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British Honduras Report for 1926.

Gilbert and Ellis Islands Colony

Report for 1924-25

在英國日本大使館

REEL No. A-0980

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アジア歴史資料センター

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No. 1367.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1926.

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

WITH FINANCIAL INFORMATION UP TO 31ST MARCH, 1927.

Geographical.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29' 5" to 15° 53' 55" North latitude and 89° 9' 22" to 88° 10' West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from the rapids of Gracias a Dios on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands, called cayes, off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The city of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between one and four miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about 4 feet of water can approach the Port. At Commerce Bight, near the town of Stann Creek, there is a railway pier, alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20 feet can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek District. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 feet and 18 feet respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and, in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

Historical.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archæologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony, and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George," to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded, in perpetuity to Great Britain, by Treaty, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies, or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date, the population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer

the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. Again in 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

Constitution.

7. The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790-1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlements. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica.

In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1889, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as "The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three ex-officio members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this report there were three unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law; and is also ex-officio Sub-Treasurer of his district; Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Local Administration.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, &c. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

I.—GENERAL.

15. On 19th July, 1926, the Governor and Lady Burdon returned to the Colony after a three months' visit to Canada, during which His Excellency took the opportunity of discussing the agricultural and railway possibilities of this Colony with representatives of financial and business houses. During His Excellency's absence the Government was administered by the Honourable C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

16. In January, 1926, in recognition of his services in connection with the representation of this Colony at the British Empire Exhibition, the Honourable C. Hummel was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Division.

17. The Colony was honoured with a visit by Professor S. J. Record, of the School of Forestry of Yale University, during January, 1926.

18. The concession granted during 1924 to Lady Richmond Brown, Dr. Gann and Mr. Mitchell Hedges, to explore ancient monuments and mounds on certain Crown lands was transferred to the Trustees of the British Museum and, as a result, Captain T. A. Joyce, O.B.E., M.A., Deputy Keeper of Ceramics and Ethnography, visited the Maya ruins of Lubaantun in March, 1926. A considerable number of objects of stone, pottery, and shell were discovered during excavation, and were obtained from natives who had found them in their plantations in the immediate vicinity of the ruins.

An illustrated report on Captain Joyce's investigations was published by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (see Journal, Volume LVI, July-December, 1926), from which the following paragraph has been culled:—

"The complete absence of hieroglyphic inscriptions makes it extremely difficult to relate any one of these phases with Maya chronology. But the very close correspondence of the art as shown in the mould-made pottery, with that of the Early Empire sites of Copan, Quirigua and Palenque, suggests that the site of Lubaantun flourished in the Early Empire, and that its origin dates from a still remoter period, because these pottery remains were all found above or outside the buildings in the perpendicular and megalithic styles. So far no attempt has been made to penetrate the earlier architectural complexes. Further, there are indications that the site was inhabited in late Maya times, and possibly even after the discovery of

America. In any case, the presumptive evidence indicates that the intensive excavation of Lubaantun would shed much light on the obscure culture-history and development of the Maya."

An appeal to the British Public, by the Trustees of the Museum, for contribution towards "an enterprise which promises results of the highest archaeological interest, and which it is for the honour of the British Empire to undertake" has since been launched.

19. The outstanding event of 1926 was undoubtedly the bequest to the Colony of the residuary estate of the late Baron Bliss, J.P., formerly of Quarry Court, Marlow, Bucks, who died at Belize on the 9th March. The Will provides for the creation of the "Baron Bliss Trust," the Chairman of which is the Governor of the Colony, and the income of which is to be devoted to such purposes as the Trustees consider to be for the benefit or development of British Honduras. Until probate is obtained, however, the extent to which the Colony will benefit financially is uncertain.

20. The Colony was represented at the West Indian Conference held in London during May and June, 1926, by Captain V. Grey-Wilson, V.D., Collector of Customs and Harbour Master.

21. In July, 1926, the foundation stone of the Government Industrial School for Boys at Pomona Ridge, Stann Creek, was laid by Mr. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., Officer Administering the Government. The building, designed to accommodate fifty inmates at present, was commenced soon after; at the end of the year considerable progress toward completion had been made.

22. Mr. L. R. Crawshaw, M.A., the Sponge Fishery Research Officer in the British West Indies, paid a second visit to the Colony in July and August, 1926, to examine the results of the work done at the Turneffe Sponge Grounds during his previous visit. The results were reported as very promising and the rate of growth was believed to be not lower than has usually been found to occur under favourable conditions in the Bahamas. During this visit arrangements were made for the extension of the experiments over a wider area.

II.—PUBLIC HEALTH, VITAL STATISTICS, AND CLIMATE.

23. The general health of the Colony was good. No maritime quarantine diseases were reported.

Prevalent Diseases.

24. *Dysentery*.—There were 24 deaths registered in 1926, being one more than in 1925. The epidemic of this disease, which broke out in the Lunatic Asylum towards the end of 1925, causing 10 deaths, caused four more in 1926. The type is usually the amoebic and amenable to treatment. The deaths in the Asylum

were all bacillary and most of the others were attributed to this variety. the fall of the year is the usual time for the appearance of this disease.

25. *Malaria*.—The registered deaths in 1926 amounted to 28. In 1925 the number was 29. This disease is prevalent throughout the Colony and, while it is mostly of a mild type and the death-rate is not high—being about 6 per cent. of the total certified deaths—yet the amount of invaliding is considerable. All types of the disease are met with. The quartan is seldom seen, while the tertian is the common variety.

26. Progress is being made in anti-mosquito measures in the towns and settled parts of the Colony and people are beginning to co-operate with the Central Board of Health and appreciate their efforts, not only to improve the health of the community, but also to ameliorate their physical discomforts.

27. Owing, however, to the nature of the principal industries at present in the Colony, viz., mahogany cutting and chicle bleeding, the task of reducing the incidence of malaria is an exceedingly difficult one. Those industries are carried on in dense forests, mostly flat and in many cases swampy, where the conditions are ideal for mosquito breeding and the cost of eradication is prohibitive. The people live in camps made of bush houses and move from one place to another at frequent intervals.

28. *Tuberculosis*.—Pulmonary form. The registered deaths in 1926 were 40, as compared with 50 in 1925, and 49 from all forms, as compared with 55 in 1925. This disease is notifiable but it is doubtful whether this will ever have any material effect in reducing the incidence until segregation is made compulsory and suitable sanatoriums provided. Here again the people are becoming alive to this menace, a request having been received from one of the more important districts that such measures should be provided.

29. *Rabies*.—Three deaths occurred in the early part of 1926 following the first outbreak in the history of the Colony in 1925, in which year two deaths occurred. All three occurred in Belize, the last being dated 18th February. There were no further cases reported in the Colony until November, when one death was reported from Stann Creek. The stringent restrictions enforced by the Central Board of Health are apparently having effect.

30. *Enteric Fever*.—Two deaths occurred in 1926, being both imported cases.

31. *Cancer*.—In 1926 there were 17 deaths, as compared with 12 in 1925. It is doubtful whether the increase is of any significance.

32. *Infantile Mortality*.—The death-rate is still high although favourable when compared with many parts of the West Indies. The incidence for 1926 was 141 per 1,000, as compared with 112 per 1,000 in 1925.

33. Perhaps the most outstanding feature in the improvement in the health of the Colony for 1926 has been the decision of the Government to establish a Training School for Nurses and a modern Maternity Home. This will in a short time have far-reaching effects on infantile mortality and general morbidity, not only as the result of cases admitted to the Public Institution, but from the diffusion of knowledge and gradual raising of the standard of private nursing throughout the Colony.

Vital Statistics.

34. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1926, was 48,584, as follows:—

Males	...	...	...	...	...	24,022
Females	...	...	...	...	...	24,562

35. The population to the square mile, based on the estimated population, was 5.65.

36. The number of births registered during the year was 1,864, and the number of deaths 1,173.

37. The number of marriages registered in 1926 was 518, the rate being 10.66 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 8.46 for 1925. Of the 1,864 births, 955 were males and 909 were females. The birth-rate works out at 38.36 per 1,000 of the estimated population; as against 37.27 per 1,000 during 1925.

38. Of the 1,173 deaths, 616 were males and 557 were females. This shows a total increase of 149 deaths as compared with the previous year. The deaths correspond to a rate of 24.143 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 21.38 for the year 1925.

39. There was an increase in the number of infant deaths. The index of 112 out of each 1,000 births in 1925 increased to 141 in 1926.

40. The principal causes of death during 1926, in order of degree, were from disease of the digestive system, followed by those of the respiratory system, and then by those classified under the genito-urinary system. There were 28 deaths from malaria, 22 from broncho-pneumonia, 40 from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 34 from enteritis during the year.

Climate.

41. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

42. The highest rainfall registered in 1926 was, as usual, at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 144.06 inches. The lowest rainfall was at Corozal in the Corozal District, which had a total of 39.29 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 60.05 inches.

43. The hottest day for the year 1926 was the 29th July, on which the thermometer registered 88.0° F., and the coldest day the 20th February, when it registered 54.0° F.

44. The maximum wind velocity was 36 miles per hour on the following dates:—17th January, 19th February, 23rd June, 5th July, 9th August, 14th and 17th October, and 11th and 24th December. The maximum precipitation was on the 29th January, when 4.17 inches was registered in 24 consecutive hours.

III.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

Revenue.

45. The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended on 31st March, 1927, amounted to \$1,116,432.30, being \$120,144.83 more than the revenue of the preceding year.

Expenditure.

46. The expenditure for the financial year 1926-27 was estimated at \$1,031,790.00, but the amount actually spent was \$1,040,490.11, which shows an increase of \$8,700.11 as compared with the Estimates for the year, and is more than the expenditure for the same period of the preceding year by \$69,293.15.

Assets and Liabilities.

47. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1927, were \$1,557,656.76, and the liabilities \$1,303,128.24, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of \$254,528.52. The assets are chiefly investments on account of funds, and sums advanced in anticipation of the proposed loan. The main liability is the amount due to the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The available cash balances total \$29,013.03.

48. The Colony possesses further assets, in the form of Crown lands, estimated to amount to over two and a-half million acres, or nearly half the area of the Colony.

The revenue derived from Crown lands during the year 1926-27 was \$62,191.60, made up as follows:—

	\$
Crown Rents	11,712.59
Licences	49,736.83
Sale of leases	742.18

Currency.

49. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for \$4.86 and \$2.43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces and bronze 1 cent pieces coined specially for the Colony. There is paper currency of 10, 5 and 2 dollars, and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1927, the value of currency notes in circulation was \$406,607, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of \$307,001 in gold and \$134,937 in British and Colonial investments.

50. The interest on investments was \$11,853.46, and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

51. The estimated amount of coin in circulation at 31st March, 1927, was :—

	\$
Silver	190,052.30
Nickel bronze	5,880.70
Bronze	6,146.63

Public Debt.

52. At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at \$745,734. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of \$105,207.00 as compared with \$90,560.18 the previous year. Of the loan of \$1,000,000, authorised by Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, to meet the cost of certain public works and improvements, a sum of \$177,600 was raised, bearing interest at 6 per cent., and a further sum of \$688,375.00 was advanced by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, bearing interest at current bank-rate. A loan of \$250,000 has been authorised under authority of this Chapter for Forest Development and Improvement. This sum is controlled by the Forest Trust.

Government Savings Bank.

53. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The bank had a sum of \$177,255.58 to the credit of 1,414 depositors on 31st March, 1927, against \$171,443.76 to the credit of 1,371 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1927, was \$160,000 and the interest on investments was \$6,765.36. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1926-27 was \$5,011.41.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

54. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to \$8,994,453 or \$903,314 more than the trade of the previous year. Imports increased by \$550,542, while exports increased by \$352,772. There has been no change with regard to the sources of supply or destination of the products. The United States of America, as previously shown, controls the bulk of trade.

Imports.

55. The imports increased by \$550,542 over the previous year, the total for 1926 being \$5,065,663 as against \$4,515,121 in 1925.

56. A comparative statement for the years 1925 and 1926, classified according to groups, is given hereunder :—

Classes.	1925.	1926.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Food, drink and tobacco...	1,646,123	1,710,507	64,384	—
2. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	768,702	1,077,844	309,142	—
3. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	2,071,768	2,258,626	186,858	—
4. Miscellaneous and unclassified.	28,528	18,486	—	10,042
5. Bullion and specie ...	—	200	200	—
	\$4,515,121	\$5,065,663	\$550,542	\$10,042

57. The direction of the import trade for the years 1925-26 is shown in the following table :—

	1925.	Per cent.	1926.	Per cent.
	\$		\$	
United Kingdom	776,531	17.20	859,149	16.94
Canada	501,030	11.10	532,392	10.51
Other British Possessions ...	87,917	1.95	98,029	1.94
United States of America ...	2,248,389	49.80	2,375,428	46.89
Mexico... ..	421,772	9.34	612,998	12.10
Other countries	479,482	10.61	588,667	11.62

58. Imports for home consumption amounted to \$4,166,729.

Exports.

59. The value of the exports, excluding bullion and specie, amounted to \$3,928,790, or \$352,772 more than the total for 1925.

60. The following table shows the value of the export trade for 1926 as compared with that of 1925 :—

	1925.	1926.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Domestic exports	1,613,090	1,910,888	297,798	—
Re-exports	1,962,896	2,015,302	52,406	—
Bullion and specie	232	2,600	2,368	—
	\$3,576,018	\$3,928,790	\$352,772	—

61. The exports of mahogany increased largely during the year, the total rising to 18,745,537 superficial feet, a gain of approximately 50 per cent. over the exports for the previous year, when the total was 12,580,836 superficial feet. From the 1st April, 1925, 25 per cent. is added to the total measurement of all logs which are measured "small end, small way."

62. The details of the exports, as compared with 1925, were as follows:—

	1926. s. ft.	1925. s. ft.	Increase. s. ft.
Domestic produce ...	15,252,415	9,400,234	5,752,181
Re-exports ...	3,493,122	3,180,602	312,520
	18,745,537 s. ft.	12,580,836 s. ft.	6,164,701 s. ft.

63. Exports to the United Kingdom, due to poor market conditions, decreased from 3,087,255 superficial feet in 1925 to 1,513,487 superficial feet in 1926.

64. There was little or no demand for cedar, the exports falling to 292,741 superficial feet. The exports in 1924 and 1925 were 641,517 and 465,979 superficial feet, respectively.

65. The distribution of the exports during the years 1925-26 is shown hereunder:—

	1925. \$	Per Cent.	1926. \$	Per Cent.
United Kingdom ...	417,332	11.67	245,502	6.25
Other British Possessions ...	48,102	1.35	209,200	5.33
United States of America ...	2,812,056	78.64	3,208,006	81.65
Other countries ...	298,528	8.34	266,082	6.77

V.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

Forestry.

66. A Forest Department has been in existence since 1922. Finance is derived partly from general forest revenue and partly from a special loan, and the funds available are administered by a Forest Trust established for that purpose. At the close of 1926 the trained technical staff consisted of a Conservator, a Deputy Conservator, and four Assistant Conservators, of whom one was on full-time deputation to a private firm engaged in forest development.

67. The final Forest Ordinance became law on 14th October, 1926 (Ordinance No. 32 of 1926). Rules under the Ordinance were made by the Governor in Council on 8th December, 1926, to come into force on 1st January, 1927 (Forest Rules, 1927). This settlement of legislative questions represents a landmark in the history of forestry in the Colony, providing, as it does, for adequate protection for the forests and a stable system of forest finance.

68. The topographical exploration of the Crown forests was continued and considerable advance was made in the compilation of regional maps, particularly in the areas opened by and adjacent to the larger forest concessionaires and licensees. Reconnaissance of potential railway routes has been a special feature of these explorations.

69. Silvicultural improvement operations, carried on at six centres in different parts of the Crown lands, have shown good progress, and similar work has been established on private estates.

70. Indications of an increase in the exploitation of secondary woods have been encouraging and the prospects of an early development of the pine industry have been decidedly enhanced by the amalgamation of the Companies interested in the Placencia Concession area.

71. Further research has been conducted in connection with the silviculture of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King) and sapodilla (*Achras Sapota* L.), the identification and testing of timbers, and the general ecology of forest types in the Colony.

72. Inquiries concerning forest matters may be addressed to the Conservator of Forests, Post Box 181, Belize, British Honduras.

73. Detailed information on the forests of the Colony will be found in a report on the Forests of British Honduras by C. Hummel, obtainable from the Conservator of Forests, price \$1.00 or 4s. post free. The recommendation in this report have been accepted by the Government and form the basis of its forest policy.

Forest Produce.

74. The dominant position of the forest industry in the economic life of the Colony is indicated by the following summary of exports of forest produce, in percentages of the total value of all exports of domestic origin:—

	1926. per cent.	1925. per cent.
Mahogany and cedar ...	75.6	66.7
Chicle ...	5.9	9.6
Secondary woods ...	1.0	.9
Logwood ...	.9	1.0
Pine ...	.7	.4
Rosewood ...	.1	.3
Miscellaneous ...	.1	.0
	84.3	79.9

75. The position of these established forest industries may be briefly reviewed. The accessible mahogany forests of the Colony have been severely overcut, but the demand continues good and

supplies are being maintained by pushing operations into the remoter tracts by means of gasoline tractors and short logging railways. Operation by cattle-haul is being steadily superseded by mechanical traction. Extraction costs are, however, still heavy, and this factor will tend to check over-production, as any substantial drop in the market price would render a proportion of the present operations unprofitable. It appears probable that the natural supplies remaining in the Colony, especially if supplemented by the large resources, hitherto practically untouched, in the adjacent Guatemalan province of Peten, will suffice to support the industry on its present basis of output until such time as permanently productive mahogany forests have been brought into being by the operations of the Forest Department and private forest owners. The results so far achieved towards the establishment, by natural reproduction and tending, of fully-stocked forests of mahogany which, when mature, can be exploited by intensive logging methods at a fractional cost compared with that of the present system of extraction, are decidedly promising. Mahogany seedling trees, which in the natural jungle are more often than not crushed out of existence by interfering weed-growth and enveloping climbers, have been found to respond readily and rapidly to forestry treatment. Whereas in the natural "bush" the stock of mahogany trees rarely exceeds an average of one per acre, there is every reason to hope that the timber stock in the reconstituted forests can be raised to at least forty trees per acre in a period of from twenty to forty years.

76. Hopes were formerly entertained that the unexplored territory on the western border would be found to contain large reserves of mahogany. The most recent data to hand indicate that while good forest occurs between the eastern branch of the Belize River and the Chiquebul, a tributary of the western branch which re-enters British territory further south on a course which has not yet been mapped, the hinterland southward from the Chiquebul to the neighbourhood of the Rio Grande is deficient in mahogany and other woods of value. The area of virgin mahogany land remaining in the Colony is relatively small, and future prosperity of the industry will depend on the reclamation of those worked-over areas which have been least damaged by excessive cutting.

77. Much might be done towards increasing the output of mahogany, without widening the source of supply, by the elimination of waste which, as operations are conducted at present, is considerable. Large quantities of material which is unfit for export in the log and is left to decay in the forest could be converted locally at a profit, and the present keen demand for mahogany in the form of lumber should stimulate the establishment of local sawmills.

78. Chicle, a gum derived from the sapodilla tree and used in the manufacture of chewing gum, is a forest product of considerable

economic importance to the Colony. The forests from which it is derived have, as a whole, been badly damaged by uncontrolled tapping, but an experimental project initiated by an American company, under the supervision of the Forest Department, for the formation of regulated forests of sapodilla, and the application of scientific methods of tapping the trees for the gum, shows promise of success. This intensive method of production, which is in all respects analogous to a plantation industry save that the trees are raised from natural seedlings instead of being planted, will in course of time, it is hoped, supersede the collection of chicle from the natural forests just as plantation rubber has to a large extent ousted wild rubber.

79. The logwood industry will probably be maintained on its present limited scale, but the prospects of expansion are not bright. It is possible that local extraction of the dye, in place of export of the dyewood in bulk, might improve the position of the industry, but the stimulus necessary for such development appears lacking at present.

80. The successful utilisation of the secondary woods of the tropical rain-forest in which mahogany occurs is perhaps the most important, and certainly the most difficult, problem of forest development. Available quantities of these woods are practically unlimited, and the excellent quality of certain species is recognised; but the mixed character of the forests in which they are found, and the relatively low volume of the stand per acre, renders intensive logging by the usual methods a difficult proposition. Nevertheless, a wide market is believed to exist for the more important varieties at a certain price level. Success depends either on the reduction of extraction costs so as to allow a margin of profit at this level or on the raising of the price level by popularising the use of the timbers. A most determined effort is being made by an American concessionnaire company to bring these two factors into play, and there is no ground for pessimism as to the eventual development of this industry; patience is called for, however. The chief secondary woods exported in 1926 were Banak (*Myristica paramensis*), 355,256 feet board measure; Santa Maria (*Calophyllum calaba*), 159,103 feet board measure; and Yemeri (*Vochysia hondurensis*), 3,451 feet board measure. The first-named timber has excellent working qualities, but is peculiarly susceptible to insect attack between the time of felling and seasoning. Santa Maria is a handsome and durable wood which is expected to become the tropical substitute for oak. Yemeri is an excellent timber similar in grain to mahogany, but of lighter colour. These three species are common trees of the mixed hardwood forests of the south. Potentially valuable timbers of the north are Sapodilla and Black Poison, sometimes termed Honduras Walnut. These are present in good quantity, but the difficulty of transport has prevented their utilisation. Sapodilla, besides yielding the valuable Chicle gum,

has a hard and exceptionally durable timber. Black Poison is a handsome wood resembling walnut in appearance, and owes its name to an acrid sap; the wood itself has no poisonous qualities.

81. In general, the secondary woods of the Colony offer wide opportunities for pioneer enterprise. Extensive tracts of such forest in private ownership are at present virtually unproductive and could be cheaply acquired, and a large acreage of Crown land of the same type could be made available for operation by concessionnaires.

82. The delay in developing the pine resources of the Colony may be attributed partly to apathy and partly to past error in giving large concessions for operation without adequate provision to ensure exercise of the rights granted, thus encouraging purely speculative holding of such rights. Parallels to this may be traced in the forest history of other parts of the world. This phase, however, now shows signs of passing. The establishment, by the same Company referred to above as being engaged in the extraction of secondary woods, of a small mill to cut pine on a private estate, has had a far-reaching effect in bringing the qualities of the local species of pine (*Pinus caribaea*) to the public notice. After a period of initial difficulties this mill is turning out lumber which not only finds favour and competes successfully with imported timber in the local market, but has been exported in some quantity to the neighbouring republics. The possibilities of expansion of the industry are now attracting the attention of some of the largest pine operators of the Southern States of North America, where many mills are having to close down in consequence of the steady depletion of the forests of yellow pine.

83. The chief forestry problem in connection with pine is the prevention of the wanton firing of the forests annually by hunters and graziers, which has actually destroyed the growth over large areas and acts as a continued check on the establishment of young growth. It will take time and patience to build up an organization which will be effective for this purpose, but the prospective timber and turpentine operators have a parallel interest in fire protection and their assistance should help towards ultimate success.

84. It is anticipated that an industry for the collection and manufacture of "naval stores" (turpentine and resin) will develop concurrently with the pine lumber operations. Experimental tests made hitherto show good quality and flow of resin from the pine. It is possible that conservative tapping, on the French system, as distinct from the destructive tapping practised in the United States, may later on be found feasible in pine areas too inaccessible to be worked for lumber.

85. The rosewood industry as organized at present is unlikely to expand materially, but the development of the secondary woods in those southern forests in which the rosewood areas occur should cheapen extraction and widen the basis of output.

86. A number of potential forest industries might be added to those described. The silviculture of the fast-growing Balsa woods, which are already being used in some quantity in the United States for insulating purposes, for example, in the manufacture of boxes for the carriage of perishable goods, is the subject of experiment by the Forest Department. Such woods might also achieve importance as a source of cellulose and power alcohol. Fibre-plants of the forest, such as the Silk Grass (*Arghan*), may one day attain an economic value, and the field of medicinal plants, gums, spices, &c., is practically untouched. *Castilloa* rubber occurs naturally, but the boom has failed to induce any revival of the former tapping industry. Planted Para rubber grows well enough, but the deficiency and high cost of labour would militate against the successful establishment and working of plantations.

Agriculture.

87. During 1926, agricultural produce amounted to 13.7 per cent. of the total value of exports of domestic produce, of which coconuts represented 9.4 per cent. and bananas and plantains 3.4 per cent. The banana industry is on the decline owing to Panama disease, and the only hope of restoring its prosperity lies in the introduction of a variety of the fruit which will resist the disease. Sugar is produced on a small scale, but apparently with fair profit, by a number of small mills in the Toledo and Corozal Districts. There is a large acreage of land excellently suited for sugar growing, and a central factory should be a profitable undertaking. Labour supply is the only difficult factor.

88. Slow but sure steps were made during the year towards the development of agriculture. The increasing demand in the markets of the world for the produce of tropical countries cannot but fail to be reflected in increased attention being paid to the agricultural resources of the Colony. Satisfactory progress has been made in the development of the property on which the Industrial School has been established. Upon this property there is a small grove of grape fruit trees which were planted some thirteen years ago. These trees bear luxuriantly a fruit of exceptionally high quality. Shipments of this fruit to Canada, Bermuda, and London have proved profitable and, in spite of primitive methods of grading and imperfect facilities for packing the fruit, the reports which have been received upon the condition in which the fruit arrived at the markets to which it was sent have been most encouraging. As might be expected, some shipments failed, but careful records were kept of the condition of the fruit when it left the packing shed, and the information gained by these failures has been invaluable. A British Honduras Government Fruit Marketing Agency was established during the year.

89. The cassava or tapioca plant is grown by the Carib communities in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, and the cultivation of this plant and arrowroot can be greatly increased provided that profitable markets can be found for the flour which is produced from the tuberous roots of these plants.

90. The Colony is essentially one for the peasant proprietor and small farmer engaged in "mixed farming" and marketing their produce co-operatively.

Marine Products.

91. Brief reference may be made to the marine products of the Colony. The rock lobster canning industry produced 1.0 per cent. by value of the total export of the Colony. The tortoise-shell industry remained steady with a percentage of 1.2. The sponge industry has been the subject of recent examination by an expert and is believed to have a promising future.

VI.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

92. The Royal Bank of Canada maintains a branch in Belize. It is the only banking institution in the Colony. It is not allowed to circulate its own notes. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. The details of the operation of the Government Savings Bank have been reported under Head III.—Government Finance.

VII.—EDUCATION.

93. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational Church schools. Rules made by the Board of Education were amended in 1923, effecting a change in the method of making grants-in-aid to denominational schools.

94. The Compulsory Attendance Law of 1915 has not yet, for various reasons, been applied to all parts of the Colony. The maximum age limit for attendance under the compulsory attendance law is twelve years; but there are now three areas in which it has been raised to fourteen years, the towns of Belize, Orange Walk, and the village of San Estevan; the two latter places are on the New River. The law has been temporarily suspended, pending amendments. Grants-in-aid from General Revenue are based, principally, on the teaching staffs of the schools, which are regulated by the average monthly attendances of children between the ages of five and sixteen years. A small attendance grant *per capita* is also made; an efficiency grant is made annually on the results of the school examinations. There are other grants. The total grants-in-aid in 1926 amounted to \$61,159.50, which included teachers' salaries, grants to pupil-teachers, needlework, agriculture, building, and furniture. In most of the schools in the Colony a small fee is charged; but payment is not compulsory

and the receipts are small. The amount collected in the year under review was \$1,403.86. The number of aided schools in operation in 1926 was 71, as against 69 in 1925. In Belize District there are 25, in Corozal District 12, in Orange Walk District 9, in Cayo District 7, in Stann Creek District 8, and in Toledo District 10.

95. The average total number of pupils on the rolls in aided schools was 6,768; of these, 3,726 were boys and 3,042 girls, and the average daily attendance was 5,028, or 74 per centum of the roll.

96. During the year there were employed 136 teachers, 81 being certificated and 55 pupil-teachers. The majority of the former are obtained from the pupil-teachers' class, a method which, because of the absence of any provision for normal training, is far from satisfactory.

97. There are a few elementary schools in the Colony which are unaided. These have a total of about 600 pupils on the rolls, with an average attendance of about 500.

98. The 1926 exhibition was held on 15th September, when 22 schools, whose exhibits numbered 451, competed. The number of competing schools may appear small, but many schools did not participate because of their remote situation and the lack of facilities of communication and transportation.

Secondary Education.

99. Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. The schools are unaided by the Government except to the extent of a few hundred dollars paid as bonus on passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations. The amount paid for the year 1926 was \$950. These schools have a total roll of about 600, and the average attendance is 500, but only about one-half of these receive secondary education.

Technical Education.

100. There is little technical education or vocational training undertaken in the Colony. Needlework, however, forms part of the curriculum in the girls' schools.

101. The establishment of the Government Industrial School for Boys at Pomona will fill a long-felt want.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

102. During the year 1926 thirty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest:—

Ordinance No. 1 of 1926—providing for the registration in the Colony of Letters Patent granted in the United Kingdom.

Ordinance No. 10 of 1926—amending the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, and imposing an additional import duty payable during the year 1926-27 at the rate of 10 per centum on the amount of certain *ad valorem* import duties.

Ordinance No. 19 of 1926—making provision for the carriage of goods by sea. This law establishes the responsibilities, liabilities, rights and immunities attached to carriers under Bills of Lading, and is based on a draft convention, for the unification of certain rules relating to Bills of Lading, by the International Conference on Maritime Law held at Brussels in October, 1922.

Ordinance No. 32 of 1926—for the protection and control of forests and forest produce. This Ordinance is an amplification of the Forest Trust Ordinance, and extends the powers and duties of the officers of the Forest Trust.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

103. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by motor vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

104. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward bound only) by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. There were occasional sailings to New York and New Orleans by vessels of the Munson Line. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a service between Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda, Bahamas, and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about fifteen days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

105. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

Roads.

106. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony, road construction is difficult and expensive. Satisfactory progress was made in linking up Belize with Corozal in the north by a road which it is hoped will eventually provide "all weather" communication for light traffic.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

107. No new work of any magnitude was undertaken during the year.

108. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost \$13,024.

109. The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled \$30,731.

110. During the year the expenditure from loan funds on public works totalled \$17,130.

XI.—SHIPPING.

111. A summary of the shipping trade distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British from foreign nationalities is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 635,901, a decrease of 7,262 as compared with the previous year.

Entered.

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.	Steamships and Motor Boats.	Total Tonnage.
British	4,789	104,049	108,838
United States of America ...	292	116,549	116,841
Other	8,102	82,887	90,989
	13,183	303,485	316,668

Cleared.

Nationality.	Sailing Vessels.	Steamships and Motor Boats.	Total Tonnage.
British	4,899	107,052	111,951
United States of America ...	198	116,588	116,786
Other	7,643	82,858	90,501
	12,740	306,498	319,238

112. The total tonnage during the last five years was:—

	Inwards.	Outwards.	Total.
1922	257,606	258,244	515,850
1923	269,799	267,132	536,931
1924	295,350	297,252	592,602
1925	316,505	327,658	643,163
1926	316,668	319,238	635,906

113. Four sailing and five motor vessels were registered at the port of Belize during the year, the total registered tonnage of these amounting to 95 tons.

XII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Post Office.

114. At the end of the year there were twenty-six post offices established in the Colony, six of which were money order offices.

115. The total number of postal articles dealt with in the mails during the year was 905,060. As compared with 1925, while the parcels business with the United States of America still looms largest, business with Great Britain and Canada shows improvement on the whole, as reflected in the money order and other transactions. The reduction in cost effected by the British Preferential Tariff is apparently having some effect though it has not proved a sufficient offset against the advantages of proximity and regularity of transport possessed by the United States.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

116. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are 925 miles of lines, with 32 offices; the same as in 1925, no extension of the system having been effected during the year.

117. There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 307 subscribers.

Radio Telegraphs.

118. The installations in use at the Radio Telegraph Station, Belize, consist of (A) 25 kw. Arc Transmitter, type 18; (B) 5 kw. Quenched Spark Transmitter (Wireless Speciality Apparatus). The arc functions on 2,400 and 3,300 metre wave lengths, its average range of operation under good conditions being 2,000 miles. The quenched spark transmitter makes use of 600 metre and 1,500 metre wave lengths; all commercial and Government traffic being handled on the 1,500 metre wave.

119. Ship traffic is dealt with on the 600 metre wave, the hours of watch being given below.

120. The range of the quenched spark transmitter is 1,000 miles on 1,500 metre wave, and 400 on 600 metre wave.

121. In addition to handling every type of public traffic the station transmits special weather reports to Washington daily at 12.00 hours and 23.10 hours G.M.T. from 1st June to 30th November on a 1,500 metre wave length.

122. Public traffic is accepted by the station between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 G.M.T.

123. Watch on 600 metres is maintained at the following times, G.M.T. :—

13.00 to 14.30 hrs.
15.00 to 15.30 hrs.
15.45 to 16.15 hrs.
17.00 to 19.30 hrs.
21.15 to 21.45 hrs.
23.30 to 01.30 hrs.
02.00 to 04.00 hrs.

XIII.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

124. A handbook, prepared by Messrs. M. S. Metzgen and H. E. C. Cain, and published by the West India Committee, has been in considerable demand, indicating that there is a growing interest in the Colony. The question of revising the handbook and republishing it is being considered.

125. There is an Annual Report on Trade, by the Collector of Customs, and an official Gazette printed and published weekly at the Government Printing Office.

E. W. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

21st October, 1927.

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No. 1372.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Reports for 1924 and 1925 see Nos. 1267 and 1303,
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ST. VINCENT.
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1926.

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I.—GEOGRAPHICAL and HISTORICAL.

The Island of St. Vincent is popularly supposed to have been discovered by Columbus on the 22nd of January, 1498. It is situated in 13° 10' N. latitude, and 60° 57' W. longitude, at a distance of 21 miles to the south-west of St. Lucia, and 100 miles west of Barbados. It is 18 miles in length and 11 in breadth, and contains about 96,000 acres of land—about half the area of Middlesex. Most of the Grenadines, a chain of small islands lying between Grenada and St. Vincent, are comprised within the Government of the latter island. The principal is Bequia, situated at a distance of 9 miles from Kingstown, the capital of St. Vincent.

At the time of its discovery, St. Vincent, like some of the other small islands, was inhabited by the Caribs, who continued in the undisputed possession of it until 1627, when the King of England made a grant of the Island to the Earl of Carlisle. In 1660 it was declared neutral, and in 1672 it was granted to Lord Willoughby.

In 1748 St. Vincent was again declared neutral by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. In 1756, however, hostilities were renewed and the Island was taken in 1762 by General Monckton; and by the Treaty of Paris in the following year it was ceded to Great Britain, when General Melville was appointed Governor.

In 1773 an extensive portion of St. Vincent was allotted to the Caribs on condition that they acknowledged the King of Great Britain as their Sovereign.

In 1779 the Island surrendered to the French, and by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 it was restored to Great Britain.

ST. VINCENT, 1926.

3

II.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

On the whole the year 1926 may be regarded as a fairly satisfactory one, although the revenue, £60,243, fell short of that for 1925 by some £2,200, due mainly to the fact that the tax on land throughout the Colony was reduced by one-half.

The yield from Income Tax, £3,014, showed a reduction of £1,500 on that for 1925. This may be attributed to the large unsold stocks of cotton and arrowroot held in England during the last three years.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to £366,515, as against £444,339 in 1925; the value of exports, £162,909, showing a marked reduction of nearly £70,000 as compared with 1925. The cause for this is to be found in the serious decline in the marketable export values of arrowroot and syrup.

The net surplus as on 31st December, 1926, amounted to £21,509, and in addition to this the Colony possesses a Reserve Fund of £11,000 now fully invested in good liquid securities, while the Public Debt only amounts to £9,730 with sinking funds invested to the extent of £5,494.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £59,282, being some £6,000 more than the expenditure for 1925. This £6,000, however, includes £2,000 appropriated to form the nucleus of the Public Property Insurance Fund. The surplus on the year's working amounted to £961.

This Island, like other West Indian islands, depends entirely for its prosperity upon securing sales and satisfactory prices for its principal agricultural products—arrowroot, cotton, copra, syrup.

The general health of the Island was good. Eight cases of diphtheria occurred, with four deaths, and forty-eight cases of enteric, with nine deaths.

There were 1,304 cases of infantile diarrhoea, with 86 deaths, during the period under review, but it is probable that a certain number of these cases are of tubercular origin.

The mortality-rate per 1,000 births was 125, as against 115 in 1925.

The campaign against yaws continued successfully, some 1,861 cases being discharged clinically cured.

An important event in the medical history of the year was the appointment of a Chief Sanitary Inspector, upon whose arrival a campaign of public health education was started. This appointment is destined to be of very considerable influence in the carrying out of sanitation measures.

During the year a new water sewerage system was installed at the Colonial Hospital, which has given most satisfactory service.

A new electric-light plant was put in at the Hospital and the building re-wired.

The principal public works undertaken included the reconstruction of the telephone system, certain minor exchanges being eliminated. A new and more suitable type of switchboard was erected at the central exchange and smaller switchboards of similar design were installed at the principal district exchanges. The work of reconstructing the system, which was started in 1925, was completed at the close of the year under review.

Reconstruction work was continued on the Windward Highway and reached Georgetown at the end of the year. The cost of the work, as in 1925, was defrayed from surplus funds.

A new motor roller of an improved type was obtained.

A causeway was constructed over the Cumberland River and also over the Teviot and Fairhall rivers.

The education year was marked by the introduction of a revised code of education and the institution of pensions for Head Teachers on retiring.

Perhaps the most important event of the year, from the political point of view, was the Preliminary Conference of Representatives of the West Indian Islands and British Honduras and British Guiana, held in London in May and June with a view to the formation of a Standing Conference to meet at regular intervals and discuss and advise upon matters of general interest to the West Indies. The Windward Islands were represented by Lieutenant-Colonel Moorhouse, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., and the Honourable G. Lafitte.

The Colony was visited during the early part of the year by a Parliamentary delegation under the leadership of Viscount Peel.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G., paid a brief visit in February. The Administrator, Mr. R. Walter, C.M.G., was on leave from 14th July till the end of the year. During his absence the Government was administered by His Honour the Chief Justice, Mr. J. S. Rae, except for the period 23rd September till 3rd October, when the administration was taken over by the Honourable N. H. Turton, Attorney-General.

III.—CLIMATE.

St. Vincent is one of the healthiest of all the West Indian islands. The climate may be divided into two seasons, wet and dry; the dry season from January to May, and the wet season from June to December. The coolest months are December to April.

The temperature throughout the year varied from 78.6° F. to 82.1° F. The highest was in May, and the lowest in February. Meteorological records for 1926 show that the mean monthly temperature was 80.7° F., as against 79.5° F. in 1925.

The rainfall at the Agricultural Experimental Station in Kingstown, 80 feet above sea-level, was 78.86 inches, as compared with 90.98 inches in 1925. Rain fell on 283 days, and the greatest fall for one day was 1.84 on the 22nd July.

The rainfall at the Botanic Gardens, only a mile away from the Experimental Station but some 200 feet higher up, was 79.17 inches. The average at these Gardens for the last 33 years was 101.23 inches, so that the rainfall during 1926 was 22.37 inches below the average.

The reading of the barometer, corrected for instrumental error, elevation, and temperature, ranged from 30.189 inches on the 21st February to 29.821 inches on the 16th November.

IV.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial position of the Colony on the 31st December, 1926, was :—

Net surplus at 1st January, 1926	£	20,548
Revenue in 1926	£	60,243
Expenditure in 1926	£	80,791
Net surplus at 31st December, 1926	£	59,282
Net surplus at 31st December, 1926	£	£21,509

The net local revenue and expenditure in the last three years were :—

	Local Revenue.	Expenditure against Local Revenue.
	£	£
1924	60,893	53,887
1925	62,450	53,190
1926	60,243	59,282

The principal items of revenue in the last three years were :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
Import duties	25,869	26,379	26,683
Export duties	3,032	2,982	2,959
Excise duty on rum	2,938	5,816	6,479
Land and house tax	5,882	6,337	4,124
Income tax	3,947	4,504	3,014
Liquor trade duty	2,934	2,786	3,013
Postage stamps	2,334	1,732	1,774

The unexpended balance of £25,000 of the Eruption Relief Fund, made up from donations from the public in England and elsewhere at the time of the eruptions in the Soufriere volcano in 1902-3,

is invested and held as a reserve or insurance fund against any future elemental disaster. The annual interest derived from this balance, amounting to £750, is put to the general revenue and is applied to the relief of the poor. This amount, together with the Colony's Reserve Fund of £11,000, offers excellent security both for elemental disasters and economic depression. The amount to the credit of the Public Property Insurance Fund which was started during the year stood at £2,042 at the close of the year.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt at 31st December, 1926, was £9,730, of which £1,280 is a loan raised by the town of Kingstown in 1914, for which the Colony is responsible only in case of default. The accumulated sinking funds provided for its redemption stood at £5,494 on the 31st December, 1926, of which £4,631 was in respect of Government loans, and £863 of the Kingstown Board Loan.

Currency.

British and American gold, five-dollar notes of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), and British silver and bronze coins constitute the currency of the Colony. Government accounts are kept in sterling, and commercial and banking accounts in dollars and cents.

V.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Colony in 1921 was 44,447 according to the census taken in that year. The population on 31st December, 1926, was estimated by the Registrar-General at 49,751 persons.

The following table gives the births, deaths and marriages in the past two years:—

	1925.	1926.
Births	1,946	1,963
Males	1,005	968
Females	941	995
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	43.13	39.46
Deaths	876	966
Death-rate per 1,000	18.18	19.42
Marriages	136	153
Marriage-rate per 1,000	2.82	3.08
Illegitimate births numbered 1,418, or 72.2 per cent. of the total number of all births.		
Still-births numbered 108, of which 88 were illegitimate.		

VI.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total values of imports and exports in 1925 and 1926 were:—

Year.	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total trade. £
1925	211,907	232,432	444,339
1926	203,606	162,909	366,515

Produce of the Colony to the value of £158,825 was exported in 1926, as against £229,941 in 1925.

Imports.

The following table shows the value of imports for the past two years:—

	1925. £	1926. £
United Kingdom	75,914	67,425
Canada	46,108	45,373
British West Indies	15,180	10,896
India	646	3,476
Newfoundland	2,851	6,071
Other British Colonies	7,271	3,878
United States of America	46,302	46,737
France	1,736	2,845
Denmark	790	450
Holland	706	675
Foreign West Indies	669	550
Germany	1,505	1,875
Other countries	3,547	3,266
Unclassified, including Parcel Post	8,682	10,089
	£211,907	£203,606

The following are the percentages, in the last two years, of the principal countries from which imported articles are obtained:—

	1925.	1926.
United Kingdom	35.82	33.12
United States of America	21.85	22.95
Canada	21.76	23.28
All other countries	20.57	21.65

The following is a summary of the imports for the year :—

	£
Food, drink, and tobacco	71,423
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	102,521
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	19,402
Miscellaneous and unclassified	10,260
	<u>£203,606</u>

Exports.

The destinations of the exports of the produce of the Colony in 1925 and 1926 were as follows :—

	1925.	1926.
	£	£
United Kingdom	167,116	92,492
Canada	19,149	10,992
British West Indies	27,744	32,716
British Guiana	1,306	649
United States of America	14,136	20,613
Other countries	490	1,363
	<u>£229,941</u>	<u>£158,825</u>

The principal products exported were :—

	1925.	1926.
	£	£
Arrowroot	125,078	45,807
Cotton :—		
Sea Island	57,655	63,175
Marie Galante	464	1,514
Seed cotton, Marie Galante	1,047	468
Cocoa	2,345	2,461
Syrup and molasses	19,672	16,523
Cassava starch	4,160	4,077
Copra	5,512	9,826
Peanuts	3,794	2,370
Animals	3,986	5,243
Cotton seed	53	398
Cotton-seed oil	1	533
Whale oil	1	148
Vegetables, fresh	2,581	2,107
Peas	866	476
Corn	627	388

Agricultural Industries.

The Government Cotton Ginnery continued to buy seed cotton on profit-sharing terms, but confined its activities to Sea Island cotton only, as was the case in 1925.

The following quantities were dealt with in the seasons 1925-26 and 1926-27 :—

	1925-26.	1926-27.
	lb.	lb.
Sea Island seed cotton	131,520	451,393
Corn was purchased on the co-operative system to the following extent during the seasons 1925-26 and 1926-27 :—		
	1925-26.	1926-27.
	lb.	lb.
Shelled corn	100,850	99,929
Cob corn	36,138	37,933

Cotton.—The acreage planted in cotton again showed an increase over past years. For the 1925-26 season 4,989 acres were planted with Sea Island cotton and 1,359 acres with Marie Galante, while for the 1926-27 season 6,156 acres were planted with Sea Island and 1,300 acres with Marie Galante. The acreage planted with Sea Island cotton in the 1926-27 season has only been exceeded on one occasion, viz., 1920-21.

The number of peasant proprietors of Sea Island cotton increased from 2,515 in the 1925-26 season to 3,360 in 1926-27.

The total amount of Sea Island cotton lint produced during the season under review was 507,240 lb., or at the rate of 82 lb. per acre—a considerable reduction on the previous three seasons, due largely to attacks of the cotton caterpillar.

On the whole the damage done by the pink bollworm, except on one estate, was not worse than in previous years. Planters were careful to clean up their fields during the close season and this, combined with the vigilance of the Agricultural Department, contributed to keep the pest in check.

A total of 589,499 lb. of Sea Island cotton was exported in 1926, value £63,175, as against 473,219 lb., value £57,655, in 1925.

The export of Marie Galante cotton was 30,275 lb., of the value of £1,514, as against 9,673 lb., of the value of £464, in 1925.

Marie Galante seed cotton to the amount of 56,092 lb., value £468, was exported in 1926, as against 100,468 lb., value £1,047, in 1925.

Cotton seed is used extensively as a fertiliser.

Syrup and Molasses.—337,099 gallons, of the value of £16,523, were exported in 1926, as against 268,118 gallons, of the value of £19,672, in the previous year.

Rum.—28,286.7 proof gallons were manufactured in the Colony, showing an increase of 1,489.6 proof gallons on the previous year.

Arrowroot.—There was no fixing of prices in the London market by the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers' and Exporters' Association during the year 1926, but large quantities remained unsold. 3,291,553 lb., of the value of £45,807, were exported as compared with 3,190,412 lb., of the value of £125,078, in 1925. The British market is overstocked with this valuable foodstuff and additional markets are required. It is satisfactory to note that the export of this commodity to the United States of America increased from 649,977 lb. in 1925 to 914,379 lb. in 1926. Holland also was an importer and, in view of the great importance of finding new and wider markets for this stuff, this is good news.

Peanuts.—190,978 lb., value £2,370, were exported, as against 273,039 lb., value £3,794, in 1925.

Copra.—The exports of copra continue to increase. The figures for the past seven years are as follows:—

Year.	Quantity Exported. lb.
1920	22,644
1921	89,005
1922	222,593
1923	356,626
1924	645,973
1925	661,309
1926	762,563

In view of the flat state of the markets for cotton and arrowroot it is satisfactory to note the progress of the copra industry.

There are twenty-one Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies in the Colony; several Societies are, however, not functioning. The amount of money loaned in 1926 was £1,586, compared with £1,460 in 1925. A few Societies failed to repay in 1926 debts contracted in earlier years. All loans contracted in 1925 were repaid in 1926.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered was 353, of 204,743 tons; and 357, of 211,393 tons, cleared. Three vessels of sixty-three tons were registered during the year.

VII.—EDUCATION.

Education is not compulsory.

The following comparative table gives particulars in regard to primary education during the years 1925 and 1926:—

	1925. 27	1926. 28
Number of schools	...	...
Number of pupils on roll at 31st December	4,884	5,407
Average attendance	2,648	2,892
Government Grant-in-aid	£2,939	£3,335
Cost per head in average attendance	£1.2.2	£1.3.0½

Eleven of the twenty-eight regular schools belong to the Government, which bears the whole cost of their maintenance. Religious denominations provide, and are responsible for the upkeep of, the buildings of the other seventeen schools. The salaries of the teachers, however, and the greater part of the other expenses of these schools are paid from public funds.

There were eight other small schools of a primary education standard, known as "Aided Schools", which were assisted by small Government grants to the extent of £114.

The Government maintains in Kingstown a secondary school for the education of boys—the Grammar School, and one for girls—the Girls' High School. The average attendance in 1926 was 70 boys and 50 girls, as compared with 74 boys and 43 girls in 1925. There is a system of Government scholarships to the Grammar School for pupils from the primary schools.

There is an Island Scholarship awarded biennially under Ordinance No. 41 of 1921, tenable for not less than three and not more than five years at an approved University. The annual value is £250, and the cost of passage is also defrayed.

The first Island Scholar to be appointed, Mr. P. E. McI. Clarke, left the Colony in September, 1923, to study medicine at King's College, London. Satisfactory reports have been received as to his progress in his studies.

A second scholar, Mr. A. B. Brereton, was appointed in 1924 and left during 1925 to take up his medical studies at Edinburgh University, and a third scholar, Mr. J. P. E. Cropper, was appointed in 1926 but had not taken up his studies at a University at the close of the year.

Provision exists for the Town Boards of Kingstown and Georgetown to provide sums towards scholarships and exhibitions at the secondary schools on lines similar to the Government exhibitions.

VIII.—HOSPITALS.

The following hospital accommodation is provided:—Colonial Hospital, Kingstown, 78 beds (including 4 beds for private paying patients); District Casualty Hospital, Georgetown, 4 beds; and District Casualty Hospital, Chateaubelair, 4 beds.

IX.—BANKS.

Government Savings Bank.—The following is a comparative statement of the operations of the Government Savings Bank during the past two years:—

Year.	Number of depositors at 31st December.	Amount of deposits. £	Amount of withdrawals. £	Balance to credit of depositors at 31st December, including interest capitalized. £
1925	737	2,968	2,665	14,642
1926	729	1,945	2,427	14,561

The interest capitalized during the year amounted to £402. The Savings Bank funds invested at the 31st December, 1926, amounted to £13,746. Interest at 3 per cent. is paid on deposits. *Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).*—There is a branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), formerly the Colonial Bank, with a Savings Bank Department.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

External.

Owing to the rejection of the tender of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the shipping service contemplated by the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925, the fortnightly service hitherto maintained by the Company was reduced to a monthly service during the year under review and the Colony suffered greatly from lack of regular passenger steamship communication. The Harrison, the Canadian Merchant Marine, and the Columbian Lines of steamers continued to call at uncertain intervals with and for cargo and mails. Mails and cargo were also sent and received by sailing vessels to and from Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad, where there is direct communication by steamers with the United Kingdom and the United States.

Internal.

The Post Office does a considerable amount of money order and parcels business (including the cash-on-delivery system with the United Kingdom) with the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and other countries.

The central office is in Kingstown, with seventeen district offices. Mails are sent to the windward side of the Island by motor-car, by motor-boat to the leeward side, and to the Grenadines by sailing vessels.

There is no inland telegraph service. The West India and Panama Telegraph Company maintained their station at St. Vincent.

The wireless station for the new telegraph system authorised by the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924, of the Imperial Parliament, which was erected by the Radio Communication Company and opened in March, 1925, is in regular operation and has given very satisfactory service.

The Government maintains a telephone system which connects Kingstown with exchanges in the districts and with residences and places of business. There were 219 services and 188 miles of line in use.

R. WALTER,
Administrator.

Government House,
Saint Vincent,
18th October, 1927.

通商局



田中

勅大臣男爵

田中義一殿



普通第八二號

昭和三年二月十三日

別紙添付

在英

特命全權大使男爵 松井慶四郎

昭和三年三月廿六日接受

(已用紙)

歐米局

第二課長

英國植民地年報「リ・ウ・ア・ド」島ノ分
送付ノ件
標記報告書二部何等御参考迄茲ニ送付ス

在英國日本大使館

REEL No. A-0980

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アジア歴史資料センター

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1371.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1926—27.

(For Reports for 1924-25 and 1925-26 see Nos. 1283 and 1323, respectively (Price 1s. each).)



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LEEWARD ISLANDS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926-27.

INTRODUCTORY.

The Leeward Islands form the most northerly group of the "Lesser Antilles" in the West Indies and lie between 16° 27' and 15° 10'. The Colony is a Federation comprising the five "Presidencies," formerly separate colonies, of Antigua; St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts), with which Presidency is included Nevis; Dominica; Montserrat; and the Virgin Islands.

The Governments of the first three Presidencies are each administered by an "Administrator," while the officers in charge of the two smaller Presidencies of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands have the title of "Commissioner." All the Presidencies form together one Colony under a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is resident at Antigua, the headquarters of the Colony. When the Governor is visiting the other Presidencies the Colonial Secretary assumes the office of Administrator of Antigua; and, when the Governor is absent from the Colony, the Government is administered in accordance with the Dormant Commission issued for the purpose.

Councils.—There is an Executive and a Legislative Council for the Colony, and also separate Executive and Legislative Councils for each of the four larger Presidencies, the Virgin Islands having only an Executive Council.

The Legislative Council of the Colony consists of 10 official and 10 elective members, three of the elective members being chosen by the unofficial members of the Antigua Legislative Council, three by those of St. Kitts-Nevis, two by those of Dominica, and one by those of Montserrat, and one is a person resident in the Virgin Islands, appointed by the Governor.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

During the financial year 1926-27 the total revenue (inclusive of £30,000 from Imperial funds) of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands was £289,393, made up as follows:—

	£
Antigua	81,283
St. Kitts-Nevis	88,108
Dominica	87,833
Montserrat	23,688
Virgin Islands	9,486
Total	£289,393

showing an increase of £21,791 in comparison with the revenue of the previous year.

The following Grants-in-Aid from the Imperial Government were made to the Presidency of Dominica during the year under report:—

On account of the deficit of 1925-26	8,000
Sanitary campaign	4,000
Peasants' Information Bureau, coastal service and peasants' roads	4,600
Agricultural loans	13,400
	<u>£30,000</u>

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1926-27 was £259,037, made up as follows:—

Antigua	80,736
St. Kitts-Nevis	86,418
Dominica	62,895
Montserrat	21,140
Virgin Islands	8,848
	<u>£259,037</u>

showing a decrease of £9,824 in comparison with the expenditure of the previous year.

The following table shows the amounts standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund on the 31st March, 1927:—

	£	s.	d.
Antigua	10,809	15	3
St. Kitts-Nevis	10,750	0	0
Dominica	5,427	8	6
Montserrat	10,041	14	8
Virgin Islands	10,090	10	10
	<u>£47,119</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>

The excess of liabilities over assets of £7,818 1s. 1d. on the 31st March, 1927, was made up as follows:—

Presidency.	Assets.	Liabilities.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua	—	6,137 0 0
St. Kitts-Nevis	3,919 13 6	—
Dominica	—	10,426 7 7½
Montserrat	2,759 1 1	—
Virgin Islands	2,066 11 11½	—
	<u>8,745 6 6½</u>	<u>16,563 7 7½</u>
	<u>7,818 1 1</u>	
	<u>£16,563 7 7½</u>	<u>£16,563 7 7½</u>

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounted to £278,850 on the 31st March, 1927.

The following table shows the amount of loans raised and the amounts standing to the credit of sinking funds on 31st March, 1927:—

Presidency.	Total Amount of Loans Raised.	Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Antigua	145,500 0 0	88,999 19 10
St. Kitts-Nevis	59,250 0 0	40,351 14 5
Dominica	60,000 0 0	42,583 13 7
Montserrat	14,100 0 0	7,688 0 0
	<u>£278,850 0 0</u>	<u>£179,023 7 10</u>

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, AND SHIPPING.

Imports.

The total value of the imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1926 amounted to £842,464, as against £786,558 in 1925, being an increase of £55,906.

The following table shows the imports into each Presidency of the Colony:—

	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	68,446	75,851	71,038	215,335
St. Kitts-Nevis	94,312	174,015	98,246	366,573
Dominica	48,833	71,743	44,308	164,884
Montserrat	15,718	33,545	14,092	63,355
Virgin Islands	1,927	12,342	18,048	32,317
Totals	<u>£229,236</u>	<u>£367,496</u>	<u>£245,732</u>	<u>£842,464</u>

Exports.

The total value of the exports for the year 1926 was £689,113, as against £727,862 in 1925, being a decrease of £38,749.

The following table shows the exports from each Presidency of the Colony:—

	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Antigua	58,560	122,355	56,655	186,570
St. Kitts-Nevis	104,815	163,005	19,903	287,723
Dominica	32,792	15,972	97,107	145,871
Montserrat	53,770	6,733	1,508	62,011
Virgin Islands	86	206	6,646	6,938
Totals	<u>£250,023</u>	<u>£308,271</u>	<u>£180,819</u>	<u>£689,113</u>

Shipping.

The following table shows the tonnage of shipping entered and cleared during the year:—

	British Tons.	Foreign Tons.	Total Tons.
Antigua	628,986	71,769	700,755
St. Kitts-Nevis	651,550	63,670	715,220
Dominica	564,242	69,764	634,006
Montserrat	314,006	2,876	316,882
Virgin Islands	16,473	2,707	19,180
Totals	2,175,257	210,786	2,386,043

III.—LEGISLATION.**Leeward Islands.**

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands passed nine Acts during the year 1926. The most important of these are:—

- (1) *The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1926*, which amends the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1887, raising by one year the "age of consent" in the case of certain offences against girls.
- (2) *The Loan-in-Aid Title by Registration Act, 1926*. This Act was passed to secure by legislation the repayment of advances to be made by the Governments of the Presidencies of Saint Christopher and Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, to owners of land in the said Presidencies who had suffered damage by hurricane in the year 1924, in aid of the cotton and sugar industries of those Presidencies. The other Acts passed during the year were unimportant and were trifling amendments of existing legislation.

Antigua.

During the year 1926 fourteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua. Only three of these Ordinances may be regarded as being important, namely:—

- (1) *The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1926*, which deals with the carriage of goods by sea from any port in the Presidency to any port outside of the Presidency. The rules dealing with the subject have been incorporated in the schedule to the Ordinance.
- (2) *The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1926*, which repeals the Opium Ordinance, 1913, and makes other provisions in lieu thereof.
- (3) *The Water Works Amendment Ordinance, 1926*, which repealed Sections 18 and 19 of the Water Works Ordinance, 1923, and made other provisions in lieu thereof.

Dominica.

During the year, nine Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council. Of these *The Customs Import and Export Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926*, was passed to raise additional revenue. This Ordinance places the duty on essential oils exported from the Presidency on a sliding scale, and came into operation on the 16th September, 1926.

Of the other Ordinances passed the following appear to be the most important:—

The Exportation of Fruit Ordinance, 1926.—Under Section 4 of this Ordinance all fruit intended for export must be packed in a standard container which has to be marked on the outside with the name and identification mark of the shipper. Section 5 of the Ordinance provides for the appointment of a Fruit Inspector or Inspectors whose duty is to inspect the containers in which fruit is to be packed, and also to supervise the packing of fruit at licensed packing depots. By regulations under the Ordinance small fees are payable for inspection, &c., of fruit; these fees being imposed to cover the cost of the Inspector's travelling. The Ordinance was brought into operation on 1st September, 1926.

The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1926.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1926.

The Alexandra Home Trustees' (Extended Powers) Ordinance, 1926.—This law empowers the Trustees of the Alexandra Home to administer all charitable gifts of every description which may be devised or bequeathed by will, not only for the benefit of the Alexandra Cottage Home or the Dominica Infirmary, but for the Roseau Hospital, or any other charitable purpose.

Montserrat.

The Legislative Council of Montserrat passed nine Ordinances during the year 1926. The most important of these are:—

- (1) *The Motor-Car Tax Ordinance, 1926*, which imposes a tax on motor-cars and motor cycles.
- (2) *The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1926*.
- (3) *The Cotton Planting (Regulation) Ordinance, 1926*, which provides for a close planting season either for the whole Presidency or for such area or areas thereof as may be specified by Proclamation.

St. Christopher and Nevis.

During the year 1926 eleven Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Saint Christopher and Nevis. *The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1926*, is the only Ordinance which may be regarded as being of importance. Most of the other Ordinances were passed to effect trifling amendments to existing legislation.

Virgin Islands.

The Governor made six Ordinances for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands during the year under review.

These Ordinances were all of a formal nature except *The Pigeon Ordinance*, 1926, which prohibits the keeping of pigeons in "Road Town" as defined by the Ordinance, without the written permission of the Commissioner.

IV.—EDUCATION.**Elementary.**

The number of elementary schools in the Colony during the year under review was 104, distributed as follows:—

Presidency.	Government.	State-aided.	Total.
1. Antigua	18	2	20
2. St. Kitts-Nevis	16	2	18
Nevis	10	—	10
Anguilla	5	—	5
3. Dominica	24	4	28
4. Montserrat	—	13	13
5. Virgin Islands... ..	—	10	10
Total			104

The numbers enrolled and in average attendance were:—

Whole Colony.	1925-26.	1926-27.
Number on roll	25,769	24,944
Average attendance	16,113	15,823.

The total expenditure in the primary schools, exclusive of salaries of the departmental officers and of establishment charges was £17,332 2s. 4d., against £18,566 15s. 0½d. in the previous year.

Secondary.

The following is a list of the secondary schools in the Colony, with their respective grants:—

School.	Grant.
	£ s. d.
1. Antigua Grammar School... ..	530 0 0
2. Antigua Girls' High School	200 0 0
3. Dominica Grammar School	643 0 0
4. St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School	1,150 0 0
5. Excelsior School, Nevis	50 0 0
6. Thomas Oliver Robinson Memorial School, Antigua	50 0 0
7. Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua	240 0 0

A Scholarship of £150 a year for three years, tenable at a University to be approved by the Governor, is awarded on the results of the Cambridge School Certificate Examination. The Scholarship is open to both boys and girls under 19 years of age.

The primary schools in Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts-Nevis are all under direct Government control, and are managed by a Sub-Inspector of Schools in each Presidency.

In Montserrat and the Virgin Islands they are, with one exception, denominational, and are managed by the clergy of the various denominations, under the general control of the Education Boards. The schools are examined annually by the Inspector of Schools, and grants are awarded on the results of this examination. The pupil-teacher system is in vogue, the period of service being three years. Studentships are awarded to specially selected candidates, at the conclusion of their pupil teachership, for two years to complete their training as assistant teachers. Those for girls are held at the Spring Gardens Female Teachers' Training College, Antigua, and those for boys at the Rawle Training Institute, Codrington College, Barbados.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There is a Central Lunatic Asylum at Skerrets, Antigua, and two Leper Homes in the Colony, one at Rat Island, Antigua, and the other at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Prisoners sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment are sent to the Common Prison of the Leeward Islands, in Antigua, and immediately before the expiration of their sentences are returned to the Presidencies from which they were committed.

One hundred and seventy-one prisoners (94 males and 77 females) were admitted during the year. This is the lowest number of admissions on record. The highest number of prisoners in custody at any one time during the year was 87 (69 males and 18 females). The expenditure on the Central Prison was £2,218 4s. 1d. and the receipts £203 16s. 4d.

The daily average number of prisoners was 71. The cost of the maintenance of each prisoner was £28 7s. 5d.

There were no deaths in the prison, but two male prisoners died in the hospital during the year.

Accommodation of the prison:—

Males.	
Separate cells	72 to hold 72
Association cells	7 " " 35
Infirmary ward	1 " " 9
Total for males	116

Females.

Separate cells ...	20 to hold 20
Association cells ...	3 " " 9
Infirmity ward ...	1 " " 3
Total for females...	32

Comparative table of Criminal Statistics for 1925 and 1926 :—

	1925.	1926.
Cases reported to the police...	6,071	6,906
Number of cases brought before the Magisterial Courts ...	14,115	15,419
Summary convictions ...	9,050	10,602
Indictments in the Superior Courts	77	85
Convictions in the Superior Courts	41	39

St. John's Training School.

The St. John's Training School was established under the provisions of the Leeward Islands Act No. 4 of 1891, for the reformation, education, and training of boys under 18 years of age.

On the 1st April, 1926, there were 18 boys at the school. During the year, four boys were received. Three boys were discharged during the year, leaving 19 in the school on the 31st March, 1927. The daily average was 18. The expenditure was £375 18s. 6d., the cost per head to Antigua being £20 16s. 5d. The health of the school was good. The boys were employed in agricultural and garden work in addition to the ordinary work of the school.

VII.—POLICE.

The actual strength of the Force on the 31st December last was 6 Officers and 141 Non-commissioned Officers and Men. The authorised establishment, as provided for in the Colonial Estimates for the different Presidencies, was 6 Officers and 147 Non-commissioned Officers and Men. Dominica Division is much under-policed for its area, population, and the duties calling for discharge.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. Bell returned to the Colony from leave of absence in the United Kingdom, on the 20th February, 1926. Major C. H. Walker, Inspector, Dominica Division, left for England on sick leave on the 5th February, 1926, and retired medically unfit on the 14th September, 1926. Captain K. M. Leighton, from the Barbados Police, was appointed Inspector in the Leeward Islands Police on 8th October, 1926, and posted to Dominica. Sub-Inspector H. G. Bell accepted promotion in the Barbados Police and left for that Colony on the 31st December, 1926.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total population of the Colony according to the census of 1921 was 122,242, showing a decrease of 4,951 when compared with the census of 1911.

Antigua.

In Antigua the estimated population on the 31st December, 1926, was 29,648. The number of marriages registered in the Presidency in 1926 was 84, as against 93 in 1925, while the births were 1,067, being 35.98 per thousand. The legitimate births were 243 and the illegitimate births 824, the percentages being 22.77 and 77.23, respectively. The deaths during the year numbered 709, which gives a death-rate of 23.91 per thousand. The deaths of children under one year, exclusive of 85 still-births, numbered 143, or 20.17 per cent. of the total.

St. Kitts-Nevis.

In respect of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis, the number of inhabitants at the close of 1925 was estimated as follows:—St. Kitts 19,456, Nevis 12,135, Anguilla 4,565; the birth-rates in 1926 being: St. Kitts 47.2 per cent., Nevis 27.1, and Anguilla 27.6; while the death-rate for St. Kitts was 40.1 per thousand, for Nevis 17.7, and for Anguilla 17.9. The illegitimate birth-rate (1925) for St. Kitts was 78.0 per cent., for Nevis 60.6, and for Anguilla 53.6, as against the legitimate birth-rate of 22.0, 39.4, and 46.4 for St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, respectively. There were 168 marriages as against 172 in the previous year.

The mortality of infants under one year of age was 186, 52, and 13 in St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla, respectively.

Dominica.

In Dominica the estimated population at the end of 1926 was 39,879. The births registered during the year numbered 1,527, as against 1,495 in 1925, giving a birth-rate of 38.29 per thousand. Illegitimate births exceeded the legitimate by 325 (926 as against 601); the percentage of legitimate and illegitimate births being, respectively, 39.36 and 60.64. The total number of registered deaths was 973, as against 827 in the previous year, while the death-rate was 24.39 per thousand.

Montserrat.

The report on the vital statistics for Montserrat in 1926 shows a population of 11,732 on the 31st December, 1926; the births registered being 417 as against 392 in 1925, and showing a birth-rate of 34.54. The legitimate births were 109, the illegitimate 308, the percentage being 26.03 and 73.97, respectively. The deaths registered were 167 as against 285 in 1925, and the death-rate was 14.23 per thousand, as against 24.41 per thousand in the previous year.

The marriages registered during the year under review were 52, showing an increase of 20 over the figures for the year 1925. The general health of the Colony during the year was satisfactory.

IX.—METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Antigua.

The average annual rainfall for 70 stations was 50.20 inches. The average annual rainfall for 53 years is 43.70 inches; the rainfall for the calendar year under review being 6.50 inches above the average. It was well and equitably distributed and materially helped in the obtaining of favourable crops. The greatest rainfall in 24 hours was 4.89 inches on 13th September, 1926, and the lowest temperature (65°) was registered on 7th February, and the highest temperature (92°) on 3rd and 4th August and in September.

The number of earthquakes recorded during the year was 5, on 17th May, 19th, 22nd, and 30th August, and 14th September.

St. Kitts.

The rainfall at La Guerite Station was 59.41 inches for the year 1926.

Dominica.

The mean rainfall at different stations was:—

	Inches.
11 Leeward Stations	71.54
4 Windward Stations	85.77
5 Inland Stations	154.30
5 Lasoye Stations	130.06

X.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

British and foreign mails are conveyed by steamers of Messrs. Furness Withy and Company, Limited, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, Messrs. Pickford and Black, and the Colombian Line. The mails are conveyed between Tortola and St. Thomas and between Tortola and Virgin Gorda by a launch belonging to the Government, and by private boats, as follows:—

From Tortola to St. Thomas about four times a week.

From Tortola to Virgin Gorda about six times a month.

There is a fortnightly service by sailing-boat between St. Kitts and Anguilla.

Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica are in telegraphic communication with each other, the other West Indian Colonies, and Europe and America, by the cables of the West Indian and Panama Telegraph Company.

There is no communication by telegraph with the Virgin Islands, but messages can be sent to that Presidency via St. Thomas. St. Kitts is in heliographic communication with Nevis.

There are wireless stations in Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Montserrat, operated by the Pacific Cable Board.

XI.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

His Excellency the Honourable Sir Eustace Fiennes, Bart., Governor, was absent on leave from the 19th July, 1926, to the 4th November, 1926, during which time Lieutenant-Colonel T. R. St. Johnston, Administrator of St. Kitts-Nevis, acted as Governor of the Colony.

Mr. M. M. Auchinleck was appointed to be Federal Treasurer and Treasurer of Antigua *vice* Mr. F. W. Griffith, who resigned from the Service on the 31st October, 1926.

Captain O. L. Hancock, O.B.E., Commissioner of the Virgin Islands, was transferred to the Gold Coast, and Mr. F. C. Clarkson was appointed to the Virgin Islands on the 3rd December, 1926.

HONOURS.

The following Honours were conferred by His Majesty during the year:—

Mr. R. Bryson and Dr. W. M. McDonald to be Officers (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Major J. T. Dew, V.D., late Commanding Officer of the Antigua Defence Force, and Mr. D. K. Macwilliam, Harbour Master, St. Kitts, to be Members (Civil Division) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Mr. F. Maynard, late Chief Officer at the St. John's Training School, was awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

ANTIGUA.

Financial.

The revenue for the year 1926-27 amounted to £81,282 19s. 10d. The expenditure was £80,735 16s. 0d. The excess of revenue over expenditure was therefore £547 3s. 10d., which reduced the deficit of £6,684 3s. 10d., brought forward on the 1st April, 1926, to £6,137. Against this deficit the Crown Agents for the Colonies held at the close of the year, as a reserve fund, securities as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Face value	11,104	6	1
Cost	10,809	15	3
Market value on 31st March, 1927	11,653	1	0

The revenue, estimated at £80,017, amounted to £81,282 19s. 10d., showing an increase of £1,265 19s. 10d. over the Estimates. £1,200 of this, however, represents reimbursements in aid of expenditure on country water supply from deposits on account of sales of Government lands and the Rental Assessment Fund.

	£	s.	d.
The total revenue for 1926-27 was	81,282	0	0
The total revenue for 1925-26 was	81,676	0	0
The decrease being	393	0	0

The various heads of revenue show, as compared with the previous year, the following increases and decreases:—

Head.	Increases.	Decreases.
	£	£
1. Customs	—	3,159
2. Port and Harbour Dues	—	310
3. Licences	968	—
3a. Municipal Rates	51	—
4. Fees of Court	1,185	—
5. Post Office, &c.	991	—
6. Rents	66	—
7. Interest	—	8
8. Miscellaneous	276	—
9. Land Sales	6	—
10. Grants-in-aid	—	450

The large decrease under Head 1, Customs, is due chiefly to the financial depression that the Presidency passed through during the year 1926.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £80,735 16s. 0d., being £3,271 11s. 1d. more than estimated, and £1,732 1s. 9d. more than the previous year.

The expenditure showed decreases in most of the Heads, with the exception of substantial increases under Head 28 (Barbuda) of £2,736, and under Head 26 (Public Works Extraordinary) of £1,539.

The increase under Head 28, Barbuda, was due to the payment of four years' grant to Barbuda withheld during prosperous years and now paid to assist Barbuda, which is in a low financial condition.

The expenditure under Head 26 (Public Works Extraordinary) includes £1,200 reimbursements-in-aid spent on country water supply as previously mentioned.

The position of Antigua at the 31st March, 1927, shows a great improvement, and unless unforeseen difficulties occur the deficit of £6,137 should be wiped off by the end of 1927-28.

Agricultural.

From an agricultural standpoint the year 1926 was disappointing, the yield from the Antigua Sugar Factory, which may be accepted as a criterion, having fallen from 14,625 tons in 1925 to 10,522 tons in 1926. The price of sugar, too, had fallen commensurately, the average price obtained in 1926 being £13 14s. 11d. per ton as compared with £14 15s. 5d. in 1925. This was slightly off-balanced by an increased purity of juice and somewhat higher sucrose content, and subsequent recovery of sugar. The following extract from the Annual Report of the Antigua Sugar Factory for the year 1926 is explanatory:—

"The Cane Crop this year has fallen considerably short of the previous year, mainly owing to less favourable weather. The Directors, however, desire to call attention to a further cause of deficient supply in the low yield of cane on some estates. The returns of the yield per acre from all the contracting proprietors show that some have failed to keep their plantations 'properly cultivated' in accordance with their contracts, and that if they had properly cultivated them, as other have done, their yield of cane per acre would have been 50 per cent. greater. Their failure in this respect has not only been injurious to their fellow-contractors and to the Company, as the profits for division depend on a full supply of cane, but it has been above all injurious to the estates themselves that have fallen short."

The following represents the total vacuum pan sugar manufactured:—

	Tons.
Antigua Central Sugar Factory	10,522
Bendals Sugar Factory	1,674
	12,196

The interests of Bendals Sugar Factory have been acquired by a local syndicate registered locally as the South Western Estates Company. It is difficult to estimate the output of the local muscovado factories, of which only one or two are in operation on a very minor scale, as much of this product is sold locally. During the year under review 26 tons only of muscovado sugar were exported. The quantities of molasses exported for the period in question were:—

	Gallons.
Vacuum pan molasses	382,836
Muscovado molasses	10,342

The railway line connecting the two Vacuum Pan Factories (Gunthorpes, Antigua Sugar Factory and Bendals Sugar Factory) referred to in the Report for 1925 was not utilised during the current year.

Cotton.—There was a considerable increase in the planting of Sea Island cotton owing to fair prospects of a remunerative price. The acreage under cultivation was considerably increased. Unfortunately, a wet season, while beneficial to the 1927 cane crop, proved inimical to the cotton crop. Yields were low and expenses increased by the constant need of dusting with paris green to counteract frequent and intensive attacks by the cotton worm (*Alabama sp.*). Pink boll-worm attack appeared early and no second picking was possible, in consequence the yield was low. The total exports for the year 1926 were 123,900 lb. lint as compared with 37,250 lb., reported for 1925, while the cotton seed exported amounted to 103,600 lb. As mentioned in the previous annual report the cotton grown by peasants was financed and dealt with through the Antigua Cotton Growers' Association—a private concern which does not derive any pecuniary benefit from its working, but which safeguards the interests of small growers by eliminating speculators and guaranteeing a second payment on a *pro rata* basis. During the season under review the Agricultural Department was relieved of this work (which was formerly carried on at the Botanic Station) and, instead, loans were made to the Antigua Cotton Factory to purchase peasants' cotton at a fixed rate, the Association to decide and distribute any subsequent bonus after marketing it to the best advantage. This has proved a very satisfactory innovation.

Onions.—Owing to the comparative smallness of the onion crop—once an important industry but now suffering from excessive competition from Dutch onions—it was decided not to open the onion drying houses maintained by the Onion Growers' Association under the supervision of the local Agricultural Department. In consequence all onions were shipped by private enterprise. The quantity so shipped for the year was 935 crates of 50 lb. each, or 46,750 lb.

Lime Industry.—The quantity of concentrated lime juice shipped during the year was 2,050 gallons, as compared with 500 gallons for 1925, while 2,950 gallons of raw juice and 87 barrels of lime fruit were also exported. This is a considerable increase over 1925 shipments but it points to the fact that lime cultivation can be considerably extended in Antigua and that there are many valleys and localities where considerable extension can be safely recommended. On the advice of Professor Briton Jones, of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, it would appear that Antigua is too dry to suffer from any considerable attack or even minor attack of wither-tip disease, and the extension of this industry can be and is being recommended.

Coconuts.—There is little improvement to report in this industry. The exports for 1926 were 4,200 nuts but it must be noted that many went into local consumption. Most of the

coconuts used for domestic purposes in Antigua are exported from Dominica. The type of nuts grown locally are bold and large but the trees suffer from rats, scale insects, and aleuroidic parasitic hemiptera and are only now recovering from an extended period of drought.

The remaining agricultural items call for no special report. They include:—

Hides and skins to the value of £269.

Tamarinds, 537 barrels.

Seedwork, £391.

It would appear, with regard to the latter item, that the vogue for this type of bead decoration has dwindled and that although the exports for 1925 averaged £1,335 it has now decreased to £391, a decrease down to 37 per cent. of last year's value, despite the fact of much repeated advertisement at recent exhibitions.

Exhibitions, &c.—Covering the financial year 1926-27, two very successful exhibitions were held on 25th February, 1926, and 18th January, 1927. Both of these were unqualified successes. Owing to the efforts of His Excellency The Honourable Sir E. Fiennes, a surplus fund apart from any local allocation was available for both exhibitions, which materially helped to make each exhibition a success and to ensure, so far as the January, 1927, exhibition was concerned, a still greater effort in which every branch in the community co-operated. From every standpoint these annual exhibits are a material help to local agriculture and should be encouraged in every way.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS.

The annual revenue for 1926-27 was £88,103, an excess of £1,103 over the revised estimate and £998 over the revenue received during the previous year.

The actual expenditure for the same year was £86,418, being less by £2,470 than the expenditure for 1925-26. No addition was made to the Reserve Fund which still remains invested at £10,750.

The most important public works carried out during the year were the construction of a Home for the Infirm on the La Guerite Lands immediately west of Basseterre. Other special works completed are a reinforced concrete Gasolene Warehouse, reconstruction, in concrete, of the sea end of the Treasury Pier, a War Memorial of reinforced concrete in the form of a triangular column about 18 feet high immediately in front of the flagstaff on the Bay Front, and a Chapel at the Leper Home; the last being erected entirely from public subscriptions. The laying out of Warner Park, in commemoration of the tercentenary of the colonization of St. Kitts, was well advanced at the end of March.

At the close of the year 1926-27 the public debt (taking into account the amounts to the credit of the Sinking Funds) stood at £18,898.

The surplus on the 31st March amounted to £3,919.

The value of imports for the calendar year 1926 totalled £366,573, exceeding the previous year's figures by £73,756.

The value of exports totalled £287,723, exceeding by £8,086 the figures for 1925.

Sugar.—In 1926 a crop of 16,290 tons of grey crystal sugar was produced. This shows an increase of 727 tons on the crop of 1925. The average rainfall for the island for the year was 43.54 inches, which was 9.51 inches below the average for the past twelve years. Fortunately the rainfall was well distributed throughout the year and this accounted for the very satisfactory crop of sugar cane. The railway of the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory, Limited, round the island was completed, which enabled the traffic to be handled with greater safety, economy, and speed.

This year completed the first fifteen years of the work of the Basseterre Sugar Factory, Limited, and in accordance with the agreement the 'B' shares will now be distributed to the planters and the payments against cane during the next season and thereafter will be raised to 5½ per cent., with bonus as hitherto.

The export of sugar for the year was 15,651 tons grey crystals, 19,309 gallons fancy syrup, and 377,913 gallons factory molasses. The price for grey crystal sugar dropped from £14 18s. 2d. per ton in 1925 to £13 7s. 1d. per ton in 1926.

The Cotton Industry.—The total acreage under cotton was about 3,700 acres. In St. Kitts the total produced was 244,697 lb. of lint, an average of about 110 lb. of lint per acre. This low return can be attributed to unsatisfactory weather conditions and to the prevalence of the cotton leaf worm during the season.

In Nevis the returns were more satisfactory than in 1925, and about 100,000 lb. of lint was produced, an average of about 70 lb. of lint per acre. In Anguilla the cotton crop was a failure owing to damage by the pink boll-worm; only about 4,000 lb. of lint being produced. The total crop produced in the Presidency for the year was 348,697 lb. of lint.

Coconuts.—The number of coconuts exported during the year was 108,300, which is in considerable excess of the amount exported in 1925.

There was an epidemic of measles during the early months of the year, traced to a case imported among labourers returning from Santo Domingo. The primary schools were closed from 17th February to 12th April to minimize the spread. There were 33 deaths directly attributable to this disease. The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 8.5 per thousand. The population decreased by 441 owing to emigration. The rate of infantile mortality for the year under review was 19.4 per cent. for the whole Presidency. The Baby Saving League continued its functions throughout the year. Owing, however, to the decrease in voluntary subscriptions the organization has been mainly supported by an increased Government grant-in-aid.

The campaign against venereal diseases and yaws has continued its work. In addition to the cases treated in the hospitals, 7,792 injections have been given.

The moogrol treatment of inmates of the Leper Home has been maintained, and twelve inmates have been discharged, on *parole*, during the year. The treatment has also been extended to "early cases," not segregated, in the Home and satisfactory results are being obtained.

DOMINICA.

Financial.

The financial year 1926-27 started with a deficit of £16,858 and closed with a deficit of £10,426.

The ordinary revenue for the year was £57,833, being £5,725 over the Estimate and £9,210 more than the revenue for the year 1925-26.

Imperial grants of £8,000 on account of deficit 1925-26, £4,000 for sanitary campaign; £4,600 for Peasants' Information Bureau, Coastal Service and peasants' roads; and £13,400 for agricultural loans were received and incorporated in the accounts for the year.

The drop in revenue from excise duty on tobacco is partly due to the transition period from imported leaf tobacco to the locally-manufactured leaf tobacco, owing to the fact that considerable stocks of imported leaf tobacco were in the hands of merchants and others which had to be disposed of before the locally-manufactured tobacco could be taken. It is believed that the excise duty on tobacco will show better results during the year 1927-28.

The ordinary expenditure for the year was £56,151; £1,542 below the Estimate and £2,107 less than the expenditure for the year 1925-26.

Of the Imperial grants £4,750 was devoted towards the reduction of the deficit of 1925-26; £1,693 for storm damage and Roseau Hospital improvements; £604 for sanitary campaign; £1,282 for agricultural development; and £2,664 for agricultural loans; leaving unexpended balances amounting to £19,754.

The value of imports during 1926 was £164,884, showing an increase of £18,680 over 1925.

With regard to imports the duty collected during 1925-26 and 1926-27 is as follows:—

	1925-26.	1926-27.
	£	£
Other than alcoholic ...	18,447	18,657
Alcoholic ...	1,457	1,520

The value of exports during 1926 is £145,871, being £20,275 in excess of 1925.

Agricultural.

The Lime Industry.—The export figures for the year 1926 show a decrease of 16,000 barrels of limes, when compared with those of the previous year. This decrease is largely attributable to a severe storm which struck the island during the night of the 22nd July, 1926. Lime estates were particularly affected, hundreds of trees were completely destroyed and a greater number were twisted and partially torn from the ground. The actual loss of fruit could not be determined as heavy rains carried a large quantity into the sea, and immature limes no larger than peas, consequently of no economic value, were stripped from the trees.

The loss experienced by planters from this catastrophe was to some extent alleviated by the unprecedented rise in the price of limes and lime oils later in the year.

Ripe limes realised up to 12s. per barrel, as against 4s. 8d. the previous year. Lime oils realised up to 31s. per lb. for distilled, and 40s. per lb. for expressed.

The crop shipped since 1919, calculated in barrels of fruit and expressed in round numbers, is recorded below:—

	Barrels.	
1919 ...	402,000	} Prior to appearance of withertip.
1920 ...	369,000	
1921 ...	516,000	
1922 ...	400,000	
1923 ...	228,000	
1924 ...	424,000	
1925 ...	230,000	
1926 ...	214,000	

The following table, calculated on the usual basis,* shows the disposal of the crop under various heads.

Product.	Barrels of fruit.	Approximate percentage of total crop.
Concentrated juice ...	156,021	73.00
Raw juice ...	35,834	16.76
Fresh limes ...	21,171	9.90
Pickled limes ...	287	.13
Lime-juice cordial ...	413	.19

But for the storm mentioned above the weather conditions were generally favourable throughout the year.

The exports of products of the lime industry during 1926 is recorded below:—

Product.	Quantity.	Value. £
Concentrated lime juice ...	104,014 gallons.	25,105
Raw lime juice ...	268,760 "	11,376
Lime-juice cordial ...	2,275 "	474
Fresh limes ...	21,171 barrels.	12,651
Pickled limes ...	278 "	215
Essential oil (distilled) ...	33,471 lb.	26,559
Otto of limes (handpressed or ecuelled).	9,381 "	11,175
		£87,555

In spite of withertip disease, the West Indian lime is still being profitably grown on the drier lands of the leeward coast and the cultivation of this crop is being extended in these localities.

Fruit Industry.—This industry received a serious set-back during the year through lack of suitable steamship facilities between the West Indian Islands and Canada.

With the signing of the West Indies-Canada Trade Agreement an improved service is, however, assured for the future, and undoubtedly a larger export fruit trade will result. Meanwhile, much interest and activity is being displayed generally in this industry, and the Agricultural Department has had to establish new nurseries to meet the demand for fruit plants, particularly Washington navel orange, grape fruit, Avocado pears, and grafted mangoes.

* 50 gallons of concentrated juice represents 75 barrels of lime fruits: 7½ gallons of raw juice represents 1 barrel of lime fruits: 1 ton of citrate of lime is equivalent to 266 barrels of lime fruits: 1 ton of citric acid is equivalent to 400 barrels of lime fruits: 1 gallon of lime-juice cordial represents 5½ barrels of lime fruits.

Bananas.—The situation at present is still far from being satisfactory. It is hoped, however, that some fruit company will be interested enough to let their ships call. Until something definite is known about this there does not seem to be any prospect of planting on a large scale. An Ordinance to regulate the examination and exportation of fruit and to prohibit the shipment of defective fruit came into operation on the 1st September, and officers of the Agricultural Department were appointed ex officio as Fruit Inspectors.

Coconuts.—Continued interest and activity is being shown in this industry and the Agricultural Department is establishing coconut nurseries in country districts in order that selected planting material may be more easily obtained by peasants.

There was an increase of roughly 44,000 lb. of copra shipped during the year, 109,987 lb. being exported as compared with 64,977 lb. for 1925.

Cocoa.—The high price ruling during the year has encouraged growers to extend their cultivation.

Coffee.—Is receiving particular attention and large areas are being planted both by planters and peasants.

Ginger.—Although there was a large increase in the export of this product in 1926, it is doubtful if this industry will reach large proportions in Dominica, low prices and the difficulty of drying being the factors militating against it.

Nutmegs.—The demand on the Agricultural Department for plants continues and undoubtedly nutmeg growing will ultimately be one of Dominica's principal minor industries.

Vanilla.—A steady increase in planting has to be recorded.

Tobacco.—Lack of interest by planters is noticeable, but the demand for seed from the peasantry has increased. The Tobacco Growers' Association continues to supply the local market with "black leaf" tobacco, and has reported a satisfactory year's working.

General.—As the outcome of the recommendations made by Sir Francis Watts, K.C.M.G., for amelioration of the economic conditions of Dominica which were approved in principle generally by the Secretary of State, a Board called The Loan Board for Approved Industries was set up on the 18th May, 1926, for the purpose of administering the funds provided by His Majesty's Government to assist planters and for carrying out the recommendations contained in Sir Francis Watts' Report.

The Personnel of the Board is as follows:—

His Honour E. C. Eliot, Esquire, Administrator, *Chairman*;
The Honourable F. B. B. Shand, Crown Attorney, Legal Adviser;
The Honourable H. A. Bascom, Treasurer;
The Honourable F. G. Harcourt, Agricultural Superintendent, Expert Adviser;
The Honourable H. H. V. Whitchurch } Unofficial Members.
The Honourable J. R. H. Bridgewater }
and Mr. R. B. Skinner, Chief Clerk, Administrator's Office, Secretary to the Board.

The Board has dealt with many applications for loans, a number of which have been approved and advances made.

In order to assist further the peasant proprietors, and others who are not in a position to purchase economic plants, the Secretary of State approved of a grant for the free distribution of plants, and the Agricultural Department has been active in the propagation of the necessary plants. Chains of coconut nurseries have been established round the island to facilitate the distribution of seed nuts.

On the 9th February, 1926, the death occurred of Sir Henry Nicholls K.C.M.G., late Principal Medical Officer, who had retired on pension on the 31st July, 1925, after close on 50 years' service to this Presidency.

On the night of the 22nd July, 1926, the island was struck by a severe storm which resulted in serious damage to the lime crop and heavy loss to planters and to the revenue. Considerable damage was also done to the electric light and telephone services, to the import and Bell jetties and a portion of the Bay Front, Roseau. The approach to the Copt Hall bridge on the southern bank was again carried away and numerous landslides occurred on the mountain roads in various parts of the island. The damage amounted to £1,800 and the Imperial Government once again generously came to the assistance of the Presidency by making a grant to cover the cost of this damage.

Owing to the unprecedented rise in the price for essential oils, and the imposition of an export duty on a sliding scale, and also the gradual improvement in the economic conditions generally, the estimate of revenue for the year 1926-27 was exceeded by £5,725.

MONTserrat.

Financial.

Revenue.—The revenue for the financial year 1926-27 amounted to £22,688, showing an increase of £1,317 over that of 1925-26.

Expenditure.—The expenditure for the year amounted to £21,140, as against £21,040 in 1925-26, being an increase of £100. There is an important increase in expenditure under Head XXVI, Public Works Extraordinary, due to the expenditure of £1,400 on the laying down of water supplies at Gages and the windward part of the Island.

Surplus.—The surplus funds increased from £1,212 in 1925-26 to £2,759 on the 31st March, 1927.

Public Debt.—The public debt on the 31st March, 1927, was £14,100, with £7,688 to the credit of the Sinking Funds.

Imports and exports.—The value of imports and exports during the calendar year 1926 rose from £59,803 and £45,197 to £64,949 and £62,719, respectively.

Agricultural.

Cotton.—Owing to favourable conditions the Sea Island cotton crop was above the average, the total export of Sea Island cotton being 600,217 lb. of lint. Practically the whole of the crop was sold on the spot to the Fine Spinners' Representative, Mr. Wyldy. The pink boll-worm did little damage but gave no chance of any second picking.

Onions.—Onion cultivation received a big impetus and over 400,000 lb. of onions were exported. It was expected that New York would be a ready market, but results did not come up to expectations, market prices ruling low due to the condition in which the onions were packed, and not sufficient attention being paid to selection.

Until growers realize that the utmost care must be taken in selection and packing, good market prices will not be obtained in this market where keen competition rules.

Sugar.—26½ tons of Muscovado sugar were exported. Of this, 23½ tons found their way to the Canadian market where prices ruled at approximately 5 cents. per lb. A considerable quantity of island muscovado sugar was used locally.

Minor Products, such as papain, pine-apples, Avocado pears, show a marked increase in development.

Medical.

No epidemic diseases occurred during the year. The special attention given by the Medical Department against yaws proved most successful. The birth-rate exceeded the death-rate by 20.60 per thousand.

The rate of infantile mortality shows a marked improvement, showing a reduction of 2.89 per thousand. This is largely due to the available spending-power of the peasant proprietor and to the efforts of the Matron of the Hospital, who is also in charge of midwives.

Public Works Department.

During the year two important water supplies were carried out; the villages of Bethel, Long Ground, etc., being supplied with an adequate water supply. A water supply was also established, enabling the villages of Gages and St. George's Hill to receive an abundant supply of exceptionally good water.

Heavy rains caused considerable damage to the main roads of the island, resulting in heavy expenditure.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

Financial.

The estimated revenue for the financial year 1926-27 was £8,467 but the actual revenue amounted to £9,486 6s. 0½d., an excess of £1,019 6s. 0½d. over the Estimates. All the ordinary Heads of Revenue exceeded the estimated amounts by a total of £1,590 4s. 1d. Unfortunately the Agricultural Department receipts fell short of the Estimates by £577 18s. 0½d., principally in cotton, sugar, and tobacco.

The estimated expenditure for the year was £8,277, but £8,947 12s. 9d. was actually spent, being an excess of £70 12s. 9d. on the Estimates. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £1,138 13s. 8½d. Sale of postage stamps was responsible for £1,507 16s. 0d. of the revenue.

The Surplus Funds on 31st March, 1927, were £2,066 11s. 11½d., together with a reserve fund of £10,090 10s. 10d.

The value of exports and imports during the calendar year amounted to £6,938 and £32,317, respectively, and the total tonnage of shipping was £16,473.

Public Works Extraordinary.

The sum of £123 15s. 9d. was expended principally on finishing off the various public buildings started in 1924-25.

Savings Bank.

	£	s.	d.
Deposits during the year amounted to ...	1,368	16	11
Withdrawals	1,083	12	9

At the end of the year there was £1,553 19s. 9d. in the Bank to the credit of depositors. Bank surplus amounted to £74 8s. 11d.

Educational.

There are ten elementary schools in the Virgin Islands, with an enrolment of 1,235 as against 1,104 in the previous year, and an average attendance of 773, an increase of 123 on the previous year.

The expenditure on Grant-in-aid amounted to £572 1s. 11d. during the year. There were 19 prosecutions under the Education Act of 1925, with fines totalling £2 3s. 0d. Two visits by the Federal Inspector of Schools were paid to the Presidency during the year and the usual examinations were held.

Medical.

The general health of the Presidency has been unusually good. The influenzal type of fever which usually occurs every autumn did not make its appearance this year. An epidemic of typhoid fever was introduced by a carrier from America early in the year and resulted in forty cases with eight deaths. Prompt measures were taken to combat it and the disease was effectively stamped out. An active campaign against yaws was undertaken and this disease, though never very prevalent here, has been much relieved.

All schools in the Presidency were visited and five hundred and two children vaccinated against smallpox. There have been 100 deaths during the year. Taking the population as 5,100, this gives a death-rate of 18.80 per 1,000.

Agricultural.

The year under review was one of exceptional drought, consequently all crops suffered to a large extent. There was no cotton crop. Cane was poor and the tobacco and cigar industry suffered a severe set-back. The coconuts that were damaged in the hurricane of August, 1924, show very slow progress of recovery. During the year some 1,500 imported coconut seedlings from Nevis were sold to the peasants to replace those lost in August, 1924, and a trial was made with pines from Porto Rico but with very little general success.

General.

The roads, jetties and buildings were maintained. New lamps were placed in the streets of Road Town and minor repairs effected. The Government motor-boat continued to give satisfaction and ran regularly.

通商局

V65157

歐米局

第二課長

(印)

普通第一。五號

別紙添付

昭和三年二月二十四日

在英

特命全權大使男爵

松井

慶四

外務省

大臣男爵

田中

義一

殿

英國植民地年報（「ジャマイカ」一九二六年分）

送付ノ件

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昭和三年三月廿一日接受

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在英國日本大使館

REEL No. A-0980

0236

アジア歴史資料センター

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1376.

JAMAICA.

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1276 (Price 1s. 3d.) and
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英領ジャマイカ島の
1926年度の報告書
昭和三十一年三月
印刷局

REEL No. A-0980

0237

アジア歴史資料センター

JAMAICA

Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1926.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between 17° 43' and 18° 32' N. latitude and 76° 11' and 78° 20' 50" W. longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles greatest width 49 miles, and least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:-

Surrey.		Middlesex.		Cornwall.	
Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.	
Kingston ..	7½	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew ..	183	St. Mary ..	251	Trelawny ..	353
St. Thomas ..	298½	Clarendon ..	487	St. James ..	239½
Portland ..	338	St. Ann ..	487	Hanover ..	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827½		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540½ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the above-named English Counties by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than for instance; France which has only 184 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the seacoast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 ft. This is the highest elevation in the British West Indies being more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the central range subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the island, these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method, until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges, with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath in the parish of St. Thomas and that at Milk River in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radioactive, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of the Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaneers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town), became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was

abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865 was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament, and a loan of £300,000 chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature, urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

12. A Legislative Council was, by Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866, and 11th November, 1869, established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

13. By Order in Council dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner: The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General; such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided. The Council shall be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

14. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of

His Majesty; but the number of members is not to exceed eight. The Governor is to preside at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

15. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

16. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694) Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savannala-Mar (population, 3,442).

17. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own parochial institutions managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1925 was 8,060 being at the rate of 8.8 per thousand of population. The several direct taxes levied on property, motor cars, horses, carriages, etc., are devoted mainly to the parish in which they are collected.

Judicial.

18. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrates' Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and the Resident Magistrates' Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

19. The year 1926 was on the whole a fortunate one for Jamaica. Once again the island was spared from the visitation of a hurricane and, with the exception of a drought which affected some districts severely during the early part of the year, conditions were very favourable for agriculture. Most of the Colony's staple products did well, the one outstanding exception being Rum, the export of which fell from over 1,100,000 gallons in 1925 to under 700,000 in 1926.

20. The export of bananas reached a total of over eighteen and a quarter million stems, the highest figure yet recorded, and there was also an export of over 600,000 lbs. of dried bananas. The export of grape fruit showed an increase of nearly 50 per cent. over the figures for 1925; the number of boxes of oranges exported rose from about 106,000 boxes to nearly 125,000 and there were gratifying increases in the figures relating to cocoa, ginger, sugar, logwood and leaf tobacco. The quantity

of pimento exported shewed a reduction of over one-third, but owing to the high prices obtained, the value of the exports was only about 5 per cent. below the figure for 1925.

21. The number of coconuts exported during 1926 was just over 23 million, a reduction of rather over 3½ million compared with the figure for 1925, but on the other hand the exports of copra rose from slightly under 3½ million to nearly 9½ million pounds.

22. During the year, for the first time in the history of the colony, an Exhibition of Paintings by artists of repute was held. The Royal British Colonial Society of Artists, which had hitherto confined its exhibitions to Australia, Canada and South Africa, sent a collection of pictures to Jamaica. The Exhibition was opened by His Excellency the Acting Governor on January 4th, and remained opened to April 3rd. Opportunity was taken to secure by public subscription a portrait of Lord Olivier, a former Governor of Jamaica.

23. In February a new Central Sugar Factory which had been erected at Duckenfield in St. Thomas was formally opened by Mrs. Jelf, the wife of the Acting Governor. This factory which is the largest sugar-producing unit in the Island, having a capacity of 10,000 tons, is the result of the enterprise of a British Syndicate, the Jamaica Sugar Estates, Ltd., of which Lord Invernairn is Chairman. Among those present at the opening ceremony were His Excellency the Acting Governor, Lord and Lady Invernairn, His Grace the Duke of Athol and Mr. T. J. Morris, British Minister at Havana.

24. In the early part of the year Jamaica was visited by an English cricket team which toured the West Indies under the auspices of the M.C.C. A United States Lawn Tennis Team and Costa Rican and Haytian Football Teams also visited the Island during the year.

25. May witnessed the opening in London of the Preliminary West Indian Conference which was convened by the Secretary of State for the Colonies with a view to the establishment of a standing Conference of the British West Indies, British Guiana, British Honduras and the Bahamas Islands. It is interesting to note that Jamaica was the prime mover in this proposal for the creation of a united West Indian consultative body, the first step in this direction having been taken as long ago as 1920 by the Jamaica Imperial Association which forwarded a resolution on the subject to a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the West Indies. Jamaica was represented at the Preliminary Conference by the following Delegates:—

The Hon. Wm. Morrison, Member of the Privy and Legislative Councils.

The Hon. J. H. Philipps, Member of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. and Revd. A. A. Barclay, Member of the Legislative Council.

The Hon. A. G. Nash, Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Chas. W. Doorly, Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Morrison was elected Vice-Chairman of the Conference.

26. As a result of the deliberations of the Preliminary Conference a constitution was framed for a permanent West Indian Conference. In addition several matters of mutual interest to the constituent governments were discussed. The scheme for the Standing Conference was approved by the local legislature at their Autumn Session. Most of the other Colonies have also approved of the scheme and it is hoped that by next year the West Indian Standing Conference will be an established fact.

27. In June the Canada-West Indian Trade Agreement which was signed at Ottawa in the previous year was ratified by the Canadian Parliament. This agreement provides *inter alia* for preferential tariffs and improved steamship communications between Canada and the West Indian Colonies.

28. The West Indian Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church assembled in Jamaica in June. The following Bishops attended the Synod:—

The Archbishop of the West Indies,
The Bishop of Jamaica,
The Bishop of Barbados,
The Bishop of Honduras,
The Bishop of Trinidad,
The Bishop of Guiana,
The Assistant Bishop of Jamaica and
The Assistant Bishop of Honduras.

29. The following gentlemen were honoured by their Sovereign on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday:—

Knights Bachelor—Mr. F. Barrett-Lennard, Chief Justice.
Mr. William Morrison, Privy Councillor.
Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George:—Mr. Richard Nosworthy, Collector General.

30. 1926 saw the passing of the famous West India Regiment which for generations has been closely connected with the history, not only of Jamaica, but of the West Indies as a whole. The decision to disband the regiment was a result of the retrenchment policy embarked upon by the British Government and is in no sense a reflection on the usefulness of the Corps which has borne itself with distinction from its genesis at the time of the American War of Independence down to the present day.

31. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:

32. Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs, K.C.M.G., arrived in the Colony on the 27th of April and took the oath as Governor of Jamaica. Mr. A. S. Jelf who had acted as Governor since his arrival in the Colony thereupon assumed his substantive appointment of Colonial Secretary.

33. Mr. F. C. A. Barrett-Lennard arrived in the Colony and assumed duty as Chief Justice of Jamaica.

34. Mr. J. M. St. John Yates, Resident Magistrate, was appointed Circuit Judge of Ashanti and the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast.

35. Mr. Justice DeFreitas, O.B.E., Puisne Judge, was appointed Chief Justice of British Guiana.

36. Mr. W. M. Fraser, Deputy Treasurer was appointed Treasurer.

37. Mr. R. Nosworthy, C.M.G., retired from the office of Collector General at the close of the year.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

38. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1924 were 7,284, in 1925, 5,440, and in 1926, 5,102. The arrivals in 1924 were 5,247, in 1925, 4,924, and in 1926, 5,625.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

39. The increase of interest in Public Health matters continues. This is largely due to the extension of the campaign against Hookworm and its educational influence.

40. A Health Education Bureau was inaugurated during the year. This Bureau issues a monthly bulletin which has achieved a considerable popularity.

41. The new Public Health Law, Law 18 of 1925, came into force at the beginning of the year. This Law consolidates and amends the various Health Laws of the Colony. As the title of the Law—"A Law to make provision for promoting the public health and for preventing the spread of communicable and epidemic diseases"—will indicate, it is of far-reaching importance and should, if its provisions are carefully enforced, be instrumental in improving the health conditions of the Colony.

42. A recrudescence of Alastrim occurred in the first quarter of the year in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew.

43. A localised epidemic of typhoid fever attacked a small badly sanitated area in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the month of September. An epidemic of bacillary dysentery also occurred in the north-eastern part of the parish of St. Catherine. Both of these epidemics yielded quickly to preventive measures.

VITAL STATISTICS.

44. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1926 was 936,927, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at the 31st of December, 1925, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st of December, 1926.

45. The number of marriages registered during 1926 was 3,981 the rate being 4.2 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 4.1 for 1925. During the same period 35,784 births were registered of which 18,100 were boys and 17,684 were girls. The birth rate works out at 38.4 per 1,000 as against 34.6 during 1925.

46. The number of deaths registered was 19,072 of which 9,524 were males and 9,548 females, the death rate being 20.5 per 1,000. The rate for 1925 was 21.5. During 1926, 7,635 or 40.0 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age and of these 6,013 or 31.5 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1925 were 36.1 per cent and 28.0 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 16.8 per cent. as compared with 17.3 in 1925.

47. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 9.0; Atrophy, Icterus and Scleroma of the new-born, 10.5; Phthisis, 9.9; Enteric Fever, 5.7; Pneumonia, 5.7 Heart Disease, 6.6; Venereal Disease, 3.1; Chronic Bright's Disease 2.9; Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 2.9.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

48. On the whole the Colony's trade during 1926 may be regarded with satisfaction.

49. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post) amounted to £5,365,950, as compared with £5,386,435 in 1925, a decrease of £20,485. This decrease, however, gives no cause for alarm as closer examination does not reveal a general falling off in the volume of Imports.

Class I. (Food Drink and Tobacco) shows an increase of £39,002, which due to larger importations of Fish, dried salted; Mackerels, wet salted; Flour and Rice.

Class II. (Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) also shows an increase of £208,753 which is accounted for chiefly by abnormal importations of Coal on account of the Coal Strike in England, and by an increased intake of Gasolene and Kerosene Oil.

The decrease in the total value of imports was caused by a slump in Class III (Manufactured Articles) which fell off by £265,904 owing chiefly to a large decline in the value of Cotton Piece-Goods and smaller importation of Machinery and Metals.

With regard to the sources of supply, Canada provided 39.1% of our Foodstuffs, the United States of America 66.6% of Raw Materials and the trade in Manufactured Articles was evenly divided between the United Kingdom and the United States, each country supplying 41%.

50. Examination of the detailed figures reveals appreciable increases in Fish, Dried Salted, Mackerels, Corn, Rice, Milk, Salt and Lumber, Other Kinds. On the other hand decreases occur under Herrings, Pickled, Laundry Soap, Refined Sugar and Leaf Tobacco. Douglas Fir from Canada was for the first time imported into the Island to the extent of over two million feet and this accounts for the increase under Lumber, Other Kinds. A falling off by 60% of the importation of Leaf Tobacco was caused by the reduction in the manufacture of Cigarettes made of a blend of foreign tobacco and a locally grown "Virginia" leaf.

51. A comparison of the importations of Motor Vehicles and parts discloses that the value of those goods increased from £290,167 in 1925 to £324,603 in 1926. Importations of Gasolene increased from 2,030,732 gallons in 1925 to 2,791,197 gallons in 1926. 1,030 Motor Cars came into the Island in 1926 or 198 more than in 1925.

52. Frequent references which have been made to a loss of Revenue on account of Preference granted to Trinidad and Newfoundland makes the following figures interesting. In 1926, we imported 1,975,919 gallons of Gasolene from Trinidad and 7,732,853 lbs. of Fish, Dried Salted, from Newfoundland. The amount given up in duty was £16,466 and £4,510 respectively; as against this the value of our Exports to the above-named Countries were as follows:—Trinidad £1,449 and Newfoundland £2,649.

53. The Trade in Cotton Piece-Goods in 1926 showed a decline of £144,982 in value and 2,732,857 yards in quantity. From information received it would appear that not only was this due to a reduction in cost of the goods but that a larger quantity of cheaper materials was imported from foreign sources. The following percentages are based on values:

1925:—British 42%, Foreign 58% or 16% in favour of Foreign.

1926:—British 45.7%, Foreign 54.3% or 8.6, in favour of Foreign. If however, quantities be taken, it will be found that in 1926, 38% of the goods were of British and 62 % of Foreign origin.

54. The yield from Import Duties amounted to £917,849, an increase of £50,978 over that of the previous year. The articles which chiefly contributed to this increase were Flour, Fish, Gasolene, Cigarettes and Spirits, whilst decreases occurred under Leaf Tobacco, Refined Sugar and 'Ad Valorem' Goods.

55. The Package Tax realized £58,465 or £4,126 more than in 1925. Of this total £43,849 was allocated to General Revenue whilst £14,616 went to the credit of the parishes in which the Tax was collected. Of the latter amount Kingston received £12,222.

56. The improvement noticed in our Export Trade towards the close of 1925 continued in 1926 and resulted in an increased value of £321,855, i.e., from £3,915,000 in 1925 to £4,236,855 in 1926. In 1925 eleven

staples realized a value of £3,528,735 or 91% of the total Exports: in 1926 the same products were valued at £3,821,353 or 90.2% of the total and had there not been considerable decreases in Coffee, Coconuts, Rum and Logwood Extract, the increase would have been larger.

57. As regards quantities an increase of 3,283,988 stems of Bananas brought the total for that fruit to 18,301,410 stems, thus constituting a record in the history of the Colony. Although during 1926 there was no abnormal rise in the price paid for Bananas, a greater stability obtained throughout the year, the average price being 3/- per count bunch. In addition we exported 6,000,000 lbs. more Copra and 10,440 tons more Sugar. The export of Coconuts and Rum decreased by 3½ million nuts and 427,897 gallons respectively.

58. The markets to which we sent our Exports varied slightly. The United Kingdom took 21.6% of the total, chiefly Logwood Extract, Rum and Sugar; Canada absorbed 18.9% comprising mainly Coffee and Sugar, whilst the United States, claimed 44% consisting principally of Fruit, Nuts and Cocoa, and All Other Countries took Dyewoods, Logwood Extract, Pimento and Tobacco to the extent of 15.5%.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

59. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.				
1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
£	£	£	£	£
2,047,412	2,061,202	1,922,963	2,021,046	2,147,042

Expenditure.				
1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.
£	£	£	£	£
1,949,034	2,074,271	2,022,746	2,009,593	2,046,205

The total Expenditure during the year 1926-27 was £100,837 less than the total Revenue.

60. The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1927, were £1,136,970 and £1,011,564 respectively.

The year therefore closed with a surplus of £125,406.

61. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1927, was £4,671,640. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,023,586. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference (£2,648,054) exceeds by only £710,412 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1927-28). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6%, the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

62. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of the United Kingdom and Jamaica in 1926.

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,633,722,502	159.0
		Public Debt.	
Jamaica	904,405	4,581,175	5.0

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1926, viz.: £1,865,978 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £3 0s. 0d. The year 1925-26 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1926-27 are not available locally.

63. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £152,251 at 31st March, 1927.

TAXATION.

64. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—

(1) Law 4 of 1926 "A Law to continue various Expiring Laws"—This Law continued in force from the 1st April, 1926, the following Laws:—

(a) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919, Law 9 of 1919.

(b) The Excise Duties (Temporary Increase) Law 1920 (9 of 1920) with the exception of the last item in the Schedule of the said Law which imposes a surtax of ten per cent. on amounts payable as King's Warehouse Fees.

(2) Law 31 of 1926 to re-impose Harbour Fees and Light Dues on Vessels entering any Harbour in this Island. This Law was held in abeyance and did not come into operation during the year.

65. The Post Office (War Tax Law 1919), Law 7 of 1919, was repealed.

CURRENCY.

66. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1926, to the extent of £73,007 in denominations of 2/6, 5/, and 10/.

2/6 Notes.	5/ Notes.	10/ Notes.	Total.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
144 5 0	33,555 5 0	39,307 10 0	73,007 0 0

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

67. The following statement shows the values of Exports and Imports during the past forty years at 10 year intervals:

	1886 to 30.9.86.	1896 to 31.3.97.	1906 to 31.3.07.	1916 to 31.12.16.	1926 to 31.12.26.
	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports	1,280,118	1,470,241	1,992,007	2,821,234	4,236,855
Value of Imports	1,332,336	1,856,377	2,261,469	3,107,004	5,365,950

This statement indicates that the value of our Exports and Imports has increased during the past 40 years by 231% and 302.8% respectively. It must however, be pointed out that in 1886 the values were calculated on an F.O.B. basis, whilst in 1926 they were calculated on a C.I.F. basis; the percentage of increase is therefore really less.

68. It will be observed that the value of the Imports exceeds the value of the Exports. The following statement shows in detail the balance of trade for the year under review.

Countries of Origin and Destination.	Imports 1926.	Exports 1926.	Adverse Balance of Trade.
	£	£	£
United Kingdom	1,377,984	914,061	463,923
United States	2,099,981	1,867,076	232,905
Canada	978,563	799,471	179,092
All Other Countries	90,422	656,247	253,175
Total	£5,365,950	£4,236,855	£1,129,095

In 1925 the total adverse balance was £1,471,435; there has therefore been a welcome reduction of £342,340 in the year under review. In this connection, however, it must be remembered that there are certain Invisible Exports such as the Tourist Trade and remittances by labourers abroad which cannot be reduced to actual figures but which go a long way to neutralise the apparently unsatisfactory economic condition disclosed by the above figures.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

69. The year was, on the whole, favourable for agricultural production. For the first six months drought prevailed in many parts of the island but the latter half of the year was favoured by a well distributed rainfall.

70. The record of production for Bananas, (18,301,410 stems exported), was achieved while the prospects for 1927 indicate that a record of 20 million stems may reasonably be expected if favourable conditions prevail. A revival of the trade in Evaporated Bananas has taken place and about 300 tons were exported during the year.

71. The Coffee Crop was depressed by unfavourable seasons to about two-thirds of that in 1925; the prices were, however, satisfactory, and there is a general feeling of buoyancy as to the prospects of coffee which is leading to an extension of this staple.

The Jamaica Agricultural Society has been actively engaged in organising a development of this industry among the small growers. The Agricultural Department assisted this effort by the free grant of 90,000 coffee plants to the members of local branches of the Agricultural Society. The new Produce Protection Law has also promoted the efficiency of the Coffee industry by causing numbers of small growers to pulp their coffee instead of drying it in the cherry as heretofore.

72. The production of Cacao increased from 2,600 tons to 3,000 tons while the price showed some improvement. The new Produce Protection Law should serve effectively to secure a better standard of ordinary Jamaica Cacao which is in good demand by the trade and only needs greater uniformity in quality in order to command a higher price.

73. Coconuts showed a reduction from 26 to 23 million nuts exported, but, on the other hand, the export of Copra increased to nearly 10 million pounds weight showing a gain of 6½ million pounds for the year. The health of the coconut groves continued to be good and there were few cases of Bud-rot during the year.

74. The conditions for production of Sugar were favourable, resulting in an export crop of 48,000 tons as compared with 37,700 tons in 1925. Rum was, however, in poor demand and it has become evident that the production of "Common, clean" Jamaica Rum must be reduced until stocks have been considerably lowered. The very high duty on spirits in the United Kingdom exercises a check on the consumption of rum and efforts are now being made in the interests of the West Indian sugar planters to seek some amelioration of these conditions in the "home trade" market. The Estates have recently developed a keener interest in the testing of new canes and in the use of artificial manures. Definite results have already been obtained to show that "Uba" and "BH (10) 12" are two outstanding canes that will serve to increase the production of sugar in Jamaica. A large number of new canes have been obtained for trial at the Hope Experiment Station and the best of these are being issued to the Estates. The condition as to Mosaic Disease on the Estates may be regarded as satisfactory, but the small growers appear disinclined to take measures for stamping out the disease and it will be necessary to substitute "Uba" or some resistant variety of cane for that at present being grown if Mosaic Disease is to be controlled on the small holdings. The Agricultural Department issued 161,000 cane plants during the year, chiefly from the Experiment Station at Hope. Several estates have now organised their own nurseries of sugar cane varieties.

The importation of sugar canes has been carefully controlled with a view to avoiding the introduction of new and dangerous diseases from other cane-growing countries.

75. The Fibre Industry is steadily gaining ground and plantations of Sisal and Henequen are being extended. The local invention of a portable decorticator has greatly stimulated the prospects of growing Sisal on medium areas of land with a moderate outlay of capital.

76. Pimento was a short crop and in consequence the price improved so as to yield nearly as much money as in 1925 when the crop was 50 per cent. greater. The manufacture of Pimento Leaf Oil is now in operation at three centres and despite the low price now prevailing for

Eugenol Oils there seems to be a margin of profit for the producers of Pimento Oil in Jamaica.

77. The boom in Annatto in 1925 collapsed and on y about one-third as much was received from the 1926 crop. This is purely a small settler's crop but the recent demand for Annatto as a pure butter colouring appears to justify hopes that the demand will continue to be good.

78. The Ginger Crop was good and despite lower prices brought in over £71,000. A useful work in promoting good culture of ginger has been effected through a system of prizes provided by a firm who are large consumers of Jamaica Ginger.

79. The Citrus Industry shows some improvement. The export of Grapefruit increased from 5 million to 7½ million and of oranges from 106,000 boxes to 125,000 boxes in round numbers. The crop of Orange Oil was only half that of the previous year as a result of the drought in the first half of the year which greatly reduced the crop of wild oranges.

80. Pineapples are beginning to figure again in the list of exports and there is hope for a considerable extension of this industry when the improved steamship facilities with Canada are in operation.

81. Hides were in good demand and showed an increase in both quantity and value over the records of the previous year.

82. The trade in Logwood and its Extract was still some what depressed. A notable feature is that more wood is now being exported and less Extract is being manufactured in the island.

83. The Honey Crop fetched only about half as much as that of the previous year. The early drought affected the flow of honey and the bees had a poor harvest.

84. The tobacco trade fell off somewhat and Jamaica Cigars fell below the previous year's record. There is, however, some enquiry for leaf in the United Kingdom where Empire grown tobacco now obtains a useful preference.

85. With regard to Diseases of Crops, Panama Disease was the most serious. Every effort is being made to control the spread of this disease and the staff of Inspectors has now been raised to 13. The results have been encouraging and although the disease continues to spread it is being prevented from rapid extension by the careful quarantining of every spot where it appears. Coconuts have been singularly free from the disease and Bud-rot is now of relatively rare occurrence.

86. Foot and Mouth Disease again recurred on the Westmoreland swamp area and was dealt with by slaughter and prolonged quarantine. No cases of Anthrax were recorded during the year. An outbreak of Foul Brood Disease among bees around the City of Kingston was dealt with by inspection and the destruction of all diseased hives and no extension of the infection has been reported.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

87. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly

surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,564,431 acres have been alienated, leaving 283,729 un-alienated or in process of alienation, of which about 10,000 acres is morass land.

88. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (i.e., to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

89. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused the abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

90. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way, upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold and some still remain in the possession of the Government.

91. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give the Company one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who purchased it for £18,435.

92. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 300 time-expired East Indian Immigrants, 3,333 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

93. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1926, 43,889 acres have been sold, and put in the possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The largest sale made during 1926 was 53 acres to one purchaser for £52. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received titles from the Government.

94. There are large numbers of prædial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased in certain localities to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £4 per acre, according to their situation. The lands are for the most part, in remote situations and difficult of access.

95. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S., on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889 and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica" by E. D. M. Hooper, of the Indian Forestry Department, in 1886.

96. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

97. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the Local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. Mr. Hooper asserted that the forests were becoming poorer and the area under hardwood smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture being materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 41 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and they are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

98. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel, (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was "a large amount of gold."

99. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acna, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians as a result of Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

100. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century. These efforts have not so far as is known been directed towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but have been confined to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

101. It is interesting to note that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheel Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817. The highest price paid was £24 15s. 6d. per ton, and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

102. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield Mountain in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield Mountain was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

103. In 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of an issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of St. Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th of January, 1925.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS.

104. Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., formerly Government Geologist, Jamaica, returned to the Island in November for the purpose of completing at his own expense, the Geological Survey of the Kingston District which he had commenced during the period of his official appointment. The Legislative Council approved of the expenditure from public funds of a sum not exceeding £100 to enable Dr. Matley to be furnished with a motor car when required.

FISHING.

105. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every maritime country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of and the supply of fish is precarious and below the demand. There is room for the expansion of the industry if it be handled on intelligent lines instead of by the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

106. As a sport, good facilities are offered for fishing both on sea and on the larger rivers, and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime.

MANUFACTURES.

107. The principal articles manufactured are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal Hemp, Banana Figs, Orange Oil, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather and Logwood Extract.

108. *Sugar.*—The Sugar industry has been improving since 1925 and more lucrative prices have resulted in increased production. In 1926 we exported 48,155 tons, an increase of 10,439 tons over the 1925 figure.

109. *Rum.* The local consumption of rum increased to some extent. The quantity exported, however, fell off considerably as the following figures indicate:—

	Exports.
1925	1,121,332 gallons
1926	693,435 "

110. *Copra.*—The manufacture of Copra recovered lost ground and the exports reached the high figure of 9,682,834 lbs., an increase of 6,173,623 lbs. over the 1925 figure. As was to be expected there was a decrease of 3,340,081 in the number of coconuts exported.

111. *Sisal Hemp.*—Sisal Hemp continued to be turned out in fair quantities and the export figures showed an increase of 435 packages over the amount exported in the previous year.

112. *Banana Figs.*—The output of Banana Figs in 1926 was practically double the output in 1925.

113. *Orange Oil.*—The manufacture of Orange Oil dropped considerably in 1926 being barely one-half of what it was in 1925. Orange exports showed an increase of 18,378 boxes.

114. *Cigars and Cigarettes.*—The Cigar industry cannot be said to be flourishing. It supplies all local needs but exports, except to Panama, are negligible. Cigarette manufacture is still on the downward grade, smokers preferring the imported to the locally made article. An attempt to effect a compromise by producing a blended cigarette made of native and foreign tobacco met with little success.

115. *Leather.*—The tanneries in the various parts of the Island and the Leather Factory in the capital are kept busy. In addition to the quantity consumed locally 21,930 lbs. were exported.

116. *Logwood Extract.*—The manufacture of Logwood Extract was recommenced and we exported 7,197 packages valued at £74,830.

117. *Matches.*—The Match industry is practically extinct. Despite a heavy import duty the foreign article is more appreciated by the Public, meets with ready sale, and dominates the market.

118. Minor Industries include Aerated and Mineral Waters, Ice, Soap, Jippi Jappa Hats, Baskets and Furniture.

WATER POWER.

119. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., which generates electricity for the purpose of operating tramways and lighting Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

120. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has from time to time been considered, and many of the rivers of the Island have been investigated with this object. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

121. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but the project has been postponed for the present. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

122. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

123. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st of December, 1926, was as follows:—

Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	£113,346
The Bank of Nova Scotia	24,663
The Royal Bank of Canada	21,662
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	5,714

These Banks all have Head Offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has sub-branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Golden Grove, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has sub-branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one sub-branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no sub-branches.

124. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum. When, however, the commercial banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 75 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

- (a) Balance at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1926, £571,300.
- (b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1926 to £576,915.
- (c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964 and in 1925, £1,667.

125. Under Law 11 of 1925, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

126. *Co-Operative Loan Banks.*—There are 55 Co-Operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loans Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, e.g., for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

127. The following figures, referring to 37 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:—

Total loans made to 31st December, 1926	£119,956
Repayments do do	104,123
Balances outstanding	15,833

The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1925, a sum of £38,756 16s. 10d. share capital in addition to £104,123 loan moneys repaid with interest. These figures indicate that the work of the Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £56,641 has been loaned to nine banks for this purpose.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

128. Forty Laws were passed during the year 1926. A brief summary is given below of those which may be considered to be of general interest:

Law 2 of 1926.—A Law to provide for the summary trial of certain offences against the Law relating to Prædial Larceny. This Law gives power to Justices of the Peace to hear and determine the offences mentioned in sections 5 and 7 of the Prædial Larceny Law, 1877 (Law 6 of 1877).

Law 3 of 1926.—A Law further to amend Law 3 of 1911 entitled A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the valuation of real property. This Law continues in force the Valuation Roll in force at the commencement of this Law until the Legislative Council shall by resolution otherwise determine.

Law 5 of 1926.—A Law to combine the offices of Commissioner and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to validate all past proceedings of the Supreme Court of the said Islands and to provide that it shall be necessary for the holder of the said combined offices to possess legal qualifications and also to validate all past proceedings of the Legislative Board of the said Islands. This Law was passed

to validate all past proceedings of the Legislative Board and of the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands and to make provision that the next holder of the combined offices of Commissioner and Judge of the Supreme Court should possess legal qualifications.

Law 6 of 1926.—A Law to alter the provisions of the Imperial Order in Council made on the 4th day of August 1873 by Her late Majesty Queen Victoria under the provisions of an Act of the Imperial Parliament passed on the 4th day of April, 1873, entitled An Act to enable Her Majesty by Order in Council to annex the Turks and Caicos Islands to the Colony of Jamaica. This Law provides for the appointment of members of the Legislative Board of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Law 8 of 1926.—A Law to amend Law 14 of 1879, The Divorce Law 1879. Under this Law a wife may present a petition to the Court for a dissolution of her marriage on the ground that her husband has since the celebration thereof and since the passing of this Law been guilty of adultery.

Law 9 of 1926.—A Law to make provision with respect to Wireless Telegraphy on Ships. Every seagoing British ship registered in Jamaica being a passenger steamer or a ship of 1,600 tons gross tonnage or upwards shall be provided with a wireless telegraph installation and shall maintain a wireless telegraph service.

Law 12 of 1926.—A Law to consolidate and amend the Law relating to the maintenance of bastard children. This Law deals with the maintenance of bastard children and repeals the old Bastardy Law of 1881 and the amendment of 1882.

Law 13 of 1926.—A Law to amend the Law relating to pensions, gratuities and disability allowances to sub-officers and constables of the Jamaica Constabulary Force. Under this Law a deduction of twopence on every 10/- is made from the pay of all constables who joined the Force on or after the 11th of August, 1894.

Law 16 of 1926.—A Law to provide for the construction of works for the purpose of aiding and increasing the supply of water to the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canals. This Law empowers the Governor to raise a loan of £60,000, to construct irrigation works for the purpose of abstracting and utilising the water from the Ferry River in aid of the water supply to the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canals.

Law 17 of 1926.—The Rum Colouring Law. Under this Law no rum shall be coloured with any colouring matter other than Cane Sugar Caramel.

Law 18 of 1926.—A Law to amend Law 25 of 1908, The Adulteration of Food and Drugs Law. This Law adds to Law 25 of 1908 the expression "Condensed Milk."

Law 19 of 1926.—A Law to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Agricultural Produce. This Law repeals Laws 7 of 1918 and 25 of 1921. It provides for the inspection and purchase of agricultural produce.

Law 20 of 1926.—The Sale of Drugs and Poisons Law. This Law regulates the sale of Drugs and Poisons in the Island. It also repeals Laws 34 of 1894, 56 of 1908, 20 of 1910 and 25 of 1911.

Law 26 of 1926.—A Law for shortening the language used in Laws of the Legislature of the Island and for other purposes. This is a new Interpretation Law; it repeals Law 9 of 1900.

Law 28 of 1926.—A Law to amend the Gambling Law, 1898. This Law adds the definition of "unlawful gaming" and amends the definition of "lottery" in section 2 of Law 25 of 1898. It also provides that if any person is found in possession of a lottery ticket the onus of proof is on the person to prove that it is not a lottery ticket. Section 8 deals with a lottery called "Peaka Pow" or "Drop Pan."

Law 31 of 1926.—A Law to re-impose Harbour Fees and Light Dues on vessels entering any harbour in this Island. This Law repeals Law 13 of 1922 and re-imposes Harbour Fees and Light Dues.

Law 32 of 1926.—A Law relating to the repatriation of distressed seamen engaged in the Colony.

This Law provides for the repatriation of any seaman who is a native of this Island or of any of its Dependencies or a native or subject of any other British West Indian Colony or of Bermuda.

Law 33 of 1926.—The Opticians Law. This Law makes provision for the registration of persons practising Optometry in Jamaica.

Law 38 of 1926.—A Law to enable the Manchester Maternity Hospital to be incorporated. This Law incorporates the Maternity Hospital erected in the parish of Manchester by voluntary subscription.

Law 39 of 1926.—A Law to repeal certain Laws for the purpose of the Revised Edition of the Laws of Jamaica. This Law repeals a certain number of Laws for the purpose of the Revised Edition of the Laws.

Law 40 of 1926.—A Law relating to Civil and Criminal proceedings in the Resident Magistrate's Court for the parish of Trelawny prior to the 19th day of August, 1926. On account of the fire which occurred on the 19th of August, 1926, and which destroyed the records in the Courts Office provision is made by this Law to facilitate the enforcement of judgments and the proof of convictions from the records which were saved.

VII.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY.

129. Attendances at the Public Elementary Schools during the past year again showed a considerable advance on those of previous years, the average number on the registers being 122,337 for 1926 as compared with 117,874 in 1925 and the average attendance 75,063 as compared with 73,568 in 1925.

130. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions and supervision, three prominent features of the new system, continue to show improvement, but progress in these respects is still far from being fully satisfactory. Courses of instruction in school garden work, and manual training were again suspended owing to the necessity of economy, but a very successful Vacation Course, organised and managed by the Jamaica Union of Teachers was held at the Mico College in the summer, over 200 teachers attending.

131. The sums of £1,852 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped.

132. The total departmental expenditure continued to rise and for the year was £159,525 as compared with £155,611 in 1925.

SECONDARY.

133. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission, and some unendowed Schools were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the Grants-in-aid. The number of Aided Secondary Schools remained at 16. The results of the Public Examinations continue to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.

134. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London, and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, the Intermediate Examination in Arts and a supplementary subject in the final in Arts.

TECHNICAL.

135. The Government Technical and Continuation School continued to do good work.

136. The Manual Training Classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were in most cases in operation during the year, doing useful work. The classes attached to two schools which had been temporarily closed were re-opened.

137. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church, has made an excellent start and is serving a long felt need. Good progress has also been made with a Continuation School for Girls near Highgate under the Friends' Mission.

INDUSTRIAL.

138. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continue to do useful work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

RAINFALL.

139. The mean rainfall for the four Divisions of the Island, for the year 1926, was 66.87 ins. or 9.59 ins. below the 50 year average. The shortage occurred principally in the first half of the year. The rainfall in the North-eastern and Southern Divisions was about 20% below normal; in the West-Central and Northern Divisions the shortage was 4% and 9% respectively. The total mean number of rainy days for the year was 126 as compared with 113 for the previous year. The total rainfall for Kingston amounted to only 19.73 ins. as compared with the 50 year average of 33.59 ins.

TEMPERATURE.

140. At Kingston, the mean temperature for the twelve months was 78.9 degrees or 0.2 degrees above the 33 year normal; the maximum temperature for the year was 95.1 degrees in August; and the minimum 64.0 degrees in January.

HUMIDITY.

141. For the year the mean relative humidity was 82% for the 7 a.m. and 65% for the 3 p.m. observations, i.e., about normal.

WEATHER DISTURBANCES.

142. The year 1926 was marked by an abnormal number of weather disturbances occurring in the Caribbean and southern portion of the North Atlantic Ocean, and within barometric range of Jamaica. In July a severe hurricane occurred causing considerable loss of life and property in Porto Rico, Santo Domingo, Turks Island, The Bahamas and Florida. In August one of minor intensity sprang up increasing in force on a track towards the Yucatan Channel and causing some losses. September had four disturbances, three of which were of moderate strength, but on the 14th one of considerable intensity appeared moving from the north of St. Kitts on a west-north-westerly track, passing Porto Plata (St. Domingo) and Turks Island on the 16th, thence to Southern Florida and onwards, causing considerable damage. In October there were three disturbances two of which were of moderate intensity. The other commenced on the 18th developed to the north of Colon, moved north-westerly over the western end of Cuba, causing great loss of life and property at Havana, and later on at Bermuda.

143. "Northers" were experienced at Kingston on the 2nd, 13th and 15th of January and also on the 15th of February. At Morant Point (east end of Jamaica) a north-westerly gale of short duration occurred on the 13th and 14th of January and was also felt at other places in the Island. A "Norther" of gale force, was felt at Morant Point on the 13th of April.

144. Heavy Hailstorms occurred at Mile Gully on the 30th of May, also at Bensonton and Mount Charles on the same date. Hail fell at Darliston on the 30th of September and the 10th of October.

EARTHQUAKES.

145. Slight shocks were reported at different parts of the Island in February, April, June, July, August and October.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAY.

146. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

- (a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112½ miles.
- (b) Spanish Town (11½ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63½ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

- (1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.
- (2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.
- (3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line) to New Works—3 miles. No passenger trains are run over this branch.

147. The main lines run across the high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the island. The gauge is 4' 8½". The maximum gradients are 1 in 30 and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,680 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—900 ft.

148. The Revenue for the year ended 31st of December, 1926, was £355,375 and the expenditure £279,333. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 341,218 tons, as compared with 296,944 tons for the year 1925; the number of passengers carried in 1926 was 620,328, as compared with 476,850 in 1925.

149. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of ten members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

SHIPPING.

150. The following statement shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1922 entered	1,365	Vessels of	1,920,114 tons
1923 "	1,323	"	2,011,500 "
1924 "	1,306	"	2,056,496 "
1925 "	1,412	"	2,207,618 "
1926 "	1,553	"	2,552,987 "
1922 cleared	1,340	"	1,927,183 "
1923 "	1,335	"	2,005,771 "
1924 "	1,299	"	2,054,100 "
1925 "	1,401	"	2,183,663 "
1926 "	1,550	"	2,553,138 "

151. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—
British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Canadian Transport Co., The Shaw Savill & Albion Co., Ltd., James Nourse, Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co., the Webster Steamship Line and the Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co. (The two last named Companies are registered in Jamaica.) Although Messrs. Elders and Fyffes is a British registered company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Company, an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., the Alexander Shipping Co., the Di Giorgio Fruit Steamship Co., Inc., and the Lanassa Corporation.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands West Indies Co.

German.—The Horn Steamship Co. and the Deutsche Dampschiffahrts Gesellschaft Kosmos Line.

Cuban.—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

Compared with the previous year there was an increase of 1 foreign and 4 British lines.

152. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

ROADS.

153. The island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,271 miles, which are maintained out of the General Revenue of the Colony and (b) Parochial Roads, aggregating 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles are cart or bridle roads. Class (b) is maintained by the Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

154. During 1926, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £90 per mile, including expenditure on repairing Flood Damage. With few exceptions, these roads, were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use of motor vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are being gradually improved so as to enable them to carry loads of 6 tons with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 51 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

CANALS.

155. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

IRRIGATION.

156. There is a system of canals which conveys water from the Rio Cobre to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards of water per hour and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels with a total length of 42 miles distribute the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which some 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

157. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey it by gravity to several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards of water per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry double that volume.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

158. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1926 there were 1,015 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 61 Telegraph and 82 Telephone Offices. No new lines or offices were authorized during the year.

159. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

160. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

161. The number of messages transmitted in 1925 numbered 335,068 and the receipts totalled £19,137. In 1926, 345,093 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £19,607.

162. There are two Wireless Telegraph Stations in the Island. One situated at Christians and was established by the Admiralty during the Great War. This Station does not now accept traffic. The other station is at Kingston and is operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government License. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. This Company has recently been granted a license to erect a modern wireless station at Stony Hill, nine miles from Kingston for the purpose of handling commercial traffic. This station is expected to be completed in 1927. The Kingston station will then be re-modelled and used for ship to shore work. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station exists in the Island.

163. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

164. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West India Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

165. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

AERIAL SERVICES.

166. No Aerial Service has so far been established in connection with this Colony.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

167. No works that might be considered of special interest to persons outside the Colony were carried out by the Public Works Department during the year under review.

168. Work on the Hermitage Dam, which is being built by the Corporation of Kingston and St. Andrew for the purpose of conserving the surplus water of the Wag Water, proceeded throughout the year.

169. Owing to financial and other difficulties the work of reconstructing the Kingston Streets, which had been commenced by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, was in abeyance throughout the year.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

170. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price.		Where obtainable.	
	s.	d.		
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually)	8	0	Edward Stanford, Ltd., 12, 13 and 14 Long Acre, London, W.C.	
Jamaica in 1924	2	0	H. Sotheman & Co., Strand, London, W.C.	
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1	0	Superintendent of the Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.	
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	ditto	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919	2	6	ditto	ditto
Notes on the Geography of Jamaica, 1913, by Maxwell Hall	1	0	ditto	ditto
Education Code, 1921	1	0	ditto	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2	0	ditto	ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West India Agricultural Conference (1925)	2	6	ditto	ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915)	2	6	The West India Committee, London.	

CHAS. W. DOORLY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica,
27th July, 1927.

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.	NYASALAND.
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CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).	ST. LUCIA.
CEYLON.	ST. VINCENT.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT.	SEYCHELLES.
CYPRUS.	SERRA LEONE.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.	SOMALILAND.
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Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations.

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CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories, can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.

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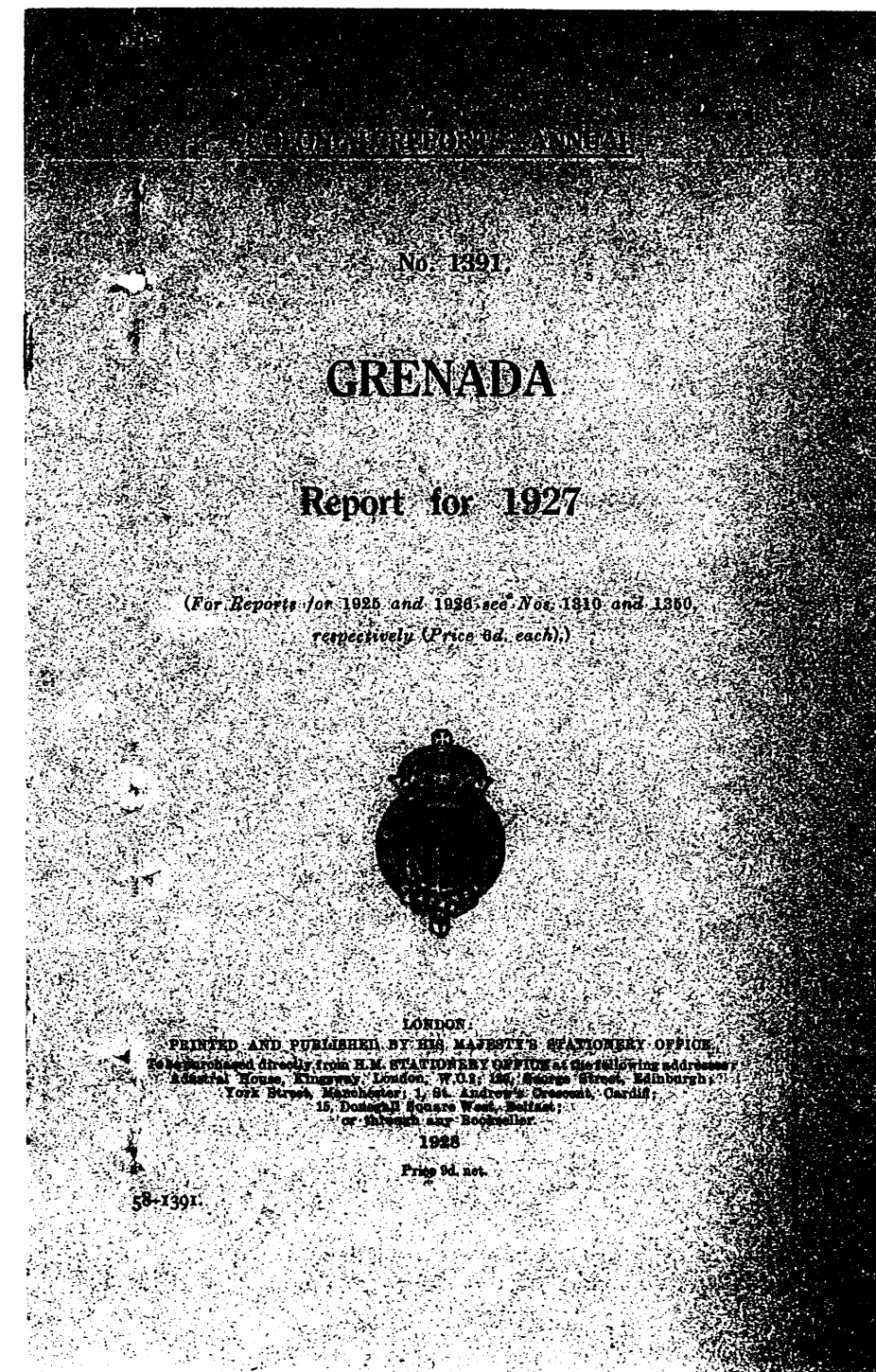
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EMPIRE DEVELOPMENT EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement
of Research Grants approved by the Secretary
of State from July, 1926 to May, 1927.

Cmd. 2898. 3d. (3½d.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire.

(E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire,
with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane,
Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).

Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Develop-
ment. (E.M.B. 3.) 3d. (3½d.).

Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on
Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9d. (10d.).

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands
and Barbados. Report on Development.

(E.M.B. 5.) 6d. (7d.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-
Committee of the Committee of Civil Research.
November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on
Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Trans-
portable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Empire Marketing Board May, 1927 to May,
1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.

The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a series
of publications on the problems connected with the
marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs pro-
duced within the British Empire. The following six
volumes are now ready. General Questions, 9d. (10d.);
Meat, 9d. (10d.); Fruit, 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.); Dairy
Produce, 1s. (1s. 3d.); Fish, 6d. (8d.); Poultry, Eggs,
Honey, 1s. (1s. 2d.).

The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions
and Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6d.
(7d.). The relationship between the Committee and the
Empire Marketing Board is explained in this Report.

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GRENADA

Report for 1927

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GRENADA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.

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Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Situated in the extreme south of the Caribbean Sea, Grenada is the nearest British island to the mainland of South America with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago. It lies 90 miles north of Trinidad and between the parallels of 12° 30' and 11° 58' North latitude and 61° 20' and 61° 35' West longitude. The Island is about 21 miles in length and about 12 miles in its greatest breadth. Its area is about 120 square miles, but, including Carriacou, an island to the north, the area of the Colony of Grenada is 133 square miles.

Grenada is mountainous and well watered by streams. Its coastline is rugged, especially on the western coast, and towards the south is deeply indented with bays. St. George's Harbour, land-locked and deep watered, is one of the most beautiful in the West Indies.

GRENADA, 1927.

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The mountain spurs, clothed with forests to their summits, intersect the Island into numerous picturesque valleys. There are two small lakes, formed in extinct craters, one called the Grand Etang, being situated near the centre of the Island 1,740 feet above sea-level, while the other, Lake Antoine, is near the sea on the eastern coast. A sanatorium is established near the former.

HISTORICAL.

Grenada was discovered by Columbus on 15th August, 1498, but for more than 100 years after its discovery the Island was left in the undisturbed possession of the aboriginal inhabitants who were of the Carib race. Early in the seventeenth century both English and French adventurers made efforts at occupation of the Island, and after being owned by French proprietors for some years it was annexed to France in 1674. In 1763 the Island was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris, but was recaptured by the French in 1779 and held by them for the next four years. In 1783, by the Treaty of Versailles, Grenada and the Grenadines were finally restored to Great Britain.

In 1795-96, influenced by the French Republic, a rebellion broke out, and the Lieutenant-Governor and 48 other British subjects were massacred by the rebels. The rising was suppressed in June, 1796, by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and the ringleaders executed.

The later history of the Colony has been peaceful and uneventful, and Grenada has reached a high state of development.

CLIMATE.

The climate from December to end of April may be described as good, as during that period the heat is tempered by the prevailing trade winds. In the autumn from July to end of October, there is great humidity and extreme heat, with little variation between night and day. During this period the climate is extremely debilitating, although not exactly unhealthy. The highest temperature in 1927 was 92 degrees on 24th September and 6th October, and the lowest 65 degrees on 19th March. The mean of maximum temperatures was 85 degrees and the mean of minimum 74 degrees. The rainfall varies according to altitude. In the lowlands of the south the annual amount is as low as 30 inches. In the mountainous centre it approaches 140 inches. At St. George's, midway between the two, the rainfall in 1927 was 76.79 inches. Over the past 30 years the average at St. George's has been 72.79 inches.

LANGUAGE.

The only language spoken is English. A small and decreasing number of agricultural labourers in the country districts speak a very corrupt patois of English and French, but all understand and speak English.

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CURRENCY.

The currency is the same as in Great Britain, the monetary units being the same. Silver, however, is legal tender without limit, and there are also in circulation bank notes of Barclays Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada, of five dollars denomination. One or two of the business houses keep their accounts in dollars and cents, but the Government accounts are in sterling.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Weights and measures are of the Imperial standard. An exception to this has arisen recently in connection with motor spirit, which is sold by the wine or American gallon.

1.—General.

The continuance of high prices for the Colony's staple products of cocoa, nutmegs, and mace has added another prosperous year to Grenada's record, a result to which fine weather conditions and satisfactory crops also contributed. The cocoa shipments in the crop year ended 30th September, 1927, amounted to 54,296 bags (of 180 lb.) as compared with 47,857 bags in the same period of the preceding year. The spice crops were also good and it may be of interest to note that Grenada produces one-third of the world's supply of nutmegs and mace. The quantities exported last year were 21,238 cwt. of nutmegs and 3,733 cwt. of its derivative, mace.

The wealth arising from these prosperous conditions is widely distributed, for Grenada is an Island of peasant proprietors who number 15,211 out of a total population of 73,319. As all parts of the Island have benefited by the increased circulation of money, the signs of prosperity are everywhere apparent in the number of motor-cars and motor buses that ply on the roads, in the attendance at numerous race meetings, and the general appearance and dress of the inhabitants.

The prosperity is reflected also in the financial position of the Government, and in place of the deficit which existed a few years ago the Colony had at the end of 1927 surplus assets amounting to £90,869. Of this amount £37,188 is invested towards forming a reserve fund of £50,000 as a special reserve to be used only in the time of serious emergency.

Coincident with the prudent building up of assets, the Government has proceeded with the execution of several important public works, which are detailed under Section VII of this report.

In his address introducing the Estimates in Legislative Council, His Excellency announced, among other schemes of Government policy, the intended formation of a Central Water Authority in connection with the scheme for improvement and extension of water supplies (referred to in last year's report) which had now been practically completed.

The Central Water Authority would take over the existing water works and be responsible to the Boards for the supply of water up to its delivery from the tap, the Boards on their part continuing as formerly to assess the water rates, fixing the rates at such figures as they consider necessary to meet the contribution to the Central Water Authority, and any surplus arising from the water rates would go to the Boards' general revenue. A competent Water Engineer would serve as the executive officer of the Authority, on which each of the District Boards would be directly represented. The St. Andrew's District Board are also desirous of constructing a covered market in the town of Grenville, and of developing and improving the town, and it has been decided to meet the cost of this scheme, together with that of the water extension, by the raising of a loan of £10,000 through the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

New market buildings in St. George's and Gouyave are also under consideration.

The oiling of the main roads and of the principal streets in the town of St. George's has greatly improved matters in regard to health and sanitation. The town is practically free from dust, and for a tropical town of its size has a clean appearance which elicits praise from visitors.

The scheme for electric light in St. George's area and reconstruction of the telephone system throughout the Colony is being proceeded with. The necessary loan of £40,000 was raised through the Crown Agents for the Colonies under the inter-colonial scheme of loans. The proposal to utilise the Annandale River as a source of power has, however, been abandoned in consequence of difficulties which arose in connection with acquisition of the necessary land, and on the advice of the Consulting Engineers it has been decided to proceed with the alternative plan of an internal combustion engine scheme, to be supplemented hereafter if necessary by hydro-electric power. This scheme involves less capital outlay, but necessitates at first a higher charge for supply of light, but it is not expected that the charge per unit will exceed the rate now being paid in other West Indian islands.

His Excellency also announced that it was his intention to appoint a Committee to advise as to the manner in which Government grants-in-aid to the Denominations on behalf of education should be adjusted in the future.

The Government had taken over the Queen's Park during the past year, and it was hoped that a start would soon be made with the new Pavilion, towards the cost of which the Government were to make a contribution of £1,000.

II.—Finance.

REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £155,508, being the highest on record.

Import duties continue to be the chief source of revenue, and the following table shows the proportion of revenue from that and other sources :—

Year.	Import Duties.	Export duties, Income Tax and other direct taxation.	Other Sources.
1923	37,709	45,119	20,995
1924	50,118	47,206	20,131
1925	67,342	59,454	19,422
1926	62,471	64,704	21,271
1927	68,523	66,473	20,512

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure was £131,413, being less than the revenue by £24,095.

The following table gives a comparison of revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
1923	103,823	119,095	—
1924	117,453	106,003	11,450
1925	146,218	112,467	33,751
1926	148,447	119,001	29,446
1927	155,508	131,413	24,095

No changes took place during the year in the method of raising revenue, and the only alterations in rates of taxation were slight increases in the general rates of import duty on cement, cocoa, cordage, fish, and dried fruits and nuts, in order to give an increased Empire preference on these articles, in accordance with certain recommendations under the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st December, 1927, was £90,869, of which £37,188 is invested as a reserve fund. The other ordinary surplus assets of £53,681 comprise the following items :—

	£
Loans to District Boards	15,771
Public Works Stores and Colony Drug Stores	5,941
Land Settlement Advances	536
	£22,248

leaving approximately £31,433 as liquid or readily available assets.

PUBLIC LOANS.

The particulars of public loans outstanding at 31st December, 1927, and of the accumulated sinking funds may be seen from the following tables :—

Description of Loan.	Legal Authority.	Amount.	Annual Sinking Fund Contribution.	Accumulated Sinking Funds.			Present yield on Securities.
				Cost Price.	Nominal Value.	Present Market Value.	
4 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	Ordinance No. 15 of 1891.	£123,670	£1,237	£83,955	£91,394	£79,830	£3,680
Local Loan, 1917.	Ordinance No. 12 of 1917.	100,000	1,500*	15,879	16,036	16,368	816
Electric Lighting and Telephone Reconstruction Loan.	Ordinance No. 13 of 1927.	£40,719 9 4	Contribution to Sinking Fund to commence in October, 1930.	Nil.	—	—	—

The first drawings in connection with redemption of the Local Loan, 1917, took place on 28th January, 1928, when debentures amounting to £18,040 were drawn. These will be paid off on 15th June, 1928.

In addition to the increased sinking fund contribution of £1,790 in respect of this Loan, the interest on the redeemed debentures will continue to be added to the sinking fund, this being necessary to effect total redemption by the date fixed by the Ordinance, namely, 1947. Annual drawings in connection with this Loan will continue to take place up to the combined amount of the sinking fund contribution and interest on the redeemed debentures.

*Increased to £1,790 from 1st January, 1928.

The particulars of the terms or periods for redemption of the above mentioned loans are as follows :—

4 per cent. Inscribed Stock—To be paid off on the 15th May, 1917–42, by half-yearly investments of a sum equal to one per cent. per annum of the total amount issued.

Local Loan, 1917—Redeemable on 15th December, 1947.

Electric Lighting and Telephone Reconstruction Loan—Redeemable 15th April, 1959.

III.—Production.

AGRICULTURE.

Cocoa.—This continues to be the principal crop of the Colony. The following table shows the quantity exported annually, and the value, during the last 10 years:—

Year.	Quantity. cwt.	Value. £
1918	135,572	519,365
1919	99,368	539,740
1920	81,732	466,658
1921	87,421	185,193
1922	72,904	167,056
1923	77,783	155,883
1924	85,394	201,547
1925	73,216	197,231
1926	83,384	223,290
1927	100,478	305,640

The main causes of the decrease in production after 1921 have been given by experts as follows:—

(a) Destruction of plantations by the hurricane in September, 1921.

(b) Unfavourable market prices in the period from 1923 to 1925.

(c) The interplanting of nutmeg trees on cocoa cultivations.

The necessity for accurate costing in connection with cocoa cultivation has been realised, and has undoubtedly led to the discovery that certain lands were unsuitable for cocoa and were not yielding a profit under that crop except in years of abnormally high prices. As periods of exceptional prices occur only rarely, the reduction in crop volume by the cutting out of these areas has not on the average resulted in reduced net profit to the estates.

Nutmegs.—The area under cultivation has been steadily extended for many years, and the greatly increased market prices of recent years have brought this product into close rivalry with that of cocoa. The particulars of export for the past ten years may be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Quantity. cwt.	Value. £
1918	23,053	103,417
1919	15,354	54,281
1920	14,604	59,448
1921	18,023	34,007
1922	22,542	59,959
1923	21,611	55,017
1924	19,369	95,321
1925	21,762	145,861
1926	22,702	127,000
1927	21,238	103,444

Mace.—The quantity of mace exported in 1927 was 3,733 cwt., of the value of £59,145.

Cotton.—Cotton is cultivated in Carriacou where a slight extension of the cultivation on the larger estates has recently taken place. The Regulations governing the control of the pink boll worm have been rigidly enforced, and it is reported that no pink boll worm was in evidence at any time during the reaping or ginning season.

The particulars of exports of cotton during the past five years are as follows:—

Year.	Quantity. cwt.	Value. £
1923	2,950	12,904
1924	2,842	15,180
1925	3,252	16,500
1926	3,159	14,040
1927	3,788	15,890

Sugar.—Attempts have been made from time to time to stimulate the production of sugar, and for the past three years the protective duty has been increased to 1d. per lb., yet, notwithstanding this very material help, it has not been found practicable to grow sufficient sugar for the local demand. Importations of raw sugar last year amounted to 1,719,583 lb., of the value of £14,280.

Various other crops are grown, but only to a small extent. The area of fertile land in places accessible for profitable cultivation is limited, and although the cultivation of other crops, such as grape fruit, for instance, could be extended, their development beyond a certain limit could only be at the expense of existing profitable cultivations.

Rum is manufactured on twelve estates, the quantity delivered for home consumption last year being 47,077 proof gallons. This was insufficient for the demand, and 2,448 proof gallons were imported in the same period, principally from Barbados.

Ice is manufactured at a factory in St. George's subsidised by Government.

FORESTRY.

A forest reserve of 2,485 acres is established at Grand Etang near the centre of the Island, and by legislation the mountain ridges are protected from denudation. The areas are too small and too inaccessible for growth with a view to profit, their main value and importance consisting in preserving the sources of water supply.

FISHERIES.

There are various fishing grounds adjacent to the coasts, and supplies of fresh fish are fairly constant. The fishermen do not venture far from the coast, and there are no surplus quantities available for smoking or curing.

The Whaling Industry which was established in 1925 on Glover Island ceased operations after 1926, and no whales were caught, and no whale oil was exported in 1927.

MINING.

There are no mines of any kind.

IV.—Trade and Economics.

The total trade, import and export, amounted in value to £922,140, the value of imports being £415,607 and that of exports £506,533. The apparent trade balance in favour of the Colony was £90,926.

IMPORTS.

The following table shows the principal articles imported, according to value, and a comparison is given with the values imported in the previous year:—

Article.	Value, 1927. £	Value, 1926. £	Increase or decrease over 1926.	
			Increase. £	Decrease. £
Flour	46,273	47,582	—	1,309
Cotton piece-goods	32,071	39,794	—	7,723
Fish—Dried	14,915	13,904	1,011	—
Sugar—unrefined	14,280	9,251	5,029	—
Rice	12,314	10,386	1,928	—
Boots and shoes	10,112	7,850	2,262	—
Motor-cars	10,086	—	—	—
Motor parts	7,347	14,439	2,994	—
Motor Spirits	9,203	8,205	998	—
Wood, etc.—unmanufactured	8,881	22,739	—	13,858
Manures	8,559	4,004	4,555	—
Kerosene Oil	7,873	7,007	866	—
Biscuits, Bread, &c.	6,547	5,774	773	—

Notes re changes of trade.—There has been no radical change in the nature of trade or of sources of supply. The increased importations of various articles are due to the present prosperity of the Island. The importation of lumber in 1927 was normal, there being an unusual quantity imported in 1926 as the result of destruction of a lumber yard by fire.

The sources of supply of imports are shown below:—

	£
United Kingdom...	146,159
United States of America	72,553
Canada	96,062
Other British Possessions	71,473
Foreign Countries	29,360

EXPORTS.

The exports, amounting in value to £506,533 (of which £495,701 represented the value of local products and £10,832 of re-exports) consisted of the following:—

	£
Cocoa, raw	305,640
Cotton, raw	15,890
Cotton seed	2,960
Spices, nutmegs	103,444
Mace	59,145

The direction of the export trade may be seen from the following table:—

	£
United Kingdom...	196,346
United States of America	241,985
Canada	42,044
Other British Possessions	17,578
Other Foreign Countries	8,580

It is observable that a greater quantity of the Colony's staple products (with the exception of cotton) continues to go to the United States of America than to the United Kingdom, the figures being as follows:—

	United States of America.		United Kingdom.	
	cwt.	£	cwt.	£
Cocoa, raw	48,522	147,970	38,834	117,785
Nutmegs	14,519	70,070	4,956	24,390
Mace	1,379	21,780	2,144	34,260

The duty in respect of exports amounted to £14,076, as compared with £11,061 in 1926. The products in respect of which these amounts were collected were:—

	1927. £	1926. £
Cocoa	9,901	5,668
Cotton, raw	204	316
Cotton seed	228	192
Nutmegs	2,087	3,626
Mace	1,656	901
Whale Oil	nil	337
Whale manure	—	21

The duties are on graded scales according to market prices in London and New York, and the increase under the head of cocoa was due to a larger crop and better prices than in the previous year.

Other articles of export, of comparatively small value, included bananas and other fruit, lime juice, salt, coconuts and copra, hides and skins.

V.—Communications.

(i) By SEA.

The Canadian Government Mercantile Marine maintains a monthly passenger service between Halifax and St. John and the West Indies, with an alternate fortnightly cargo service. Steamers of the Furness Withy Line from New York call at intervals of about ten to fourteen days.

Direct communication with London is maintained monthly by the passenger steamers of the Harrison Line, and cargo steamers of this Company pay intermediate calls.

There is frequent communication with Trinidad and Barbados by sailing vessels as well as by steamers of the companies above mentioned.

A coasting service by daily motor-boat, with a call once a week to Carriacou, is subsidised by Government.

(ii) By CABLE AND WIRELESS.

The Colony is linked up with other parts of the world by the cable line of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

A wireless station worked by the Pacific Cable Board, under subsidy, is established in St. George's and communicates with Barbados.

A subsidiary wireless station, erected by the Government, communicating with Grenada has also been installed at Carriacou.

(iii) By LAND.

There is no inland telegraph service.

A telephone service worked by Government has been in existence for many years. The total number of instruments in use last year was 771, there being an increase of 71 subscribers during the year. There are six exchanges and subscribers have the right of communication throughout without trunk-line charges. The revenue amounted to £4,289 7s. 1d. and expenditure to £3,105 8s. 6d.

The present system—an earth return circuit—has reached its limit of usefulness, and reconstruction to a more modern system is now being undertaken.

There is a good system of roads and bridges throughout the Colony, there being 148 miles of main roads and 301 miles of by-ways. All are suitable for motor traffic, and several miles of the main roads are oiled. Six motor road rollers are in constant use in road maintenance and repairs.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons.

(i) JUSTICE.

There were 1,859 convictions during the year 1927, 1,841 in the summary courts and 18 in the Supreme Court, as compared with an average during the three preceding years of 1,850 summary convictions and 22 convictions on indictment.

Since the year 1924, when there was the considerable number of 305 convictions for praedial larceny, there has been a steady decrease in the number of convictions for this offence. In 1925 the number of such convictions was 259, in 1926 the number was 190, and in the present year 146. The continuous decrease is probably due to the increased general prosperity of the Colony since 1924.

As is usually the case in this Colony the occurrence of the more serious forms of crime was rare. There was no conviction for homicide or for an offence against property with violence to the person. A single case of rape occurred.

(ii) POLICE.

The fixed establishment consists of 1 Officer-in-Command, 1 Inspector, and 88 non-commissioned officers and men.

Rural Constables to the number of 225 were also on the roll on 31st December, 1927. These Constables are only employed on special occasions.

All ranks were trained in musketry and fired a modified course with satisfactory results.

A fire brigade is under the Police and was considerably improved last year by the acquisition of a motor fire truck and duplicate equipment of hose and standpipes.

A number of chemical fire extinguishers was obtained and installed in the various Government institutions and buildings.

The Government Band is also under the Police and consists of a Bandmaster and twelve bandsmen. The conversion of the band into a Police Band is being undertaken, and at present five of the Bandsmen are in the Police Force, and several Constables are being taught with a view to becoming bandsmen.

(iii) PRISONS.

The number of prisoners in custody at the beginning of the year was 34, of whom 27 were males and 7 females.

There were 166 admissions during the year, 126 being males and 40 females.

The daily average number of prisoners was 28 in the case of males and 6.6 in the case of females.

The following table shows the number of recommitals on conviction for the year :—

	Once.	Twice.	Three or more.
Males	14	7	40
Females	3	4	12
	17	11	52

Religious services were carried on regularly throughout the year by the Anglican and Roman Catholic ministers.

The behaviour of the prisoners was good, and there were only two cases of corporal punishment.

The health of the prisoners was satisfactory. The daily average on the sick list was 0.7 males and 0.6 females. One male and one female were transferred to the Colony Hospital, and one female was treated in the Prison Infirmary. There were no deaths.

In regard to labour, prisoners were employed at stone breaking, baking, preparing cocoa, and tailoring within the prison walls, and gangs were employed outside at clearing and cultivating lands and repairing roads.

The prison is now combined with the Police Department and the arrangement under the present head is working satisfactorily.

VII.—Public Works.

The public works of principal importance undertaken during the year consisted of the following :—

- (a) Commencement of bridge over St. John's River at Queen's Park.
- (b) Construction of a residence for the Commissioner, Carriacou.
- (c) Improvement of water supplies in Carriacou.
- (d) Construction of a Leper Settlement.
- (e) Improvement of the Colony Hospital, including interior painting of the main building, extension of the operating theatre, and Nurses' Hostel.
- (f) Construction of a public bathing house at Grand Anse.
- (g) Construction of a boat shelter in St. George's Harbour.
- (h) Continuation of improvement and extension of water works and supplies throughout the Colony.
- (i) Continuation of draining and filling up of low-lying areas in Queen's Park.
- (j) Preliminary work in connection with the reconstruction of the telephone system and electric light scheme.

VIII.—Public Health.

The year 1927 was a healthy one, there being no serious outbreak of infectious disease, while there was a marked decrease in infantile deaths.

There was a period of unusually high temperature in the autumn, the unusual height of 92° F. in the shade being recorded on two days. The lowest temperature was 65°, recorded on 19th March.

The deaths numbered 1,147, and the death-rate per 1,000 was 15.6, the lowest rate so far recorded. In 1926 it was 20.3, and in the previous year 16.5.

The infantile death-rate per 100 births of infants dying under one year was 10.46.

The births numbered 2,294; of these 1,135 were boys and 1,159 girls. The birth-rate per 1,000 was 31.29.

Three hundred and fifty marriages were registered, being at the rate of 41.7 per thousand of the population.

Diarrhoea and enteritis caused 272 deaths (as against 400 in 1926) and the next principal cause of death was malaria which accounted for 87 deaths (as against 84 in 1926).

The estimated population at the 31st December, 1927, was 73,319.

A Leper Settlement was constructed last year, the site selected being a promontory on the south-west coast of St. George's parish, and the cost, inclusive of construction of roads and a water supply, was £1,500. Lepers are few in number (less than twenty) but segregation has proved difficult to enforce, and it is expected that by the provision of the Settlement leprosy will be eradicated from Grenada within a generation.

IX.—Educational Progress.

Dr. H. A. Baker, D.Sc., the Director of Education, who had been seconded last year was confirmed in the appointment of Geologist to the Newfoundland Government. During the entire year the duties of Director were performed by Mr. H. H. Pilgrim in conjunction with his own duties as Inspector of Schools.

SECONDARY.

Sixteen pupils from the Grenada Boys' School entered for the Cambridge Junior Local Examination, and 12 passed, 1 Honour and 1 Distinction being gained. Five pupils from this School also sat for the Cambridge School Certificate Examination, of whom 3 passed, 1 with Honours.

The successful candidates at the Cambridge Junior Local Examination from the Anglican Girls' School numbered 5 out of 7, and from the St. Joseph's Convent School 3 out of 7. One Distinction was gained by the Church of England High School.

PRIMARY.

The number of primary schools is the same as last year, namely, 58, of which 10 were Government, 27 Roman Catholic, 14 Anglican, 5 Wesleyan, and 2 Presbyterian.

The total number of scholars on the roll at 31st December, 1927, was 12,605, and the average attendance was 7,638—60.5 per cent. of the number on roll.

The total expenditure by the Government on primary education for the year was £8,755. Excluding administration and inspection, the cost to Government per pupil in average attendance at Government schools was £1 5s. 7d. and at grant-in-aid schools £1 0s. 6d.

The Matriculation Examination of London University has now been made the standard for winning the Grenada Scholarship, which is now awarded biennially.

X.—Land and Survey.

Grenada is a Colony of small proprietors, the number of estates over 100 acres in extent being only 142.

The following table shows the number of small holdings of land according to the Tax Rolls for the year 1927.

Number of small holdings.

Total	2½ acres	Over 2½ to 5	Over 5 to 7	Over 7 to 10	Over 10 and under 100 acres.	Total.
75,390	12,651	1,643	326	195	396	15,211

Land in possession of the Crown is of small area and consists principally of mountain ridges in forest, for preservation of the rainfall. The main portion is the Grand Etang Forest Reserve, to which frequent visits were made by the Crown Lands Superintendent and the boundary lines maintained.

There are no Crown lands available for settlement. Occasionally an estate is purchased by the Government for resale in small lots to peasants under convenient terms of payment spread over a number of years.

Only one survey was carried out by the Public Works Department during the year, in connection with the boundaries of Windsor, la Force, and Chantilly, under the Boundaries Settlement Ordinance.

XI.—Labour.

Labour chiefly consists of employment on the respective estates in the Colony and includes the following work:—

- (a) Overseers who are employed to supervise and control the gangs;
- (b) Drivers in personal charge of the gangs;

(c) Ordinary labourers, men and women, engaged on the actual details of work—working or ploughing the land, draining, weeding, cutlassing, pruning, manuring, etc., and reaping the produce.

Labour as in (b) and (c) above is also largely employed on the public roads of the Colony on breaking metal and general repair and surface oiling work.

The rates of pay would be approximately as follows:—

(a) £3 to £8 per month.

(b) 2s. to 4s. per day.

(c) Men, 1s. 2d. to 2s. per day; Women, 1s. to 1s. 4d. per day.

The daily rates of pay quoted above apply also to pay for “ task ” work and it is usually possible to undertake two “ tasks ” in a day.

Other labour includes masons, carpenters, mechanics, chauffeurs, bootmakers and the like. A fair number of masons and carpenters are more or less regularly employed by Government, and during the last two or three years there has been a reasonable amount of this class of work available for both under Government control and privately throughout the Colony, so much so that reliable mechanics of this class are exceedingly scarce. Quite a large number of chauffeurs are now employed in the Colony and a limited number of other mechanics are engaged in the motor shops and on other work connected with water works, pipe laying, etc.

The pay for these would be approximately as follows:—

Masons, carpenters and mechanics, 2s. to 7s. per day;
Chauffeurs, £3 to £5 per month.

Miscellaneous.

A United States Army Squadron of four amphibian planes visited Grenada on 7th April in the course of their Pan-American flight under the leadership of Major H. A. Dargue. They landed at the beach at Queen's Park and proceeded next day to St. Vincent. The landing arrangements were reported to be satisfactory.

HERBERT FERGUSON,
Administrator.

GRENADA,
30th April, 1928.

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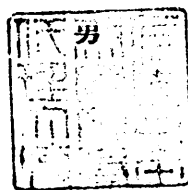
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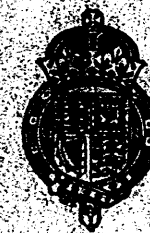
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ST. LUCIA. ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1927.

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Geography and History.

The island of St. Lucia is situated in latitude 13° 54' North and longitude 60° 59' West, at a distance of 24 miles to the south-east of Martinique and 21 miles to the north-east of St. Vincent.

It is 27 miles in length and 14 at its greatest breadth; its circumference is 150 miles and its area 233 square miles, rather less than Middlesex.

Castries, the capital, is situated at the north-western end of the island, and has a population, according to the census of the 24th April, 1921, of 5,899.

The port of Castries is one of the best harbours in the West Indies. It is land-locked and provides facilities for coaling and watering ships and for loading and discharging cargo which are unequalled in these islands.

The town of next importance is Soufrière, which lies about 12 miles to the south of Castries and contains a population of 2,480. Just below Soufrière Bay stand the remarkable twin peaks known as "The Pitons," rising sheer from the sea to a height of 2,619

feet in the case of the Gros Piton and to 2,461 feet in that of the Petit Piton. The boiling sulphur springs from which Soufrière gets its name are situate at Ventine, two and a half miles south-east of the town.

It is generally accepted that St. Lucia was discovered by Columbus, during his fourth voyage, on the 18th June, 1502. There is, however, a tradition amongst the French that it was discovered on the 13th December of a later year by some shipwrecked French seamen, who named it St. Alouziel or St. Alousie after the martyred virgin saint of that name, whose feast is commemorated on that date.

The island was then inhabited by the Caribs, and they remained in undisturbed possession for another century.

In 1605 67 persons proceeding to Guiana by the English ship "Olive Blossom" were forced by famine to land in the island, and they remained "to take their fortune in the fruitful isle." They were not able to stay longer than a month, however, when, reduced to 19 by wars with the Caribs, they left in an open boat and reached the mainland of South America in sore distress. This is the first recorded instance of a landing by Englishmen in the island.

In 1626 a Commission was granted by Cardinal Richelieu to MM. d'Enambuc and du Rossay to establish a French Colony "in the islands of St. Christopher and Barbados and in the surrounding territories," which presumably included St. Lucia, and in 1627 the island was granted by the King of England, along with all the Caribbee Islands, to the Earl of Carlisle, who appointed Lord Willoughby of Parham to be Governor of Barbados and the other Caribbee Islands. In 1635 it appears to have been granted by the King of France to MM. de l'Olive and Duplessis.

In 1638 Captain Judlee of St. Kitts (acting in the name of Lord Willoughby) and three or four hundred men took possession of the island and attempted to effect a settlement in it, but in 1640 these early colonists were either massacred or expelled by the Caribs.

In 1642 the King of France, still claiming a right of sovereignty over the island, ceded it to the French West India Company, who sold it in 1650 to MM. Honel and du Parquet for the equivalent of £1,600. The Caribs made repeated attempts to expel the French, but failed, and finally, in 1660, they concluded a treaty of peace with the latter.

In 1663 Thomas Warner, the natural son of the Governor of St. Christopher, made a descent on St. Lucia and took possession of it. The English continued in occupation until the Peace of Breda, in 1667, when the island was restored to the French. In 1674 it was re-annexed to the Crown of France and made a dependency of Martinique.

Throughout the eighteenth century recurrent struggles took place between the English and the French for possession of the island, the more important occurring in the latter half of the century. In 1762 it surrendered to the joint operations of Admiral Rodney and General Monckton, but was returned to France by the Treaty of Paris in the following year. In 1778 it again surrendered to the British, who remained in occupation until 1783 when, by the Peace of Versailles, St. Lucia was once more restored to France. It was from Pigeon Island, off the north-western coast of St. Lucia, during the period of this occupancy that Rodney sighted the French Fleet of 36 sail of the line, under the Comte de Grasse, prior to giving them battle and defeating them in the memorable naval action of the 12th April, 1782. The island was again taken by the British in 1794, but they were forced by the French Republican party in the island, aided by insurgent slaves under "Citoyen" Victor Hughes, the Civil Commissary of Guadeloupe, to evacuate it in the following year. In 1796, after an obstinate and sanguinary struggle, that party laid down their arms and surrendered as prisoners of war to a force 12,000 strong under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, supported by a squadron under the command of Sir Hugh Christian. Sir John Moore, the subsequent hero of Corunna, took part in this operation as Brigadier-General Moore, and remained in the island as Governor thereafter. The British retained possession of the island until 1802, when it was restored to France by the Treaty of Amiens; but on the renewal of hostilities it surrendered by capitulation to General Greenfield on the 22nd June, 1803, since when it has continued under British rule. As a result of the operations of 1778, 1796, and 1803, no fewer than thirteen British regiments have "St. Lucia" inscribed on their colours.

Climate.

The climate is healthy and compares favourably with other West Indian islands.

The temperature seldom rises above 90° in the hot season, May to November, or falls below 70° in the cool season, December to May; the yearly average being about 83° noon shade temperature. On Morne Fortune, just above Government House, where a portion of the former garrison was located, the temperature in the winter months falls as low as 60° and throughout the year it remains mild and pleasant.

The temperature records during 1927 show a mean noon temperature of 85.7° in the shade, the maximum temperature being 96°, the minimum temperature 65°, giving a range of 31°.

The total rainfall recorded at the Botanic Gardens, Castries, for the year 1927 was 105.08 inches, this was 26.28 inches above the average for 28 years (78.80 inches) and was the highest recorded in the Gardens since the year 1916.

Vital Statistics.

On 31st December, 1926, the resident population of the Colony was computed to have been 25,594 males and 30,104 females—a total of 55,698. On 31st December, 1927, the figure increased to 56,068; males 25,747, females 30,321. The natural increase during the year was 703. Departures from the Colony exceeded the number of persons entering the Colony by 333, so that the net addition was only 370.

The births (including still-births which numbered 111) totalled 1,923—Males 978, females 945. The birth-rate (excluding still-births) was 32.3 per thousand of the population.

The number of deaths recorded (including still-births) was 1,220—Males 622, females 598. The death-rate (excluding still-births) was 19.7 per thousand of the population.

The principal causes of death as returned (excluding still-births) were malaria, 50; pulmonary tuberculosis, 56; phthisis, 30; syphilis, 54; cancer, 19; pneumonia, 112; worms, 104; infantile debility, 41; senile decay, 110.

Languages.

English is, of course, the language of the Colony but the large majority of the population speak a French patois. Notwithstanding the fact that primary Education is imparted in English entirely, it is still true that comparatively few of the labouring classes can speak or understand our own tongue and in the elementary schools children have really to be taught English before they can assimilate a knowledge of the rudiments of Education. This is undoubtedly a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, but it can only be by persistent educational effort that the people as a whole will eventually learn to speak and think in the National language.

Currency.

The coinage of Great Britain is the currency of the Colony, while local Government currency notes of the value of 10s. and 5s. are in circulation, as well as the notes of Barclays Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada, both of which have branches in Castries.

Weights and Measures.

The Imperial weights and measures are in use in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

The outstanding event of the year was the fire in Castries on the night of the 14th-15th May.

Originating apparently in a provision store, the fire spread from block to block, despite the most strenuous efforts of the fire brigade, police, rovers, scouts, and a host of other willing helpers, until seventeen blocks had been devastated. Houses, wholesale stores and retail shops, the Post Office, Government spirit warehouse,

Magistrate's court-house, Attorney-General's office, and a Friendly Society's hall were all destroyed, and the fire was only stopped by the sea. Practically all the business section of the town was burnt out.

Prompt measures were taken by His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G. (who fortunately was in residence in St. Lucia at the time) to cope with the appalling situation created by this disaster.

Relief work in the first instance comprised providing temporary homes for a number of people, the issue of clothing, and a daily issue of rations to a still larger number. This work was carried out by a Committee working under the direction of Lady James and His Honour Captain Plunkett, Acting Colonial Secretary. Food and clothing were received promptly from neighbouring islands, and the Castries Fire Relief Fund was opened. This Fund ultimately reached the sum of £17,181, which was made up of £5,000 from the Imperial Treasury, £6,147 from Colonial Governments, and £6,033 subscriptions from Societies and private individuals.

As soon as the immediate distress of the people had been relieved, His Excellency appointed the Castries Fire Relief Investigation of Claims Committee to consider all statements of losses arising out of the fire and advise as to the best method of relief. As a result of this investigation the sum of £16,894 was distributed in relief and building grants, the relief grants representing principally amounts allocated to assist in replacing household furniture and effects and stocks of small shopkeepers, and the building grants being amounts allocated to assist in rebuilding in concrete or masonry. In addition to these grants, the sum of £5,000 loaned to the local Government by the Imperial Treasury for ten years at 2 per cent. per annum has been re-loaned on the same terms to assist in rebuilding premises destroyed by the fire on condition that they are rebuilt in masonry or concrete.

Already a considerable area of the town is occupied by concrete or masonry buildings either completed or in course of erection, and these buildings are generally far superior to those destroyed.

It is noteworthy that the administration of the Relief Fund and Loan account, involving the disbursement of £22,000, cost only £35, of which £30 represents the cost of remittance of money from England.

The experience of this fire having proved the necessity for a more efficient fire brigade and apparatus, an enlarged brigade has been constituted and placed under the command of the Chief of Police, and some improved fire-fighting appliances have been purchased.

It was a very regrettable fact that so many of the properties and merchants' stocks destroyed by the fire were uninsured. Evidently many people regarded insurance as a luxury and others

regarded the payment of an insurance premium as a waste of money. Since the fire, the volume of insurance business in St. Lucia has increased very considerably.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure of the Colony during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Ordinary Revenue. £	Ordinary Expenditure. £	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue. £
1923	77,077	88,973	11,896
1924	71,595	88,186	16,591
1925	75,555	85,082	9,527
1926	83,379*	84,488	1,109
1927	82,491†	84,219	1,728

* In addition £70,180 was received as proceeds of the issue of Debt Reduction Loan.

† Including Imperial Grant-in-Aid of £7,000.

During 1927 the rates of taxation were altered in certain instances as follows:—

- (1) Additional 5 per cent. on Income Tax, incomes being assessed as before but the tax payable being increased.
- (2) Rates of Import Duty on certain commodities were altered, most being increased but a few reduced.

The Public Debt of the Colony (including Guaranteed Loans) stood at £203,159 at the close of the year, being £3,450 less than at 31st December, 1926. The accumulated Sinking Fund for its redemption amounted to £58,717, as compared with £54,767 at the end of 1926.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

The prosperity of the Colony is mainly dependent upon agriculture, but, owing to a variety of causes, this has not been developed to the extent it might have been. There is evidence that the inhabitants are now realizing the absolute necessity for increased agricultural production and are turning their attention to a more intensive cultivation of their properties.

The agricultural interests of the Colony suffered a severe setback by the collapse during the year of the banana company who had started operations and had induced a large number of planters to take up the cultivation of this commodity on a fairly large scale. This calamity, as well as the greater one of the prevalence

of Panama Disease throughout the island, has removed the prospect of any considerable production of bananas in St. Lucia.

Another severe blow has been the appearance and rapid spread of "Withertip" and "blossom blight" among limes. Planters had taken up this cultivation with enthusiasm and the industry was doing exceedingly well when this disaster overtook it.

The cultivation of coconuts has increased greatly in recent years and planting on a fairly large scale is still going on.

Work is being maintained with energy on three of the four sugar factories in the island and, under new management, considerable development is taking place at the Roseau factory, which is situated in one of the most fertile valleys in the island.

Strong efforts are being put forth to stimulate the cultivation of fruit of various kinds, for which industry St. Lucia seems to be peculiarly well suited.

Sugar.—The area under cultivation remains at about 4,750 acres; unfavourable weather conditions prevailed throughout the reaping season and rendered harvesting difficult and prolonged, and the yield of sugar was low.

One factory did not complete the harvesting of the crop, consequently the output of sugar products was generally lower than that of the previous year. Market prices were more favourable, however, and the value of the products shows an increase.

The following figures show the quantity and value of sugar products exported during the last five years:—

Sugar (Vacuum Pan).				
Year.		Quantity.	Value.	
		Cwt.	£	
1923	...	62,940	75,304	
1924	...	71,760	87,987	
1925	...	97,772	72,559	
1926	...	95,140	65,444	
1927	...	88,640	74,200	

Sugar (Muscovado).				
Year.		Quantity.	Value.	
		Cwt.	£	
1923	...	2,720	2,161	
1924	...	9,940	9,508	
1925	...	8,614	4,774	
1926	...	9,138	5,414	
1927	...	3,560	2,235	

Molasses and Syrup.

Year.		Quantity.	Value.
		Gals.	£
1923	...	112,368	7,783
1924	...	159,589	12,323
1925	...	153,413	7,818
1926	...	156,424	8,659
1927	...	156,050	7,634

Rum.—The quantity and value of rum exported during the last five years is as shown below:—

Year.		Quantity.	Value.
		P. Gals.	£
1923	...	649	64
1924	...	952	29
1925	...	63	25
1926	...	37	11
1927	...	1,700	212

Practically all the rum produced in the island is consumed locally.

Cacao.—A favourable market for cacao existed throughout the year. This caused increased attention to be given to cultivation. A good crop was reaped, the quantity exported being 2,146 cwt. more than in the previous year.

The quantity and value of cacao exported during the last five years are as follows:—

Year.		Quantity.	Value.
		Cwt.	£
1923	...	12,817	21,527
1924	...	12,163	21,267
1925	...	10,444	22,339
1926	...	10,037	22,454
1927	...	12,183	30,560

Limes.—Lime oils continued to realise high prices during the year, ranging from 27s. to 37s. per lb. for hand-pressed oil and 21s. to 23s. for distilled oil. Prices decreased towards the close of the year. The concentrated and raw juice markets were not very active. The quantity of lime products exported has decreased somewhat owing to Withertip disease. It is expected that, owing to the failure of the second crop, the production for 1928 will be still further reduced.

The crop calculated in barrels of fruit was:—

1923	...	53,097
1924	...	52,238
1925	...	63,406
1926	...	59,415
1927	...	58,948

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

Coconuts and coconut products exported during the last five years are shown in the following statements:—

Year.	Coconuts.	Quantity. Number.	Value. £
1923	...	99,945	351
1924	...	119,669	204
1925	...	123,516	432
1926	...	118,501	381
1927	...	96,813	351

Year.	Coconut Oil.	Quantity.	Value.
1923	...	Information not available.	£
1924	...	Information not available.	£
1925	...	gals.	£
1926	...	6,323	791
1927	...	19,081	3,847
		3,921	735

Year.	Copra.	Quantity. Cwt.	Value. £
1923	...	1,847	2,350
1924	...	1,806	2,199
1925	...	1,981	3,563
1926	...	1,591	1,808
1927	...	4,077	4,409

Year.	Coconut Meal.	Quantity.	Value.
1923	...	Information not available.	£
1924	...	Information not available.	£
1925	...	Tons.	£
1926	...	12	106
1927	...	42	778
		7	88

Bananas.—The exports during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Quantity. Bunches.	Value. £
1923	4,081	291
1924	4,190	256
1925	20,818	1,374
1926	46,209	4,356
1927	27,052	2,351

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The state of the trade of the Colony as reflected by the values and quantities of imports and exports during the year 1927 as compared with 1926 was as follows:—

Imports.	1927. £	1926. £
I. Food, drink, and tobacco	78,679	75,920
II. Raw material and articles mainly unmanufactured...	39,512	61,877
III. Materials wholly or mainly manufactured	103,640	107,889
IV. Miscellaneous and unclassi- fied articles, including Parcel Post	7,014	6,550
Total Value ...	£228,845	£252,236

From the above figures it will be seen that the principal decrease in imports was in raw material and articles mainly unmanufactured, while there was a small increase in the value of food, drink, and tobacco imported.

The values of imports for 1927 and 1926 classified according to country of supply were as follows:—

	1927. £	1926. £
United Kingdom	67,910	62,399
Other parts of the British Empire	62,647	62,515
Foreign countries	91,713	121,506
Parcel Post	6,575	5,816
Total Value ...	£228,845	£252,236

These figures show that the imports from the United Kingdom have increased by £5,511, or 8.8 per cent., while those from other parts of the British Empire remain the same and those from foreign countries have decreased by £29,793 or 24.5 per cent., so that the drop in the value of imports has been entirely at the expense of foreign countries.

The values of the imports of articles amounting to £5,000 or more each for 1926 and 1927 were as follows:—

Article.	1926. £	1927. £
Bags, empty	6,371	4,131
Boots and Shoes	4,552	5,635
Coal, bituminous	53,551	28,407
Cotton—		
Piece goods	20,391	19,225
Other manufactures	2,501	5,366
Films, cinematograph	6,300	3,991
Fish, salted, dried, &c.	9,809	9,596
Grain, &c., Flour	23,896	24,411
Machinery, sugar manufac- turing	7,138	4,073
Manures	8,932	4,042
Oil, edible	6,158	7,169

The chief item of interest in this table is coal, bituminous, the value of imports of which has diminished by £25,144, or 47 per cent., due to a further depression in the bunker-coal trade. Cotton manufactures show an increase, while cinematograph films show a decrease due to the destruction by fire of the cinema in May, 1927, Sugar-manufacturing machinery and manures show considerable decreases.

There would appear to be some openings for British products, as shown by the following table:—

Article.	Total value of Imports in 1927. £	Imports from British Empire. £
Cotton manufactures, piece goods	19,225	11,166
Manures	4,042	492
Iron and Steel manufactures	4,620	3,235
Wood and Timber—Shooks and Staves	2,831	366
Bags and Sacks, empty	4,131	2,291
Butter and substitutes	3,463	1,359
Oleomargarine	2,268	14
Motor-cars	2,141	1,637
Cement	2,114	628
Totals	£44,855	£21,188

Exports.

The values of exports in 1927, classified under four main divisions, were as follows:—

	1927. £	1926. £
I. Food, drink, and tobacco ...	134,348	125,557
II. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanu- factured	47,391	89,914
III. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	27,208	29,674
IV. Miscellaneous	371	99
V. Bullion and Specie	4,284	6,461
Total value	£213,602	£251,705

It is seen that the drop in the value of exports is due mainly to Class II, while Class I shows a moderate increase.

The following table shows the character and individual values of the main exports:—

	Value in 1927. £	Value in 1926. £
Cocoa	30,560	22,454
Limes and Lime products	27,337	28,140
Sugar	76,435	70,858
Fancy Syrup and Molasses	7,634	8,659
Logwood	2,027	4,986
Bunker Coal	37,663	76,314
Copra	4,409	1,808

The values of the exports, domestic and other, classified according to destination were as follows:—

EXPORTS (MERCHANDISE).

Destination.	Total 1927. £	Total 1926. £
United Kingdom—		
Domestic Exports	37,709	
Re-exports	189	
Other parts of the British Empire—		
Domestic Exports	84,970	
Re-exports (not including Bullion and Specie).	7,655	
Foreign Countries—		
Domestic Exports	40,204	
Re-exports (not including Bullion and Specie).	573	
Ships' Stores—Re-exports	355	
Bunkers—Re-exports	37,663	
Totals	£209,318	£245,244

From this table it appears that exports to the value of £24,462 have been diverted from the United Kingdom to other parts of the British Empire; exports to the former having decreased in value by £24,462 and exports to the latter having increased in value by £28,203. Exports to foreign countries decreased slightly, while the value of coal supplied to ships' bunkers decreased by £38,849, which more than accounts for the drop of £35,926 in the total value of exports of merchandise as above.

Coaling.—The coaling business, for which there are exceptional facilities and which brought considerable wealth to the Colony for many years, is not now in a very flourishing condition owing to the large reduction in the number of steamers calling for bunkers. Still, it affords appreciable though irregular occupation for a number of labourers in and around Castries.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.—The number of ships entered and cleared during the year was 996, of a total tonnage of 1,153,633 tons. Of this total, 477 were steam and 519 sailing vessels.

Mail communication is maintained by (1) a regular fortnightly steamer service to other West Indian Colonies and to Canada, (2) a monthly service via Martinique to Europe by means of the French mail steamer, and (3) a monthly service to the United States of America and the West Indian Colonies by the Quebec Steamship Company. There are other and frequent mail opportunities via Barbados and America and direct to Europe.

Roads.—The road system of the island has been much improved in sections by surfacing with road oil. The mileage of roads in the Colony is as follows:—

Main roads	...	...	...	...	...	125
Byways	...	...	...	...	...	143
Unclassified roads	...	...	...	...	...	74
						342

167 miles are suitable for motor traffic and are much used.

Passenger subsidised motor-bus services are regularly maintained between Castries and Dennery and Vieuxfort and Soufrière.

The Government 50-ton motor-launch supplies a regular service between Castries, Soufrière, Vieuxfort, and the villages of Anse-la-Rayé, Canaries, and Laborie.

Telegraphic communication is maintained by the Pacific Cable Board; there is also the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, the latter no longer subsidised by the Government.

Inland Telegraphs.—There is no telegraph system in the island.

Telephones.—There are ten telephone exchanges operating throughout the island, to which are connected 93 miles of trunk lines and 182 miles of branch lines.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice is administered by the Royal Court, over which the Chief Justice presides, and by three District Courts, over which two Police Magistrates preside. The Royal Court has an original civil and criminal jurisdiction and also decides appeals from the District Courts. Appeals from the Royal Court are heard and determined by the West Indian Court of Appeal constituted under the West Indian Court of Appeal Act, 1919, of the Imperial Parliament.

An adequate Police Force is maintained to enforce the decisions of these bodies and to provide generally for the peace of the Colony and the security of life and property. Besides ordinary Police duties, this Force assists in the administration of Poor Relief, and it has, since the Castries Fire of May, 1927, provided the main portion of the Castries Fire Brigade.

There is one gaol, the Royal Gaol, situated in Castries, which contains separate prisons for male and female convicts. The institution has its own bakery which supplies excellent bread to all the public institutions and, in addition to stone-breaking and carrying out useful work outside the walls, certain of the prisoners are taught carpentry, tailoring, and shoemaking.

VII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the island was good during the year. There was no epidemic sickness to be recorded. The Chief Medical Officer is responsible for the general supervision of matters of health and sanitation in the Colony.

Victoria Hospital, the principal hospital, is situated within a mile of Castries. A Resident Surgeon is in charge, and he is assisted by a staff consisting of a European matron and local nurses and dispensers. There is a private wing with six rooms assigned to paying patients.

There are three small district casualty hospitals close to the principal local dispensaries of Soufrière, Vieuxfort, and Dennery.

The pauper and leper asylums are situated in the Soufrière district, and are supervised by the Medical Officer of the district and a visiting Advisory Committee.

Sanitation.—The efforts of the Sanitary Department were mainly restricted to established routine work.

The work included the regular periodical inspection of premises—estates, barracks, and school-houses not excepted—the inspection of markets, slaughter-houses, bakeries, provision shops, mineral-water factories, ice factory, and the streets and drains of the various towns and villages.

Anti-malarial measures included reclamation work and cleaning of canals, ravines and drains. Pools in ravines were re-stocked with "millions" fish.

Fly destruction was carried out in towns and villages.

Attention was paid to the prevention of irregular disposal of excreta, of soil pollution, and of the pollution of rivers and streams.

An address on "Practical Sanitation" was delivered by the Chief Sanitary Inspector to the school teachers of the Colony, and a course of lectures on the same subject was delivered by the same officer to the District Sanitary Inspectors.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

Primary education is free and compulsory. There are 49 denominational schools. Although education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14, little more than half the children of school age attend.

Grants-in-aid are made to these schools, mainly for the payment of teachers' salaries. The Inspector of Schools, a Government officer, is in charge of the administration of the grants.

English, reading, writing, arithmetic, the elements of grammar, geography and hygiene are taught. In the upper classes boys are taught elementary agricultural science, both practical and theoretical, and the girls needlework and domestic economy. The results are generally good.

Secondary education is supplied by St. Mary's College for boys, and St. Joseph's Convent School for girls, both situated in Castries. These schools prepare their pupils for the Cambridge University Local Examinations and the London University Matriculation Examination. Pupils have attained considerable success in these examinations. The St. Lucia Scholarship of £175 per annum, which was established in 1918 and suspended in 1925, was renewed in 1926 and made biennial. The Scholarship is awarded, on the results of the London University Matriculation Examination, to candidates having the requisite local and residential qualifications. A choice of universities, or of agricultural, scientific or technical colleges or institutions in Europe, Canada or the United States, approved by the Governor-in-Council, is permitted. The Scholarship is tenable for not less than three, and not more than five, years according to the time required for the completion of the course of study sanctioned. Up to 1927 seven Scholarships have been awarded.

Eighteen scholarships at St. Mary's College are awarded by the Government, on the results of competitive examinations to boys attending primary schools. These scholarships are tenable for one year and renewable after that from year to year for five years more.

IX.—LABOUR.

There is, generally, an ample supply of labour for the requirements of the Colony. Employment is offered chiefly on sugar estates and other of the larger properties, by the Public Works Department for work on the roads, and by the coaling companies for bunkering steamers. Since the fire of May, 1927, there has been a constant demand for tradesmen, but it has not been an easy matter to secure an adequate number of skilled workers. So far as can be ascertained the relations between employers and labourers have been satisfactory. A fair number of St. Lucia labourers are recruited periodically for work in Cuba and Santo Domingo. All arrangements in regard to this labour are made through the Government, and the recruiting agents are required to enter into a strict bond and agreement for carrying out the terms of the contract made between them and the labourers.

X.—MISCELLANEOUS.

His Excellency the Governor of the Windward Islands, Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G., paid two visits to the Colony during the year, from 23rd April to 28th June and from 11th August to 23rd August.

His Honour Captain Oliver Plunkett, Chief Justice, acted as Administrator throughout the year until the 17th November, except for the periods when His Excellency the Governor was in residence in the Colony. Mr. C. A. Pickwood succeeded Captain Plunkett and administered the Government from 17th November to the end of the year.

Four British ships of war visited the Colony during the year, as follows:—

H.M.S. "Calcutta" from the 20th to the 31st January,
H.M.S. "Colombo" from the 21st to the 22nd February,
H.M.S. "Wistaria" from the 23rd February to the 1st March,
H.M.S. "Heliotrope" from the 24th to the 27th March.

There is now an excellent up-to-date hotel situated on the hill overlooking the harbour and town of Castries. The social club at the Vigie, which was established a little more than a year ago, promises to be a great success and has supplied a long-felt want.

CHAS. W. DOORLY,

Administrator.

ST. LUCIA,
12th June, 1928.

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