. valued at £57,000, the price per 35 lb. case having risen to about £9 10s. 0d. By March, 1951, a cannery had been completed on the island, and it was possible to do a certain amount of shore based fishing from dinghies to supply

it with fish during the winter; 9,720 lb. of fish were canned during the year, valued at about £2,200, but, owing to certain faults in the processing operations were suspended towards the end of the year.

With the arrival of the *Tristania* early in the 1951-52 season, it became obvious that the island labour force was insufficient to meet the needs of the cannery and also provide fishermen for both vessels. The Company were therefore authorised to employ a certain number of fishermen recruited at the Cape, engaged by the voyage, on their ocean-going vessels. The labour situation, however, gives cause for some disquiet, since the islander is unwilling to abandon his traditional pursuits and become a regular wage earner for six days a week. Indeed he must still have time to plant and harvest his potatoes, visit the other islands for eggs, birds, and fat, and engage in such necessary pursuits as thatching. Similarly the Company must be able to rely on a regular labour supply if it is to operate successfully and economically. The situation was not improved by two unfortunate wage-disputes during 1951, the year ending with the second still unresolved.

Towards the end of 1950 wages were raised by approximately 25 per cent to offset earlier increases in the cost of living. Rates were then as follows:

Basic unskilled daily rate.	. . .	5s.
Semi-skilled " " . . .	. . .	6s.
Domestic servants " " . . .	. . .	1s. 3d.
Washerwoman's " " . . .	. . .	3s. 9d.
Offloading pay per hour . . .	. . .	10d.
Fishermen per day (average) . . .	. . .	17s.
Deckhands " " " . . .	. . .	12s.

In addition, rations calculated at 3s. per day were issued, or food given, to domestic servants, fishermen, deck-hands, and agricultural labourers employed by the Company. Since then further increases have been granted to fishermen engaged in shore based fishing and from the ocean-going vessels.

Imports and Supplies

The Fishing Company is required, by the terms of its concession, to maintain a non-profit-making Canteen on the island, for the convenience of the islanders and all other inhabitants of Tristan. It is here that the islander spends almost his entire wages he earns when working for the Company; and indeed without the Canteen money wages would be of little value to him. About half his earnings are spent on groceries and most of the remainder on clothing. Stocks of essentials were maintained at a satisfactory level during the two years. Towards the end of 1951 prices, which had remained fairly steady, were following world-wide rises. At the end of the year it was estimated that a family of a man, wife, and one child, would require 37s. 6d. per week to feed and clothe itself, on the basis that it could provide potatoes, fish, meat, eggs and woollen clothing from its own resources.

The annual turnover of the Canteen rose from £10,000 in 1950

to £11,300 in 1951, of which purchases by Islanders accounted for £6,300 and by non-islanders £5,000. The value of stocks was increased during 1951 owing to the coming into service of the Company's larger vessel, the *Tristania*. Approximately 250 tons, valued at £14,000 excluding freight and surcharge, were imported in 1951, as against 120 tons valued at £7,500 in 1950.

Communications

There were seven inward sea mails and eight outward in 1951 compared with eight inward and outward in 1950. There is a wireless station run by the South African Government and wireless communication is maintained with South Africa twice daily through Wingfield Aeradio Station, Cape Town. It was possible to have messages forwarded by air mail from the Station to the United Kingdom, but this was replaced by the ordinary Post Office radio-telegraph service early in 1952.

Utilities

Water is supplied from a concrete retaining tank to stand-pipes in the village; unfortunately many houses are at some distance from the pipes and people tend to use water from the water furrows which are heavily infested with ascaris. If funds are available, it is planned to extend piped water to the immediate vicinity of each house.

The wireless station provides a limited electricity supply to official houses and buildings.

Wild Life

The Wild Life Protection Ordinance, which was passed in 1950, aims to conserve all known species of wild life. Infringements of the Ordinance are punishable by heavy fines.

Right whales and sea elephants were as common as ever. The apparent increase of the fur seal continues; their probable breeding ground on Inaccessible is being kept absolutely protected.

Investigation of the numbers, breeding seasons and life histories of all species of birds continues. It is still somewhat uncertain whether the Giant-billed Bunting (*Nesospiza wilkinsi*) and the Lesser Noddy (*Anous minutus*) breed on Inaccessible and the identity of the Frigate Bird, which is occasionally seen off the islands, has yet to be established. It is certain that the Southern Black-Backed Gull, reported as a resident in most accounts of Tristan ornithology, is now represented by very occasional immature birds in winter.

APPENDIX I

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES FINANCED FROM THE £200,000 ALLOCATION
(EXPENDITURE FROM 1st APRIL, 1946 IS CHARGEABLE TO THIS ALLOCATION)

Scheme No.	Description	Amount of Grant	Amount issued before 1-4-46 to the £200,000 Allocation	Expenditure 1-4-46 to 31-12-51	Remarks
CDF. 453	Re-afforestation.	£ 2,714	£ 1,735	£ 405	Terminated and replaced by D.1095 and A.
D. 75	Appointment of woman Education Officer.	2,500	2,080	404	Completed.
126 & A.	Improvement of Water Supplies	4,519	4,484	3,515	do.
136A & B	Salary and pension of Agricultural Officer, etc.	6,500	1,375	310	do.
198	Equipment and maintenance of 2 canteens for 3 room, etc.	800	300	17,307	do.
321	Five-year Agricultural Development Plan.	26,000	6,400	3,075	do.
330 & A	Appointment of Sanitary Inspector	3,840	1,100	1,826	do.
401	Secondary Education	3,350	550	4,750	Continuation of CDF. 593.
489 & A	Housing	60,000	10,000	18,077	Completed.
676 & A B	Fisheries development	5,500	—	246	do.
696	Construction of Primary school	5,500	—	5,500	do.
701	Improvement of Water Supply.	2,288	—	—	Scheme lapsed.
776	Improvement of Water Supplies and Sanitation.	3,000	—	2,550	Completed.
777	Improvement of Roads	5,000	—	5,000	do.
834 & A	Education—primary schools	2,550	—	2,550	do.
874	Primary schools at Sandy Bay.	2,315	—	2,315	do.
875	Improvement of water supplies.	3,500	—	2,373	Completed.
966 & A	Health department buildings	900	—	650	Completed.
1029	Visit of expert to advise on fibre industry	1,700	—	560	Completed.
1095 & A	Education—primary schools	375	—	375	Completed.
1121	Agriculture and Forestry.	21,700	—	15,759	Completed.
1143	Training of 2 additional trained teachers	400	—	207	Completed.
1166	Appointment of an Agricultural Officer	2,450	—	1,556	Completed.
1390	Cooker for Hospital	200	—	176	Completed.
1469	Employment of an Agricultural Officer	3,850	—	1,473	Completed.
TOTALS		£175,681	£28,574	£92,496	

APPENDIX II

FIFTY YEARS' STATISTICS OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, DIVORCES AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS. *

Year	Population	Births	Deaths	Marrriages	Divorces	Judicial Separations
1902	5,009	165	235	26	—	—
1903	9,850 (includes P.O.W.)	146	76	32	—	—
1904	3,458 (includes garrison)	122	52	29	—	—
1905	3,781 (includes garrison)	136	56	18	—	—
1906	3,544	118	46	11	—	—
1907	3,485	134	36	17	—	—
1908	3,517	84	37	19	—	—
1909	3,553	96	27	17	—	—
1910	3,441	87	40	22	—	—
1911	3,482	95	39	20	—	—
1912	3,519	104	44	26	1	1
1913	3,514	101	51	22	1	1
1914	3,563	84	55	22	1	1
1915	3,594	87	53	26	—	—
1916	3,604	108	51	24	—	—
1917	3,634	96	50	33	—	—
1918	3,654	112	36	37	1	1
1919	3,648	125	29	27	1	1
1920	3,718	85	33	17	4	4
1921	3,670	93	24	20	—	—
1922	3,658	97	37	20	—	—
1923	3,654	114	28	20	1	1
1924	3,703	106	38	21	—	—
1925	3,747	111	44	29	—	—
1926	3,747	111	67	41	—	—
1927	3,747	99	63	36	1	1
1928	3,995	123	69	31	2	2
1929	3,747	121	40	34	3	3
1930	3,747	120	40	30	3	3
1931	3,995	126	59	28	—	—
1932	4,114	152	58	32	1	1
1933	4,170	116	68	31	1	1
1934	4,224	101	47	26	—	—
1935	4,318	150	45	40	—	—
1936	4,341	134	66	23	—	—
1937	4,415	132	32	42	—	—
1938	4,474	168	61	21	—	—
1939	4,622	123	49	24	2	2
1940	4,710	158	47	30	2	2
1941	4,702	157	45	40	3	3
1942	4,860	151	54	40	3	3
1943	4,992	196	35	43	1	1
1944	4,992	155	36	31	1	1
1945	4,942	193	65	38	2	2
1946	4,897	139	53	23	1	1
1947	4,969	165	31	25	3	3
1948	4,857	157	39	26	3	3
1949	4,664	149	56	36	4	4
1950	4,695	136	50	21	1	1
1951	4,748	134	48	24	1	2

* St. Helena only.

APPENDIX III

ANALYSIS OF CASES TRIED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ST. HELENA
RESULTING IN CONVICTION DURING THE TEN-YEAR PERIOD 1942 TO 1951

Year	Charges	No. of Cases
1942	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	1
1943	Nil	
1944	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	3
1945	Nil	
1946	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	1
1947	Larceny (Sheep-Stealing)	6
	Manslaughter	1
1948	Nil	
1949	Larceny (Shop Breaking)	2
	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	1
1950	Carnal knowledge of girl under the age of 16 years	1
1951	Housebreaking	1
		—
		17
		—

APPENDIX IV

MAGISTRATE'S COURT

Ten Years' Statistics of Convictions in the Magistrate's Court **NOT**
resulting in Imprisonment

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Assault	2	4	2	1	2	3	4	4	1	3
Assaulting Police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Animals Diseases Regulations	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Employers' and Workmen's Act	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Failure to obey order of Magistrate	8	7	8	1	8	1	—	5	—	—
Customs Ordinance	—	1	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disorderly Conduct	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
Children and Young Persons Act	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drunk and Disorderly	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Education Ordinance	11	3	2	7	4	7	2	9	8	8
Defence Regulations	—	—	1	11	—	1	—	—	—	—
Firearms Ordinance	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larceny	5	8	5	1	2	1	2	4	8	1
Liquor Licensing	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Production Order	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Using Obscene Language	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	3
Police Ordinance	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—
Receiving Stolen Goods	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Road Traffic Ordinance	—	—	1	1	8	2	—	—	—	2
Stowaway on Ship	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Stallion Donkey Rules	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trespass Ordinance	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Vagrancy	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Maintenance Orders for Wives and Children	2	2	7	3	7	12	6	2	1	4*
Harbour Regulations	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
Wounding	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Malicious Injury to Property	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
False Pretences	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Weights and Measures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
†Shop-Breaking (juvenile)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
†Housebreaking (juvenile)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	36	28	31	38	40	29	25	31	24	29

* Including three provisional orders made under the Maintenance (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance and forwarded to United Kingdom for confirming order.

† These offences when committed by juveniles are dealt with in the Magistrate's, and not in the Supreme, Court.

ALL COURTS

Ten Years' Statistics of Offences for which Prison Sentences were served

Offence	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Manslaughter	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Wounding	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Carnal knowledge	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Sheep Stealing	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
Larceny	7	7	3	-	-	4	-	9	6	5
Embezzlement	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assault	-	1	1	2	-	-	3	1	1	1
Vagrancy	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Contempt of Court	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neglect of Children	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evading Customs Dues	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defence Regulations	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Escaping from Prison, remand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Drunk and Disorderly Assaulting Police Constable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Housebreaking	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Stowaway aboard ship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Absent from ship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	13	10	8	3	2	12	4	12	11	12

Total number of prison sentences during 10 years 87

SMALL DEBTS COURT

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

1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1938	1949	1950	1951
51	15	35	18	24	14	5	137	5	1

JUVENILE COURT

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

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cruelty to Donkey	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Larceny	-	6	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Malicious Damage	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

Since corporal punishment has been abolished in the United Kingdom in respect of juvenile offenders, and English Statute Law applies in this Colony, no canings have taken place during the years 1950 and 1951.

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