

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.



No. 720.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 682.)

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



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(For Report for 1910, see No. 682.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Stanley,

10th June, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1910, which has been prepared by Mr. T. A. V. Best, the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

W. L. ALLARDYCE,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street, S.W.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1911.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The following comparative statements show the heads of revenue and expenditure, with the amounts received and expended under each head for the years ended 31st December, 1910, and 31st December, 1911:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

Heads.	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs, &c. ...	5,415 15 6	5,788 13 5	372 17 11	—
Port and Tonnage Dues	290 16 6	551 14 0	260 17 6	—
Internal Revenue ...	2,670 13 1	4,437 18 2	1,767 5 1	—
Fees of Court, &c. ...	760 0 3	2,472 16 9	1,712 16 6	—
Interest ...	4,800 19 10	5,794 0 8	993 0 10	—
Post Office ...	1,458 12 6	1,500 6 2	41 13 8	—
Rents ...	2,948 18 1	3,324 16 2	375 18 1	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	188 15 5	336 12 9	147 17 4	—
Total Ordinary Revenue.	18,534 11 2	24,206 18 1	5,672 6 11	—
Land Sales ...	7,238 8 5	11,132 6 8	3,893 18 3	—
Stock Ordinance ...	806 15 0	806 15 0	—	—
Total General Revenue.	26,579 14 7	36,145 19 9	9,566 5 2	—

The ordinary revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1911, amounted to £24,206 18s. 1d., and was the highest yet received in the Colony, exceeding that for 1910 by £5,672 6s. 11d.

2. Comparative Statement of Expenditure.

Heads.	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions ...	630 4 0	710 10 11	80 6 11	—
The Governor ...	1,488 16 8	1,640 5 10	151 9 2	—
Colonial Secretary ...	893 18 10	871 2 3	—	22 16 7
Treasury and Customs ...	939 18 3	802 6 5	—	137 11 10
Audit ...	32 0 0	23 0 0	—	9 0 0
Port and Marine ...	40 9 10	38 15 2	—	1 14 8
Legal ...	279 9 11	262 12 0	—	16 17 11
Police ...	492 4 6	508 10 0	16 5 6	—
Prisons ...	201 19 2	140 8 4	—	61 10 10
Medical ...	995 19 2	1,050 5 6	54 6 4	—

Heads.	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Education ...	894 18 1	992 13 11	97 15 10	—
Ecclesiastical ...	222 9 10	219 11 10	—	2 18 0
Transport ...	153 8 11	475 5 11	321 17 0	—
Miscellaneous ...	1,064 7 10	1,194 11 10	130 4 0	—
Post Office ...	3,359 2 0	3,775 17 3	416 15 3	—
Colonial Engineer ...	1,756 18 11	1,844 10 1	87 11 2	—
Savings Bank ...	1,510 9 6	1,653 14 10	143 5 4	—
Currency Note Fund ...	50 1 3	45 10 0	—	4 11 3
Drawbacks and Refunds	28 15 9	41 18 9	13 3 0	—
Public Works (Recurrent)	998 10 7	1,358 17 7	360 7 0	—
Total Ordinary Expenditure.	16,034 3 0	17,650 8 5	1,873 6 6	257 1 1
Public Works (Extraordinary).	1,370 18 11	4,810 0 7	3,439 1 8	—
Stock Ordinance...	795 3 0	947 3 9	152 0 9	—
Total General Expenditure.	18,200 4 11	23,407 12 9	5,464 8 11	257 1 1

The ordinary expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1911, amounted to £17,650, and was less than the ordinary revenue by £6,557, and £1,616 more than the ordinary expenditure for 1910.

3. Total Revenue and Expenditure for Five Years 1907 to 1911.

Years.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		
	Heads.	Total.	Heads.	Total.	
1907	Ordinary ...	£ 17,430	£ 21,765	Ordinary ...	£ 15,248
	Land Sales ...	3,528		Extraordinary...	806
	Stock Ordinance ...	807		Stock Ordinance	1,080
1908	Ordinary ...	17,775	23,874	Ordinary ...	15,685
	Land Sales ...	5,292		Extraordinary...	4,082
	Stock Ordinance ...	807		Stock Ordinance	602
1909	Ordinary ...	17,609	27,409	Ordinary ...	16,386
	Land Sales ...	8,993		Extraordinary...	2,824
	Stock Ordinance ...	807		Stock Ordinance	703
1910	Ordinary ...	18,535	26,580	Ordinary ...	16,034
	Land Sales ...	7,238		Extraordinary...	1,371
	Stock Ordinance ...	807		Stock Ordinance	795
1911	Ordinary ...	24,207	36,146	Ordinary ...	17,650
	Land Sales ...	11,132		Extraordinary...	4,810
	Stock Ordinance ...	807		Stock Ordinance	947
	Total ...	135,774		Total ...	99,023

The average ordinary revenue during the last five years exceeded the average ordinary expenditure by £2,910, representing a total surplus during that period of £14,553.

4. The receipts in respect of the Import Duties on wine, malt, spirits, and tobacco amounted to £4,527, or £481 more than in 1910, or £481 more than the average for the last five years.

Article.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	Average.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wine	161	90	95	111	170	125
Malt	327	489	227	478	250	354
Spirits	2,283	1,847	1,746	1,868	1,856	1,920
Tobacco	986	1,788	1,349	1,863	2,251	1,647
Totals	3,757	4,214	3,417	4,320	4,527	4,046

5. There were no important changes in taxation during the year under review.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

6. At the closing of accounts on the 31st December, 1911, the assets and liabilities of the Colony were as follows:—

	£
Assets	167,727
Liabilities	76,546
Excess of assets	£91,181

The following statement shows the surplus of assets at the closing of accounts for the last five years:—

Account.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	£	£	£	£	£
Surplus revenue	3,794	1,728	127	1,256	3,003
Land sales fund	53,799	59,091	68,085	75,323	86,455
Live stock fund... ..	1,543	1,748	1,852	1,863	1,723
Totals	59,136	62,567	70,064	78,442	91,181

7. The following statement shows the amount invested by the various funds, in the purchase of stocks, at the closing of accounts for the last five years (cost price):—

Fund.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	£	£	£	£	£
Land sales	50,704	58,997	68,493	75,323	85,315
Savings bank	49,919	55,919	60,516	66,516	66,516
Intestate estates	1,405	1,444	395	409	422
Currency note	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,500	3,750
Currency depreciation	178	217	257	299	345
Surplus account	14,000	7,300	—	3,500	3,500
Total	122,506	127,177	132,961	149,547	159,848

8. The assumed market value of investments held on the 31st December, 1911, was as follows:—

Fund.	Market Value.		
	£	s.	d.
Land Sales	84,032	0	0
Savings Bank	63,363	0	0
Intestate Estates	358	0	0
Currency Note	3,499	0	0
Currency Depreciation	330	0	0
Surplus Account	3,500	0	0
Total	£155,082	0	0

CURRENCY.

9. British gold, silver, and bronze are current. There is, however, little gold in circulation. A Government paper currency is established under Order of Her late Majesty in Council, of the 7th March, 1899. Details of the conditions under which notes are issued will be found in the Report on the Blue Book for 1910.*

The denomination, number, and value of the notes in circulation at the end of the year 1911 were as follows:—

Denomination.	Number.	Value.
£ s.		£
5 0	603	3,015
1 0	4,372	4,372
0 5	452	113
Total	5,507	£7,500

II.—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

10. The value of the imports was £93,913, and that of the exports £471,156, as against £94,294 and £308,930, respectively, in 1910. The following gives the details of the imports:—

* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 682 [Cd. 5467.—18].

Class.	1910. £	1911. £
1. Live Animals, Foods and Drinks, and Narcotics—		
Aerated waters	380	216
Drugs, &c.	1,478	2,108
Fodder, corn, and hay	1,635	1,704
Fruit and vegetables	878	1,008
Groceries, &c.	21,176	19,121
Live stock	2,848	2,052
Malt liquor	1,022	1,197
Spirits	1,691	1,693
Tobacco, cigars, &c.	1,262	1,534
Wine	580	829
Totals	£32,950	£31,461
2. Raw Materials—		
(a) Textile	—	—
(b) Metals and Minerals—		
Coal	9,576	3,798
Other	2,381	4,789
(c) Other—		
Timber	6,073	8,483
Totals	£18,030	£17,070
3. Manufactured Articles—		
(a) Textile—		
Ships' chandlery	1,628	1,529
Haberdashery	3,801	4,014
Wearing apparel, &c.	7,847	8,225
Totals	10,106	9,056
(b) Metals and Minerals—		
Hardware, &c.	13,147	13,081
(c) Other—		
Furniture	2,521	2,023
Glass and earthenware	450	444
Timber and building material	3,314	4,010
Totals	£6,285	£19,558
Total of Manufactured Articles	£42,814	£59,452
4. Coin and Bullion	500	3,000
Grand totals	£94,294	£93,913

The following figures give the value of the imports for the years 1910 and 1911, arranged according to the country of origin:—

Country.	1910. £	1911. £
United Kingdom	81,924	86,597
British Colonies	—	—
Argentina	192	136
Chili	3,949	4,953
Uruguay	7,093	1,550
Other Countries	1,136	677
Totals	£94,294	£93,913

11. The following figures give the value of the exports for the years 1910-1911:—

Country.	1910. £	1911. £
United Kingdom	232,192	311,750
British Colonies	—	—
Argentina	—	—
Chili	394	33,123
Norway	—	126,283
Other Countries	76,344	—
Totals	£308,930	£471,156

The following gives details of the exports:—*

Article.	1910.		1911.	
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Wool	4,828,109	161,666	4,643,781	150,134
Tallow	481,173	8,439	551,140	8,830
Sheepskins	No. 33,198	4,138	No. 123,642	16,553
Hides	1,053	963	1,027	931
Sealskins	170	170	960	3,732
Whale oil	Tons. 6,433	120,995	Tons. 13,174	270,762
Whalebone	47	2,280	209	15,080
Whale plates	—	—	26	1,500
Tinned meat	—	—	Cases. 1,335	1,335

The following shows the total imports and exports for the five years 1907 to 1911:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1907	73,619	246,435
1908	73,062	189,972
1909	98,862	216,514
1910	94,294	308,930
1911	93,913	471,156
Totals	£433,750	£1,433,007

* Does not include whale oil and guano, valued at £426,478, exported from South Georgia in 1910-1911 to United Kingdom and Norway.

FISHERIES.

12. Whaling round the Falkland Islands was not so successful as in former years, one Company established in the islands only producing a total of 7,400 barrels of oil and 50 tons of whalebone. This compares unfavourably with the large amounts obtained in the Dependencies of the Colony.

13. In South Georgia eight Companies are now established. They employ 1,000 men in their factories ashore and afloat. During the 1910-1911 whaling season oil and guano were produced, valued at £534,715. The South Orkneys and the Sandwich Islands were each visited by one Company, and ten Companies held licences for the South Shetlands and Graham's Land. The total catch from these Dependencies was 156,770 barrels of oil and 400 tons of whalebone, together worth over £468,500.

14. The total value of the products of the industry during 1911 was £1,026,415.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY.

15. The Report by the Chief Inspector of Stock for the year 1911 is printed as an appendix.

The prohibition against the importation of cattle, sheep, and alfalfa (hay) from South America was maintained.

16. The amount to the credit of the Stock Fund on the 31st December, 1911, was £1,723, as compared with £1,863 in 1910. The Land Tax produced £806, the expenditure was £947. £339 was expended on diminishing the number of Upland geese in the Colony under Ordinance No. 3 of 1905, which expires at the end of 1912.

17. The following gives the number of sheep in the Colony for the last five years:—

1907	...	...	695,747
1908	...	...	688,705
1909	...	...	715,651
1910	...	...	724,736
1911	...	...	706,170

Of these, 61,693 were canned or boiled down, and 14,622 slaughtered for consumption in the Colony; a total of 76,315 killed in 1911, as against 69,704 killed in 1910.

The increase is partly due to the two canning factories, capable of dealing respectively with 600 and 300 sheep daily, which began work in 1910, employing 100 men and producing 25,000 tins of preserved meat. This result was more or less experimental, as the factories will not be in full working order till 1912.

SHIPPING.

18. The number of sailing vessels that entered inwards was 14, with a tonnage of 12,940, an increase of 6,159 in tonnage, but no increase in the number, as compared with last year. 64.3 per cent. of the number, and 46.7 per cent. of the tonnage was

British, as against 35.7 per cent. and 53 per cent. respectively in 1910.

19. The number of steamers entered was 64, with a tonnage of 141,929, an increase of 6 in number, but a decrease of 7,192 in tonnage. 59.3 per cent. of the number, and 85.7 per cent. of the tonnage, was British, as against 63.8 per cent. and 90.8 per cent. respectively in 1910.

One foreign training ship also called at Port Stanley.

20. The following is a summary of the total shipping for the last five years:—

Vessels Entered.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1907	33	130,631	6	2,217	17	5,588	10	7,260
1908	38	139,796	8	7,951	8	1,759	9	6,105
1909	44	144,024	4	7,202	12	5,652	9	3,625
1910	37	135,505	5	10,089	21	13,616	9	9,010
1911	38	121,711	9	6,036	26	20,218	5	6,904

Vessels Cleared.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1907	33	130,631	5	2,140	20	6,755	11	8,206
1908	36	137,978	4	2,345	8	1,759	7	7,950
1909	37	140,951	3	5,517	5	1,058	7	3,397
1910	37	135,505	4	7,972	8	6,124	8	7,762
1911	37	136,836	7	4,892	8	15,030	3	3,651

21. Stanley is a port of registry, and at the close of the year there were seven vessels on the register, with a total tonnage of 504 tons.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES.

22. The German ship "Alsterberg," and the British ship "Wavertree" cleared outward in January and April after completing repairs begun in 1910.

The German ship "Renee Rickmers" put into Port Stanley on 31st July for general repairs, and left on 25th September.

The Russian four-masted barque "Albyn" arrived in Port Stanley on 22nd September leaking, and with cargo shifted; she cleared on 22nd December.

The British four-masted barque "Kinross-shire" put into Port Stanley on 1st September and cleared outwards for Seattle on 27th November, having restowed her cargo.

The Norwegian barque "Havfruen," belonging to the Kosmos Whaling Company, left South Georgia on 20th November on a whaling expedition to the Sandwich Group. On 3rd December the "Havfruen" was crushed in the ice and sank; no lives were lost.

The British three-masted ship "Claverdon" entered Port Stanley with a cargo of wheat, having shipped heavy seas and lost an apprentice overboard while attempting to pass Cape Horn.

The United States barque "Nuanu," with general cargo for Honolulu, arrived on 5th November at Stanley with bulwarks washed away and other severe damages, which were being repaired at the close of the year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

23. Seven Ordinances were passed.

Ordinance No. 1 provides for the use of Government wharves and the duties to be paid by vessels using them.

Ordinance No. 5 regulates the sale of liquor in South Georgia. No liquor may be sold or exposed for sale without a licence. Licences are issued by the Stipendiary Magistrate, but must first be approved by the Governor-in-Council.

Ordinance No. 6 is to be construed as one with the Licensing Ordinance, 1882, and imposes penalties on drunkenness and on supplying liquor to persons against whom a prohibition order has been made under the principal Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 7 makes provision for the publication of a revised edition of the Ordinances of the Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

24. The Government Inspector of Schools (The Very Reverend Dean Seymour) reports as follows on the progress of education in the Colony during the year 1910:—

"The results of the educational year in the Government School may be classed as highly satisfactory.

"There is a further advance in the numbers of the children on the roll and a very considerable improvement in the average attendances. In both these cases statistics point to the fact that the methods and tuition are duly appreciated alike by parents and children.

"The quarterly examinations held by the Government Schoolmaster further point to the steady work carried on, and prove that steady progress is being made in all subjects taught.

"There has been a marked improvement both this year and last in the neatness and penmanship of the written work.

"The plain sewing is quite one of the most satisfactory features in the school.

"Drawing shows a satisfactory advance.

"The infants are well and happily taught.

"The appointment of pupil teachers has worked quite satisfactorily.

"During the year an important addition was made to the school buildings: the new class room has proved a great advantage, and with growing numbers this further accommodation was quite necessary.

"In the 'Camps' good work is being done by the itinerant schoolmasters. Generally the parents give their best assistance to the teachers, by proper and regular supervision of home lessons, and when this is done progress is quite satisfactory. That the work and visits of the schoolmasters are really appreciated is proved by the wishes often expressed that the visit could be more frequent."

25. The number of children being educated in the Colony during the year was 435 as against 434 for 1910, and are classified as follows:—

	Boys.		Girls.		Totals.	
	1910.	1911.	1910.	1911.	1910.	1911.
Government school, Stanley ...	87	88	74	77	161	165
Roman Catholic, Stanley ...	29	39	67	60	96	99
Taught privately, West Falkland...	3	4	—	—	3	4
Three Government schoolmasters, West Falkland.	29	26	31	25	60	51
Taught privately, East Falkland ...	4	4	7	7	11	11
Two Government schoolmasters, East Falkland.	19	25	26	32	45	57
Falkland Islands Company's camps	5	2	7	4	12	6
Two camp schoolmasters ...	15	23	22	19	37	42
Other:—						
Taught privately ...	4	—	5	—	9	—
Tota's ...	195	211	239	224	434	435

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

VICTORIA COTTAGE HOME.

26. The Acting Colonial Surgeon reports that the Cottage Home has been of great service. Twenty-six patients were admitted during the year, many of them from ships in harbour.

The district nurse attended 44 cases and paid 842 visits.

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

27. The new hospital, to be erected from a fund subscribed by the Colonists, was begun towards the end of the year. It will contain accommodation for about 12 patients, medical and surgical wards, a maternity ward, and living rooms for patients and nurses.

SAVINGS BANK.

28. During the year ended 30th September, 1911, 63 accounts were opened and closed, leaving a total number of 471 depositors with balances amounting in the aggregate to £69,971, or an average of £148 11s. 2d. to the credit of each account. This represents £30 15s. 11d. per head of the population of the Falklands (2,272).

The income earned by the bank was £2,129 1s. 3d., and the expenses (interest on deposits) £1,533 17s. 0d., leaving a profit of £595 4s. 3d.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

29. The following table summarises the criminal statistics for the years 1907 to 1910:—

—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Number of offences reported to the police	24	44	59	91	59
Number of summary convictions:—					
1. For offences against the person ...	2	4	10	8	4
2. For offences against property ...	5	2	9	3	1
3. For other offences ...	18	29	23	70	54
Number of Supreme Court convictions:—					
1. For offences against the person ...	—	—	—	—	1
2. For offences against property ...	—	—	2	—	—
3. For other offences ...	—	—	—	—	—
Number of acquittals:—					
1. Inferior Court ...	1	9	13	10	4
2. Supreme Court...	—	—	2	2	1

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

30. The Report on the Census of the Colony and its Dependencies was published as a supplement to the "Gazette" of March 1st, 1912. The total population of the islands, including South Georgia (1,003), was found to be 3,275; in the year 1881 it was 1,553. The increase is largely due to the whaling industry, which employs 1,149 males out of a total of 2,370, and

accounts for the small proportion of females in the Colony, who numbered only 905. This industry also explains the presence of 1,093 foreigners, mostly natives of Sweden and Norway.

31. The estimated population on December 31st, 1911, was 3,239. There were 42 births and 11 deaths during the year. Birth-rate per 1,000 17·91; death-rate 6·48.

HEALTH.

32. The following particulars are obtained from the reports of the medical officers and C. N. Foley, Esq., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Medical Officer of the Falkland Islands Company, who has been good enough to supply statistics for Lafonia.

On the East Falkland the winter was very wet, with little sunshine or frost, and diarrhœa was common in Stanley. On the other hand, the almost total absence of this disease on the West Falkland and the general improvement in public health on that island was probably associated with a higher mean winter temperature and a lower rainfall.

There was an outbreak of German measles in Stanley, which probably affected 50 per cent. of the houses in the settlement; infection from Stanley probably accounts for the twelve cases reported from the West Falkland.

On the latter island there were two cases of diphtheria and one on the East Falkland. Five cases of beri-beri were imported by a whaler and a Canadian sealer.

There were four cases of insanity, a large number in a population (East Falkland) of 1,600. Three were sent to England; one was due to alcohol.

33. The Assistant Colonial Surgeon reports considerable improvement in personal hygiene and also in the greater variety of food consumed on the West Falkland. The tooth-brush is becoming a comparatively common object, and fish and vegetables are being added to the universal diet of mutton.

34. During the summer "blue-bottle" flies invade many stations in large numbers. Although there is at present no serious disease in the Colony of which they could act as carriers, they must be regarded as a potential danger, and steps should be taken to limit or reduce their numbers. As means to this end strict cleanliness, including the destruction of garbage and the protection of small birds, is suggested; these flies are reported to be absent from some detached islands on which birds are protected. Blue-bottles are said to have been introduced on the West Falkland by the s.s. "Salembría" in 1878.

35. The number of vaccinations on the East Falkland was 62.

RAINFALL.

36. The total rainfall registered at Stanley during 1911 was 37·06 inches. Its distribution throughout the year is shown in the following table, which has been compiled from the records at Government House:—

Month.	Rainfall in Inches.	Maximum Inches.	Number of days on which rain fell.
January	6.54	.905 21st	19
February	1.67	.5 1st	15
March	2.35	.405 28th	16
April	3.31	.505 26th	25
May	3.96	1.16 3rd	26
June	2.43	.38 30th	20
July	4.29	1.16 3rd	24
August	4.08	.41 22nd	25
September	1.35	.31 18th	14
October	1.57	.27 17th	19
November	2.83	.62 16th	19
December	2.48	.68 24th	18
Total	37.06	—	240

37. The following is a summary of Meteorological Observations taken at King Edward Cove, South Georgia, during 1911, kindly supplied by the Argentine Government Station:—

Latitude 54° 18' South. Longitude 36° 27' West.

Month.	Total rainfall.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Prevailing Wind.	Number of calm days.
January	0.992	11	N.W.	5
February	3.872	13	N.E.	13
March	5.285	20	W.	9
April	5.528	14	S.E.	9
May	0.640	5	S.E.	11
June	5.666	15	S.E.	7
July	4.230	16	N.W.	9
August	8.464	16	N.W.	7
September	1.396	10	N.	7
October	2.380	16	N.W.	9
November	4.084	19	S.E.	10
December	1.835	16	S.E.	9
Totals	44.372	171	—	105

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE, &c.

38. The revenue of the Post Office was £1,492, or £66 more than in 1910. The expenditure, including a subsidy of £2,500 for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, was £3,776, as against £3,359 in 1910.

39. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamers call at Stanley on their voyage out to Callao, and on their return voyage, a fortnight later, thus making a monthly communication by letter with England, and fortnightly by cable via Monte Video and Chile.

The Falkland Islands are within the Postal Union as to rates of postage.

Early in the year an accident interrupted the itinerary of the interinsular mail steamer; since then the service has run smoothly and has given general satisfaction.

40. The value of the money orders issued during the last five years is shown below:—

Year.	On the United Kingdom.	On other Places.	Total.
	£	£	£
1907	7,646	270	7,916
1908	8,308	264	8,572
1909	8,485	217	8,702
1910	8,850	281	9,131
1911	8,879	650	9,529

41. The total number of postal packets (letters, &c.) dealt with during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Number.
1907	87,854
1908	109,660
1909	132,223
1910	147,790
1911	153,436

The following statement shows in detail the number of postal packets dealt with during 1911:—

Description of Packet.	Delivered from			Posted to			Grand Total.
	United Kingdom.	Other Places.	Total.	United Kingdom.	Other Places.	Total.	
Letters and post cards.	20,932	9,669	30,601	25,708	13,209	38,917	69,578
Newspapers, books, &c.	73,688	1,046	74,734	2,397	1,115	3,512	78,246
Parcels ...	5,189	—	5,189	469	14	483	5,672
Totals ...	99,809	10,715	110,524	28,574	14,338	42,912	153,436
1910 ...	95,025	11,271	106,296	26,086	14,508	41,494	147,790

42. The value of goods imported by parcel post during the five years ended 31st December, 1911, was as follows:—

Year.	Value. £
1907	6,221
1908	6,086
1909	6,294
1910	7,052
1911	7,823

SOUTH GEORGIA.

43. Mails between South Georgia and Europe travel via Buenos Aires. The distance between the latter port and South Georgia is about 1,500 miles, and occupies seven to eight days.

Fourteen mails were received and fourteen despatched during 1911, the average time between receipt and despatch being from five to six weeks.

The total number of postal packets received and despatched was 25,325, an increase of 16,979 over 1910.

Stamps and postcards to the value of £153 were sold during the year.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

44. The hitherto isolated state of the Colony will shortly be terminated by the erection of a wireless telegraph station, the tender of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. having been accepted for a 5 kilowatt installation capable of communicating at night with Buenos Aires or Monte Video. The necessary plant has already arrived in the Colony, and a suitable site has been selected for its erection.

Wireless communication, in addition to its many other advantages, will be of great benefit to the postal service of the Colony.

TELEPHONES.

45. In Stanley good progress has been made with the re-organization of the Telephone Exchange. Besides the linking up of Government buildings with those of business houses, provision has been made to install telephones in private houses at a fixed annual rate.

The new system will include the long-distance line between Stanley and Darwin (60 miles) and the lines to Port Louis and Fitzroy, recently erected by the Honourable Vere Packe.

IX.—NAVAL AND MILITARY.

46. The strength of the Volunteer force on the 31st December, 1911, was two officers and 117 non-commissioned officers and men, increase of four on the numbers in 1910. The amount of the capitation grant earned was £96, representing 48 efficient; a number of the men are unable to visit headquarters in order to qualify for the grant. The annual camp was held in February.

X.—GENERAL.

47. The Stanley Assembly Room, which for many years had served as a general meeting place for the town, was burnt to the ground on the night of the 30th March. The foundations of a new town hall were begun towards the end of the year.

48. On the 3rd March the training ship "Taisei Maru" arrived in Port Stanley. This was the first Japanese ship to visit the Colony or to make the passage round Cape Horn.

49. In June the Coronation of their Majesties was celebrated with the greatest enthusiasm.

The "Boy Scouts" held their first meeting on the 23rd July.

50. The Colonial Surgeon, R. S. Earl, Esq., M.A., M.B., B.C., resigned in November and retired on the ground of ill-health.

A sketch-map of the Colony is annexed to this report.

T. A. V. BEST,
Colonial Secretary.

8th June, 1912.

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF STOCK.

Stock Department,
Stanley, 16th February, 1912.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report for the year ended on the 31st December, 1911.

It is gratifying to be able again to report a prosperous season for stock owners. Wool made a good price, although not so good as in 1910. Hides, tallow, and skins had also a fair market, and at the present time everything points to a continuance of equally good returns. During the winter and spring more rain fell than had been known for many years; grass was very backward, and consequently stock suffered considerably. However, towards the close of the year grass was abundant, stock quickly picked up, and looked as well as they had done for several seasons past.

Two canning factories were opened in the autumn, at which over 30,000 sheep were canned. There is every hope that these new enterprises will prove a success. Owing to the recent series of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in England, a case of distemper occurring in a dog at Stanley, and complaints from farmers respecting imported horses, it was thought advisable in the interest of stock owners to draw up new importation Regulations, which came into force on the first day of 1912. Copies of these Regulations have been sent to all stations and have been published in the "Gazette"; they can also be had on application to this office.

The prohibition against sheep, cattle, and alfalfa from South American ports is still maintained.

The Ordinance providing for the purchase of goose beaks expires at the end of 1912.

Sheep.—There is a marked decrease in the number of sheep in the Colony, the return being 706,170, which is 18,566 less than in 1910. The health of the sheep is very satisfactory. A few cases of lice were found on the East Falklands. Ticks were much less numerous, especially on stations where it is the practice to dip twice. Dipping has been carried out in a conscientious manner in all districts. Investigations are being made with regard to so-called scrofula, and will be published as soon as they are completed. There is no evidence that the disease is in any way infectious, but

all affected sheep should be killed, as the tendency towards it is probably inherited.

Lambing.—Although the weather at this season was bad, lambs were more plentiful than they were last year, with a very small mortality afterwards. The quality of the young stock improves yearly, some of the hoggets to be seen at certain farms being a credit to the Colony. The good increase should enable farmers to cull more heavily and thus rid their farms of unprofitable old sheep.

Wool.—The clip was in every way satisfactory, being heavier and of better quality than that of the previous year. The new clip threatens to be somewhat light, but in other respects will compare favourably with that of other seasons.

Importations.—During the year twenty-seven Romney Marsh rams were imported from England. These sheep were all shearlings, and were of a better type than many of the sheep brought into the Colony. All sheep imported are now dipped before they are released from quarantine, which is an additional safeguard against introducing parasitic diseases.

Horses.—The number in the Colony is 3,554. These are classified as follows:—Horses and mares, 2,846; brood mares, 438; foals, 245; stallions, 25. Some good sires are needed in the Colony.

Many colts are ruined through neglect of the feet. Two hundred and thirteen horses were imported, including four stallions. This was 85 more than in 1910, and they were of a much better class than in former years.

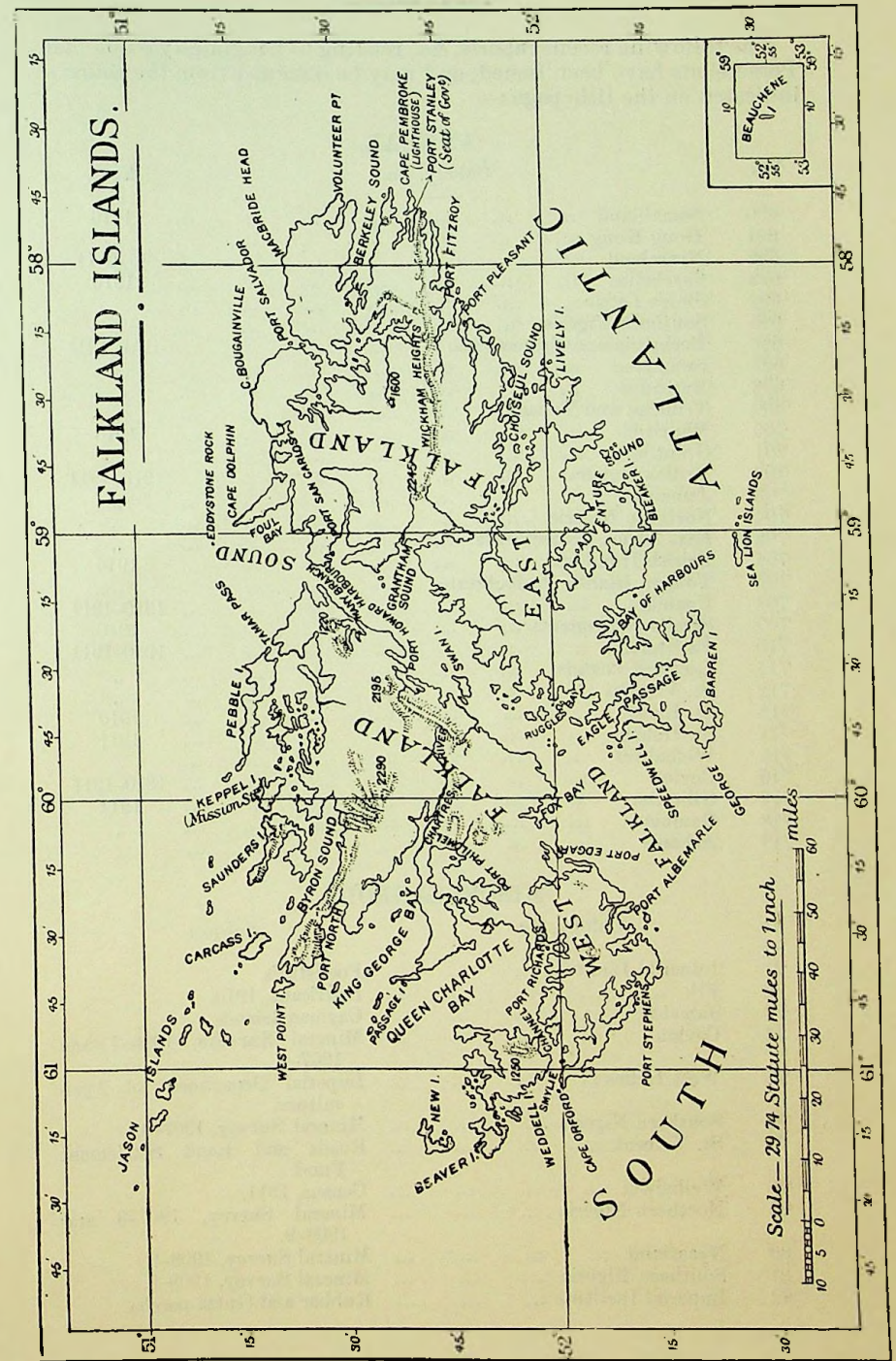
Cattle.—Statistics show that there are 7,859 cattle in the Falklands. It is a regrettable fact that some of the milking cows have been found to be tuberculous. A notice was issued by the Government in October drawing attention to the danger of using tuberculous milk for human consumption, and offering to test samples of milk free of charge. This offer should be taken advantage of by any person milking cows which are in any way suspected of the disease. The percentage of affected animals is not high, so that it is entirely in the hands of stock owners whether the disease shall be stamped out or allowed to spread gradually.

Cultivation.—Some very good hay has been cut in some districts, the growers declaring that they have been well repaid for their trouble and expense. Other farmers should give this a trial, for it must be a very great advantage to have a few tons of good hay on hand in the winter.

I have, &c.,

H. W. Townson, M.R.C.V.S., Lond.,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.



COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.							
No.	Colony, &c.						Year.
690	Somaliland	...	...	...	...	...	1910
691	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	"
692	Nyasaland	...	...	...	...	...	1910-11
693	Seychelles	...	...	...	...	...	1910
694	Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	...	"
695	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	"
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	1910-1911
697	Swaziland	...	...	...	...	...	"
698	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	...	"
700	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	1910
701	Grenada	...	...	...	...	...	"
702	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	...	1910-1911
703	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	"
704	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
706	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	...	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
708	Uganda	...	...	...	...	...	1910-1911
709	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	...	1910
710	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	...	1910-1911
711	Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...	...	"
712	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	...	"
713	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	1910
714	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	...	1911
715	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	...	...	"
716	Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	1910-1911
717	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	1911
718	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	"
719	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.				Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	...	...	...	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	...	...	...	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	...	...	...	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	...	...	...	Mineral Surveys, 1906-7 and 1907-8.
75	West Indies	...	...	...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1907-8.
77	St. Vincent	...	...	...	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.



No. 764.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 720.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1913.



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1913.

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No. 764.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1911, see No. 720.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Stanley,

7 July, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1912, which has been prepared in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

I have, &c.,

W. L. ALLARDYCE,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street, S.W.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The following comparative statements show the heads of revenue and expenditure, with the amounts received and expended under each head for the years ended 31st December, 1911, and 31st December, 1912:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

Heads.	1911. £	1912. £
Customs, &c.	5,788	3,580
Port and Tonnage Dues	551	515
Internal Revenue	4,437	4,549
Fees of Court, &c.	2,472	1,323
Interest	5,794	5,931
Post Office	1,500	3,368
Rents	3,324	2,633
Miscellaneous Receipts	336	525
Total Ordinary Revenue	£24,206	£22,154
Land Sales	11,132	11,074
Stock Ordinance	806	806
Total General Revenue	£36,145	£34,036

The ordinary revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1912, amounted to £22,154, being £2,052 less than in 1911.

2. Comparative Statement of Expenditure.

Heads.	1911. £	1912. £
Pensions	710	803
The Governor	1,640	1,898
Colonial Secretary	871	1,081
Treasury and Customs	802	1,262
Audit	23	24
Port and Marine	38	85
Legal	262	475
Police	508	495
Prisons	140	141
Medical	1,050	1,460
Education	992	989
Ecclesiastical	219	167
Transport	475	832
Miscellaneous	1,194	1,286
Post Office	3,775	4,139

Heads.	1911. £	1912. £
Colonial Engineer	1,844	2,491
Savings Bank	1,653	1,692
Currency Note Fund	45	42
Drawbacks and Refunds	41	85
Public Works (Recurrent)	1,358	1,416
Total Ordinary Expenditure	£17,650	£20,871
Public Works (Extraordinary)	4,810	11,655
Stock Ordinance	847	981
Total General Expenditure...	£23,407	£33,508

The ordinary expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1912, amounted to £20,871, which was less than the ordinary revenue by £1,283, and £3,221 more than the ordinary expenditure for 1911.

3. Total Revenue and Expenditure for Five Years 1908 to 1912.

Years.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	Heads.	Total.		Heads.	Total.	
1908	Ordinary ...	£ 17,775	23,874	Ordinary ...	£ 15,695	20,369
	Land Sales ...	5,292		Extraordinary ...	4,082	
	Stock Ordinance	807		Stock Ordinance	602	
1909	Ordinary ...	17,609	27,409	Ordinary ...	16,386	19,913
	Land Sales ...	8,993		Extraordinary ...	2,824	
	Stock Ordinance	807		Stock Ordinance	703	
1910	Ordinary ...	18,535	26,580	Ordinary ...	16,034	18,200
	Land Sales ...	7,238		Extraordinary ...	1,371	
	Stock Ordinance	807		Stock Ordinance	795	
1911	Ordinary ...	24,207	36,146	Ordinary ...	17,650	23,407
	Land Sales ...	11,132		Extraordinary ...	4,810	
	Stock Ordinance	807		Stock Ordinance	947	
1912	Ordinary ...	22,155	34,037	Ordinary ...	20,872	33,508
	Land Sales ...	11,075		Extraordinary ...	11,655	
	Stock Ordinance	807		Stock Ordinance	981	
	Total	148,046		Total	115,397	

The average ordinary revenue during the last five years exceeded the average ordinary expenditure by £2,716, representing a total surplus during that period of £13,579.

4. The receipts in respect of Import Duties on wine, malt, spirits, and tobacco amounted to £2,427, or £2,100 less than in 1911, or £1,354 less than the average for the last five years.

Article.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	Average.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wine	90	95	111	170	109	115
Malt	489	227	478	250	108	310
Spirits	1,847	1,746	1,868	1,856	1,507	1,765
Tobacco	1,788	1,349	1,863	2,251	703	1,591
Totals	4,214	3,417	4,320	4,527	2,427	3,781

5. There were no important changes in taxation during the year under review.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

6. At the closing of the accounts on the 31st December, 1912, the assets and liabilities of the Colony were as follows:—

	£
Assets	177,138
Liabilities	85,429
Excess of assets...	£91,709

The following statement shows the surplus of assets at the closing of accounts for the last five years:—

Account.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£
Surplus revenue	1,728	127	1,256	3,003	—
Land sales fund	59,091	68,085	75,323	86,455	97,530
Live stock fund	1,748	1,852	1,863	1,723	1,548
Totals	62,567	70,064	78,442	91,181	99,078
Deficiency in Ordinary Revenue, 1912	—	—	—	—	£7,370

7. The following statement shows the amount invested by the various funds in the purchase of stocks at the closing of the accounts for the last five years (cost price):—

Fund.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£
Land sales	58,997	98,493	75,323	85,315	96,837
Savings bank	55,919	60,516	66,516	68,516	69,016
Intestate estates	1,444	395	409	422	—
Currency note	3,300	3,300	3,500	3,750	3,750
Currency depreciation	217	257	299	345	388
Surplus account	7,300	—	3,500	3,500	—
Total	127,177	132,961	149,547	159,848	169,991

8. The assumed market value of investments held on the 31st December, 1912, was as follows:—

	Fund.	Market Value.
		£
Land Sales	—	94,580
Savings Bank	—	61,564
Intestate Estates	—	—
Currency Note	—	3,409
Currency Depreciation	—	363
Surplus Account	—	—
Total	—	£156,916

CURRENCY.

9. British gold, silver, and bronze are current. There is, however, little gold in circulation. A Government paper currency is established under Order of Her late Majesty in Council of the 7th March, 1899. Details of the conditions under which notes are issued will be found in the Report on the Blue Book for 1910.*

The denomination, number, and value of the notes in circulation at the end of the year 1912 were as follows:—

Denomination.	Number.	Value.
£ s.		£
5 0	603	3,015
1 0	4,372	4,372
0 5	452	113
Total	5,507	£7,500

II.—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

10.—The value of the imports was £93,264 and that of the exports £623,875, as against £93,913 and £471,156, respectively, in 1911. The following gives the details of the imports:—

Class.	1911.	1912.
	£	£
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks, and Narcotics:—		
Aerated waters	216	369
Drugs	2,108	1,801
Fodder, corn and hay	1,704	1,215
Fruit and vegetables	1,008	1,061
Groceries, &c.	19,121	20,601
Live stock	2,052	2,339
Malt liquor	1,197	651
Spirits	1,693	1,316
Tobacco, cigars, &c.	1,534	691
Wine	829	574
Totals	£31,461	£30,608

* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 682 (Cd. 5467—18).

Class.	1911. £	1912. £
2. Raw Materials:—		
(a) Textile	—	—
(b) Metals and Minerals:—		
Coal	3,798	4,003
Other	4,789	2,657
(c) Other:—		
Timber	8,483	10,244
Totals	£17,070	£16,904
3. Manufactured Articles:—		
(a) Textile	1,529	1,463
Ships' chandlery	4,014	3,404
Haberdashery	8,225	9,071
Wearing apparel, &c.	9,056	10,706
Totals	£22,824	£24,644
(b) Metals and Minerals:—		
Hardware, &c.	£13,081	£11,866
(c) Other:—		
Furniture	2,023	2,896
Glass and earthenware	444	462
Timber and building material	4,010	3,667
Totals	£19,558	£18,891
Total of Manufactured Articles	£59,452	£43,752
4. Coin and Bullion	£3,000	£2,000
Grand totals	£93,913	£93,264

The following figures give the value of the imports of the years 1911 and 1912, arranged according to the country of origin:—

Country.	1911. £	1912. £
United Kingdom	86,597	82,453
British Colonies	—	36
Argentina	136	97
Chile	4,953	5,442
Uruguay	1,550	1,643
Other Countries	677	3,593
Totals	£93,913	£93,264

11. The following figures give the value of the exports for the years 1911 and 1912:—

Country.	1911. £	1912. £
United Kingdom	311,750	378,843
British Colonies	—	—
Argentina	—	—
Chile	33,123	34,194
Norway	126,283	177,765
Other Countries	—	33,073
Totals	£471,156	£623,875

The following gives detail of the exports*:—

Article.	1911.		1912.	
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Wool	4,643,781	150,134	4,650,771	134,680
Tallow	551,140	8,830	362,880	3,901
	No.		No.	
Live sheep	—	—	5,658	1,313
Sheepskins	123,642	16,553	73,158	10,826
Hides	1,027	931	871	746
Sealskins... ..	960	3,732	3,109	7,982
	Tons.		Tons.	
Whale oil	13,174	270,762	26,372	439,498
Whalebone	209	15,080	408	13,380
Whale plates	26	1,500	—	—
			Bags.	
Guano†	—	—	5,623	3,030
	Cases.		Cases.	
Tinned meat	1,335	1,335	6,963	6,745
Extract of meat... ..	—	—	61	702
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	1,072

The following gives the total imports and exports for the five years 1908 to 1912:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1908	73,062	189,972
1909	98,862	216,514
1910	94,294	308,930
1911	93,913	471,156
1912	93,264	623,875
	£453,395	£1,810,447

FISHERIES.

12. The following statement shows the result of the whaling industry for the 1911-12 season:—

* Does not include whale oil, guano, and baleen valued at £433,425 exported from South Georgia in 1911-12 to United Kingdom and Norway.
† Produced from whale carcasses.

Place.	Oil.		Baleen.		Guano.		Total.
	Barrels.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bags.	Value.	
Falkland Islands ...	2,444	£ 7,332	—	£ —	—	£ —	£ 7,332
South Georgia ...	172,318	407,403	81	11,150	30,270	14,872	433,425
South Shetlands and Graham's Land.	145,770	413,622	383	13,360	—	—	426,982
South Orkneys ...	7,000	18,656	20	400	—	—	19,056
Totals ...	327,532	886,795	484	24,910	30,270	14,872	886,795

As the whaling season is from 1st October to 30th September, it is not possible to show with accuracy the quantity and value of whale oil, &c., taken to 31st December.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY.

13. The Report by the Chief Inspector of Stock for the year 1912 is printed as an appendix.

The prohibition against the importation of cattle, sheep, and alfalfa (hay) from South America was maintained.

14. The amount to the credit of the Stock Fund on the 31st December, 1912, was £1,548, as compared with £1,723 in 1911. The Land Tax produced £806, the expenditure was £981. £451 was expended on diminishing the number of upland geese in the Colony under Ordinance No. 3 of 1905, which expired at the end of 1912.

15. The following gives the number of sheep in the Colony for the last five years:—

1908	...	...	688,705
1909	...	...	715,651
1910	...	...	724,736
1911	...	...	706,170
1912	...	...	711,367

Of these, 46,287 were canned or boiled down and 13,137 slaughtered for consumption in the Colony; a total of 59,424 killed in 1912, as against 76,315 killed in 1911.

The two canning factories are capable of dealing respectively with 600 and 300 sheep daily. They began work in 1910, employ 100 men, and produced, in 1912, 6,936 cases valued at £6,745. 61 cases of extract of meat, valued at £702, were also exported.

SHIPPING.

16. The number of sailing vessels that entered inwards was 12, with a tonnage of 10,824, a decrease of 2,116 in tonnage and 2 in number as compared with last year. 33·3 per cent. of the number and 57·7 per cent. of the tonnage was British, as against 64·3 per cent. and 46·7 per cent., respectively, in 1911.

17. The number of steamers entered was 88, with a tonnage of 186,979, an increase of 24 in number and an increase of 45,050 in tonnage. 44·3 per cent. of the number, and 76 per cent. of the tonnage, was British, as against 59·3 per cent. and 85·7, respectively, in 1911.

18. The following is a summary of the total shipping for the last five years:—

Vessels Entered.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1908	38	139,796	8	7,951	8	1,759	9	6,105
1909	44	144,024	4	7,202	12	5,652	9	3,625
1910	37	135,505	5	10,089	21	13,616	9	9,010
1911	38	121,711	9	6,036	26	20,218	5	6,904
1912	39	142,144	4	6,251	49	44,835	8	4,573

Vessels Cleared.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1908	36	137,978	4	2,345	8	1,759	7	7,950
1909	37	140,951	3	5,517	5	1,058	7	3,397
1910	37	135,505	4	7,972	8	6,124	8	7,762
1911	37	136,838	7	4,892	8	15,030	3	3,651
1912	41	144,382	3	6,190	20	23,384	7	4,237

19. Stanley is a port of registry, and at the close of the year there were six vessels on the register, with a total tonnage of 465 tons.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES.

20. The "Criccieth Castle," a sailing ship of 1,877 tons register, owned by the Ship Criccieth Castle Company, Limited, under the command of Captain Robert Thomas, bound to Antwerp, and laden with 2,850 tons of guano, had to be abandoned on the 15th July in the South Atlantic, 54 S. and 61 W., about 110 miles from the Falkland Islands, owing to having been struck by a tremendous sea which broke the rudder shaft. After the accident, the ship leaked badly at the stern post, the pumps when tried were found to be choked and would not work. The master, his wife and child, and fourteen hands took to the lifeboat, while the remainder of the crew embarked in the long boat, which was in charge of the mate. The two boats kept together for some hours; the long boat was then lost and never seen again. The lifeboat made for the Falklands and reached Cape Pembroke Lighthouse after seven days and nights of the most

terrible exposure, during which three of the crew succumbed. The survivors, who were all badly frost-bitten, were brought to Stanley the same evening and accommodated in the Victoria Cottage Home, where two subsequently died.

The R.M.S. "Oravia," of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, ran ashore on the night of the 12th November on the Billy Rock, near Cape Pembroke Lighthouse, about eight miles from Stanley. News of the accident was at once reported through the newly-erected wireless station, and the Government launch, the local tug, and certain steam whalers which happened to be in port were despatched immediately to the stranded vessel and were successful in removing all the passengers and all the letter mails, as well as the parcel post packages consigned to the Colony. On the following afternoon it was found necessary to abandon the ship, and the commander and the whole of the ship's company were brought safely to Stanley. The small township of 900 inhabitants rose to the occasion and provided accommodation and food for 412 unexpected visitors. A wireless message sent to the S.S. "Huanchaco" caused her to call at Stanley on the 18th, and most of the third-class passengers proceeded by her to Punta Arenas.

Two other vessels, the British sailing ships, "Marco Polo" and "Wiscombe Parke," put into Port Stanley for repairs.

III.—LEGISLATION.

21. Eleven Ordinances were passed, of which the following were of most interest:—

Ordinance No. 1.—Amending the Tariff Ordinance, 1900, levying an export tax of three pence per barrel of 40 gallons on whale oil.

Ordinance No. 5.—To amend the Whale Fishery Ordinance, 1908, as to granting of licences to use floating factories, &c.

Ordinance No. 7.—To amend the Licensing Ordinance, 1882: To prevent persons against whom a prohibition has been made or renewed from procuring drink, &c.

IV.—EDUCATION.

22. The Government Inspector of Schools (The Very Reverend Dean Seymour) reports as follows on the progress of education in the Colony during the year 1912:—

"The year's work in the Government School may be reported on as being highly satisfactory.

"The number of scholars on the roll is the same as last year, while the average attendances, allowing for the climatic conditions, are good. The subjects on the syllabus are in accordance with those taught in the public elementary schools in Great Britain, and it is found that when children leave this

Colony for home they can take their places without difficulty in their own standards. Quarterly examinations are regularly held by the Government Schoolmaster, and the general progress noted testifies to the careful and conscientious work of the teachers. The same care is taken as in former years with the sewing, and the work turned out by the girls would bear comparison with any other school.

"The infant classes are very good, and the children are given varied occupations.

"During the year a covered play-shed was built for the children, affording protection and a place for amusement during the times of recreation. This is an important and welcome addition to the premises. The children of the 'Camps' are still being taught by itinerant schoolmasters. In most cases I am happy to report that the schoolmasters receive the hearty co-operation of the parents, and the children therefore make good progress; it has, however, been necessary more than once to remind parents of the need to properly supervise the home lessons during the periods between the teacher's visits.

"The 'Camps' will suffer a loss through the resignations of two of these schoolmasters, both of whom have completed their periods of engagement. Mr. Moyes and Mr. Barlass were both excellent and popular teachers.

"The Falkland Islands Company employ a resident schoolmaster at Darwin and two itinerant schoolmasters in their 'camp.'"

23. The number of children being educated in the Colony during the year was 426, as against 435 for 1911, and they are classified as follows:—

	Boys.		Girls.		Totals.	
	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.	1911.	1912.
Government school, Stanley ...	88	92	77	73	165	165
Roman Catholic, Stanley ...	39	36	60	54	99	90
Taught privately, West Falkland ...	4	5	—	7	4	12
Three Government Schoolmasters, West Falkland.	26	26	25	27	51	53
Taught privately, East Falkland ...	4	5	7	1	11	6
Two Government Schoolmasters, East Falkland.	25	24	32	21	57	45
Falkland Islands Company's "Camps."	2	5	4	5	6	10
Two Camp Schoolmasters ...	23	22	19	20	42	42
Other:—						
Taught privately ...	—	1	—	2	—	3
Totals... ..	211	216	224	210	435	426

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

VICTORIA COTTAGE HOME.

24. The Acting Colonial Surgeon reports that the Cottage Home has been of great service. Thirty-five patients were admitted during the year, several of them from ships in the harbour and eleven of the wrecked crew of the "Criccieth Castle." The district nurse attended 57 cases and paid 965 visits.

SAVINGS BANK.

25. During the year ended 30th September, 1912, 67 accounts were opened and 44 closed, leaving a total number of 494 depositors with balances amounting in the aggregate to £70,574, or an average of £142 to the credit of each account. This represents £31 per head of the population of the Falklands (2,272).

The income earned by the bank was £2,341, and the expenses (interest on deposits) £1,591, leaving a profit of £750.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

26. The following table summarises the criminal statistics for the years 1908 to 1912:—

	1903.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Number of offences reported to the police	44	59	91	59	67
Number of summary convictions:—					
1. For offences against the person ...	4	10	8	4	5
2. For offences against property ...	2	9	3	1	2
3. For other offences ...	29	23	70	54	33
Number of Supreme Court convictions:—					
1. For offences against the person ...	—	—	—	1	1
2. For offences against property ...	—	2	—	—	—
3. For other offences ...	—	—	—	—	1
Number of acquittals:—					
1. Inferior Court ...	9	13	10	4	27
2. Supreme Court ...	—	2	2	1	2

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

27. The Report on the Census of the Colony and its Dependencies was published as a supplement to the "Gazette" of 1st March, 1912. The total population of the islands, including South Georgia (1,003), was found to be 3,275; in the year 1881 it was 1,553. The increase is largely due to the whaling industry, which employs 1,149 males out of a total of 2,370, and accounts for the small proportion of females in the Colony, who numbered

only 905. This industry also explains the presence of 1,093 foreigners, mostly natives of Sweden and Norway.

28. The estimated population on 31st December, 1912, was 3,298. There were 53 births and 38 deaths during the year. Birth-rate per 1,000, 16·07; death-rate, 11·52.

HEALTH.

The following particulars are obtained from the Report of H. M. Stanley Turner, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Colonial Surgeon, West Falkland. The Medical Report for East Falkland is incomplete and has not been published.

Meteorological Conditions.—It would be unwise at present to make an *ex cathedra* statement respecting the precise nature of the influence exerted by the meteorological conditions.

Systematic observations were only commenced in 1912, and several years' accumulated data are required before the influences drawn therefrom can be of value. The following factors are, however, readily observed:—

1. Marked fall of the barometer appears to be closely followed by a rise in illness.

2. The barometer maintained the highest mean level during the second and third quarters of the year, and during these quarters the sickness incidence was practically nil.

3. Baromic oscillation was followed by a greater rise in sickness in the two summer than in the two winter quarters.

Remarks on the Nosological Returns.—Certain features are worthy of notice, viz.:—

1. Entire absence of all forms of tuberculosis.
2. " " " malignant disease (cancer).
3. " " " rheumatic fever and its sequelæ.
4. " " " infectious disease.
5. The prevalence of disorders of the digestive apparatus.

The freedom from serious disease has been frequently mentioned in previous reports and, though the same is true of the year 1912, there has been a larger number of cases under treatment, among which accidents have occupied a prominent place.

Affections of the digestive system, always well to the fore, reach a total of 67, of which number the dental apparatus is responsible for no fewer than 50. These figures by no means represent the total number of sufferers, and I venture the suggestion, unsupported by statistics, that few communities probably exhibit more widespread oral sepsis.

In West Falkland joint changes are seen with considerable frequency in comparatively young subjects, nearly every case being associated with oral sepsis. The joints principally affected are those of the fingers.

Boils (furunculosis) still exist in West Falkland, though on the whole they are less prevalent. Many of these cases recover without calling in medical help.

General Sanitary Conditions of the District.

Dwellings.—In the majority of cases inhabited houses are well built, give quite adequate accommodation, and are maintained in repair. A few notable exceptions, however, are badly kept or so small as to readily give rise to overcrowding, especially at certain times of the year.

A list has been compiled of houses where “nuisances” exist within the meaning of the Public Health Ordinance, and notices will be served to secure their abatement.

It is recommended that a fit and proper person be appointed as inspector of inhabited dwellings, and that he make a periodic round and report to the Board of Health. Such duties could be performed by an existing official.

Water.—Close attention has been paid to the water used for drinking purposes, and a number of specimens have been subjected to chemical and bacteriological examination. The results show that more of these waters are polluted than might be supposed.

Food.—Little can be added to what has been said in previous reports on this subject, but attention must once more be called to the fact that animals intended for consumption as food must not be slaughtered after having been driven from a distance without a period of rest being allowed to intervene. Meat-houses should be fly-tight and it may be pointed out that if a carcass be “quartered” directly it is cold, all kidney fat removed, and then hung up in a stream of air, there is far less likelihood of its becoming “fly-blown.” Fly-blown meat should never be eaten under any circumstances, and a carcass so affected ought to be destroyed. It is a filthy and dangerous practice to cut off the affected part and then eat the part adjoining.

Vaccinations.—During the year five vaccinations have been performed. The condition of the population, as far as the protection from small-pox afforded by vaccination is concerned, is, in my opinion, doubtful. There are at present not more than five unvaccinated infants, but it is not possible to say with accuracy whether there are any unvaccinated adults, or, if so, how many. The immunity of native-born inhabitants with regard to small-pox, as to other infectious diseases, is in many respects an unknown quantity, on account of the personal equation.

Re-vaccination is rarely sought voluntarily and, as a matter of opinion, I should say that immunity, at any rate among adults, is low in degree.

RAINFALL.

The total rainfall registered at Stanley during 1912 was 24·89 inches. Its distribution throughout the year is shown in the following table, which has been compiled from the records taken at Government House:—

Month.	Rainfall in Inches.	Date of Maximum in inches.	Number of days on which rain fell.
January	1·99	·63 8th	14
February	4·28	·43 1st	26
March	2·69	·56 25th	21
April	2·14	·59 29th	19
May	1·52	·20 19th	17
June	1·29	·26 29th	16
July	·91	·11 7th & 27th	17
August	1·65	·43 11th	18
September	·99	·29 8th	13
October	1·33	·36 16th	8
November	2·62	·37 25th	26
December	3·48	·54 5th	22
Total	24·89	—	217

The following is a summary of meteorological observations taken at King Edward Cove, South Georgia, during 1912, and kindly supplied by the Argentine Government Station:—

Latitude 54° 18' south. Longitude 36° 27' west.

Month.	Total rainfall.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Prevailing Wind.	Number of calm days.
January	2·500	20	N. & N.E.	11
February	7·913	20	N.	7
March	5·537	26	N.W.	10
April	4·848	21	N.	4
May	6·443	23	N.W.	Nil
June	1·296	9	N.W.	3
July	2·741	10	N.E. & N.W.	2
August	3·781	12	N.W.	4
September	2·614	5	N.N.W.	4
October	2·554	8	N.W.	2
November	6·161	15	N.W.	1
December	5·629	20	N.W.	—
Totals	51·517	189	—	48

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE, &c.

The revenue of the Post Office was £3,369, or £1,879 more than in 1911. The expenditure, including a subsidy of £2,500 for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, was £4,140, as against £3,776 in 1911.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamers call at Stanley on their voyage out to Callao, and on their return voyage

a fortnight later, thus making a four-weekly communication by letter with England.

The Falkland Islands are within the Postal Union as to rates of postage.

The value of the money orders issued during the last five years is shown below:—

Year.	On the United Kingdom.	On other Places.	Total.
	£	£	£
1908	8,308	264	8,572
1909	8,485	217	8,702
1910	8,850	281	9,131
1911	8,879	650	9,529
1912	9,793	367	10,160

The total numbers of postal packets (letters, &c.) dealt with during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	Number.
1908	109,660
1909	132,223
1910	147,790
1911	153,436
1912	169,278

The following statement shows in detail the number of postal packets dealt with in 1912:—

Description of Packet.	Delivered from			Posted to			Grand Total.
	United Kingdom.	Other Places.	Total.	United Kingdom.	Other Places.	Total.	
Letters and post cards.	43,018	16,447	59,465	23,144	9,927	33,071	92,536
Newspapers, books, &c.	66,425	2,523	68,948	1,465	543	2,008	70,956
Parcels ...	5,356	—	5,356	416	14	430	5,786
Totals 1912	114,799	18,970	133,769	25,025	10,484	35,509	169,278
„ 1911	99,809	10,715	110,524	28,574	14,338	42,912	153,436

The value of goods imported by parcel post during the five years ended 31st December, 1912, was as follows:—

Year.	Value.
	£
1908	6,086
1909	6,294
1910	7,052
1911	7,823
1912	8,172

Mails between South Georgia and Europe travel via Buenos Aires. The distance between the latter port and South Georgia is about 1,500 miles, and occupies seven to eight days.

IX.—NAVAL AND MILITARY.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather the annual encampment of the volunteer force could not be held.

H.M.S. "Glasgow" made a short stay in Port Stanley from the 19th February to the 7th March. The volunteers were inspected on the 29th February at a field day on Navy Point; the blue jackets and marines were the attacking force, and Captain Marcus R. Hill acted as chief umpire. After the "cease fire" was sounded both forces were formed up in Fairy Cove where they were addressed by the chief umpire, who spoke in very complimentary terms on the manner in which the work had been carried out by both forces.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The chief undertakings of the year were, the erection of the wireless installation; the construction of the new telephone system; the building of the King Edward Memorial Hospital; and the laying of the Town Hall foundations (to receive plinth).

The wireless installation was supplied by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, London, and consists of a 5 K.W. set, with low frequency alternator and rotary spark discharger: the prime mover being a 15 B.H.P. oil engine. The two masts measure 220 feet each. The aerial is of the twin "T" type, having six wires on either side. The station is situated on the top of a ridge at the east end of the Murray Heights, about two miles from Stanley. The installation was commenced in March and finished in August. The winter months interfered with the progress of the work. On the 27th March the Governor laid the west mast foundation plate and the station was formally opened by His Excellency on the night of September 24th. Regular communication, atmospheric conditions permitting, was maintained, and the station proved invaluable on the occasion of the wreck of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's s.s. "Oravia." Commodious quarters were likewise erected for the operators.

The new telephone system, consisting of a 30 line board with metallic returns, was installed in Stanley. New poles, insulators, wire, and several new wall sets were provided. A small exchange with silent cabinet was also erected.

The King Edward Memorial Hospital was commenced in February and the entire structure was completed by the end of October. The hot-water system would have been introduced

but the material was lost in the s.s. "Oravia." The east section of the hospital will form the new Victoria Cottage Home.

The stone foundations for the Town Hall were taken down to sound clay bottom and vary in depth from 18 to 30 inches, with a width of 24 inches. All stone had to be carted to site, and large quantities had to be quarried.

Minor works included the erection of a new playhouse at the Government School, engineer's fitting shop, &c.

J. WATT,

For Colonial Secretary.

CHIEF STOCK INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1912.

Stock Department,
Stanley, 5th April, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1912.

SHEEP.

The year from the stock-owner's point of view has been most satisfactory and prosperous, and the health and condition of stock generally was good. More wool was produced than during 1911, and the price of all exports from the farms continued high. On most stations the lambing was not so good as last year. The lambing percentage for all stations of the Colony was 67 per cent., while in 1911 it was slightly over 72 per cent. In each case the percentage has been made on the dipping tally, 7 per cent. being allowed for loss between lamb marking and that period. The lambs were of a very even type in most localities and it is evident that the quality and stamina are improving each year.

2. Careful attention is being paid to the selection of rams and culling is deeper, with the result that on a great many stations the flocks present a very good appearance; the sheep are young, well framed and healthy, truer to their breed and clip well over eight pounds per fleece. There are some farms, however, content to breed year after year from old sheep carrying neither flesh nor wool, with the result that their increase is low, clip light, and death-rate high.

3. Scrofula is much less in evidence than heretofore; this is due to the fact that all affected sheep are slaughtered, which is undoubtedly the most satisfactory manner of stamping out the disease. There are a few stations on the East Falkland still troubled with lice and some discontent exists among the farmers with regard to their boundary fences, which in many places are certainly not sheep-proof. Farmers to whom this might apply should refer to the Live Stock Ordinance, No. 1 of 1907, section 5, which provides a heavy penalty for persons allowing infected sheep to stray. If some farmers considered to what extent the health of their flocks was improved by keeping them free from external parasites they would be more careful over their dipping, gathering, and fences. Farms troubled with lice would be well advised to dip with one of the many well-known arsenical dips, in preference to the non-poisonous preparations, which, for this parasite, are often not to be depended upon. It is satisfactory to see the trouble which some farmers are taking to rid their young stock of ticks by dipping their lambs twice. This practice is becoming more common yearly and cannot be too strongly recommended.

4. There was an abundance of grass in the early autumn, with more seed than had been seen for years. At this period the stock looked particularly well.

5. The death-rate was slightly less than in the previous year, being 10.42 per cent. as compared with 10.86 per cent. in 1911. It is gratifying to note that at one station, where the mortality from malignant œdema after lamb marking used to be excessive, the death-rate was reduced about 40 per cent. The rate of mortality throughout the Colony varies considerably; on some stations it is as low as 5 per cent., while on others it is three times as high. I am satisfied that by judicious ditching, draining, and shepherding, the rate of mortality, which is at present about one-sixth of the total increase, could be considerably diminished.

6. The demand for sheep of good weight is steadily increasing, both for the canneries in the Colony and for export. I venture to predict that, in a year or two, sheep will be almost double their present value.

7. Owing to numerous outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in Great Britain and Ireland it was found necessary, in order to safeguard the Colony against infection, to prohibit the importation of stock from those countries. The embargo on cattle, sheep, and hay from South American ports is still maintained. During 1912 one farmer imported three rams contrary to the Regulations. A fine was imposed and the stock were slaughtered.

8. As will be seen from the Comparative Table attached, the import of rams decreased slightly in 1912, owing to the prohibition already mentioned, but the number of sheep exported exceeded that of the previous year by 3,000. More stud stock would certainly have been introduced had the Colonial ports been open to shipment from England. Sixteen Romney Marsh rams were salvaged from the wreck of the "Oravia," but of 11 consigned to this Colony seven were unfortunately drowned. A number of those saved were in a very low state of health when landed.

HORSES.

9. Horses have been very free from illness of a serious nature. The disease associated with a swelling of the head between the eyes, which is caused by a minute organism found in swamps and stagnant ditches, is becoming less in evidence every year. Many of these cases in which the swelling appears low on the forehead recover naturally if the animal is rested and put on good pasture; on the other hand, when the head is affected above the level of the eyes, which is less often the case, death frequently results from inflammation of the brain.

10. There is a good demand for useful horses, especially for animals suitable for cart work. The foaling percentage was 66 per cent., or 10 per cent. higher than in the previous year. The quality of some of the stallions imported during the last few years leaves much to be desired, and the Falklands breed will not thereby be materially benefited. The number of horses in the Colony shows an increase of 111 over that of 1911.

CATTLE.

11. The number of cattle has been reduced by 323. Several samples of milk taken from cows suffering from mastitis were examined microscopically, but in only a small percentage of cases was there any trace of the tubercle bacillus to be found. Arrangements have been made to apply the tuberculin test to 40 or 50 cows on the East Falkland, the result of which will be published hereafter.

CULTIVATION.

12. Last year, probably for the first time, hay grown in the Falklands was sold in Stanley, and there is every prospect that in the near future enough will be ground to supply the needs of the Colony. This is in many ways very desirable. The price to the buyer will probably be less,

while the quality will be equal to that imported, and the risk of introducing disease in hay from infected countries will thereby be considerably reduced. Many farmers are now growing hay on a small scale, but in a few cases the cutting of it has been left too long so that much of the nutriment is lost.

CANNING.

13. This new enterprise has proved to be quite a success. The prices obtained for canned goods were higher than in 1911, and the meat found a ready and satisfactory market in Great Britain. The report from the buyers was very favourable, and it is hoped that this new industry, which should be welcomed by stock owners, will be supported by them and continue to advance in the right direction.

GEESE.

14. The Ordinance providing for the diminution of Geese terminated at the close of the year. During the five years that this Ordinance has been in force approximately 500,000 geese beaks have been paid for at the rate of ten shillings per hundred.

The purchase of the beaks of turkey buzzards, carranchos, and rooks is still being continued.

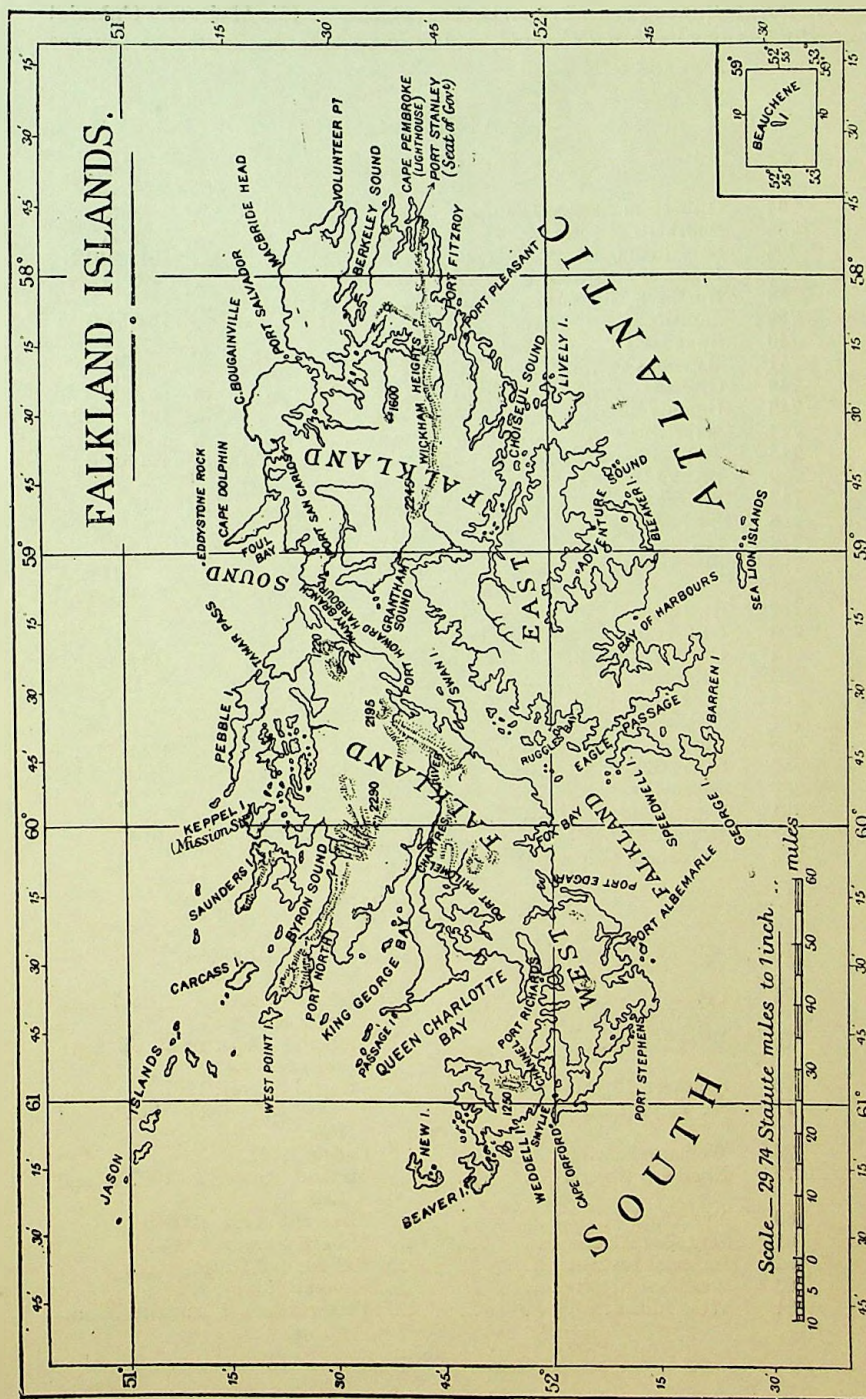
I have, &c.,

H. W. TOWNSON, M.R.C.V.S., Lond.,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

STOCK AND PRODUCE RETURN.

Comparative Table.

	1912.	1911.
Rams	9,180	9,284
Wethers	215,463	200,749
Breeding Ewes	267,065	259,440
Other Ewes	63,254	68,005
Lambs, Male	72,440	73,653
Lambs, Female	84,015	85,275
Total number, Lambs	156,455	158,928
Total number, Sheep	711,367	706,170
Boiled down	18,591	42,924
Canned	27,696	22,410
Sold	13,137	8,895
Horses and Mares	2,996	2,846
Brood Mares	389	438
Foals	257	245
Stallions	23	25
Total number, Horses	3,665	3,554
Cattle	7,529	7,859
<i>Imports.</i>		
Horses	155	213
Rams	19	27
<i>Exports.</i>		
Sheep	3,450	255
Wool	8,517 Bales.	8,169
Skins	1,556 Bales.	1,278
Tallow	861 Casks	907



COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands...	1910
735	Southern Nigeria ...	1911
736	Somaliland ...	1911-1912
737	Imperial Institute ...	1911
738	Northern Nigeria ...	"
739	Jamaica ...	1911-1912
740	Swaziland ...	"
741	Bahamas ...	"
742	Grenada ...	1911
743	Uganda ...	1911-1912
744	Mauritius ...	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago ...	1911-1912
746	British Guiana ...	"
747	St. Vincent ...	"
748	Barbados ...	"
749	Leeward Islands ...	"
750	Straits Settlements ...	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate ...	1911-1912
752	St. Lucia ...	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica) ...	1911-1912
755	Gibraltar ...	1912
756	St. Helena ...	"
757	Weihaiwei ...	"
758	Ceylon ...	1911-1912
759	Sierra Leone ...	1912
760	Seychelles ...	"
761	Somaliland ...	"
762	Hong Kong... ..	1912-1913
763	Turks and Caicos Islands ...	1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906-7 and 1907-8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Surveys, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 817.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 764.)



Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1914.



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No. 817.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 764.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Stanley,
5th September, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1913, which has been prepared by Mr. W. J. Roper, Chief Clerk to the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
W. L. ALLARDYCE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, P.C.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street, S.W.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
FOR THE YEAR 1913.

I.—FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The following comparative statements show the heads of revenue and expenditure, with the amounts received and expended under each head for the years ended 31st December, 1912, and 31st December, 1913:—

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

Heads.	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Customs, &c.	3,580	13,050
Port and Tonnage Dues	515	856
Internal Revenue	4,549	4,541
Fees of Court, &c.	1,323	1,586
Interest	5,931	6,195
Post Office	3,368	2,692
Rents	2,633	3,229
Miscellaneous Receipts	525	136
Total Ordinary Revenue	£22,154	£32,285
Land Sales	11,074	9,822
Stock Ordinance	806	822
Total General Revenue	£34,036	£42,929

The ordinary revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1913, amounted to £32,285, being £10,131 more than in 1912.

2. Comparative statement of expenditure:—

Heads.	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Pensions	803	707
The Governor	1,898	1,540
Colonial Secretary	1,081	1,077
Treasury and Customs	1,262	1,633
Audit	24	23
Port and Marine	85	572
Legal	475	395
Police and Prisons	636	635
Medical	1,460	1,512
Education	989	955
Ecclesiastical	167	270
Transport	832	578
Miscellaneous	1,286	1,018
Post Office	4,139	3,776
Colonial Engineer	2,491	2,069
Savings Bank	1,692	1,680
Currency Note Fund	42	9
Drawbacks and Refunds	85	310
Public Works (Recurrent)	1,416	1,887
Total Ordinary Expenditure	£20,871	£20,646
Public Works (Extra-ordinary)	11,655	3,965
Stock Ordinance	981	627
Total General Expenditure	£33,507	£25,238

The ordinary expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1913, amounted to £20,646, which was less than the ordinary revenue by £11,639, and £225 less than the ordinary expenditure for 1912.

3. Total Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1912 and 1913* :—

Years.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	Heads.			Heads.		
1912		£	£		£	£
	Ordinary ..	22,155		Ordinary ..	20,372	
	Land Sales ..	11,075		Extraordinary ..	11,655	
	Stock Ordinance ..	807		Stock Ordinance ..	981	
			34,037			33,508
1913	Ordinary ..	32,285		Ordinary ..	20,646	
	Land Sales ..	9,822		Extraordinary ..	3,965	
	Stock Ordinance ..	822		Stock Ordinance ..	627	
			42,929			25,238

The average ordinary revenue during the last five years exceeded the average ordinary expenditure by £4,640, representing a total surplus during that period of £46,835.

4. The receipts in respect of Import Duties on wine, malt, spirits, and tobacco amounted to £6,199, or £3,772 more than in 1912, or £2,015 more than the average for the last five years.

5. There were no important changes in taxation during the year under review.

Assets and Liabilities.

6. At the closing of the accounts on the 31st December, 1913, the assets and liabilities of the Colony were as follows :—

	£
Assets	186,647
Liabilities	79,449
Excess of Assets	£107,198

The following statement shows the surplus of assets at the closing of accounts for the last two years* :—

Account.	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Surplus Revenue	—	4,701
Land Sales Fund	97,530	100,753
Live Stock Fund	1,548	1,744
Totals	£99,078	£107,198

* For the years 1908 to 1911 see the 1912 Report, No. 764.

7 The following statement shows the amount invested by the various funds in the purchase of stocks at the closing of the accounts for the last two years* (cost price) :—

Fund.	1912.	1913.
	£	£
Land Sales	96,837	99,992
Savings Bank	69,016	69,016
Intestate Estates	—	—
Currency Note	3,750	3,750
Currency Depreciation	388	388
Surplus Account	—	4,500
Total	£169,991	£177,646

8. The assumed market value of investments held on the 31st December, 1913, was as follows :—

Fund.	Market Value.
	£
Land Sales	89,407
Savings Bank	61,454
Currency Note	3,308
Currency Depreciation	360
Surplus Account	4,500
Total	£159,029

Currency.

9. British gold, silver, and bronze are current. There is, however, little gold in circulation. A Government paper currency is established under Order of Her late Majesty in Council of the 7th March, 1899. Details of the conditions under which notes are issued will be found in the Report on the Blue Book for 1910†.

The denomination, number, and value of the notes in circulation at the end of the year 1913 were as follows :—

Denomination.	Number.	Value.
£ s.		£
5 0	603	3,015
1 0	4,372	4,372
0 5	452	113
Total	5,507	£7,500

* For the years 1908 to 1911 see the 1912 Report, No. 764.

† Colonial Report (Annual) No. 682, (Cd. 5467-18).

II.—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

10. The value of the imports was £239,222* and that of the exports £1,460,219†, as against £93,264 and £623,875, respectively, in 1912. The following gives the details of the imports :—

Class.	1912.	1913.
1. Live Animals, Foods, Drinks, and Narcotics :—	£	£
Aerated Waters	369	501
Drugs	1,801	219
Fodder, Corn and Hay ..	1,215	2,275
Fruit and Vegetables ..	1,061	2,122
Groceries, &c.	20,601	31,316
Live Stock	2,339	4,523
Malt Liquor	651	2,388
Spirits	1,316	1,989
Tobacco, Cigars, &c. ..	691	2,786
Wine	574	1,181
Totals	£30,608	£49,300
2. Raw Materials :—		
(a) Textile	—	—
(b) Metals and Minerals :—		
Coal	4,003	58,125
Other	2,657	3,506
(c) Others :—		
Timber	10,244	42,512
Totals	£16,904	£104,143
3. Manufactured Articles :—		
(a) Textile	1,463	2,455
Ships' Chandlery	3,404	8,248
Haberdashery	9,071	15,135
Wearing Apparel, &c. ..	10,706	11,107
Totals	£24,644	£36,945
(b) Metals and Minerals :—		
Hardware, &c.	£11,866	£37,764
(c) Other :—		
Furniture	2,896	4,490
Glass and Earthenware ..	462	957
Timber and Building Material	3,667	5,623
Totals	£7,025	£11,070
Total Manufactured Articles	£43,535	£85,779
4. Coin and Bullion	£2,000	—
Grand Totals	£93,264	£239,222

* Includes imports to South Georgia, £109,167.

† Includes exports from South Georgia, £443,378.

The following figures give the value of the imports for the years 1912 and 1913, arranged according to the country of origin :—

Country.	1912.	1913.
	£	£
United Kingdom	82,453	152,958
British Colonies	36	4,351
Argentina	97	43,482
Chile	5,442	1,986
Uruguay	1,643	1,781
Other Countries	3,593	34,664
Totals	£93,264	£239,222*

11. The following figures give the value of the exports for the years 1912 and 1913 :—

Country.	1912.	1913.
	£	£
United Kingdom	378,843	730,994
British Colonies	—	—
Argentina	—	80,552
Chile	34,194	37,700
Norway	177,765	414,490
Other Countries	33,073	196,483
Totals	£623,875	£1,460,219

The following gives detail of the exports † :—

Article.	1912		1913	
	Lbs.	£	Lbs.	£
Wool	4,650,771	134,680	4,820,553	158,443
Tallow	362,880	3,901	222 tons.	4,516
	Number.		Number.	
Live sheep	5,658	1,313	12,701	5,229
Sheepskins	73,158	10,826	128,160	17,905
Hides	871	746	1,042	1,236
Sealskins	3,109	7,982	226	598
Seal-oil	—	—	4,050 brls.	9,840
	Tons.		Tons.	
Whale oil	26,372	439,498	70,686	1,206,396
Whalebone	408	13,380	396	11,693
	Bags.		Bags.	
Guano ‡	5,623	3,030	72,263	34,343
	Cases.		Cases.	
Tinned meat	6,963	6,745	5,119	6,470
Extract of meat	61	702	68	1,700
Miscellaneous	—	1,072	—	1,850

* Includes imports to South Georgia, £109,167.

† Includes exports from South Georgia, £443,378.

‡ Produced from whale carcasses.

The following gives the total imports and exports for the five years 1909 to 1913 :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £
1909	98,862	216,514
1910	94,294	308,930
1911	93,913	471,156
1912	93,264	623,875
1913	239,222	1,460,219
	<u>£619,555</u>	<u>£3,080,694</u>

Fisheries.

12. The following statement shows the result of the whaling industry for the 1912-13 season :—

Place.	Number caught.	OIL.		BONE.		GUANO.		Total
		Brls.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bags.	Value.	
			£		£		£	£
Falkland Islands	200 (approx.)	6,628	26,512	396	11,693	72,263	34,343	26,512
S. Shetlands & Graham's Land	5,144	198,300	793,200					793,200
S. Orkneys	621	21,750	87,000					87,000
S. Georgia	2,710	126,457	505,828					505,828
Totals..	8,675	353,135	1,412,540					396	11,693	72,263	34,343	1,412,540

Total value, including whalebone and guano, £1,458,576.

As the whaling season is from 1st October to 30th September, it is not possible to show with accuracy the quantity and value of whale oil, etc., taken to 31st December.

Pastoral Industry.

13. The Report by the Chief Inspector of Stock for the year 1913 is printed as an appendix.

14. The amount to the credit of the Stock Fund on the 31st December, 1913, was £1,744, as compared with £1,548 in 1912. The Land Tax produced £822; the expenditure was £627.

15. The following gives the number of sheep in the Colony for the last five years :—

1909	715,651
1910	724,736
1911	706,170
1912	711,367
1913	698,072

Of these, 36,986 were canned or boiled down and 15,817 slaughtered for consumption in the Colony; a total of 52,803 killed in 1913, as against 59,424 killed in 1912.

The two canning factories are capable of dealing respectively with 600 and 300 sheep daily. They began work in 1910, employing 100 men, and produced, in 1913, 5,119 cases, valued at £6,470. Sixty-eight cases of extract of meat, valued at £1,700, were also exported.

Shipping.

16. The number of sailing vessels entered inwards was 18, with a tonnage of 19,021, an increase of 8,197 in tonnage and 6 in number as compared with last year. No British sailing vessels were entered, although in 1912 vessels sailing under the British flag were responsible for 33.3 per cent. of the number and 57.7 per cent. of the tonnage of sailing vessels entered.

17. The number of steamers entered was 141, with a tonnage of 241,816, an increase of 53 in number and of 54,837 in tonnage. 41.8 per cent. of the number and 68.5 per cent. of the tonnage was British, as against 44.3 per cent. and 76 per cent. respectively in 1912.

18. The following is a summary of the total shipping for the last five years :—

Vessels Entered.

Year	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1909 ..	44	144,024	4	7,202	12	5,652	9	3,625
1910 ..	37	135,505	5	10,089	21	13,616	9	9,010
1911 ..	38	121,711	9	6,036	26	20,218	5	6,904
1912 ..	39	142,144	4	6,251	49	44,835	8	4,573
1913 ..	59	165,681	—	—	82	76,135	18	19,021

Vessels Cleared.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1909 ..	37	140,951	3	5,517	5	1,058	7	3,397
1910 ..	37	135,505	4	7,972	8	6,124	8	7,762
1911 ..	37	136,838	7	4,892	8	15,030	3	3,651
1912 ..	41	144,382	3	6,190	20	23,384	7	4,237
1913 ..	45	162,647	—	—	70	39,067	16	17,498

19. Stanley is a port of registry, and at the close of the year there were six vessels on the register, with a total tonnage of 465 tons.

Shipping Casualties.

20. A noteworthy fact in the shipping history of the Falkland Islands is the very considerable decrease in late years of the number of ships putting in for repairs. The only casualty of consequence during the year was that occurring to the "Lady Elizabeth," an iron sailing vessel of 1,155 tons with a cargo of lumber from Vancouver. On the 13th March the vessel heavily struck a rock off Volunteer Point, East Falkland, seriously damaging her bottom. No lives were lost, but the vessel was rendered unseaworthy and is now used as a storage hulk in Stanley Harbour.

III.—LEGISLATION.

21. Eight Ordinances were passed, of which the following were of most interest :—

Ordinance No. 1.—Amending the law with regard to the preservation of wild animals and birds in the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

Ordinance No. 3.—Giving effect in the Colony to the measures decided upon at the International Opium Convention signed at The Hague on the 23rd January, 1912, and regulating the importation and storage of opium, morphine, cocaine and similar drugs.

Ordinance No. 5.—Amending the Tariff Ordinance, 1900, to define the strength of spirits by Sykes's hydrometer.

IV.—EDUCATION.

22. There are two schools in Stanley, the Government School and one controlled by the local Roman Catholic authorities. The Government School is undenominational, and both schools are purely secular in their instruction. The school age is the same as in England. In the Government School reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, grammar, drawing, singing, sewing, and physical drill all receive due attention and, as a whole, very fair work is done. Nature study is also taken, and two medals are presented each year for hygiene by His Excellency the Governor. During 1913 two medals were presented by the Administrator (Captain J. Quayle Dickson) to the boy and girl who, in the opinion of the scholars, held the best record for truthfulness in the school.

In the country districts the task of educating the children is somewhat a hard one, owing to the long distances between the houses. There is a small school at Darwin, in the Falkland Islands Company's camp, and besides this school the company employs two travelling schoolmasters. The Government employs five such schoolmasters, two on the East and three on the West Falkland. Each teacher has his own "beat," and he must spend a certain period at each house of call before passing on to the next. While this arrangement is not altogether satisfactory, it is the best which local conditions render practicable and, under the adverse circumstances, a surprising amount of progress is made.

During the year £955 was expended on education and £120 received as fees in the Government School.

23. The number of children being educated in the Colony during the year was 431, as against 426 for 1912, and they are classified as follows :—

	Boys.		Girls.		Totals.	
	1912	1913	1912	1913	1912	1913
Government School, Stanley ..	92	88	73	68	165	156
Roman Catholic, Stanley ..	36	30	54	75	90	105
Taught privately, West Falkland ..	5	5	7	7	12	12
Three Government Schoolmasters, West Falkland ..	26	22	27	23	53	45
Taught privately, East Falkland ..	5	6	1	3	6	9
Two Government Schoolmasters, East Falkland ..	24	27	21	25	45	52
Falkland Islands Company's Camps ..	5	5	5	5	10	10
Two Camp Schoolmasters ..	22	22	20	20	42	42
Other :—						
Taught privately	1	—	2	—	3	—
	216	205	210	226	426	431

The average attendances in the Stanley schools were :—Boys, 87·3 per cent. ; girls, 83·8 per cent.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Cottage Home.

24. This small institution has been very useful during the year ; twenty-three patients were admitted and given treatment.

It is hoped that the King Edward VII. Memorial Hospital may be completed and ready for occupation in the near future.

Savings Bank.

25. During the year ended 30th September, 1913, 68 accounts were opened and 67 closed, leaving a total number of 495 depositors, with balances amounting in the aggregate to £70,401, or an average of £142 to the credit of each account. This represents £31 per head of the population of the Falklands (2,298).

The income earned by the bank was £2,322, and the expenses (interest on deposits and expenses of audit) £1,733, leaving a profit of £593.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

26. The following table summarises the criminal statistics for the years 1912 and 1913* :—

	1912	1913
Number of offences reported to the police	67	45
Number of summary convictions :—		
1. For offences against the person	5	4
2. For offences against property	2	—
3. For other offences	33	37
Number of Supreme Court convictions :—		
1. For offences against the person	1	—
2. For offences against property	—	—
3. For other offences	1	—
Number of acquittals :—		
1. Inferior Court	27	4
2. Supreme Court	2	—

* For the years 1908 to 1911 see the 1912 Report, No. 764.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

27. The following are the vital statistics for the year :—

	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Stanley	35	12	10
Darwin and E. Falkland Camps	5	—	—
West Falklands	8	7	—
South Georgia	1	4	—
Totals	49	23	10

Birth rate per 1,000, 15·20; death rate 7·13. Total estimated population on 31st December, 1913, 3,223; of this total 2,328 are males and 895 females. The estimated population of South Georgia, which is included in the above figures, is 1,010.

Health.

28. The general health of the Colony continues to be good, and no epidemic of consequence occurred during the year. Asthma may be said to be the most common complaint.

The respective birth rates for the East and West Falkland during the last two years are as follows :—

Births per 1,000	1912.	1913.
East Falkland	31·09	23·10
West Falkland	13·55	11·97
Deaths per 1,000.		
East Falkland	13·63	7·30
West Falkland	7·50	10·48

The decline in the birth rate is attributed to the growing tendency of the sheep farmers to employ single men rather than married ones.

Dental. The Colonial Dentist reports that the consistency of the teeth of the native born Falkland Islander is undoubtedly soft and that the enamel may be said to be "chalky" in character.

A dental clinic has been started in the Government School and during the year 142 children were examined.

Rainfall.

29. The total rainfall registered at Stanley during 1913 was 26·08 inches. Its distribution throughout the year is shown in the following table, which has been compiled from the records taken at Government House :—

Latitude 51° 41' 15". Longitude 57° 51' 15".

Month.	Rainfall in Inches.	Date of Maximum in Inches.	Number of days on which rain fell.
January	1·75	·31 23rd	16
February	1·75	·47 { 23rd 26th }	16
March	4·51	·77 3rd	22
April	2·68	·38 9th	17
May	2·33	·49 28th	21
June	2·41	·45 28th	26
July	1·43	·41 13th	19
August	2·23	·38 8th	16
September	·59	·08 { 1st 10th 19th }	12
October	1·28	·47 6th	19
November	2·52	·70 26th	15
December	2·60	·87 31st	15
Total	26·08	—	214

The following is a summary of meteorological observations taken at King Edward Cove, South Georgia, during 1913, and kindly supplied by the Argentine Government Station :—

Latitude 54° 18' south.

Longitude 36° 27' west.

Month.	Total Rain-fall.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Prevailing Wind.	Number of calm days.
	Inches.			
January	4·091	18	N.	Nil.
February	4·886	21	W.	1
March	8·972	21	W.	Nil.
April	3·838	17	N.	2
May	13·058	26	N.W.	3
June	6·913	20	W. & N.W.	2
July	4·810	19	W.	2
August	3·654	11	S. W.	2
September	2·948	22	N.W.	1
October	1·326	15	N.W.	1
November	5·184	16	N.W.	1
December	3·118	11	N.W.	Nil.
Totals	62·798	217	—	15

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE, &c.

30. The revenue of the Post Office was £2,692, or £677 less than in 1912. The expenditure, including a subsidy of £2,500 for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, was £3,776, as against £4,140 in 1912.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamers call at Stanley on their voyage out to Callao, and on their return voyage a fortnight later, thus making a four-weekly communication by letter with England.

The Falkland Islands are within the Postal Union as to rates of postage.

Money orders to the value of £9,971 on the United Kingdom and £380 on other places were issued during the year.

The total number of postal packages (letters, etc.) dealt with during the year was 153,580.

Mails between South Georgia and Europe travel *via* Buenos Aires. The distance between the latter port and South Georgia is about 1,500 miles, and occupies seven to eight days.

IX.—FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEERS.

31. Captain Watt resigned the command of the volunteers in September and all drills were suspended until the end of the year, during which time the reorganisation of the corps was under consideration.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

32. The construction of the Stanley Town Hall proceeded steadily during the year and by 31st December all the roof supports had been placed in position. Extensive alterations and additions were made to the police cottages, which are now in a good state of sanitation and repair. Consulting rooms were erected for the use of the Colonial Dentist. New roads were constructed to the peat banks to the south of the town; the nature of the ground rendered this work both lengthy and expensive.

W. S. ROPER,

for Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX.

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF STOCK'S REPORT FOR THE SEASON 1913-1914.

Stock Department,

Stanley, 29th August, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith the report of this department for the season 1913-1914.

Previous reports have been drawn up to the end of December in each year, but for many reasons this system was unsatisfactory, for parts of two separate seasons were thereby included instead of one entire season.

Sheep.

2. The general health of the flocks is extremely satisfactory. To some extent this is due to the enforcement of stringent importation regulations. Lice are at present our worst enemy among sheep, but I have great hopes of seeing the Colony free from this pest within the next few years. Many of the farmers apparently did not realize the extent to which their stock and wool were damaged by this parasite, dipping and gathering being carried on in a more or less careless manner, and it is suspected that in some cases attempts were being made to conceal infection. The result is that it has become necessary to enforce Section 16 of the Stock Ordinance, which gives the owner of infected sheep twelve months to clean his flock, under a penalty of a fine. Once again I should like to remind stock owners that they will find a poisonous powder dip far more effectual and reliable than the non-poisonous preparations, and also that two dippings at least are absolutely necessary if good and lasting results are to be expected. On some stations this important work has been carried on in a desultory manner, sheep being hurried through the trough, many without total immersion, apparently the one object in view being speed, thoroughness being quite a secondary consideration. It appears that some of the stock owners do not realise that the majority of the dips at present on the market are sold specifying to kill parasites within a stated time of immersion and when the dip is at a certain strength. Few profess to be effectual with a thirty seconds swim which leaves parts of the sheep quite untouched by the fluid, yet it is a fact that quite a number of sheep are hurried through the trough in a few seconds, whilst the strength of the preparation is the same as, or more often less than, is recommended for a thorough dipping, with an immersion of three times as long as that actually given. The result is obvious.

Specific Ophthalmia.

3. A disease known as specific ophthalmia, one of the chief symptoms of which was temporary blindness, showed itself on the East Falklands during the late summer and autumn, but with no serious results, the mortality being practically nil, and the disease disappearing with the advent of the wet weather. Specific ophthalmia is not contagious as has been thought, and is always liable to be seen after a spell of dry weather, but the results are not in any way serious.

Lambing.

4. The lambing percentage was slightly lower than that of last year, being 67·34 per cent., as compared with 68·82 per cent. for the year 1912. The lambs on the whole improve yearly and on some farms are of a very good type. In some stud flocks there are ram lambs which would compare very favourably with many young rams I have seen imported into the Colony.

Statistics.

5. It is gratifying to note that the death rate has been reduced from 12 per cent. in 1912 to 11 per cent. this season. Many stations have reduced their death rate considerably by judicious ditching, culling and stocking. On the East Falklands there was some mortality among the ewes at lambing and shearing times. The clip during the season was somewhat lighter than in the previous year, probably due to some extent to the exceptionally dry spring and summer. The price of all exports from the farm remained high, wool making as much as 1s. 2d. per pound. As predicted in my last report, the price of sheep has risen considerably and there is every prospect of a further good demand for sheep of good weight and quality during the coming season. The annual returns for 1914 show the number of sheep in the Colony to be 698,072, or 4,789 less than in the previous year. The number is now less than it has been for the last five years. This reduction may be accounted for by the large number of sheep exported.

Cattle.

6. A number of cattle were subjected to the tuberculin test, but in no single case was there a reaction. Examination of the mammary glands or udders of a large number of milk cows revealed less than 2 per cent. of suspected cases of tuberculosis, whilst no cases of this disease were seen after death in animals slaughtered either for food or other purposes. Tuberculosis in the sheep may be said to be practically non-existent. The conclusions which may be drawn from the above remarks are highly satisfactory to the Colony. About 1,000 head of cattle were canned during the season at the Goose Green Works. This is the first time that cattle have been utilised for this purpose in the Colony, and every encouragement should be given to the industry.

Horses.

7. The total number in the Colony is 3,528, a slight increase on previous returns. The general health of the horses has been extremely good during the season. The percentage of foals is considerably above that of last year, being 61·89 per cent. compared with 48·52 per cent.

Cultivation.

8. Much progress has been made in this respect during the last few years, the weather last season being especially favourable for good crops. Hay crops were particularly heavy and well saved, and probably sufficient hay is now grown in the Colony to supply its own needs.

Lucerne, or alfalfa, was tried on a small scale as an experiment, but beyond establishing itself fairly well in the ground did not give good results. Good crops of oaten hay were raised on the East and West Falklands, some attaining a height of over four feet. Green oat hay is a highly nutritious food for either horses or cattle, but should be given chopped. New hay is known to be unsuitable for feeding purposes, being liable to set up severe abdominal and skin troubles. Farmers would therefore be well advised not to cut their stack for at least six months if they can possibly avoid doing so.

Imports.

9. The number of live stock imported was slightly in excess of that of the previous year. The rams on the whole were of a much better quality and type than many of the shipments of foregoing seasons. I am informed by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's agent that arrangements have been made for a cargo boat to leave England in October in each year. This, being after the Ashford sales, will be a great convenience to importers of stock; the inconvenience and expense of transshipping at Monte Video will be avoided and the risk of introducing disease into the Colony considerably reduced. During the season the Department received notices of intending importations of nearly 500 horses, which were to arrive at various Ports of Entry. Out of this number only 116 duly arrived, the majority of these reaching the Colony months after the date specified on the notices received. Since it was very inconvenient and almost impossible to arrange to meet these shipments for the purpose of examination, it was found necessary to enforce new importation regulations whereby all live stock must come through Port Stanley, except when special permission to do otherwise is granted. Since the introduction of the above regulations, it has been deemed advisable, owing to the risk of introducing contagious disease into the Colony, to issue a Proclamation prohibiting the importation of all live stock from South America. Probably there are some stock owners who may think this order unnecessarily severe, but I can assure them that what has been done is entirely in their own interest, for should the disease, from which the Government is doing its utmost to keep the Colony free, once get established here, many farms would be badly crippled in consequence, if not altogether ruined.

Quarantine Station.

10. All imported sheep are dipped and quarantined for thirty days as usual. A new dip was found to be necessary and has been erected, and at an early date it is hoped to put the station in thorough repair and in a more hygienic condition.

Exports.

11. Over 38,000 live sheep were exported to South America during the season. This is the largest number yet exported from the Falklands, but in all probability will be exceeded next year, for it is possible that in the near future negotiations will be entered into with certain companies in South America for exporting sheep of a suitable weight in a frozen condition. All the stock exported was free from disease and of good quality. Some discontent arose among the farmers about the prices offered; it appears that in some cases as much as 12s. per head was offered for 60 lb. wethers, while other farmers were offered three or four shillings less per head for sheep of the same weight. In a colony of this size it seems a pity that a standard price cannot be arranged for sheep of a uniform weight. Until something in this way is done I feel sure there will always be a certain amount of discontent which will not be beneficial to either buyer or seller. The general opinion amongst farmers is that next year a sheep of 60 lbs. will not be sold for less than 10s.

Geese.

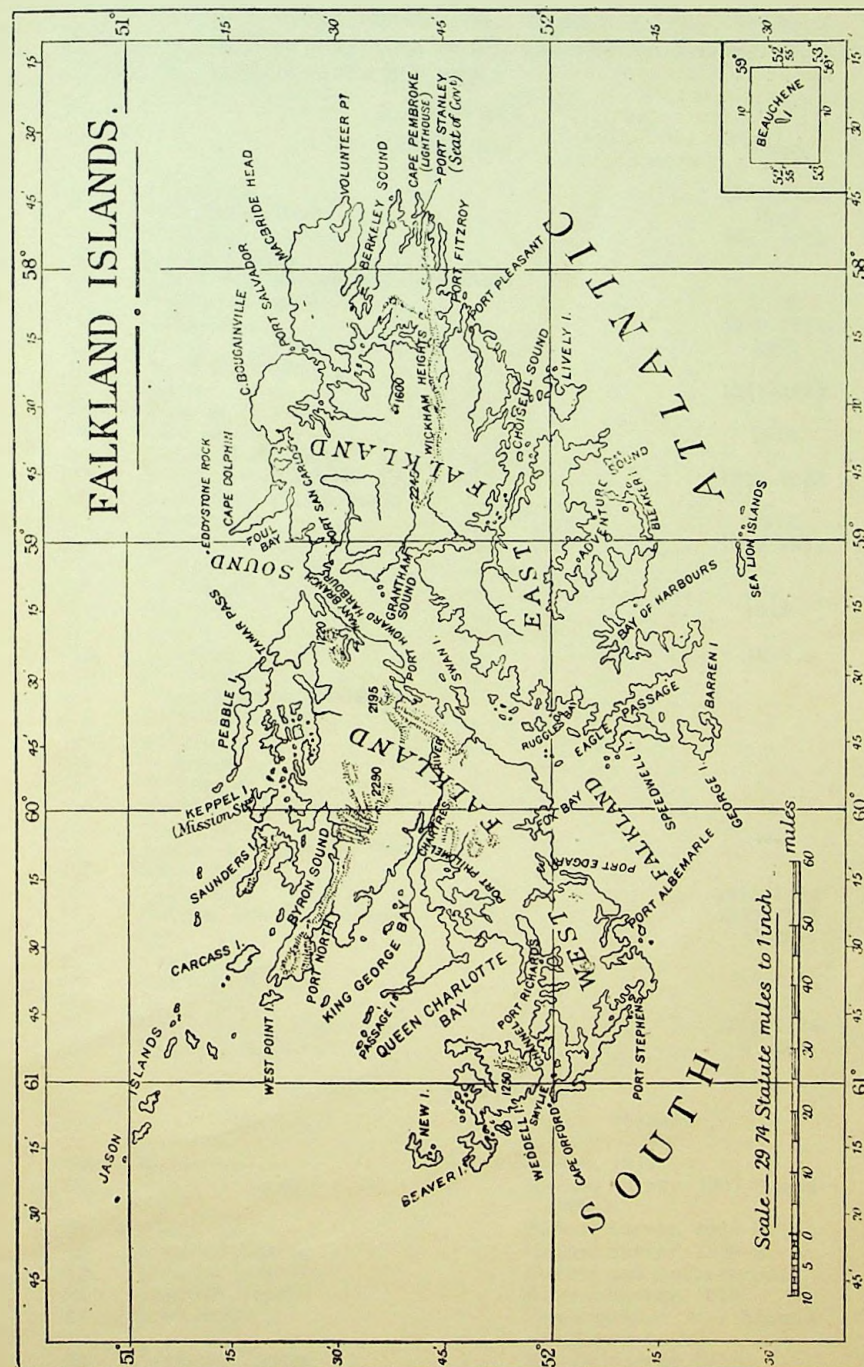
12. Certain farmers on the West Falklands petitioned the Government asking that the payment for geese beaks be continued. The request was considered by the Governor in Council, the communication in reply being in the negative. Some of the farmers on the West Island now pay 10s. per 100 for beaks obtained on their own stations. The purchase of turkey, carrancho, and rook beaks is still continued.

I have, &c.,

H. W. Townson, M.R.C.V.S., Lond.,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF RETURNS.

		1913		1914
Rams	..	8,720	..	8,857
Wethers	..	205,766	..	192,489
Breeding Ewes	..	263,217	..	267,010
Other Ewes	..	61,040	..	70,893
Lambs, Male	..	78,048	..	73,981
Lambs, Female	..	86,068	..	84,842
Lambs, total	..	165,116	..	158,823
Sheep, total	..	702,859	..	698,072
Boiled down	..	8,116	..	5,963
Canned	..	28,870	..	17,276
Horses and Mares	..	2,792	..	2,942
Brood Mares	..	373	..	349
Foals	..	181	..	216
Stallions	..	23	..	21
Cattle	..	8,491	..	7,821
Swine	..	59	..	64
		Imports.		
		1912-1913		1913-1914
Horses	..	70	..	116
Bull	..	—	..	1
Rams	..	33	..	35
		Exports.		
Sheep	..	12,701	..	38,124
Cattle	..	—	..	15



COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
777	Swaziland	1912-1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912-1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912-1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912-1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912-1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912-1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	"
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
801	Seychelles	"
802	Ceylon	"
803	Bermuda	"
804	Weihaiwei	"
805	Gambia	"
806	Gold Coast	"
807	Northern Territories, Gold Coast	"
808	Sierra Leone	"
809	Bahamas	1913-1914
810	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1912-1913
811	Fiji	1913
812	Ashanti	"
813	Basutoland	1913-1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913-1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.



No. 872.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 817.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1916.



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No. 872.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1913, see No. 817).

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Stanley,

4th October, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Falkland Islands for the year 1914, together with the report thereon by Mr. C. F. Condell, Colonial Secretary.

2. The Report indicates the continued progress of the Colony.

3. The exports of the two principal industries, sheep farming and whaling, valued at £191,013 and £1,301,547 respectively, show a satisfactory increase compared with £176,878 and £951,245, the annual average for the previous three years.

4. The total trade of the Colony during recent years has grown to a remarkable extent. Ten years ago the total trade for the year was valued at £225,600 compared with £194,800 for the year 1895, and with £146,100 thirty years ago. Last year's trade, valued at £1,738,843, stands out in bold contrast.

I have, &c.,

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

DOUGLAS YOUNG,
Governor.

Enclosure.

The Office of the Colonial Secretary,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands,

SIR,

30th September, 1915.

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1914, and the accompanying Report thereon.

2. Even in normal times communication with the outlying dependency of South Georgia is difficult and irregular; this year, on account of the War and consequent disorganization of the usual services, some reports sent from South Georgia in April only reached Stanley in September. This alone would largely account for the late appearance of the Blue Book, while the fact that since the 1st January, 1915, there has been a new Governor, a new Colonial Secretary, and a change in the entire clerical staff of the Colonial Secretary's Office, has been a further cause of delay.

I have, &c.,

To His Excellency,
W. Douglas Young, C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

C. F. CONDELL,
Colonial Secretary.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
FOR THE YEAR 1914.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The ordinary revenue for the year ended 31st December, 1914, amounted to £33,760, exceeding that for the year ended 31st December, 1913, by £1,475.

2. The ordinary expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1914, amounted to £31,543, and was £2,216 less than the ordinary revenue for the same period, and exceeded the ordinary expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1913, by £10,895.

The only striking difference between the totals shown for the years 1913 and 1914 on the expenditure side is an increase of £9,624 under "Miscellaneous." This is accounted for by the fact that on the outbreak of war, there being no provision on the estimates for the unusual military expenditure, all charges incidental to the maintenance of the volunteer force were debited to this vote.

3. The average ordinary revenue during the last five years exceeded the average ordinary expenditure by £4,839, representing a total surplus during that period of £24,179.

4. The receipts in respect of import duties on wine, malt, spirits, and tobacco amounted to £5,557, being £642 less than in 1913, and £952 in excess of the average receipts for the five years 1910–14.

5. There were no important changes in taxation during 1914.

6. At the closing of accounts on the 31st December, 1914, the assets and liabilities of the Colony were as follows:—

	£
Assets	208,184
Liabilities	94,099
Excess of assets .. .	£114,083

The following statement shows the surplus of assets at the closing of accounts for the last two years:—

Account.	1913.	1914.
	£	£
Surplus revenue	4,701	2,961
Land sales fund	100,753	109,118
Livestock fund	1,744	2,004
Totals	£107,198	£114,083

7. The following statement shows the amount invested by the various funds in the purchase of stocks at the closing of the accounts, for the last two years (cost price):—

Fund.	1913.	1914.
	£	£
Land sales	99,992	109,125
Savings bank	69,016	69,016
Intestate estates .. ..	....	....
Currency note	3,750	3,750
Currency depreciation ..	388	388
Westminster Bank .. ..	....	19,500
Surplus account	4,500	....
Totals	£177,646	£201,779

8. Owing to the unsettled state of the markets it was found impossible to estimate the probable market value of the stock held by the various funds on the 31st December, 1914.

CURRENCY.

9. British gold, silver, and bronze are current. There is, however, little gold in circulation. A Government paper currency was established under an Order of Queen Victoria in Council dated the 7th March, 1899. Details of the conditions under which notes are issued will be found in the Report on the Blue Book for the year 1910.

The number and value of notes circulating in 1914 were 3,399 and £6,456 19s., as compared with 5,507 and £7,500 in 1913.

The marked decrease in the number and value of notes in circulation at the end of 1914 as compared with the corresponding figures for 1913 is explained by the fact that in November, in anticipation of a raid by enemy cruisers, a large number of currency notes were destroyed; at the same time the gold reserve in the hands of the Commissioners of Currency was transferred to London and placed on deposit with the London and Westminster Bank, Limited.

The profit and loss account of the Commissioners of Currency for the year 1914 showed a net profit of £112, which sum has been carried to the general revenue of the Colony.

II.—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

10. The value of the imports during 1914 was £233,379, and that of the exports £1,505,464, as against £239,333 and £1,460,219, respectively, in 1913.

The following figures give the value of the imports during the year 1914, arranged according to the countries of origin :—

Country.	1914. £
United Kingdom	163,443
British Colonies	436
Argentina	26,114
Norway	23,955
Germany	4,568
Uruguay	3,147
Chile	2,894
Other	8,822
Total	£233,379

The following figures give the value of the exports during the year 1914 :—

Country.	1914. £
United Kingdom	571,110
British Colonies	5,790
Norway	439,043
Germany	134,860
Argentina	71,132
Holland	84,890
Spain	53,085
Chile	41,487
Portugal	30,292
Uruguay	73,671
Other	104
Total	£1,505,464

WHALE FISHERIES.

11. The following table gives the results of the whaling operations in the waters of the Colony and Dependencies during the season 1913-14. It is impossible to give the exact figures in respect of any one year owing to the fact that the whaling season lasts from the 1st October to the 30th September.

Locality.	Number caught.	WHALE OIL.		BONE.		GUANO.		BONE MEAL.		Total
		Barrels.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bags.	Value.	Bags.	Value.	
Falkland Islands	300 (approx.)	4,505	£ 13,515	80	£ —	3,363	£ 1,681	—	£ —	£ 15,196
S. Shetlands & Graham's Land ..	5,259	222,940	714,021	111	275	10,148	6,187	—	—	720,474
S. Orkneys	621	21,750	76,120	20	30	—	—	—	—	76,150
S. Georgia	3,349	166,578	445,063	213	4,066	81,324	40,028	1,327	570	489,727
Totals ..	9,429	415,783	1,248,719	424	4,371	94,835	47,887	1,327	570	1,301,548

PASTORAL.

12. The amount standing to the credit of the stock fund on the 31st December, 1914, was £2,004, as compared with a total of £1,744 on the 31st December, 1913. The land tax produced £807; the expenditure was £547.

The number of sheep in the Colony for the year 1914 was 701,268.

Only one canning factory was working during the greater part of the year; 15,787 sheep were canned during the season.

On account of the war many of the farmers were shorthanded; the lack of shepherds naturally resulted in a disappointing lambing season.

In July, owing to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in southern Chile, a proclamation was issued forbidding the importation into the Colony of all varieties of livestock.

The Chief Inspector of Stock reports that ophthalmia among the live stock of the Colony is steadily on the decline and that the Colony may now be said to be practically free from the disease.

The price of wool realized by the Falkland Islands farmers in the London markets showed a marked rise, some consignments attaining a record price of 1s. 5d. a pound.

SHIPPING.

13. The number of sailing vessels entered in the Colony during 1914 was 11, with a total tonnage of 11,045, as against 18, with a tonnage of 19,021, in 1913. One British sailing vessel was entered.

The number of steam vessels entered was 119, with a tonnage of 241,784, showing a decrease of 22 in number and 32 in tonnage; of this number 66 were British vessels, with a tonnage of 189,893.

Port Stanley was visited by thirteen warships.

Shipping Casualties.

14. The New Zealand Shipping Company's s.s. "Waimate" arrived in Port Stanley on the 25th May with a large cargo of flax badly on fire, having experienced very heavy gales south of Cape Horn. The fires were successfully extinguished.

III.—LEGISLATION.

15. Nine Ordinances were passed in 1914, the following being of most general interest:—

- No. 3, providing for the registration of medical practitioners midwives, and dentists.
- No. 4, consolidating the cemetery legislation and making provision for the appointment of a burial board.
- No. 6, regulating the sale and use of poisons.
- No. 7, incorporating the cemetery burial board as a body corporate.
- No. 9, making provision for the preservation of penguins.

IV.—EDUCATION.

16. There are two schools in Stanley—the Government School and one controlled by the Roman Catholic authorities. The Government School is undenominational and the teaching in both is purely secular. The school age is the same as in England.

The educational system of the Colony was considerably disorganized owing to the war. Apart from a small school at Darwin, maintained by the Falkland Islands Company, all teaching outside Stanley is done by itinerant teachers, two being employed on their "camp" by the Falkland Islands Company and five by the Government in different parts of the Colony. On the outbreak of war three of the Government itinerant schoolmasters joined the volunteer force and were recalled to Stanley. The Government School in Stanley was closed for a

considerable period during the latter part of the year, and for a period of six weeks all women and children left Stanley for various parts of the East and West Falklands. The numerical returns for the year are necessarily incomplete.

During the year a sum of £923 was expended under the education vote, and £114 was received as fees at the Government School.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

17. The King Edward VII. Memorial Hospital, the erection and furnishing of which was practically completed by September, was placed at the disposal of Government by the Committee responsible for its building, in November. Both this institution and the Victoria Cottage Home were then taken over by the naval authorities and managed by them with the assistance of the civil staff, and proved of the utmost value in accommodating the wounded after the naval action off the Colony on the 8th December.

THE GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

18. During the twelve months ended the 30th September, 1914, 85 accounts were opened and 37 closed, leaving a total number of 541 depositors, with balances amounting to £79,434; this gives an average of almost £35 a head of the population of the Colony (2272). The income earned by the Bank during this period was £2,317, and the expenses incurred (payment of interest and audit charges) amounted to £1,649, leaving a profit of £668.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

19. In 1914 the total recorded number of births was 45, of deaths 32, and of marriages 21. No returns, however, are available from West Falkland.

The birth-rate per thousand during 1914 was 16.63, and the death-rate 9.69. Eight men from His Majesty's ships who were killed, or died from wounds on active service, are not included in the above totals. The estimated population of the Colony (inclusive of South Georgia) on the 31st December, 1914, amounted to 3,223, of which 2,328 were males and 895 females.

HEALTH.

20. The general health of the Colony continues to be good. The following is an extract from the report of the Colonial Surgeon for the year 1914:—

“Stanley was visited, as in 1913, in the months of May and June, by an epidemic of influenza. Practically every house in the settlement was affected. . . . There was also an epidemic of chicken-pox in the East Camp and a few isolated cases of measles in Stanley, which fortunately did not spread. No deaths resulted from either of these epidemics. The Falkland Islands Volunteers were called out for active service on the outbreak of war. The health of the corps, in spite of the difficulty of obtaining suitable accommodation for the men, and the severe weather to which they were exposed in the performance of their duty, was excellent.”

21. The school dental clinic, started in 1913, was carried on during 1914, and the teeth of 224 children were treated, as against 142 in the previous year.

VII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

22. The revenue of the Post Office during 1914 was £3,499, being £807 in excess of the revenue collected in 1913. The expenditure, including a subsidy of £2,500 for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, was £3,763, or £13 less than the expenditure incurred in 1913.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's vessels at the beginning of the year called at Port Stanley on their outward voyage to Callao, and on their return voyage to Liverpool. With the opening of the Panama Canal certain alterations in the Company's schedule enabled a fortnightly service of letters to be delivered at Port Stanley, the homeward bound vessels picking up letters from England taken to Punta Arenas, Chile, by the intermediate outward mailboat. The outbreak of the war, however, intervened to prevent the continuation of this system, and since the middle of August the mail service has been naturally curtailed and irregular.

The Falkland Islands are within the Postal Union as regards rates of postage.

Money orders to the value of £7,935 were issued on the United Kingdom, and £943 on other places.

The total number of letters and other postal packages handled during the year is estimated to be 161,556.

Mails between Europe and South Georgia are transmitted via Buenos Aires; the mailboat between Buenos Aires and South Georgia occupies about eight days in transit, the distance being about 1,500 miles.

VIII.—FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEERS.

23. On the outbreak of war the Falkland Islands Volunteers were called out on active service under the command of Major (honorary) H.M.S. Turner. The numerical strength of the force was largely increased during the remaining five months of the year. Eight members of the force were accidentally drowned in the performance of military duty on the 1st December.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

26. Naturally the outbreak of the war and the mobilization of the Falkland Islands Volunteers very seriously handicapped the public works programme for the year, and several works of importance have had to be abandoned until the cessation of hostilities. Nevertheless, some considerable progress had by August been made on the Stanley Town Hall, and further progress was made later.

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

27. His Excellency W. L. Allardyce, C.M.G., Governor, returned from leave on the 30th April. During his absence (since August, 1913) the Colonial Secretary, Captain John Quayle Dickson, administered the government.

The Colonial Secretary, Captain Dickson, left the Colony on the 9th June.

In November the Governor, His Excellency W. L. Allardyce, C.M.G., was appointed to the Governorship of the Bahamas Islands, but did not leave the Colony during 1914, and W. Douglas Young, Esq., C.M.G., Administrator of St. Lucia, British West Indies, was in December appointed to the Governorship of the Falkland Islands. Mr. Young did not arrive in the Colony during 1914.

XI.—GENERAL.

28. In response to an appeal from the Governor a sum of nearly £5,000 was raised in aid of the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund.

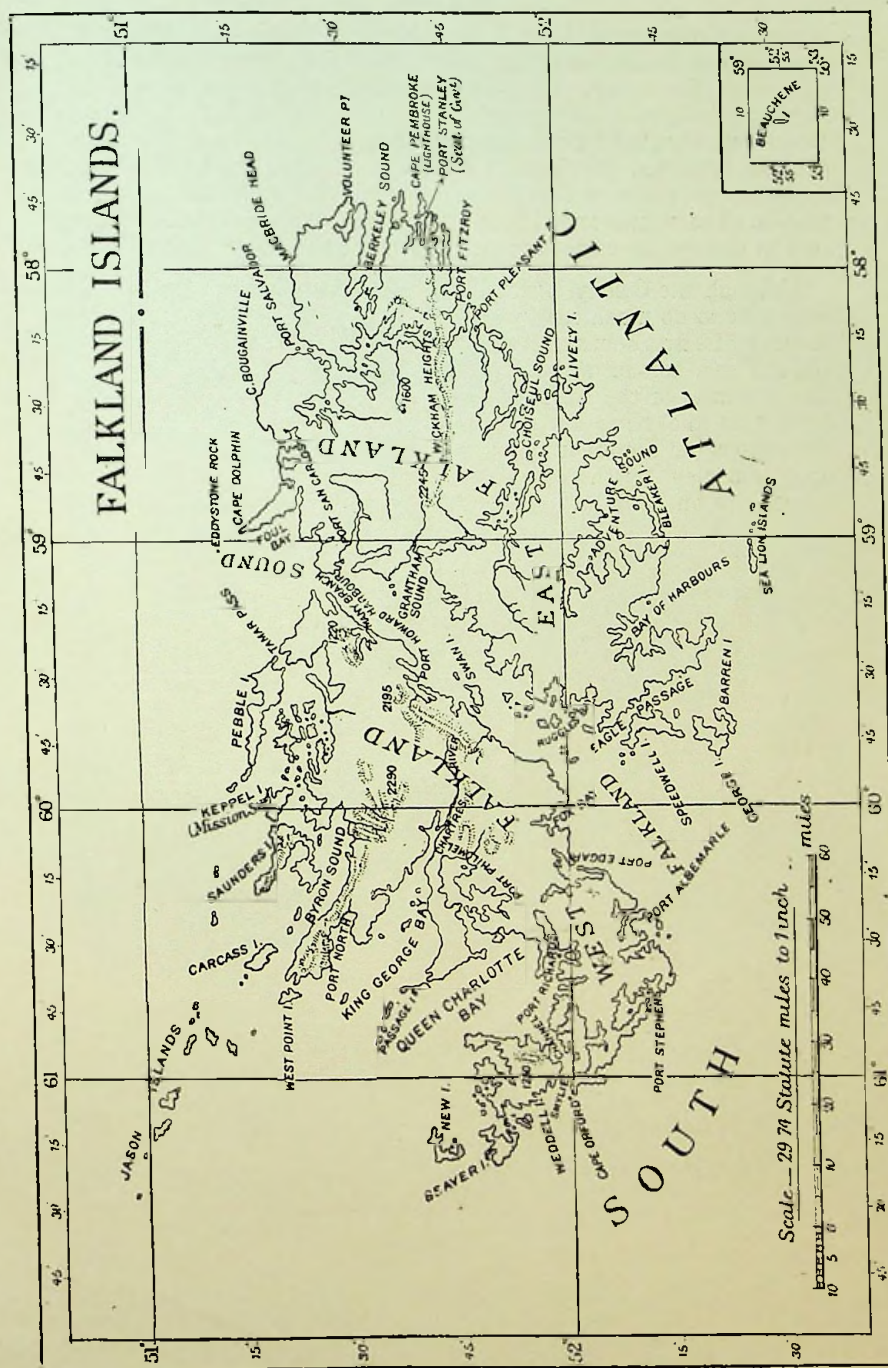
A sum of over £300 was also sent to the Crown Agents to be added to the Belgian Relief Fund.

The war made 1914 the most momentous year in the history of this usually quiet Colony. As stated in a previous section the Volunteer Force was called out on active service on the outbreak of war in August, and in spite of the difficulties of communication with the outlying

districts the number of men under arms was soon very considerable. After the departure of H.M.S. "Good Hope" and "Monmouth" from the Falkland Islands and their subsequent loss in the engagement off Coronel in November, the Colony passed through a period of great anxiety which was only ended by the brilliant victory of the 8th December, when the British squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee destroyed the German squadron off Port Stanley, where it appeared with the evident intention of making a descent on these islands. The women and children were, on the advice of the Governor, sent in October to various parts of the East and West Falklands.

Although the Colony, on account of its small population, has not been able to do much towards assisting the Empire, its goodwill was shown by its first contribution towards the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, amounting to over £1 per head of the total population. The colonists of the Falkland Islands are inspired with the utmost loyalty to the King and join with His Majesty's other subjects throughout the Empire in praying that the war which has been forced upon him may, by the courage of his naval and military forces, be brought to an early and successful termination.

C. F. CONDELL,
Colonial Secretary.



COLONIAL REPORTS, &c

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
837	Somaliland	1913-1914
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913-1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	"
841	Leeward Islands	"
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
845	Weihaiwei	"
846	Seychelles	"
847	St. Helena	"
848	Fiji	"
849	Bahamas	1914-1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	"
852	Grenada	1914-1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914-1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914-1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914-1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	"
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
864	Ashanti	"
865	Cyprus	1914-1915
866	Swaziland	"
867	Somaliland	"
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914-1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
871	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1916.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 907.



FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 872.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1916.



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A sketch map will be found in the previous Report, No. 872:
[Cd.7622-63].

No. 907.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1914, see No. 872.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Stanley,

22nd July, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith the report by Mr. C. F. Condell, Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1915.

I have, &c.,

DOUGLAS YOUNG,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1915.

The Colony of the Falkland Islands consists of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

The Falkland Islands proper are two large islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, and a number of small islands. The sole industry of the Falkland Islands is sheep farming, with the exception of a little whaling at New Island, to the south west of West Falkland.

The dependencies of the Falkland Islands are South Georgia, the South Shetland Islands, the South Orkney Islands, the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land.

Whaling is the only industry of the dependencies, with the exception of small sealing operations in South Georgia; whaling continues throughout the year in South Georgia, consequently there is a settled population of about 1,000 people in that dependency; in the other dependencies whaling operations are only undertaken from November to April; during the winter months of the year (May to October) the islands are deserted.

The capital of the Colony and seat of Government is Stanley, situated at the south east of East Falkland.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The ordinary revenue for the year ended 1915 amounted to £34,347, exceeding that for the previous year by £587.

2. The expenditure (including Public Works Extraordinary) for the year 1915 was £33,001, being £1,346 less than the revenue collected during the year, and £2,499 less than the expenditure incurred during the previous year. The surplus balance of £1,346 would have been considerably smaller had not war conditions seriously interfered with the Public Works programme.

3. The ordinary revenue collected during the year exceeded the estimate by £13,274; the expenditure (including Public Works Extraordinary) was less than the estimate by £939.

4. The receipts in respect of import duties on wine, malt, spirits, and tobacco amounted to £6,263, being £706 more than in 1914, and £1,658 in excess of the average receipts for the five years 1910–14.

5. The following increases in export duties were passed during the year to meet increased expenditure:—

Wool	from 1/20th of 1 <i>d.</i> per lb. to 1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> per 100 lbs. (Or 1½ <i>d.</i> per 10 lbs.)
Sheep	from ½ <i>d.</i> each to 3 <i>d.</i> each.
Sheepskins	from ½ <i>d.</i> each to 1 <i>d.</i> each.
Hides	from 3 <i>d.</i> each to 6 <i>d.</i> each.
Whale Oil	from 3 <i>d.</i> per barrel of 40 gallons to 3½ <i>d.</i> per barrel of 40 gallons.

and the following new export duties were imposed:—

Meats (canned or preserved) ..	6 <i>d.</i> per case of 72 lbs. (or 1/12th of 1 <i>d.</i> per lb.)
Guano (of all kinds)	1½ <i>d.</i> for every 100 lbs. or part thereof.

6. At the closing of accounts on the 31st December, 1915, the assets and liabilities of the Colony were as follows:—

	£
Assets	227,473
Liabilities	103,362
Excess of assets	£124,111

The following statement shows the surplus of assets at the closing of accounts for the past two years:—

Account.	1914.	1915.
	£	£
Surplus balance	2,961	4,307
Land sales fund	109,118	117,591
Livestock fund	2,004	2,213
Totals	£114,083	£124,111

7. The following statement shows the amount invested by the various funds at the closing of accounts during the last two years :—

Fund.	1914.	1915.
	£	£
Land sales	109,125	117,582
Savings bank	69,016	74,016
Currency Commissioners ..	4,138	4,138
Westminster Bank (on deposit)	19,500	23,016
Stanley Cemetery .. .. .	....	1,450
Totals	£201,779	£220,202

8. Owing to the unsettled state of the markets it is not considered that any practical purpose would be served by quoting the estimated market value of the stock held by the various funds on the 31st December, 1915.

CURRENCY.

9. British gold, silver, and bronze are current. There is, however, little gold in circulation. A Government paper currency was established under an Order in Council of Queen Victoria, dated the 7th March, 1899. Details of the conditions under which notes are issued will be found in the Report on the Blue Book for the year 1910.*

The number and value of the notes circulating in 1915 were 6,690 and £10,000, as compared with 3,399 and £6,457 in 1914. The increase was due partly to the re-issue at the beginning of the year of a number of notes destroyed previously for reasons connected with the War, and partly to an increase in the total value allowed from £7,500 to £10,000. On the 1st January the whole of the coin reserve £3,750, was in the hands of the Crown Agents on deposit in the London and Westminster Bank, Limited. When the issue was increased £2,500 was placed in the safe of the Commissioners of Currency in the Colony, and £2,500 left on deposit in the London and Westminster Bank, Limited.

The profit and loss account of the Commissioners of Currency for the year 1915 showed a profit of £109, which sum has been carried to the General Revenue of the Colony.

II.—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

10. The value of the imports during 1915 was £368,272, and that of the exports £1,576,126, as against £238,379 and £1,505,464, respectively, during 1914.

* Col. Report [Annual] No. 682 ; [Cd. 5467-18.]

The following figures give the value of the imports during the year 1915, arranged according to the countries of origin :—

Country.	£
United Kingdom	229,125
British Colonies	8,652
Other Countries	130,495
Total	£268,272

Outside the United Kingdom the only countries from which large imports were made were Argentina (£52,337) and Norway (£66,833).

The following figures give details of the exports, arranged according to countries of destination :—

Country.	£
United Kingdom	1,478,066
British Colonies	—
Other Countries	98,060
Total	£1,576,126

A proclamation was issued on account of the War to the effect that all goods should be exported to the United Kingdom. The heading above "other countries" includes Argentina and Brazil (£64,854 and £33,000 respectively). The goods entered as exported to Brazil were really destined for the United Kingdom, certain ships merely clearing to Rio de Janeiro for orders. An Argentine whaling company received special permission to export all whale oil obtained by the company to Buenos Aires, on condition that a certain proportion was re-exported under proper guarantees to the United Kingdom, and that the remainder should be disposed of in an approved manner within the limits of Argentina. Certain of the exports, therefore, entered as destined for Argentina were in reality destined for the United Kingdom.

The very high trade return, amounting to a sum of nearly two million pounds sterling (viz., £1,944,398) for the year under review, when compared with the population of the Colony, which, including the dependencies, is only 3,451, is worthy of remark. The trade with the United Kingdom alone, exclusive of the goods reconsigned from Brazil and Argentina to England, is £1,707,191. In 1905, ten years before, the total trade returns amounted to £225,605. It is only since 1882 that the revenue has equalled and exceeded the expenditure. Up till then the Colony, aided by a Parliamentary grant, was living in constant difficulties, and barely able to eke out a precarious financial existence by bringing everything under the hammer for which cash could be obtained.

WHALE FISHERIES.

11. The following table gives the results of the whaling operations conducted in the waters of the Colony and Dependencies during the 1914-15 season. It is not possible to give with any exactness the figures in respect of any calendar year, owing to the fact that the whaling year begins on the 1st October and ends on the 30th September of the following year, although whaling operations (except in South Georgia and to some extent in the Falkland Islands) are only carried on in the summer months, *i.e.*, from November to March.

Locality.	Number caught.	WHALE OIL.		BONE.		GUANO.		Total
		Barrels.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Bags.	Value.	
Falkland Islands	200 (approx.)	7,434	£ 29,763	10	£ 18*	7,870	£ 3,849	£ 33,630
S. Shetlands & Graham's Land	4,133	204,436	557,740	60	735	11,011	5,505	563,080
S. Orkneys	381	14,000	46,660	—	—	—	—	46,660
S. Georgia	5,097	233,299	658,583	18	1,117	59,484	29,428	689,128
Totals..	9,811	459,169	1,292,746	88	1,870	78,365	38,782	1,333,398

*Includes 27 bags of bone meal.

PASTORAL.

12. The amount standing to the credit of the stock fund on the 31st December, 1915, was £2,213, as compared with a total of £2,004 on the 31st December, 1914. The land tax produced £807; the expenditure for the year being £599.

The general health of the livestock is excellent, the sheep being probably more free from external disease than they have been for the past twenty years.

The total number of sheep in the colony was 690,574, as compared with 701,268 during 1914; this decrease is accounted for mainly by the greater number of sheep canned during the year and the increase in the demand for mutton.

Over 36,000 sheep were canned, as compared with 17,000 canned during the previous year. The prices given for sheep for canning were as follows:—

For sheep over 45 lbs. in weight (dead weight), 2½d. per lb.

For sheep between 45 and 40 lbs., 1½d. per lb.

For sheep under 40 lbs., 3s. 6d. per head.

Last year's record price for wool (1s. 5d. per lb.) was easily beaten during 1915, two stations obtaining 1s. 7d. in the London markets.

By a proclamation of the Governor the exportation of all live stock to foreign countries was prohibited.

Some progress was made in crop cultivation during the year, but owing to the exceptionally dry summer, the crops were somewhat light.

Shipping.

13. The number of sailing vessels entered in the Colony during 1915 was 10, with a total tonnage of 14,554, as against 11, with a tonnage of 11,045, in 1914. No British sailing vessel was entered.

The number of steam vessels entered was 128, with a total tonnage of 251,366, showing an increase of 9 in number and 9,482 in tonnage; of this number 64 were British vessels, with a tonnage of 194,976.

Shipping Casualties.

14. There were no shipping casualties in the waters of the Falkland Islands. In January the s.s. "Guvernören, a floating factory operating in the waters of the South Shetlands and Graham's Land in connection with the whale fishery, was destroyed by fire in Belgica Strait. The s.s. "Harpun," a steam whale catcher, struck a rock and sank near Deception Island during the same month.

III.—EDUCATION.

15. There are three schools in the Colony; a Government School and a Roman Catholic School in Stanley and a small school supported by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, in Darwin. The two last do not receive any grant from the Government.

The children in the country or "camp" districts are taught by travelling teachers, who have each an allotted beat. There are five Government travelling teachers, two in the East Falkland and three in the West Falkland; there are also two camp teachers employed by the Falkland Islands Company in Lafonia, the whole of which peninsula belongs to the Company.

During 1915 two of the Government travelling teachers were absent from their beats the whole year and a third for the first half of the year, on account of circumstances connected with the War.

The total number of children under instruction during 1915 was 341 (163 boys and 178 girls), or 14 per cent. of the total population; of these 195 were taught in the Government school or by Government travelling teachers.

The expenditure of the Government school, Stanley, amounted during 1915 to £1,026, and the revenue to £152; there were 130 children in average attendance, making the cost of upkeep amount to £6 7s. 6d. per head.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

16. The King Edward Memorial Hospital was opened as a civil hospital in May. The Victoria Cottage Home was at the same time closed as such, the two inmates being accommodated in one portion of the new hospital, which includes the new Victoria Cottage Home.

The Acting Nurse-Matron resigned in November. Owing to war conditions no successor had been obtained by the end of the year.

Twenty-one cases were admitted to the hospital during the year, 17 males and 4 females.

17. During the twelve months ended the 30th September, 1915, the Government Savings Bank showed an increase of business in all respects. 206 accounts were opened and 43 closed, leaving a total number of 696 depositors, with balances amounting to £74,016; this gives an average of about £30 a head of the population of the Colony (2,451). The income earned by the Bank during this period was £2,309, and the expenses incurred (including payment of interest, audit charges, and Manager's salary) amounted to £1,805, leaving a profit of £504.

18. Owing to war conditions the museum has not attracted the usual number of visitors from the mail steamers; no doubt at the end of the War and with the added advantage of being in new quarters in the town hall, the number of visitors to the museum will become larger again.

19. The Public Library continues to attract many readers, and as in the case of the museum, its scope of usefulness will no doubt be widened after it is transferred to the town hall.

V.—JUDICIAL.

20. During the year three cases were heard before the Prize Court, *i.e.*, the s.s. "Josephina," the s.s. "Bangor," and the sailing vessel "Pax."

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

21. In 1915 the total recorded number of births was 46, of deaths 28, and of marriages 16.

The birth-rate per thousand during 1915 was 13·37, and the death-rate 8·13. The estimated population of the Colony (inclusive of South Georgia) on the 31st December, 1915, amounted to 3,451, of which 2,519 were males and 932 females.

HEALTH.

22. The health of the population during the year continued good on the whole. An epidemic of a peculiar kind occurred during July, August, and September, and resulted in five deaths; the symptoms simulated very closely those of beriberi; no cases occurred in Stanley.

While the health of the normal population of Stanley was good, that of the workmen imported for special work from England was less satisfactory, the chief illnesses among them being bronchitis, rheumatism, and enteritis; many cases of the last were probably due to excessive meat eating, to which the majority of the men were not accustomed.

VII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

23. The revenue of the Post Office during 1915 was £2,105, being £1,394 less than the revenue collected during 1914. The expenditure, including a subsidy of £2,500 for the conveyance of mails beyond the limits of the Colony, was £4,261, or £498 more than the expenditure for the previous year.

The monthly mail service of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, in spite of war conditions, was regular throughout 1915.

The Falkland Islands are within the Postal Union as regards rates of postage.

Money orders to the value of £10,923 were issued on the United Kingdom, and £175 on other places, as compared with £7,935 and £943, respectively, during 1914.

The total number of letters and other postal packages handled during 1915 is estimated to be 170,115, as compared with 161,556 in 1914.

Mails between Europe and South Georgia, and between Stanley and South Georgia, are transmitted via Buenos Aires; the mailboat between Buenos Aires and South Georgia occupies about eight days in transit, the distance being about 1,500 miles. There were, however, during 1915, a few opportunities for a direct mail from Stanley to South Georgia by whalers.

The Government wireless station, erected and opened in 1912, has continued to prove its value, although its usefulness was, during the latter part of the year, somewhat curtailed by the laying of the Admiralty cable.

The telephone service brought in a revenue of £100; including the long distance lines, partly owned by the Government and partly private, there were at the end of 1915 about 120 miles of line open for traffic.

VIII.—FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEERS.

24. The Volunteer Force remained throughout the year on active service, although certain members of the Force were permitted to resume their civil occupations, subject to any further call that might be made on their services.

On the 17th May the command of the force was taken over by Captain Frederick John Newman, 7th Supernumerary Company, 5th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment, seconded.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

25. The programme of the Public Works Department was considerably hindered by the War; nevertheless certain new works were put in hand and a considerable amount of repair work was accomplished.

The most important work of the year was the building of the cable station and quarters, occupying nearly the whole of the winter months, *i.e.*, from June to October.

Good progress was made on the Stanley Town Hall.

The wireless station was thoroughly overhauled and a new aerial constructed and erected.

A new mantlet was constructed for the rifle range of the Volunteer Force.

Extensive alterations and repairs were executed in the Colonial Secretary's quarters, the Government House gardener's quarters, and the gaoler's quarters.

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

26. Mr. Claude Forlong Condell arrived in the Colony on the 21st March to assume the duties of Colonial Secretary, Stipendiary Magistrate, and Local Auditor, a post which had been vacant since the 9th September, 1914.

On the 2nd April, Governor Allardyce, C.M.G., left the Colony to take up his appointment as Governor of the Bahamas Islands.

Mr. Condell administered the Government from the 2nd April until the arrival, on the 15th May, of Mr. W. Douglas Young, C.M.G., who was appointed to the Governorship of the Colony in December, 1914.

Dr. F. J. Craddock arrived in the Colony on the 15th May to fill the vacant post of Assistant Colonial Surgeon, and was appointed Acting Colonial Surgeon on the departure on leave of absence, on the 29th June, of Dr. A. H. B. Pearce, Colonial Surgeon.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

27. In paragraph 10 I have called attention to the extremely satisfactory financial position of the Colony as such. This prosperity is equally visible in the condition of the individual colonists. Living is, it is true, fairly expensive, but the pay of the various classes of artisans and labourers is such that it is in nowise severely felt. A shepherd in the camp districts of the Colony receives from £72 to £80 a year, the farm hand from £60 to £70, and the farm boy from £36 to £48, besides which each receives free housing and mutton. In Stanley skilled labourers (joiners, carpenters, blacksmiths, &c.) receive 1s. 1½d. an hour, with 1s. 8d. overtime, and in many cases free housing; the wage for unskilled labour is 9d. an hour and 1s. 3d. overtime. The Falkland Islands might fairly be called the paradise of manual labour. The Colony stands entirely outside the much discussed vicious circle of crime and poverty, happy in being free from both. There is no necessity for any institution in the nature of a "workhouse," and the gaol is almost always empty, except when tenanted by some recalcitrant sailor off a ship in the harbour. The large amount of money available in the pockets of the people is clearly shown by the heavy takings at bazaars, the expenditure at the annual race meeting at Christmas, and on similar occasions. The easy circumstances of the colonists have made it possible for them to show their patriotism by very considerable subscriptions to the various funds connected with the War.

There was little outward sign of the War during 1915, as far as the daily life of the Colony is concerned. A few men left for England to enlist, but the smallness of the population and the necessity for the retention of those engaged in the wool industry make it impossible for the Colony to assist much in the way of providing men. The large quantities of wool and whale oil sent to the United Kingdom were a more important contribution to the present needs of the Empire.

The men engaged in sheep shearing are essentially skilled workmen and get through their work with great rapidity and thoroughness. A good shearer here can clip between 150 and 200 sheep a day with ease. They would be impossible to replace. The shepherds, whose little houses are dotted about the large extent of otherwise unpopulated districts of the camp, each in charge of a large tract of country, are also men who could not be spared.

In Stanley there is a great shortage of labour, so that it is difficult to carry out works of prime necessity, as a large number of the younger men drift away to Patagonia and the south of South America, "the Coast" as it is called here, as to a land of larger opportunities.

I have said that the people here are almost all in easy circumstances; on the other hand, there is a great want of every elementary comfort and convenience; money cannot procure what is easily obtainable nowadays in England. There is, to begin with, a great shortage of house accommodation in Stanley, so that there is much overcrowding. There is no water supply, and even in the best houses obtainable there are no bath-rooms or any other commodities such as the cheapest houses in England enjoy. Most of the houses, too, are small, badly planned, and badly built; the severity of the climate increases the discomfort of living in them.

The remoteness of the Falkland Islands is less marked than in former days. The opening of the Government wireless station in 1912 first brought the Colony into direct touch with the outer world.

The population of the Falkland Islands is intensely loyal, and there is no part of His Majesty's dominions where a speedy and victorious termination to the War is more earnestly desired.

C. F. CONDELL,

Colonial Secretary.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
869	British Solomon Islands	1914-1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
871	Barbados	"
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914-1915
874	British Guiana	"
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914-1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	"
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914-1915
880	St. Lucia	"
881	East Africa Protectorate	"
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914-1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	"
887	Fiji	"
888	Sierra Leone	"
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
890	Gambia	"
891	Trinidad and Tobago	"
892	Hong Kong	"
893	Ashanti	"
894	Gold Coast	"
895	Malta	1915-1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915-1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915-1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915-1916

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
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1916.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 938.



FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 907.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1917.



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FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1915, see No. 907.)

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A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 872.
[Cd.7622-63].

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Stanley,

12th July, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1916, together with the report thereon prepared by Mr. C. F. Condell, Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

DOUGLAS YOUNG,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for the Colonies,

&c., &c., &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Stanley, Falkland Islands,

10th July, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1916, and the accompanying Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

C. F. CONDELL,

Colonial Secretary.

To His Excellency.

W. Douglas Young, C.M.G.,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1916.

The Colony of the Falkland Islands consists of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

The Falkland Islands proper are two large islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, and a number of small islands. The sole industry of the Falkland Islands is sheep farming, with the exception of a little whaling at New Island, to the west of West Falkland.

The Dependencies of the Falkland Islands are South Georgia, the South Shetland Islands, the South Orkney Islands, the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land.

Whaling is the only industry of the Dependencies, with the exception of small sealing operations in South Georgia; whaling continues throughout the year in South Georgia; consequently there is a settled population of about 1,000 people in that Dependency; in the other Dependencies whaling operations are only undertaken from November to April; during the winter months of the year (May to October) the islands are deserted.

The capital of the Colony and seat of Government is Stanley, situated at the south east of East Falkland.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The ordinary revenue for the year 1916 amounted to £39,106, exceeding that for the previous year by £4,759.
2. The expenditure (including Public Works Extraordinary) for the year 1916 was £24,944, being £14,162 less than the revenue collected during the year, and £8,057 less than the expenditure incurred during the previous year. The surplus balance of £14,162 would have been considerably smaller had not war conditions seriously interfered with the prosecution of public works.
3. The ordinary revenue collected during the year exceeded the estimate by £6,232; the expenditure (including Public Works Extraordinary) was less than the estimate by £7,585.
4. The receipts in respect of import duties on wine, malt, spirits, and tobacco amounted to £6,803, being £540 more than in 1915, and £1,808 in excess of the average receipts for the five years 1911–1915.
5. The receipts in respect of export duties were £12,065 as compared with £6,624 in 1915.
6. At the closing of accounts on the 31st December, 1916, the assets and liabilities of the Colony were as follows:—

	£
Assets	269,920
Liabilities	122,716
Excess of assets	147,204

The following statement shows the surplus of assets at the closing of accounts for the past two years:—

Account.	1915. £	1916. £
Surplus balance	4,307	18,469
Land sales fund	117,591	126,432
Live-stock fund	2,213	2,303
Totals	124,111	147,204

7. The following statement shows the amount invested by the various funds at the closing of accounts during the last two years:—

Fund.	1915. £	1916. £
Land Sales	117,582	126,155
Savings Bank	74,016	86,016
Currency Commissioners	4,138	6,139
Westminster Bank (on deposit)	23,016	40,524
Stanley Cemetery	1,450	—
Totals	220,202	258,834

The amount invested on behalf of the Stanley Cemetery is held by the Trustees of the cemetery and not by the Government.

8. Owing to the unsettled state of the markets it is not considered that any practical purpose would be served by quoting the estimated market value of the stock held by the various funds on the 31st December, 1916.

CURRENCY.

9. British gold, silver, and bronze are current. There is, however, little or no gold in circulation. A Government paper currency was established under an Order in Council of Queen Victoria, dated the 7th March, 1899. Details of the conditions under which notes are issued will be found in the Report on the Blue Book for the year 1910.

The total face value of the currency notes in circulation on 1st January was £10,000. The value of the notes issued during the year was identical with that of those withdrawn and cancelled. There were in circulation at the end of the year 770 five pound, 6,100 one pound, and 200 five shilling notes. The coin reserve at the end of the year, £5,000, was half in the safe of the Commissioners of Currency in the Colony and half in the hands of the Crown Agents on deposit in the London and Westminster Bank, Limited. The total cost of the securities held for the investment portion of the reserve amounted, at the end of the year, to £5,248 13s. 5d. As the funds in the hands of the Commissioners to form this investment reserve only amounted to £5,000, the balance £248 13s. 5d. was advanced from the general revenue of the Colony.

There is further a separate "Depreciation Fund." On the 1st January this fund amounted to £388. It was increased during the year, to meet war conditions, to £891. As the income derived during the year from securities held was not sufficient to cover the cost of the investments made and the expenses for management, etc., the balance required, £431, was advanced from General Revenue.

II.—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

10. The value of the imports during 1916 was £591,071, and that of the exports £2,053,719, as against £368,272 and £1,576,126 respectively, during 1915.

The following figures give the value of the imports during the years 1915 and 1916 arranged according to the countries of origin :—

Country.	1915. £	1916. £
United Kingdom	229,125	408,957
British Colonies	8,652	17,610
Other Countries	130,495	164,450
Totals	368,272	591,017

Outside the United Kingdom the only countries from which large imports were made were Argentina (£79,675) and Norway (£67,038).

The following figures give details of the exports, arranged according to countries of destination.

Country.	1915. £	1916. £
United Kingdom	1,478,066	1,962,794
British Colonies	—	—
Other Countries	98,060	90,925
Totals	1,576,126	2,053,719

The £90,925 exported to "Other Countries" is the value of whale oil, etc., exported on ships cleared to Rio de Janeiro but really bound for the United Kingdom, and of whale oil, etc. exported from South Georgia to Buenos Aires, 75 per cent. of which is under guarantee to be re-exported to the United Kingdom.

Attention was drawn last year to the very high trade return of nearly two millions in a Colony of only a little over 3,000 inhabitants. It will be seen from the above figures that the trade return of 1916 amounts to over 2½ millions (£2,644,736). This is, of course, partly due to the very high prices obtained by the chief exports from the Colony, wool, and whale oil.

WHALING AND SEALING.

11. The following were the results of the whaling and sealing industries during 1916 :—

Falkland Islands.

1 land factory and 3 whale catchers.

Whales caught, 69 (giving 4,902 barrels oil and 1,014 bags guano).

Value of products, £16,840 (oil, £16,340; bone, nil; guano, £500).

South Georgia.

8 land factories; 3 ship factories; 28 whale catchers.

Whales caught, 7,361* (giving 322,777 barrels oil, 7 tons bone, and 84,435 bags guano).

Value of products, £1,011,470 (oil, £975,013, bone, £900, guano, £35,557).

* Caught during 1915-16, between 1st October and 30th September.

South Shetlands.

1 land factory; 10 ship factories; 29 whale catchers.

Whales caught, 4,431* (giving 212,536 barrels oil, 117 tons bone, and 19,966 bags guano).

Value of products, £746,260 (oil, £731,872, bone, £1,530, guano, £12,858).

South Orkneys.

No operations during 1916.

There were, therefore, in all 11,861 whales caught and the total value of the products of the catch amounted to £1,774,570. The export duty paid on this to the General Revenue of the Colony, was only £8,817 (oil, £7,839, guano, £978), or rather less than ½ per cent. of the declared value, which, there is reason to believe, is a good deal less than the real value.

In South Georgia there were further killed 2,906 "seals" (2,867 sea elephants, 25 sea leopards, and 14 Weddell seals), the product of which was 5,337 barrels of oil, valued at £16,011. Of this only 1,576 barrels, value £4,728, would appear to have been actually exported during the year. There is no export duty on "seal" oil. The sealing season extends normally from the 1st January to the 31st August; in 1916 it was extended to the 30th September for special reasons.

PASTORAL.

12. The amount standing to the credit of the Stock Fund on the 31st December, 1916, was £2,303, as compared with a total of £2,213 on the 31st December, 1915. The Land Tax produced £606; the expenditure for the year being £516.

The general health of the sheep is excellent, the flocks being practically free from every contagious and infectious disease.

The total number of sheep in the Colony was 689,904, as compared with 690,574 during 1915. The number has therefore remained almost the same in spite of the number of sheep canned during the year and an increase in the demand for mutton.

Over 37,000 sheep were canned, as compared with 36,000 canned during the previous year. For the first time sheep were brought over from the West Falkland for canning, over 13,000 being shipped across from Port Howard to Egg Harbour. The prices given for sheep for canning were as follows :—

For sheep over 45 lbs. in weight (dead weight), 2½d. per lb.

For sheep between 45 and 40 lbs., 1½d. per lb.

For sheep under 40 lbs., 3s. 6d. per head.

The highest price reached by wool was 1s. 10½d. at the close of the year, as compared with 1s. 7d. of the previous year.

Five Romney rams of first quality were imported during the year.

The number of cattle in the Colony is 7,561 and their health very good, but new blood is wanted.

The number of horses in the Colony is 3,929. During the year 313 were imported from South America.

There was an increase in the area of land under cultivation, but the summer being, as in the previous year, exceptionally dry the hay crops were light.

* Caught during 1915-16, between 1st October and 30th September.

As an experiment a crop of oaten hay was turned into ensilage; this is the first attempt at making ensilage in the Colony. The experiment was completely successful.

SHIPPING.

13. The number of sailing vessels entered in the Colony during 1916 was 21, with a total tonnage of 26,361, as against 10 with a tonnage of 14,554, in 1915. Two of these were British with a total tonnage of 1926; 11 were Norwegian, 5 Argentine, and 3 Uruguayan.

The number of steam vessels entered was 103, with a total tonnage of 227,193, showing a decrease of 25 in number and 24,173 in tonnage; of this number 65 were British vessels, with a tonnage of 185,677; 28 were Norwegian, 8 Argentine, 1 Chilean, and 1 United States of America.

All the 21 sailing vessels and 47 of the 103 steam vessels were entered in South Georgia.

Shipping Casualties.

14. On the 26th October, 1915, Sir Ernest Shackleton's "Endurance" was crushed in the Weddell Sea. On the 11th March, 1916, the British Whaling Factory s.s. "Horatio" was destroyed by fire at Leith Harbour, South Georgia. On the 4th August the Norwegian s.s. "Montebello" broke loose from a buoy at New Fortune Bay, South Georgia, in a storm, drifted ashore and became a total wreck.

Two vessels registered at Stanley became casualties during the year. The sailing vessel "Kelp" was completely wrecked on the coast of Ireland; the s.s. "Grahamland" was damaged and put into Queenstown.

III.—EDUCATION.

15. There are three schools in the Colony; a Government School and a Roman Catholic School, in Stanley, and a small school supported by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, in Darwin. The two last do not receive any grant from Government.

The children in the country or "camp" districts are taught by travelling teachers, who have each an allotted beat. During 1916 only three Government travelling teachers, instead of five, were employed on the beats, and the third left for an appointment in South Georgia in October. It has been found impossible to fill the vacancies at present on account of war conditions. The teachers employed have been moved from one beat to another in order that in no district the children should remain entirely without instruction.

The total number of children under instruction during 1916 was 337 (150 boys and 187 girls), or 14 per cent. of the total population; of these 204 were taught in the Government School or by Government travelling teachers.

The expenditure of the Government School, Stanley, amounted during 1916 to £870, and the revenue to £139; there were 140 children in average attendance, making the cost of upkeep amount to £5 4s. 5d. per head.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

16. Twenty-six cases were admitted to the King Edward Memorial Hospital during the year, 15 males and 11 females, 9 of the latter being maternity cases. There were at the end of the year three inmates in the Infirmary section (Victoria Cottage Home), two males and one female.

17. The total amount deposited in the Government Savings Bank increased during the year (1st October, 1915, to 30th September, 1916) from £93,138 (given in last year's Report, in error, as £74,016) to £103,579. Of this amount £86,016 was invested in securities, leaving a balance of £17,563 held on deposit in the Bank of England. There was a profit on the year's transactions of £278.

On the 1st April the Savings Bank was transferred from the Post Office to the Treasury.

18. The Museum and Public Library have not yet been transferred to their new quarters in the Town Hall.

V.—JUDICIAL.

19. During the year one case was heard before the Prize Court, *i.e.*, that of the s.s. "Edna."

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

20. In 1916 the total recorded number of births was 52, of deaths, 23, and of marriages, 29; as compared with 46, 28, and 16 respectively in 1915.

The birth-rate per thousand during 1916 was 16·14, and the death-rate 7·14 (13·37 and 8·13 in 1915). The estimated population of the Colony (inclusive of South Georgia) on the 31st December, 1916, amounted to 3,220, of which 2,267 were males and 953 females.

HEALTH.

21. This has been considerably better than in 1915. In the early months of the year there was a moderately severe epidemic of influenza in Stanley. This was possibly imported from Punta Arenas as the first cases were patients who had an opportunity of direct contact with those on board a ship carrying a cargo of horses imported from Patagonia, where influenza was at that time very prevalent. Fortunately no deaths occurred. The symptoms were the same in nearly all cases, severe headache, epistaxis, a dry cough, and a high temperature. Practically all the severe cases were adults; the children examined were suffering chiefly from what appeared to be slight colds.

The majority of other cases were intestinal and in nearly every case the patient had to be referred to the Colonial Dentist for treatment before any improvement from drugs or dieting could be hoped for.

VII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

22. The revenue of the Post Office during 1916 was £2,764, being £669 more than the revenue collected during 1915. The expenditure, including the subsidy of £2,500 for the conveyance of mails beyond the limits of the Colony, was £3,864, or £396 less than the expenditure for the previous year.

The monthly mail service of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, in spite of war conditions, was fairly regular throughout 1916. The Company receives £5,000 a year for the mail service, the Colony paying half.

The Falkland Islands are within the Postal Union as regards rates of postage.

Money orders to the value of £11,287 were issued on the United Kingdom, and £171 on other places, as compared with £10,923 and £175, respectively, during 1915.

The total number of letters and other postal packages handled during 1916 is estimated to be 153,909, as compared with 170,115 in 1915.

The total expenditure on the maintenance of the telephone system, inclusive of salaries, amounted, during the year, to £276. There was also a further expenditure, reconstruction of the line to Cape Pembroke lighthouse, of £78. The revenue from the telephone service was £133. Some 28 miles of line (private, Stanley-Teal inlet) were opened during the year, so that at the end of 1916 there were in all about 150 miles of line open.

VIII.—FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEERS.

23. The Volunteer Force remained throughout the year on active service, although certain members of the Force were permitted to resume their civil occupations, subject to any further call that might be made on their services.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

24. Owing to war conditions no public works of any importance were undertaken during the year.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

25. There were no changes of any importance in the Civil Establishment of the Colony during the year.

On the 31st May, Sir Ernest Shackleton arrived unexpectedly at Port Stanley in a whale catcher, the "Southern Sky," of the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company, from South Georgia. His ship, the "Endurance," had been crushed in the ice in the Weddell Sea on the 26th October, 1915, and the whole of the exploring party and the crew had made their way, after many hardships, to Elephant Island. There Sir Ernest had left all except five men, with whom he had managed to reach King Haakon Bay, on the uninhabited south-west coast of South Georgia in an open boat. With two of the five, Captain Worsley

and Petty Officer Cream, he had then crossed South Georgia on foot to Stromness Bay on the north east coast. This is the first time the interior of the Dependency of South Georgia has been crossed from sea to sea. On the 17th June, Sir Ernest left Stanley in the Uruguayan steam trawler, "Institutor de Pesca," to attempt the rescue of the men left on Elephant Island. Every preparation, which the small resources of the Colony permitted, was meanwhile made for the reception of the rescued men, and it was a deep disappointment to the Colonists to see the relief expedition return unsuccessful. A second attempt in the Chilian schooner, "Emma," likewise proved fruitless. Sir Ernest then left for Punta Arenas in the mail and from there managed, in the Chilian "Yelcho" to reach Elephant Island and to bring back the whole party without a single life being lost. It was a further disappointment to the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands not to be able to share in the rejoicings at the eventual relief of those for whose position they had felt the most intense sympathy.

As in 1915, there was, in 1916, little outward sign of the War in the Falkland Islands beyond that of a marked rise in the cost of several commodities. The financial position of the Colony, the chief exports of which, whale oil and wool, realized record prices in the United Kingdom, remained excellent. The cablegrams posted daily outside the Colonial Secretary's office are followed by the inhabitants with the greatest interest and with an absolute conviction, whatever the news of the day, of the ultimate triumph of His Majesty's forces on sea and land.

C. F. CONDELL,

Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
901	Swaziland	1915-1916
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915-1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915-1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915-1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915-1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915-1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915-1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916-1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916-1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha
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FALKLANDS

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 963.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 938.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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No. 963.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1916, see No. 938.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1917.*

The Colony of the Falkland Islands consists of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.

The Falkland Islands proper are two large islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, and a number of small islands. The sole industry of the Falkland Islands is sheep farming.

The Dependencies of the Falkland Islands are South Georgia, the South Shetland Islands, the South Orkney Islands, the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land.

Whaling is the only industry of the Dependencies, with the exception of a little sealing in the waters of South Georgia; whaling continues throughout the year in South Georgia, consequently there is a settled population of about 1,000 people in that Dependency; in the other Dependencies there is no whaling in the winter months of the year, all operations being conducted between November and April; during the winter the Islands are deserted.

The capital of the Colony and seat of Government is Stanley, situated at the east of East Falkland.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The ordinary revenue for the year 1917 amounted to £36,491, being less than that for the previous year by £2,615.

2. The expenditure (including Public Works Extraordinary) for the year 1917 was £29,386, being £7,105 less than the revenue collected during the year, and £4,392 more than the expenditure incurred during the previous year. This increase is due to a contribution of one tenth of the Customs Revenue to Imperial Funds in connection with the War and to the gift of an aeroplane.

3. The ordinary revenue collected during the year exceeded the estimate by £4,810; the expenditure (including Public Works Extraordinary) was less than the estimate by £1,445.

4. At the closing of accounts on the 31st December, 1917, the assets and liabilities of the Colony were as follows:—

Assets	£294,921
Liabilities	131,815
Excess of Assets	163,106

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 872. [Cd. 7622-63.]

The following statement shows the surplus of assets at the closing of accounts for the past two years:—

Account.	1916. £	1917. £
Surplus Balance	18,469	25,573
Land Sales Fund	126,432	134,925
Livestock Fund	2,303	2,608
Totals	£147,204	£163,016

5. The following statement shows the amount invested by the various funds at the closing of accounts during the last two years:—

Fund.	1916. £	1917. £
Land Sales	126,155	134,753
Savings Bank	86,016	86,016
Surplus Fund	—	23,750
Currency Commissioners	6,139	6,891
Westminster Bank (deposit)	40,524	22,163
Advances at Call	—	9,000
Totals	£258,834	£282,573

6. Owing to the unsettled state of the markets it is not considered that any practical purpose would be served by quoting the estimated market value of the stock held by the various funds on the 31st December, 1917.

CURRENCY.

7. British gold, silver, and bronze are current. There is however little or no gold in circulation. A Government paper currency was established under an Order in Council of Queen Victoria dated the 7th March, 1899. Details of the conditions under which notes are issued will be found in the Report on the Blue Book for the year 1910.

The total face value of the currency notes in circulation on the 1st January was £10,000, the note issue being increased during the year to £12,000. There were in circulation at the end of the year 924 five pound, 7,318 one pound, and 168 five shilling notes. The coin reserve at the end of the year, £6,000, was divided into two portions, £2,500 being in the safe of the Commissioners of Currency and £3,500 in the hands of the Crown Agents. The total cost of the securities held for the investment portion of the reserve amounted at the end of the year to £6,000.

There is a separate Depreciation Fund amounting to £891.

II.—TRADE AND INDUSTRIES.

8. The value of the imports during 1917 was £1,256,906, and of the exports £1,870,903, as against £591,071 and £2,053,719 respectively during 1916.

The following figures give the value of the imports during the years 1916 and 1917 arranged according to the countries of origin:—

	1916.	1917.
Country	£	£
United Kingdom	408,957	681,603
British Colonies	17,610	89,088
Other Countries	164,450	486,215
Totals	£591,017	£1,256,906*

* Increase due to high price of imported coal.

The following figures give details of the exports, arranged according to countries of destination:—

	1916.	1917.
Country.	£	£
United Kingdom	1,962,794	1,777,487
British Colonies	—	—
Other Countries	90,925	93,416
Totals	£2,053,719	£1,870,903

WHALING AND SEALING.

9. The following were the results of the whaling and sealing industries during 1917:—

Falkland Islands.

No operations during 1917.

South Georgia.

Six land factories; 2 ship factories; 29 catchers.

Whales caught, 5,513 (giving 268,327 barrels of oil, 31 tons of bone, and 970 tons of guano).

Value of products, £1,015,091 (oil, £1,010,740, bone, £1,750, guano, £2,601).

South Shetlands and Graham's Land.

Four ship factories; 12 catchers.

Whales caught, 2,003 (giving 92,760 barrels of oil).

Value of products, £479,260.

South Orkneys.

No operations during 1917.

There were, therefore, in all 7,516 whales caught and the total value of the products of the catch amounted to £1,512,351, as compared with a total of whales caught in 1916 of 11,861, yielding products the total value of which amounted to £1,744,570. (*N.B.* For further information on the whaling industry of the Colony and Dependencies see "General Observations.")

In South Georgia there were further killed 3,018 seals (2,941 sea elephants and 77 sea leopards), the product of which was 5,297 barrels of oil, valued at £26,435.

The sealing season in South Georgia extends normally from the 1st January to the 31st August; in 1917, as in 1916, it was extended to the 30th September for special reasons.

PASTORAL.

10. The amount standing to the credit of the Stock Fund on the 31st December, 1917, was £2,608, as compared with a total of £2,303 on the 31st December, 1916. The Land Tax produced £600, the expenditure for the year being £301.

The general health of the sheep continues to be very good, the flocks being practically free from every infectious and contagious disease.

The total number of sheep in the Colony was 696,975, as compared with 689,904 during 1916. The number therefore has slightly increased in spite of the increased number of sheep canned during the season.

Over 42,000 sheep were canned, as compared with a total of 37,000 in 1916. The prices given for sheep for canning were as follows:—

For sheep over 45 lb. in weight (dead weight), 2½d. a lb.

For sheep between 45 and 40 lbs., 1½d. a lb.

For sheep under 40 lbs., 3s. 6d. a head.

The highest recorded price received for wool at the close of the year was 2s. 7½d. a lb. This is the highest price ever known to have been received for Falkland Islands wool and is over one shilling in advance of the highest price obtained during the year 1916.

Since the last report 31 Romney Marsh rams and 21 Cheviot rams have been imported.

The number of cattle in the Colony is 6,844; their health continues to be good.

The number of horses in the Colony was 2,653. During the period reported upon, 49 horses were imported from South America and 3 Welsh studs.

The area of land under cultivation was increased and the crops obtained were encouraging.

SHIPPING.

11. During the year 1917 12 sailing vessels were entered in the Colony, with a total tonnage of 16,005, as compared with 21 in 1916 with a total tonnage of 26,361. Only one of these vessels was British, her tonnage being 2,324.

The number of steam vessels entered was 59 with a total tonnage of 117,127, as compared with 103 in 1916 with a total tonnage of 227,193. Of the above 59 vessels entered 32 were British, with a tonnage of 89,984.

Shipping Casualties.

12. The only casualty occurring in the waters of the Falkland Islands was the total loss of the cutter "Magallanes," at Low Bay, Lafonia, East Falkland, owing to heavy weather. The cutter was at anchor at the time in Low Bay, and no lives were lost.

In South Georgia minor casualties were reported in respect of the sailing vessel "Derwent," on the 2nd March, 1917, and of the s.s. "Samoa" on the 30th June, 1917.

III.—EDUCATION.

13. There are three schools in the Colony; a Government School and a Roman Catholic School in Stanley, and a small School supported by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, in Darwin. The two last do not receive any grant from the Government.

The children in the country or "camp" districts are taught by travelling teachers, who have each an allotted beat. During 1917 only two Government travelling teachers, instead of five, were employed on the beats. It has been found impossible to fill the vacancies on account of war conditions.

The total number of children under instruction during 1917 was 350 (169 boys and 181 girls); of these 199 were taught in the Government School or by Government travelling teachers.

The expenditure of the Government School, Stanley, amounted during 1917 to £870, and the revenue to £145; there were 140 children in average attendance, making the cost of upkeep amount to £5 4s. 5d. per head.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

14. Twenty-one cases were admitted to the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, 12 males and 9 females, 5 of the latter being maternity cases. There were at the end of the year three inmates of the infirmary section (Victoria Cottage Home), two males and one female.

15. The total amount deposited in the Government Savings Bank increased during the year (1st October, 1916, to 30th September, 1917) from £103,579 to £112,896. Of this amount £86,016 was invested in securities, leaving a balance of £26,880 held on deposit in the Bank of England. There was a profit on the year's transactions of £417.

16. The Museum and Public Library have been transferred to their new quarters in the Town Hall but have not yet been re-opened.

V.—JUDICIAL.

17. There was no sitting of the Supreme Court during the year, either for the purpose of hearing prize cases or otherwise.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

18. In 1917 the total recorded number of births was 61, of deaths 16, and of marriages 17, as compared with 52, 23, and 29 respectively in 1916.

The birth-rate per thousand during 1917 was 18.82, and the death-rate 4.93, as compared with rates of 16.14 and 7.14 respectively in 1916. The estimated population of the Colony (including South Georgia) on the 31st December, 1917, was 3,241, of which 2,264 were males and 972 females.

HEALTH.

19. The general health of the Colony was excellent; better than during the two previous years.

VII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

20. The revenue of the Post Office during 1917 was £1,102, being £1,562 less than the revenue collected during 1916. This falling off in the revenue is mainly due to the dislocation of the mail service and the consequently smaller number of mails received and despatched. The expenditure, including an amount of £2,344 paid as subsidy for the carriage of mails beyond the limits of the Colony, was £4,048, being £184 more than the expenditure incurred during 1916.

The mail contract with the Pacific Steam Navigation Company terminated on the 7th September, 1917. The mail service received

by the Colony was necessarily extremely irregular and very considerable periods often elapsed between the arrivals of vessels in the Colony.

The Falkland Islands are within the Postal Union as regards rates of postage.

Money Orders to the value of £7,173 were issued on the United Kingdom and elsewhere, as compared with a total of £11,458 during 1916.

The total number of letters and other postal packages handled during 1917 is estimated at 103,573, as compared with 153,909 in 1916.

VIII.—FALKLAND ISLANDS VOLUNTEERS.

21. The Volunteer Force remained throughout the year on active service, although certain members of the Force were permitted to resume their civil occupations, subject to any further call that might be made on their services.

IX.—PUBLIC WORKS.

22. Owing to the War no public works of any importance were undertaken during the year. The completion of the Town Hall permitted of the removal thereto of the Treasury, Post Office, Court House, &c., as also of the Museum and Public Library, as mentioned above.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

23. Although somewhat outside the scope of the usual Annual Report on the Blue Book a few general observations on the whaling industry of the Colony and its Dependencies, not confined altogether to the past year, may be of interest at the present time when two distinct questions on which they bear, the protection of the whale and the development of the resources of the Empire, are receiving special consideration at home.

24. The number of whales captured in southern waters in 1906 is stated in an Annual Report of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to have been 183 in all. It is from that period that the whaling industry of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies may be said to have started. In the year 1900 the Falkland Islands Government had advertised in the Official Gazette that it was prepared to grant a mining and general lease of South Georgia for a term of 21 years (renewable) to any responsible individual or company on certain stated conditions. Some correspondence led to the formation at Punta Arenas, Chile, of a company with the title of the South Georgia Exploration Company, Limited, to which the island of South Georgia was, in July, 1905, leased for a preliminary period of two years at a nominal rent of £1 per annum, with a view to a more definite arrangement later on. The Company also took out a sealing licence for South Georgia at £10.

25. The South Georgia Exploration Company, Limited, was an almost entirely British Company, the shareholders being "small" men, British shepherds of Patagonia, who invested their savings in the enterprise, raising in all a capital of some £3,000. There was quite an Elizabethan flavour about the whole adventure and their

early undertakings read almost like an extract from the pages of Hakluyt, or an account of the landing of Captain Smith in St. Kitts some centuries earlier. They chartered a small sailing vessel, the "Consort," and some of their number embarked at Punta Arenas; then, after touching at the Falkland Islands to get their lease signed up, they made their way to South Georgia. After trying several bays which they found unsuitable, they reached one "with about 7 acres of good grass land, flatter than any we had seen as yet, so we at once landed our ewes, 24 in all, 3 mares, and one stud horse, all of which were able to walk on top of the snow and eat grass (which is through the snow)."

26. On the 11th March, 1905, the Buenos Aires "Nacion" published a short account of the formation of a Whaling and Sealing Company, the Compañía Argentina de Pesca, in that city. This Company was promoted by Captain C. A. Larsen, who had commanded the "Antarctica," lost on the 1902 Swedish Expedition to the South Pole. Captain Larsen had a long experience of whaling work in Norway as well as a thorough knowledge of the Southern Seas and he easily found a number of influential capitalists to back the undertaking. The initial capital of the Company was some £40,000. In March, 1905, the "Nacion" was able to announce that the enterprise had started well, that 51 whales had been caught in less than a month, and that the first-fruits, in the shape of 200 tons of oil, had just reached Buenos Aires. This Company made its working headquarters at Cumberland Bay, in South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands Government issued a lease of the Station, the first whaling lease, to the Compañía Argentina de Pesca, to date from the 1st January, 1906.

27. The promoters of the Exploration Company were soon convinced that their original project of sheep-farming and mining in South Georgia was impracticable and they therefore decided to follow the example of the Argentine Company and devote their energies to whaling and sealing. With this end in view they applied for and obtained from the Falkland Islands Government, in December, 1907, the first whaling licence issued.

28. The little Company now found that for the new enterprise they required more capital, and the shareholders tried to raise it. They should have had no difficulty, but the strong financial interests behind their rivals made all their endeavours a failure and they were eventually obliged to sell their rights and title to a Norwegian firm, Messrs. Bryde & Dahl, for £1,500.

29. From this time the growth of the whaling industry at South Georgia was rapid, and leases have been granted to the following companies:—

- (1) The Compañía Argentina de Pesca (at Grytviken).
- (2) Messrs. Bryde & Dahl (Godt Hull Harbour, Cape George).
- (3) The Tønsberg Company (at Husvik Harbour).
- (4) The Sandefjord Company (at Stromness Bay).
- (5) The Ocean Company (at New Fortune Bay).
- (6) Messrs. Salvesen & Co. (at Leith Harbour).
- (7) The South Georgia Company (at Allardyce Harbour).
- (8) The Southern Whaling & Sealing Company (at Prince Olaf Harbour, Possession Bay).

Only the last three (6), (7), and (8) are British Companies, two being under the ownership of Messrs. Salvesen & Co., of Leith, and the third belonging to Messrs. Irvin, of South Shields. All the above Companies, with the exception of Messrs. Bryde & Dahl, have land factories, the two Salvesen Companies sharing one factory; there are thus six land factories in South Georgia. The leases are for a period of twenty-one years at an annual rental of £250, this sum giving the Company, except in the case of the Argentine de Pesca, the right to use two catchers in connection with the factory. For a further sum of £100 a licence may be issued granting the use of a third catcher. Immediately before the war only Messrs. Bryde & Dahl, the Sandefjord and the Tønsberg Companies were using third catchers; at present the situation is abnormal, and extra catchers have been authorised in accordance with the necessities of actual conditions. The Argentine de Pesca, the oldest Company, is in a slightly different position: in addition to the lease at Grytviken for £250 it also leases Jason Harbour, near by, for £100 (an 18 years lease to terminate with the main lease), and is allowed to use in all four catchers.

30. The success of the early operations of the South Georgia Companies led to an almost immediate establishment of similar Whaling Companies in other Dependencies of the Falkland Islands and in the Colony itself.

31. In 1914-15 the following Companies were licensed:—

- (a) *South Shetlands and Graham's Land.*
 - (1) Hektor, 1 land factory (lease) at Port Foster, Deception Island, 2 floating factories, 5 catchers.
 - (2) Odd, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
 - (3) Sociedad Ballenera de Magallanes, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
 - (4) Laboremus, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
 - (5) Hvalen, 2 floating factories, 3 catchers.
 - (6) Southern, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
 - (7) Norge, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
 - (8) Salvesen, 2 floating factories, 3 catchers.
 - (9) Ornen, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
 - (10) Nor, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
- (b) *South Orkneys.*
 - (1) Rethval, jointly, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
 - (2) Thule, jointly, 1 floating factory, 3 catchers.
 - (3) Hektor, 1 floating factory, 2 catchers.
 - (4) Normanna, 1 floating factory, 2 catchers.
- (c) *Sandwich Group.*

Nil.
- (d) *Falkland Islands.*
 - (1) New Whaling Company (Salvesen), Land Factory and 4 catchers.

32. A licence for the South Shetlands, including Graham's Land, or for the South Orkneys, costs £200 per annum, and gives the Company the right to use 2 floating factories and 2 catchers, while for another £100 a third catcher, if approved by the Governor in Council, may also be employed. The Hektor Company holds the only lease in the South Shetlands, and under this lease it may use its shore station (at Port Foster, Deception Island), one factory and two catchers.

Since the beginning of the War whaling has entirely ceased in the Colony and in the South Orkneys and the number of factories and catchers visiting the South Shetlands has been greatly diminished.

33. In South Georgia whaling continues all the year round, but about five-sixths of the whales killed are caught in the Southern Summer, November to May. The South Shetlands season lasts some four to five months; in normal times the boats touch at Stanley, going south in early November and repass there on their voyage north in April. The Orkney season is shorter on account of the more severe weather conditions prevailing in that Dependency. Both are entirely abandoned during the Southern Winter. The Sandwich group would appear to be of most forbidding aspect. It was visited in 1908 by an exploring expedition under Captain C. A. Larsen of the *Compañia Argentina de Pesca*. Various landings on the group were made or attempted. In places the whole air was contaminated with hot sulphur fumes to such an extent that according to Captain Larsen "no one could stay there long without being poisoned." In most parts the sea broke against walls of rock. No harbours suitable for whaling stations were found. In view of Captain Larsen's report it is not surprising that, although applications for licences have been received, no organised whaling operations have been undertaken at this most unattractive group of islands.

34. With the growth of the whaling industry Ordinances have been passed in the Colony and Regulations made with a view to controlling the operations of the Whaling Companies. These Regulations have in view not only the laying down of the numbers of factories which may be licensed, the number of catchers they may employ, and the fees to be paid, but also the prevention of waste, by exacting pressure boilers capable of utilising the whole carcass, and the protection of the whale, by the forbidding of the killing of any whale calf or any female whale when accompanied by a calf.

35. The passing of such legislation has of course necessitated the appointment of officers to see that it is effective. A Stipendiary Magistrate, also Deputy Collector of Customs, is permanently established in South Georgia, at King Edward Cove, with two or three assistants. Each year a Government Officer is sent down to Deception Island, South Shetlands, for the whaling season, going and returning on one of the vessels of the fleet. When there are any ships for the South Orkneys another officer is sent down there in a similar manner.

36. With the exception of the *Compañia Argentina de Pesca* (Argentine), and the three Companies of Messrs. Salvesen and the one of Messrs. Irvin (British), all the whaling companies now operating in the waters of the Colony and its Dependencies are Norwegian, and the non-British character of the whaling industry is marked by the fact that the employes of all the Companies, British and Argentine, as well as Norwegian, are almost without exception Norwegians.

37. Whaling, all over the world, may be said to have passed through different periods of nationality. From the 10th to the 16th century the whalers were chiefly seamen from the Basque provinces. Early in the 17th century the English endeavoured to obtain a monopoly of the whaling off Greenland and Spitzbergen, but later this fell largely into the hands of the Dutch, and, to a lesser extent, of the Germans. About the middle of the 18th century, stimulated by a bounty of

40s. per ton on the burden of the ships employed, the British industry revived and before the end of the century there were over 250 British ships engaged in the trade, sailing mostly from Peterhead and Dundee, commanded by British captains and manned by British seamen. In 1824 the bounty was withdrawn; since then British participation in the industry has decreased almost to vanishing point. There is no doubt but that at present the Norwegians are the most expert whalers, and before any true revival of this once important British industry can take place British seamen must study in the Norwegian school.

C. F. CONDELL,

Colonial Secretary.

13th May, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916-1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916-1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916-1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somaliland	"
945	Swaziland	"
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916-1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	"
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916-1917
951	Barbados	"
952	Leeward Islands	"
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	"
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916-1917
959	Cayman Islands	"
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	"
962	Ashanti	1917

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1017.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 963.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

December, 1919.



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No. 1017.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1917, see No. 963.)

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE
YEAR 1918.*

HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

The early history of the Falkland Islands, as they are now known, is shrouded in uncertainty. It has been said that one Americus Vesputius as early as 1502 sighted the islands and that in 1519 Magellan on his trip round the world also sighted the islands, but there is only evidence of a fragmentary nature to support these statements. Similarly the existence of a chart dated 1527 shewing islands, in or about the latitude of the Falkland Islands, called Ascension Islands, is not by any means conclusive evidence that the actual islands were known at that time. However, in 1592 the islands were definitely located by Captain John Davis of the "Desire," and in 1594 they were visited by Sir Richard Hawkins who, in compliment to his Sovereign, named them "Maiden Land."

The name "Falkland" was first used in 1690 when the islands were visited by Captain Strong of the "Welfare," and is in compliment to the then Treasurer of the Navy. Various visits were made to the islands thereafter and a French name was conferred upon them, "Les Isles Malouines," which name remains to-day in the "Islas Malvinas" of the Spanish American peoples. No attempt at colonisation of the country was made, however, until 1764 when an expedition under de Bougainville landed at Port Royal, afterwards and to this day known as Port Louis, after the French Monarch, in Berkeley Sound, East Falkland, but in 1766 the French interests in the Colony were purchased by Spain. In the following year Commodore John Byron landed on the West Falkland and endeavoured to form a garrison there. The British were, however, replaced by the Spaniards in 1770, but returned in 1771, and ceased to occupy the Colony for the time being in 1774. No formal occupation of the country seems to have taken place until 1820, when the Republic of Buenos Aires established a temporary settlement in the islands, the settlement being broken up in 1831 by the United States of America. In 1833 the Colony was definitely taken possession of by the British and was constituted a British Colony, with headquarters at Port Louis. From this date until 1842 the islands were under the control of the naval officers in charge of the work of surveying the waters in this vicinity. In 1842 a civil administration was formed, the capital remaining at Port Louis until 1844 when it was removed to the south shore of the inner harbour of Port William, and the chief settlement of the islands there sprang up under the name of Stanley. Since that time the Colony has been administered by a Governor

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 872. [Cd. 7622-69.]

(responsible to the Secretary of State for the Colonies) assisted by an Executive Council. Except in the growth of the town of Stanley by the erection of houses and other buildings it would seem, from a study of writers on the islands during the early years of its civil administration, that the external appearance and conditions of the Colony have altered but little. Larger or smaller settlements have from time to time sprung up throughout the islands, forming headquarters whence the various freeholders and leaseholders prosecute the sheep-farming industry of the Colony, but a perusal of Captain Snow's book, describing the islands and the life of the settlers, leaves one with a curious sense of reality and a feeling that the writer might have been describing the place as it existed five years ago rather than seventy.

The Falkland Islands, consisting of the East Falkland having an area of 3,000 square miles, the West Falkland, about 2,300 square miles and about 100 small islands with a total area of rather over 1,000 square miles, lie in the South Atlantic Ocean between lat. S. 51 and 53 and between long. W. 57 and 62. Thus they are about 480 miles to the north-east of Cape Horn, and 1,000 miles due south of Monte Video.

The Dependencies of the Falkland Islands are designated as follows in Letters Patent given under the Great Seal on the 28th March, 1917:—
"All islands and territories whatsoever between the 20th degree of West longitude and the 50th degree of West longitude which are situated south of the 50th parallel of South latitude, and all islands and territories whatsoever between the 50th degree of West longitude and the 80th degree of West longitude which are situated south of the 58th parallel of South latitude." Thus, such islands and territories include South Georgia, South Shetland Islands, South Orkney Islands, South Sandwich Islands, Graham's Land, and the territory extending southwards therefrom to the Pole.

The Falkland Islands in general physical appearance consist of bleak rolling moorland interspersed with outbreaks of grey rock and stone runs. They bear a marked resemblance to some parts of the north-west coast of Scotland and to the Shetland Islands, being, if anything, more bleak and barren than the latter. In some parts of the coast high rock cliffs may be seen but the country can hardly be described as mountainous, the highest peak, Mount Adam, on the West Falkland, only rising to 2,315 feet above sea level. Nevertheless the contour of the country is nowhere flat: long ridges of moorland run from east to west on the East Falkland, and from north to south on the West Falkland, and an inexperienced traveller in the islands will readily be confused at the apparently exact similarity of the ridges over or along which he passes on his journey.

There being no roads outside the limits of Stanley, and the surface soil consisting mainly of soft peat, travelling is difficult and is done entirely on horseback, while produce sent to Stanley for export is all waterborne.

The face of the country is covered, in the main, with a coarse yellowish grass capable of feeding cattle or of maintaining sheep of the "greasy Cross-bred" variety. Although an attempt was made in the early days of the Colony to devote the land to cattle-breeding, sheep-farming is now, and has been for many years, the sole industry

of the Falkland Islands. Practically the whole country has now been alienated for this purpose, being split up into a number of farms the freeholds of which have been, or are in process of being, purchased from the Crown. Each of such farms, or sections of land, has its headquarters, consisting of the Manager's house, cook-house, wool-sheds, pens, &c., at a settlement situated on the coast at a point convenient for the shipment of produce to Stanley. At other suitable points about the farm may be found small houses occupied by the shepherds of the various sections.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

In a Colony which is so isolated, so sparsely populated, and so far distant from any other part of the Empire it is to be expected that life from year to year should continue in an even and almost uninterrupted course and that one year should appear but little different from that which preceded it. The year 1918 has, however, been marked by an accentuation of isolation as regards the Colony of the Falkland Islands. Steamer communication before the War was regular and frequent enough to satisfy all the requirements of the Colony; but, in consequence of the increasing demands for shipping necessarily made by the Imperial Government, diminished to such an extent that during the year under review, apart from the whaling vessels, the Colony was visited by no more than six vessels, these being cargo boats of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, and arriving at very irregular intervals.

Written communication between the Colony and the Mother Country has been difficult and exceedingly slow, while the importation of sufficient and suitable foodstuffs for consumption in the Colony has been a matter requiring considerable arrangement and foresight.

As was to be expected the prices of foodstuffs and other articles of common household consumption, already exceedingly high, made considerable advances during the course of the year (*e.g.*, tea in January, 1918, was obtainable at 2s. 6d. a pound; in December it could not be had for less than 6s. a pound; condensed milk—a very necessary commodity owing to the scarcity of fresh milk during many months of the year—in January could be bought for 11s. a dozen tins for which 24s. had to be paid in December). The rising prices and the comparative scarcity of foodstuffs during the year have combined, in spite of the payment of war bonuses &c., to make living a difficult and serious matter for the generality of the population of the Colony. Partly, perhaps, owing to the difficulty of living in the Falkland Islands, and partly induced by hopes of improvement and by the offer of higher wages in the wider and less fully developed lands of Argentina and Tierra del Fuego there has been throughout 1918 a very noticeable tendency towards emigration from the Colony. The actual official figures for the year are, immigrants 15, emigrants 43, out of a total population of 2,252, but these figures do not adequately represent the tendency which is steadily growing towards emigration to South America and it is possible a very considerable increase in the number of young men leaving the Colony may be looked for as soon as peace conditions render such emigration possible.

The following table gives particulars of the Vital Statistics of the Colony and Dependencies for the years 1917 and 1918.

	1917.	1918.
Estimated Population		
31st December ..	3,241 (2,269 M. 972 F.)	3,252 (2,270 M. 982 F.)
Births	61 (31 M. 30 F.)	59 (37 M. 22 F.)
Deaths	16 (7 M. 9 F.)	20 (15 M. 5 F.)
Marriages	17	8
Birth rate per 1,000	18·82	18·13
Death rate per 1,000	4·93	6·15
Population per sq. mile	·43	·43

The health of the Colony has continued to be uniformly good. No epidemic of a serious nature has occurred during the year and severe sickness of any kind has been rare.

With regard to the Dependencies the progress of the whaling industry will be noted in due course (*vide infra*, "Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture, and Industry") but in speaking of labour it may be well to note here that in the Dependency of South Georgia the year was marked by strikes for higher wages occurring on certain of the stations, possibly due in large part to the importation of inferior labour from Monte Video and Buenos Aires. In recent years there have been sporadic and isolated cases of breach of contract and refusal of duty here and there among the whaling stations, but since 1913 no serious labour disturbances have taken place. The staffs of the land stations, the crews of the floating factories and whale catchers, in fact the whole personnel of the whaling industry is almost entirely foreign, as is the greater part of the capital employed in the industry, and it is manifestly a difficult task to maintain order effectively in an isolated and snow-bound island such as South Georgia among a population of a thousand persons composed almost entirely of Norwegian and Argentine sailors and labourers. The late Colonial Secretary, Mr. C. F. Condell (now Commissioner of Montserrat, B.W.I.) paid an official visit to South Georgia in the months of May and June but the main labour disturbances took place after his departure from the Dependency.

It was with profound thankfulness and joy that the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands received the news of the signing of the Armistice with Germany on the 11th November. The people of this Colony have special reason to hold in grateful remembrance the might of Britain's Navy since their deliverance on the 8th December, 1914, and though they have been able to do but little to further the Allied cause, such as they have been able to do they have done willingly and gladly and no hearts beat with more loyalty to the person and throne of His Majesty King George V., with more grateful appreciation and admiration of the heroism and tenacity of His Navy and Army, or with more sincere joy and thankfulness for the happy victory vouchsafed to them.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The totals of ordinary revenue and ordinary expenditure for the last five years are as follows:—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
1914	£33,760	£31,543
1915	£34,347	£31,135
1916	£39,106	£22,320
1917	£36,491	£28,480
1918	£37,472	£24,971

It will be seen from the above figures that the activities of the War have caused no decrease in the ordinary revenue of the Colony.

The totals of ordinary revenue and expenditure for the year 1908 (ten years ago) were £17,775 and £15,685.

The expenditure for the years 1917 and 1918 included payments of £1,440 and £1,450 respectively to the Imperial Government, being 10% of the annual revenue of the Colony derived from Customs Duties and paid as the first and second of ten annual payments made under the provisions of The War Expenses Contribution Ordinance, 1917.

An important change in the taxation of the Colony was given legislative effect during the year but as this change did not come into operation until the 1st January, 1919, and made no difference to the finances of the year under review it is dealt with in a subsequent section of this Report (*vide* "Legislation," *infra*).

There is no Public Debt.

The number of Currency Notes issued under the provisions of an Order of Queen Victoria in Council dated 7th March, 1899, was increased during the year from £12,000 to £15,000. There were in circulation at the end of the year 905 Notes of £5, 10,436 of £1, and 156 of 5s., denomination.

The total Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December were as follows:—

Assets	£323,766
Liabilities	£140,565
Surplus of Assets	£183,201

ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE,
AND INDUSTRY.(a) *Falkland Islands.*

The sole industry of the Falkland Islands is sheep-farming. Of an estimated acreage of 4,160,000 only about 160 acres are under cultivation. These 160 acres comprise more or less experimental oat-fields. The result so far has been encouraging and it seems probable that more land will from time to time be put under the plough especially on the West Falkland, where conditions are more favourable to the growing of crops than on the East.

The pasture land of the Colony is not rich in food and the average carrying capacity of the land is correspondingly small, and from the nature of the climate only hardy sheep of the greasy Cross-bred variety will thrive in the Colony. From the 1918 returns there were in that year 699,368 sheep in the Falkland Islands, the figure for the year 1917

being 696,975. A canning factory at Goose Green, East Falkland, maintained by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, attempts with some success to dispose annually of the surplus sheep of the Colony. Of stock other than sheep there were in the Colony in 1918, 3,250 horses and 7,250 cattle.

(b) *Dependencies.*

A full account of the growth and present state of the whaling industry of the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands is given under the heading "General Observations" in the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1917, No. 963 [Cd. 8973-12].

For the purposes of the Blue Book and for those of this Report it is considered more convenient to regard the whaling year in the Dependencies as extending from the 1st October to the following 30th September. In South Georgia whaling operations are conducted throughout the year but the whaling year for convenience sake is divided into two so-called seasons, the "summer season" (October to March) and the "winter season" (April to September). Whales are more plentiful and climatic conditions are more favourable, and consequently activities are greater, in the "summer season" than in the "winter season."

In the South Shetlands and other Dependencies, although the licences issued entitle the holder to conduct operations throughout the whaling year (1st October to 30th September following) it is found in practice impossible to hunt the whale for more than six months (November to April) at the outside, and in the case of the South Orkneys, where operations have not been conducted since the 1914-15 season, the period when it is possible to operate is considerably shorter.

A comparison of the whaling operations of the Dependencies during the whaling years 1916-17 and 1917-18 shows the following figures:—

<i>South Georgia.</i>			
	1916-1917	1917-1918	
Floating factories ..	2 ..	4	
Catchers ..	29 ..	35	
Whales caught ..	5,513 ..	3,199	
Value of produce ..	£1,015,091 ..	£1,094,736	

<i>South Shetlands.</i>			
Floating factories ..	4 ..	5	
Catchers ..	12 ..	13	
Whales caught ..	2,033 ..	923	
*Value of produce ..	£497,260 ..	£396,700	

* Estimated. Includes whale oil, baleen, and guano.

In the other dependencies no operations took place during either season.

Sealing operations are also conducted at South Georgia by the Compania Argentina de Pesca. In 1918 the catch was 2,961 seals with an estimated value of £30,685, as compared with 3,201 seals with an estimated value of £26,435 in 1917.

During the War the Regulations formerly enforced to prevent waste in the preparation of the products of the whaling industry have been to some extent relaxed in order to permit of a greater output of oil of certain grades suitable for use in the manufacture of goods required for Imperial purposes.

In view of the signing of the Armistice and the near prospect of peace, these regulations have recently been put into force again as formerly.

(c) *General Trade.*

The following table shows the value of the Imports and Exports of the Colony during the years 1917 and 1918.

		<i>Imports from</i>	
		1917	1918
United Kingdom	..	£681,603	£487,787
British Colonies	..	£89,088	£94,964
Other Countries	..	£486,215	£357,162
Total	..	£1,256,906	£939,937

		<i>Exports to</i>	
United Kingdom	..	£1,777,487	£1,891,409
British Colonies	..	—	£350
Other Countries	..	£93,416	£162,527
Total	..	£1,870,903	£2,054,286

In order to gauge the rapid progress of the Colony's trade in recent years it is interesting to compare the above figures with the totals of Imports and Exports recorded for the year 1908 :—

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
United Kingdom	£65,744	£203,511
British Colonies	£150	—
Foreign Countries	£7,168	£52,205
	£73,062	£189,972

INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

Though no definite investigations have yet been made it appears exceedingly probable that after the War steps may be taken for the establishment in South Georgia of a cod-fishery (*Notothenia rossii*). From reports received from the Dependency the fish appears to be plentiful and of a suitable quality and size for export purposes. The Sea Fisheries Ordinance, 1918, was enacted in anticipation of the establishment of such an industry, and a Mining Ordinance, 1918, was enacted at the beginning of the year in view of the probability of increased interest in the mineral resources of the Colony and Dependencies after the War.

BANKING FACILITIES.

There are no Banking facilities in the Colony with the exception of those offered by the Government Savings Bank, instituted under the provisions of the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1888. The accounts of the Government Savings Bank are made up on the 30th September in each year. On the 30th September, 1919, the amount standing to the

credit of the depositors was £125,882 divided among a total of 796 depositors. This figure shows an average for each account of £158, or about £55 10s. 0d., per head of the population of the Colony.

The sum of £2,694 was paid as interest at the rate of 2½% per annum on the several deposit accounts. The profit and loss account on the year's transactions shows a profit of £985. After 1918 the profit on each year's transactions will be expended in the purchase of securities to form a Savings Bank Investment Depreciation Fund. Deposits made in the Savings Bank during the year amounted to £28,730, withdrawals during the same period being £18,630.

LEGISLATION.

The main body of the legislation of the Colony during the year 1918 is of a very important nature. Ordinance No. 1 of 1918 "An Ordinance to authorize and regulate Prospecting and Mining," sets at rest any doubts which may have arisen with respect to the extent of the mining rights reserved to the Crown regarding grants or leases of Crown Land in the Colony or its Dependencies, and prescribes the manner in which mineral deposits &c., may be prospected for and the conditions on which such deposits may be worked.

Ordinance No. 5 of 1918 "An Ordinance to provide for a graduated Land Tax," together with the subsidiary and dependent Ordinances Nos. 6 and 7 of 1918, "An Ordinance to repeal the third Schedule (Export Duties) of the Tariff Ordinance, 1900, and to replace the same by an amended Schedule" and "An Ordinance to repeal the Tax on Land under the live Stock Ordinance, 1901," respectively, provide for a very considerable change in the collection of the Colony's revenue.

This fresh legislation, which comes into operation on the 1st January, 1919, removes all export duties levied on the produce of the sheep-farming industry, and substitutes a graduated tax on the acreages of the several grants or leases of land. It further removes the small land tax paid into the Trust fund under the provisions of the Live Stock Ordinance, 1901, and provides for inclusion in the ordinary expenditure of the Colony of all expenses incurred by, or for, the Stock Department.

No. 9 of 1918, "An Ordinance to Regulate the Sea Fisheries," prescribes the conditions under which licences may be issued and fishing operations conducted.

EDUCATION.

There is no higher or secondary education in the Colony. The Government School, Stanley, provides practically free elementary education and is in the charge of a duly certificated schoolmaster and schoolmistress.

The Roman Catholic community in Stanley also conduct an elementary school. This school draws no grant from the Government and is not in any way subject to examination or supervision by Government nominees.

Teaching in the outlying parts of the country is done by travelling teachers, who have certain itineraries assigned to them and make regular visits to the various settlements and shepherds' houses on their

“beat.” Of these in normal times the Government employ five (2 on East Falkland and 3 on West Falkland) and the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, two on their own land, Lafonia, on East Falkland. Owing to war conditions it has, however, been found impossible for the Government to fill the vacancies in these posts as they occurred, there being on the 31st December, 1918, only one Government travelling teacher with 19 children under instruction instead of 5 with 90 odd children as in former times. It is hoped, however, that the vacancies caused by the War will shortly be filled and that the education of children in the camp will proceed as before.

Provision is made for the training of pupil teachers at the Government School, Stanley.

CLIMATE.

The climate of the Falkland Islands is healthy but rigorous. To those indisposed to pulmonary or bronchial affections, though seldom pleasant the weather conditions are at least innocuous.

High winds blow almost constantly by day throughout the year and to this may be attributed the almost entire absence of trees in the islands.

There is, however, no scarcity of sunshine, compared with that experienced in the United Kingdom, and were the cold winds less continuous and trying there would be many days when the weather might almost be described as “hot.” The difference between one extreme of temperature and the other is not considerable, the thermometer registering between 30° and 50° Fahr. in winter and between 40° and 65° in summer. The rainfall in Stanley for the past few years has averaged about 27 inches per annum, in 1917 being 24·68 and in 1918 27·57, rain falling on 234 days in 1917 and on 240 in 1918. The winter of 1918, from a sheep farmer’s point of view, proved to be exceptionally severe. Heavy frosts, followed by long continuing snows and then by severe rains, destroyed to a very large extent the feeding properties of the camp and, as will probably be seen in the Stock Returns for the 1918-19 season, resulted in heavy losses in stock generally and particularly in lambs.

Weather conditions in South Georgia are extremely rigorous in the winter months, but the rainfall there though greater than that recorded in Stanley is confined to fewer days, while in the summer months the climate is probably more tolerable on account of the absence of the high winds experienced throughout the year in Stanley, and also on account of the smaller degree of humidity in the Dependency.

COMMUNICATION.

As has already been stated means of communication with the outer world, and particularly with the United Kingdom, have been very few. Six vessels of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, cargo boats calling to lift produce, visited the Colony during the year. The infrequency and irregularity of the calls made by these vessels and the fact that they returned to England through the Straits of Magellan, the Panama Canal and via the West Indies and North America, has rendered written communication with the United Kingdom extremely difficult. (*vide* “General Observations,” *supra*).

Interinsular communication is maintained by the Falkland Islands Transport Company’s s.s. “Falkland.” Under the terms of the Company’s agreement with the Colonial Government the s.s. “Falkland” is supposed to leave Stanley monthly within 72 hours of the arrival of the mail vessel from England, and to call at Fox Bay, which is the mail port for the West Falkland, making periodical calls at other ports according to a schedule agreed upon. Owing to the dislocation of shipping through war conditions, however, the arrangement contemplated by the Interinsular Steamer Communication Agreement, 1916, was altered in 1918 at the request of residents on the West Falkland Islands and with the consent of the contracting parties, and the s.s. “Falkland” now leaves Stanley on her monthly mail trip during the first week in each month, irrespective of the movements of vessels from outside the Colony.

Stanley is connected with Monte Video by a cable. There is a high power Naval Wireless Station in the environs of Stanley and a small installation, worked in conjunction with the high power station, maintains communication with a small Colonial Government wireless station completed at Fox Bay, West Falkland, in November, 1918.

The station at Fox Bay has proved to be of great use and benefit to the residents on the West Falkland and adjacent islands, whose isolation in previous years has been even greater than that of their slightly less unfortunate fellows on the East Falkland.

The erection of this Wireless Telegraph Station has been the only public work of unusual importance undertaken throughout the year.

Telephonic communication between Stanley and the several stations on the East Falkland, and between the several stations on the West Falkland, has been gradually increasing during the last few years. On the East Falkland, apart from the Stanley system, constituted and owned by the Colonial Government, with some fifty odd subscribers and some ten odd miles in length open for traffic, there are four privately-owned lines run in connection with the Stanley Exchange, viz., running from Stanley to Darwin, to Teal Inlet and Douglas Station, to Fitzroy, and to Port Louis, comprising in all some 150 odd miles of wire. On the West Falkland, Fox Bay, Port Howard, Hill Cove, and Chartres are inter-connected by telephone and there are indications that these stations will shortly be joined up with others.

During the year 1918 the Colonial Government disposed of its half share of the Stanley-Darwin telephone line to the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, at whose joint expense with the Colonial Government, the line had been erected and maintained under an Agreement entered into in the year 1907.

T. N. GODDARD,
for Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
986	Cyprus	1917-1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
988	East Africa Protectorate.. .. .	1916-1917
989	Barbados	1917-1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements.	"
992	Leeward Islands	1917-1918
993	Uganda	"
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands.	1917-1918
996	Nyasaland	"
997	Basutoland.. .. .	"
998	Gold Coast.. .. .	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	"
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland.. .. .	1917-1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta	1918-1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	"
1007	Ceylon	"
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands.	1918
1010	St. Helena	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate.. .. .	1917-1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918-1919
1016	Basutoland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1076.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1017.)



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No. 1076.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND
ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1919.*

HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

The early history of the Falkland Islands, as they are now known, is shrouded in uncertainty. It has been said that one Americus Vespucius as early as 1502 sighted the islands and that in 1519 Magellan on his trip round the world also sighted the islands, but there is only evidence of a fragmentary nature to support these statements. Similarly the existence of a chart dated 1527 shewing islands, in or about the latitude of the Falkland Islands, called Ascension Islands, is not by any means conclusive evidence that the actual islands were known at that time. However, in 1592 the islands were definitely located by Captain John Davis of the "Desire," and in 1594 they were visited by Sir Richard Hawkins who, in compliment to his Sovereign, named them "Maiden Land."

The name "Falkland" was first used in 1690 when the islands were visited by Captain Strong of the "Welfare," and is in compliment to the then Treasurer of the Navy. Various visits were made to the islands thereafter and a French name was conferred upon them, "Les Isles Malouines," which name remains to-day in the "Islas Malvinas" of the Spanish American peoples. No attempt at colonisation of the country was made, however, until 1764, when an expedition under de Bougainville landed at Port Royal, afterwards and to this day known as Port Louis, after the French Monarch, in Berkeley Sound, East Falkland, but in 1766 the French interests in the Colony were purchased by Spain. In the following year Commodore John Byron landed on the West Falkland and endeavoured to form a garrison there. The British were, however, replaced by the Spaniards in 1770, but returned in 1771, and ceased to occupy the Colony for the time being in 1774. No formal occupation of the country seems to have taken place until 1820, when the Republic of Buenos Aires established a temporary settlement in the islands, the settlement being broken up in 1831 by the United States of America. In 1833 the Colony was definitely taken possession of by the British and was constituted a British Colony, with headquarters at Port Louis. From this date until 1842 the islands were under the control of the naval officers in charge of the work of surveying the waters in this vicinity. In 1842 a civil administration was formed, the capital remaining at Port Louis until 1844, when it was removed to the south shore of the inner harbour of Port William, and the chief settlement of the islands there sprang up under the name of

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 872 (Cd. 7622-63).

Stanley. Since that time the Colony has been administered by a Governor (responsible to the Secretary of State for the Colonies) assisted by an Executive Council. Except in the growth of the town of Stanley by the erection of houses and other buildings it would seem, from a study of writers on the islands during the early years of its civil administration, that the external appearance and conditions of the Colony have altered but little. Larger or smaller settlements have from time to time sprung up throughout the islands, forming headquarters whence the various freeholders and leaseholders prosecute the sheep-farming industry of the Colony, but a perusal of Captain Snow's book, describing the islands and the life of the settlers, leaves one with a curious sense of reality and a feeling that the writer might have been describing the place as it existed five years ago rather than seventy.

The Falkland Islands, consisting of the East Falkland having an area of 3,000 square miles, the West Falkland, about 2,300 square miles, and about 100 small islands with a total area of rather over 1,000 square miles, lie in the South Atlantic Ocean between lat. S. 51 and 53 and between long. W. 57 and 62. Thus they are about 480 miles to the north-east of Cape Horn, and 1,000 miles due south of Monte Video.

The Dependencies of the Falkland Islands are designated as follows in Letters Patent given under the Great Seal on the 28th March, 1917:—"All islands and territories whatsoever between the 20th degree of West longitude and the 50th degree of West longitude which are situated south of the 50th parallel of South latitude, and all islands and territories whatsoever between the 50th degree of West longitude and the 80th degree of West Longitude which are situated south of the 58th parallel of South latitude." Thus, such islands and territories include South Georgia, South Shetland Islands, South Orkney Islands, South Sandwich Islands, Graham's Land, and the territory extending southwards therefrom to the Pole.

The Falkland Islands in general physical appearance consist of bleak rolling moorland interspersed with outbreaks of grey rock and stone runs. They bear a marked resemblance to some parts of the north-west coast of Scotland and to the Shetland Islands, being, if anything, more bleak and barren than the latter. In some parts of the coast high rock cliffs may be seen, but the country can hardly be described as mountainous, the highest peak, Mount Adam, on the West Falkland, rising to only 2,315 feet above sea level. Nevertheless, the contour of the country is nowhere flat; long ridges of moorland run from east to west on the East Falkland, and from north to south on the West Falkland, and an inexperienced traveller in the islands will readily be confused at the apparently exact similarity of the ridges over or along which he passes on his journey.

There being no roads outside the limits of Stanley, and the surface soil consisting mainly of soft peat, travelling is difficult and is done entirely on horseback, while produce sent to Stanley for export is all waterborne.

The face of the country is covered, in the main, with a coarse yellowish grass, capable of feeding cattle or of maintaining sheep of the "greasy Cross-bred" variety. Although an attempt was made in the early days of the Colony to devote the land to cattle-breeding, sheep-farming is now, and has been for many years, the sole industry of the Falkland Islands. Practically the whole country has now been alienated for this purpose, being split up into a number of farms the freeholds of which have been, or are in process of being, purchased from the Crown. Each of such farms, or sections of land, has its headquarters, consisting of the Manager's house, cook-house, wool-sheds, pens, &c., at a settlement situated on the coast at a point convenient for the shipment of produce to Stanley. At other suitable points about the farm may be found small houses occupied by the shepherds of the various sections.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The Revenue of the Colony and its Dependencies for the year amounted to £48,496—an increase of £11,024 over the Revenue of the previous year, while the expenditure exceeded that of 1918, by £640 only.

The excess of Actual Revenue over the Actual Expenditure of the year was £21,586, which amount was added to the Surplus Balance of the Colony.

The Surplus Balance at the 31st December, 1919, amounted to £58,690.

The following is a comparative statement of the Ordinary Revenue and Expenditure for the five years from 1915 to 1919 inclusive :—

	Revenue			Expenditure		
	£			£		
1915	34,347	..	..	33,001
1916	39,106	..	..	24,944
1917	36,491	..	..	29,386
1918	37,472	..	..	26,270
1919	48,496	..	..	26,910

Of the increase of £11,024 in the Revenue of 1919 over that of 1918, 50 per cent. was due to the proceeds of the Land Tax which was imposed in substitution for the duty on the produce of the Colony.

There is no import duty except on wines, spirits and tobacco; and no export duty whatever on the produce of the Colony, the Land Tax having been substituted therefor: (vide the Land Tax Ordinance, 1918), while the Export Duty on Whale and Seal Products from the Dependencies was raised as from the 1st October, 1919, to 1s. 6d per barrel of 40 gallons of oil: the duty on Guano of all kinds remaining at 1½d. per every 100 lb. or part thereof.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The surplus of Assets over Liabilities at the 31st December, 1919, amounted to £212,973, of which £152,002 was represented by the Land Sales Fund.

SAVINGS BANK.

There are no Banking facilities in the Colony with the exception of those offered by the Government Savings Bank, which was instituted under the provisions of the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1888. The financial year of the Savings Bank is from the 1st October to the 30th of the following September.

At the end of the financial year, there were 781 accounts open, with a total of £116,673 2s. 4d., or an average of £149 7s. 9d. per account, or £51 16s. 2d. per head of the population of the Colony.

CURRENCY.

The Currency Note Issue was increased during the year to £18,000, under the provisions of the Currency Order in Council, dated 7th March, 1899; the Coin Portion and the Investment Portion of the Note Guarantee Fund each amounting to £9,000 at the 31st December, while the Note Depreciation Fund amounted to £890 15s. 7d.

The Notes in circulation at the 31st December, 1919, amounted to a sum of £18,000, representing the following denominations:

£5 Notes,	1,505	..	..	..	..	£	7,525
£1	10,436	..	..	..	..	..	10,436
5s.	156	..	..	..	..	..	39
							£18,000

No notes were withdrawn during the year

The market value of the Investments at the 31st December, 1919, was £1,091 lower than the price at which the stocks were bought, and the excess of the Currency Commissioners' Liabilities over Assets amounted to £201.

Current Coins.—The coins current in the Colony are the gold, silver and copper coins of the Realm.

PUBLIC DEBT.

There is no Public Debt.

LEGISLATION.

The Legislation during the year included :—

(1) An Ordinance whereby the Export Duty on Whale Oil was increased from 3½d. to 1s. 6d. per barrel of 40 gallons.

This additional duty will be earmarked for the Research Fund to be instituted in connection with the Dependencies.

(2) An Ordinance to prohibit former Enemy Aliens (*i.e.*, any person who is a citizen or subject of a State with which His Majesty was at any time during the year 1918 at war) landing in the Colony without a permit.

(3) An Ordinance to prohibit the landing in South Georgia and to deport therefrom any alien considered dangerous to the peace and good order of the Dependency.

(4) A Proclamation declaring the end of Active Service for the Falkland Islands Volunteer Corps and reversion to normal Peace Conditions.

EDUCATION.

There is no Higher or Secondary Education in the Colony. *The Government School, Stanley*, provides practically free elementary education, and is in charge of a duly Certificated Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress.

At 31st December, 1919 :—

The number of pupils on the roll was	116
The average attendance during the year was	106

Travelling Teachers.—The Government employed one travelling teacher to tour the West Falkland and impart instruction to the children in the "Camps."

The number of children under instruction during the past three years was as follows :—

1917	1918	1919
49	19	20

During the last month of the year, four additional Travelling Teachers arrived in the Colony, thus completing the establishment provided for.

St. Mary's Convent School (Roman Catholic).—This is an Elementary School with a roll of 101 pupils at the 31st December, 1919, and an average attendance during the year of 95.

Government exercises no supervision or authority over the work of this school, nor is any Government Grant made in support of it.

Falkland Islands Company's School and Camp Teachers.—The number of children receiving instruction at the Company's School at Darwin, and from the Camp Teachers, during the past three years was as follows :—

1917	1918	1919
66	63	69

The total number of children thus receiving education in the Colony during 1919 amounted to 306, as against 309 in the previous year.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Colony has been good, no epidemic of a serious nature having occurred during the year. The following extracts are taken from the Acting Colonial Surgeon's Report for the year :—

"The outstanding features are :—

- (1) The rarity of malignant diseases.
- (2) The rarity of venereal diseases.
- (3) The rarity of all forms of tuberculosis.
- (4) Freedom from infectious diseases.
- (5) Prevalence of alimentary disorders.

"A great number of children suffer from chronic tonsillitis, and during the first year laryngismus. The latter is attributed to a nervous erethism begotten by close confinement to ill-ventilated rooms."

"The question of inter-marriage is becoming more serious every year, and is slowly but surely imparting the stamp of degeneration on the race."

"There is no such thing as systematic drainage. The only method of discharge is by open gutters which on warm days are very offensive Yet if we contemplate the influence of winds in the economy of human life, the township of Stanley will find them highly beneficial as they contribute greatly to preserving the health of the people by the dissipation of the noxious exhalations arising from sluggish drains and heaps of putrefying matter."

"Most of the houses are ill-ventilated and are not fitted up with accommodation for hot and cold bathing."

Sixteen patients were admitted during the year to the King Edward Memorial Hospital.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives particulars of the Vital Statistics of the Colony and the Dependency of South Georgia for the years 1918 and 1919:—

	1918.	1919.
Estimated Population at 31st December	3,252 (2,270 M.) (982 F.)	3,255 (2,271 M.) (984 F.)
Births	59 (37 M.) (22 F.)	66 (39 M.) (27 M.)
Deaths	20 (15 M.) (5 F.)	27 (21 M.) (6 F.)
Marriages	8	17
Birth rate per 1,000	18·13	20·3
Death	8·15	8·2
Population per square mile	·43	·43

It must be remembered that of the population of 1,000 in South Georgia only three are females; the birth-rate and the death-rate would be more correctly shown thus:—

	Birth rate per 1,000.	Death rate per 1,000.
Falkland Islands Colony	28·82	8·00
South Georgia	1·00	9·00

Except during the whaling season, there is no population in the South Shetlands; none whatever at the Sandwich Islands; and only four persons are permanently resident in the South Orkneys. These last named are officials of the Argentine Government at the Meteorological Station on Laurie Island.

COMMUNICATION.

(1) *Mails*.—Communication between the Colony and the outside world was limited. Only one mail and five cargo steamers of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company called at Stanley with mails during the year.

The interinsular communication of the Colony was maintained by the Falkland Islands Transport Company s.s. "Falkland," up to the end of the year, when the mail contract between the Government and the Company expired.

(2) *Cables, Telegraphs and Telephones*.—(a) Stanley is connected with Monte Video by a cable which is the property of the Admiralty, and is maintained and worked by a staff lent by the Western Telegraph Company.

(b) A 150 K.W. Wireless Station at Stanley, the property of the Admiralty, communicates with Cerrito (Monte Video), Ascension, &c.; and with the Government Wireless Telegraph Station at Fox Bay, West Falkland.

(c) The Stanley Township system of telephones is owned by the Colonial Government, and linked to it in the East Falkland are four privately-owned telephone lines, viz.: one from Darwin, one from Teal Inlet and Douglas Station, one from Fitzroy, and one from Port Louis South. These four lines cover some 150 miles of country. On the West Falkland practically all the stations are connected by telephone, and news received at Fox Bay by wireless telegraph may thus be disseminated over the Island.

INDUSTRIES.

(1) *Sheep-Farming*.—Practically the only industry in the Colony is sheep-farming. The estimated acreage of the Colony, including its adjacent islands, is 4,160,000 acres, all of which, or as much as can be used for pasture, is devoted to sheep.

The total number of sheep recorded is 645,738, as against 669,996 in the previous year. 21,849 sheep were exported, 23,937 killed for consumption, and 29,472 used in the Canning Factory.

The horses in the Colony numbered 2,486, together with 464 Brood Mares, 261 Foals; and the cattle, 5,406.

(2) *Mutton, Canning and Tallow*.—The Falkland Islands Company owns a factory at Goose Green, Darwin, East Falkland, where the surplus sheep of the Colony are utilised for canned mutton or boiled down for tallow; 12,222 cases of the former and 786 barrels of the latter having been exported during the year to the United Kingdom.

8,112 bales of wool and 1,201 bales of sheep-skins (valued at £322,000) were exported during the year; also 1,254 bales of hides valued at £2,559.

WHALING AND SEALING IN THE DEPENDENCIES.

The Whaling Season at South Georgia is divided into:—

- (a) The Summer Season: October to March.
 (b) The Winter Season: April to September. And Whaling is here conducted all the year round owing to the fact that the bases of operation are shore stations on the Island. At South Shetlands, where there is only one shore station, operations are conducted by floating factories and their attendant catchers, and the season extends from November to March only.

During the season 1918-19 the Companies operating numbered:—

	No.	"Catchers" employed.
At South Georgia	5	27
At South Shetlands	6	22
At South Orkneys	—	—

The season's work is represented by the following figures:—

	Whales Caught.	Barrels of Oil.	Bags of Guano.	Estimated Market Value.
At South Georgia	2,476	131,794	6,676	£1,802,500
At South Shetlands	1,763	84,456	—	
At South Orkneys	—	—	—	
	4,239	216,250	6,676	

The figures for the season 1917-18 are as follows:—

	Whales Caught.	Barrels of Oil.	Bags of Guano.	Estimated Market Value.
At South Georgia	3,199	202,503	994	£1,566,500
At South Shetlands	1,114	55,973	—	
At South Orkneys	—	—	—	
	4,313	258,476	994	

Though the "catch" of whales in 1918-19 was slightly less than that in 1917-18, 7,000 tons more of oil were produced, and the estimated market value had risen from £36 to £50 per ton and was continuing to rise.

It is estimated that the output from the shore factories at South Georgia is from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. greater than that from the floating factories at South Shetlands, in proportion to the "catch," the reason being that the shore factories are able to treat the whole carcase of the whale, whereas the floating factories can only deal with the blubber and a small portion of the meat.

SHIPPING.

The tonnage of shipping during the year is represented by the following figures:—

Entered at.	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Stanley	31	39,094	—	—
Dependencies	32	39,161	5	5,567
	63	78,255	5	5,567

Cleared from	Steam Vessels.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Stanley	32	39,027	—	—
Dependencies	37	40,113	3	3,305
	69	79,140	3	3,305

GENERAL TRADE.

The Imports to and Exports from the Colony and its Dependencies are represented by the following figures:—

IMPORTS.

To	From	
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies and Foreign Countries.
	£	£
Colony	121,649	43,893
South Georgia	600,892	255,847
	£722,541	£299,740
Total ..		£1,022,281

EXPORTS.

From	To	
	United Kingdom.	British Colonies and Foreign Countries.
	£	£
Colony	401,972	2,540
South Georgia	910,846	137,475
South Shetlands	723,060	—
	£2,035,878	£140,015
Total ..		£2,175,893

The figures for 1918 are:—

Imports .. £939,937 Exports .. £2,054,286

The Imports of the Colony consist of Household Goods and Ship Chandlers' Stores, Hardware, etc.; while those to South Georgia are mostly comprised of Coal, Timber, Hardware, and Machinery, Ship Chandlers' Stores, and Household Goods. The Exports from the Colony consist of Wool, Sheepskins, Hides, Canned Meat, and Tallow, while those from the Dependencies consist of Whale and Seal Oil, Guano and Baleen entirely.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

(1) *Falkland Islands*.—The only records available for the year in respect of the Falkland Islands are those for the township of Stanley, which show that 30·29 inches of rain fell on 237 days out of the year, the maximum being 1·40 inches on the 28th May, and the minimum ·18 inches on the 24th October.

The Rainfall Records at Stanley for the past three years show:—

DAYS OF RAIN.			
For 1917	234	..	24·68 inches.
.. 1918	240	..	27·57 ..
.. 1919	237	..	30·29 ..

(2) *South Georgia (King Edward Cove)*:—

DAYS OF RAIN.			
For 1919	229	..	51·20 inches.

the maximum being 3·364 inches on the 22nd August, and the minimum ·160 inches on the 21st November.

Mean Wind Force.—The mean wind force at King Edward Cove for the year was 2·43.

W. P. MARTIN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley,
28th February, 1921.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	"
1044	Bermuda	"
1045	Basutoland	1919-1920
1046	Cyprus	"
1047	Fiji	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	"
1049	Ceylon	"
1050	Gibraltar	1919-1920
1051	Somaliland	"
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	"
1054	Uganda	1918-1919
1055	Malta	1919-1920
1056	Swaziland	"
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919-1920
1060	British Solomon Islands	"
1061	Seychelles	"
1062	Mauritius	"
1063	St. Vincent	April-December 1919
1064	Nigeria	1919
1065	Sierra Leone	"
1066	Gold Coast	"
1067	Jamaica	1919-1920
1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1070	British Honduras	"
1071	Hong Kong	"
1072	Barbados	1919-1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918-1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919-1920
1075	Nyasaland	1919-1920

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1144.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1076.)



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No. 1144.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND
ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1920.*

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Falkland Islands consist of the East Falkland having an area estimated at 3,000 square miles, the West Falkland about 2,300 square miles, and about 100 small islands, the total area being approximately 6,300 square miles. The group lies in the South Atlantic Ocean between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude, about 480 miles north-east of Cape Horn, and about 1,000 miles due south of Monte Video.

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands: South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, and the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

DESCRIPTIVE.

Falkland Islands.

The Falkland Islands in general physical appearance consist of bleak rolling moorland interspersed with outbreaks of grey rock and stone runs. They bear a marked resemblance to some parts of the north-west coast of Scotland and to the Shetland Islands. In some parts of the coast high rock cliffs can be seen, but the country can hardly be described as mountainous, the highest peak, Mount Adam on the West Falkland, rising to only 2,315 ft. above sea-level. Trees are completely absent.

The soil is chiefly soft peat and travelling is difficult. There are no roads outside the capital. This is in some measure due to the plenitude of excellent harbours. It is doubtful whether any country in the world is so well served in this respect.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 872 [Cd. 7622-63].

The islands are so well adapted for sheep-farming that the entire acreage has been devoted to that industry. The whole country is divided up into a number of farms, containing from 6,000 to, in one case, 600,000 acres, the freeholds of which have been, or are in process of being, purchased from the Crown. Each of such farms, or sections of land, has its headquarters consisting of the Manager's house, cookhouse, wool-sheds, pens, etc., at a settlement situated on the coast at a point convenient for the shipment of produce to the capital.

The only town is Stanley, the capital, in the north-east corner of the group.

The Dependencies.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains, covered with snow where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster at Deception Island in the South Shetlands. These Dependencies are, however, ice-free for some four or five months in the year only.

Constitution.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official and one unofficial member, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Councils are appointed by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

HISTORICAL.

The early history of the Falkland Islands is shrouded in uncertainty. The group is said to have been visited by Davis in 1592 and Hawkins in 1594. In 1690 Captain Strong sailed between the East and West Falklands and gave the name of Falkland's Sound to the Channel; it is probable that the islands came to receive their title from this survey. They were, however, known, and are known, to the French as the Isles Malouines and to the Spaniards as Islas Malvinas, from visits paid to the group

in the 18th century by vessels from St. Malo. In 1764 they were taken possession of by France, and Bougainville planted a small colony at Port Louis. Two years later France admitted Spain's prior claim to territory in this region and ceded her rights. In 1767 England asserted her dominion over the islands, and a post was established in the West Falkland with the object of surveying the group. This was driven out by the Spaniards in 1770 and restored in the following year, after threat of war, and without prejudice. The post was, however, abandoned in 1774, and there was no further formal occupation until 1820, when the "United Provinces of South America" hoisted their flag at Port Louis. This settlement was broken up in 1831 by an American warship owing to the illegal imprisonment by a German, who was in charge of the settlement, of some American sealers, and the German was deported. In the following year the British flag was restored, and there has been no change of ownership of any part of the group since. From 1833 to 1842 continuous Admiralty surveys were made round the coast-line, the naval officers in charge being appointed as residents. On the 23rd of June, 1843, a Charter under the Great Seal was issued defining the constitution of the Colony and its Dependencies, Richard Clement Moody (afterwards General Moody) being the first Governor.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the 16th, 17th and early part of the 18th centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith in the snow "Williams" of Blyth took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-1820, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers were met there in 1819. The fur seal industry achieved such large proportions that no fewer than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

In 1904 an Argentine Company was formed on the initiative of a Norwegian whaling captain to carry on whaling at South Georgia. The development of the industry from that date has been rapid, and the whaling field has been in recent years more productive than all those in the rest of the world combined.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British descent. It is the descendants of the most enterprising of the early pioneers who now own the greater part of the land. The Colony is entirely dependent on the sheep industry; the farms were established and have been maintained with but little Government assistance or intervention. There has been little or no co-operation among the farmers, or study of the scientific side of farming. It is therefore not remarkable that progress has been very slow, despite the efforts of one or two individuals. The total number of sheep in the country in 1920 was 667,677. As many as 800,000 have been carried, but this was probably overstocking as the pasturage is poor. One of the chief problems is the disposal of the surplus sheep. Neither of the two canning factories was working in 1920.

The inhabitants generally are hard-working, thrifty and peaceable. Lack of local educational facilities has perhaps been one of the causes of the absence of progress. Except for a temporary wave of prosperity caused by the comparatively high prices paid for wool during the War, a hard struggle for existence has been carried on. It can scarcely be said that even that measure of prosperity materially benefited the general population.

The population at the 31st of December, 1920, was estimated at 2,271, viz., 1,285 males and 986 females. The birth-rate was 21.5 and the death-rate 9.5. The general health was good and there is no doubt as to the salubrity of the climate.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilized mainly by foreigners. The Norwegians were first in the field, and credit must be given to them for their initiative and energy. In 1920 eleven Norwegian companies, two British, and one Argentine were engaged in the industry; the personnel of the factories and whale-catchers was almost entirely foreign.

The workers have shown themselves generally law-abiding, but there were the makings of a serious disturbance in January of 1920. The whole of the labour engaged at a land factory at South Georgia went out on strike with the exception of three men; they were instigated by thirty-six Russian Bolsheviks and they made most extravagant demands, including one for the deportation of the three objectors. The number called out was 220, their demeanour was threatening, and there was only one policeman at the command of the civil authorities. 4.0 p.m. on the 16th of January was the time and date of the expiry of the ultimatum issued by the strikers. At that hour one of His Majesty's cruisers, which was not known to be in the vicinity, steamed into the Harbour. The strike came to an abrupt termination.

The population of South Georgia in December, 1920, was 997 men and 3 women.

The only event of outstanding importance during the year was the publication in April of the Report of the Colonial Office Inter-departmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands. It is difficult to over-estimate the value of this Report to anyone interested in the Whaling Industry or the scientific problems of the development of polar regions. The Committee recommended, *inter alia*, that two special research vessels should be equipped for scientific (biological, hydrographical, geological, meteorological) investigations on lines laid down. It was proposed that part, at all events, of the cost, estimated at £85,000, initial expenditure, and £25,000 to £30,000 for maintenance, should be raised by a special export duty on whale and seal oil.

II.—FINANCIAL

(a) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to the sum of £71,558, including the sums received in respect of Land Sales. The total ordinary revenue was £64,166, an increase of £15,670 over the receipts for 1919 and £10,591 in excess of the expenditure. Of the total ordinary revenue, £35,498 was derived from the Colony and £28,688 from the Dependencies.

The following table is a comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1910, 1919 and 1920 :—

Head of Revenue.	1910.	1919.	1920.
Customs	£ 5,416	£ 13,556	£ 26,590
Port Dues	291	477	835
Internal Revenue	2,671	11,822	12,246
Fees, Fines, etc.	760	2,301	1,549
Interest	4,801	12,368	15,626
Post Office	1,458	4,007	3,345
Rents	2,949	3,221	3,624
Miscellaneous	188	744	350
Total Ordinary Revenue ..	£18,534	£48,496	£64,165
Land Sales	7,238	8,186	7,392
Live Stock	807	—	—
Totals	£26,579	£56,682	£71,557

The net increase in the revenue over 1919 is attributable to successive increases in the duty on whale and seal oil. The duty stood originally at 3½d. a barrel; this was raised to 1s. 6d. in 1919 and 5s. 0d. in 1920. The additional duty was imposed mainly for the benefit of the whaling industry, the proceeds being earmarked for a Research and Development Fund for the Dependencies.

(b) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £53,575, of which £33,320 was for the Colony and £20,255 for the Dependencies. The latter sum includes, however, £12,344 charged in respect of a credit to the Research Fund.

The following is a comparative statement of the total ordinary and Public Works Extraordinary Expenditure in the years 1910, 1919 and 1920 :—

	1910.	1919.	1920.
Ordinary Expenditure	£ 16,827	£ 26,333	£ 34,392
Public Works Extraordinary	1,371	577	829

The increase in the expenditure in 1920 is mainly attributable to the increases in salaries and pensions granted during the year.

(c) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets over liabilities at the end of 1920 amounted to £230,956.

The principal items were :—

Land Sales Account	£159,395
Surplus Balances	69,280

(d) CURRENCY.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and 5s., £1, and £5 notes issued by the Falkland Islands Government. The currency note issue was increased during the year from £18,000 to £20,000.

The income derived from the securities held by the Commissioners during 1920 was £726, as against an expenditure of £135.

(e) BANKING.

There are no banking facilities in the Colony with the exception of those offered by the Government Savings Bank, which was instituted in 1888. The financial year of the Savings Bank is from the 1st of October to the 30th of September.

On the 1st of October, 1920, the sum of £128,386 stood to the credit of the 806 depositors in this Bank. The average for each account was £159, or nearly £57 per head of the population.

The withdrawals during the year amounted to £20,600 and the deposits to £29,481.

The rate of interest paid on deposits in the Savings Bank is 2½ per cent.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony and its Dependencies during 1920 was £916,769. Of this, £210,002 represented the share of the Colony and £706,767 the Dependencies.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1910, 1919 and 1920. Separate figures for the Colony and the Dependencies were not kept prior to 1918:—

	1910.		1919.		1920.	
	Colony and Dependencies.	Colony.	Depend.	Colony.	Depend.	
Food, drink and tobacco..	30,102	45,303	81,010	77,745	98,735	
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	18,030	21,584	662,462	17,673	486,575	
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	42,814	94,029	113,267	95,298	121,457	
Live stock ..	2,848	3,626	—	12,251	—	
Bullion and specie ..	500	1,000	—	7,035	—	
Total ..	£94,294	165,542	856,739	210,002	706,767	

The principal articles imported into the Colony and its Dependencies during 1920 were the following:—

	Value.		Value.
Groceries ..	138,315	Hardware, machinery ..	64,776
Corn and fodder ..	6,875	Drapery, fancy goods ..	22,230
Tobacco ..	8,139	Paints and oils ..	21,058
Coal and coke ..	443,528	Ships, fittings ..	13,843
Empty barrels ..	14,245	Wearing apparel ..	28,697
Timber ..	46,456	Wire fencing materials..	4,308
Canvas, rope, etc. ..	19,288	Live stock ..	12,251
Boots, shoes, saddlery ..	11,421		

The country of origin of the imports is shown below:—

United Kingdom ..	583,592
East Africa ..	101
New South Wales ..	36,234
South Africa ..	54,826
Total from British Empire..	£674,753
Argentina ..	61,744
Brazil ..	20
Chile ..	4,580
Holland ..	23,785
Norway ..	59,940
United States ..	60,887
Uruguay ..	31,060
Total from Foreign Countries ..	£242,016

It should be noted in connection with the imports to the Dependencies that the figures given relate only to South Georgia. The whaling factories which operated in the other Dependencies carried their supplies for the whaling season on board, there being no resident population in these places.

There are no import duties except on wine, malt liquors, spirits and tobacco.

The annual value of malt liquors and spirits imported into the Falkland Islands has been as shown in the following table:—

	1910.		1919.		1920.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
Spirits ..	2,490	1,691	1,370	6,247	1,825	5,730
Malt liquors ..	2,781	1,022	3,886	4,064	3,200	4,638
Totals ..	5,271	£2,713	5,256	£10,311	5,025	£10,368
Revenue received..		£2,346		£3,189		£2,765

EXPORTS.

The total exports were valued at the port of shipment at £3,132,909. Produce to the value of £363,998 was shipped from the Colony and £2,768,911 from the Dependencies.

The following is a comparative table:—

Article.	1910.		1919.		1920.	
	Value.		Value.		Value.	
Falkland Islands— lb.	£	lb.	£	lb.	£	
Wool ..	4,828,109	161,666	4,867,200	283,884	4,510,607	269,170
Tallow ..	481,173	8,439	515,200	18,004	535,360	21,798
Sheepskins	No.	No.	100,884	36,055	86,447	36,200
Tinned meat	Cases.	Cases.	11,705	55,053	4,794	23,127
Dependencies— Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
Whale oil	6,433	120,995	43,921	1,725,444	41,892	2,748,852
Whale bone	51	2,280	60	4,580	55	1,730
Whale guano	Bags.	Bags.	25,946	13,054	18,579	17,273

The value for the five years from 1916 to 1920 of the imports from and exports to the chief countries with which trade has been carried on are shown below:—

	Imports from	Exports to
United Kingdom—	£	£
1916 ..	408,957	1,962,794
1917 ..	681,803	1,777,487
1918 ..	487,787	1,891,409
1919 ..	554,178	2,035,878
1920 ..	503,592	2,978,001
South Africa—		
1916 ..	4,631	20
1917 ..	89,068	—
1918 ..	94,964	350
1919 ..	168,363	137,475
1920 ..	54,826	75,471

	Imports from	Exports to
Argentine—	£	£
1916	78,675 ..	89,617
1917	328,647 ..	92,219
1918	222,144 ..	162,326
1919	55,894 ..	—
1920	61,774 ..	78,947
	Imports only.	
Norway—	£	
1916	67,038	
1917	96,643	
1918	6,596	
1919	15,258	
1920	59,940	
United States of America—		
1916	35	
1917	40,278	
1918	77,024	
1919	187,396	
1920	60,887	
Uruguay—		
1916	4,627	
1917	16,602	
1918	42,191	
1919	34,293	
1920	31,060	

INDUSTRIES.

As has been indicated in previous paragraphs in this Report, there are really only two industries of any serious importance in the territory under the Falkland Islands Government, namely, sheep-farming in the Colony and whaling in the Dependencies.

It cannot be said that there has been any development in the sheep industry. In 1900 there were 778,026 sheep in the Colony. The clip was 4,600,000 lb. The price was poor, £83,333 only resulting. This was probably due to the disturbed state of the market. In 1904 there were 702,444 sheep; 4,023,807 lb. of wool produced £115,359. In 1913 the number of sheep was 702,859, and £158,442 was the value of 4,820,552 lb. of wool. Owing to war prices approximately the same amount of wool realized £283,884 in 1920.

The methods of farming are said to be far behind those prevailing in South America. It would be unjust to blame the farmers for this. The poverty of the soil, the isolation of the Colony, the intemperance of the climate, and the lack of capital have made the struggle to progress difficult.

The breed of sheep is a cross-bred Romney. There were in 1906 only two pure-bred flocks in the Islands, one Romney Marsh, the other Lincolns. The imports of stock between 1902 and 1912 give a fair indication of the cross—584 Romney Marsh rams, 75 Border Leicester rams, 35 Lincoln rams, 69 Merino rams.

The profits made by the farmers in the Colony were greatly restricted owing to the high freight rates both of getting their produce into Stanley and of shipping it home. There is no land transport, and the wool freights averaged £7 12s. 6d. per ton weight to Stanley, and £11 from Stanley to the United Kingdom.

There has been no agricultural development of the Colony. A small quantity of oats and potatoes was grown during 1920. It is estimated that 160 acres only were under cultivation.

The whaling industry, on the other hand, has gone on by leaps and bounds. It may be said to have been established in 1904, but there is no separate mention of it in Annual Reports until 1907, when an optimistic note was struck by the statement, "The present satisfactory state of the finances of the Colony is to be attributed, in a measure, to the establishment of the whaling industry." The satisfaction was based on an additional revenue of £921. The first mention of oil exports is in the Report for 1908, where it is stated that 2,400 tons had been exported, of the value of £18,720. The quantity exported in 1920 was 41,276 tons, valued at £2,748,852. The duty levied was £10,038.

As has already been mentioned, this industry is mainly in foreign hands. There were in 1920 eight leases of land sites for whaling purposes in South Georgia; in addition to this there were some twenty floating factories and sixty whale-catchers allowed for the Dependencies as a whole. The whale-catchers are small steam vessels which roam and rove to kill the whales and bring them in to the mother ship or land station. Two British firms operate, but the personnel is chiefly Norwegian.

The Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on the Development of the Dependencies emphasized the imperative necessity of restricting operations pending investigations, and it was not found possible to extend facilities to fresh applicants for whaling licences pending the result of investigations.

There is at present no fur seal industry in the Dependencies. The only company which has a licence for taking seals killed 1,527 sea elephants and 18 sea leopards in South Georgia in 1920; 2,269 barrels of oil, valued at £11,345, were obtained.

SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels which entered the Colony during the year was 47, with a tonnage of 64,109. Of these, 10, with a tonnage of 40,389, were British. The corresponding figures for South Georgia, which has the only port of entry in the Dependencies, were 31 and 15 respectively, with a total tonnage of 33,967, of which 22,081 was British.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered the Colony and the Dependencies during 1920 :—

	British.		Foreign.	
	Steamships.	Tonnage.	Steamships.	Tonnage.
Falkland Islands ..	10	40,389	37	23,720
South Georgia ..	15	22,081	16	11,886

An industry which was a standing feature of former annual reports has practically gone by the board owing to the opening of the Panama Canal. A long list of damaged vessels used to be shown as having put into Stanley for repairs. The shipping casualties are now happily few and far between. The Colony could afford to give up an industry of which it failed to take proper advantage.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There is no secondary education in the Colony. Elementary education is compulsory in Stanley, where there are two schools, one conducted by the Government and the second under Roman Catholic management. The number of pupils on the roll in 1920 was 116 in the former and 63 in the latter. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, of whom five are provided by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, which also retains a resident teacher at the head station at Darwin.

During the War it was found difficult to obtain travelling teachers, with the result that the majority of the children received no education. At best the system only permits of giving a few weeks' teaching in the year to the 250 children of school age in the widely scattered settlements and shepherds' huts.

V.—CLIMATE.

The climate is rigorous, but very healthy except to those disposed to pulmonary affections. There are constant high winds in the daytime between September and May, which are trying to those engaged in outdoor pursuits. The rainfall was 29·48 in. in 1920 as against 30·29 in. in 1919. Rain fell on 250 days. The temperature seldom falls below 30° or rises above 60°. There are periodical blizzards, but they are seldom of great force. If they occur during the lambing season, October and November, serious losses occur to the farmers.

The rainfall in South Georgia was 48·792 in. in 1920. The number of days on which rain fell was 212. The mean wind force was 2·33. Despite the heavier rainfall the climate is drier than that of the Falklands. The temperature varies between about 23° and 60°. The mean for June, the coldest month, was 28·90°.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The Colony was badly served for external communications during 1920. Nominally there is a monthly mail service, but this was suspended during the War. Owing to the opening of the Panama Canal there is no direct homeward service, steamers proceeding to the United Kingdom via the west coast of South America.

There is a wireless service with Monte Video, whence messages are cabled. The cost per word is 3s. 9½d. for messages of over ten words.

Internally the population is dependent for freight on water transport. Roads there are none. Travelling is by horseback.

A small wireless station in the West Falkland maintained communication with Stanley.

There was no wireless station in the Dependencies, but communication was occasionally established with ships carrying installations.

VII.—DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.

During 1920 attention was again drawn to the necessity for developing the resources of the country. Of these there were known, pasturage, peat, penguin and seal oil; suspected, fisheries and guano; and conceived as possibilities, the growing of trees and the discovery of payable minerals and mineral oils. A forest officer and a geologist were appointed; they arrived in the Colony in December. There is no doubt that it would be a great boon if trees could be grown for shelter, and no country can afford to allow the possibility of geological resources to remain undiscovered.

H. HENNIKER-HEATON,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

23rd September, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.							
No.	Colony, etc.						Year.
1109	British Guiana	..	..	..	..	..	1920
1110	British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	"
1111	Malta	..	..	..	..	..	1920-1921
1112	Uganda	..	..	..	..	..	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	..	..	..	..	..	1920-1921
1114	Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	1921
1115	Mauritius	..	..	..	..	..	1920
1116	Jamaica	..	..	..	..	..	1921
1117	Cyprus	..	..	..	..	..	"
1118	Weihaiwei	..	..	..	..	..	"
1119	Gold Coast	..	..	..	..	..	1920
1120	Gambia	..	..	..	..	..	"
1121	Gambia	..	..	..	..	..	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	..	..	..	..	..	1920-1921
1123	British Guiana	..	..	..	..	..	1921
1124	Grenada	..	..	..	..	..	"
1125	Zanzibar	..	..	..	..	..	"
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	..	..	..	..	..	"
1127	Gibraltar	..	..	..	..	..	"
1128	St. Vincent	..	..	..	..	..	"
1129	St. Helena	..	..	..	..	..	"
1130	Fiji	..	..	..	..	..	"
1131	Basutoland	..	..	..	..	..	1921-1922
1132	Bermuda	..	..	..	..	..	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	..	..	..	..	..	1921-1922
1134	Barbados	..	..	..	..	..	"
1135	Trinidad	..	..	..	..	..	1921
1136	British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	"
1137	Ceylon	..	..	..	..	..	"
1138	Swaziland	..	..	..	..	..	"
1139	Hongkong	..	..	..	..	..	"
1140	Straits Settlements	..	..	..	..	..	"
1141	St. Lucia	..	..	..	..	..	"
1142	Ashanti	..	..	..	..	..	"
1143	Jamaica	..	..	..	..	..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.				Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	..	..	..	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	..	..	..	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	..	..	..	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	..	..	..	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	..	..	..	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	..	..	..	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	..	..	..	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	..	..	..	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

FOR OFFICIAL USE.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1157.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1144.)



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No. 1157.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND
ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1921.*

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Falkland Islands consist of the East Falkland, having an area estimated,† in the absence of any survey of the group, on measurements from the Admiralty charts, at 2,580 square miles, and the West Falkland at 2,038 square miles, including the adjacent small islands in each case. The total area is therefore 4,618 square miles. The group lies in the South Atlantic Ocean between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude, about 480 miles north-east of Cape Horn, and about 1,000 miles due south to Monte Video.

DESCRIPTIVE.

The Falkland Islands in general appearance are treeless, bleak and inhospitable. They are said to resemble closely parts of the north-west coast of Scotland and the Shetland Islands. Outbreaks of grey rock afford little relief to the dull colouring of the vegetation. With the exception of a comparatively flat area forming about one-half of the East Falkland, the country is very hilly. Mount Adam, the highest point, is 3,215 ft. above sea level. The coast line of the islands is everywhere deeply indented, forming many excellent harbours. Some would have every claim to beauty were it not for the absence of trees.

The soil is chiefly peat, soft and at times dangerous to travel over. There are no roads and all inland travel is done on horseback with pack-horses for transport. Although the islands are in many respects well suited for a pastoral industry, the acidity of the soil limits the number of stock which can be carried to a proportion that is very low compared with the area.

The country has in fact been entirely devoted to sheep-farming. Practically the whole area is divided up into farms varying in size from six to six hundred thousand acres. Each of such farms has its head station at a settlement in a harbour.

The only town is Stanley, the capital, in the north-east corner of the group.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 872 [Cd. 7622-63].

† Previous reports and official returns have given the East Falkland 3,000, and the West, 2,300 square miles, making, with the adjacent smaller islands, a total of 6,500 square miles. It is not possible now to account for the large over-estimate.

HISTORICAL.

A summary of the early history of the Falkland Islands can be neither better nor more accurately recorded than in the words of Dr. Johnson in 1771.

“ In the fatal voyage of Cavendish (1592), Captain Davis, who being sent out as his associate, was afterwards parted from him or deserted him, as he was driven by violence of weather about the Straits of Magellan, is supposed to have been the first who saw the lands now called Falkland Islands, but his distress permitted him not to make any observation, and he left them, as he found them, without a name.

“ Not long afterwards (1594), Sir Richard Hawkins, being in the same seas with the same designs, saw these islands again, if they are indeed the same islands, and in honour of his Mistress called them Hawkins's Maiden Land.

“ This voyage was not of sufficient renown to procure a general reception to the new name, for when the Dutch, who had now become strong enough not only to defend themselves, but to attack their masters, sent (1598) Verhagen and Sebald de Wert, into the South Sea, these islands, which were not supposed to have been known before, obtained the denomination of Sebald's Islands and were from that time placed in the charts; though Frezier tells us that they were yet considered as of doubtful existence.

“ Their present English name was probably given them by Strong, whose journal yet unprinted, may be found in the Museum. This name was adopted by Halley, and has from that time, I believe, been received into our maps.”

To Dr. Johnson's account it is only necessary to add that Sebald de Wert sighted some outlying small islands only and that Captain Strong, who sailed under letters of marque, sighted land on the 27th January, 1690 (Old Style), sailed up the sound between the East and West Falkland and landed, obtaining geese, ducks and water. It is certain that, as far as is known, Captain Strong was the first man to make a landing and has the strongest claim to be the discoverer of the group.

During the first half of the 17th century adventurers in vessels fitted out at St. Malo visited the islands, which then obtained the French name of Isles Malouines and Spanish of Islas Malvinas. In 1764 a French settlement was planted by de Bougainville at a port in the East Falkland, and in the following year a British garrison was posted in the West Falkland, England re-asserting her claim to the sovereignty of the group. France ceded her rights to Spain, and in 1770 the Spaniards drove out the British garrison. In the following year the action of the Spanish Captains was disavowed by their Sovereign and Spain restored the garrison and handed back all the stores taken. In 1774 the post was temporarily abandoned and there was no

further formal occupation until 1820 when the "United Provinces of South America" hoisted their flag at Port Louis, the site of the former French settlement in the East. In 1831 one Vernet, a German, in charge of the settlement, was deported by an American warship, and the British flag was again hoisted in 1833. There has been no change in the occupation of any part of the group from that time. From 1833 to 1842 continuous Admiralty surveys were made round the coast line, the naval officers in charge being appointed as Residents. On the 23rd of June, 1842, a charter under the Great Seal was issued defining the constitution of the Colony and its Dependencies, Richard Clement Moody (afterwards General Moody) being the first Governor.

The Colony received grants in aid from the Imperial Parliament down to 1880, since which time it has been self-supporting.

The strategical value of the group was shown in 1914, when a British squadron based on Stanley defeated a German squadron in a naval action on the 8th of December.

CONSTITUTION.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official and one unofficial member, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Councils are appointed by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British descent. It is the descendants of the most enterprising of the early pioneers who now own the greater part of the land. The Colony is entirely dependent on the sheep industry; the farms were established and have been maintained with but little Government assistance or intervention. There has been little or no co-operation among the farmers, or study of the scientific side of farming. It is therefore not remarkable that progress has been very slow, despite the efforts of one or two individuals. The total number of sheep in the country in 1921 was 667,389. As many as 800,000 have been carried, but this was probably overstocking, as the pasturage is poor. One of the chief problems is the disposal of the surplus sheep. The export of live sheep, of carcasses for freezing, canning and boiling down for tallow have all had their turn. Many thousands of sheep have been killed and the bodies thrown into the sea when these methods failed to pay. The two canning factories in the Colony were both closed in 1921, and 31,954 sheep were boiled down.

The inhabitants generally are hardworking, thrifty and peaceable. Lack of local educational facilities has perhaps been one of the causes of the absence of progress. Except for a temporary wave of prosperity caused by the comparatively high prices paid for wool during the War, a hard struggle for existence has been carried on.

II.—FINANCIAL.

(a) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year 1921, excluding land sales and interest on Savings Bank Investments, but including a sum of £2,280 transferred from Stock Fund, amounted to £36,865, as compared with £31,012 from normal sources in the previous year.

The following table is a comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1919, 1920 and 1921:—

Head of Revenue.	1919. £	1920. £	1921. £
Customs	5,578	4,847	4,998
Post Office	3,874	3,175	2,035
Land Tax	8,692	8,694	8,467
Interest	12,368	11,141	12,883
Other sources	4,223	2,155	8,482
	<u>£34,735</u>	<u>£31,012</u>	<u>£36,865</u>
Land Sales	8,186	7,392	7,884
Totals	<u>£42,921</u>	<u>£38,404</u>	<u>£44,749</u>

Of the ordinary revenue in 1921, 62 per cent. was derived directly from the farmers, 2·6 per cent. from the residents in Stanley and 35·4 per cent. from the population generally. The chief tax is a graduated land tax of from $\frac{1}{4}d.$ per acre to $1d.$ according to area.

(b) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year 1921, excluding Savings Bank disbursements and payments chargeable to the surplus balances of the Colony, amounted to £32,286 as compared with £29,081 in the previous year. The ordinary revenue was therefore £4,579 in excess of the expenditure during the year.

The following is a comparative statement of the total Ordinary and Extraordinary Expenditure in the years 1919, 1920 and 1921:—

	1919. £	1920. £	1921. £
Ordinary Expenditure	24,516	28,251	32,286
Public Works Extraordinary	577	830	2,868
Miscellaneous Extraordinary	—	—	4,552
Totals	<u>£25,093</u>	<u>£29,081</u>	<u>£39,706</u>

(c) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets over liabilities at the end of 1921 amounted to £226,997.

The principal items were:—

Land Sales Fund	...	...	£167,278.
General Account	...	...	£59,719.

(d) CURRENCY.

The legal tender currency is British Sterling and 5s., 10s., £1 and £5 notes issued by the Falkland Islands Government.

The face value of the notes in circulation on the 31st of December, 1921, was £20,000.

During the year 2,000 £5, 12,000 £1 and 6,000 10s. notes of a new design were received by the Commissioners from the Crown Agents; of these 680 £5, 6,300 £1 and 2,000 10s. notes were issued to replace those withdrawn from circulation for cancellation and destruction.

The income derived from the securities held by the Commissioners during 1921 was £802 as against an expenditure of £302.

(e) BANKING.

There are no banking facilities in the Colony with the exception of those offered by the Government Savings Bank, which was instituted in 1888. The financial year of the Savings Bank is from the 1st of October to the 30th of September.

On the 1st of October, 1921, the sum of £129,322 stood to the credit of the 795 depositors in this Bank. The average for each account was £162 or £61 per head of the population.

The withdrawals during the year amounted to £25,274 and the deposits to £23,193.

The rate of interest paid on deposits in the Savings Bank is 2½ per cent.

(f) GENERAL.

There is no public debt. This, taken into consideration with the comparatively large assets of the Colony and the sums lying idle in the Savings Bank, illustrates stagnation rather than prosperity.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony during 1921 was £137,929.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1919, 1920 and 1921:—

	1919.	1920.	1921.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco	45,303	77,745	48,888
Raw Materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	21,584	17,673	12,577
Articles wholly or mainly manu- factured	94,029	95,298	74,816
Live Stock	3,628	12,251	1,648
Bullion and Specie	1,000	7,035	—
Total	£165,542	£210,002	£137,929

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1921 were the following:—

	Value.
	£
Groceries	27,919
Timber	11,235
Hardware	13,814
Furniture	7,686
Draperies	15,781
Wearing apparel	13,597

The country of origin of the imports is shown below:—

United Kingdom	£122,071
----------------	----------

Total from British Empire ... £122,071

	£
Argentina	7,355
Belgium	70
Chile	3,056
Norway	285
Uruguay	5,093

Total, Foreign Countries ... £15,859

There are no import duties except on wine, malt liquors, spirits and tobacco.

The annual quantity of malt liquors and spirits imported into the Colony has been as shown in the following table:—

	1919.	1920.	1921.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Spirits	3,589	3,227	4,129
Malt liquors	10,758	14,713	13,039
Totals	14,347	17,940	17,168
Revenue received	£2,961	£2,765	£3,429

EXPORTS.

The total exports were valued at the port of shipment at £130,006.

The following is a comparative table:—

Article.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1919.	1920.	1921.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	Value.	Value.	Value.
				£	£	£
Wool	4,867,200	4,510,607	4,039,200	283,884	269,170	124,155
Tallow	515,200	535,360	117,600	18,004	21,798	909
	No.	No.	No.			
Sheepskins	100,884	86,447	20,120	36,055	36,200	2,009
	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.			
Tinned Meat	11,705	4,794	—	55,053	23,127	—

INDUSTRIES.

The only industry of any serious importance in the Colony is, as has been indicated in the first section of this report, sheep-farming. Sheep are bred entirely for the wool, and the slump in prices in 1921 hit the industry badly. The current supposition that the farmers had done well out of the War and could afford to lose money was erroneous. The average prices received for wool were nearly 100 per cent. below the 1920 value, as shown

in the Customs returns. Freights remained at a high level and at the end of the year many of the farms were in difficulties. During the later war years it was possible only at very great expense to obtain fresh stock, or materials for fencing and improvements, and the profits through high prices were nearly counterbalanced by expenditure. Consequently the general position at the end of 1921 was stock inbred, fences in many places in disrepair, woolsheds and wool presses out of date, with little hope of replacement. There were a few exceptions, where absentee landlords, who had expended their health and a great part of their lives in the Colony, had, in the absence of dependents, been able to afford to put their farms in good condition before the War.

It has been commonly asserted that the methods of the farmers are at fault as they are able to run one sheep only to six or seven acres. The exaggerated idea of the area of the country is to blame for this estimate. The fact is that, during the twelve years ending in 1921, 4.2 acres in the East Falkland, 5.38 in the West, and 3 in the small islands, carried one sheep. The returns for the mainland compare not unfavourably with the corresponding returns for sheep in the hill districts in parts of Scotland.

The breed of sheep is a cross-bred Romney; all the wool is sent home in the grease.

The farmers have been fortunate in having little disease among the stock with which to contend. Up till 1921 there had been no scientific study of the sheep industry in the Colony or of the possibilities of development.

SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels which entered the Colony during the year was 49, with a tonnage of 74,765. Of these 15, with a tonnage of 53,060, were British.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered the Colony during 1921 :—

	BRITISH.		FOREIGN.	
	Steamships.	Tonnage.	Steamships.	Tonnage.
Falkland Islands ...	15	53,060	34	21,705

IV.—EDUCATION.

There is no secondary education in the Colony. Elementary education is compulsory in Stanley, where there are two schools, one conducted by the Government and the second under Roman Catholic management. The number of pupils on the roll in 1921 was 127 in the former and 65 in the latter. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, of whom five are provided by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, which also retains a resident teacher at the head station at Darwin.

During the War it was found difficult to obtain travelling teachers, with the result that the majority of the children received no education. At best the system only permits of giving

a few weeks teaching in the year to the 157 children of school age in the widely scattered settlements and shepherd's huts.

V.—CLIMATE.

There are probably few places in the world with a climate which has been so richly abused as that of the Falkland Islands. Writers in succeeding generations, including Darwin, have said little to remove the impression given by Dr. Johnson, in his references to the West Falkland, "An island stormy in winter, barren in summer; an island where a garrison must be kept in a state that contemplates with envy the exiles of Siberia," "shrinking from the blast, and shuddering at the billows." It is commonly alleged and has been stated by visitors in very recent years that the winds and storms are varied only by mists and fogs. The skies are, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "continually overcast." To descend to unpicturesque facts as recorded by the Meteorological Office. The absolute extremes of temperature found at Cape Pembroke, in the neighbourhood of Stanley, over a period of ten years are 75° and 19°. The winters are slightly colder and the summers much cooler than in London, which is in the same latitude, north, as Stanley is south. The mean daily maximum varies from 55° in the warmest month to 40° in July. The mean daily minimum is 45° in January and 33° in midwinter. The average daily sunshine is 3 hours and 48 minutes. In January it is over 6 hours. The number of days without sunshine is 59, 36 of which occur between May and August. The average rainfall is 26.43 inches as against 23.80 inches at Kew. Constant strong winds usually prevail in summer, and gales are recorded as blowing for 237 hours in the year, but severe storms are rarer than they are in the United Kingdom.

This section has been dealt with at some length in the hope of exploding fallacious ideas. The climate has generally been regarded as healthy; the fact is indisputable, although it has been tempered by allegations of epidemic diseases. There is neither endemic nor epidemic sickness in the country.

VI.—COMMUNICATION.

No mails were received in the Colony during the first seven months of 1921. The circumstances were exceptional and, happily, are not likely to recur. The opening of the Panama Canal has had, however, a bad effect temporarily on mail communications, and a six to eight weeks' service is the normal condition. There is no direct homeward passenger service, vessels proceeding to the United Kingdom via the west coast of South America.

There is a wireless service with Monte Video, whence messages are cabled. The cost per word in 1921 was 3s. 9½d. A small station in the West Falkland maintains communication with Stanley.

VII.—POPULATION.

A census of the population was taken on the 24th of April, 1921. The total, exclusive of crews of ships in harbour in Stanley, numbered 2,087, made up as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Port Stanley	432	458	890
East Falklands	508	293	801
West Falklands	242	154	396
Totals	1,182	905	2,087

Of the 2,087 residents in the Falklands 712 were children under 15 years of age. Excluding children, 38 persons were found to be unemployed. This is only 3 in excess of the number of persons of over 70 years of age.

VIII.—DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.

A Government Geologist, who arrived in the Colony at the end of 1920, made thorough investigations in the following year. He was unable to find payable minerals or oils, but his work was of value to science. It is too early yet to speak of the results of the work during 1921 of a newly-appointed Forest Officer who was engaged in the difficult but important task of endeavouring to grow trees in the Colony.

An attempt was made to establish the fur seal industry, under Government direction, in the latter part of 1921. There were several known rookeries in the group, and the killing of the seal was prohibited except under licence and during the sealing season. By the Seal Fishery Ordinance of 1899 a royalty of 4s. was exacted for each fur seal. There were no effective means of enforcing the provisions of the Ordinance; no licences being taken out in 1921 and no royalties received. It was known, however, that poaching was carried out by sealers from South American ports. The Government purchased an Admiralty drifter for service as an armed patrol boat, established a guard at the main rookery, and passed new legislation giving full powers for the prevention of poaching. Preparations were at the same time made for the control and scientific exploitation of the rookeries by the Government, no private sealing licences being issued pending the development of the industry.

IX.—SOCIAL.

The cost of living in the Colony was comparatively low, despite the necessity in 1921 for paying high freights in addition to European prices for imported articles. There is no income tax and Stanley is a free port except for wines, spirits, malt liquors and tobacco.

Agricultural wages were from £7 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat and milk found.

Town labourers were paid £11 per month, or 1s. an hour, and tradesmen £15 to £16, or 1s. 4½d. an hour. Mutton cost 3d. a lb.,

with bread 8d. a lb., milk 1s. a quart, and eggs 3d. each. The ordinary cost of living in a boarding house in Stanley was from 30s. to 60s. a week.

Labour troubles were completely absent in 1921; the balance between supply and demand was, as usual, very evenly kept.

DEPENDENCIES.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands: South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, and the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

DESCRIPTIVE.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains covered with snow where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster at Deception Island in the South Shetlands. These Dependencies are, however, ice free for some four or five months in the year only.

HISTORICAL.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the sixteenth, seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith in the snow "Williams" of Blyth took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under

whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-1820, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793, and British whalers were met there in 1819. The fur-seal industry achieved such large proportions that no less than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur-seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners. The Norwegians were first in the field and credit must be given to them for their initiative and energy. In 1921 nine Norwegian Companies, three British, and one Argentine were engaged in the industry; the personnel of the factories and whale catchers was almost entirely foreign.

Apart from sealing on a small scale by one company, whaling has been the sole industry.

South Georgia is the only part of the Dependencies which is permanently habitable. Five land stations have been established there by whaling companies, sites of the usual extent of 500 acres being taken up for periods of 21 years at annual rentals of £250. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. The leases include the right to use two whale catchers without the payment of additional licence fees. A fairly large population was maintained here down to 1921, i.e., while fishing was allowed throughout the year.

The harbours in the other Dependencies are ice bound for about seven months in the year, and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories.

A permanent official staff of two Magistrates, two Customs Officers and one Police Constable is maintained in South Georgia, while such control as is possible of the South Shetlands whaling fleet is carried out by a Magistrate or a whaling officer who accompanies the fleet south in November and returns with it in April.

The main objects of the control exercised by the Colonial Government are, to quote the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Research in the Dependencies, "to conserve the industry by limiting the number of whale catchers allowed to hunt whales, to prevent the destruction of whale calves * * * and to minimise waste in the manufacture of the carcasses. The Colonial Government has derived some revenue from rents,

licence fees and taxation of whale oil." To this it may be added that it has been the policy of the Colonial Office that the revenue derived from the Dependencies should, as far as possible, be devoted to the development of their resources.

The Dependencies are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony are, however, only in force in the Dependencies if specifically applied.

II.—FINANCIAL.

During 1921 the revenue derived from the Dependencies was £88,832 and the local expenditure £3,249.

Under instruction from the Secretary of State for the Colonies the surplus of Dependencies' revenue after providing for local services and paying for the cost of the central administration in the Falklands is earmarked for research and development purposes. The export tax on oil was increased from 1s. 6d. to 5s. a barrel in 1920, but owing to a fall in prices in 1921 2s. 6d. a barrel was refunded in respect of the 1920-1921 season to the exporters. The Research Fund on the 31st of December, 1921, stood at £72,952.

The total excess of Assets over Liabilities was £85,999.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Island notes.

There are no banking facilities and the export duty is paid locally by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

TRADE.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1921 was £1,904,211, of which £1,604,260 represents exports and the balance imports.

Broadly speaking there are no imports to any other Dependency than South Georgia.

INDUSTRIES.

In addition to whaling, sealing on a small scale is carried out; 2,401 barrels of oil were collected in 1921.

The development of the Dependencies has been rapid, and it is not yet proved that whaling in these waters will, as has happened elsewhere in the world, exhaust the supply. Fortunately the industry has been controlled by the Falkland Islands Government from its commencement; the keen interest taken in it by the Imperial Government and the British Museum has been of great value.

The progress of the whaling industry since it assumed large proportions in 1908 is best shown by the following table:—

Year.	Whale Catchers.	Whales Captured.	Barrels of Oil.	Average of barrels per whale.	Value. £
1909-1914 (average)	42	8,314	304,002	36.57	822,451
1915-16	57	11,792	558,805	47.39	1,856,384
1916-17	44	6,474	361,087	55.77	1,542,323
1917-18	48	4,313	258,476	59.91	1,658,215
1918-19	49	4,838	232,371	46.82	1,725,444
1919-20	43	5,247	256,252	48.84	2,748,852
1920-21	48	8,520	383,816	45.05	1,559,467

The values are on conventional customs valuations and are not very reliable. In 1921 the actual market price of oil in Europe had decreased by at least 60 per cent. At the same time material and labour were at war cost. A single floating factory was insured for over £200,000. This was the ill-fated "Guvernör," one of the colliding ships which caused the Halifax explosion. She was wrecked in the Falklands on her way south in 1921.

The most important step affecting the industry was the introduction of new regulations enforcing full utilisation of the carcasses of whales. These comprehensive regulations had a marked effect in increasing the production of oil per whale and putting a stop to waste.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the number of steamships which entered South Georgia during 1921:—

	BRITISH.		FOREIGN.	
	Steamships.	Tonnage.	Steamships.	Tonnage.
South Georgia	10	16,822	7	9,826

There is no port of entry in the other Dependencies, and all ships for South Shetlands must enter at the Falkland Islands or in South Georgia.

IV.—CLIMATE.

Five meteorological stations are maintained in South Georgia by the whaling companies with shore factories, and one is maintained in the South Orkneys by the Argentine Government. The returns from the latter are not sent to the Colony.

The average temperature at South Georgia is 36°; in January and February it is 46.2°, and in the three coldest months, June, July and August, it is 27.9°.

The annual rainfall is on an average 56 inches.

The average number of occurrences of winds of gale force is only 3 per annum. No gales have yet been recorded in January.

Observations over three years in South Georgia showed that snow fell on an average on 124 days in the year, and it hailed on 43.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness is caused by the absence of fresh provisions, but the climate is undoubtedly healthy.

V.—COMMUNICATION.

There is no direct communication between South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Vessels for this Dependency call at South American ports on their way out and there is more or less regular communication between South Georgia and Buenos Aires.

The South Shetlands whaling fleet calls at Stanley on the way south in November and again on the return in March-April.

There is no wireless telegraph station in the Dependencies, but communication is sometimes possible between steamers engaged in the whaling industry and the Colonial Government Station at Stanley.

VI.—POPULATION.

The population of South Georgia on the 24th of April, 1921, when a census was taken was 1,337, of whom three were females. Of the whaling population no fewer than 998 were natives of Sweden or Norway.

H. HENNIKER-HEATON.

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

9th February, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.		
No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	"
1125	Zanzibar	"
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1127	Gibraltar	"
1128	St. Vincent	"
1129	St. Helena	"
1130	Fiji	"
1131	Basutoland	1921-1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921-1922
1134	Barbados	"
1135	Trinidad	1921
1136	British Honduras	"
1137	Ceylon	"
1138	Swaziland	"
1139	Hongkong	"
1140	Straits Settlements	"
1141	St. Lucia	"
1142	Ashanti	"
1143	Jamaica	"
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921-1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1921-1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	"
1151	Uganda	"
1152	Somaliland	"
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	April-Dec.,
1154	Gold Coast	"
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1187.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1157.)



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No. 1187.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND
ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1922.*

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude. The group consists of East Falkland and West Falkland surrounded by a large number of smaller islands. The total area of the group was given in the Colonization Circular (Ch. VIII.—1874) of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners as 6,500 square miles. This area was no doubt based on calculations from the Admiralty Chart, and since its publication it has been generally adopted in official reports. No land survey has been carried out and there is no ordnance map, but it is clear that the area as above stated has been largely over-estimated. The area has since been computed by measurement from the Admiralty Chart by a qualified surveyor, as follows :

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
Total area of group	4,618

The group is distant about 480 miles north-east of Cape Horn and about 1,000 miles due south of Monte Video.

DESCRIPTIVE.

The Falkland Islands in general appearance are treeless, bleak and inhospitable. From the higher levels the view is one of moorland and marsh interspersed with dull grey rocks and intersected by slow-running streams. The country is not without some claim to beauty and, but for the absence of trees, parts of the coast and of the interior would furnish scenery at once varied and picturesque. There are numerous indentations in the coastline often reducing the intervening land to a series of narrow peninsulas.

The hilly districts are mainly centred in the interior, the higher levels sloping towards the coast in undulating pasture land. In West Falkland the highest point is Mount Adam, 3,215 ft. above sea level. The main ridge on the East Island is the Wickham Heights, which culminates in Mount Osborne, 2,245 ft. above sea level.

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 872 [Cd. 7622-63].

The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on an excellent natural harbour entered from Port William at the north-east corner of the group. It is a small town of only 890 inhabitants but appears larger owing to the scattered nature of its dwellings. Beyond the limits of the town there are no roads, and all inland travel is done on horseback with pack horses for transport. The only other settlement of importance is Port Darwin situated at the head of Choiseul Sound. Smaller settlements exist throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which the country is divided.

HISTORICAL.

A summary of the early history of the Falkland Islands can be neither better nor more accurately recorded than in the words of Dr. Johnson in 1771 :

“ In the fatal voyage of Cavendish (1592), Captain Davis, who being sent out as his associate, was afterwards parted from him or deserted him, as he was driven by violence of weather about the Straits of Magellan, is supposed to have been the first who saw the lands now called Falkland Islands, but his distress permitted him not to make any observation, and he left them, as he found them, without a name.

“ Not long afterwards (1594) Sir Richard Hawkins, being in the same seas with the same designs, saw these islands again, if they are indeed the same islands, and in honour of his mistress called them Hawkin's Maiden Land.

“ This voyage was not of sufficient renown to procure a general reception to the new name, for when the Dutch, who had now become strong enough not only to defend themselves, but to attack their masters, sent (1598) Verhagen and Sebald de Wert into the South Sea, these Islands, which were not supposed to have been known before, obtained the denomination of Sebald's Islands and were from that time placed in the charts ; though Frezier tells us that they were yet considered as of doubtful existence.

“ Their present English name was probably given them by Strong, whose journal, yet unprinted, may be found in the Museum. This name was adopted by Halley, and has from that time, I believe, been received into our maps.”

To Dr. Johnson's account it is only necessary to add that Sebald de Wert sighted some outlying small islands only and that Captain Strong, who sailed under letters of marque, sighted land on 27th January, 1690 (Old Style), sailed up the sound between the East and West Falkland and landed, obtaining geese, ducks and water. It is certain that, as far as is known, Captain Strong was the first man to make a landing and has the strongest claim to be the discoverer of the group.

During the first half of the 17th century adventurers in vessels fitted out at St. Malo visited the islands, which then obtained the French name of Iles Malouines and Spanish of Islas Malvinas. In 1764 a French settlement was planted by de Bougainville at a port in the East Falkland, and in the following year a British garrison was posted in the West Falkland, England re-asserting her claim to the sovereignty of the group. France sold her rights to Spain, and in 1770 the Spaniards drove out the British garrison. In the following year the action of the Spanish Captains was disavowed by their sovereign and Spain restored the garrison and handed back all the stores taken. In 1774 the post was temporarily abandoned and there was no further formal occupation until 1820, when the "United Provinces of South America" hoisted their flag at Port Louis, the site of the former French settlement in the East. In 1831 one Vernet, a German, in charge of the settlement, was deported by an American warship, and the British flag was again hoisted in 1833. There has been no change in the occupation of any part of the group from that time. From 1833 to 1842 continuous Admiralty surveys were made round the coast line, the naval officers in charge being appointed as Residents. On 23rd of June, 1843, a charter under the Great Seal was issued defining the constitution of the Colony and its Dependencies, Richard Clement Moody (afterwards General Moody) being the first Governor.

The Colony received grants-in-aid from the Imperial Parliament down to 1880, since which time it has been self-supporting.

The strategical value of the group was shown in 1914, when a British squadron based on Stanley defeated a German squadron in a naval action on the 8th of December.

CONSTITUTION.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official and one unofficial member, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Councils are appointed by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British descent. It is the descendants of the most enterprising of the early pioneers who now own the greater part of the land. In Stanley employment is almost solely at the disposal of the Government and the Falkland Islands Company. The people of the town are hardworking and thrifty. They share meagrely in the amenities of life, but the poverty which is always present in larger communities may be said to be non-existent in the Falkland Islands.

The most notable feature in 1922 was the recovery of the English wool market. The rigid economy called for by the depressed state of the industry in 1921 was in some measure relieved in 1922 and the effect of the improvement was generally felt. In Stanley, the port and distributing centre for the industry, the depression was not so much marked as might have been expected, but signs were not wanting throughout the year to show that the recovery in the market came only in time to prevent serious hardship resulting.

In the earlier part of the year the Government had under consideration measures for improving the milking strain of the cattle owned by the people of the town and depastured on the Stanley Common. With this object pedigree stock was imported to form a nucleus of a small stud farm. It is as yet too early to report on the results of the experiment. An area of land in the vicinity of the town was also fenced in and planted with tussac grass. This plantation should in time furnish a valuable source of winter food for the town cattle at times when the pasture on the Common is insufficient for their support.

No houses were built during the War. During the year the shortage of housing accommodation came to be acutely felt, and the Government took steps to relieve the situation by ordering several wooden dwellings from England. The houses, however, did not arrive before the close of the year.

The drainage and sanitary conditions of Stanley are far from satisfactory. It is hoped that from investigations instituted during the year a scheme will be evolved for the general improvement of the town.

The people of Stanley took a keen interest in the revival of the annual Flower Show and Industrial Exhibition which was held in February of the year for the first time since its discontinuance during the War. The objects of the exhibition are purely instructional and aim towards the encouragement of gardening and the home pursuits on which the welfare and interest of the average householder in Stanley so much depend.

The health of the Colony was good, no sickness of a serious character occurring during the year.

II.—FINANCIAL.

(a) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year 1922, excluding land sales and a sum of £106 set aside for the purpose of forming a Marine Insurance Fund, amounted to £37,536, as compared with £36,865 from normal sources for the previous year.

The following table is a comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1920, 1921 and 1922 :—

Head of Revenue.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Customs Duties	4,847	4,998	3,635
Post Office Receipts	3,175	2,035	1,556
Land Tax	8,694	8,467	8,239
Interest	12,141	12,883	11,150
Other sources	2,155	8,482	12,956
	<u>£31,012</u>	<u>£36,865</u>	<u>£37,536</u>
Land Sales	7,392	7,884	7,101
Marine Insurance Fund	—	—	106
Totals	<u>£38,404</u>	<u>£44,749</u>	<u>£44,743</u>

Of the ordinary revenue in 1922, £15,759 or 41·9 per cent. was derived directly from the land as follows :—

Rents	295
Interest derived from Land Sales	7,225
Investments	8,239
Revenue from Land Tax	8,239
	<u>£15,759</u>

Approximately one-third or £12,556 was derived from taxation as follows :—

Land Tax	8,239
Stanley Rates	368
Customs Duties, Licences and Royalties	3,949
	<u>£12,556</u>

Direct taxation yielded £8,607. Of this sum the farmers contributed 95·7 per cent. in payment of the graduated tax on land varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. per acre according to area. The remaining 4·3 per cent. was paid by the resident population of Stanley in the assessment tax of 1s. 3d. per £ on house property.

Customs import duties, licences and royalties yielded £3,949 or £1 17s. 0d. per head of the population.

(b) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year 1922, excluding payments chargeable to the surplus balances of the Colony, amounted to £38,452. The ordinary expenditure was £37,160 or £376 less than the ordinary revenue.

The following is a comparative statement of the total ordinary and extraordinary expenditure in the years 1920, 1921 and 1922 :

	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Ordinary Expenditure	28,251	32,286	37,160
Public Works Extraordinary	830	2,868	1,292
Miscellaneous Extraordinary	—	4,552	—
Totals	<u>£29,081</u>	<u>£39,706</u>	<u>£38,452</u>

(c) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets over liabilities at the end of 1922 amounted to £220,007.

The principal items were :—

Land Sales Fund	174,379
Marine Insurance Fund	106
General Account	45,522
Total	<u>£220,007</u>

(d) CURRENCY.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council of Queen Victoria, dated the 7th of March, 1899.

The total face value of the notes in circulation remained at £20,000, the same as in 1921, though there were indications, towards the close of the year, that this sum was somewhat in excess of currency requirements. During the year notes to the value of £5,490 were withdrawn and cancelled and replaced by new notes of a total equivalent value.

Of the sum of £20,000 representing the total value of notes in circulation £12,000 remained on investment with the Crown Agents and £8,000 in coin with the Commissioners of Currency.

The total income derived from invested securities amounted to £601 as against an expenditure of £217.

(e) BANKING.

There are no banking facilities in the Colony with the exception of those offered by the Government Savings Bank, which was instituted in 1888. The financial year of the Savings Bank is from the 1st of October to the 30th of September.

On the 30th of September, 1922, there were 805 active deposit accounts in this Bank with the aggregate sum of £123,891, due to depositors. These figures represent an average of £154 for each account or nearly £52 per head of the population.

The total amount deposited during the year was £17,956 as compared with a sum of £26,335 withdrawn. The deposits averaged £1,496 monthly and the withdrawals £2,195.

The rate of interest paid on deposits is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which is credited to the depositors' accounts at the end of the financial year.

(f) GENERAL.

There is no public debt. No public works on a scale involving expenditure which could not be met from current revenue have for many years been undertaken. The cost of certain schemes, at present only in their initial stages, for the improvement of Stanley is being charged to accumulated funds which have also been made to bear the cost of the patrol vessel recently acquired by the Government for the protection of the fur seal. There is little or no outlet locally for the investment of private capital. This, no doubt, explains the comparatively large sums lying idle in the Savings Bank.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony during 1922 was £112,298.

The following table shows the value of the imports for the years 1920, 1921 and 1922 :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco ..	77,745	48,888	36,247
Raw Materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	17,673	12,577	8,972
Articles wholly or mainly manu- factured	95,298	74,816	59,230
Live Stock	12,251	1,648	7,824
Bullion and Specie	7,035	—	25
Total	£210,002	£137,929	£112,298

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1922 were the following :—

	Value.
	£
Groceries	22,534
Coal and Coke	7,355
Live Stock	7,824
Hardware	9,035
Furniture	6,298
Drapery	13,011
Wearing apparel	6,902

The country of origin of the imports is shown below :—

United Kingdom	£93,698
Total from British Empire	£93,698
Argentina	466
Chile	12,635
France	15
Norway	301
Uruguay	5,183
Total, Foreign Countries	£18,600

There are no import duties except on wine, malt liquors, spirits and tobacco.

The annual quantity of malt liquors and spirits imported into the Colony has been as shown in the following table :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Spirits	3,227	4,129	2,594
Malt liquors	14,713	13,039	9,300
Total	17,940	17,168	11,894
Revenue received	£2,765	£3,429	£2,127

EXPORTS.

The total exports were valued at the port of shipment at £103,622.

The following is a comparative table :—

Article.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	Value.	Value.	Value.
				£	£	£
Wool ..	4,510,607	4,039,200	4,783,200	269,170	124,155	94,368
Tallow ..	535,360	117,600	303,520	21,798	909	4,590
Sheepskins	No. 86,447	No. 20,120	No. 65,680	36,200	2,009	2,993
Tinned Meat	Cases. 4,794	Cases. —	Cases. —	23,127	—	—

INDUSTRIES.

As has been indicated in previous reports, sheep farming is the one industry on which the trade of the Colony depends. The production of wool is at present the sole consideration.

During the year, 7,972 bales or approximately 4,783,200 lb. of wool were exported. The value of this produce was estimated for Customs purposes at £94,368, based on the very low prices obtained during 1921.

In 1922 there was a steady upward tendency in the price of wool which in December reached the comparatively high prices of 1s. to 1s. 5d. per lb., for fine grade produce. This compared with the prices of $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. ruling throughout 1921 is a distinct advance. The market shows signs of still further improvement.

The industry may now be said to have safely emerged from the recent crisis in its history occasioned by the slump in the price of wool. Until, however, its position has been strengthened by development along economic lines and the fullest possible use of the land has been secured, its future stability and prosperity must remain matters of uncertainty. The industry has recently been examined from its inception in all its aspects with the object of initiating investigation into the best means of its development and the removal of the difficulties with which the sheep farmers have to contend. It is clear from the outset that methods which were at one time successfully employed in the utilization of areas of what was then comparatively virgin soil can no longer hold good after many years of stocking.

Progress in the industry seems to lie most directly along the lines of sub-divisional fencing with the object of improving the pasture by spelling different areas for a certain period in each year and of withdrawing old and worn-out sheep regularly from the flocks in order that sufficient pasturage may be available for young stock. The high cost of materials during the War made fencing in most cases financially impossible. The chief economic handicap under which Falkland Islands farmers suffer is the absence of a profitable market for their surplus stock. Present difficulties would be removed by the establishment of a freezing factory in the Colony, and there is little doubt that such an undertaking would follow if it could be shown that an adequate and constant supply of animals for freezing purposes could be guaranteed. It is apparent, however, that with farming as it is at present carried on in the Colony many alterations would have to be made in breeding and in the composition of flocks if a freezing factory were established.

The following is a summary of the latest statistics available regarding the number of sheep in the Colony :—

Number of Sheep	666,175
Number of Breeding Ewes	250,529
Number of Hoggets	134,324
Percentage of Hoggets to Breeding Ewes	53.6%

The general health of the flocks was good, but there were signs that the sheep were lacking in stamina.

The number of hoggets represents the total number of lambs surviving from the previous year's lambing as none are killed or sold. It is in regrettably low proportion to the breeding ewes, but there has been a steady decline in lambing percentages in recent years.

The breed of sheep is a cross-bred Romney; all the wool sent home is in the grease.

SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels which entered the Colony during the year was 50 with a tonnage of 89,818, as compared with 49 and a tonnage of 74,765 in 1921. Of these 15 with a tonnage of 63,418 were British.

The following table shows the number, nationality and description of vessels entered :—

	British.		Foreign.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Steamships	15	63,418	35	26,400.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years is compulsory under the Public Education Ordinance, 1909. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one conducted by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers of whom four, during the year, were provided by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited. The Company also retain a resident teacher at their head station at Darwin.

There is no provision for secondary education in the Colony.

The following statement shows the number of children taught during the year :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At the Government School ..	79	60	139
At the Roman Catholic School	19	48	67
By the Government Travelling Teachers	47	46	93
By the Falkland Islands Company's Teachers	35	35	70
Totals	180	189	369

The existing arrangements for the education of the children in the country districts can neither be regarded as satisfactory nor adequate, and the need for improvement in the system is generally felt. Towards the end of the year the Government Schoolmaster submitted, for consideration, a scheme for increasing the facilities for elementary education in the Colony generally and for providing at the Government School a two years' course of further education beyond the elementary stage.

V.—CLIMATE.

Complete statistics are not available for the year. In May a Meteorological Station was established at Stanley under the care of the Harbour Master.

The rainfall for the year was low. Continuous dry weather was experienced for 54 days in the months of November and

December. The largest number of days on which rain fell in one month was recorded in September. The highest temperature recorded was in December when 69° was reached.

An examination of past records shows that the mean daily maximum temperature is highest in January (55° F.) and the lowest in July (40° F.). The mean daily minimum is 45° in January and 33° in mid-winter. On only about four days in the year does the maximum temperature exceed 62·6° F. On the other hand, minimum temperatures below 31·0° F. may be expected on about 50 days in each year. The average daily sunshine is 3 hours 48 minutes. In January it is over 6 hours. During the year an average of 177 days or nearly half have less than 3 hours of bright sunshine. At Stanley the average rainfall is 26·43 inches as against 23·80 at Kew. The rainfall is distributed among a large number of days so that an excessive fall in one day is not common. Constant strong winds prevail during the months of October, November and December, rising at daybreak and falling towards evening. Severe storms are of less frequent occurrence and intensity than in the United Kingdom.

The average temperature in West Falkland is higher than in the East Island. This is thought to be due to the presence of a warm current which exists in the vicinity.

There is little doubt that the climate is on the whole one of the most salubrious in the world. There are neither endemic nor epidemic diseases. It has frequently been stated that there is some danger in the alleged rigour of the climate for persons predisposed to pulmonary affections, but no support can be found for the theory, and medical officers stationed in the Colony have given it as their opinion that the Falklands can be recommended as a health resort for such persons.

VI.—COMMUNICATION.

The total number of vessels carrying mails in 1922, including inward and outward mails, was 18. The number of mails received direct from the United Kingdom was 9 and from the United Kingdom via Panama 1. Mails despatched to the United Kingdom either direct or via Monte Video totalled 5 and mails sent either via Panama or the Andes 18. South American mails totalled 34, being 16 inward and 18 outward.

A fairly regular mail service at intervals of about six weeks was maintained between the United Kingdom and the Colony. Only one passenger steamer sailed from Stanley direct for the United Kingdom via Monte Video.

The inter-insular mail service was more frequent and regular than in the previous year. This was due to the opportunities afforded for communication by the Government Patrol boat.

There is a wireless service with Monte Video whence messages are cabled. The cost per word in 1922 was 4s. 3d. A small station on West Falkland Island maintains communication with Stanley.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the number of births and deaths registered in the Colony during the year :—

	Births.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
Stanley	15	12	27
East Falkland (not including Stanley)	12	10	22
West Falkland	3	3	6
Totals	30	25	55

	Deaths.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	
Stanley	6	8	14
West Falkland	—	1	1
Totals	6	9	15

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1922, was 1,205 males and 937 females, a total of 2,142.

VIII.—DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.

The final report by the Geologist appointed by the Government to investigate the mineral resources of the Colony is not yet available, but in a progress report the Geologist stated that given the area under examination he had never seen a series of rocks so barren from the point of view of included minerals.

During the year the Imperial Institute reported on samples taken from the penguin guano deposits of the Colony. From the analysis of the guano made it does not appear that the deposits could be exploited as a sound commercial undertaking.

The measures indicated in last year's report as being taken for the protection and farming of the fur seal were continued throughout the year. An effort to re-establish and foster an industry of this nature after so many years of sealing without supervision must necessarily be attended with great difficulties. It is as yet too early to discuss the prospects of the ultimate success of the experiment.

Tree planting was continued during the year. Progress in this direction is necessarily slow. The absence of suitable shelter and the acidity of the soil are among the obstacles to be overcome. Of the plantation laid out in the vicinity of Stanley only the conifers survived, the hardwood trees soon succumbing. The Austrian and Corsican pines showed most signs of life and seem to be the trees best adapted to this country.

Many conjectures have been made regarding the possible resources of the Colony and many schemes have been proposed for extending its industries and trade. The remoteness of markets,

the difficulties in communication and the high cost of imported materials all tend to discourage projects which might otherwise prove practicable. While the investigations made in different directions have been of value in improving the imperfect scientific knowledge of the country which has hitherto existed, they have without exception proved fruitless from a commercial point of view. There is little hope of commercial development through new industries, and the prosperity of the Colony must in the future, as in the past, rest mainly on the development of its resources as a sheep country.

IX.—SOCIAL.

The cost of living in the Colony was comparatively low. The slightly higher cost of certain commodities was due to fluctuations in the South American market from which the articles had to be obtained, but the general tendency of prices was to drop rather than to increase. There is no income tax and Stanley is a free port except for wines, spirits, malt liquor, and tobacco.

Wages on the farm stations were from £7 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel and milk found.

Town labourers were paid £11 per month or 1s. an hour and tradesmen from £15 to £16 or 1s. 4½*d.* an hour. Mutton cost 3*d.* a lb., with bread 3½*d.* a lb., milk 1s. a quart and eggs 3*d.* each. The ordinary cost of living in a boarding house in Stanley was from 30s. to 60s. a week.

Labour troubles were completely absent in 1922; the balance between supply and demand was, as usual, very evenly kept.

DEPENDENCIES.

INTRODUCTION.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands: South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands and the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

DESCRIPTIVE.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains covered with snow, where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or

less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster at Deception Island in the South Shetlands. These Dependencies are, however, ice free for some four or five months in the year only.

Captain Cook described these regions as "a country doomed by nature never once to feel the warmth of the sun's rays, but to lie buried in everlasting snow and ice. . . . a coast which when discovered and explored, would have answered no end whatever, or have been of the least value, either to navigation or to geography or indeed to any other science." It is from this region that merchandise, valued at over two million pounds sterling, is derived each year and on which so much scientific interest has of late been centred.

HISTORICAL.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the sixteenth, seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or to pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith in the snow "Williams" of Blyth took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-20, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793, and British whalers were met there in 1819. The fur seal industry achieved such large proportions that no less than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction from the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners. The Norwegians were first in the field and credit must be given to them for their initiative and energy.

The Dependencies are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony are, however, only in force in the Dependencies if specifically applied. A permanent official staff of two Magistrates, two Customs Officers and one Police Constable is maintained at South Georgia, while such control as is possible of the South Shetlands whaling fleet is carried out by a Magistrate and a whaling officer who accompany the fleet south in November and return with it in April.

South Georgia is the only part of the Dependencies which is permanently habitable. Five land stations have been established there by whaling companies, sites of the usual extent of 500 acres being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. The leases include the right to use two whale catchers without the payment of additional licence fees. The harbours in the other Dependencies are ice bound for about seven months in the year, and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories. There are also land stations at Deception Island and at the South Orkneys, the personnel of which arrive and return with the whaling fleets.

Low prices were realized for the oil produced during the 1921–22 season and it was found necessary to relieve the industry by refunding a proportion of the customs duties paid on the oil exported. The season 1922–23 opened with a scarcity of whales.

It has been the policy of the Colonial Office that the revenue derived from the Dependencies should, as far as possible, be devoted to the development of their resources.

II.—FINANCIAL.

During 1922 the revenue derived from the Dependencies was £142,102 and the local expenditure £12,939.

Under instruction from the Secretary of State for the Colonies the surplus of Dependencies' revenue, after providing for local services and paying for the cost of the central administration in the Falklands, is earmarked for research and development purposes. Owing to the low prices for oil ruling in the European market a refund of 1s. 6d. a barrel was made to the exporters in respect of the 1921–22 season. The Research Fund on the 31st of December, 1922, stood at £115,771.

The total excess of Assets over Liabilities at the end of the year was £208,548.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

There are no banking facilities and the export duty is paid locally by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

TRADE.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1922 was £2,894,207, of which £2,504,944 represents exports and the balance imports.

INDUSTRIES.

The development of the Dependencies has been rapid, and it is not yet proved that whaling in these waters will, as has happened elsewhere in the world, exhaust the supply. Fortunately the industry has been controlled by the Falkland Islands Government from its commencement; the keen interest taken in it by the Imperial Government and the British Museum has been of great value.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the sole industry. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season to the period from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

The progress of the whaling industry since it assumed large proportions in 1908 is best shown by the following table:—

Year.	Whale Catchers.	Whales Captured.	Barrels of Oil.	Average of barrels per whale.	Value. £
1909–1914 (average)	.. 42	8,314	304,002	36·57	822,451
1915–16	.. 57	11,792	558,805	47·39	1,856,384
1916–17	.. 44	6,474	361,087	55·77	1,542,323
1917–18	.. 48	4,313	258,476	59·91	1,658,215
1918–19	.. 49	4,838	232,371	46·82	1,725,444
1919–20	.. 43	5,247	256,252	48·84	2,748,852
1920–21	.. 48	8,520	383,816	45·05	1,559,467
1921–22	.. 50	6,955	448,885	64·54	2,244,390

In addition to the 448,885 barrels of whale oil produced during the year the sealing operations yielded 2,713 barrels of oil as compared with 2,401 barrels collected in the previous year.

The values in the above table are based on conventional customs valuations and those for previous years are not very reliable. The value given for 1922 may, however, be taken as an accurate indication of the value based on the rate of £30 a ton, which was the average price of oil on the European market during the year.

The average of 64·54 barrels per whale is the highest recorded.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the number of steamships which entered at South Georgia during 1922:—

British.		Foreign.	
Number of Steamships.	Tonnage.	Number of Steamships.	Tonnage.
16	25,911	18	19,488

There is no port of entry in the other Dependencies and all ships for South Shetlands must enter at the Falkland Islands or at South Georgia.

Towards the close of the year two beacon lights were conveyed to the South Shetlands for erection on Deception Island. These should prove of great benefit to shipping.

IV.—CLIMATE.

Five meteorological stations are maintained at South Georgia by the whaling companies with shore factories and one is maintained in the South Orkneys by the Argentine Government. The returns from the latter are not sent to the Colony.

The average temperature at South Georgia is 36°; in January and February it is 46·2°, and in the three coldest months, June, July and August, it is 27·9°.

During the year 1922 rain fell on 121 days. A total rainfall of 59·3 inches was recorded, the greatest rainfall being in February with 8·9 inches rain. Observations over three years in South Georgia show that snow falls on an average on 124 days in the year and hail on 43.

The average number of occurrences of winds of gale force is only three per annum. No gales have yet been recorded in January. The mean wind force for 1922 was 1·88.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness is caused by the absence of fresh provisions, but the climate is undoubtedly healthy.

V.—COMMUNICATION.

There is no direct communication between South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Vessels for this Dependency call at South American ports on their way out and there is more or less regular communication between South Georgia and Buenos Aires.

The South Shetlands whaling fleet calls at Stanley on the way south in November and again on the return in March–April.

There is no wireless telegraph station in the Dependencies, but communication is sometimes possible between steamers engaged in the whaling industry and the Colonial Government Station at Stanley.

VI.—POPULATION.

South Georgia has a fluctuating population of over 1,000.

The population on the 24th of April, 1921, when a census was taken, was 1,337, of whom three were females. Of the whaling population no fewer than 998 were natives of Sweden or Norway.

G. R. L. BROWN,

Officer-in-charge of the Secretariat.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
22nd September, 1923.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to his Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1150	Sierra Leone	1921
1151	Uganda	"
1152	Somaliland	"
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate .. (April–December)	"
1154	Gold Coast	"
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	"
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	"
1160	Gambia	"
1161	New Hebrides	1921 & 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	"
1164	St. Helena	"
1165	Sierra Leone	"
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1167	Bermuda	"
1168	Grenada	"
1169	St. Lucia	"
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	"
1173	Gibraltar	"
1174	British Guiana	"
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	"
1177	St. Vincent	"
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1922–1923
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	"
1181	British Honduras	"
1182	Uganda	"
1183	Federated Malay States	"
1184	Unfederated Malay States	"
1185	State of Brunei	"
1186	Straits Settlements	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

12

COMMERCIAL BANK OF NEW YORK

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of Directors of the Commercial Bank of New York for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 1887.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1242.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1187.)



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1925.

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No. 1242.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND
ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1923.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION.

Geographical.

The Falkland Islands comprise a group of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, lying some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan. The geographical position is between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude. There are two main islands, known as the East and West Falkland, which are divided by a sound running approximately north-east. There are numerous smaller islands clustered round each of these. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty Chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
Total area of Group	<u>4,618</u>

Descriptive.

The Falkland Islands are in general appearance treeless, bleak and inhospitable. The scenery generally is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands, where somewhat similar climatic conditions prevail. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast, but there are numerous excellent harbours. There are no high mountains, the highest point in the group being Mount Adam, 2,315 ft., in the West Falkland. The country may best be described as in the narrative of the "Challenger" Expedition as a "treeless expanse of moorland and bog and bare and barren rock."

The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on an excellent natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. There are some 890 residents only. Beyond the limits of the town there are no roads, and all inland travel is done on horseback, with pack horses for transport. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which the country is divided.

Historical.

A group of six or seven islands situated to the east of the Patagonian coast appears in maps of South America from 1507 onwards. No written record remains of their discovery, but it is probable that they may have been what are now known as the Jason Islands, lying to the extreme north-west of the Falklands. They were subsequently seen on the 24th of January, 1600, by the Dutch navigator, Sebald de Weert, and were named after him. Meanwhile, part of the Falkland Islands group was sighted by John Davis, master of the "Desire," on the 14th August, 1592, and his is the first known written mention of them. From his discovery they were called Davis' Southern Islands. In February, 1594, the first inspection of the Falklands was made by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty," a vessel of 400 tons. He coasted round a considerable part of the group and described the country at length. He made some inaccurate deductions from what he saw and in the narrative of his voyage he gives the latitude, by manifest error, possibly in transcription, three degrees out, but there can be no reasonable doubt that he actually surveyed the Falkland Islands and was the first to describe them. It was not until 1690 that any landing was made. On the 27th of January (Old Style) in that year, Captain Strong visited the islands, in a vessel called the "Welfare," sailing up the sound between the East and West Falkland and naming it "Fawkland Sound." He landed at several points, obtaining geese, ducks and fresh water. The naming of the group as the Falkland Islands derives its origin from Captain Strong's visit.

During the first half of the 18th century adventurers, in vessels fitted out at St. Malo, visited the islands which then obtained the name from the French of *Iles Malouines*, transformed later by the Spaniards to *Islas Malvinas*. In 1764 a French settlement was planted by de Bougainville at a spot named Port Louis in Berkeley Sound, a few miles north of Port William. A British garrison was posted at an island in the West Falkland in 1766, England reasserting her claim to the sovereignty of the group, which had been formally proclaimed in the previous year at the same place, on the ground of priority of discovery. In 1767 France ceded her rights in the country to Spain for the sum of £25,000. Three years later a squadron of five frigates drove out the British garrison, but the action was disowned by the Spanish Government, and the garrison was restored by Spain in 1770. In 1774 the post was temporarily abandoned. It is believed that the Spanish garrison was withdrawn in 1800. According to Admiral Fitzroy "From 1810 to 1820 there was no person upon these islands who claimed even a shadow of authority over them." In November of the latter year the flag of "The United Provinces of South America" was hoisted with a claim to sovereignty. There does

not appear to have been any occupation until 1823, when one Louis Vernet, a German, obtained a concession from the Buenos Aires Government for the use of the fishery, cattle and tracts of land in the East Falkland. The action of this Government was scarcely known in Europe until 1829, when a formal protest was made by Great Britain. In the same year Vernet was appointed Governor of the islands by the Government of the United Provinces of South America. In 1831 his settlement was, however, broken up by a United States corvette, and many persons, including his agent, were deported in retaliation for an exercise by him of his fishery rights against American sealers. Some years later, and after further British occupation, Vernet accepted compensation in full for all his property left in the islands. In January, 1833, Great Britain, following up the warnings given four years previously, reassumed occupation, and settled and developed the islands. The settlement was in charge of naval officers down to 1842, when Richard Clement Moody, a subaltern in the Royal Engineers, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor. He was raised to the rank of Governor shortly afterwards.

The Colony received grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government down to 1880, since which time it has been self-supporting.

Constitution.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official members, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are appointed by warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British origin. The descendants of the early pioneers now own the greater part of the land.

The Colony is entirely divided into sheep farms. Nearly one-third of the total area is owned by the Falkland Islands Company, who own more than one-third of the sheep. The balance of the land is shared between nineteen farms running over 10,000 sheep, and nine with less than that number. Of the larger farms there are only ten managed by resident owners or members of their families.

From the time of the foundation of the Colony to the present date there has been a succession of Governors who have endeavoured to develop her resources in every direction in which their inclination led them or the funds at their disposal allowed.

Fisheries, shipwrighting, peat, coal, oil, guano and gold have all had their turn, whether through private or public effort, but the conclusion has been forced on the present Administration, at least, that the first and most urgent demand on the resources available for development purposes is that they should be devoted to the sheep industry. It is realized that the whole wealth of the Colony is derived from the wool produced, and has been mainly so derived since the country became self-supporting.

On the whole, 1923 was a prosperous year for the Colony. The wool market was firm; there was, with insignificant exception, no crime and the health of the people was good.

II.—FINANCIAL.

(a) *Revenue.*

The revenue for the year 1923 was £47,795, as compared with £44,743 in the previous year and an average of £42,672 for the last three years.

There are no import Customs duties except on spirits, wine and tobacco, which yielded a revenue of £4,319. Deducting the amount derived from the sale of land, the interest on investments and a contribution of £5,000 paid by the Dependencies of the Colony towards the cost of the central administration, there remains the sum of £16,658 only paid out by the Colonists in taxation. This is less than 10 per cent. of the value of the total exports of articles of domestic produce.

(b) *Expenditure.*

The expenditure during the year of record amounted to £42,868. The following is a comparative statement of the total ordinary and extraordinary expenditure in the years 1921, 1922 and 1923:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Ordinary Expenditure ...	32,286	37,160	32,554
Public Works Extraordinary	2,868	1,292	8,514
Miscellaneous Extraordinary	4,552	—	1,800
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£39,706	£38,452	£42,868

Apart from the cost of the maintenance of a patrol boat for seal fishery protection, the heaviest expenditure was involved by the upkeep of the Medical Department at £3,558, followed by Public Works Recurrent, £3,092, and the Post Office, which includes a wireless station and is revenue-producing, £2,492.

(c) *Assets and Liabilities.*

The balance of assets over liabilities at the end of 1923 amounted to £220,435. This includes a land sales fund of the value of £182,453, and £37,770 on general account.

(d) *Currency and Banking.*

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th March, 1899. The total face value of the notes in circulation was, during the year, reduced from £20,000 to £18,000.

There are no banking facilities in the Colony with the exception of those offered by the Government Savings Bank, which performs only the functions of a Post Office Savings Bank in the United Kingdom. Persons remitting money to the Colony should, therefore, avoid sending cheques which cannot be cleared or discounted locally. Remittances can be sent through the Crown Agents for the Colonies for the credit of any person in the Colony.

There were, on the 30th of September, 1923, 821 deposit accounts in the Savings Bank, with an aggregate sum of £120,965 to their credit. This represents the average of £148 in each account, or £56 per head of the population. £19,612 was withdrawn and £25,434 deposited during the year. Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. is paid on deposits for 12 months.

(e) *General.*

There is no public debt and no large sums have hitherto been spent on the development of the resources of the Colony or the improvement of conditions. During the year consideration was given to the schemes for progress initiated in 1922. The isolation of this small Colony, the great expense ordinarily attendant on procuring expert professional advice, the lack of funds and the absence of means of attraction for outside capital have in former years proved a serious, if not an insuperable stumbling block, in the way of development.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

Trade.

	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
Imports	137,929	112,298	141,080
Exports	130,006	103,622	167,440
Total Trade ...	£267,935	£215,920	£308,520

Imports.

There are no import customs duties except on spirits 15s. per gallon, wine 2s., and beer 6d. a gallon in bulk, tobacco 3s. a lb., and cigars 5s. a lb.

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1922 and 1923 were as follows:—

	1922.	1923.
	£	£
Groceries	22,534	25,110
Coal and Coke	7,355	4,715
Live Stock	7,824	7,435
Hardware and Machinery	9,035	37,085
Furniture	6,298	8,011
Drapery	13,011	10,621

The country of origin of the imports is shown below—

	Value.	Percentage of
	£	Total Imports.
		%
United Kingdom	117,749	83·47
Chile	15,779	11·18
Uruguay	4,673	3·31
Argentine	1,737	1·23
Others	1,142	·81

The quantity of spirits and malt liquor imported into the Colony during each of the past four years has been as shown below:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Spirits	3,227	3,993	2,594	3,729
Malt liquors	14,713	16,072	9,300	5,273
Wines	1,530	1,888	929	1,161

It may be deduced from the above figures and from the vital statistics of the Colony that the average annual consumption per head of the adult male population is four gallons of spirits, fifteen of beer, and one of wine.

Exports.

The value taken for the exports is that at the port of shipment. The exports of domestic produce other than wool, valued at £142,755, live sheep £9,675, and sheepskins £7,431, were negligible; 127 fur sealskins of a nominal value of £500 were sent to the United Kingdom, as against 96 skins in 1922.

An Ordinance was passed at the end of 1923 imposing an export tax of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported. It was anticipated that a revenue of approximately £9,000 per annum would be derived from this source. Ordinance No. 5 of 1918, imposing a tax of ¼d. to 1d. on land, according to area, was at the same time repealed. It is noteworthy that the new export tax was imposed at the request of the wool growers, who considered this a more equitable form of taxation than any other measure designed to produce the same revenue.

Industries.

As has been indicated in the earlier part of this report, the sole industry in the Colony is sheep-farming.

During the year 1923, 7,661 bales, approximately 4,596,600 lb. of wool, were exported to the United Kingdom. The value given for Customs purposes was £142,755. The average of the exports for the previous four years was 7,641 bales, valued at £192,884.

36,136 live sheep were exported to the Argentine, the sale price averaging 5s. 4d. a head. It has been reported that 10,000 were eventually disposed of to a freezing concern, the remainder being fattened for consumption in the country.

The winter was exceptionally severe and the losses among live stock of all kinds heavy. It is not surprising therefore that the lambing was bad, but as poor lambings have been a feature of recent years it is probable that the condition of the pasture and of the flocks is more to blame than the climate. The weather was, on the whole, dry when the ewes lambed and the feed after a late winter was notably abundant.

The following is a comparative table of the numbers of sheep in 1922 and 1923 :—

	1922.	1923.
Sheep	666,175	637,210
Wethers	189,686	195,395
Breeding Ewes	250,529	257,867
Hoggets	134,324	117,693
Percentage of Hoggets to Breeding Ewes of previous year	59.67%	46.1%

As no lambs are killed or sold the numbers of hoggets represent the survivals from the previous year's lambing. The record is far from encouraging. The leading wool growers are, however, working in co-operation with the Government with a view to solving the all important problems connected with the decline in the prosperity of the industry.

The serious effects of the decline have not yet been appreciably felt financially owing to the steady rise in the price of wool, but the farmers, more particularly in the West Falklands, where the flocks are decreasing more rapidly than in the East, have every ground for anxiety.

Shipping.

The nationality, number and tonnage of vessels which entered the Colony during 1923 are shown in the following table :—

Nationality.	Steam-ships.	Tonnage.	Sailing ships.	Tonnage.
British	13	57,054	1	25
Chilean	—	—	3	208
Norwegian	35	24,436	—	—
Spanish	4	10,128	—	—
Total	52	91,618	4	233

IV.—EDUCATION.

The following statement shows the number of children taught during the year :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Government School	91	60	151
Roman Catholic School	26	57	83
Government Travelling Teachers	29	24	53
Falkland Islands Company's Teachers	30	25	55
Totals	176	166	342

Frequent mention has been made in former years of the difficulties attendant on the provision of educational facilities for children in the outlying settlements and the homes of the shepherds. The system of sending uncertificated and untrained travelling teachers round the country to spend from two to six weeks during the year at each place could only be regarded as an inadequate makeshift, but it has served its turn well. Parents of young children in the camp have always been very reluctant to send their children to Stanley, even where they could afford the cost. During 1923 the Secretary of State approved a scheme prepared by Mr. Hoare, Government Schoolmaster, whereby the Government undertook to board, lodge and educate children from the country districts at a cost to the parents of £1 a month only. A subsidy of £2 a month for each child was also offered to be paid to friends or relations of the parents who preferred that their children should live with them rather than at the Government Hostel.

V.—CLIMATE.

The climate of the Falklands, though trying on account of the continuous high winds in the summer months, is very healthy. It is generally described as rigorous, but this is misleading. There are seldom heavy frosts, and snow, which never lies long, is rarely more than ankle deep. Severe storms are

of less frequent occurrence and intensity than in the United Kingdom. Rainfall is well distributed over the year. The average fall is 26·43 inches per annum, or slightly more than at Kew. Although the temperature seldom rises above 63 degrees; it falls below freezing point on about 50 days only throughout the year.

The mean daily maximum temperature is 55 degrees in January and 40 in July, while the mean minimum is 45 in January and 33 in midwinter. Fogs and mists inland are very uncommon.

The average daily bright sunshine is over six hours in January and three hours forty-eight minutes over the whole year.

The winter of 1923 was exceptionally severe and was prolonged into November. The effect on the mortality of the sheep was serious. As, however, commonly happens with a late winter, the pasturage benefited appreciably.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

A fairly regular mail service with the United Kingdom was maintained in 1923 by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Eight mails were received, the time occupied in transit being four weeks. Homeward bound mails, via Panama, take up to seven weeks to reach England, but there are opportunities in the autumn for direct communication for passengers and mails. The ordinary postal rate is 1*d.* per ounce within the British Empire, and 3*d.* per ounce to foreign countries.

The Colonial Government maintains two wireless stations. The normal range of the larger station at Stanley is 750 miles. A smaller station for inter-insular traffic has a range of 100 miles. The normal wave length is 600 metres. The bulk of the traffic goes to Monte Video, from whence the messages are cabled to Europe. The Chilean station at Punta Arenas in Patagonia also receives wireless messages and transmits them by the All-America route. The cost of cabling is 4*s.* 2*d.* a word to the United Kingdom and 1*s.* 2*d.* to Monte Video and Punta Arenas. The deferred rate is 2*s.* 6½*d.* a word to the United Kingdom.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1923, was 2,173, composed of 1,206 males and 967 females. The birth-rate was 16·3 per 1,000 and the death-rate 8 per 1,000.

VIII.—SOCIAL.

The cost of living is low in the country districts as in any similar pastoral community, but heavy freight rates make imported provisions costly.

The following prices give some indication of the cost of living:—Mutton 3*d.* a lb., beef 4½*d.* a lb., butter 2*s.* 8*d.* a lb., milk 1*s.* a quart, sugar 6*d.* a lb., bread 1*s.* 2*d.* a quarter loaf, tea 3*s.* a lb. Horses cost about £16, cows £4, sheep 12*s.* 6*d.* Board and lodging in Stanley cost from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 8*s.* a day.

Wages are from 1*s.* an hour for unskilled labour to 1*s.* 4½*d.* for tradesmen. Shepherds and farm hands receive £7 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat and milk found. It costs farm labourers from 8*d.* to 1*s.* a day for all food.

There were no labour troubles in 1923.

DEPENDENCIES.

INTRODUCTION.

Geographical.

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands: South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, and the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

Descriptive.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains covered with snow where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster, at Deception Island, in the South Shetlands. These dependencies are, however, ice free for some four or five months in the year only.

Captain Cook described these regions as "a country doomed by nature never once to feel the warmth of the sun's rays, but to lie buried in everlasting snow and ice . . . a coast which, when discovered and explored, would have answered no end whatever, or have been of the least value, either to navigation or to geography or, indeed, to any other science." It is from this region that merchandise, valued at over two million pounds sterling, is derived each year and on which so much scientific interest has of late been centred.

Historical.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the sixteenth, seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith, in the snow "Williams" of Blyth, took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-20, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793, and British Whalers were met there in 1819. The fur-seal industry achieved such large proportions that no less than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur-seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilized mainly by foreigners. The Norwegians were first in the field and credit must be given to them for their initiative and energy.

The Dependencies are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. Laws passed by the Legislative Council of the Colony are, however, only in force in the Dependencies if specifically applied. A permanent official staff of two Magistrates, two Customs Officers and one Police Constable is maintained at South Georgia, while such control as is possible of the South Shetlands whaling fleet is carried out by a Magistrate and a whaling officer who accompany the fleet south in November and return with it in April.

South Georgia is the only part of the Dependencies which is permanently habitable. Five land stations have been established there by whaling companies, sites of the usual extent of 500 acres being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. The leases include the right to use two whale-catchers without the payment of additional licence fees. The harbours in the other Dependencies are ice bound for about seven months in the year, and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories. There are also land stations at Deception Island and at the South Orkneys, the personnel of which arrive and return with the whaling fleets.

Low prices were realized for the oil produced during the 1922-23 season and it was found necessary to relieve the industry by refunding a proportion of the customs duties paid on the oil exported.

It has been the policy of the Colonial Office that the revenue derived from the Dependencies should, as far as possible, be devoted to the development of their resources.

An Executive Committee was appointed in London during the course of 1923 to control the proposed investigations recommended by the Inter-Departmental Committee in 1919. The Committee, upon which the Admiralty, the British Museum, the Ministry of Fisheries and the Royal Geographical Society are represented, carries out its duties subject to the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

II.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue derived from the Dependencies in 1923 was £160,221. The local expenditure was £7,436.

Under instruction from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the surplus of Dependencies' revenue, after providing for local services and paying for the cost of central administration in the Falklands, is earmarked for research and development purposes. The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1923, was £315,795, of which £300,302 stood to the credit of the Research Fund.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

There are no banking facilities. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is paid by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES AND SHIPPING.

Trade.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1923 was £3,203,011, of which £2,918,198 represents exports of whale products.

Industries.

The development of the Dependencies has been rapid, and it is not yet proved that whaling in these waters will, as has happened elsewhere in the world, exhaust the supply. Fortunately, the industry has been controlled by the Falkland Islands Government from its commencement; the keen interest taken in it by the Imperial Government and the British Museum has been of great value.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the sole industry. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season to the period from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

The progress of the whaling industry in the Dependencies since its inception on an extensive scale in 1909 is shown in the following Table :—

Year	Whale Catchers.	Whales Captured.	Barrels of Oil.	Average of Barrels per Whale.	Value. £
1909-1914 (average) ...	42	8,314	304,002	36.57	822,451
1915-20 (average) ...	48	6,533	333,398	51.03	1,906,244
1920-21	48	8,520	383,816	45.05	1,559,467
1921-22	50	6,955	448,885	64.54	2,244,390
1922-23	55	9,915	611,372	61.66	3,056,860

The increased value of the catches, as reflected in the increase in the average number of barrels of oil produced from each whale, may be largely attributed to the effect of stringent regulations made in 1921 which compel the economical utilization of the carcasses and restrict the waste which formerly prevailed. Improved methods of dealing with the material have also had much to do with the better results now obtained.

The whaling industry is subject to special taxation in the form of an export duty on oil and guano. The masters of vessels exporting these products are required to declare the quantities carried and to pay duty before their vessels can be cleared. Certificates showing the quantities landed must be obtained from the senior Officer of Customs at the port or ports of discharge. The amount of duty paid is subsequently adjusted on the evidence of the certificates.

The rate of duty on whale and seal oil was originally fixed at 3½d. a barrel. This was raised to 1s. 6d. in 1919 on the understanding that the yield in excess of 3½d. a barrel should be carried to a separate fund for the benefit of the Dependencies and principally to defray the cost of the researches recommended in a report* made in 1919 by an Inter-Departmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies. In 1920 the duty was raised to 5s. a barrel. This rate has, however, never been actually effective; since, owing to the collapse of the market for oil, half the duties paid in 1920-21 were refunded, and in subsequent years a system of refunds on a sliding scale has brought the net duties to 3s. 6d. a barrel. The value of the oil in the European market was fairly steady between 1921 and 1923 at £30 a ton. The export duty on guano is 1½d. per 100 lb., or part thereof. The gross export duty received in 1923 from the Dependencies was £149,517, of which £105,840 was retained. Credit to the research fund brought the total to £300,302 by the end of the year. £16,000 was expended during the course of 1923 on the purchase and part reconditioning of the "Discovery," the vessel used by Captain Scott in his antarctic explorations of 1901-04.

The cost of a licence for whale fishing is £100 a year. The payment of a further £100 allows the licensee to use two whale-catchers. £100 is charged for any additional catcher. It is worthy of mention that a single large whale may produce oil to the value of over £1,000. In view of the restrictions necessary on the fishing industry no new licences are now issued. Twelve Norwegian and two British companies hold the field.

Whaling was resumed in the South Orkneys in 1922-23 by the one company which is licensed to fish there. The catch was 325 whales, which yielded 13,629 barrels of oil, or the low average of 42.19 barrels per whale.

Shipping.

The following table shows the number of steamships which entered at South Georgia during 1923 :—

British.		Foreign.	
Number of Steamships.	Tonnage.	Number of Steamships.	Tonnage.
13	22,722	20	28,456

Grytviken, in South Georgia, and Port Foster, in South Shetland Islands, are the only ports of entry in the Dependency.

* Cmd. 657 of 1920.

IV.—CLIMATE.

Five meteorological stations are maintained at South Georgia by the whaling companies with shore factories, and one is maintained in the South Orkneys by the Argentine Government. The returns from the latter are not sent to the Colony.

The mean temperature at South Georgia during 1923 was 35°: the range was from 6° on the 29th of August to 70° on the 16th of February.

During 1923 rain fell on 100 days, and snow or sleet on 187 days. The total fall was 50·26 inches.

There is little sickness in the Dependencies. Such sickness as exists may be ascribed to the lack of fresh provisions, but the climate is undoubtedly very healthy.

V.—COMMUNICATION.

There is no direct communication between South Georgia and the Falkland Islands. Vessels for this Dependency call at South American ports on their way out and there is more or less regular communication between South Georgia and Buenos Aires.

The South Shetlands whaling fleet calls at Stanley on the way south in November and again on the return in March-April.

There is no wireless telegraph station in the Dependencies, but communication is sometimes possible between steamers engaged in the whaling industry and the Colonial Government Station at Stanley.

VI.—POPULATION.

South Georgia has a fluctuating population of over 1,000.

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1923, was 1,337, composed of 1,334 males and three females. About 1,000 of the whaling population are natives of Sweden and Norway.

H. HENNIKER-HEATON,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
5th December, 1924.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1215	British Honduras	1923
1216	New Hebrides	"
1217	Gibraltar	"
1218	Jamaica	"
1219	Sierra Leone	"
1220	Uganda	"
1221	Grenada	"
1222	British Guiana	"
1223	St. Vincent	"
1224	St. Helena	"
1225	Barbados	1923-1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1228	Hongkong	"
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923-1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914-1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923-1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	"
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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No. 1278.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND
ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1924.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Falkland Islands comprise a group of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, lying some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan. The geographical position is between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude. There are two main islands, known as the East and West Falkland, which are divided by a sound running approximately north-east. There are numerous smaller islands clustered round each of these. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty Chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands ...	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands ...	2,038
Total area of group ...	4,618

DESCRIPTIVE.

The Falkland Islands are in general appearance treeless, bleak and inhospitable. The scenery generally is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands, where somewhat similar climatic conditions prevail. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast, but there are numerous excellent harbours. There are no high mountains, the highest point in the group being Mount Adam, 2,315 ft., in the West Falkland. The country may best be described as in the narrative of the "Challenger" Expedition as a "treeless expanse of moorland and bog and bare and barren rock."

The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on an excellent natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. There are some 890 residents only. Beyond the limits of the town there are no roads, and all inland travel is done on horseback, with pack horses for transport. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which the country is divided.

HISTORICAL.

A group of six or seven islands situated to the east of the Patagonian coast appears in maps of South America from 1507 onwards. No written record remains of their discovery, but it is probable that they may have been what are now known as the Jason Islands, lying to the extreme north-west of the Falklands. They were subsequently seen on the 24th of January, 1600, by the Dutch navigator, Sebald de Weert, and were named after him. Meanwhile, part of the Falkland Islands group was sighted by John Davis, master of the "Desire," on the 14th of August, 1592, and his is the first known written mention of them. From his discovery they were called Davis' Southern Islands. In February, 1594, the first inspection of the Falklands was made by Sir Richard Hlawkins in the "Dainty," a vessel of 400 tons. He coasted round a considerable part of the group and described the country at length. He made some inaccurate deductions from what he saw and in the narrative of his voyage he gives the latitude, by manifest error, possibly in transcription, three degrees out, but there can be no reasonable doubt that he actually surveyed the Falkland Islands and was the first to describe them. It was not until 1690 that any landing was made. On the 27th of January (Old Style) in that year, Captain Strong visited the islands, in a vessel called the "Welfare," sailing up the sound between the East and West Falkland and naming it "Fawkland Sound." He landed at several points, obtaining geese, ducks and fresh water. The naming of the group as the Falkland Islands derives its origin from Captain Strong's visit.

During the first half of the 18th century adventurers, in vessels fitted out at St. Malo, visited the islands which then obtained the name from the French of Iles Malouines, transformed later by the Spaniards to Islas Malvinas. In 1764 a French settlement was planted by de Bougainville at a spot named Port Louis in Berkeley Sound, a few miles north of Port William. A British garrison was posted at an island in the West Falkland in 1766, England reasserting her claim to the sovereignty of the group, which had been formally proclaimed in the previous year at the same place, on the ground of priority of discovery. In 1767 France ceded her rights in the country to Spain for the sum of £25,000. Three years later a squadron of five frigates drove out the British garrison, but the action was disowned by the Spanish Government, and the garrison was restored by Spain in 1770. In 1774 the post was temporarily abandoned. It is believed that the Spanish garrison was withdrawn in 1800. According to Admiral Fitzroy "From 1810 to 1820 there was no person upon these islands who claimed even a shadow of authority over them." In November of the latter year the flag of "The United Provinces of South America" was hoisted with a claim to sovereignty. There does

not appear to have been any occupation until 1823, when one Louis Vernet, a German, obtained a concession from the Buenos Aires Government for the use of the fishery, cattle and tracts of land in the East Falkland. The action of this Government was scarcely known in Europe until 1829, when a formal protest was made by Great Britain. In the same year Vernet was appointed Governor of the islands by the Government of the United Provinces of South America. In 1831 his settlement was, however, broken up by a United States corvette, and many persons, including his agent, were deported in retaliation for an exercise by him of his fishery rights against American sealers. Some years later, and after further British occupation, Vernet accepted compensation in full for all his property left in the islands. In January, 1833, Great Britain, following up the warnings given four years previously, reassumed occupation, and settled and developed the islands. The settlement was in charge of naval officers down to 1842, when Richard Clement Moody, a subaltern in the Royal Engineers, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor. He was raised to the rank of Governor shortly afterwards.

The Colony received grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government down to 1880, since which time it has been self-supporting.

CONSTITUTION.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official members and one unofficial member, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are appointed by Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

I.—General Observations.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British origin. The descendants of the early pioneers now own the greater part of the land.

The Colony is entirely divided into sheep farms. Nearly one-third of the total area is owned by the Falkland Islands Company, who own more than one-third of the sheep. The balance of the land is shared between nineteen farms running over 10,000 sheep, and nine with less than that number. Of the larger farms there are only ten managed by resident owners or members of their families.

The sheep-farming industry was made the subject of exhaustive enquiry during the year 1924, and the conclusions arrived at from the investigation which was carried out will prove of the utmost value as the foundation on which the prosperity of the industry can be established on a sound and enduring basis.

During the year under review preliminary operations were commenced on the works for the improvement of the sanitary and road condition of Stanley, initiated in 1922. These works have been decided on after protracted examination of the requirements of the town, and comprise a water supply, a drainage system and the reconstruction of the principal roads of the town. It is estimated that the works will involve a cost of £30,000, and that they will take three years to complete.

A few motor vehicles have recently been introduced into the Colony for use both in Stanley and around certain of the farm settlements. The experiment has proved successful, and there is indication that this method of transport may become more generally adopted. At present it is only possible to travel by motor over very short distances, but it is reasonable to believe that, with the improvements which are taking place in motor vehicles, a wider field may be opened up for their use in the Colony.

During the year the Government supplied the materials for a bridge across the Chartres River in West Falkland, the farmers undertaking the work of construction. The construction of a suspension bridge, with a span of 400 ft., at Bodie Creek in Lafonia was also commenced by the Falkland Islands Company.

The Colony and its Dependencies was represented at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924.

II.—Financial.

(a) REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1924 from all sources was £59,092, the revenue from normal sources, excluding the Dependencies' share in the cost of the Central Administration, being £33,284.

The increase in customs revenue in 1924 over that collected in 1923 was mainly due to the alteration in the basis of the taxation of the sheep-farming industry, which came into force on the 1st of January, 1924. Under the Tariff (Export Duties) Amendment Ordinance, 1923, an export duty on wool was imposed and the tax on land repealed. The revenue derived from the new tax was £8,215, or approximately the revenue yielded by the Land Tax in 1923.

The amount derived from taxation in 1924 was £14,910. Of this sum 55 per cent. was contributed by the sheep farming interests, 40 per cent. by the community generally, and 5 per cent. by the residents of Stanley.

(b) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for 1924, excluding the sum of £1,272 disbursed from the Land Sales Fund in connection with the

investigation of the sheep-farming industry, amounted to £42,766. This sum included £1,816, representing approved charges against accumulated balances, and a large payment of £1,810 made in respect of the service of the year 1923. Apart from the cost of the maintenance of a patrol boat for seal fishery protection, the heaviest recurrent expenditure was involved by Works recurrent, £3,516, followed by the upkeep of the Medical Department, £3,051, and the Post Office, which includes a Wireless Station and is revenue-producing, £2,780.

(c) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1924, amounted to £235,488. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and at the end of the year:—

	1st January.	31st December.
	£	£
Land Sales Fund	182,452	188,276
Marine Insurance Fund	212	818
General Account	37,770	46,394
	<u>£220,434</u>	<u>£235,488</u>

(d) CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th March, 1899. It was estimated that on the 31st of December, 1924, there was £5,000 of specie in circulation. During the year the issue circulation of Government notes stood at £18,000.

The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is 2½ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1924, the total sum deposited was £120,080, and the number of deposit accounts 834.

(e) GENERAL.

The year 1924 was a satisfactory one financially. Notwithstanding the exceptional call on the expenditure in connection with the inception of the Stanley Improvement Works, the funds standing to the credit of the Colony's General Account were substantially augmented. It is a matter for gratification that at the commencement of projects which have only been decided upon after much consideration as to ways and means, the revenue has been found more than equal to supporting the cost of the works in their preliminary stages.

III.—Trade, Industries and Shipping.

		TRADE.		
		1922.	1923.	1924.
		£	£	£
Imports	112,298	141,080	154,893	
Exports	103,622	167,440	267,312	
Total Trade	<u>215,920</u>	<u>308,520</u>	<u>422,205</u>	

Imports.

The following is a comparative table of the imports for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924:—

	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco	36,247	38,813	53,692
Raw Materials and articles mainly un-manufactured	8,972	12,883	21,685
Articles wholly or mainly manufac-tured	59,230	81,949	74,791
Live Stock	7,824	7,435	4,725
Bullion and Specie	25	—	—
Total	<u>£112,298</u>	<u>£141,080</u>	<u>£154,893</u>

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1924 were:—

	Value.
	£
Groceries	33,521
Hardware and Machinery... ..	17,461
Drapery	13,324
Timber	11,119
Coal and Coke	10,498

The country of origin of the imports is shown below:—

	£
United Kingdom	128,554
Australia	900
Total from British Empire	<u>£129,454</u>

	£
Chile	14,839
Uruguay	6,767
Argentina	1,366
Norway	1,840
Other Countries	627
Total from Foreign Countries ...	£25,439

There are no import duties except on spirits 15s. per gallon, wine 2s. and beer 6d. per gallon in bulk, tobacco 3s. a lb., and cigars 5s. a lb.

The following is a table of the dutiable imports and the revenue derived:—

	Quantity.	Revenue.
		£
Spirits	4,204 gals.	3,154
Wine	1,164 „	131
Beer	12,520 „	313
Tobacco	16,364 lb.	2,464
		£6,062

Exports.

Of the total exports for the year, £253,567 represented the value of the wool exported.

The following table compares the exports of wool in the years 1922, 1923 and 1924. The values given are based on the bottom prices in the year previous to that of export, and show the rapid recovery of the market:—

	Quantities exported in lb.	Value. £
1922	4,783,200	94,368
1923	4,596,600	142,755
1924	4,106,990	253,567

There is an export duty on wool of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported.

INDUSTRIES.

The investigation of the sheep-farming industry, referred to in an earlier part of this Report, was carried out by Mr. Hugh Munro, Principal District Inspector of the Department of Agriculture of New Zealand, who, through the kind offices of the Dominion Government, was seconded for this service in 1924.

The report furnished by Mr. Munro on the result of his investigation contains practical suggestions for the development of the industry along economic lines which cannot fail to lead to the removal of many of the difficulties with which the sheep farmers have at present to contend. The remedial measures recommended hinge on the establishment of a Government Experimental Farm as the means by which the experimental work which is necessary in the interests of the industry can best be carried out.

During the year arrangements were made with the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, to undertake research work in connection with the unsatisfactory lambing percentages, and grass and soil samples were forwarded to the Institute for analysis. These investigations will no doubt throw considerable light on the question of nutrition from the point of view of soil contents.

The year under review was a prosperous one financially for the sheep farmers. The wool market remained firm at prices ranging, according to grade, from an average of 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d. a lb. The general health of the flocks was good, no disease occurring. A consignment of stud rams imported was found to be infected with scab. The disease was, however, detected while the animals were in quarantine and its spread checked.

SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels which entered the Colony in 1924 was 61, with a total tonnage of 115,273, as compared with 56 and a tonnage of 91,851 in 1923. Of these, 22 with a tonnage of 86,545 were British.

The following table shows the number, nationality and description of the vessels entered:—

Nationality.	Steam-ships.	Tonnage.	Sailing ships.	Tonnage.
British ...	22	86,545	—	—
Norwegian ...	36	27,818	—	—
Argentine ...	—	—	1	824
Chilean ...	—	—	2	86
Total ...	58	114,363	3	910

H.M.S. "Dauntless" visited Stanley from the 17th to the 20th of August.

IV.—Education.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years, residing in Stanley, is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one conducted by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, two of

whom are provided by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited. The Company also retains a resident teacher at its station at Darwin.

The number of children taught during the year is as shown below :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At the Government School ...	104	76	180
At the Roman Catholic School...	17	43	60
By the Government Travelling Teachers	27	21	48
By the Falkland Islands Company's Teachers	27	25	52
Totals	175	165	340

The arrangements, referred to in last year's report, for boarding children from the country districts attending school in Stanley came into force on the 1st of January, 1924, when a Government Hostel was opened with accommodation for 16 children. The charge for each child during residence is £1 a month. Assistance is also given to parents who prefer boarding their children in private houses, the Government contributing in such cases two-thirds of the cost, not exceeding £2 a month for each child. It was hoped that the attractions of the new scheme would bring a large number of the children whose homes are in the country districts, into Stanley, and that it would be unnecessary to continue the unsatisfactory system of employing travelling teachers, beyond one for East Falkland and one for West Falkland. This has in practice not been realized and additional pupil teachers are being trained with a view to their ultimate engagement in "camp" teaching.

V.—Climate.

The climate of the Falklands, though trying on account of the continuous high winds in the summer months, is very healthy. It is generally described as rigorous, but this is misleading. There are seldom heavy frosts, and snow, which never lies long, is rarely more than ankle deep. Severe storms are of less frequent occurrence and intensity than in the United Kingdom. The islands lie in the south temperate storm belt, but north of the line along which the cyclonic centres most frequently pass. The winds almost invariably commence in the early hours of the day from the north-west and veer to the south-west in increasing force towards mid-day. Rainfall is well distributed over the year. The average fall is 26·43 inches per annum, or slightly more than at Kew. Although the temperature seldom rises above 63°, it falls below freezing point on about 50 days only throughout the year.

Complete statistics for the first half of the year 1924 are not available. During the months of July to December the mean barometric pressure was 29·69 inches. The mean temperature was 40·9°, the maximum, 67°, being recorded on the 1st of December, and the absolute minimum, 19°, on the 1st of August. The total rainfall recorded for the same period was 10·07 inches, the heaviest fall being ·95 inches on the 21st of December. Rain fell on 85 days during the latter half of the year. The mean wind force was 4·1 Beaufort scale.

The weather throughout the year was relatively mild. Frequent sudden and severe squalls were experienced in the late autumn. The winter, apart from bad weather in July and August, was mild, and was followed by an early and dry spring.

VI.—Communication.

The total number of vessels which called at Stanley with mails in 1924 was 22. Twelve mails were received from the United Kingdom by vessels arriving via Monte Video, and a like number of mails were despatched from the Colony by this route. Ten mails were also sent either via Panama or the Andes. During the year there was one opportunity only for passenger communication with the United Kingdom by the direct route.

Inter-insular mail communication in 1924 was fairly well maintained, the Government patrol boat rendering good service in this connection. During the year the Colonial Government completed negotiations with the Tønsberg Whaling Company for the provision of regular direct mail and trade communication between the Colony and the Dependencies for a period of two years. The first voyage under the contract was made in December.

Two wireless stations are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley for external traffic and a small station on West Falkland Island for inter-insular communication. The bulk of the outward traffic is transmitted through Monte Video, but the Chilean station at Punta Arenas also receives wireless messages from Stanley for transmission to Europe. Telegraphic charges are 4s. 2d. a word to the United Kingdom and 1s. 2d. a word to Monte Video and Punta Arenas.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1924, was 2,197, composed of 1,219 males and 978 females. The birth-rate was 24·12 per 1,000 and the death-rate 11·18 per 1,000.

VIII.—Social.

The cost of living is low in country districts as in any similar pastoral community, but freight rates make imported provisions costly. Prices of provisions in 1924 were, with few exceptions, the same as in 1923. Mutton cost 3*d.* a lb., beef 5*d.* a lb., butter 2*s.* 8*d.* a lb., milk 1*s.* a quart, bread 1*s.* 2*d.* a quarter loaf, tea 3*s.* a lb.

Wages on the farm stations were from £7 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat and milk found. Town labourers were paid £11 per month or a shilling an hour, and tradesmen from £15 to £16 or 1*s.* 4½*d.* an hour.

There was with insignificant exception no evidence of unemployment during 1924, the population as in past years adjusting itself to the demand for labour.

DEPENDENCIES.**Introduction.****GEOGRAPHICAL.**

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands: South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, and the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

DESCRIPTIVE.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains covered with snow where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost

entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster, at Deception Island, in the South Shetlands. These dependencies are, however, ice free for some four or five months in the year only.

HISTORICAL.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the sixteenth, seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith, in the snow "Williams" of Blyth, took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-20, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793, and British Whalers were met there in 1819. The fur-seal industry achieved such large proportions that no less than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1921-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur-seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

I.—General Observations.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident official staff is stationed at South Georgia, which is the only part of the Dependencies which is permanently habitable. Such control as is possible over whaling operations in the other Dependencies is carried out by Government officials who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. The leases include the right to use two whale catchers without the payment of additional licence fees. The harbours in the other Dependencies are ice bound for about seven months in the year, and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories. There are also land stations at Deception Island and at the South Orkneys, the personnel of which arrive and return with the whaling fleets.

Preliminary work in connection with the research recommended in the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies was carried on during the year 1924. The reconditioning of the Research Ship "Discovery," begun in 1923, was proceeded with, and the construction of the Marine Biological Station at Grytviken, South Georgia, was commenced in October. The work of erecting this building proceeded concurrently with the erection of a wireless station and other buildings for the Colonial Government.

Two casualties, more serious than any that have taken place since whaling operations were commenced in the Dependencies, occurred during the year at the South Shetlands. On the 11th of March the steam whaler "Bransfield" capsized during a hurricane and sank at her moorings in South Bay, Livingstone Island, and four members of her crew perished. On the 6th of November the steam whaler "Graham" left Admiralty Bay for Joinville Island. On the same day a severe storm set in, accompanied by a blizzard from the south-east. The "Graham" was never seen again, and searching vessels subsequently picked up a boat and wreckage belonging to the ill-fated whaler. It is assumed that the "Graham" foundered off the coast of Joinville Island at a time when the blizzard had reached its height. The vessel carried a crew of 10 all told.

II.—Financial.

The revenue derived from the Dependencies in 1924 was £131,676. The local expenditure was £27,711, leaving a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £103,965.

Under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the surplus of Dependencies' revenue, after providing for local services and meeting a share of the cost of central administration in the Falklands, is reserved for research and development purposes. In addition to the sum of £103,965 mentioned above, the Research Fund benefited during the year by a revenue of £10,416, derived from interest on securities held on behalf of the Fund. Expenditure from the Fund in 1924 amounted to £115,089, or £708 in excess of the sums with which it was credited. On the 31st of December, 1924, the total sums standing to the credit of the Research Fund amounted to £315,087.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

There are no banking facilities. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is paid by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—Trade, Industries and Shipping.

TRADE.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1924 was £2,638,984, of which £320,448 represented imports and £2,318,536 exports. Of the imports, coal, coke and oil fuel accounted for £178,185 and provisions for £37,048. The exports of whale products amounted to £2,317,529.

INDUSTRIES.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the sole industry. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season to the period from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

Export duty at the rate of 5s. a barrel is payable on oil and at the rate of 1½d. per 100 lb. on guano. Owing to the comparatively low prices obtained for whale and seal oil during the past four years, a portion of the duty collected has, under temporary legislation, been refunded to the whaling companies. In 1924 the system of refunds was legalized on a permanent basis, on a scale based on the average price obtained for the oil during the season.

During the season 1923-24 whaling operations were carried on at South Georgia, South Shetlands and South Orkneys. The season was poor both in the quality and quantity of the whales, but satisfactory from the point of view of the economy effected in the utilization of the whale carcasses. The price obtained for the catch averaged £35 a ton.

The following table shows the size and the value of the catches during the past three seasons:—

Season.	Whales Captured.	Barrels of Oil Produced.	Average of Barrels per Whale.	Value. £
1921-22 ...	6,955	448,885	64·54	2,244,390
1922-23 ...	9,915	611,372	61·66	3,056,860
1923-24 ...	6,737	427,321	63·43	2,492,700

In addition to the 427,321 barrels of whale oil produced during the season 1923-24, sealing operations yielded 7,486 barrels of oil as compared with 6,375 barrels produced in the previous season.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1924:—

<i>Nationality.</i>	<i>Steam-ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Sailing Ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British ...	15	34,255	—	—
Norwegian ...	23	27,638	—	—
Belgium ...	1	1,549	—	—
Argentine ...	3	5,890	3	2,381
	42	69,332	3	2,381

Grytviken, in South Georgia, and Port Foster, in South Shetlands, are the only ports of entry in the Dependencies.

IV.—Climate.

Five meteorological stations are maintained at South Georgia by the whaling companies with shore factories, and one is maintained in the South Orkneys by the Argentine Government. The returns from the latter are not sent to the Colony.

The average temperature at South Georgia is 36°; in January and February it is 46·2°, and in the three coldest months, June, July and August, it is 27·9°.

During the year 1924 rain fell on 100 days. A total rainfall of 45·4 inches was recorded, the greatest rainfall being in February with 8·3 inches. Snow and sleet fell on 154 days.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness is caused by the absence of fresh provisions, but the climate is undoubtedly healthy.

V.—Communication.

Vessels for South Georgia call at South American ports on their way out, and there is more or less regular communication between South Georgia and Buenos Aires. The South Shetlands whaling fleet calls at Stanley on the way south in November and again on the return voyage in April.

Direct steamship communication was established between Stanley and South Georgia in December, 1924. The contract with the Tønsberg Whaling Company, referred to in the Falkland Islands section of this report, provides for five round voyages

between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season. Provision has also been made for one round voyage between Stanley and Port Foster in the South Shetlands.

The erection of a wireless station at Grytviken, South Georgia, was commenced in October.

VI.—Population.

South Georgia has a fluctuating population of over 1,000.

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1924, was 1,337, composed of 1,334 males and three females. About 1,000 of the whaling population are natives of Sweden and Norway.

G. R. L. BROWN,
for *Colonial Secretary.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.
14th October, 1925.

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REPORT FOR 1925.

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No. 1322.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND
ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1925.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Falkland Islands comprise a group of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, lying some 300 miles east, and somewhat to the north, of the Straits of Magellan. The geographical position is between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude. There are two main islands, known as the East and West Falkland, which are divided by a sound running approximately north-east. There are numerous smaller islands clustered round each of these. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty Chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
Total area of group	<u>4,618</u>

DESCRIPTIVE.

The Falkland Islands are in general appearance treeless, bleak and inhospitable. The scenery generally is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands, where somewhat similar climatic conditions prevail. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast, but there are numerous excellent harbours. There are no high mountains, the highest point in the group being Mount Adam, 2,315 ft., in the West Falkland. The country may best be described as in the narrative of the "Challenger" Expedition as a "treeless expanse of moorland and bog and bare and barren rock."

The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on an excellent natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. There are some 890 residents only. Beyond the limits of the town there are no roads, and all inland travel is done on horseback, with pack horses for transport. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which the country is divided.

HISTORICAL.

A group of six or seven islands situated to the east of the Patagonian coast appears in maps of South America from 1507 onwards. No written record remains of their discovery, but it is probable that they may have been what are now known as the Jason Islands, lying to the extreme north-west of the Falklands. They were subsequently seen on the 24th of January, 1600, by the Dutch navigator, Sebald de Weert, and were named after him. Meanwhile, part of the Falkland Islands group was sighted by John Davis, master of the "Desire," on the 14th of August, 1592, and his is the first known written mention of them. From his discovery they were called Davis' Southern Islands. In February, 1594, the first inspection of the Falklands was made by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty," a vessel of 400 tons. He coasted round a considerable part of the group and described the country at length. He made some inaccurate deductions from what he saw, and in the narrative of his voyage he gives the latitude, by manifest error, possibly in transcription, three degrees out, but there can be no reasonable doubt that he actually surveyed the Falkland Islands and was the first to describe them. It was not until 1690 that any landing was made. On the 27th of January (Old Style) in that year, Captain Strong visited the islands, in a vessel called the "Welfare," sailing up the sound between the East and West Falklands and naming it "Fawkland Sound." He landed at several points, obtaining geese, ducks and fresh water. The naming of the group as the Falkland Islands derives its origin from Captain Strong's visit.

During the first half of the 18th century, adventurers, in vessels fitted out at St. Malo, visited the islands which then obtained the name from the French of Iles Malouines, transformed later by the Spaniards to Islas Malvinas. In 1764 a French settlement was planted by de Bougainville at a spot named Port Louis in Berkeley Sound, a few miles north of Port William. A British garrison was posted at an island in the West Falkland in 1766, England reasserting her claim to the sovereignty of the group, which had been formally proclaimed in the previous year at the same place, on the ground of priority of discovery. In 1767 France ceded her rights in the country to Spain for the sum of £25,000. Three years later a Spanish squadron of five frigates drove out the British garrison, but the action was disowned by the Spanish Government, and the British garrison was restored by Spain in 1771. In 1774 the post was temporarily abandoned. It is believed that the Spanish garrison was withdrawn in 1800. According to Admiral Fitzroy "From 1810 to 1820 there was no person upon these islands who claimed even a shadow of authority over them." In November of the latter year the flag of "The United Provinces of South America" was hoisted with a claim to sovereignty. There does

not appear to have been any occupation until 1823, when one Louis Vernet, a German, obtained a concession from the Buenos Aires Government for the use of the fishery, cattle and tracts of land in the East Falkland. The action of this Government was scarcely known in Europe until 1829, when a formal protest was made by Great Britain. In the same year Vernet was appointed Governor of the islands by the Government of the United Provinces of South America. In 1831 his settlement was, however, broken up by a United States corvette, and many persons, including his agent, were deported in retaliation for an exercise by him of his fishery rights against American sealers. Some years later, and after further British occupation, Vernet accepted compensation in full for all his property left in the islands. In January, 1833, Great Britain, following up the warnings given four years previously, reassumed occupation, and settled and developed the islands. The settlement was in charge of naval officers down to 1842, when Richard Clement Moody, a subaltern in the Royal Engineers, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor. He was raised to the rank of Governor shortly afterwards.

The Colony received grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government up to 1880, since which time it has been self-supporting.

CONSTITUTION.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official members and one unofficial member, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are appointed by Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

I.—General Observations.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British origin. The descendants of the early pioneers now own the greater part of the land.

The Colony is entirely divided into sheep farms. Nearly one-third of the total area is owned by the Falkland Islands Company, who own about one-third of the sheep. The balance of the land is divided into thirty-three farms of which sixteen run over ten thousand sheep and the remainder less than that number. Of the larger farms many are now owned by private companies under the direction of resident managers.

The sheep-farming industry was made the subject of exhaustive enquiry during the year 1924, and in accordance with the conclusions arrived at from the investigation a scheme has been evolved and inaugurated for the establishment of an experimental farm under the auspices of the Government.

During the year under review a start was made on the works for the improvement of the sanitary and road conditions of Stanley, initiated in 1922, and referred to in last year's Report. These works have been undertaken after protracted examination of the requirements of the town and comprise a water supply, a drainage system, and the reconstruction of the principal roads of the town. The revised estimate of the cost of the works is £35,000 and it is hoped that they will be completed early in 1928.

A few motor vehicles have recently been introduced into the Colony for use both in Stanley and around certain of the farm settlements. At present it is only possible to travel by motor over very short distances, but it is reasonable to believe that, with the improvements which are taking place in motor vehicles, a wider field may be opened up for their use in the Colony.

II.—Financial.

(a) REVENUE.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1925 from all sources was £57,511, the revenue from normal sources, excluding the Dependencies' share in the cost of the Central Administration, being £40,783. The ordinary revenue exceeded the ordinary expenditure for the year by £3,716.

The amount derived from taxation in 1925 was £15,000, as against £14,910 in 1924. Of this sum 55 per cent. was contributed by the sheep-farming interests, 40 per cent. by the community generally, and 5 per cent. by the residents of Stanley. No additional taxation was imposed during the year under review.

(b) EXPENDITURE.

The ordinary expenditure for 1925, including the sum of £1,125 under Public Works Extraordinary, was £37,067. In addition, the sum of £19,770 was expended out of the surplus balances principally in connection with the Stanley Improvement Scheme to which reference has been made above, and also on the execution of repairs to the jetty in the Government dockyard and on the extension of the Wireless Station at Stanley. £2,499 was disbursed from the Land Sales Fund to meet the cost of the initial works on the establishment of an experimental farm. As in previous years the ordinary expenditure, excluding Miscellaneous Services, £4,572, was heaviest under the Port and Marine Department, £5,395, the Medical Department, £3,596, the Public Works Department, Ordinary and Recurrent, £3,228 and £3,285, respectively, and under the Post Office, £2,844, which includes the maintenance of the revenue-producing wireless telegraphy station.

(c) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1925, amounted to £231,669. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and at the end of the year :—

	1st January.	31st December.
	£	£
Land Sales Fund	188,276	192,067
Marine Insurance Fund	818	1,424
General Account	46,394	38,178
	<u>£235,488</u>	<u>£231,669</u>

(d) CURRENCY AND BANKING.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th March, 1899. It was estimated that on the 31st of December, 1925, there was £3,000 of specie in circulation. During the year the issue circulation of Government notes stood at £18,000.

The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is 2½ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1925, the total sum deposited was £122,517, and the number of deposit accounts 874, as against 834 on the 30th of September, 1924.

(e) GENERAL.

The year 1925 was a satisfactory one financially, and it is a matter of gratification to observe that, while the expenditure from the surplus balances as stated above was £19,770, the funds standing to the credit of the General Account of the Colony were reduced by £8,216 only.

III.—Trade, Industries and Shipping.

	TRADE.		
	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£
Imports	141,080	154,893	161,106
Exports	167,440	267,312	330,454
Total Trade	<u>£308,520</u>	<u>£422,205</u>	<u>£491,560</u>

Imports.

The following is a comparative table of the imports for the years 1923, 1924 and 1925 :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink and Tobacco	38,813	53,692	49,114
Raw Materials and articles mainly un-manufactured	12,883	21,685	14,257
Articles wholly or mainly manufac-tured	81,949	74,791	82,459
Live Stock	7,435	4,725	15,251
Bullion and Specie	—	—	25
Total	<u>£141,080</u>	<u>£154,893</u>	<u>£161,106</u>

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1925 were :—

	Value.
	£
Groceries	31,358
Hardware and Machinery... ..	25,138
Live Stock	15,251
Drapery	11,131
Timber	9,961
Coal and Coke	3,843

Approximately 81 per cent. of the imports of the Colony came from the United Kingdom, to a value of £131,811. Imports from other sources amounted to :—

	£
Chile	17,574
Uruguay	5,393
Argentina	4,824
Norway	511
Other Countries	993
Total from Foreign Countries	<u>£29,295</u>

There are no import duties except on spirits 15s. per gallon, wine 2s. and beer 6d. per gallon in bulk, tobacco 3s. a lb., and cigars 5s. a lb.

The following is a table of the dutiable imports and the revenue derived :—

	Quantity.	Revenue. £
Spirits	3,808 gals.	2,856
Wine	1,124 ,,	125
Beer	10,706 ,,	277
Tobacco	15,239 lb.	2,287
		£5,545

Exports.

Of the total exports for the year, £307,740 represented the value of the wool exported.

The following table compares the exports of wool in the years 1923, 1924 and 1925. The values given are based on the bottom prices in the year previous to that of export, and show the continued recovery of the market :—

	Quantities exported in lb.	Value. £
1923	4,596,600	142,755
1924	4,106,990	253,567
1925	3,361,003	307,740

There is an export duty on wool of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported.

INDUSTRIES.

The sole local industry of any importance is the sheep-farming industry. The year under review was again prosperous for farmers from the immediate financial aspect; the yield of wool was less than in previous years but the prices realised were high, ranging, according to grade, from 1s. 4d. to 2s. 5d. per lb. The general health of the flocks was satisfactory despite the somewhat severe conditions which prevailed during the lambing season.

SHIPPING.

The total number of vessels which entered the Colony in 1925 was 107, with a total tonnage of 147,911, as compared with 61, and a tonnage of 115,273, in 1924. Of these, 26 with a tonnage of 78,583 were British.

The following table shows the number, nationality and description of the vessels entered :—

Nationality.	Steamships.		Sailing ships.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
British	26	78,583	—	—
Norwegian	62	58,545	—	—
Chilean	9	2,571	4	282
Argentine	3	5,728	3	2,202
Total	100	145,427	7	2,484

IV.—Education.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years, residing in Stanley, is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, two of whom are provided by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited. The Company also retains a resident teacher at its station at Darwin.

The number of children taught during the year is as shown below :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At the Government School	106	71	177
At the Roman Catholic School... ..	22	47	69
By the Government Travelling Teachers	15	13	28
By the Falkland Islands Com- pany's Teachers	47	27	74
Totals	190	158	348

The arrangements, referred to in last year's Report, for boarding children from the country districts attending school in Stanley at the Government Hostel, were continued during the year. The hostel has fully justified its provision; there were eight or nine children in residence most of the year. The charge for each child during residence is £1 a month. Assistance is also given to parents who prefer boarding their children in private houses, the Government contributing in such cases two-thirds of the cost, not exceeding £2 a month for each child. The number of outside boarders varied from 10 to 13—about double the number in 1924.

V.—Climate.

The climate of the Falklands, though trying on account of the continuous high winds in the summer months, is very healthy. It is generally described as rigorous, but this is misleading. There are seldom heavy frosts, and snow, which never lies long, is rarely more than ankle deep. Severe storms are of less frequent occurrence and intensity than in the United Kingdom. The islands lie in the south temperate storm belt, but north of the line along which the cyclonic centres most frequently pass. The winds almost invariably commence in the early hours of the day from the north-west and veer to the south-west in increasing force towards midday. Rainfall is well distributed over the year. The average fall is 26·43 inches per annum, or slightly more than at Kew. Although the temperature seldom rises above 63°, it falls below freezing point on about 50 days only throughout the year.

The mean barometric pressure during the year 1925 was 29·57 inches. The mean temperature was 41·6°, the absolute maximum, 70°, being recorded on the 3rd of March, and the absolute minimum, 17°, on the 25th of June. The total rainfall recorded was 21·14 inches, the heaviest fall being '83 inches on the 29th of April. The mean wind force was 3·0 Beaufort scale.

The weather throughout the year was again comparatively mild.

VI.—Communications.

The total number of mails received at Stanley during 1925 was eleven, of which ten came by vessels arriving via Montevideo, and one via Punta Arenas, Chile. Sixteen mails were despatched; nine direct or via Montevideo, six via Valparaiso and the Andes, or Panama, and one via Punta Arenas. Only two passenger vessels called at Stanley during the year.

Inter-insular mail communication in 1925 was fairly well maintained, the Government patrol boat rendering good service in this connection. Communication with the Dependency of South Georgia was maintained by the Tønsberg Whaling Company under contract with the Government, and one voyage was also made from Stanley to the Dependency of the South Shetlands during the whaling season.

Two wireless stations for external traffic are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley and one at Cumberland Bay, Grytviken, in the Dependency of South Georgia. A small station on the West Falkland is also maintained by the Government for inter-insular communication. The traffic is transmitted and received principally through Montevideo, and also through Punta Arenas. Telegraphic charges are 4s. 2d. a word to the United Kingdom and 1s. 2d. a word to Montevideo and Punta Arenas.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1925, was 2,252, composed of 1,273 males and 979 females. The birth-rate was 17·76 per 1,000 and the death-rate 10·06 per 1,000.

VIII.—Social.

The cost of living is moderate in country districts, as in any similar pastoral community, but freight rates make imported provisions costly. Prices of provisions in 1925 were, with few exceptions, the same as in 1924. Mutton cost 3d. a lb., beef 5d. a lb., butter 2s. 6d. a lb., milk 1s. a quart, bread 1s. 2d. a quarter loaf, tea 3s. a lb.

Wages on the farm stations were from £5 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat and milk found. Town labourers were paid from £10 per month or a shilling an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20 or 1s. 4½d. an hour.

There was with insignificant exception no evidence of unemployment during 1925, the population as in past years adjusting itself to the demand for labour.

DEPENDENCIES.**Introduction.****GEOGRAPHICAL.**

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands: South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, and the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

DESCRIPTIVE.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains covered with snow where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There

is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster, at Deception Island, in the South Shetlands. These Dependencies are, however, ice free for some four or five months in the year only.

HISTORICAL.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the sixteenth and early part of the eighteenth centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith, in the snow "Williams" of Blyth, took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-20, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793, and British Whalers were met there in 1819. The fur-seal industry achieved such large proportions that no less than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur-seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

I.—General Observations.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident official staff is stationed at South Georgia, which is the only part of the Dependencies which is permanently habitable. Such control as is possible over whaling operations in the other Dependencies is carried out by Government officials who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. The leases include the right to use two whale catchers without the payment of additional licence fees. The harbours in the other Dependencies are ice bound for about seven

months in the year, and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories. There are also land stations at Deception Island and at the South Orkneys, the personnel of which arrive and return with the whaling fleets.

The Royal Research Ship "Discovery," to which reference is made in the Report for 1924, was completed and commenced work during the year in accordance with the recommendations* of the Interdepartmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies. She proceeded first to South Africa and did not arrive at South Georgia until the beginning of 1925. A second ship the "William Scoresby" was constructed and launched during the year. She is built on the lines of an ordinary whale catcher and is intended to be employed primarily for the marking of whales. She has been named out of compliment to the father and son bearing that name, of whom the father did much to develop the practical side of whaling, and the son may be regarded as the pioneer of whaling research and the founder of Polar science. The buildings for the Marine Biological Station at Grytviken were also completed during the year.

II.—Financial.

The revenue derived from the Dependencies in 1925 was £180,098. The local expenditure was £77,928, leaving a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £102,170.

Under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the surplus of the Dependencies' revenue, after providing for local services and meeting a share of the cost of central administration in the Falklands, is reserved for research and development purposes. On the 31st of December, 1925, the total sums standing to the credit of the Research Fund amounted to £303,988.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

There are no banking facilities. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is paid by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—Trade, Industries and Shipping.

TRADE.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1925 was £3,957,850, of which £372,740 represented imports and £3,585,110 exports. Of the imports, coal, coke and oil fuel accounted for £140,876 and provisions for £48,614. The exports of whale products amounted to £3,581,569.

* See Cmd. 657.

INDUSTRIES.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the sole industry. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

Export duty at the rate of 5*s.* a barrel is payable on oil at the time of shipment. Owing to the collapse of the market for oil in 1920 one-half of the duties collected in respect of the season 1920-21 was refunded and from this time onwards a system of rebates, based on the average market price of oil, has been in operation. A refund of 2*s.* a barrel was made in respect of the season 1924-25, making the effective duty 3*s.* per barrel. Export duty at the rate of 1½*d.* per 100 lb. is payable on guano.

During the season 1924-25 whaling operations were conducted at South Georgia, South Shetlands and South Orkneys. Whaling was commenced earlier and continued later than had been customary, and in the case of the South Shetlands the prolongation of operations necessitated special arrangements being made for the supply of coal by transports. The total catch of 10,057 whales, yielding 661,998 barrels of oil, was the largest hitherto recorded. The price obtained for the oil averaged £33 a ton.

The following table shows the size and the value of the catches during the past four seasons:—

Season.	Whales Captured.	Barrels of Oil Produced.	Average of Barrels per Whale.	Value. £
1921-22 ...	6,955	448,885	64·54	2,244,390
1922-23 ...	9,915	611,372	61·66	3,056,860
1923-24 ...	6,737	427,321	63·43	2,492,700
1924-25 ...	10,057	661,998	66·10	3,640,989

Sealing operations yielded 6,891 barrels of oil, as compared with 7,486 barrels produced in the previous season.

SHIPPING.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1925:—

Nationality.	Steam-ships.	Tonnage.	Sailing Ships.	Tonnage.
British ...	12	26,170	—	—
Norwegian ...	22	27,876	—	—
Argentine ...	3	5,728	3	2,202

Grytviken, in South Georgia, and Port Foster, in South Shetlands, are the only ports of entry in the Dependencies.

IV.—Climate.

Five meteorological stations are maintained at South Georgia by the whaling companies with shore factories, and one is maintained in the South Orkneys by the Argentine Government.

The average temperature at South Georgia was 36°. In December, January and February it ranged between 40° and 41°, and in the three coldest months, June, July and August, between 29° and 31°.

During the year 1925 rain fell on 129 days and snow and sleet on 173 days. A total rainfall of 66·49 inches was recorded, the greatest rainfall being in April with 13·89 inches.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness is caused by the absence of fresh provisions, but the climate is undoubtedly healthy.

V.—Communications.

Vessels for South Georgia call at South American ports on their way out, and there is more or less regular communication between South Georgia and Buenos Aires. The South Shetlands whaling fleet calls at Stanley on the way south in October-November and again on the return voyage in April-May.

Direct communication was maintained during 1925 between Stanley and South Georgia by means of a vessel belonging to the Tønsberg Whaling Company, which is under contract with the Government to provide five round voyages between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season, and two additional voyages during the winter months. The terms of this contract also provide for one round voyage during the whaling season between Stanley and Port Foster in South Shetlands.

The erection of a wireless station at Grytviken, South Georgia, was completed during the year.

VI.—Population.

South Georgia has a fluctuating population of about 1,000.

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1925, was 1,337, composed of 1,334 males and three females. About 1,000 of the whaling population are natives of Sweden and Norway.

J. M. ELLIS,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Stanley, Falkland Islands.

11th November, 1926.

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FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1926.

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ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1926.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

INTRODUCTION.

Geographical.

The Falkland Islands comprise a group of islands in the South Atlantic Ocean, lying some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan. The geographical position is between 51° and 53° S. latitude and between 57° and 62° W. longitude. There are two main islands, known as East Falkland and West Falkland, which are divided by a sound running approximately north-east. There are numerous smaller islands clustered round each of these. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty Chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Sq. miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
Total area of group	4,618

Descriptive.

The Falkland Islands are in general appearance treeless, bleak, and inhospitable. The scenery generally is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands, where somewhat similar climatic conditions prevail. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast, but there are numerous excellent harbours. There are no high mountains, the highest point in the group being Mount Adam, 2,315 ft., in the West Falkland. The country may best be described as in the narrative of the "Challenger" Expedition as a "treeless expanse of moorland and bog and bare and barren rock."

The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on an excellent natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. There are some 950 residents only. Beyond the limits of the town there are no roads, and all inland travel is done on horseback, with pack-horses for transport. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which the country is divided.

Historical.

A group of six or seven islands situated to the east of the Patagonian coast appears in maps of South America from 1507 onwards. No written record remains of their discovery, but it is probable that they may have been what are now known as the Jason Islands, lying to the extreme north-west of the Falklands. They were subsequently seen on the 24th of January, 1600, by the Dutch navigator, Sebald de Weert, and were named after him. Meanwhile, part of the Falkland Islands group was sighted by John Davis, master of the "Desire," on the 14th of August, 1592, and his is the first known written mention of them. From his discovery they were called Davis' Southern Islands. In February, 1594, the first inspection of the Falklands was made by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty," a vessel of 400 tons. He coasted round a considerable part of the group and described the country at length. He made some inaccurate deductions from what he saw and in the narrative of his voyage he gives the latitude, by manifest error, possibly in transcription, three degrees out, but there can be no reasonable doubt that he actually surveyed the Falkland Islands and was the first to describe them. It was not until 1690 that any landing was made. On the 27th of January (Old Style) in that year, Captain Strong visited the islands, in a vessel called the "Welfare," sailing up the sound between East Falkland and West Falkland, and naming it "Fawkland Sound." He landed at several points, obtaining geese, ducks, and fresh water. The naming of the group as the Falkland Islands derives its origin from Captain Strong's visit.

During the first half of the 18th century, adventurers, in vessels fitted out at St. Malo, visited the islands, which then obtained the name from the French of *Des Malouines*, transformed later by the Spaniards to *Islas Malvinas*. In 1764 a French settlement was planted by de Bougainville at a spot named Port Louis, in Berkeley Sound, a few miles north of Port William. A British garrison was posted at an island in the West Falkland in 1766, England reasserting her claim to the sovereignty of the group, which had been formally proclaimed in the previous year at the same place, on the ground of priority of discovery. In 1767 France ceded her rights in the country to Spain for the sum of £25,000. Three years later a squadron of five frigates drove out the British garrison, but the action was disowned by the Spanish Government, and the garrison was restored by Spain in 1770. In 1774 the post was temporarily abandoned. It is believed that the Spanish garrison was withdrawn in 1800. According to Admiral Fitzroy, "From 1810 to 1820 there was no person upon these islands who claimed even a shadow of authority over them." In November of the latter year the flag of "The United Provinces of South America" was hoisted with a claim to sovereignty. There does

not appear to have been any occupation until 1823, when one Louis Vernet, a German, obtained a concession from the Buenos Aires Government for the use of the fishery, cattle, and tracts of land in the East Falkland. The action of this Government was scarcely known in Europe until 1829, when a formal protest was made by Great Britain. In the same year Vernet was appointed Governor of the islands by the Government of the United Provinces of South America. In 1831 his settlement was, however, broken up by a United States corvette, and many persons, including his agent, were deported in retaliation for an exercise by him of his fishery rights against American sealers. Some years later, and after further British occupation, Vernet accepted compensation in full for all his property left in the islands. In January, 1833, Great Britain, following up the warnings given four years previously, reassumed occupation, and settled and developed the islands. The settlement was in charge of naval officers down to 1842, when Richard Clement Moody, a subaltern in the Royal Engineers, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor. He was raised to the rank of Governor shortly afterwards.

The Colony received grants-in-aid from the Imperial Government down to 1880, since which time it has been self-supporting.

Constitution.

The Government of the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies is administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of three official members and one unofficial member, and a Legislative Council composed of three official and two unofficial members. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are appointed by Warrant under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet for a term not exceeding five years.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Falkland Islands are inhabited almost exclusively by people of pure British origin. The descendants of the early pioneers now own the greater part of the land.

The Colony is entirely divided into sheep farms. Nearly one-third of the total area is owned by the Falkland Islands Company, who own about one-third of the sheep. The balance of the land is divided into 33 farms, of which 16 run over 10,000 sheep and the remainder less than that number. Of the larger farms, many are now owned by private companies under the direction of resident managers.

The sheep-farming industry was made the subject of exhaustive enquiry during the year 1924, and in accordance with the conclusions arrived at from the investigations a scheme was evolved for the establishment of an Experimental Farm under the auspices

of the Government. This scheme was inaugurated during the year under review by the importation of stud sheep from New Zealand and by the construction of houses for the staff of the Farm. The manager and the farm-hand appointed from New Zealand arrived in the Colony to assume their duties towards the close of the year.

The works under the Stanley Improvement Scheme, to which reference has been made in previous reports and which comprise a water supply and a drainage system for the town of Stanley as well as the reconstruction of the principal roads at a total cost of £35,000, made good progress during the year, and at the present rate there is little doubt but that they will be completed within the time anticipated, early in 1928. The drainage system was completed during 1926 and brought into use; the water supply, including mains and public fountains, was also completed with the exception of the reservoir; and Ross Road and other principal streets in the town were relaid and provided with a pavement or with a kerb and gutter.

Further development was again observed during the year in the introduction and use locally of motor vehicles. In the country districts particularly it is becoming practicable by the extension and improvement of tracks to travel for increasing distances by motor-car. A Morris half-creeper lorry was imported by the Government for use in connection with the haulage of peat from the bogs to Stanley and has given evidence of encouraging possibilities.

The Port and Marine Department was handicapped during the year in so much as both of the Government craft were out of commission for a considerable period on account of boiler and engine trouble. It was found necessary eventually to send the patrol-boat H.M.C.S. "Afterglow" to Punta Arenas in Chile for refit.

II.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1926 from all sources was £59,762, the revenue from normal sources, excluding the Dependencies' share in the cost of the Central Administration, being £42,812. The ordinary revenue exceeded the ordinary expenditure for the year by £13,596.

The amount derived from taxation in 1926 was £16,689, as against £15,000 in 1925. Of this sum, 53 per cent. was contributed by the sheep-farming interests, 43 per cent. by the community generally, and 4 per cent. by the residents of Stanley. No additional taxation was imposed during the year under review.

Expenditure.

The ordinary expenditure for 1926, including the sum of £1,638 under Public Works Extraordinary, was £38,216. In addition,

the sum of £9,882 was expended out of the surplus balances, almost wholly in connection with the Stanley Improvement Scheme to which reference has been made on page 6, and £7,630 was disbursed from the Land Sales Fund on the establishment of the Experimental Farm and on stock investigation and research. The ordinary expenditure, excluding Miscellaneous Services, £5,426, was heaviest under the Port and Marine Department, £5,497; the Medical Department, £3,303; the Public Works Department, Ordinary and Recurrent, £3,293 and £2,740, respectively; the Education Department, £2,436; and the Post Office, £2,425, which includes the maintenance of the revenue-producing wireless telegraphy station.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1926, amounted to £235,702. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and at the end of the year:—

	1st January.	31st December.
	£	£
Land Sales Fund	192,067	191,781
Marine Insurance Fund	1,424	2,030
General Account	38,178	41,891
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£231,669	£235,702

Currency and Banking.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th March, 1899. It was estimated that on the 31st of December, 1926, there was £2,500 of specie in circulation. During the year the issue circulation of Government notes was increased by £2,000 to £20,000.

The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1926, the total sum deposited was £129,345, and the number of deposit accounts 897, as against 861 on the 30th of September, 1925.

General.

The year 1926 was a satisfactory one financially, and it is a matter of gratification to observe that, while the expenditure from the surplus balances as stated above was £9,882, the funds standing to the credit of the General Account were increased by £3,713.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES, AND SHIPPING.

Trade.

	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
Imports	154,893	161,106	179,229
Exports	267,312	330,454	239,958
Total Trade ...	£422,205	£491,560	£419,187

Imports.

The following is a comparative table of the imports for the years 1924, 1925, and 1926 :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.
	£	£	£
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	53,692	49,114	62,895
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	21,685	14,257	16,436
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	74,791	82,459	92,686
Live Stock	4,725	15,251	7,212
Bullion and Specie	—	25	—
	£154,893	£161,106	£179,229

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1926 were :—

	Value.
	£
Groceries	35,968
Hardware and Machinery	27,101
Drapery	13,531
Timber	13,191
Live Stock	7,212
Paints and Oils	6,862

Approximately 83 per cent. of the imports of the Colony came from the United Kingdom and about 4 per cent. from New Zealand, to the value of £148,771 and £7,661 respectively. The value of imports from foreign countries amounted to £22,797, as shown below :—

	£
Chile	11,247
Uruguay	6,773
Argentina	2,798
Norway	1,506
Other countries	473
	£22,797

There are no import duties except on spirits 15s. per gallon, wine 2s. and beer 6d. per gallon in bulk, tobacco 3s. a lb., and cigars 5s. a lb.

The following is a table of the dutiable imports and the revenue derived :—

	Quantity.	Revenue.
		£
Spirits	5,872 gals.	4,404
Wine	2,134 gals.	200
Beer	10,234 gals.	255
Tobacco	15,447 lb.	2,353
		£7,212

Exports.

Of the total value of the exports for the year 1926, approximately 90 per cent. represented the value of the wool exported and a little over 8 per cent. the value of other exported products of the sheep-farming industry.

The following table compares the exports of wool for the years 1924, 1925, and 1926, the values given being based for Customs purposes on the bottom prices of the year previous to that of export :—

	Quantities exported in lb.	Value.
		£
1924	4,106,990	253,567
1925	3,361,003	307,740
1926	4,377,385	214,290

There is an export duty on wool of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported, in respect of which revenue in the sum of £8,807 was collected during the year.

Industries.

The sole industry of any importance is the sheep-farming industry. Returns compiled for the year ended on the 30th of June, 1926, show the total number of sheep in the Colony on that date as 605,675, of which 360,748 are recorded as being on East Falkland Island. During the year, 596 sheep were imported from New Zealand with a view to improving the stamina of the local flocks: of this number, 164 were imported for the Government Experimental Farm.

The market price of wool fell considerably during the latter part of 1925 and maintained a comparatively low level throughout 1926. The average price obtained for Falkland Islands wool shipped to the United Kingdom during the year under review was 1s. 3d. per lb.

Shipping.

The total number of vessels which entered the Colony in 1926 was 58, with a total tonnage of 98,504. Of these, 17 with a tonnage of 65,290 were British.

The following table shows the number, nationality, and description of the vessels entered:—

Nationality.	Steamships.	Tonnage.	Sailing ships.	Tonnage.
British ...	17	65,290	—	—
Norwegian ...	37	32,108	—	—
Chilean ...	4	1,106	4	334
	58	98,504	4	334

IV.—EDUCATION.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years residing in Stanley is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, two of whom are provided by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, Limited. The Company also retains a resident teacher at its station at Darwin.

The number of children taught during the year is shown below:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At the Government School ...	101	64	165
At the Roman Catholic School ...	16	52	68
By the Government Travelling Teachers ...	37	29	66
By the Falkland Islands Company's Teachers	36	20	56
	190	165	355

The arrangements, referred to in last year's Report, for boarding children from the country districts attending school in Stanley at the Government Hostel, or in private houses, were continued during the year. The number of boarders at the Hostel was seven and of outside boarders nine. It is disappointing to record, however, that parents in the outlying parts of the Colony seem not to appreciate fully the benefits of the scheme or at any rate not to desire to any extent to take advantage of them. On this account the need for additional travelling teachers, particularly on the West Falkland, has become apparent, and the necessary steps to meet the situation are being considered.

V.—CLIMATE.

The climate of the Falklands is most trying to those unaccustomed to it, on account of the continuous high winds, rising frequently to terrific gales, which are prevalent throughout the

year and more intensely during the summer months. It is rigorous but healthy, although liable to induce nervous and mental depression in officials and others from home who are obliged to remain for too long a period without change from the very confined limits of the Colony. The frosts, however, are seldom heavy and the snow, which never lies long, is rarely more than ankle deep. The winds almost invariably commence in the early hours of the day from north-west and veer to the south-west in increasing force towards midday. Rainfall is well distributed over the year. The average fall is 26.43 inches per annum, or slightly more than at Kew. Although the temperature seldom rises above 63°, it falls below freezing point on about 50 days only throughout the year.

The mean barometric pressure during the year 1926 was 29.65 inches. The mean temperature was 46.8°, the absolute maximum, 71°, being recorded on the 28th of February, and the absolute minimum, 18°, on the 8th and 9th of June. The total rainfall recorded was 25.49 inches, the heaviest fall being .72 inches on the 17th of January. The mean wind force was 3.1 Beaufort scale.

The weather throughout the year was somewhat less severe than usual, and the wind comparatively moderate, only two gales of 8 force Beaufort scale being logged.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

The total number of mails received at Stanley during 1926 was nine, all of which came by vessels arriving via Monte Video. Sixteen mails were despatched, six being sent direct via Monte Video, eight via Valparaiso, and two to South Georgia for re-transmission to Europe by vessels engaged in the transport of whale oil from that Dependency. During the year, two opportunities occurred for direct steamship communication between New Zealand and the Colony. The number of passenger vessels which called at Stanley in 1926 was three, two of which were on the outward voyage from Europe and one on the return voyage.

Inter-insular mail communication in 1926 was fairly well maintained, the number of mails despatched from Stanley to West Falkland Island being thirty-three. Communication with the Dependency of South Georgia was, as usual, maintained by the Tonsberg Whaling Company under contract with the Government; one voyage was also made from Stanley to the Dependency of the South Shetlands during the whaling season by the vessel employed by this Company under their contract.

Two wireless stations for external traffic are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley and one at Cumberland Bay, Grytviken, in the Dependency of South Georgia. A small station on the West Falkland Island is also maintained by the Government,

for inter-insular communication. The external traffic is transmitted and received principally through Monte Video, and also through Punta Arenas. Telegraphic charges are 4s. 2d. a word to the United Kingdom and 1s. 2d. a word to Monte Video and Punta Arenas. A postal radiotelegraphic service is also in force by means of which messages can be telegraphed to vessels passing the Colony, for re-transmission by post from the first port of call. The charge made for such messages is at the rate of 5d. a word, plus the sum of 1s. 9d. for postage.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1926, was 2,271, composed of 1,275 males and 996 females, as compared with 2,252 on the 31st of December, 1925. The birth-rate was 25.98 per 1,000 and the death-rate 14.09 per 1,000. The density of the population throughout the Colony is set at .34 per square mile.

VIII.—SOCIAL.

The cost of living is moderate in country districts as in any similar pastoral community, but freight rates make imported provisions costly. Prices of provisions in 1926 were, with few exceptions, the same as in 1925. Mutton cost 3d. a lb., beef 5d. a lb., butter 2s. 6d. a lb., milk 1s. a quart, bread 1s. 2d. a quarter loaf, and tea 3s. a lb.

Wages on the farm stations ranged from £5 to £8 a month, with quarters, fuel, meat, and milk found. Town labourers were paid from £10 per month, or a shilling an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20, or 1s. 4½d. an hour.

There was no evidence of unemployment during 1926, nor was additional labour readily available on a sudden demand.

DEPENDENCIES.

INTRODUCTION.

Geographical.

The Dependencies consist of the following groups of islands: South Georgia, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands, the South Sandwich Islands, and Graham's Land, situated in the South Atlantic to the south of the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and lying between the twentieth and the eightieth degrees of west longitude. The total area of land and sea included in the Dependencies amounts to more than three million square miles.

South Georgia, the principal island in the Dependencies, lies in latitude 54½° S. and longitude 36° to 38° W. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles.

Descriptive.

The island of South Georgia is a mass of high mountains covered with snow where not too precipitous, while the valleys between are filled with glaciers which in many cases descend to the sea. The coastal region is free from snow in summer and more or less clothed with vegetation. Land whaling-stations have been established in some of the numerous bays. There is a permanent resident population engaged in the whaling industry. The Resident Magistrate and other officials are stationed at Grytviken Harbour.

The remaining Dependencies are even more inhospitable, being nearly completely covered with snow and ice and almost entirely destitute of plant life. The chief harbour is Port Foster at Deception Island in the South Shetlands. These Dependencies are, however, ice-free for some four or five months in the year only.

Historical.

The regions in which the Dependencies lie were visited by a number of navigators in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and early part of the eighteenth centuries, usually involuntarily, in endeavours to round Cape Horn or pass through the Straits of Magellan. Captain Cook sighted and took possession of South Georgia and the Sandwich group for Great Britain in 1775. The large number of whales was especially reported upon. Mr. William Smith, in the snow "Williams" of Blyth, took possession of the South Shetlands in 1819. The South Orkneys were annexed by Captain George Powell in 1821. Mr. Edward Bransfield, R.N., under whom Mr. William Smith sailed in 1819-20, discovered the first part of Graham's Land, and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832.

Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793, and British whalers were met there in 1819. The fur-seal industry achieved such large proportions that no less than 91 vessels visited these islands in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22. They are said to have practically exterminated the fur-seal, so recklessly did they work and wantonly slaughter. James Weddell stated that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are inhabited almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central Administration in common. A resident official staff is stationed at South Georgia, which is the only part of the Dependencies which is permanently habitable. Such control as is possible over whaling operations in the other Dependencies is carried out by Government officials who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. The leases include the right to use two whale-catchers without the payment of additional licence fees. The harbours in the other Dependencies are ice-bound for about seven months in the year, and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories. There are also land stations at Deception Island and at the South Orkneys, the personnel of which arrive and return with the whaling fleets.

The Royal Research Ships "Discovery" and "William Scoresby" continued work during the year in the Dependencies in accordance with the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies. In particular, inquiries are being prosecuted into the conditions of the whaling industry, but it is as yet premature to pass any comment on the conclusions to be drawn from the investigations. During the winter season, when operations at South Georgia and at the South Shetlands are suspended from the beginning of June to the middle of September in each year, the "Discovery" and "William Scoresby" conducted operations off the coast of South Africa, which bore relation more especially to the life history and migratory habits of the whales.

II.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue derived from the Dependencies in 1926 was £221,595. The local expenditure was £100,325, leaving a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £121,270.

In accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1924, the surplus of Dependencies' revenue, after providing for local services and meeting a share of the cost of the Central Administration in the Falklands, is reserved for research and development purposes. On the 31st of December, 1926, the total sums standing to the credit of the Research Fund amounted to £352,278.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

There are no banking facilities. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is paid by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES, AND SHIPPING.

Trade.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1926 was £4,690,760, of which £530,017 represented imports and £4,160,743 exports. Of the imports, coal, coke, and oil fuel accounted for £175,642 and provisions £44,400. The exports of whale and seal oil amounted to £3,982,999, of guano, £143,248, and of bonemeal, £12,996.

Industries.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the sole industry. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

Export duty at the rate of 5s. a barrel is payable on oil at the time of shipment, a portion of the duty thus collected being refundable if the market price of the oil for the season in which it is shipped does not exceed £50 a ton. During the season 1925-26 prices did not rise above £35 a ton, and duty at the rate of 2s. a barrel was, in accordance with the scale of rebates in force, refunded, making the effective duty for the season at the rate of 3s. a barrel. Export duty at the rate of 1½d. per 100 lb. is payable on guano.

During the season 1925-26 whaling operations were conducted at South Georgia, the South Shetlands, and the South Orkneys, and resulted in a total catch of 13,188 whales, or 3,131 more than the previous season's catch, which at that time was the largest on record. There was an appreciable falling-off in the quantity of oil produced per whale, the average number of barrels being approximately 55 as against 66 in the season 1924-25. This decrease was attributable to the preponderance of the smaller species in the catch and the poor condition of the whales captured.

The following table shows the size and the value of the catches during the past four seasons:—

Season.	Whales captured.	Barrels of oil produced.	Average or barrels per whale.	Value. £
1922-23 ...	9,915	611,372	61·66	3,056,860
1923-24 ...	6,737	427,321	63·43	2,492,790
1924-25 ...	10,057	661,998	66·10	3,640,989
1925-26 ...	13,188	723,831	54·88	4,101,709

Sealing operations yielded 8,094 barrels of oil, as compared with 6,891 barrels produced in the previous season.

Shipping.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1926:—

Nationality.	Steamships.	Tonnage.	Sailing ships.	Tonnage.
British ...	13	35,265	—	—
Norwegian ...	16	31,656	—	—
Argentine ...	4	6,168	3	2,202
German ...	1	1,859	—	—

Grytviken in South Georgia and Port Foster in South Shetlands are the only ports of entry in the Dependencies.

IV.—CLIMATE.

Five meteorological stations are maintained at South Georgia by the whaling companies with shore factories, and one is maintained in the South Orkneys by the Argentine Government.

The mean temperature at South Georgia was 34.3° , the absolute maximum, 68.6° , being recorded on the 13th of December, and the absolute minimum, 5.8° , on the 26th of June.

During the year rain fell on 100 days and snow and sleet on 180 days. A total rainfall of 35.044 inches was recorded, the greatest rainfall being 2.035 inches on the 4th of October.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness is caused by the absence of fresh provisions, but the climate is undoubtedly healthy.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Vessels for South Georgia call at South American ports on their way out, and there is more or less regular communication between South Georgia and Buenos Aires. The South Shetlands whaling fleet calls at Stanley on the way south in October-November and again on the return voyage in April-May.

Direct communication was maintained during 1926, as in 1925, between Stanley and South Georgia by means of a vessel belonging to the Tonsberg Whaling Company, which is under contract with the Government to provide five round voyages between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season, and two additional voyages during the winter months. The terms of this contract also provide for one round voyage during the whaling season between Stanley and Port Foster in South Shetlands.

The wireless station at Grytviken, South Georgia, was in communication with Stanley throughout the year.

VI.—POPULATION.

The population of South Georgia fluctuates with the seasons of the whaling industry. It was estimated on the 31st December, 1926, at 1,895, or 1,888 males and seven females. Of this number, 76 were of British nationality and over 1,700 of Scandinavian origin.

J. M. ELLIS,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS,
27th July, 1927.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1423.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1927.

*(For Reports for 1925 and 1926 see Nos. 1322 and 1360,
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Annual Report on the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies for the Year 1927.

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THE COLONY.

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Falkland Islands, called by the French *Isles Malouines* and by the Spaniards *Islas Malvinas*, were discovered on the 14th of August, 1592, by John Davis in the "Desire," one of the vessels of the squadron sent to the Pacific under Cavendish. They were seen by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty" on the 2nd of February, 1594, and were visited in 1598 by Sebald Van Weert, a Dutchman, and styled by him the Sebald Islands, a name which they still bear on some of the Dutch maps. Captain Strong in the "Welfare" sailed through between the two principal islands in 1690 and called the passage, where he landed at several points and obtained supplies of wild geese and of fresh water, the Falkland Sound in memory of the well-known Royalist Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, killed at the battle of Newbury in 1643; and from this the group afterwards took its English name of "Falkland Islands," although this name does not appear to have been given to it before 1745.

The first settlement on the islands was established in 1764 by de Bougainville on behalf of the King of France with a small colony of Acadians transferred from Nova Scotia at Port Louis

in the East Falkland Island on Berkeley Sound. In the following year Captain Byron took possession of the West Falkland Island and left a small garrison at Port Egmont or Saunders Island, which lies off and close to the north coast of the mainland.

The Spaniards, ever jealous of interference by other nations in the southern seas, bought out the French from the settlement at Port Louis, which they renamed Soledad in 1766, and in 1770 forcibly ejected the British from Port Egmont. This action on the part of Spain led the two countries to the verge of war. The settlement was restored, however, to Great Britain in 1771, but was again in 1774 voluntarily abandoned. The Spaniards in turn abandoned their settlement early in the nineteenth century, and the entire group of islands appears for some years to have remained without formal occupation and without inhabitants until in 1829 Louis Vernet, enjoying the nominal protection of the Government of the Republic of Buenos Aires, planted a new Colony at Port Louis in 1829. Vernet saw fit to seize certain vessels belonging to the United States' fishing fleet, and in 1831 his settlement suffered from an American punitive expedition. Finally, in 1833 Great Britain, who had never relaxed her claim to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, expelled the few Argentine soldiers and colonists yet remaining at Port Louis and resumed occupation, which has been maintained without break to the present day.

The Colony was under the charge of naval officers engaged in making Admiralty surveys until 1843, in which year a Civil Administration was formed, the headquarters of Government being at Port Louis until 1844, when they were removed to Stanley, then called Port William. Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands lay on the main sea route from Europe through the Straits of Magellan to the west coast of South America, and in the days of sail frequently harboured vessels which had been worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn. On the 8th of December, 1914, they were the scene of the naval battle in which Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee defeated and destroyed the German squadron under Admiral Graf Von Spee, and a memorial commemorating this victory was unveiled at Stanley on the 26th of February, 1927.

The Colony is constituted as a Crown Colony with a Government of the usual type, having at its head a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is advised by an Executive Council consisting of three official and one unofficial members. The Legislative Council is composed of three official and two unofficial members, the latter being nominated by the Crown. The Colony received a regular grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury until 1880 and a special grant for a mail service until 1885, since which date it has been wholly self-supporting.

The population of the Colony is almost exclusively of British descent and the only language spoken is English, although a certain number of Spanish terms are in common use in the sheep-farming industry relating principally to horse management and to topographical description. The monetary units and also the units of weights and measures are the same as in the United Kingdom, and Imperial gold, silver, and copper coinage is alone in circulation. The Colony issues its own currency notes, but Imperial currency notes are without distinction legal tender.

Geographically, the Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan, between 51° and 53° S. latitude and 57° and 62° W. longitude. In addition to the two main islands, known as the East and the West Falkland, which are divided by the Falkland Sound, running approximately north-east and south-west, the group comprises about 200 smaller islands clustered around them within a space of 120 by 60 miles. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
	<hr/>
Total area of group	4,618

The islands have a very deeply indented coast-line and possess many excellent harbours and anchorages. The surface is hilly, attaining its maximum elevation of 2,315 feet in Mount Adam on the West Falkland. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast. The entire country is covered with wild moorland interrupted by outcrops of rock and the peculiar collections of angular boulders called "stone runs" the origin of which is scientifically disputed. There is no cultivation except in the immediate vicinity of the farm settlements and shepherds' houses where vegetables and in a few places oats and hay are grown. The soil is chiefly peat but considerable areas of sand also occur. In comprehensive appearance the Falkland Islands are bleak and inhospitable. Trees are entirely absent and the scenery is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands. The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on a natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. It has rather less than a thousand inhabitants. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which it is divided; of these the most important is Darwin, the headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company, with a population of about one hundred persons.

The climate is rigorous but healthy. It is rendered trying to people from the United Kingdom on account of the continuous

cold, the lack of sun, and the constant high winds, as well as by the few opportunities afforded for outdoor exercise. The temperature is uniformly low, ranging from 40° to 70° in summer and from 30° to 50° in winter with an annual mean of 42°. The annual rainfall seldom exceeds 25 inches, and although snow falls frequently it does not as a rule lie long. In summer the atmosphere is very dry and the evaporation rapid.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Colony is devoted solely to sheep farming and all its interests are subordinated and all its energies directed to the production of wool. There is an encouraging tendency among owners and managers to modernize methods and to study the future, which cannot be described as free from anxiety by reason of the decreased carrying capacity of the pastures.

In the Administration the year was marked by numerous changes, foremost among which was the appointment of Mr. Arnold Hodson, C.M.G., to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony and its Dependencies in the place of Sir John Middleton, K.B.E., C.M.G., now Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Newfoundland.

The memorial erected at Stanley by public subscription among Falkland Islanders in the Colony and in the United Kingdom to commemorate the Naval Victory of the 8th of December, 1914, was unveiled with due ceremony on the 26th of February, 1928, by the Acting Governor, His Excellency Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Beattie, C.B.E., M.C., and was dedicated by His Lordship the Bishop of the Falkland Islands, the Right Reverend N. S. de Jersey, D.D., in the presence of a landing party from H.M.S. "Capetown" present for the occasion and of the largest number of people believed to have assembled at once in the history of the Colony.

The cost of living remained generally on the high side as in preceding years. In the country, as in any similar pastoral community, it was more moderate, but freight rates made imported provisions expensive, this being felt particularly in the town. A serious shortage of dwelling accommodation began to become evident in Stanley during the year and it was exceedingly difficult to rent a house. For the occasional visitor there are several boarding houses which offer a reasonable degree of comfort and convenience but no hotels exist in the accepted sense of the term.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1927 from all sources was £62,069, the revenue from normal sources, excluding the Dependencies share in the cost of the Central Administration, being £41,318. The ordinary revenue exceeded the ordinary expenditure for the year, excluding expenditure on public works of an extraordinary description, by £2,554.

The amount derived from taxation in 1927 was £16,149, as against £16,689 in 1926. Of this sum 50 per cent. approximately was contributed by the sheep-farming interests, 2.5 per cent. by the residents of Stanley, and the remaining 47.5 per cent. generally by the community. No additional taxation was imposed during the year nor was any alteration introduced in the method of raising revenue.

Expenditure.

The ordinary expenditure for 1927, including the sum of £1,878 under Public Works Extraordinary, was £39,936. In addition, the sum of £10,878 was expended out of the surplus balance principally on the scheme for the improvement of the town of Stanley, to which reference is made later in this Report, and £8,802 was disbursed from the Land Sales Fund in connection with the Experimental Farm. As in 1926 the ordinary expenditure, excluding Miscellaneous Services, £5,037, was heaviest under the Port and Marine Department, £5,161, the Public Works Department, Ordinary and Recurrent, £3,207 and £4,335, respectively, and the Medical Department, £3,649.

The following table gives the comparative figures of the expenditure and the revenue for the past five years:—

	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Ordinary.	Total.	Ordinary.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1923 ...	30,116	47,795	41,068	42,868
1924 ...	37,918	59,093	41,701	42,767
1925 ...	40,783	57,511	38,191	58,000
1926 ...	42,812	59,762	38,216	48,099
1927 ...	41,318	62,069	41,814	50,814

* Excluding the Dependencies share in the cost of Central Administration, at present £9,000 a year.

† Including expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1927, amounted to £238,155. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and at the end of the year:—

	1st January.	31st December.
	£	£
Land Sales Fund ...	191,781	194,123
Marine Insurance Fund...	2,030	2,636
General Account...	41,891	41,396
	<u>£235,702</u>	<u>£238,155</u>

Currency and Banking.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th of March, 1899. It is estimated that on the 31st of December, 1926, there was £3,000 of specie in circulation. The issue of currency notes in circulation was unchanged from 1926 on the value of £20,000 at the maximum authorised. The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is 2½ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1927, the total sum deposited was £131,166, and the number of deposit accounts 918 as against 897 on the 30th of September, 1926.

General.

The year 1927 was satisfactory financially, while the expenditure from the surplus balance amounted, as stated above, to £10,878. The funds standing to the credit of the general account were reduced by £495 only. The Colony has no public debt.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The sole industry in the Colony is sheep-farming and the sole product wool. Agriculture is barely at the beginning of the experimental stage; there are no forests and but few trees and no fisheries; while no source of mineral wealth suitable for exploitation has yet been discovered. The year 1927 was favourable on the whole to the sheep-farming industry. By reason of the hard season the yield of wool showed a slight decrease, but the prices obtained were in correspondence slightly higher than in 1926, averaging 1s. 3½d. per lb.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The sole exports are wool and allied substances such as hides and tallow, and the only imports those commodities required for the upkeep of the farms and the maintenance of the population. All foodstuffs with the exception of meat and a limited quantity of dairy and garden produce have to be obtained from abroad.

The following table shows the comparative value of the imports and exports during the past five years :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	141,080	154,893	161,106	179,229	174,338
Exports	137,440	267,312	330,454	239,958	247,933
	<u>£278,520</u>	<u>£422,205</u>	<u>£491,560</u>	<u>£419,187</u>	<u>£422,271</u>

Imports.

The following table shows the comparative returns of the import trade under the principal heads during the past five years :—

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, Drink, and Tobacco...	38,813	53,692	49,114	62,895	70,302
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured.	12,883	21,685	14,257	16,436	28,056
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	81,949	74,791	82,459	92,686	75,240
Live Stock	7,435	4,725	15,251	7,212	715
Bullion and Specie	—	—	25	—	25

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1927 were :—

	Value.
	£
Groceries	43,612
Hardware and Machinery...	20,667
Drapery	16,371
Timber	14,954
Paints and Oils	5,055

Approximately 86.6 per cent. of the imports of the Colony came from the United Kingdom and about 1.1 per cent. from New Zealand, to the value of £151,109 and £2,069 respectively. The value of imports from foreign countries amounted to £21,160, as shown below :—

	£
Chile	9,992
Uruguay	5,827
Argentine	3,494
Other Countries	1,847

There are no import duties except on spirits £1 per gallon, wine 3s. per gallon, and beer 6s. per gallon in bulk, tobacco 4s. per lb., and cigars 6s. 9d. a lb. The following is a table of the dutiable imports and the revenue derived :—

	Quantity.	Revenue.
		£
Spirits	6,590 gallons	4,305
Wine	2,064 gallons	218
Beer	15,427 gallons	319
Tobacco	20,811 lbs.	2,772
		<u>£7,686</u>

Exports.

Of the total value of the exports for the year 1927 approximately 91.1 per cent. represented the value of the wool exported and a little over 7 per cent. the value of other exported products of the sheep-farming industry. The entire clip of wool was shipped for the United Kingdom.

The following table compares the exports of wool for the past four years, the values being based for Customs' purposes on the bottom prices of the year previous to that of export.

	Quantities exported in lb.	Value exported in £.
1924	4,106,990	253,567
1925	3,361,003	307,740
1926	4,377,385	214,290
1927	3,972,509	236,028

There is an export duty on wool, first imposed in 1924, of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported, in respect of which revenue in the sum of £8,049 was collected during 1927. The greater proportion of the trade of the Colony, both import and export, is conducted by the Falkland Islands Company of which the head offices are situated in London. Other firms of lesser standing, principal among which is the Estate Louis Williams, carry on business mostly importing in Stanley.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Since the opening of the Panama Canal the Falkland Islands have been off the main track of ocean lines and communications with the outside world have been in consequence irregular and at times precarious. Cargo vessels of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company called during the year at intervals of two months, approximately, on their way between Montevideo in Uruguay and the

ports on the west coast of South America in Chile and Peru. In the opposite direction three calls were made by similar ships early in the year in order to lift the wool clip direct for England. In addition, calls were made, as in 1926, by three passenger vessels belonging to the same Company, two outward, or westward, and one homeward, or eastward, bound as well as in special circumstances by two vessels of the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company sailing between New Zealand, South America, and the United Kingdom. A mail was also received by H.M.S. "Capetown" which visited Stanley in February. With the object of securing a more frequent and regular service of mails between the Colony and Europe and of affording the opportunity in emergency for persons to reach or to leave the Colony arrangements were concluded for the despatch from time to time to Montevideo under contract to the Government of the s.s. "Fleurus" of the Tonsberg Whaling Company which was already engaged on the mail service between the Colony and the Dependency of South Georgia. Two voyages were made and the basis of working settled is that the service shall be supplementary to the previously existing service in such a manner as to ensure that no interval longer than one month more or less shall be allowed to elapse without the reception and the despatch of an overseas mail. As a corollary to this service arrangements have been made with His Majesty's Postmaster-General for the despatch weekly from the United Kingdom of mails for the Colony to Montevideo for collection at that port.

Communications with the Dependency of South Georgia were maintained as in the preceding years by the s.s. "Fleurus" of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, the Government paying a subsidy towards the cost of each voyage performed. The schedule of sailings provides for six voyages between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season, i.e., October to May, and for two voyages during the remainder of the year, and also for one voyage early in each year between Stanley and Deception Island in the South Shetlands.

Endeavours were made, furthermore, during 1927 to improve the communications existing between the main East and West Falkland Islands. The service previously provided by the coasting steamer s.s. "Falkland" of the Falkland Islands Company and by local schooners, some of which are and some of which are not fitted with auxiliary motor engines, was augmented by sailings of the s.s. "Fleurus", the object proposed being to arrange that a reliable opportunity for the conveyance of passengers and mails should be afforded at least once every month or six weeks between Stanley and some principal settlement on the West Falkland and at least once every quarter between Stanley and the principal settlements on that Island.

The following table shows the number, nationality, and description of the vessels which entered the Colony from overseas in 1927:—

Nationality.	Steamships.	Tonnage.	Sailing-ships.	Tonnage.
British	20	68,593	—	—
Chile	—	—	5	487
Ecuador	1	1,255	—	—
Finland	—	—	1	2,507
Norway	34	26,651	—	—
	55	96,499	6	2,994

These returns approximate nearly to those for 1926; the Norwegian steamships recorded were all vessels of the whaling fleet which touched at Stanley on their way to and from the fishing grounds in Antarctic waters.

Two wireless stations for external traffic are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley and one at Grytviken in South Georgia. A small station is also maintained by the Government at Fox Bay on the West Falkland Island for inter-insular communication. There are no submarine cables in operation. Telegraph charges to the United Kingdom are 1s. a word via Bergen and 4s. 2d. a word via Montevideo. The postal rate of 1d. per ounce for letters to the United Kingdom still remains in force. It is noteworthy to remark that even throughout the Great War this rate was not increased.

There are no railways in the Colony and no roads outside the town of Stanley. Internal communication is carried out almost entirely by horse or by boat, but recent experiments with caterpillar cars have revealed interesting prospects of future development, which are being investigated both by the farmers and by the Government. There are no inland telegraphs, but a telephone system is run by the Government in Stanley both for official and general use. Many of the farm settlements maintain their own lines which connect on the East Falkland to the Stanley system and on the West Falkland to the Fox Bay wireless station.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The judicial system of the Colony is limited to a Supreme Court in which the Governor sits alone as Chief Justice, and a Magistrate's Court in Stanley. The majority of the farm managers are Justices of the Peace and as such have power to deal with petty offences. The local Police Force consists of five Constables and a Chief Constable and is stationed entirely at Stanley. The Chief Constable is also gaoler in charge of the gaol in Stanley which accommodates only short-sentence prisoners. During 1927 no crime of a capital nature was brought before the Courts, and in general the Colony boasts an exceptionally clean record in this connection.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The principal undertaking of the Public Works Department during 1927 was the continuation of the scheme for the improvement of the town of Stanley, to which reference has been made in the Report for 1926. Expenditure totalling £6,740 was incurred on the completion of the reservoir and the inception of the water supply system and also on the construction of roads with side walks and drains in various parts of the town. Other public works included the erection of the first of a number of bungalows for occupation by Government officials and the building of a drill hall for the use of the Falkland Islands Defence Force, the latter meeting a long-felt need. The year 1927 was, however, largely a year of re-organization and of preparation for a more ambitious programme in future years.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

As in previous years general diseases were rare with the one exception of tuberculosis which was present to a degree that calls urgently for some form of action to prevent its further spread. The prevalence of this disease would appear to be aggravated to a great extent by inadequate housing conditions and by close inter-marriage. Steps are being taken to alleviate the former evil and it is hoped in the near future to institute bacteriological work in this connection with the view to the successful discovery of the disease in its early stages. Chronic appendicitis is also prevalent among the inhabitants of the Colony, which may be due in part to tubercle and in part to diet. Communicable diseases, mosquito or insect borne, were entirely absent and no acute infectious condition was reported in the Colony during the year. Septic throat and cervical adenitis were troublesome, but it is anticipated that the causes of these diseases will be removed in great measure by the completion of the new drainage system under the Stanley Improvement Scheme. The teeth generally of the people require attention and particular care is being devoted to the dental treatment of the school children, who all receive free attendance. An outbreak of catarrhal cold occurred in the spring of the year—October and November in the southern hemisphere—and its treatment with stock vaccine did not meet with much success. In this case again bacteriological work is indicated with the object of determining the specific vaccine.

The entire population of the Falkland Islands is of European and chiefly of British descent in which Scotch blood is marked. The estimated population at the end of 1927 was 2,286. The birth-rate was 22.31 per 1,000 and the death-rate 9.62 per 1,000 during the year.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years residing in Stanley is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management; provision is also made in these schools for attendance at a continuation class for a two years' course of further education. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, two of whom were provided during 1927 by the Government and two by the Falkland Islands Company, which corporation maintained in addition a resident teacher at its headquarters station at Darwin.

The number of children under instruction during the year is shewn in the following table:—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
At the Government School	105	69	174
At the Roman Catholic School	24	56	80
By the Government Travelling Teachers ...	38	27	65
By the Falkland Island Company's Teachers	43	32	75
	210	184	394

The attendance at the Government School in Stanley was exceptionally good throughout the year, averaging the highest figure on record, 91.2 per cent. For the first year since 1922 it was not necessary to close the school on account of illness, and the regular curriculum was carried out free of interruption.

The number of boarders at the Hostel maintained by the Government in Stanley in connection with the school for the benefit of children from the country districts was eleven in 1927 as compared with seven in 1926. This increase is partly attributable to the reduction effected of the inclusive fees charged, but the real advantages afforded by the scheme do not appear even yet to be appreciated by parents in the outlying parts of the Colony. Eight other children from the "Camp" received monthly grants towards the cost of their board in Stanley in private houses for the purpose of attending the school. The problem of the education of "Camp" children is far from a satisfactory solution and measures were considered during the year to remedy the situation, including the provision of additional travelling teachers, especially on the West Falkland.

X.—LAND AND SURVEY.

Practically the entire lands of the Colony are given over to sheep-farming and are in the possession of private persons who for the most part enjoy a freehold either absolute or under purchase from the Government by annual instalments. Certain areas reserved by the Crown are leased on short tenure for a like purpose. No waste lands are available for occupation or development and lands

of any description are difficult to acquire, and then only by special treaty. The Colony has never been surveyed in any detail and the charts of its coasts are somewhat antiquated although they cannot be termed inadequate.

XI.—LABOUR.

The supply of labour in 1927 was approximately equal to the demand and no unemployment occurred. As in 1926, wages on the farm stations ranged from £5 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat, and milk found. Some of the farm managers imported hands in a limited number from the United Kingdom, as the work available in Stanley, coupled with the attractions of the town, tended to act as a deterrent from accepting employment in the "Camp." Labourers in Stanley were paid from £10 a month, or 1s. an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20 a month, or 1s. 4½d. an hour. Wages of domestic servants varied from £2 10s. to £4 a month with all found.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

No event of outstanding interest or importance is to be recorded during 1927 which has not been noticed in a previous chapter of this Report. The R.R.S. "Discovery" and the R.S.S. "William Scoresby" visited Stanley during the year in the course of their scientific operations in Antarctic waters. As a reminder of the old days of sail the Finnish barque "Fennia" which was worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn in May put into Stanley in distress and has since been abandoned and sold as a storage hulk. The Governor gave a Christmas party and play, "The Troubles of Santa Claus," to which all the children of the Colony were invited. The play proved so popular that repeated performances were staged into the following year. The annual Race Meeting for the East Falkland, held at Stanley in Christmas week, was especially enjoyable on account of the unusually fine weather prevailing—the conditions were, indeed, said to be the most favourable for some years past.

DEPENDENCIES.

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Dependencies are divided into two main groups, the one consisting of South Georgia with the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands, and the other of the South Shetlands with Graham's Land.

South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands were sighted and taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain Cook in 1775, and the South Orkneys were discovered by Captain Powell of the British ship "Dove," who landed on Coronation Island on the 7th of December, 1821, and took possession of the group in the name of King George IV. The South Shetlands were discovered by Mr. W. Smith in the brig "Williams" in 1819 and were examined by Captain Bransfield in 1820. Captain Bransfield also discovered the first part of Graham's Land on the Antarctic continent and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832. Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers were reported there in 1819. The fur-seal industry in the Dependencies achieved such proportions in the early part of the nineteenth century that expeditions were made to them in the two seasons 1820-1821 and 1821-1822 by no fewer than 91 vessels. So recklessly did they slaughter, however, that they are said practically to have exterminated the fur-seal, James Weddell stating that in 1822-1824 these animals were almost extinct.

The area of the Dependencies covers 3,100,000 square miles or 1½ per cent. of the entire surface of the globe and one-fifth approximately of the total area of the British Empire. Much of it is ice-bound, but there are more than a million square miles of sea readily accessible for whaling, fishing and sealing.

The island of South Georgia lies about 800 miles to the east of the Falkland Islands in latitude 54½° South, the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands being 450 miles to the south-west and south-east, respectively, of South Georgia. The northern point of the South Shetlands is about 500 miles to the south of the Falkland Islands. The South Georgia with the South Orkneys and South Sandwich group of dependencies is bounded by the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and by the twentieth and the fiftieth meridians of west longitude, and the South Shetlands and Graham's Land by the parallel of fifty-eight latitude south and by the meridians of longitude fifty and eighty west. Both territories extend to the South Pole. South Georgia is the principal island in the Dependencies and is the only portion of them inhabited throughout the year except for the meteorological station which is maintained by the Argentine Government on Laurie Island in the South Shetlands. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles and is about 100 miles in length with a maximum breadth of 20 miles and consists mainly of steep mountains from which glaciers descend. There is but little flat land and the island is almost entirely barren, the south-west side being permanently frozen. The main vegetation is some coarse grass which grows on the north-east side of the island where the snow melts in the summer. There are no indigenous quadrupeds other than seals, but reindeer

have been introduced and are thriving well. There are many sea-birds, including penguins and albatrosses. The sea-elephant, the sea-leopard, and the Weddell's seal frequent its coasts. The shore has been indifferently charted, but a survey party is at present operating in the Dependency under the direction of the "Discovery" expedition. There are some good harbours which serve as bases for the whaling enterprises.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are peopled almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident magistrate and official staff is maintained at South Georgia, and control over whaling operations in the other dependencies is carried out by representatives of the Government who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia, which is devoted solely to the whaling industry, five land stations have been established and are occupied throughout the year. A land station has also been erected at Deception Island in the South Shetlands, the personnel of which arrives and returns annually with the whaling fleet. In the Dependencies other than South Georgia, however, the harbours are ice-bound for seven or more months in the year and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories.

The expedition for research, mainly into whaling, styled "The Discovery Expedition," continued operations in the waters of the Colony and of the Dependencies during the early part of the year with the two ships "Discovery" and "William Scoresby" which left at the beginning of the winter for South Africa and eventually the United Kingdom. The first report on this work was published during the year.

For the first time for some years past the Governor was enabled to visit South Georgia and personally to study conditions on the spot. His stay of a week in mid-winter in the month of August was highly appreciated by the community as a whole.

At Laurie Island in the South Orkneys the Argentine Government continued to maintain the meteorological station established in 1903 by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition under Mr. W. Bruce and transferred by him in 1904. The Argentine Government has subsequently erected a wireless station for use in conjunction with the meteorological station.

II.—FINANCE.

The Dependencies' revenue is derived almost entirely from the whaling industry and amounted in 1927 to £206,059. The local expenditure was £111,306, leaving a surplus of £94,753 which, in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1924, was transferred to the Research and Development Fund.

The following table shows the comparative figures of the revenue and of the expenditure during the past five years:—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1923	160,221	7,436
1924	131,676	27,711
1925	180,098	77,928
1926	221,595	100,325
1927	206,059	111,306

The total amount of the surplus assets standing to the credit of the Research and Development Fund at the 31st of December, 1927, was £421,001. There is no public debt.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

No banking facilities exist. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is made by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the only industry in the Dependencies, and whale oil and by-products of the whale, such as guano, their sole produce.

The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May and the sealing season from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

During the season 1926-1927 the price of whale oil fell below £30 a ton and, in accordance with the sliding scale in force, the net rate of export duty payable was 2s. 6d. a barrel or 15s. 0d. a ton; the export duty on guano is fixed at the date of 1½d. per 100 lb.

The season 1926-1927 at South Georgia and the South Orkneys showed a record working in regard to the production of oil, principally on account of the high proportion of blue whales in good condition killed to the total catch. The results obtained at the South Shetlands, however, were disappointing in comparison with previous years, the whales caught being both relatively few in number and poor in condition.

The average quantity of oil produced per whale was 68.56 barrels, or an increase of 14.88 barrels as compared with 1925-1926. The

average of 93.17 barrels per whale obtained at South Georgia and the South Orkneys, respectively, is the highest on record and registers a marked advance on that of preceding seasons. The following table, in which the price of whale oil is put at the lowest figure reached in 1926-1927, namely, £26 a ton, gives the size and value of the catch during the past five seasons:—

Season.	Whales killed.	Barrels of oil produced.	Average Number of barrels per whale.	Value. £
1922-23	9,915	611,372	61.66	3,056,860
1923-24	6,737	427,321	63.43	2,492,700
1924-25	10,057	661,998	66.10	3,640,989
1925-26	13,188	723,831	54.88	4,101,709
1926-27	10,631	729,891	68.56	3,158,431

The production of guano was considerably increased. The number of bags manufactured at South Georgia alone during the 1926-1927 season was 207,992, to an estimated value of £161,280, as against 187,584 bags during the 1925-1926 season.

Sealing operations yielded 10,033 barrels of oil, as compared with 8,094 barrels of oil in 1925-1926 and 6,891 in 1924-1925. The value of seal oil is slightly higher than that of whale oil.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1927 was £4,414,625, of which £557,060 represented imports and £3,877,565 exports. Of the imports, coal, coke, and oil fuel accounted for £284,501 and provisions £46,018. The exports of whale and seal oil amounted to £3,641,974, of guano to £229,384, and of bone meal to £2,422.

The following table gives the comparative value of the trade of the Dependencies during the past five years:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1923	283,632	2,919,379	3,203,001
1924	320,448	2,318,536	2,638,984
1925	372,740	3,585,110	3,957,850
1926	530,017	4,160,743	4,690,760
1927	537,060	3,877,565	4,414,625

Of the imports the bulk of the coal in the usual course is obtained from the United Kingdom and of the provisions from Norway. The exports of whale and seal oil and guano are sold on the European market in large measure to Germany, but the consumption in the United Kingdom is not inconsiderable. The firm of Lever Brothers of Port Sunlight owns the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company, which operates from a land station in South Georgia and with a floating factory expedition at the South Shetlands, and utilizes the produce for the purpose of its manufactures. The South Georgia Company, which operates similarly

from a land station and with a floating factory, is also British, owned by Messrs. Salvesens of Leith; and British capital has acquired recently further large interests in the Anglo-Norse and Hektor Whaling Companies.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

As noticed in a previous chapter of this Report, communication of a regular nature more or less between South Georgia and Stanley and once a year between the South Shetlands and Stanley is maintained by the s.s. "Fleuris," of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, running under contract to the Government.

During the whaling season direct sailings between Europe and South Georgia in either direction are not infrequent, and there is a fairly reliable service between Buenos Aires and Grytviken furnished by the motor auxiliary s.v. "Tijuca" of the Compania Argentina de Pesca. The vessels of the South Shetlands whaling fleet call for the most part at Stanley both on the way down to the fishing grounds in October and on the return voyage in May.

Mails are received and despatched either direct or via Stanley by opportunities as they offer. In summer no long intervals occur, but in winter the delay may on occasion be considerable. Postal rates are the same as from and to the Colony proper.

The Government maintains a wireless station at Grytviken which is in regular communication with Stanley and also on short-wave with Bergen in Norway. The Argentine Government is permitted to maintain a wireless station for use in connection with the meteorological station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. There are no railways or roads in the Dependencies. Grytviken and Port Foster at Deception Island in the South Shetlands are the only ports of entry in the Dependencies.

The table below shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1927:—

Nationality.	Steamships.	Sailing-vessels.	Tonnage.
British	13	—	38,419
Argentine	4	3	9,555
Danish	2	—	3,675
Norwegian	26	—	44,648
Peruvian	1	—	1,633
	46	3	97,930

which total figures compare as follows with those for 1926:— Steamships 34, sailing vessels 3, and tonnage 77,150. The large increase recorded in the case of steamships is due principally to the fact that ten more such vessels of Norwegian register belonging to the whaling fleet called at South Georgia during the year under review than in the previous year.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The Magistrate, South Georgia, sits at Grytviken in a court of first instance and the Supreme Court of the Colony at Stanley is common to the Dependencies. During 1927 no serious crime occurred in the Dependencies. Despite the trying conditions the personnel of the whaling industry forms a most peaceful and law-abiding community calling seldom, if ever, for the intervention of the civil authorities, a fact which itself speaks highly of the discipline maintained by the managers of the several stations.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any magnitude or importance were carried out during 1927. The *Compania Argentina de Pesca*, however, undertook privately the construction of a floating dock at Grytviken which promises to be of great benefit to the entire whaling industry.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness with occasional outbreaks of beri-beri is caused by the lack of fresh foodstuffs, but the climate of South Georgia, although rigorous, is undoubtedly healthy. No medical officer is maintained by the Government in the Dependencies, but the whaling companies have their own doctors and at South Georgia well-equipped hospitals. There is also an efficient hospital at Deception Island, which is kept in commission during the season.

The population of South Georgia fluctuates with the seasons of the whaling industry. During the summer it approximates to 2,000, practically all males, and during the winter to one-quarter of that number. The British inhabitants of South Georgia do not exceed one hundred, and the remainder are almost exclusively Norwegians or of Scandinavian origin.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There are no children in the Dependencies and the problem of education does not therefore arise.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

All land in the Dependencies is owned by the Government. At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250; some of these leases have been temporarily renewed. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. Land stations have been

similarly established at Deception Island in the South Shetlands and on Signy Island in the South Orkneys.

The mineral potentialities of South Georgia have yet to be determined and no attempt has been made hitherto to exploit them. No detailed survey of the lands has been undertaken and the charts of the coasts are of necessity very incomplete. Much information has been obtained, however, by the vessels of the whaling fleet, and the "Discovery" expedition has at the present time a survey party engaged on detailed work in the harbours of South Georgia.

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour in South Georgia and on board the floating factories is specially recruited on contract terms from Norway. The bonus system on production is generally in vogue. The personnel of the several stations and expeditions for the most part arrive and depart with the whaling fleet at the beginning and the end of each whaling season. No labour troubles requiring the intervention of the Government occurred during the year under review.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The 1926-1927 whaling season was remarkable principally for the severe ice conditions and the development of fishing close to or even inside the ice-pack. The ice broke up particularly early and the drift was exceptionally pronounced, large bergs being sighted in considerable numbers as far to the north as Montevideo. In consequence the risks ordinarily attaching to whaling in Antarctic waters were much enhanced. Two floating factories, the s.s. "Southern Queen" and the s.s. "Professor Gruvel," were lost as the result of damage by ice, and several other vessels suffered in a greater or lesser degree.

J. M. ELLIS,
Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS,
17th December, 1928.

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No. 1466.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1928

*(For Reports for 1926 and 1927 see Nos. 1360 (Price 6d.) and
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58-1466

Annual Report on the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies for the Year 1928.

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PART I.

THE COLONY.

History and Geography.

The Falkland Islands, called by the French Isles Malouines and by the Spaniards Islas Malvinas, were discovered on the 14th August, 1592, by John Davis in the "Desire," one of the vessels of the squadron sent to the Pacific under Cavendish. They were seen by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty" on the 2nd of February, 1594, and were visited in 1598 by Sebald Van Weert, a Dutchman, and styled by him the Sebald Islands, a name which they still bear on some of the Dutch maps. Captain Strong in the "Welfare" sailed through between the two principal islands in 1690 and called the passage, where he landed at several points and obtained supplies of wild geese and of fresh water, the Falkland Sound in memory of the well-known Royalist Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, killed at the battle of Newbury in 1643; and from this the group afterwards took its English name of "Falkland Islands" although this name does not appear to have been given to it before 1745.

The first settlement on the islands was established in 1764 by de Bougainville on behalf of the King of France, with a small colony of Acadians transferred from Nova Scotia, at Port Louis in the East Falkland Island on Berkeley Sound. In the following year Captain Byron took possession of the West Falkland Island and left a small garrison at Port Egmont on Saunders Island, which lies off and close to the north coast of the mainland.

The Spaniards, ever jealous of interference by other nations in the Southern Seas, bought out the French from the settlement at Port Louis, which they re-named Soledad in 1766, and in 1770 forcibly ejected the British from Port Egmont. This action on the part of Spain led the two countries to the verge of war. The settlement was restored, however, to Great Britain in 1771, but was again in 1774 voluntarily abandoned. The Spaniards in turn abandoned their settlement early in the nineteenth century, and the entire group of islands appears for some years to have remained without formal occupation and without inhabitants until in 1829 Louis Vernet, enjoying the nominal protection of the Government of the Republic of Buenos Aires, planted a new Colony at Port Louis in 1829. Vernet saw fit to seize certain vessels belonging to the United States' fishing fleet and in 1831 his settlement suffered from an American punitive expedition. Finally, in 1833 Great Britain, who had never relaxed her claim to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, expelled the few Argentine soldiers and colonists yet remaining at Port Louis and resumed occupation, which has been maintained without break to the present day.

The Colony was under the charge of Naval Officers engaged in making Admiralty surveys until 1843, in which year a Civil Administration was formed, the headquarters of Government being at Port Louis until 1844 when they were removed to Stanley, then called Port William. Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands lay on the main sea route from Europe through the Straits of Magellan to the West Coast of South America, and in the days of sail frequently harboured vessels which had been worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn. On the 8th of December, 1914, they were the scene of the naval battle in which Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee defeated and destroyed the German squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee, and a memorial commemorating this victory was unveiled at Stanley on the 26th of February, 1927.

The Colony is constituted as a Crown Colony with a Government of the usual type, having at its head a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is advised by an Executive Council consisting of three official and one unofficial members. The Legislative Council is composed of three official and two unofficial members, the latter being nominated by the Crown. The Colony received a regular

grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury until 1880 and a special grant for a mail service until 1885, since which date it has been wholly self-supporting.

The population of the Colony is almost exclusively of British descent and the only language spoken is English, although a certain number of Spanish terms are in common use in the sheep-farming industry relating principally to horse management and to topographical description. The monetary units and also the units of weights and measures are the same as in the United Kingdom and Imperial gold, silver, and copper coinage is alone in circulation. The Colony issues its own currency notes, but Imperial currency notes are without distinction legal tender.

Geographically the Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan, between 51° and 53° S. latitude and 57° and 62° W. longitude. In addition to the two main islands, known as the East and the West Falkland which are divided by the Falkland Sound running approximately north-east and south-west, the group comprises about 200 smaller islands clustered around them within a space of 120 by 60 miles. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands ...	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands ...	2,038
	<hr/>
Total area of the group	4,618

The islands have a very deeply indented coast-line and possess many excellent harbours and anchorages. The surface is hilly, attaining its maximum elevation of 2,315 feet in Mount Adam on the West Falkland. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast. The entire country is covered with wild moorland interrupted by outcrops of rock and the peculiar collections of angular boulders called "stone runs" the origin of which is scientifically disputed. There is no cultivation except in the immediate vicinity of the farm settlements and shepherds' houses where vegetables and in a few places oats and hay are grown. The soil is chiefly peat but considerable areas of sand also occur. In comprehensive appearance the Falkland Islands are bleak and inhospitable. Trees are entirely absent and the scenery is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands. The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on a natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. It has about a thousand inhabitants. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which it is

divided; of these the most important is Darwin, the headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company, with a population of about one hundred persons.

The climate is rigorous but healthy. It is rendered trying to people from the United Kingdom on account of the continuous cold, the lack of sun, and the constant high winds, as well as by the few opportunities afforded for outdoor exercise. The temperature is uniformly low, ranging from 40° to 70° in summer and from 30° to 50° in winter with an annual mean of 42°. The annual rainfall seldom exceeds 25 inches and although snow falls frequently it does not as a rule lie long. In summer the atmosphere is very dry and the evaporation rapid.

I.—GENERAL.

The Colony is devoted almost solely to sheep farming and all its interests are subordinated and its energies directed to the production of wool. There is an encouraging tendency among owners and managers to modernize methods and to study the future, which cannot be described as free from anxiety by reason of the decreased carrying capacity of the pastures.

The cost of living remained on the high side as in preceding years, showing indeed a tendency rather to rise than to fall. In the country, as in any similar pastoral community, it was more moderate, but freight rates made imported provisions expensive, this being felt particularly in the town. The shortage of dwelling accommodation in Stanley, noticed in the Report for 1927, threatened to become acute during the year and measures to meet the situation in this regard are of urgent necessity, and are, in fact, shortly to be undertaken. At the present time it is very difficult to rent a house in Stanley, but for the occasional visitor there are several boarding houses which offer a reasonable degree of comfort and convenience. No hotels, however, exist in the accepted sense of the term.

During the absence on leave of the Governor, His Excellency Arnold Hodson, C.M.G., the Administration of the Government from June to the end of the year was conducted by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. M. Ellis. No outstanding change of personnel occurred, but mention should be made of the visit to take temporary duty and to report on the medical situation in the Colony of Dr. J. Hope Reford, C.M.G., M.D., late Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in the Protectorate of Uganda, a summary of whose findings is contained in a subsequent chapter of this Report. Further progress was made generally towards the re-organisation of essential services with the view to the early inception of various schemes of public utility.

Three visits to Stanley were paid during the year by ships of His Majesty's Navy, namely, the destroyers *Amazon* and *Ambuscade* in May, and the cruisers *Cornwall* and *Colombo*, respectively, in July and August. As usual their visits were most popular and lent much life to the town.

Captain Sir Hubert Wilkins in command of the Wilkins-Hearst Antarctic Expedition passed through Stanley on board the whaling vessel s.s. *Hektoria* at the end of October bound for Deception Island in the South Shetlands. An account of his discoveries is given later in this Report.

On the economic side an important step was taken in the introduction in Stanley as from the 1st of April of the eight hours working day. The new working day has not been applied to the Camp nor is it necessarily intended or desirable that it should so be applied by reason of the greatly differing conditions which obtain in the Camp and in Stanley.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1928 from all sources was £73,957, the revenue from normal sources, excluding the Dependencies' share in the cost of the Central Administration, being £42,011.

The amount derived from taxation in 1928 was £16,156 as against £16,149 in 1927. Of this sum 50 per cent. approximately was contributed by the sheep-farming interests, 4.0 per cent. by the residents of Stanley, and the remaining 46.0 per cent. generally by the community. No additional taxation was imposed during the year except a small increase of the duty on the importation of wines, spirits, and tobacco, nor was any alteration introduced in the method of raising revenue.

Expenditure.

The ordinary expenditure for 1928, including the sum of £8,215 under Public Works Extraordinary, was £63,544. In addition, the sum of £5,359 was expended out of the surplus balances principally on the scheme for the improvement of the town of Stanley to which reference has been made in previous Reports, and £1,361 was disbursed from the Land Sales Fund in connection with the Experimental Farm. The ordinary expenditure, excluding Miscellaneous Services, £7,776, was heaviest under the Post Office £5,432, the Marine Department £6,581, the Medical Department £5,182 and the Public Works Department, Ordinary, Recurrent, and Extraordinary in the amounts, respectively, of £3,927, £7,133, and £8,215.

The following table gives the comparative figures of the expenditure and the revenue for the past five years :—

	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Ordinary. £	Total. £	Ordinary. £	Total. £
1924	37,918	59,093	41,701	42,767
1925	40,783	57,511	38,191	58,000
1926	42,812	58,762	38,216	48,099
1927	41,318	62,069	41,814	50,814
1928	42,011	73,957	63,544	68,903

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1928, amounted to £241,849. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and at the end of the year :—

	1st January. £	31st December. £
Land Sales Fund	194,123	215,602
Marine Insurance Fund	2,636	2,742
General Account	41,396	23,505
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£238,155	£241,849

Currency and Banking.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council dated the 7th of March, 1899. It is estimated that on the 31st of December, 1928, there was £3,000 of specie in circulation. The issue of currency notes in circulation was twice increased during 1928 from the value of £20,000 to the value of £24,000, at the maximum authorised. The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is 2½ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1928, the total sum deposited was £134,422, and the number of deposit accounts 955 as against 918 on the 30th of September, 1927.

General.

The year 1928 was again satisfactory financially, the revenue was collected to the full without administrative difficulty and exceeded the estimate under both the ordinary and other heads. Despite exceptional expenditure on recurrent services and on extraordinary works the funds standing to the credit of the general account of the Colony amounted at the end of the year to £23,505. The Colony has no public debt.

* Excluding the Dependencies' share in the cost of Central Administration, at present £9,000 a year.

† Including expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The principal and practically the sole industry in the Colony is sheep-farming, and its only product to all intents and purposes is wool. During the year the recently established Falkland Islands and Dependencies Sealing Company commenced operations on a comparatively small scale for the extraction of oil from the hair-seals which abound throughout the islands, and there is a good expectation that the foundations of a secondary industry are thus being laid. Up to the end of the year the company produced some 220 tons of oil to an estimated value of approximately £6,000.

Otherwise no alternative course of wealth is exploited or known. Agriculture is barely at the beginning of the experimental stage; there are no forests and no fisheries, while mineral deposits suitable for commercial working have yet to be discovered.

The year 1928 was favourable on the whole to the sheep-farming industry. The yield of wool was up to the average and the prices obtained were high, averaging 1s. 6d. per lb. as against 1s. 3½d. per lb. in 1927.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Practically the sole exports are wool and allied substances such as hides and tallow and the only imports those commodities required for the upkeep of the farms and the maintenance of the population. All foodstuffs with the exception of meat and a limited quantity of dairy and garden produce have to be obtained from abroad.

The following table shows the comparative value of the imports and exports during the past five years:—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	154,893	161,106	179,229	174,338	147,068
Exports	267,312	330,454	239,958	247,933	296,311
	<u>£422,205</u>	<u>£491,560</u>	<u>£419,187</u>	<u>£422,271</u>	<u>£443,379</u>

Imports.

The following table shows the comparative returns of the import trade under the principal heads during the past five years:—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, Drink, and Tobacco...	53,692	49,114	62,895	70,302	45,568
Raw Materials and Articles mainly unmanufactured.	21,685	14,257	16,436	28,056	22,289
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	74,791	82,459	92,686	75,240	74,338
Live Stock	4,725	15,251	7,212	715	2,973
Bullion and Specie	—	25	—	25	1,900

The principal articles imported into the Colony during 1928 were:—

	Value.
	£
Groceries	28,548
Hardware and Machinery	26,637
Drapery	9,624
Timber	7,740
Paints and Oils... ..	5,906

Approximately 84.8 per cent. of the imports of the Colony came from the United Kingdom as compared with 86.6 per cent in 1927. There were no imports from other parts of the British Empire. The value of imports from foreign countries amounted to £21,674 as shown below and as compared with £21,160 in 1927:—

	£
Chile	6,083
Uruguay... ..	5,928
Norway	4,689
Argentina	4,121
Other countries... ..	853

There are no import duties except on spirits £1 per gallon, wine 3s. per gallon, and beer 6d. per gallon in bulk, tobacco 4s. per lb., and cigars 6s. 9d. a lb. The following is a table of the dutiable imports and the revenue derived:—

	Quantity.	Revenue.
		£
Spirits	4,985 gallons	4,985
Wine	1,554 gallons	233
Beer	14,048 gallons	351
Tobacco	9,950 lb.	1,996
		<u>£7,565</u>

Exports.

Of the total value of the exports for the year 1928 approximately 94.8 per cent. represented the value of the wool exported and a little over 5 per cent. the value of other exported products of the sheep-farming industry. The entire clip of wool was shipped for the United Kingdom.

The following table compares the exports of wool for the past five years, the values being based for Customs' purposes on the bottom prices of the year previous to that of export.

	Quantities exported in lb.	Value exported in £.
1924	4,106,990	253,567
1925	3,361,003	307,740
1926	4,377,385	214,290
1927	3,972,509	236,028
1928	3,929,487	280,770

There is an export duty on wool, first imposed in 1924, of 1s. on each 25 lb. of wool exported, in respect of which revenue in the sum of £7,859 was collected during 1928. The greater proportion of the trade of the Colony, both import and export, is conducted by the Falkland Islands Company of which the head offices are situated in London. Other firms of lesser standing, principal among which is the Estate Louis Williams, carry on business, mostly importing, in Stanley.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Since the opening of the Panama Canal the Falkland Islands have been off the main track of ocean lines and communications with the outside world have been in consequence irregular and at times precarious. Cargo vessels of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company called at Stanley during the year at intervals of from two to three months on their way between Montevideo in Uruguay and the ports on the west coast of South America in Chile and Peru. In the opposite direction three calls were made by similar ships in the first part of the year in order to lift the wool direct for England. In addition calls were made, as in 1926 and 1927, by three passenger vessels belonging to the same company, two outward, or westward, and one homeward, or eastward, bound. Mails were also received and forwarded by H.M. ships *Amazon*, *Ambuscade*, *Cornwall* and *Colombo* and by the M.V. *Tijuca* belonging to the Compania Argentina de Pesca in the months, respectively, of June, July, August, and December, as well as by the vessels of the South Shetlands whaling fleet on the way outward and homeward in October and November and in April and May. With the object of securing a more frequent and regular service of mails between the Colony and Europe and of affording the opportunity in emergency for persons to reach or to leave the Colony, arrangements have been concluded, and were in satisfactory operation during the year, for the despatch from time to time to Montevideo, under contract to the Government, of the S.S. *Fleurus* of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, which vessel is ordinarily engaged on the mail service between the Colony and the Dependency of South Georgia. Four voyages were made and the basis of working settled is that the service shall be supplementary to the previous existing service in such a manner as to ensure that no interval longer than one month more or less shall be allowed to elapse without the reception and the despatch of an overseas mail. As a corollary to this service arrangements have been made with His Majesty's Postmaster General for the despatch weekly from the United Kingdom of mails, including parcel mails, for the Colony to Montevideo for collection at that port.

Communications with the Dependency of South Georgia were maintained as in the preceding years by the s.s. *Fleurus* of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, the Government paying a subsidy

towards the cost of each voyage performed. The schedule of sailings provides for six voyages between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season, i.e., October to May, and for two voyages during the remainder of the year and also for one voyage early in each year between Stanley and Deception Island in the South Shetlands.

Endeavours were continued during 1928 to improve the communications existing between the main East and West Falkland Islands. The service previously provided by the coasting steamer s.s. *Falkland* of the Falkland Islands Company and by local schooners some of which are and some of which are not fitted with auxiliary motor engines, was augmented by sailings of the s.s. *Fleurus*, the object proposed being to arrange that a reliable opportunity for the conveyance of passengers and mails should be afforded at least once every month or six weeks between Stanley and some principal settlement on the West Falkland and at least once every quarter between Stanley and all the principal settlements on that Island.

The following table shows the number, nationality, and description of the vessels which entered the Colony from overseas in 1928 :—

Nationality.	Steamships.	Tonnage.	Sailing-ships.	Tonnage.
British	15	57,884	—	—
Argentine	—	—	1	734
Chile	1	496	—	—
Norway	28	27,860	—	—
	44	86,240	1	734

These returns show a decrease of 20 per cent. in the number of steamships as compared with those for 1921, and of 12.5 per cent. in the total tonnage; the Norwegian steamships recorded were all vessels of the whaling fleet which touched at Stanley on their way to and from the fishing grounds in Antarctic waters.

Two wireless stations for external traffic are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley and one at Grytviken in South Georgia. A small station is also maintained by the Government at Fox Bay on the West Falkland for inter-insular communication. There are no submarine cables in operation. Telegraph charges to the United Kingdom are 1s. a word via Bergen and 4s. 2d. a word via Montevideo. The postal rate of 1d. per ounce for letters to the United Kingdom still remains in force. It is noteworthy to remark that even throughout the Great War this rate was not increased.

There are no railways in the Colony and no roads outside the town of Stanley. Internal communication is carried out almost entirely by horse or by boat, but recent experiments with caterpillar cars have revealed interesting prospects of future development, which are being investigated both by the farmers and by the Government. There are no inland telegraphs, but a telephone system is run by the Government in Stanley both for official and general use. Many

of the farm settlements maintain their own lines which connect on the East Falkland to the Stanley system and on the West Falkland to the Fox Bay wireless station.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The judicial system of the Colony is limited to a Supreme Court in which the Governor sits alone as Chief Justice and a Magistrate's Court in Stanley. The majority of the farm managers are Justices of the Peace and as such have power to deal with petty offences. The local Police Force consists of five Constables and a Chief Constable and is stationed entirely at Stanley. The Chief Constable is also gaoler in charge of the gaol in Stanley which accommodates only short sentence prisoners. During 1928 no crime of a capital nature was brought before the Courts and in general the Colony shows a remarkable absence of crimes of violence.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Expenditure on Public Works in 1928 totalled £24,635 as compared with £19,298 in 1927. The principal public works undertaken were two bridges across the Chartres River on the West Falkland and across the Arroyo Malo River on the East Falkland, the former having a span of 120 feet, and the latter a span of 80 feet with approaches of 60 feet.

Two further bungalows were erected as officials' quarters as well as a new headquarters building for the Falkland Islands Defence Force, and a new police station with central heating for the station, gaol, and Chief Constable's quarters.

The main paddock in the Government House grounds, which is used as a public playing field, was graded and levelled and an up-to-date rifle range with modern butts and target frames was constructed on the south-eastern slope of Sapper Hill at Stanley.

Some two miles of roads in the town of Stanley were improved under the Stanley Improvement Scheme by laying concrete gutters and re-surfacing. Water mains were extended and water from the reservoir was laid on to all Government buildings and residences and also to a number of privately-owned houses. The sanitation of the town generally received special attention.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

General.

The year 1928 was remarkable from the point of view of the Medical Department by reason of the visit of Dr. J. Hope Reford, C.M.G., M.D., D.P.H., etc., etc., lately Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in the Protectorate of Uganda, to take temporary charge and to conduct a general survey. The contents of this chapter present in summarised form the findings and recommenda-

tions made in Dr. Reford's comprehensive and valuable report which will serve as a guide for future operations in a health campaign in the Colony.

The general health of the community during the year was on the whole good and no serious epidemics occurred. Apart from the communicable diseases to which reference is made below the outstanding general diseases which came under treatment were chest complaints and local injuries. The prevalence of rheumatism, both acute and chronic, and the relative frequency of appendicitis are also to be noticed. The incidence of appendicitis during 1928 was lower than that recorded for the two previous years. Fifteen cases, however, came under observation and this must be regarded as a high incidence for a population of about 2,300. Seventeen cases were treated in 1926 and thirty-two cases in 1927. It is difficult to account for so high an incidence of appendicitis in the Colony unless it can be explained by the unusual dietary which is prevalent containing an excess of meat, chiefly mutton, and the deficiency of fruit and wholesome vegetables. Some cases are known to be associated with tubercle and others with threadworm. A contributory cause is the dental condition of the population, which is generally bad and is without doubt responsible both directly and remotely for much ill-health. Increased efforts were made during the year to encourage the local stores to stock apples and other fruits for the benefit of the children and of the community generally, but the praiseworthy response given was handicapped by the difficulty of overseas communication. The defective dental condition obtaining is attributed in part to the deficiency of lime in the soft peaty water, and an attempt to remedy this defect has been made by treating the water in the recently completed Stanley reservoir with fortnightly applications of lime, the results of which appear to be promising, as the Dental Surgeon reports an appreciable hardening already in the children's teeth. Systematic dental inspection and free treatment of the school children have been carried out during the year. Tooth brushes and dentifrice have been issued free by the Government and children and parents have been instructed as to the necessity for the care of the teeth and early treatment. These benefits have been now extended to the children in the camp so far as the Dental Surgeon's tours permit. Eye diseases are rare but errors of refraction are common. During the year a set of test lenses was procured together with a stock of glasses, which have been prescribed and provided for a considerable number of children and adults. The physical health of the Government officials, some ninety in number, has been generally good. No deaths and only one case of invaliding occurred during the year. Most of the officials suffered from the prevalent bronchial affections during the winter months and considerable neurasthenia was in evidence, attributable largely to the severity of the climate and to the consequent difficulty of obtaining healthy outdoor recreation.

Prolonged residence in the Colony with its rigorous climatic conditions and limited social and sporting amenities imposes a severe strain on the health and mental outlook of those among the official community who have not been brought up in the Colony.

Among communicable diseases tuberculosis under various manifestations, chiefly joint affections, cervical and thoracic glands, pleurisy and pulmonary affections, and peritonitis, is undoubtedly widely distributed throughout the Colony. It is not of recent origin and is largely hereditary and aggravated by close inter-marriage. The descendants of consumptive families living in the camp tend to outgrow the disease, but when they migrate to Stanley the balance of resistance becomes upset under the less favourable conditions of living, and the latent trouble is liable to light up. The chief sources of infection in Stanley appear to be from infected persons through inhalation which is favoured by overcrowding and deficient light and ventilation, and from infected cattle through the ingestion of infected milk and meat coming from dairies and slaughterhouses where traffic in diseased cattle and cows is possible, and the predisposing and contributory factors in Stanley are chiefly the climate, being damp and cold, and tending to keep the less robust confined indoors in unhygienic houses, insanitary dwellings deficient in accommodation, ventilation, and construction, the limitation of healthy outdoor recreation, and in certain cases alcoholism. Nineteen cases of tubercular infection came under observation at the hospital during the year apart from others visited outside. Out of one hundred and forty children inspected at the Government School six showed manifestations of the disease. Bronchial catarrh, bronchitis, and bronco-pneumonia were commonly prevalent, particularly during the severe winter months, and numerous cases of septic throats occurred, as in previous years. The aetiology of this disease is unknown and offers an interesting field for investigation.

It is a high testimony to the efficacy of the quarantine service that the Falkland Islands continue to enjoy an absolute immunity from smallpox and plague, although either disease might easily be imported from the neighbouring ports of South America by shipping. Rats which have been very numerous were to a large extent exterminated during the year under an organised campaign, and energetic steps were undertaken with satisfactory results to enforce the provisions of the Vaccination Ordinance. Cholera is precluded by the climatic conditions and Yellow Fever by the absence of mosquitos. No danger from influenza occurred during the year although precautionary measures were kept in readiness for instant application in cases of emergency. Malaria and other insect-borne diseases are unknown in the Colony. No cases of scarlatina, measles, diphtheria, chicken-pox, or German measles occurred during the year. Venereal diseases fortunately are absent. A few cases have been treated from the ships calling at Stanley under rigid precautionary measures to preclude any chance of conveyance.

Vital Statistics.

Practically all the permanent residents of the Colony as well as the Government officials are Europeans or of European descent. The estimated population based on the figures of the last census vote in 1921 was 2,313 at the end of 1928, of whom approximately 1,000 live in Stanley. During the year under review 62 births, 34 deaths and 4 deaths of infants under twelve months are recorded giving the following rates:—

Population	...	...	...	...	2,313
Birth rate	...	...	...	...	26.80 per 1,000
Death rate	...	...	...	...	14.70 per 1,000
Infantile mortality rate	...	...	...	...	64.50 per 1,000 births.

Hygiene and Sanitation.

The usual sanitary service was satisfactorily conducted throughout the year and it is encouraging to notice that advantage was taken in many cases of the new water and drainage systems to install water-closets in replacement of the existing pail system. A further extension of these systems and of surfaced roads with sidewalks would be of inestimable benefit to the health of the community and is engaging the attention of the authorities so far as is permitted by ways and means, as also is the inauguration of a public scavenging system instead of the present arrangement by which the individual householder is himself responsible for the disposal of ashes and garbage. Bye-laws were passed during the year providing for the proper control of slaughterhouses and of dairies and should prove in practicable operation of great value in safeguarding the food supply of Stanley.

By far the most important problem, however, demanding solution from the aspect of hygiene is the shortage of housing accommodation in Stanley. This problem is twofold, the over-crowding of houses fit for habitation and the replacement of houses unfit for human occupation. A beginning was made in 1928 towards the solution of the problem by the appointment of a sub-committee of the Board of Health with the duty of holding a house-to-house survey and of amassing detailed information. A scheme has been started, moreover, by the Government for the grant of loans to assist building by private enterprise, and plans for the construction of houses by the Government for re-sale on the hire-purchase system were under earnest consideration.

Systematic inspections of the children attending the Government School were carried out during the year by the medical and dental officers and arrangements have been made for similar inspections to be held in future at the St. Mary's Catholic Mission School. The results of the 1928 inspections were on the whole satisfactory. The children generally were clean, well nourished, and well clothed. The

hostel run in conjunction with the Government School was found to be clean and well kept and to have ample accommodation for the boarders.

The King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Stanley, was built in 1914 and is maintained by the Government. It has three general and two private wards with twelve beds, and an out-patient department and dispensary. Ninety-three in-patients were admitted during the year of whom ninety-one were cured, ten relieved, and two died. Sixty-six operations on in-patients and out-patients were performed of which fourteen were major operations, all with satisfactory results. The recorded number of out-patients was 331, the total attendance approximating 1,500. Many patients were treated at their homes, a number of whom were visited by the nursing staff. Considerable renovations and additions to the hospital were made during the year, including the re-conditioning of the operating theatre, the lining and re-conditioning of two nurses' rooms and two private wards, and the provision of a new store and of a lavatory and water-closet for maternity patients.

The prison was regularly inspected and was found clean and well kept. No mental hospital is maintained in the Colony and there were no lunatics under supervision during the year.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years residing in Stanley is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management; provision is also made in these schools for attendance at a continuation class for a two years' course of more advanced study. The children in the country districts are taught by travelling teachers, four of whom were provided during 1928 by the Government and one by the Falkland Islands Company, which corporation maintained in addition a resident teacher at its headquarters station at Darwin.

The number of children under instruction during the year is shown in the following table :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At the Government School	105	73	178
At the Roman Catholic School	19	40	59
By the Government Travelling Teachers ...	51	34	85
By the Falkland Island Company's Teachers	38	24	62
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	213	171	384

The attendance at the Government School in Stanley was again good, averaging 93 and 92 per cent. for the first and last quarters and 88 per cent. throughout the year. For the second year in succession it was not necessary in spite of a hard winter to close the school on account of illness and the regular curriculum was carried out free of interruption.

The number of boarders at the Hostel maintained by the Government in Stanley in connection with the School for the benefit of children from the country districts was eleven in 1928 as in 1927. It is a matter for regret that the facilities offered by the Hostel have yet to be appreciated by parents in the outlying parts of the Colony and the question of their continuance is one for serious consideration. Eight other children from the "Camp" received monthly grants towards the cost of their board in Stanley in private houses for the purpose of attending the school. The problem of the education of "Camp" children is still far from a satisfactory solution and further measures were again under consideration during the year to remedy the situation, including the actual provision of two additional travelling teachers on the West Falkland.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Practically the entire lands of the Colony are given over to sheep-farming and are in the possession of private persons who for the most part enjoy a freehold either absolute or under purchase from the Government by annual instalments. Certain areas reserved by the Crown are leased on short tenure for a like purpose. No waste lands are available for occupation or development and lands of any description are difficult to acquire and then only by special treaty. The Colony has never been surveyed in any detail, and the charts of its coasts are somewhat antiquated although they cannot be termed inadequate.

XI.—LABOUR.

The supply of labour in 1928 as in 1927 was approximately equal to the demand and little or no unemployment occurred. As in the years immediately preceding, wages on the farm stations ranged from £5 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat, and milk found. Labourers in Stanley were paid from £10 a month, or 1s. 2d. an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20 a month, or 1s. 4½d. an hour. Wages of domestic servants varied from £2 10s. 0d. to £4 a month with all found. The eight hours day for labourers in Stanley was introduced on the 1st of April, 1928.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The principal event to be recorded under this heading in 1928 is the despatch of a team of four marksmen to compete at Bisley in the name of the Colony for the Junior Kolapore Cup. Under the personal captaincy of the Governor, His Excellency Arnold Hodson, C.M.G., the team on its first appearance at Imperial Headquarters put up a very creditable showing and took actually fourth place in the competition. It is hoped in future years to arrange for the Colony to be represented regularly at Bisley and to this end it is proposed to hold annual meetings, on the lines generally of the

Bisley meetings, at Stanley in the summer of each year. The first of these meetings was held in March of the past year and by the favour of delightful weather conditions proved an unqualified success. The chief item on the programme, the Governor's Cup, was won by His Excellency himself, and throughout the meeting the standard of marksmanship attained was encouragingly high. In this connection it is opportune to notice the large access during the year of volunteer recruits to the Falkland Islands Defence Force, the strength of which body now approximates to two hundred and fifty of all ranks.

Progress was made during the year with the organisation in Stanley of units of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides movements, with attached Cubs and Brownies, and much devoted work has been done by those ladies and gentlemen who have given of their labour and their time to these causes.

The year has seen too a marked increase in the sporting activities of the Colony. The golf club at Stanley has been revived and is flourishing; a boxing club has come into being; and a ladies' hockey club has been formed and anxiously awaits the visits of prospective opponents. The school-children, moreover, are taking to games such as rugby football and hockey, which now form part of the regular curriculum of the Government School, with an aptitude hitherto latent.

The *Penguin*, a daily newspaper, and the most southerly of its species in the world, which was established in 1927 and is produced at Stanley under the auspices of the Government of the Colony, consolidated its position on a firm footing in 1928 and now enjoys a regular circulation of more than two hundred copies, of which a fair proportion find their way to foreign countries.

The Stanley Fire Brigade was re-organised during the year and new fire-fighting appliances in the form of a petrol driven trailer fire pump and a "Foamite" engine were obtained in replacement of the old and previously condemned steam engine.

Apart from certain Ordinances to bring local practice into line with Imperial practice in matters such as shipping, aliens' naturalization, and the protection of Trade Marks and Registered Designs, no Ordinance of general interest was enacted during the year. Among the Ordinances of purely local import the most noteworthy, perhaps, was No. 7, entitled "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the levying of rates on house property in the town of Stanley," which provides for an alteration in the method hitherto obtaining of fixing the annual assessment of the rates leviable.

From the point of view of climate the year 1928 was somewhat severe. The winter was cold with three heavy falls of snow and considerable periods of hard frost, while a good spring was followed by a wet and sunless summer. The rainfall for the year was 21.92 inches, of which 3.74 inches fell during December at midsummer. Rain or snow or sleet fell on 260 days in the year, and on 11 days

only was a clear sky recorded. The mean temperature for the year was 44.8° F. and the maximum and minimum temperatures registered were, respectively, 66° F. on the 5th of January, and 17° F. on the 26th of June. The mean force of the wind throughout the year was 4.0', and on 199 days in the year a force of from 4° to 7° was recorded. The highest force recorded in 1928 was 11 degrees in August. The prevailing winds were westerly and north-westerly.

PART II.

THE DEPENDENCIES.

History and Geography.

The Dependencies are divided into two main groups, the one consisting of South Georgia with the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands, and the other of the South Shetlands with Graham's Land.

South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands were sighted and taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain Cook in 1775, and the South Orkneys were discovered by Captain Powell of the British ship *Dove* who landed on Coronation Island on the 7th of December, 1821, and took possession of the group in the name of King George IV. The South Shetlands were discovered by Mr. W. Smith in the brig *Williams* in 1819 and were examined by Captain Bransfield in 1820. Captain Bransfield also discovered the first part of Graham's Land and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832. Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers were reported there in 1819. The fur-seal industry in the Dependencies achieved such proportions in the early part of the nineteenth century that expeditions were made to them in the two seasons 1820-21 and 1821-22 by no fewer than ninety-one vessels. So recklessly did they slaughter, however, that they are said practically to have exterminated the fur-seal, James Weddell stating that in 1822-24 these animals were almost extinct.

The area of the Dependencies covers 3,100,000 square miles or 1½ per cent. of the entire surface of the globe and one-fifth approximately of the total area of the British Empire. Much of it is ice-bound but there are more than a million square miles of sea readily accessible for whaling, fishing, and sealing.

The Island of South Georgia lies about 800 miles to the east of the Falkland Islands in latitude 54½° South, the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands being 450 miles to the south-west and south-east, respectively, of South Georgia. The northern point of the South Shetlands is about 500 miles to the south of the Falkland

Islands. The South Georgia with the South Orkneys and South Sandwich group of dependencies is bounded by the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and by the twentieth and the fiftieth meridians of west longitude, and the South Shetlands and Graham's Land by the fifty-eighth parallel of south latitude and by the meridians of longitude fifty and eighty west. Both territories extend to the South Pole. South Georgia is the principal island in the Dependencies and is the only portion of them inhabited throughout the year except for the meteorological station which is maintained by the Argentine Government on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles and is about 100 miles in length with a maximum breadth of 20 miles and consists mainly of steep mountains from which glaciers descend. There is but little flat land and the island is almost entirely barren, the south-west side being permanently frozen. The main vegetation is some coarse grass which grows on the north-eastern side of the island where the snow melts in the summer. There are no indigenous quadrupeds other than seals, but reindeer have been introduced and are thriving well. There are many sea-birds including penguins and albatrosses. The sea-elephant, the sea-leopard, and the Weddell's seal frequent its coasts. The shore has been indifferently chartered, but a survey party is at present operating in the Dependency under the direction of the "Discovery" expedition. There are some good harbours which serve as bases for the whaling enterprises.

I.—GENERAL.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are peopled almost exclusively and utilised mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A Resident Magistrate and official staff is maintained at South Georgia, and control over whaling operations in the other dependencies is carried out by representatives of the Government who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia, which is devoted solely to the whaling industry, five land stations have been established and are occupied throughout the year. A land station has also been erected at Deception Island in the South Shetlands the personnel of which arrives and returns annually with the whaling fleet. In the Dependencies other than South Georgia, however, the harbours are ice-bound for seven or more months in the year and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories, except for the land station at Deception Island, access to which is normally possible from November onwards.

At Laurie Island in the South Orkneys the Argentine Government continued to maintain the meteorological station established in 1903 by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition under Mr. W. Bruce and transferred by him in 1904. The Argentine Government has subsequently erected a wireless station for use in conjunction with the meteorological station.

In November of the past year Captain Sir Hubert Wilkins, in command of the Wilkins-Hearst Antarctic Expedition, proceeded by whaling factory to the South Shetlands via Stanley with two aeroplanes and established his base at Deception Island, starting from which in December with Lieutenant L. Ben Eielson as his pilot he flew south some 650 miles and made safely a non-stop return. He has recorded certain observations during this flight of primary importance and first and foremost has discovered that Graham's Land does not form part, as previously supposed, of the main Antarctic Continent, but is composed of two large islands and a number of smaller islands, the actual edge of the continent lying at the furthest point reached, about 650 miles south of Deception Island. To Captain Sir Hubert Wilkins' credit thus stands the dual achievement of having made the first flight in the Antarctic and having advanced considerably man's knowledge of these dim regions.

The "Discovery" Expedition which is conducting research, mainly, into whaling, in the waters of the Colony and of the Dependencies continued its operations during the year with the R.S.S. *William Scoresby* at the Marine Station at South Georgia. Information regarding the work of the station is given in the Annual Reports of the "Discovery" investigations of which two have already been published.

In the administration the outstanding event to be recorded is the appointment to the vacant office of Magistrate, South Georgia, of Mr. W. Barlas, Deputy Magistrate.

II.—FINANCE.

The Dependencies' revenue is derived almost entirely from the whaling industry and amounted in 1928 to £194,153. The local expenditure was £122,102, leaving a surplus of £72,051 which, in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1924, was transferred to the Research and Development Fund.

The following table shows the comparative figures of the revenue and of the expenditure during the past five years:—

					Revenue.	Expenditure.
					£	£
1924	...	...	...	...	131,676	27,711
1925	...	...	...	...	180,098	77,928
1926	...	...	...	...	221,595	100,325
1927	...	...	...	...	206,059	111,306
1928	...	...	...	...	194,153	122,102

The total amount of the surplus assets standing to the credit of the Research and Development Fund at the 31st of December, 1928, was £478,978. There is no public debt.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

No banking facilities exist. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is made by drafts on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the only industry in the Dependencies and whale oil and by-products of the whale, such as guano, their sole produce. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season from the 1st March to the 31st of October.

During the season 1927–1928 the price of whale oil was approximately £30 a ton and the export duty payable was fixed at the rate of 2s. a barrel or 12s. a ton; the export duty on guano is fixed at the rate of 1½*d.* per 100 lb.

The season 1927–1928 at South Georgia was good although the returns show a falling off as compared with those for the previous season, due to the scarcity of whales which began about the middle of the month of January and lasted until the end of the season. This scarcity is attributed in turn to the late break-up of the Antarctic ice-pack and to excessive fishing.

The season's working at the South Shetlands constituted a record, 5,533 whales, yielding 397,729 barrels of oil, being taken as against 4,838 whales, yielding 270,301 barrels of oil, in the 1926–1927 season. It is estimated that at the least 70 per cent. of the catch and production of the South Shetlands whaling fleet were made in the open sea along the edge of the ice-pack, and it should be observed in this connection that these "pelagic" operations were conducted largely outside the limits of the South Shetlands area proper as far to the eastward as to the east of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

The operations undertaken at the South Orkney Islands were again good, being approximately the same in result as those of the previous season, which were the best on record. For the first season for some years a floating factory expedition operated at the South Sandwich Islands with results of a fully satisfactory nature.

A feature worthy of remark in regard to the working of the season as a whole is the increased quantity of oil produced on the average per whale. This is encouraging as indicating the real endeavours made by the licensed companies to improve their boiling-down plant and thus by total utilization of the carcass to obviate waste. In particular the increase in production per "standard" whale (the blue or largest species of whale being taken as the basis of comparative assessment) is to be noted at South Georgia, from 93.17 barrels of oil in the 1926–27 season to 100.69 barrels of oil in the

1927–28 season, and at the South Shetlands, from 79.57 barrels to 89.92 barrels. The corresponding figures for the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich are, respectively, 95.60 and 94.10 barrels.

The following table in which the price of whale oil is put at the lowest figure reached in 1927–28, namely, £28 a ton, gives the size and value of the catch during the past five seasons:—

Season.	Actual Whales killed.	Barrels of oil produced.	Average Number of barrels per whale.	Value. £
1923–24	6,737	427,321	63.43	2,492,700
1924–25	10,057	661,998	66.10	3,640,989
1925–26	13,188	723,831	54.88	4,101,709
1926–27	10,631	729,891	68.56	3,158,431
1927–28	10,220	787,826	77.08	3,686,521

The production of guano was well maintained. The number of bags manufactured at South Georgia during the 1927–28 season was 168,916 to an estimated value of £168,916, as against 207,992 bags during the 1926–27 season, and 23,100 bags were manufactured in addition at the land station on Deception Island.

Sealing operations in 1928 yielded 8,768 barrels of oil as compared with 10,038 barrels of oil in 1927 and 8,094 in 1926. The average quantity of oil produced from each seal was 1.8 barrels or, in other words, rather more than three seals went to the ton. The value of seal oil is slightly higher than that of whale oil.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1928 was £4,364,814, of which £436,019 represented imports and £3,928,795 exports. Of the imports coal, coke, and oil fuel accounted for £248,042, hardware and machinery £71,469, provisions £46,018 and canvas, rope, etc., £16,359. The exports of whale and seal oil amounted to £3,763,149, and of guano and bone meal to £163,994.

The following table gives the comparative value of the trade of the Dependencies during the past five years:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1924	320,448	2,318,536	2,638,984
1925	372,740	3,585,110	3,957,850
1926	530,017	4,160,743	4,690,760
1927	537,060	3,877,565	4,414,625
1928	436,019	3,763,149	4,364,814

Of the imports the bulk of the coal in the usual course is obtained from the United Kingdom, and of the machinery, equipment, and provisions from Norway. The exports of whale and seal oil and guano are sold on the European market in large measure to Norway, Holland, and Germany but the consumption in the United Kingdom is not inconsiderable. The firm of Lever Brothers of Port Sunlight owns the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company, which operates

from a land station in South Georgia and with a floating factory expedition at the South Shetlands, and utilizes the produce for the purpose of its manufactures. The South Georgia Company, which operates similarly from a land station and with a floating factory is also British, owned by Messrs. Salvesens of Leith; and British capital has acquired recently further large interests in the Anglo-Norse and Hektor Whaling Companies.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

As noticed in a previous chapter of this Report communication of a regular nature more or less between South Georgia and Stanley and once a year between the South Shetlands and Stanley is maintained by the s.s. *Fleurus* of the Tonsberg Whaling Company running under contract to the Government.

During the whaling season direct sailings between Europe and South Georgia in either direction are not infrequent and there is a fairly reliable service between Buenos Aires and Grytviken furnished by the motor auxiliary s.v. *Tijuca* of the Compania Argentina de Pesca. The vessels of the South Shetlands whaling fleet call, some at Stanley and some at South Georgia, on the way down to the fishing grounds in October and November and on the return voyage in April and May.

Mails are received and despatched either direct or via Stanley by opportunities as they offer. In summer no long intervals occur, but in winter the delay may on occasion be considerable. Postal rates are the same as from and to the Colony proper.

The Government maintains a wireless station at Grytviken which is in regular communication with Stanley and also on short-wave with Bergen in Norway. The Argentine Government is permitted to maintain a wireless station for use in connection with the meteorological station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. There are no railways or roads in the Dependencies. Grytviken and Port Foster at Deception Island in the South Shetlands are the only ports of entry in the Dependencies.

The table below shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1928 :—

Nationality.	Steamships.	Sailing-vessels.	Tonnage.
British	20	—	50,303
Argentine	3	3	8,532
Norway	48	—	72,924
Peru	1	—	3,928
	72	3	135,687

which total figures compare as follows with those for 1927 :— steamships 46, sailing vessels 3, and tonnage 97,930. The large increase again recorded in the case of steamships is again due

principally to the fact that twenty-two more such vessels of Norwegian register belonging to the whaling fleet called at South Georgia during the year under review than in the previous year. There was an increase also of seven steamships of British register.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Magistrate, South Georgia, sits at Grytviken in a court of first instance and the Supreme Court of the Colony at Stanley is common to the Dependencies. During 1928 no case of serious crime came before the Courts. Despite the trying conditions the personnel of the whaling industry forms a most peaceful and law-abiding community calling seldom, if ever, for the intervention of the civil authorities, a fact which itself speaks highly of the discipline maintained by the managers of the several stations.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any magnitude or importance were carried out by the Government during 1928. The Compania Argentina de Pesca completed and opened for use the floating dock at Grytviken which has been constructed privately by their enterprise and promises to be of great benefit to the entire whaling industry.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness with occasional out-breaks of beri-beri is caused by the lack of fresh foodstuffs but the climate of South Georgia although rigorous is undoubtedly healthy. No medical officer is maintained by the Government in the Dependencies but the whaling companies have their own doctors and at South Georgia well equipped hospitals. There is also an efficient hospital at Deception Island which is kept in commission during the season by the Hektor Whaling Company.

The population of South Georgia fluctuates with the seasons of the whaling industry. During the summer it approximates to 1,500, practically all males, and during the winter to one-third of that number. The British inhabitants of South Georgia do not exceed one hundred, and the remainder are almost exclusively Norwegians or of Scandinavian origin. There were no births and nine deaths reported in the Dependencies during 1928.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There are no children in the Dependencies and the problem of education does not therefore arise.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

All the land in the Dependencies is owned by the Government. At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250; some of these leases have been temporarily renewed. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. Land stations have been similarly established at Deception Island in the South Shetlands and on Signy Island in the South Orkneys.

The mineral potentialities of South Georgia have yet to be determined and no attempt has been made hitherto to exploit them. No detailed survey of the lands has been undertaken and the charts of the coasts are of necessity very incomplete. Much information has been obtained, however, by the vessels of the whaling fleet and the *Discovery* expedition has at the present time a survey party engaged on detailed work in the harbours of South Georgia.

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour in South Georgia and on board the floating factories is specially recruited on contract terms from Norway. The bonus system on production is generally in vogue, the wages of an ordinary labourer ranging from £10 to £15 a month with all found. The personnel of the several stations and expeditions for the most part arrive and depart with the whaling fleet at the beginning and the end of each whaling season. No labour troubles requiring the intervention of the Government occurred during the year under review.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The 1927-1928 whaling season like its predecessor was remarkable for the severe ice conditions which prevailed and for further development of pelagic, or high-seas, fishing along the edge of the ice-pack which has now become the general practice. The whale-catcher *Scapa*, belonging to Messrs Salvesen's *Saragossa* floating factory expedition, capsized and sank early in the year under review while undergoing water-line repairs off the ice-pack in the vicinity of Laurie Island in the South Orkneys, otherwise no serious accident is to be recorded, although many of the vessels engaged in and connected with the whaling operations were the victims of minor mishaps, including the R.S.S. *William Scoresby*, which struck a rock at the entrance of Stromness Bay in South Georgia, happily without grave consequences.

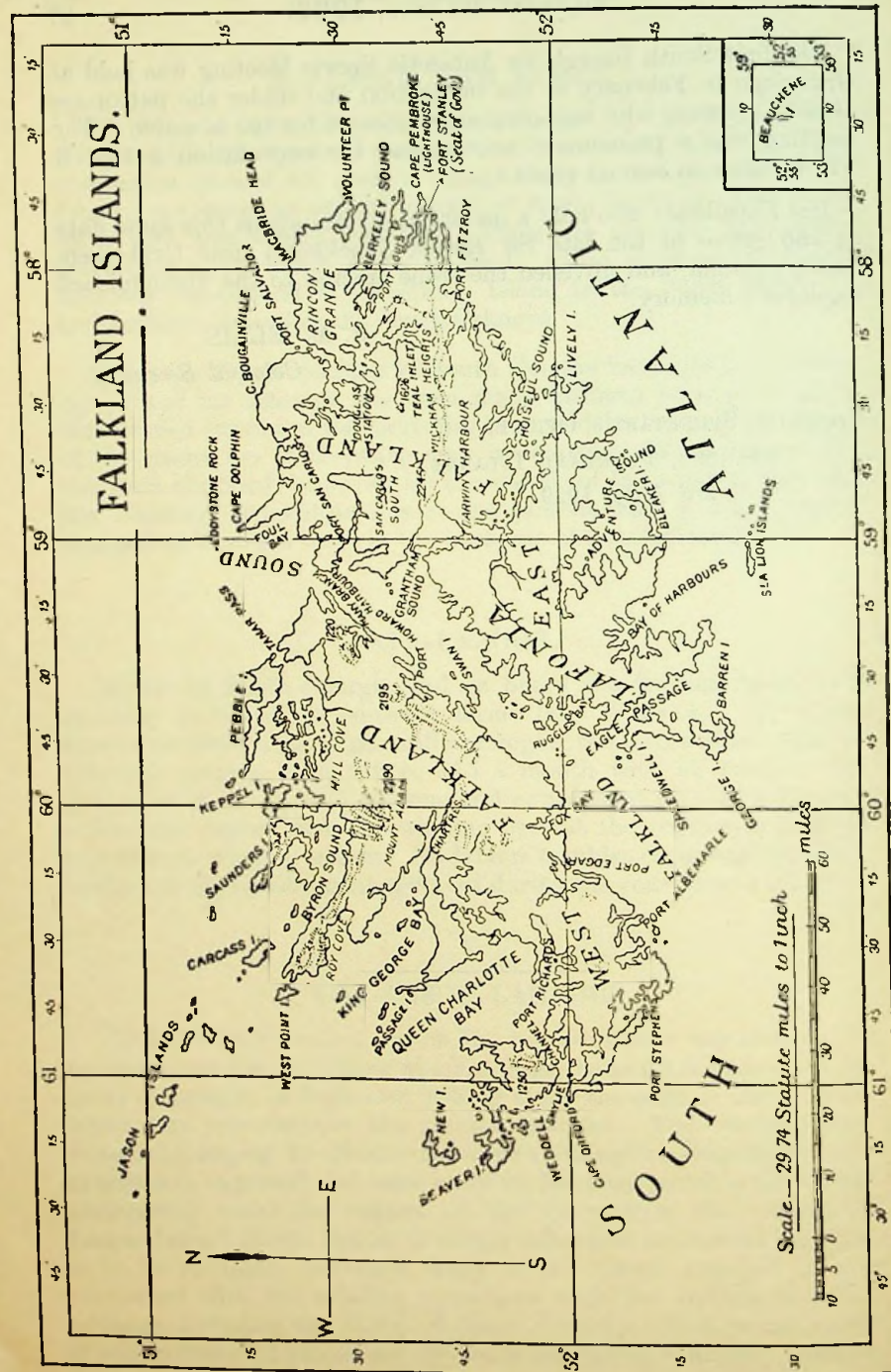
The first South Georgia or Antarctic Sports Meeting was held at Grytviken in February at the instigation and under the patronage of the Governor who was personally present for the occasion. The meeting was a pronounced success and the expectation is that it will become an annual event.

His Excellency also held a memorial service about this same date at the grave of the late Sir Ernest Shackleton near Grytviken, South Georgia, and unveiled the stone erected to the distinguished explorer's memory.

J. M. ELLIS,

Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.
3rd May, 1929.



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REPORT FOR 1929.

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Annual Report on the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies for the Year 1929.

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PART I.

THE COLONY.

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Falkland Islands, called by the French Isles Malouines and by the Spaniards Islas Malvinas, were discovered on the 14th August, 1592, by John Davis in the "Desire," one of the vessels of the squadron sent to the Pacific under Cavendish. They were seen by Sir Richard Hawkins in the "Dainty" on the 2nd of February, 1594, and were visited in 1598 by Sebald Van Weert, a Dutchman, and styled by him the Sebald Islands, a name which they still bear on some of the Dutch maps. Captain Strong in the "Welfare" sailed through between the two principal islands in 1690 and called the passage, where he landed at several points and obtained supplies of wild geese and of fresh water, the Falkland

Sound in memory of the well-known Royalist, Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, killed at the battle of Newbury in 1643; and from this the group afterwards took its English name of "Falkland Islands" although this name does not appear to have been given to it before 1745.

The first settlement on the islands was established in 1764 by de Bougainville on behalf of the King of France, with a small colony of Acadians transferred from Nova Scotia, at Port Louis in the East Falkland Island on Berkeley Sound. In the following year Captain Byron took possession of the West Falkland Island and left a small garrison at Port Egmont on Saunders Island, which lies off and close to the north coast of the mainland.

The Spaniards, ever jealous of interference by other nations in the Southern Seas, bought out the French from the settlement at Port Louis, which they renamed Soledad in 1766, and in 1770 forcibly ejected the British from Port Egmont. This action on the part of Spain led the two countries to the verge of war. The settlement was restored, however, to Great Britain in 1771, but was again in 1774 voluntarily abandoned. The Spaniards in turn abandoned their settlement early in the nineteenth century, and the entire group of islands appears for some years to have remained without formal occupation and without inhabitants until in 1829 Louis Vernet, enjoying the nominal protection of the Government of the Republic of Buenos Aires, planted a new Colony at Port Louis in 1829. Vernet saw fit to seize certain vessels belonging to the United States' fishing fleet and in 1831 his settlement suffered from an American punitive expedition. Finally, in 1833 Great Britain, who had never relaxed her claim to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, expelled the few Argentine soldiers and colonists yet remaining at Port Louis and resumed occupation, which has been maintained without break to the present day.

The Colony was under the charge of Naval officers engaged in making Admiralty surveys until 1843, in which year a Civil Administration was formed, the headquarters of Government being at Port Louis until 1844 when they were removed to Stanley, then called Port William. Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands lay on the main sea route from Europe through the Straits of Magellan to the west coast of South America, and in the days of sail frequently harboured vessels which had been worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn. On the 8th of December, 1914, they were the scene of the naval battle in which Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee defeated and destroyed the German squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee, and a memorial commemorating this victory was unveiled at Stanley on the 26th of February, 1927.

The Colony is constituted as a Crown Colony with a Government of the usual type, having at its head a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is advised by an Executive Council consisting of

three official and one unofficial members. The Legislative Council is composed of four official and three unofficial members, the latter being nominated by the Crown. The Colony received a regular grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury until 1880 and a special grant for a mail service until 1885, since which date it has been wholly self-supporting.

The population of the Colony is almost exclusively of British descent and the only language spoken is English, although a certain number of Spanish terms are in common use in the sheep-farming industry relating principally to horse management and to topographical description. The monetary units and also the units of weights and measures are the same as in the United Kingdom and Imperial gold, silver, and copper coinage is alone in circulation. The Colony issues its own currency notes, but Imperial currency notes are without distinction legal tender.

Geographically the Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan, between 51° and 53° S. latitude and 57° and 62° W. longitude. In addition to the two main islands, known as the East and West Falklands, which are divided by the Falkland Sound running approximately north-east and south-west, the group comprises about 200 smaller islands clustered around them within a space of 120 by 60 miles. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
Total area of the group	4,618

The islands have a very deeply indented coast-line and possess many excellent harbours and anchorages. The surface is hilly, attaining its maximum elevation of 2,315 feet in Mount Adam on the West Falkland. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast. The entire country is covered with wild moorland interrupted by outcrops of rock and the peculiar collections of angular boulders called "stone runs" the origin of which is scientifically disputed. There is no cultivation except in the immediate vicinity of the farm settlements and shepherds' houses where vegetables and in a few places oats and hay are grown. The soil is chiefly peat but considerable areas of sand also occur. In comprehensive appearance the Falkland Islands are bleak and inhospitable. Trees are entirely absent and the scenery is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands. The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on a natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. It has

about a thousand inhabitants. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which it is divided; of these the most important is Darwin, the headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company, with a population of about one hundred persons.

The climate of the Falkland Islands is characterised by the same seasonal variations as in the United Kingdom. These are, however, less noticeable in the Colony on account of its scant vegetation. The winters are slightly colder and the summers much cooler than in London, which is about as far north of the equator as Stanley is to the south. The average midsummer temperature of the Colony is even lower than the annual mean at London. While the relatively low temperatures are mainly due to the oceanic circulation, the daily weather is largely dependent on the direction of the wind, which, not infrequently, is so inconstant as to give rise to wide ranges of temperature within short intervals. Though the annual rainfall is not excessive, averaging only 26 inches, precipitation occurs on two out of every three days in the year, and, in consequence, the atmosphere is usually damp. A large proportion of the days are cloudy and tempestuous, calm, bright weather being exceptional and seldom outlasting 24 hours.

In the rigour of its climate and prevailing high winds the Colony has a valuable protection against the introduction and spread of disease. On the other hand, the weather is trying to a degree that is harmful to good health, by reason of its depressing nature and the indoor confinement it imposes. In contrast to this gloomy fare, no climate in the world can surpass in geniality the bright, calm weather sometimes experienced, when the clearness of the atmosphere is astonishing. Occasionally, in summer, marvellous sunsets and afterglows are seen.

I.—GENERAL.

Sheep-farming, which has for many years been the sole industry of the Falkland Islands, still remains the only industry of importance, it being as yet too early to predict with any degree of certainty the eventual outcome of the undertaking recently launched with local capital for the exploitation of the extensive seal herds in the islands. There is, however, good reason to believe that the foundation of a profitable secondary industry has been laid. On the large sheep stations into which the country is divided the production of wool is the chief, and in fact the only, consideration. On several farms large herds of cattle are still run, more with the object of consolidating the soft peaty soil than for their value as stock.

Owing to the Colony's limited resources, no foodstuffs are produced in marketable quantities, with the exception of beef and

mutton. In consequence, the community is almost entirely dependent on oversea importations for provisions, and the cost of living is accordingly high, averaging some 20 per cent. more than in the United Kingdom. In the country, where garden and dairy produce are at most times obtainable, it is more moderate than in the town, but, generally speaking, high prices can only be avoided by adherence to a diet strictly limited in variety. It is very difficult to rent a house in Stanley, but for the occasional visitor there are several boarding houses which offer a reasonable degree of comfort and convenience. No hotels, however, exist in the accepted sense of the term. As the result of the encouragement given by the Government to house building by the grant of loans on easy terms of repayment, a large number of new houses have been erected, chiefly in the outlying localities of the town. It is a matter of relief that the housing problem in Stanley, which has for many years been a source of anxiety to the Administration, has by this means now definitely been solved.

The policy of the Administration has of late been directed principally towards the improvement of the conditions of living in the Colony, which owing to its isolation and lack of opportunity for natural growth, have always been backward and, in some respects, primitive. Measures have also been required for the preservation of the public health which has for some time past shown signs of falling away. It is satisfactory that much towards this end has been accomplished, by the reorganization of the medical service, by the continued improvement of the sanitation of Stanley, and, lastly, by the better facilities provided for recreation and a brighter social outlook for the people. In emphasizing the need for continued effort in this direction, His Excellency, in his speech to the Legislative Council on the 11th of October, said that the Government broadcasting service and the daily news-sheet *Penguin* had done more to break down the isolation of the Colony than anything else could have done.

II.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1929 from all sources was £73,599, the revenue from normal sources being £66,650, as compared with £51,011 in the previous year.

The increase is attributable mainly to the enhanced receipts from the sale of postage stamps, the demand for the Colony's new pictorial issue, referred to later in this report, alone accounting for no less than £6,380. Customs duties yielded £1,809 more than in 1928, due principally to a revision of the import tariff early in October under Ordinance No. 7 of 1929, and the duty collected on shipments of oil exported for the first time by the recently-formed Falkland Islands Sealing Company.

The amount derived from taxation during the year was £18,901, as against £16,156 in 1928. Of this sum approximately 42 per cent. was contributed by the sheep-farming industry, the remainder being collected from the community generally.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure on recurrent services in 1929 was £46,000, or less by £20,649 than the total ordinary revenue. Of this surplus, £13,041 was expended on extraordinary works and purchases for the improvement of the Government service and the benefit of the community generally, leaving a balance of £7,608 to be added to the accumulated funds of the Colony. No sums were expended from the Land Sales Fund or the Marine Insurance Fund which, on the other hand, were augmented by £6,843 and £106 respectively.

Compared with 1928, the ordinary expenditure showed a decrease of £9,329. This substantial saving was attributable to economies effected in certain departments by the re-allocation of duties, the retrenchment of services which through course of time had become redundant, and by the cutting down of all unnecessary expenditure. It is anticipated that the more general application of this policy will result in still further savings.

The following table gives the comparative figures of the expenditure and the revenue for the past five years:—

	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Ordinary. £	Total. £	Ordinary. £	Total. £
1925	49,783	57,511	37,066	58,000
1926	51,812	58,762	36,577	48,099
1927	50,318	62,069	38,764	50,814
1928	51,011	73,957	55,329	68,903
1929	66,650	73,599	46,000	59,041

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1929, amounted to £256,407. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and the end of the year:—

	1st January. £	31st December. £
Land Sales Fund	215,602	222,445
Marine Insurance Fund	2,742	2,848
General Account	23,505	31,114
	<u>£241,849</u>	<u>£256,407</u>

Currency and Banking.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under an Order in Council, dated the 7th of March, 1899. It is

estimated that on the 31st of December, 1929, there was £3,000 of specie in circulation. During the year the note issue stood at £24,000, the coin portion of the Note Guarantee Fund being fixed at one-third of that amount under a Proclamation by the Governor, dated the 15th of March, 1929. The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1929, the total sum deposited was £145,793 and the number of deposit accounts 968 as against 955 on the 30th of September, 1928. Remittances for the credit of any person or firm in the Colony can be made through the Crown Agents for the Colonies, the charge for this service being at the rate of 1 per cent.

General.

The year 1929 was eminently satisfactory financially, the revenue collected from normal sources being the highest yet recorded. On the other hand, the expenditure was kept well within the limits of the estimates, the only excesses, with the exception of extraordinary disbursements on public works, being incurred by the Treasury and Customs Department, the Medical Department, and Miscellaneous Services, amounting in all to £1,450, as against a total saving under other heads of £2,954. The Colony's investments in approved securities, on which approximately one-quarter of the revenue depends, were increased by £36,472 to a total on the 31st of December of £386,448. Of this sum £167,916 was held on behalf of the Savings Bank and the Currency Note Fund, the balance of £218,532 representing the investment of monies derived from the sale of land. There is no public debt. During the year the financial position of the Colony was subjected to careful scrutiny with a view to its stabilization on a permanently satisfactory basis.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Wool.

No statistics are kept of the actual quantities of wool produced in any one year, as distinct from the quantities exported, but it may be gathered from the export statistics in Section IV of this report that the production for the five years ended on the 31st of December, 1929, averaged just under four million lb. annually, as compared with over four and a quarter million lb. for the previous quinquennial period. It should be borne in mind that, while this tendency towards reduced production is due in part to the depleted state of the pastures, it is also in part attributable to the steps taken by the landowners to conserve the productive value of their farms by reducing the number of sheep carried to the level the land can most economically support. It is encouraging to note

that the policy of importing pedigree stock is being attended with good results. Recent importations have had a marked effect on both the quality and quantity of the wool.

All the wool is exported in the grease, the entire clip being marketed in the United Kingdom. Though prices in 1929 were not of the same high level as in 1928, the sales throughout the year realised the fair average price of 1s. 2d. per lb. On the whole, the year under review was favourable to the industry. Despite adverse weather during the lambing season, the average percentage throughout the Colony was well maintained. The general health of the flocks was good, no disease of a serious nature occurring.

Seal Oil.

The operations of the Falkland Islands Sealing Company are at present confined to the production of oil from hair seal. In 1929 approximately 550 tons of oil were produced, making the total production since the commencement of operations in 1928. 700 tons. Of this quantity, approximately 450 tons was exported and sold in the United Kingdom at £27 a ton. During the year a land factory was erected at Albemarle, on the West Falkland Island, replacing the floating factory at first employed. The outlook for the Company continues to be hopeful.

Apart from the commodities above described, the Colony has no resources of known commercial value. Agriculture can hardly be said to exist, the only tillage being found around some of the settlements where small fields of forage crops are grown. It is encouraging to note that the acreage under cultivation is increasing. There are no forests and no fisheries, while mineral deposits suitable for working have yet to be discovered.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The aggregate value of trade for the year was £430,018 as against £443,379 for the previous year. Imports showed an increase of £14,080 and exports a decrease of £27,441.

The following table shows under the principal heads the respective values for the past five years:—

Imports.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, Drink, and Tobacco...	49,114	62,895	70,302	45,668	43,850
Raw Materials and Articles mainly manufactured.	14,257	16,436	28,056	22,289	17,944
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	82,459	92,686	75,240	74,338	95,281
Live Stock	15,251	7,212	715	2,973	4,073
Bullion and Specie	25	—	25	1,900	—
<i>Total Imports</i>	£161,106	179,229	174,338	147,068	161,148

<i>Exports.</i>	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wool	307,740	214,290	236,028	280,770	236,992*
Hides and Skins	14,677	20,094	10,713	13,332	13,029
Tallow	2,450	2,564	860	1,016	1,529
Live Stock	4,451	1,480	—	600	—
Seal Oil	—	600	—	—	16,423
Hair Seal Skins	—	—	—	—	154
Other Articles	1,047	930	332	593	743
<i>Total Exports</i>	£330,365	239,958	247,933	296,311	268,870

Imports.

As has previously been stated, the Colony is almost entirely dependent on importation from abroad for its food-stuffs and materials. The principal articles imported in 1929 were:—

	<i>Value.</i>
	£
Hardware and Machinery	46,320
Groceries	24,197
Timber	16,367
Drapery and Wearing Apparel	14,559

Imports of hardware and machinery show an increase of £19,683 and of timber £8,897 over the respective figures for the previous year, owing, in the case of hardware and machinery, to the materials imported by the Falkland Islands Company for the erection of a floating dock in Stanley Harbour and, in the case of timber, to the extensive house-building carried on during the year.

Approximately 85.5 per cent. of the total imports came from the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire, as compared with 84.8 per cent. in 1928. The countries of origin were as follows:—

	£
United Kingdom	137,703
New Zealand	672
Canada	28
<i>Total from British Empire</i>	£138,403

* The decrease in value as compared with 1928 was due to the fall in the price of wool. The actual quantity exported was greater than in 1928, as shown in the comparative table of exports on page 11.

	£
Chile	8,512
Uruguay	8,260
Argentina	3,655
France	774
United States	500
Norway	497
Brazil	289
Denmark	198
Italy	60

Total from foreign countries £22,745

Exports.

With the exception of exports of inconsiderable value to Uruguay and Norway, the entire export trade was with the United Kingdom. Of the total trade, approximately 87.7 per cent. represented the value of the wool exported and a little over 5 per cent. the value of the other products of the sheep-farming industry, the remainder being accounted for by the seal oil shipped and miscellaneous exports of small value.

The following is a comparative table showing the quantities exported during the past five years:—

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Wool (lb.)	3,361,003	4,377,385	3,972,509	3,929,487	4,068,057
Tallow (lb)	216,160	159,040	96,320	144,480	274,400
Hides and Sheepskins (quantity)	50,831	71,049	79,300	52,194	57,489
Seal Oil (barrels)	—	100	—	—	2,657

Customs Duties.

There are no import duties except on spirits, 30s. per gallon, wine, 3s. per gallon in bulk, and beer, 6d. per gallon in bulk, tobacco, 4s. per lb., cigars, 6s. 9d. per lb., and matches, 4s. per gross of boxes. During the year the duty on spirits was raised from 20s. to 30s. a gallon and a small duty on matches added to the tariff. Of the exports, only wool and seal oil are dutiable, the former being taxed at the rate of 1s. for every 25 lb. and the latter at the rate of 2s. per barrel of 40 gallons. The total revenue derived from Customs duties was £18,259.

General.

The greater proportion of the trade of the Colony, both import and export, is conducted by the Falkland Islands Company of which the head offices are situated in London. Other firms of lesser standing, principal among which is the Estate Louis Williams, carry on business, mostly importing, in Stanley.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

With the exception of whaling vessels on their way to and from the fishing grounds and an occasional freighter, the only ocean-going vessels calling at Stanley are those of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Since the opening of the Panama Canal, the calls of the last-mentioned vessels, which formerly provided a monthly service with the United Kingdom, have been infrequent and irregular, and, in consequence, it has for a number of years been necessary to take advantage of such other opportunities for mail and passenger transport as have, from time to time, occurred. The arrangements for steamer communication between Stanley and Monte Video, as occasion requires, to which reference was made in last year's report, have greatly improved the Colony's mail service. In 1929 mails from the United Kingdom and Europe were received in every month with the exception of January, two being received in June, August, and December, making in all fourteen deliveries. Opportunities for the despatch of European mails were even more frequent, a total of seventeen being recorded. In addition to eight calls by cargo vessels of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, three calls were made by passenger vessels belonging to the same company, two outward, or westward, and one homeward, or eastward, bound. The sea passage to England by passenger steamer occupies approximately twenty-eight days.

During the year, interinsular communication was well maintained, the outlying districts of the Colony being served with practically the same facilities for the receipt and despatch of oversea mails as Stanley. In all, forty-two voyages were made, during the year, between Stanley and places on the East and West Falkland, seven of which were confined to the East island only.

Communications with the Dependency of South Georgia were carried out as in the preceding year by the s.s. "Fleurus" of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, the Government paying a subsidy towards the cost of each voyage performed. The schedule of sailings provides for six voyages between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season, i.e., October to May, and for two voyages during the remainder of the year and also for one voyage early in each year between Stanley and Deception Island in the South Shetlands.

The following table shows the number, nationality, and description of the vessels which entered the Colony from overseas in 1929:—

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.	Tonnage.	Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	21	59,788	4	84
Argentine	—	—	2	1,468
Chile	1	356	—	—
Greece	1	2,841	—	—
Norway	17	12,254	—	—
	40	75,239	6	1,552

Two wireless stations for external traffic are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley and one at Grytviken in South Georgia. A small station is also maintained by the Government at Fox Bay on the West Falkland for interinsular communication.

There are no submarine cables in operation. Telegraph charges to the United Kingdom are 1s. a word via Bergen and 4s. 2d. a word via Monte Video. The postal rate of 1d. per ounce for letters to the United Kingdom still remains in force. It is noteworthy to remark that even throughout the Great War this rate was not increased.

There are no railways in the Colony and at present no roads outside the town of Stanley.* Internal communication is carried out almost entirely by horse or by boat, but recent experiments with caterpillar cars have revealed interesting prospects of future development, which are being investigated both by the farmers and by the Government. There are no inland telegraphs, but a telephone system is run by the Government in Stanley both for official and general use. Many of the farmers have their own lines which connect on the East Falkland to the Stanley system, and on the West Falkland to the Fox Bay Wireless Station. Two farm settlements maintain wireless stations of low power for local communication.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The judicial system of the Colony is limited to a Supreme Court in which the Governor sits alone as Judge, and a Magistrate's Court in Stanley. The majority of the farm managers are Justices of the Peace and as such have power to deal with petty offences. The local Police Force consists of four constables and a Chief Constable and is stationed entirely at Stanley. The Chief Constable is also gaoler in charge of the gaol in Stanley which accommodates only short sentence prisoners. During 1929 no crime of a capital nature was brought before the Courts and in general the Colony shows a remarkable absence of crimes of violence.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The works for the improvement of the road and sanitary condition of Stanley, initiated in 1922 and commenced in 1924, were finally completed in 1929 at a total cost of £38,500. Excellent as these works have proved, they affect only the central portion of the town, leaving the outlying and rapidly growing districts quite untouched. During the year proposals were put forward for the expenditure of a further sum of £20,000, over a period of four years, on the extension of the scheme to localities in which house building has recently been most active.

* During 1929 a commencement was made on the construction of the first road beyond the town boundary. See Section VII, Page 14.

In June work was commenced on the construction of a road between Stanley and the Admiralty Wireless Station, a distance of approximately two and a half miles. This road, which it is estimated will cost £5,800 and take over three years to complete, is the first to be laid down beyond the limits of the town. In addition to the great improvement it will effect to the approach to Stanley along the track from the North Camp, it will provide an alternative source for the supply of peat which, there is reason to believe, will, in the near future, be required.

In the latter part of the year work proceeded rapidly on the installation of an electric light service primarily designed for Government buildings, Government House, the Town Hall, and the King Edward Hospital being the first buildings to be connected. The service has been installed in such a way that its extension to the town, including street lighting, can be expeditiously and economically effected.

During the year materials were purchased and shipped to the Colony for the erection of public baths and a gynasium. It was not possible, however, to commence work on the building before the close of the year.

The buildings completed included three further bungalows erected as officials' quarters and two cottages erected for sale in connection with the measures taken by the Government to relieve the housing shortage in Stanley. In addition to these buildings a pavilion was erected on the rifle range at Sapper Hill.

The expenditure on Public Works in 1929 totalled £24,307, as compared with £24,635 in 1928.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The population of the Falkland Islands is of European and chiefly of British descent in which Scotch blood is marked. The estimated population, based on the figures of the last census in 1921, was 2,375 at the end of 1929 of whom approximately 1,000 live in Stanley. During the year under review 57 births and 14 deaths were recorded, giving the following rates:—

Population	...	...	...	2,375.
Birth Rate	...	...	...	24.00 per 1,000.
Death Rate	...	...	...	5.89 per 1,000.
Infantile mortality rate	...	...	...	17.50 per 1,000.

General Health.

The general health of the community in 1929 was, on the whole, good. The Colony suffered from no serious epidemic, the only infectious disease being measles in a mild form, which occurred in the southern part of East Falkland Island. On two separate

occasions cases of whooping cough landed in the Colony. These were promptly segregated and the spread of the trouble was prevented. Apart from the prevalence of colds during the trying months of winter, no other cause of general sickness became noticeable. No cases of influenza occurred.

The prevalence of abdominal disorders and tuberculosis to which attention has been drawn in previous reports was again in evidence. Of twenty-one cases of appendicitis treated, two were gangrenous with abscess formation, one appendix contained threadworm and others showed inflammation of long standing. Twenty of these cases underwent operation successfully, one being treated medically. Twelve cases of tubercular infection came under observation, two of which terminated fatally. Three were pulmonary in type, the localisation of the disease in the other cases being in the bone, joints, glands, and peritoneum. The high proportion of such cases suggests that bovine tubercle is playing no small part in their origin.

There is nothing to add to the detailed account of the general state of the public health given in last year's report further than to comment on the remedial measures taken and contemplated. The chief cause for concern is tuberculosis which is undoubtedly much more widely distributed throughout the Colony than has hitherto been suspected. The disease in the islands is not of recent origin; it is largely hereditary and aggravated by close inter-marriage and, in Stanley, by bad housing. As the result of the encouragement given by the Government to house building by private enterprise, the people have been able to provide for themselves new and better homes. The houses erected have been planned under the supervision of the Board of Health, ensuring their satisfactory construction and suitability of type. The extension of the Stanley Improvement Scheme, referred to in Section VII of this report, to provide these houses with the same services as regards water and drainage as are now supplied to other parts of the town will be the final step in removing the evils of overcrowding and defective sanitation. The position with regard to the prevalence of appendicitis is one with which it is very difficult to deal. The constitutions of the people have suffered, through several generations, from unsuitable diet and the lack of a pure water supply. As regards the former, efforts have been made from time to time to encourage the regular importation of fresh fruit and vegetables, but with very little success. It is hoped that the improvement in communications recently effected will in some measure afford relief from the injurious diet of bread and mutton on which many of the people are at present obliged almost solely to rely. Under the Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection Regulations, 1928, slaughterhouses are licensed and as such are under the supervision of the Veterinary Officer and Sanitary

Inspector. The two slaughterhouses supplying the town leave much to be desired and steps are being taken by their owners to replace them by more suitable buildings. It is satisfactory to record that the dental condition of the population, to which is attributable both directly and remotely much ill-health, shows signs of improving, especially in the case of children. Considerable benefit appears to have resulted from the fortnightly application of lime to the water in the Stanley Reservoir, which was continued systematically throughout the year. As in 1928, tooth brushes and dentifrice were issued free by the Government, and children and parents instructed as to the necessity for the care of the teeth and early treatment. There is every reason to hope that much of the trouble will be overcome by persistent efforts on these lines.

During the year health propaganda was vigorously carried on, the local broadcasting service and the news-sheet *Penguin* proving of invaluable assistance in this connexion, as also in the anti-rat campaigns organised by the Government in April and November. That the active co-operation of the people is being enlisted is already evident from their closer observance of the simple rules of hygiene and increasing interest in physical culture. The additional facilities for wholesome recreation that will be provided by the public baths and gymnasium, to which reference has already been made, will do much to encourage habits of health which present conditions render difficult to practise.

The general health of the Government officials was good, the only case of serious illness being that of the Chief Constable, resulting from injury sustained in the course of his employment. The revised leave and passage regulations which provide for the grant of vacation leave after a tour of two and a half years have done much to improve the efficiency of the service.

Port Health.

Forty-six vessels with a registered tonnage of 76,791 tons and with crews totalling 2,119 were given pratique during the year. No quarantinable diseases were reported.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Fourteen maternity cases were treated in the hospital and nine in the district during the year. All cases were brought to a successful issue. Frequent and systematic inspection of the schools and school children were made by the Medical Officer and the Government Dentist. The results of these inspections were satisfactory, no serious defects being found.

Hospital.

The King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Stanley, built in 1914, is maintained by the Government. It has two general, one maternity, and two private wards, comprising in all twelve beds. During the year the Hospital was reconditioned and new and up-to-date equipment purchased, including a new X-ray apparatus, an artificial sunlight lamp, and a new operating table for the theatre. In addition, there is an out-patient department and a dispensary. One hundred and seven in-patients were treated during the year, of whom ninety-four were cured, seven relieved, and six not improved. There were no deaths. The recorded number of out-patients treated was 1,173, the total number of attendances being 2,347, as against 331 patients treated and 1,500 attendances in 1928. The increased number of out-patients is due in part to the large proportion of the population vaccinated at the hospital, and to the popularity of the treatment of varicose veins by the injection method. Forty operations, exclusive of dental and out-patient operations, were performed, thirty-five of which were major operations. In all cases the results were satisfactory. The people are good surgical subjects and the cold climate lends itself to the healing of wounds without sepsis of any important degree.

Dr. J. Innes Moir, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., was appointed Principal Medical Officer for the Colony on the 4th of February, 1929.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The education of children between the ages of five and 14 years residing in Stanley is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management. Provision is also made at the Government School for attendance at a continuation class for a two years' course of more advanced study. A scheme instituted in 1924 further provided for children from the country districts to be boarded and lodged in a Government Hostel and taught in the school at an inclusive charge of 10s. a month during residence or, alternatively, for grants from Government funds, not exceeding two-thirds of the cost of board and lodging for the children in private houses. Early in 1929 it was decided that the hostel had not received sufficient support to justify the cost of maintaining it, and the institution was closed down in August. It is a matter of regret that this attempt to give the children in the country districts the benefit of schooling in Stanley has had to be abandoned. The maintenance grants are, however, still being continued.

During the year the Government and the Falkland Islands Company continued to maintain travelling teachers in the Camp.

The number of children under instruction in 1929 is shown in the following table:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At the Government School	86	62	148
At the Roman Catholic School	18	45	63
By the Government Travelling Teachers	47	42	89
By the Falkland Islands Company's Teachers	31	26	57
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	182	175	357

The attendance at the Government School in Stanley was again good, averaging just under 90 per cent. throughout the year. For the third year in succession it was not necessary to close the school on account of illness and the regular curriculum was carried out free of interruption.

During the year instruction continued to be given in woodwork in the Government School. In the latter part of the year shorthand was added to the subjects taught in the continuation class and, in addition, a special evening class for this subject was held for the benefit of those over school age. This class, which has been started in connection with the efforts being made to find a wider scope for the employment of young people in the Colony, was well attended. Two boys left the school to join the Royal Navy. From reports received they are well up to the standard of work required. Several other pupils left to go to school in England: all of them have been able to take their places amongst pupils of the same age at home.

During the year the school-children received the benefit of physical training and gymnastics under a qualified instructor. They also took part in organised games of football, for the boys, and hockey, for the girls, as in the previous year.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Practically the entire lands of the Colony are given over to sheep-farming and are in the possession of private persons who for the most part enjoy a freehold either absolute or under purchase from the Government by annual instalments. Certain areas reserved by the Crown are leased on short tenure for a like purpose. No waste lands are available for occupation or development and lands of any description are difficult to acquire and then only by special treaty. The Colony has never been surveyed in any detail, and the charts of its coasts are somewhat antiquated although they cannot be termed inadequate.

XI.—LABOUR.

During 1929 no unemployment occurred, the balance between supply and demand being very evenly kept. As in the years immediately preceding, wages on the farm stations ranged from £5 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat, and milk found. Labourers in Stanley were paid from £10 a month, or 1s. 2d. an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20 a month, or 1s. 7½d. an hour. Wages of domestic servants varied from £3 to £4 a month with all found. In Stanley employment is almost solely at the disposal of the Government and the Falkland Islands Company, and as both the Government and the Company had an unusual amount of work in hand during the year, labourers found no difficulty in earning good wages. It should be borne in mind, however, that the amount of work at present available is more than can normally be expected, and that before long working men in Stanley may be obliged to seek employment elsewhere. The Falkland Islands Sealing Company employed 30 men, 20 of whom were Norwegians, engaged from South Georgia.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

His Excellency Arnold Hodson, C.M.G., returned to the Colony from leave of absence on the 9th of January. During the year His Excellency toured the farms on both the East and West islands on horseback and, in addition, paid a visit to South Georgia in company with Sir Cyril Fuller in H.M.S. "Despatch."

The interest in rifle shooting, so much a feature of 1928, was again markedly in evidence in 1929. The Falkland Islands Defence Force Rifle Association, affiliated during the year to the National Rifle Association, held its second annual meeting in February. Though the enjoyment of the gathering was somewhat marred by the bad weather prevailing, the meeting was a great success from the point of view of the high standard of marksmanship shown. For a second time, the Colony was represented by a team competing for the Junior Kolapore Cup at Bisley. On this occasion the team also took part in the Junior Mackinnon Cup Competition gaining fourth place out of 11 teams competing.

In February, Vice-Admiral Sir Cyril Fuller, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief of the America and West Indies Station, visited the Colony in H.M.S. "Despatch." Later visits were received from ships of the same squadron, the cruisers "Durban" and "Caradoc" calling at Stanley between different dates in August. As usual these visits were most popular and lent much life to the town. During the visit of H.M.S. "Durban" the Falkland Islands Defence Force engaged in field manoeuvres with the crew of the vessel. The report on the operations carried out reflects great credit on the efficiency of the local unit.

In September a pictorial series of postage stamps distinctive of the Colony was issued for the first time, the new design including the picture of a penguin and a whale. With the exception of the substitution of a 2s. 6d. denomination for the 3s. denomination of the old issue, the values remained unaltered. The stamps on issue realized a large sale.

During the year the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides movements continued to make steady headway. In connection with the latter movement, a spinning class was started, with the object of training the girls in the useful industry followed in many homes in the Colony of spinning and knitting into garments wool locally produced. At no time has either of these movements been more firmly established in the Colony.

The popularity of the children's play, written by the Governor, of which mention was made in the Report for 1927, led His Excellency in 1929 to produce a further play, entitled "The Down-fall of Zachariah Fee," which was even more successful. Over a hundred persons took part. The high standard of acting and dancing shown by the children who formed the majority of the cast greatly impressed visitors to the Colony, especially the Naval visitors of H.M.S. "Durban" and "Caradoc" in whose honour the first performances were given. Besides providing a source of welcome entertainment during the long tedious winter evenings, the play afforded valuable training to a large number of children who, in the ordinary course, have little opportunity of developing their talents. The proceeds of the several performances, amounting to over £85, were devoted in part to the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Movements, the balance being paid to a fund for providing clothing and luxuries for poor children.

From the point of view of climate the year 1929 was one of the most unfavourable which has occurred within recent years. A mild winter was followed by an unusually inclement spring and summer, the cold and wet of which made garden crops a failure, and rendered it difficult for householders to cut and bring home their annual supply of peat. Live-stock did not, however, suffer so much as might have been expected. A total rainfall of 33.84 inches, the highest since 1911, was registered. The mean force of the wind throughout the year was 4.1°: on 212 days a force of 4° to 7° and on 10 days over 8° was recorded, while eight days only of calm were experienced. The mean temperature for the year was 41.5° F.

PART II.

THE DEPENDENCIES.

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Dependencies are divided into two main groups, the one consisting of South Georgia with the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands, and the other of the South Shetlands with Graham's Land.

South Georgia and the South Shetlands Islands were sighted and taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain Cook in 1775, and the South Orkneys were discovered by Captain Powell of the British ship "Dove" who landed on Coronation Island on the 7th of December, 1821, and took possession of the group in the name of King George IV. The South Shetlands were discovered by Mr. W. Smith in the brig "Williams" in 1819 and were examined by Captain Bransfield in 1820. Captain Bransfield also discovered the first part of Graham's Land and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832. Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers are reported there in 1819. The fur-seal industry in the Dependencies achieved such proportions in the early part of the nineteenth century that expeditions were made to them in the two seasons 1820-1821 and 1821-1822 by no less than 91 vessels. So recklessly did they slaughter, however, that they are said practically to have exterminated the fur-seal, James Weddell stating that in 1822-1824 these animals were almost extinct.

The area of the Dependencies covers 3,100,000 square miles or 1½ per cent. of the entire surface of the globe and one-fifth approximately of the total area of the British Empire. Much of it is ice-bound but there are more than a million square miles of sea readily accessible for whaling, fishing, and sealing.

The island of South Georgia lies about 800 miles to the east of the Falkland Islands in latitude 54½° South. The South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands being 450 miles to the south-west and south-east, respectively, of South Georgia. The northern point of the South Shetlands is about 500 miles to the south of the Falkland Islands. The South Georgia with the South Orkneys and South Sandwich group of dependencies is bounded by the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and by the twentieth and the fiftieth meridians of west longitude and the South Shetlands and Graham's Land by the fifty-eighth parallel of south latitude and by the meridians of longitude 50 and 80 west. Both territories extend to the South Pole. South Georgia is the principal island

in the Dependencies and is the only portion of them inhabited throughout the year except for the meteorological station which is maintained by the Argentine Government on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles and is about 100 miles in length with a maximum breadth of 20 miles and consists mainly of steep mountains from which glaciers descend. There is but little flat land and the island is almost entirely barren, the south-west side being permanently frozen. The main vegetation is some coarse grass which grows on the north-eastern side of the island where the snow melts in the summer. There are no indigenous quadrupeds other than seals but reindeer have been introduced and are thriving well. There are many sea-birds including penguins and albatrosses. The sea-elephant, the sea-leopard, and the Weddell's seal frequent its coasts. The shore has been indifferently chartered but a survey party is at present operating in the dependency under the direction of the "Discovery" expedition. There are some good harbours which serve as bases for the whaling enterprises.

I.—GENERAL.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are peopled almost exclusively and utilized mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident Magistrate and official staff are maintained at South Georgia, and control over whaling operations in the other dependencies is carried out by representatives of the Government who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia, which is devoted solely to the whaling industry, five land stations have been established and are occupied throughout the year. A land station has also been erected at Deception Island in the South Shetlands the personnel of which arrives and returns annually with the whaling fleet. In the Dependencies other than South Georgia, however, the harbours are ice-bound for seven or more months in the year and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories, except for the land station at Deception Island, access to which is normally possible from November onwards.

At Laurie Island in the South Orkneys the Argentine Government continued to maintain the meteorological station established in 1903 by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition under Mr. W. Bruce and transferred by him in 1904. The Argentine Government has subsequently erected a wireless station for use in conjunction with the meteorological station.

The "Discovery" Expedition, which is conducting research mainly into whaling in the waters of the Colony and of the Dependencies, continued its operations during the year from its base at Grytviken, South Georgia. The R.R.S. "William Scoresby," the only vessel attached to the Expedition during the

year, left South Georgia for Capetown in May, returning again in October. The R.R.S. "Discovery II," built and equipped for the purposes of the Expedition at a cost of £61,500, left England for South Georgia on the 14th of December.

II.—FINANCE.

The Dependencies' revenue is derived almost entirely from the whaling industry and amounted in 1929 to £122,814. The local expenditure was £39,385, leaving a surplus of £83,429 which, in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1924, was transferred to the Research and Development Fund.

The following table shows the comparative figures of the revenue and of the expenditure during the past five years:—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1925	180,098	77,928
1926	221,595	100,325
1927	206,059	111,306
1928	194,153	122,102
1929	122,814	39,385

The total amount of the surplus assets standing to the credit of the Research and Development Fund at the 31st of December, 1929, was £453,588. There is no public debt.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

No banking facilities exist. The bulk of the payments, including the export duty on whale oil, is made by drafts, on which a remittance rate of 1 per cent. is charged.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Apart from sealing on a small scale at South Georgia, whaling is the only industry in the Dependencies, and whale oil and by-products of the whale, such as guano, their sole produce. The whaling season is restricted to the period from the 16th of September to the 31st of May, and the sealing season from the 1st of March to the 31st of October.

During the season 1928-1929 the price of whale oil ranged from £25 to £27 a ton and the export duty payable was fixed at the rate of 2s. a barrel or 12s. a ton; the export duty levied on guano is at the rate of 1½d. per 100 lb.

At South Georgia the weather during the season was unfavourable for whaling, high winds, fogs, and snow squalls occurring frequently. Operations commenced towards the end of September and continued until the middle of April when the factories, with one exception, closed down on account of the scarcity of whales within a distance at which they could profitably be taken. Despite

these adverse conditions, both catch and production were an improvement on those of the previous season, the former showing an increase of 1,495 whales and the latter of 37,103 barrels. Better success attended the operations at the South Shetlands and the South Orkneys where the season was exceptional, both as regards the number of whales taken and the oil produced, the latter exceeding the previous season's record output by approximately 40 per cent. At the South Sandwich Islands the season was also exceptionally good, the weather throughout being calm and the ice conditions favourable: as at the South Shetlands and the South Orkneys, blue whales, the largest and most profitable species, were plentiful and in splendid condition.

A new feature of the industry as a whole is the increasing intensiveness with which it is now carried on as compared with the time when competition from outside the Falkland Islands Sector had not to be faced, and when the bulk of the catch could be obtained within a comparatively short distance from land. The higher cost of operations combined with the lower prices realized for whale oil renders it more than ever necessary that no effort should be spared in taking the fullest advantage of the short working season.

The following table in which the price of whale oil is put at the lowest figure reached in 1928-1929, namely, £25 a ton, gives the size and value of the catch during the past five seasons:—

Season.	Actual Whales killed.	Barrels of oil produced.	Average Number of barrels per whale.	Value. £
1924-25	10,057	661,998	66.10	3,640,989
1925-26	13,188	723,831	54.88	4,101,709
1926-27	10,631	729,891	68.56	3,158,431
1927-28	10,220	787,826	77.08	3,686,521
1928-29	13,514	1,047,142	77.48	4,363,092

The production of guano was well maintained, the total number of bags manufactured during the season 1928-29 being 254,901 as compared with 192,016 bags in the previous season. The estimated value of the guano produced was £227,395.

Sealing operations in 1929 yielded 9,224 barrels of oil as compared with 8,768 in 1928. The average quantity of oil produced from each seal was as in the previous season 1.8 barrels or, in other words, rather more than three seals went to the ton. The value of seal oil is slightly higher than that of whale oil.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1929 was £5,791,455 of which £626,746 represented imports and £5,164,709 exports. Of the imports coal, coke, and oil fuel accounted for £296,683, hardware and machinery, £95,823 and provisions, £39,746. The exports of whale and seal oil amounted to £4,951,097 and of guano and bone meal to £228,266.

The following table gives the comparative value of the trade of the Dependencies during the past five years:—

	Imports. £	Exports. £	Total. £
1925	372,740	3,585,110	3,957,850
1926	530,017	4,160,743	4,690,760
1927	537,060	3,877,565	4,414,625
1928	436,019	3,763,149	4,199,168
1929	626,746	5,164,709	5,791,455

Of the imports the bulk of the coal, in the usual course, is obtained from the United Kingdom, and of the machinery, equipment, and provisions from Norway. The exports of whale and seal oil and guano are sold on the European market in large measure to Norway, Holland, and Germany, but the consumption in the United Kingdom is not inconsiderable. The firm of Lever Brothers of Port Sunlight owns the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company, which operates from a land station in South Georgia and with a floating factory expedition at the South Shetlands, and utilizes the produce for the purpose of its manufactures. The South Georgia Company, which operates similarly from a land station and with a floating factory, is also British, being owned by Messrs. Salvesen and Company of Leith. British capital has acquired recently further large interests in the Anglo-Norse and Hektor Whaling Companies.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

As stated in a previous chapter of this Report communication of a regular nature, more or less, between South Georgia and Stanley, and once a year between the South Shetlands and Stanley, is maintained by the s.s. "Fleurus" of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, running under contract with the Government.

During the whaling season direct sailings between Europe and South Georgia in either direction are not infrequent and there is a fairly reliable service between Buenos Aires and Grytviken furnished by the motor auxiliary s.v. "Tijuca" of the Compania Argentina de Pesca. The vessels of the South Shetlands Whaling fleet call some at Stanley and some at South Georgia, on the way down to the fishing grounds in October and November, and on the return voyage in April and May.

Mails are received and despatched either direct or via Stanley by opportunities as they offer. In summer no long intervals occur, but in winter the delay may on occasion be considerable. Postal rates are the same as from and to the Colony proper.

The Government maintains a wireless station at Grytviken which is in regular communication with Stanley through which traffic is passed beyond the limits of the Colony. The Argentine Government is permitted to maintain a wireless station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. There are no railways or roads in

the Dependencies. Grytviken, South Georgia, and Port Foster at Deception Island in the South Shetlands are the only ports of entry.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1929 :—

Nationality.	Steam.		Sailing.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	61	112,530	—	—
Argentine	26	26,837	1	734
Denmark	1	1,924	—	—
Greece	2	5,532	—	—
Norway	99	148,745	—	—
Peru	2	3,266	—	—
Uruguay	2	2,510	—	—
	193	301,344	1	734

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

The Magistrate, South Georgia, sits at Grytviken in a court of first instance and the Supreme Court of the Colony at Stanley is common to the Dependencies. During 1929 no case of serious crime came before the Courts. Despite the trying conditions the personnel of the whaling industry forms a most peaceful and law-abiding community calling seldom for the intervention of the civil authorities, a fact which in itself speaks highly for the discipline maintained by the managers of the several stations.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of importance were carried out by the Government during the year.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence, though some unhealthiness, with occasional outbreaks of beri-beri, is caused by the lack of fresh foodstuffs.

No medical officer is maintained by the Government in the Dependencies, but the whaling companies have their own doctors, the Government contributing a share of the salary of the doctor stationed at Grytviken. At South Georgia there are well equipped hospitals maintained by the whaling companies, and at Deception Island a very efficient hospital is kept in commission during the season by the Hektor Company.

The population of South Georgia fluctuates with the seasons of the whaling industry. During the summer it approximates to 1,500, practically all males, and during the winter to one-third of

that number. The British inhabitants of South Georgia do not exceed 100, the remainder being almost exclusively Norwegian or of Scandinavian origin.

The number of deaths reported during the year was 14.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There are no children in the Dependencies and the problem of education does not therefore arise.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

All the land in the Dependencies is owned by the Government. At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for periods of 21 years at annual rentals of £250; some of these leases have been temporarily renewed. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. Land stations have been similarly established at Deception Island in the South Shetlands and on Signy Island in the South Orkneys.

The mineral potentialities of South Georgia have yet to be determined and no attempt has been made hitherto to exploit them. No detailed survey of the lands has been undertaken and the charts of the coasts are of necessity very incomplete. Much information has been obtained, however, by the vessels of the whaling fleet. During 1929 a survey party under the "Discovery" expedition was engaged on detailed work in the harbours of South Georgia.

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour in South Georgia and on board the floating factories is specially recruited on contract terms from Norway. The bonus system on production is generally in vogue, the wages of an ordinary labourer ranging from £10 to £15 a month with all found. The personnel of the several stations and expeditions for the most part arrive and depart with the whaling fleet at the beginning and the end of each whaling season. No labour troubles requiring the intervention of the Government occurred during the year.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The second annual meeting of the South Georgia Sports Association was held at Husvik Harbour on the 12th of February, 1929. The event coincided with the visit of H.M.S. "Despatch" with His Excellency the Governor and Vice-Admiral Sir Cyril Fuller, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief of the America and West Indies Station, on board. The distinguished visitors received an enthusiastic reception and the presence of the officers

and men of the warship added greatly to the enjoyment of the gathering, which, as befitting a Norwegian community, was conducted in true Scandinavian fashion. These meetings have proved a welcome innovation in the life of the busy community at South Georgia. That the results are beneficial is clearly evident from the keen interest the Company owners and managers take in the progress of the movement.

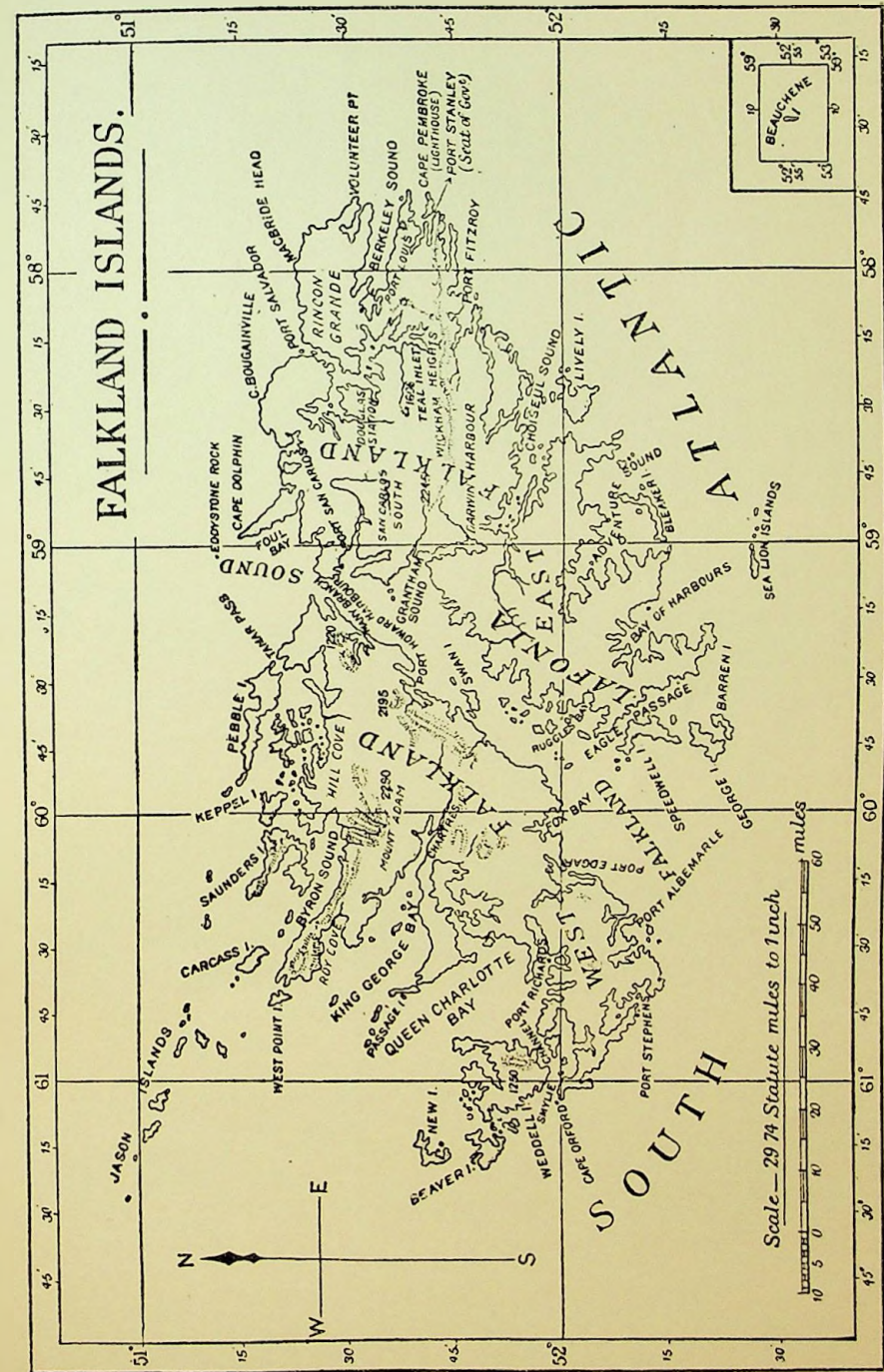
On the 15th of August, 1929, a disastrous avalanche occurred at Leith Harbour, the Headquarters of the South Georgia Company, wrecking five buildings and causing the death of three men. The buildings in question were situated at the base of a precipitous mountain, from which hundreds of tons of snow and ice became suddenly dislodged. A similar disaster occurred some years ago in the vicinity, but it was considered at the time that the buildings recently destroyed lay outside the danger zone. Care will be taken that no buildings will in future be erected within that area.

Within recent years instances of volcanic activity at Deception Island, South Shetlands, have been frequent. The first earthquake of which there is any definite record occurred in 1923, though it is stated by some of the whaling community that shocks were felt in 1912. In February, 1924, a strong tremor was experienced, when a large rock forming the crest of a natural arch at the approach to Port Foster was disturbed, and in 1925, during the absence of the whaling factory "Ronald" one of the giant columns in the entrance of the harbour disappeared. Again, in the season 1928-1929 several earthquake shocks were felt, the most pronounced being in March, 1929, when a large quantity of rock fell, completely changing the formation of the ridge on the east side of the harbour. On the 13th of December a further shock occurred, and from that date to the end of the year slight tremors continued to be felt. Frequently the water in the harbour became agitated by the subterranean heat, the shores at places being completely obscured by the dense vapour emitted.

G. R. L. BROWN,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

2nd August, 1930.





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Annual Report on the Colony of the Falkland Islands and its Dependencies for the Year 1930.

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PART I.

THE COLONY.

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Falkland Islands, called by the French Isles Malouines and by the Spaniards Islas Malvinas, were discovered on the 14th August, 1592, by John Davis in the *Desire*, one of the vessels of the squadron sent to the Pacific under Cavendish. They were seen by Sir Richard Hawkins in the *Dainty* on the 2nd of February, 1594, and were visited in 1598 by Sebald Van Weert, a Dutchman, and styled by him the Sebald Islands, a name which they still bear on some of the Dutch maps. Captain Strong in the *Welfare* sailed through between the two principal islands in 1690 and called the passage, where he landed at several points and obtained supplies of

wild geese and of fresh water, the Falkland Sound in memory of the well-known Royalist Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, killed at the battle of Newbury in 1643; and from this the group afterwards took its English name of "Falkland Islands" although this name does not appear to have been given to it before 1745.

The first settlement on the islands was established in 1764 by de Bougainville on behalf of the King of France, with a small colony of Acadians transferred from Nova Scotia, at Port Louis in the East Falkland Island of Berkeley Sound. In the following year Captain Byron took possession of the West Falkland Island and left a small garrison at Port Egmont on Saunders Island, which lies off and close to the north coast of the mainland.

The Spaniards, ever jealous of interference by other nations in the Southern Seas, bought out the French from the settlement at Port Louis, which they re-named Soledad in 1766, and in 1770 forcibly ejected the British from Port Egmont. This action on the part of Spain led the two countries to the verge of war. The settlement was restored, however, to Great Britain in 1771, but was again in 1774 voluntarily abandoned. The Spaniards in turn abandoned their settlements early in the nineteenth century, and the entire group of islands appears for some years to have remained without formal occupation and without inhabitants until in 1829 Louis Vernet, enjoying the nominal protection of the Government of the Republic of Buenos Aires, planted a new Colony at Port Louis in 1829. Vernet thought fit to seize certain vessels belonging to the United States' fishing fleet and in 1831 his settlement suffered from an American punitive expedition. Finally, in 1833, Great Britain, who had never relaxed her claim to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, expelled the few Argentine soldiers and colonists yet remaining at Port Louis and resumed occupation, which has been maintained without break to the present day.

The Colony was under the charge of Naval Officers engaged in making Admiralty surveys until 1843, in which year a Civil Administration was formed, the headquarters of Government being at Port Louis until 1844, when they were removed to Stanley, then called Port William. Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands lay on the main sea route from Europe through the Straits of Magellan to the west coast of South America, and in the days of sail frequently harboured vessels which had been worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn. On the 8th of December, 1914, they were the scene of the naval battle in which Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee defeated and destroyed the German squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee, and a memorial commemorating this victory was unveiled at Stanley on the 26th of February, 1927.

The Colony is constituted as a Crown Colony with a Government of the usual type, having at its head a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is advised by an Executive Council consisting of three official and one unofficial members. The Legislative Council is

composed of four official and two unofficial members, the latter being nominated by the Crown. The Colony received a regular grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury until 1880, and a special grant for a mail service until 1885, since which date it has been wholly self-supporting.

The population of the Colony is almost exclusively of British descent, and the only language spoken is English, although a certain number of Spanish terms are in common use in the sheep-farming industry relating principally to horse management and to topographical description. The monetary units and also the units of weights and measures are the same as in the United Kingdom and Imperial gold, silver, and copper coinage is alone in circulation. The Colony issues its own currency notes, but Imperial currency notes are, without distinction, legal tender.

Geographically the Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan between 51° and 53° S. latitude and 57° and 62° W. longitude. In addition to the two main islands, known as the East and the West Falklands, which are divided by the Falkland Sound, running approximately north-east and south-west, the group comprises about 200 smaller islands clustered around them within a space of 120 by 60 miles. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty chart, is as follows:—

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands	2,038
	<hr/>
Total area of the group	4,618

The islands have a very deeply indented coast-line and possess many excellent harbours and anchorages. The surface is hilly, attaining its maximum elevation of 2,315 feet in Mount Adam on the West Falkland. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast. The entire country is covered with wild moorland interrupted by outcrops of rock and the peculiar collection of angular boulders called "stone runs" the origin of which is scientifically disputed. There is no cultivation except in the immediate vicinity of the farm settlements and shepherds' houses where vegetables and in a few places oats and hay are grown. The soil is chiefly peat, but considerable areas of sand also occur. In comprehensive appearance the Falkland Islands are bleak and inhospitable. Trees are entirely absent and the scenery is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands. The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on a natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. It has about a thousand inhabitants. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into

which it is divided; of these the most important is Darwin, the headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company, with a population of about one hundred persons.

The climate of the Falkland Islands is characterised by the same seasonal variations as in the United Kingdom. These are, however, less noticeable in the Colony on account of its scant vegetation. The winters are slightly colder and the summers much cooler than in London, which is about as far north of the equator as Stanley is to the south. The average midsummer temperature of the Colony is even lower than the annual mean at London. While the relatively low temperatures are mainly due to the oceanic circulation, the daily weather is largely dependent on the direction of the wind, which, not infrequently, is so inconstant as to give rise to wide ranges of temperature within short intervals. Though the annual rainfall is not excessive, averaging only 26 inches, precipitation occurs on two out of every three days in the year, and, in consequence, the atmosphere is usually damp. A large proportion of the days are cloudy and tempestuous, calm, bright weather being exceptional and seldom outlasting twenty-four hours.

In the rigour of its climate and prevailing high winds the Colony has a valuable protection against the introduction and spread of disease. On the other hand, the weather is trying to a degree that is harmful to good health, by reason of its depressing nature and the indoor confinement it imposes. In contrast to this gloomy fare, no climate in the world can surpass in geniality the bright, calm weather sometimes experienced, when the clearness of the atmosphere is astonishing. Occasionally, in summer, marvellous sunsets and after-glows are seen.

I.—GENERAL.

Sheep-farming, which has for many years been the sole industry of the Falkland Islands, still remains the only industry of importance, the undertaking recently launched with local capital for the exploitation for oil of the extensive hair seal herds in the islands not yet having succeeded in establishing itself on a firm foundation. There is reason to hope, however, that a profitable secondary industry will eventually be developed out of these resources. On the large sheep stations into which the country is divided the production of wool is the chief and in fact the only consideration. On several farms large herds of cattle are still run, more with the object of consolidating the soft peaty soil than for their value as stock.

Owing to the Colony's limited resources, no foodstuffs are produced in marketable quantities, with the exception of beef and mutton. In consequence, the community is almost entirely dependent on oversea importations for provisions, and the cost of living is accordingly high, averaging some twenty per cent. more than in the United Kingdom. In the country, where garden and dairy produce are at most times obtainable, it is more moderate

than in the town, but, generally speaking, high prices can only be avoided by adherence to a diet strictly limited in variety. It is very difficult to rent a house in Stanley, but for the occasional visitor there are several boarding houses which offer a reasonable degree of comfort and convenience. No hotels, however, exist in the accepted sense of the term.

The policy of the administration has been directed of recent years principally towards the betterment of conditions of living in the Colony and the improvement of communications with abroad.

The housing problem in Stanley, with its attendant evils of overcrowding and disease, has been alleviated to a large extent by the houses which have been built by the Government both for its officials and for workpeople and by the grant of loans on easy terms of repayment to persons desirous of building their own houses.

Steps have also been taken for the preservation of the public health by the energetic co-operation on sanitary services of the Medical and Public Works Departments. Special attention has been paid at the same time to the provision of increased facilities for recreation with the object of opening up a brighter social outlook for the people. In this direction much benefit has been derived from the daily news-sheet the *Penguin* and from the Broadcast service. It is anticipated too that the extension to the town of the Government electric lighting system will be productive of valuable results. The mail service has now been established on such a basis that opportunities for the receipt of inward mails and for the despatch of outward mails occur on the average not less often than once a month. Direct wireless telegraphy communication between Stanley and Bergen, Norway, has made the exchange of messages between the Colony and the United Kingdom a matter relatively of slight delay and small expense. These measures have gone far towards breaking down that sense of isolation and neglect from which by reason of its geographical position the Colony is apt always to suffer.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1930 from all sources was £82,812 as compared with £73,599 in 1929, and from ordinary sources £62,094 as compared with £66,650 in 1929 and £51,011 in 1928. The increase in the total revenue (as also in the total expenditure) is due to the establishment of a Reserve Fund in the sum of £13,990 and the decrease in the revenue from ordinary sources, to the comparatively small imports during the year of spirits and tobacco, and to a falling off in the export of wool.

The amount derived from taxation during the year was £14,318 as against £18,901 in 1929. Of this sum approximately 56 per cent. was contributed by the sheep-farming industry, the remainder being collected from the community generally.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure on recurrent services in 1930 was £39,128 or less by £22,966 than the revenue from ordinary sources. This surplus was applied in part to meet the capital cost of the extraordinary works undertaken, and the balance was set aside towards the nucleus of a Reserve Fund to which it is hoped from year to year to make substantial additions. Details of the programme of extraordinary works carried out at a cost of £16,860 are to be found in a subsequent section of this Report. No sums were expended from the Marine Insurance Fund or from the Land Sales Fund; the latter Fund was increased during the year by £6,726 to £229,172 at which figure it stands at present. The amount put to the Reserve Fund was £13,990.

As compared with 1929 the ordinary expenditure showed a decrease of £6,871 and was less than the original estimate by £1,956. This further substantial reduction in the Colony's running costs has been effected by the loyal co-operation of all concerned in the rigid application of the administration's pass-word "economy with efficiency." No department is starved of money needed for any essential service but reduplication and extravagance have been almost entirely eliminated. The scheme of re-organization has yet here and there to be completed and it is calculated that when finally finished it will permit of the recurrent services of the Colony being adequately maintained on a total expenditure under ordinary heads of between £36,000 and £37,000.

The following table gives the comparative figures of the expenditure and the revenue for the past five years:—

	REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	Ordinary.	Total.	Ordinary.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1926	51,812	58,762	36,577	48,099
1927	50,318	62,069	38,764	50,814
1928	51,011	73,957	55,329	68,903
1929	66,650	73,599	46,000	59,041
1930	62,094	82,812	39,128	69,979

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1930, amounted to £269,239. The following statement shows the balances at the beginning and the end of the year:—

	1st January.	31st December.
	£	£
Land Sales Fund	222,445	229,172
Marine Insurance Fund	2,848	2,848
Reserve Fund	—	13,990
General Account	31,114	23,229
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£256,407	£269,239
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Currency and Banking.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and a paper currency of 10s., £1, and £5 notes issued by the Colonial Government under the Falkland Islands Currency Notes Ordinance, 1930. It is estimated that on the 31st December, 1930, there was £3,000 of specie in circulation. During the year the note issue again stood at £24,000. The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank, which, as its name implies, is solely a bank of deposit. The rate of interest paid is 2½ per cent. per annum. At the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, 1930, the total sum deposited was £142,189 and the number of deposit accounts 993 as against 968 on the 30th of September, 1929. This gives a figure of approximately £60 per head of the population deposited in the Savings Bank. Remittances for the credit of any person or firm in the Colony can be made through the Crown Agents for the Colonies, the charge for this service being at the rate of 1 per cent.

General.

The Colony's investments in approved securities, on which approximately one-quarter of the revenue depends, were increased during 1930 by £18,695 to a total at the 31st of December of £405,143. Of this sum £225,106 represents the investments of monies derived from the sale of land; £144,633 is held on account of the Savings Bank, and £18,566 for the Note Security Fund, the balance standing to the credit of the Reserve Fund and the Marine Insurance Fund.

In itself the year was eminently satisfactory from the financial point of view. The revenue from ordinary sources was but £4,556 less than that collected in the preceding year which was the highest on record while the expenditure under ordinary heads was reduced by £6,872 as compared with 1929 and by £16,201 as compared with 1928.

Without exaggeration it can be said that at no time have the finances of the Colony rested on a sounder basis, and even in the face of the universal depression no anxiety is felt as to the future.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Wool.

No statistics are kept of the actual quantities of wool produced in any one year, as distinct from the quantities exported, but it may be gathered from the export statistics in Section IV of this Report that the production for the five years ended on the 31st of December, 1930, averaged approximately four million lb. annually, as compared with over four and a quarter million lb. for the previous quinquennial period. While this tendency towards reduced production is due in part to the depleted state of the pastures, it is also in part

attributable to the steps taken by the landowners to conserve the productive value of their farms by reducing the number of sheep carried to the level the land can most economically support. It is encouraging to note that the policy of importing pedigree stock is being attended with good results. Recent importations have had a marked effect on both the quality and quantity of the wool.

All the wool is exported in the grease, the entire clip being marketed in the United Kingdom. Prices in 1930 were affected by the world-wide slump and showed a further fall as compared with those realized in 1929, averaging between 9d. and 10d. per lb. Otherwise, on the whole, the year under review was favourable to the industry despite sharp spells of hard weather experienced during the spring. As in previous years the general health of the flocks was good, no disease of a serious nature occurring.

Seal Oil.

The operations of the Falkland Islands Sealing Company are at present confined to the production of oil from hair seal. In 1930, 530 tons of oil were produced as compared with 550 tons in 1929. Of this quantity 200 tons only were exported at an average price of £22 a ton, the balance remaining unsold on account of unfavourable market conditions. The position of the Company from the point of view of production is satisfactory but until prices recover the financial outlook is not encouraging.

Apart from the commodities above described the Colony has no resources of known commercial value. Agriculture can hardly be said to exist, the only tillage being found around some of the settlements where small fields of forage crops are grown. It is encouraging to note that the acreage under cultivation is increasing. There are no forests and no fisheries, while mineral deposits suitable for working have yet to be discovered.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The aggregate value of trade for the year was £330,386 as compared with £430,018 for the previous year. Imports showed a decrease of £44,703 and exports of £54,929.

The following table shows under the principal heads the respective values for the past five years:—

<i>Imports.</i>	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco...	62,895	70,302	45,568	43,850	44,584
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	16,436	28,056	22,289	17,944	13,057
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	92,686	75,240	74,338	95,281	53,613
Live stock	7,212	715	2,973	4,073	5,191
Bullion and specie	—	25	1,900	—	—
Total Imports	£179,229	174,338	147,068	161,148	116,445

Exports.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wool	214,290	236,028	280,770	236,992	190,943
Hides and skins	20,094	10,713	13,332	13,029	14,704
Tallow	2,564	860	1,016	1,529	722
Live stock	1,480	—	600	—	473
Seal oil	600	—	—	16,423	5,920
Other articles	930	332	593	897	1,179
Total Exports	£239,958	247,933	296,311	268,870	213,941

The decrease in the value of the wool exported is due mainly to the fall in the market prices obtained.

Imports.

The principal articles imported during 1930 were:—

	Value.
	£
Groceries	28,963
Hardware and machinery	15,403
Timber	12,300
Drapery and wearing apparel	6,740

Imports of hardware and machinery show a decrease of £30,917, of drapery and wearing apparel £7,819, and of timber £4,067 over the respective figures for the previous year, which were in the case of the first-named class much in excess of the average.

Approximately 82.9 per cent of the total imports came from the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Empire, as compared with 85.5 in 1929. The countries of origin were as follows:—

	£
United Kingdom	96,549
New Zealand	5
Total from British Empire	£96,554
Uruguay	8,603
Chile	5,088
Argentina	4,117
Norway	883
United States	631
France	278
Denmark	260
Brazil	31
Total from foreign countries	£19,891

Exports.

Almost the entire export trade was with the United Kingdom, shipments to other countries being inconsiderable. Of the total trade, approximately 89 per cent represented the value of the wool exported and 7 per cent the value of the other products of the sheep-farming industry.

The following is a comparative table showing the quantities exported during the past five years:—

	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Wool (lb.)	4,377,385	3,972,509	3,929,487	4,068,057	3,690,572
Tallow (lb.)	159,040	96,320	144,480	274,400	158,368
Hides and sheepskins (number)	71,049	79,300	52,194	57,489	52,091
Seal oil (barrels)	100	—	—	2,657	2,424

Customs Duties.

There are no import duties except on spirits, 30s. per gallon, wine, 3s. per gallon in bulk, and beer, 6d. per gallon in bulk, tobacco, 4s. per lb., cigars, 6s. 9d. per lb., and matches, 4s. per gross of boxes. Of the exports only wool and seal oil are dutiable, the former being taxed at the rate of 1s. for every 25 lb. and the latter at the rate of 2s. per barrel of 40 gallons. The total revenue derived from Customs duties was £13,624.

General.

The greater proportion of the trade of the Colony, both import and export, is conducted by the Falkland Islands Company of which the head offices are situated in London. Other firms of lesser standing, principal among which is the Estate Louis Williams, carry on business, mostly importing, in Stanley.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

With the exception of whaling vessels on their way to and from the fishing grounds and an occasional freighter the only ocean-going vessels calling at Stanley are those of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, which are for the most part cargo vessels. Since the opening of the Panama Canal, calls by vessels belonging to this line have become infrequent and irregular and it has been necessary in consequence for a number of years past to take advantage of such other opportunities as have occurred from time to time for the transport of mails and passengers. The arrangements for additional communication as required between Stanley and Montevideo by vessels engaged in local trade to which reference has been made in previous reports were continued during 1930 and have greatly improved the Colony's mail service; so much so that on an average mails are now received from and

despatched to the United Kingdom at intervals of not more than a month. As in 1929 in addition to eight calls by cargo vessels three calls were made at Stanley by passenger vessels of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, two outward, or westward, and one homeward, or eastward, bound. The sea passage to the United Kingdom by the direct route occupies twenty-six days.

During the year interinsular communication was well maintained, the outlying districts of the Colony being served with practically the same facilities for the receipt and despatch of over-sea mails as Stanley.

Communications with the Dependency of South Georgia were carried out as in the preceding year by the s.s. *Fleurus* of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, the Government paying a subsidy towards the cost of each voyage performed. The schedule of sailings provides for five voyages between Stanley and Grytviken during the whaling season, i.e., October to May, and for two voyages during the remainder of the year and also for one voyage early in each year between Stanley and Deception Island in the South Shetlands.

The following table shows the number, nationality, and description of the vessels which entered the Colony from overseas in 1930 :—

Nationality.	Steam Vessels.	Tonnage.	Sailing Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	17	49,541	2	50
Foreign (mostly Norwegian).	20	27,706	—	—
	—	—	—	—
	37	77,247	2	50

Two wireless stations for external traffic are maintained by the Government, one at Stanley and one at Grytviken in South Georgia. A small station is also maintained by the Government at Fox Bay on the West Falkland for inter-insular communication.

There are no submarine cables in operation. Telegraph charges to the United Kingdom are 1s. a word via Bergen and 4s. 2d. a word via Montevideo. The postal rate of 1d. per ounce for letters to the United Kingdom still remains in force. It is noteworthy to remark that even throughout the Great War this rate was not increased.

There are no railways in the Colony, and at present no roads outside the town of Stanley other than that under construction along the south shore of the harbour to which reference is made in a later section of this Report. Internal communication is carried out almost entirely by horse or by boat, but recent experiments with caterpillar cars and lorries have revealed possibilities of future development which are in process of investigation.

There are no inland telegraphs, but a telephone system is run by the Government in Stanley both for official and general use.

Many of the farmers have their own lines which connect on the East Falkland to the Stanley system and on the West Falkland to the Fox Bay wireless station. Two farm settlements maintain wireless stations of low power for local communication.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The judicial system of the Colony is limited to a Supreme Court in which the Governor sits alone as Judge and a Magistrate's Court in Stanley. The majority of the farm managers are Justices of the Peace and as such have power to deal with petty offences. The local Police Force consists of four constables and a chief constable and is stationed entirely at Stanley. The chief constable is also gaoler in charge of the gaol in Stanley which accommodates only short sentence prisoners. During 1930 no crime of a capital nature was brought before the Courts and in general the Colony shows a remarkable absence of crimes of violence while serious crime of any description is of rare occurrence. The problem of young offenders does not arise except in isolated cases each of which receives individual attention from the reformatory rather than the punitive point of view. No instance is on record at any rate in recent years in which a child or young person has been committed to prison.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure under Public Works votes in the year under review was £26,966 as compared with £24,307 in the previous year.

The principal new work undertaken was the construction of the Public Baths and Gymnasium, an imposing and commodious building situated near the Town Hall in the centre of Stanley, at a cost of £6,000. The building is equipped with six bathrooms and two shower-baths, a reading and waiting room, water-closets, caretaker's office and storerooms, and contains a spacious main hall for gymnastics and other forms of indoor recreation and exercise. Opened early in 1931 it fills a long-felt want and is proving of inestimable value to the public by whom it is generally appreciated. Two blocks of four houses each for workpeople were built at the east end of Stanley in order to relieve overcrowding in the town. The accommodation is a model of its kind and is in actual occupation to the full satisfaction of its tenants who are thus afforded the opportunity hitherto denied them of living and bringing up their families in healthy conditions. In this manner a large advance has been realized towards the solution of the housing problem which for many years past has been growing more and more acute. Other new works include the erection of an official residence for the Colonial Secretary in replacement of and on the site of the old residence, Sullivan House, which was totally destroyed by fire in

May, 1929, a pavilion at the range for the use of the Defence Force and allied Rifle Association, and a combined store and workshop for the Electrical Department.

A start was made also on the extension of the original scheme for the improvement of Stanley which was completed in 1929. The works proposed at a total cost of £20,000 (inclusive of the cost of the two blocks of houses for workpeople of which mention has been already made) spread over a period of four years comprise extensions to the roads and the water supply and drainage systems especially in the upper parts of the town. During the year under review nearly half a mile of road was formed through a new housing area with concrete kerb and gutter and sealed main drain picking up connections from some twenty new houses and discharging by sewer outfall into the sea.

The construction of the road leading along the south side of Stanley harbour to its western end, known as the North Camp road, was continued during the year. Approximately the one-half of the total distance of three miles has now been completed. This road is the first to be constructed outside the limits of Stanley. Besides affording access to the Admiralty or Western Wireless Telegraph Station and facilitating the approach to Stanley from the North Camp it has been instrumental incidentally in opening up fresh deposits of excellent peat from which it is anticipated that the major portion of the supply required for Government purposes will be obtained at an economical rate for many years to come. From the point of view of amenity also it is of great benefit to the inhabitants of the narrowly confined town of Stanley.

The usual maintenance services were continued by the Public Works Department during the year, the expenditure amounting to £5,554 as compared with £6,800 in 1929. The roads in Stanley were kept in a good state of repair. Two of the main roads were surfaced with a cold bitumen emulsion, the use of which has proved very effective and it is proposed to continue. The upkeep of plant, buildings, walls, fences, harbour lights, and jetties was carried out with proper care and efficiency. The water service was also maintained in due order. It is satisfactory to note that the number of connexions to private houses from the water service is steadily on the increase, so much so that an increase in the storage capacity of the reservoir is contemplated by the addition of a tower which will enable the supply to be laid on to any house in the town, and will also make available adequate pressure for fire-fighting purposes.

The year 1930 was particularly favourable in so far as regards the cutting and handling of peat. Consequent on the opening up of the new banks on the North Camp Road it was found possible to transport the greater part of the season's peat by motor lorry and thus to effect a considerable saving both in time and in money on the old method of employing carts and horses.

With the object of exploring the possibilities of improved communication between Stanley and sheep-farming stations by the construction of tracts over the "camp" suitable for motor traffic, a voyage, in the nature of a rough survey, was made in March by the Director of Public Works in a Morris 30 hundredweight six-wheeled lorry with caterpillar attachment to Darwin, the principal station on the East Falkland, distant from Stanley about sixty miles. The country traversed was virgin hilly and boggy ground interspersed with streams and stone-runs, but the adventurous journey was successfully accomplished in either direction within two days.

As a result of this trial it has been decided that the cost of metalled roads to the "camp" is prohibitive, but that useful work can be done in this direction by way of marking out the tracks to be followed and of assisting the farmers in improving the tracks and in bridging streams.

The electric lighting system installed in 1929 and designed primarily for use in Government buildings and residences, such as the Town Hall, the Hospital, Government House, and officials' quarters, worked with complete efficiency during the year and has been successful from every point of view. Plans have been drawn up for the extension of the system during the current year generally to the town, including street-lighting and private houses.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The inhabitants of the Falkland Islands are of European and chiefly of British descent, in which Scotch blood is marked.

The estimated population, based on the figures of the last census in 1921, was 2,396 at the end of 1931, of whom 1,342 were males and 1,054 females and of whom approximately 1,000 are resident in Stanley. During the year under review 54 births and 20 deaths were recorded, as compared with 57 births and 14 deaths in the previous year, and giving the following rates:—

Population per square mile	...	...	...	...	52
Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	22.73 per 1,000
Death-rate	...	...	...	...	8.42 per 1,000
Infantile mortality rate	...	...	...	...	18.5 per 1,000

General Health.

The general health of the community in 1930 was good. Apart from the usual outbreaks of colds there is nothing of special interest to note. There were no epidemics during the year. Malaria and other insect-borne diseases are unknown in the Colony and with the exception of seven cases of chicken-pox no cases of communicable diseases, other than tuberculosis and bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia and bronchial catarrh, occurred. Owing to the fact that there was more frost and less rain than usual during the

winter months bronchial complaints generally were not so common as in 1929. No venereal disease exists among the population and all proper precautions are taken against its introduction.

There is a difficulty in regard to food which is never one of quantity, while the quality of that which is available is excellent; nevertheless, the diet is ill-balanced, a circumstance which is probably the chief cause of appendicitis and the invariable condition of bad teeth found accompanying it. Gardens are cultivated but insufficient attention is paid to the production and consumption of green vegetables. The necessity of adding lime to the soil must be reiterated. Fruit is not grown in the Colony; the supply is irregular and inadequate and the loss in importation inflates the cost. Four fresh cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, two pulmonary and two abdominal. The disease is not of recent origin in the Colony but is more widely distributed than has been hitherto suspected. It does not appear, however, that its incidence is increasing, or at least with noticeable rapidity. Modern hygiene and improved housing and sanitary conditions, particularly in Stanley, may be expected to do much towards arresting the progress locally of tuberculosis.

It is satisfactory to record that the dental health of the population, especially that of the children, continues to improve and probably at no time has been better. All children of sixteen years and under receive free treatment and advice from the Dental Surgeon who makes frequent visits of inspection to the schools in Stanley and periodical tours of the out-districts. Tooth brushes and dentifrice are issued without charge to the children and the habit of caring for their mouths is being steadily inculcated in the future men and women of the Colony.

Vaccination is compulsory and most of the children have been vaccinated during the past two years. The necessity for vaccination is emphasized during medical inspection of the schools and appropriate action is taken when defaulters are discovered. Special attention is given in the curriculum of the schools to physical exercises and games and added benefit will accrue from the use of the recently constructed public baths and gymnasium to which reference is made in an earlier section of this report.

The improvements to the town of Stanley which have received previous notice were continued steadily during the year. The extensions to the drainage and sewerage systems and to the water supply actually in progress or contemplated in the near future cannot fail considerably to raise the standard of living and of health of the residents. The housing problem has been tackled in so vigorous and practical a manner as virtually to have been solved and in general terms the housing of the people in Stanley is very satisfactory. Incidentally the quarters provided by the Government for public officials are now adequate both in number and in description.

Regular inspections of meat and of slaughter-houses were carried out. A new slaughter-house has been built to the east of Stanley in conformity with the requirements of the Board of Health. Of the two existing slaughter-houses one has been improved and improvements to the other are projected.

Attempts were made to improve the milk supply and during the year milk samples were frequently analysed. This caused a distinct improvement in the cleanliness of the milk retailed.

Repeated attacks have been made on rats in the town rubbish dumps on the foreshore chiefly by means of poison baits. There are bi-annual rat weeks.

The health of the Government officials in 1930 on the whole was good.

Port Health.

Thirty-six vessels with a registered tonnage of 76,808 tons and with crews totalling 2,012 were given pratique during the year. It was not found necessary to quarantine any vessel calling at the port.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Twenty maternity cases were treated in the hospital and five in the district. Ante-natal and child-welfare services are provided and the increasing number of patients indicates that these services are appreciated. Systematic and frequent inspections of the schools and school-children were made by the Principal Medical Officer and the Dental Surgeon. A continuous improvement in the health of the children was observed and the hygienic condition of the schools was found at all times to be satisfactory.

Hospital.

The King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Stanley, was built in 1914 and is maintained by the Government. It comprises 12 beds, out-patient department, operating theatre, office, stores, and quarters for nurses. Two outside buildings provide for the dental surgery and workshop, quarters for the junior and domestic staff, a drug store and laboratory. The Hospital has been recently re-conditioned and re-equipped and is now thoroughly up to date. Among the new equipment which has been acquired is a Phillips Metallix portable X-ray apparatus and an artificial sunlight lamp. The laboratory is well furnished.

One hundred and forty-three in-patients were treated during the year, of whom 119 were cured, 21 were relieved, 1 was not improved, and 3 died. Twenty-seven surgical operations were performed.

The number of patients treated in the out-patient department was recorded as 862, the total number of attendances being 1,743.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The education of children between the ages of five and fourteen years residing in Stanley is compulsory. In Stanley there are two elementary schools, one maintained by the Government and one under Roman Catholic management. Provision is also made at the Government school for attendance at a continuation class for a two years' course of more advanced study. A scheme instituted in 1924 further provided for children from the country districts to be boarded and lodged in a Government hostel and taught in the school at an inclusive charge of 10s. a month during residence or, alternatively, for grants from Government funds not exceeding two-thirds of the cost of board and lodging for the children in private houses. Early in 1929 it was decided that the hostel had not received sufficient support to justify the cost of maintaining it, and the institution was closed down in August. It is a matter of regret that this attempt to give the children in the country districts the benefit of schooling in Stanley has had to be abandoned. The maintenance grants are, however, still being continued.

The number of children under instruction at the end of 1930 is shown in the following table :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
At the Government School ...	100	64	164
At the Roman Catholic School	20	48	68
By the Government Travelling Teachers	51	38	89
By the Falkland Islands Company's Teachers	33	27	60
	<hr/> 204	<hr/> 177	<hr/> 381

The attendance at the Government school in Stanley was again good, averaging just over 90 per cent. throughout the year. The general health of the pupils was also satisfactory, and for the fifth consecutive year there were no extraordinary closures of the school for sickness. All the children both at the Government school and at the Roman Catholic school were medically examined in the course of the year, and in addition the Principal Medical Officer and the Dental Surgeon made periodical visits of inspection.

The teaching of woodwork to the senior boys was continued, and of shorthand to the continuation class. Physical training, including football, hockey, and gymnastics as well as the formal Swedish drill, formed part of the regular curriculum. The Government school took part in a handwriting competition organised by Messrs. Harrods, Limited, for schools in England; two of the entrants were awarded certificates of merit which is considered very creditable in view of the comparative smallness of the numbers eligible.

It is gratifying to record that pupils who have left the school to join the Royal Navy, for instance, or to go to school in England, are reported as being well up to the standard of work required and able without difficulty to take their places amongst children of the same age at home.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Practically the entire lands of the Colony are given over to sheep-farming and are in the possession of private persons who for the most part enjoy a freehold either absolute or under purchase from the Government by annual instalments. Certain areas reserved by the Crown are leased on short tenure for a like purpose. No waste lands are available for occupation or development and lands of any description are difficult to acquire and then only by special treaty. The Colony has never been surveyed in any detail, and the charts of its coast are somewhat antiquated although they cannot be termed inadequate.

XI.—LABOUR.

During 1930 no unemployment occurred, the balance between supply and demand being very evenly kept, except during the winter months when the severity of the weather interfered considerably with outdoor work. As in the years immediately preceding, wages on the farm stations ranged from £5 to £8 a month with quarters, fuel, meat, and milk found. Labourers in Stanley were paid from £10 a month, or 1s. 2d. an hour, and artisans from £10 to £20 a month, or 1s. 7½d. an hour. Wages of domestic servants varied from £3 to £4 a month with all found. In Stanley employment is almost solely at the disposal of the Government and the Falkland Islands Company and, as both the Government and the Company again had an unusual amount of work in hand during the year, labourers found little difficulty in earning good wages. It should be borne in mind, however, that the amount of work that has been available recently is more than can normally be expected, and is likely to decrease rather than to increase in the near future. The Falkland Islands Sealing Company employed a number of men during the season at their land-station in Port Albemarle.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The outstanding event of the year in the general life of the Colony was the success of the Falkland Islands team in winning the Junior Kolapore Cup at Bisley in July. The team also was placed third in the Junior Mackinnon competition. This success crowning three years of continued endeavour was greeted with enthusiastic delight and in Stanley unprecedented scenes of public rejoicing took place when the news became known and when the team returned.

Rifle shooting may be described as the national sport of the Colony and on this account the achievement has given rise to reactions of high moral value among all sections of the community.

The Defence Force Rifle Association, which is affiliated to the National Rifle Association, held its third annual meeting on the Stanley ranges in February. Although the programme was considerably impeded by the bad weather conditions prevailing, the meeting was again most successful from the point of view of the high standard of sportsmanship and marksmanship displayed.

Visits were paid to Stanley by His Majesty's ships of the America and West Indies Squadron, *Delhi* in March, *Dragon* in July, and *Danae* in December. H.M.S. *Danae* also visited Port Edgar on the West Falkland and was present in Stanley at Christmas thus adding to the enjoyment of the annual race and gymkhana meeting. As usual these visits were most popular and lent much life to the town. Advantage was taken of the stay in harbour of H.M.S. *Delhi* and H.M.S. *Danae* to carry out tactical exercises between the local Defence Force and landing parties from the ships. It is gratifying to record that on both occasions the Defence Force acquitted themselves with great credit and were warmly commended by their opponents.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides movements, with the personal support of His Excellency the Governor, continued their valuable work during the year. Further headway was made under the auspices of the Local Association of the latter movement towards the establishment in the islands of a home-spun industry. A considerable number of spinning wheels have been distributed through this agency both in Stanley and in the "camp" or country districts, and spinning classes have been held regularly in Stanley. It is to be hoped that the progress already made will be continued and that one day Falkland Islands products, spun and knitted or woven from wool grown in the Colony, will come to bear a distinctive name.

The children's play, written and produced by His Excellency under the style of "Zachariah Fee", mention of which has been included in previous Reports, continued to run with undiminished popularity during the year and worthily maintained its reputation and position in the social life of the community. Over a hundred persons took part in the production which, besides providing a source of welcome entertainment during the long tedious winter evenings, afforded valuable training to a large number of children who in the ordinary course have little occasion to develop their latent talent. The proceeds of the several performances, after paying expenses, were devoted to the Governor's Charity Fund for providing clothing and comforts for the children of poorer families.

Amongst other events of interest reference should be made to the opening of the new West Store by the Falkland Islands Company and to the building of a floating dock by the same firm. The

floating dock has not yet been completed but satisfactory progress has been made on its construction. It is hoped that when in use it will be the means of attracting shipping and trade to the port of Stanley.

From the point of view of climate the year 1930 was remarkable for the exceptional severity of the winter. For the three months from May to August the entire Colony was in the grip of an unbroken frost which entered several inches into the ground. No abnormal drop in the temperature was recorded but the thermometer stood below freezing point almost continuously throughout this period. Little snow fell and the winter was unusually dry, as indeed was the year as a whole with the exception of the months of January, March, and December. The severe winter was followed by a mild spring, although the month of October was stormy with many wet days, and a rare spell of brilliant weather began in November and lasted into December. A total rainfall of 20.27 inches was registered as compared with 33.84 inches in 1929 and the average of 26 inches. 1.50 inches of rain fell on the 20th of December. The mean force of the wind throughout the year was 4.3 in the Beaufort scale: on 258 days a force of 4 to 7 was registered and 6 days only of calm were experienced. The prevailing direction of the wind was west and south-west. The mean temperature for the year was 41.37° F.

PART II.

THE DEPENDENCIES.

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

The Dependencies are divided into two main groups, the one consisting of South Georgia with the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands, and the other of the South Shetlands with Graham's Land.

South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands were sighted and taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain Cook in 1775, and the South Orkneys were discovered by Captain Powell of the British ship *Dove* who landed on Coronation Island on the 7th of December, 1821, and took possession of the group in the name of

King George IV. The South Shetlands were discovered by Mr. W. Smith in the brig *Williams* in 1819 and were examined by Captain Bransfield in 1820. Captain Bransfield also discovered the first part of Graham's Land and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832. Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers are reported there in 1819. The fur-seal industry in the Dependencies achieved such proportions in the early part of the nineteenth century that expeditions were made to them in the two seasons 1820-1821 and 1821-1822 by no less than ninety-one vessels. So recklessly did they slaughter, however, that they are said practically to have exterminated the fur-seal, James Weddell stating that in 1822-1824 these animals were almost extinct.

The area of the Dependencies covers 3,100,000 square miles or $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the entire surface of the globe and one-fifth approximately of the total area of the British Empire. Much of it is ice-bound but there are more than a million square miles of sea readily accessible for whaling and sealing.

The island of South Georgia lies about 800 miles to the east of the Falkland Islands in latitude $54\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ South, the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands being 450 miles to the south-west and south-east, respectively, of South Georgia. The northern point of the South Shetlands is about 500 miles to the south of the Falkland Islands. The South Georgia with the South Orkneys and South Sandwich group of dependencies is bounded by the fiftieth parallel of South latitude and by the twentieth and the fiftieth meridians of West longitude and the South Shetlands and Graham's Land by the fifty-eighth parallel of South latitude and by the meridians of longitude fifty and eighty West. Both territories extend to the South Pole. South Georgia is the principal island in the Dependencies and is the only portion of them inhabited throughout the year except for the meteorological station which is maintained by the Argentine Government on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. It has an area of about 1,000 square miles and is about 100 miles in length with a maximum breadth of 20 miles and consists mainly of steep mountains from which glaciers descend. There is but little flat land and the island is almost entirely barren, the south-west side being permanently frozen. The main vegetation is some coarse grass which grows on the north-eastern side of the island where the snow melts in the summer. There are no indigenous quadrupeds other than seals but reindeer have been introduced and are thriving well. There are many sea-birds including penguins and albatrosses. The sea-elephant, the sea-leopard, and the Weddell's seal frequent its shores. The coast line has been indifferently charted but much useful work has been done in this direction during the past three years by the *Discovery* Expedition.

I.—GENERAL.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are peopled almost exclusively and utilized mainly by foreigners, and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident Magistrate and official staff are maintained at South Georgia, and control over whaling operations in the other Dependencies is carried out by representatives of the Government who accompany the expeditions.

At South Georgia which is devoted solely to the whaling industry five land stations have been established and are occupied throughout the year. A land station has also been erected at Deception Island in the South Shetlands the personnel of which arrives and returns annually with the whaling fleet. In the Dependencies other than South Georgia, however, the harbours are ice-bound for seven or more months in the year and the work of boiling down is done on board floating factories, except for the land station at Deception Island access to which is normally possible from November onwards.

At Laurie Island in the South Orkneys the Argentine Government continued to maintain the meteorological station established in 1903 by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition under Mr. W. Bruce and transferred by him in 1904. The Argentine Government has subsequently erected a wireless station for use in conjunction with the meteorological station.

The *Discovery* Expedition, which is conducting research mainly into whaling in the waters of the Colony and of the Dependencies, continued its operations during the year with the Royal Research Ships *Discovery II* and *William Scoresby* and at the Marine Station in South Georgia. In addition to work of a scientific nature valuable surveys of the coasts of the Dependencies were undertaken particularly in the South Sandwich group. The *William Scoresby* conveyed Sir Hubert Wilkins and his aerial expedition in the early part of the year starting from Deception Island in the South Shetlands and penetrating as far as 70° South latitude and 100° West longitude. It is satisfactory to note that the *Discovery II* is reported as being in every way suitable for the services which she has been constructed to perform and that no difficulty was experienced in carrying out the full programme of work drawn up for the year.

II.—FINANCE.

The Dependencies' revenue is derived almost entirely from the whaling industry and amounted in 1930 to £84,547. The local expenditure was £21,597, leaving a surplus of £62,950 which, in accordance with the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1924, was transferred to the Research and Development Fund.

The following table shows the comparative figures of the revenue and of the expenditure during the past five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1926	221,595	100,325
1927	206,059	111,306
1928	194,153	122,102
1929	122,814	39,385
1930	84,547	21,597

The total amount of the surplus assets standing to the credit of the Research and Development Fund at the 31st of December, 1930, was £468,109. There is no public debt.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands notes.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Apart from sealing on a small scale whaling is the only industry in the Dependencies and whale and seal oil and by-products of the whale, such as guano, their sole produce. The whaling season in the Dependencies is restricted to the period from 16th September to the 31st May annually, while sealing operations are carried on at South Georgia from the 1st March to the 31st October.

At South Georgia the weather during the whole of the 1929-1930 season was abnormally mild. The winds were invariably from a northerly direction and there was little or no ice. Operations commenced during the latter part of September and continued until the end of April when all companies closed down. Five companies operated as against six in the 1928-1929 season. The total catch of whales amounted to 4,210 of which 11.7 per cent were Blue and 80.8 per cent Fin whales. Compared with the catch of the preceding season this shows a decrease of 923 whales which is mainly attributable to the fact that the *Thor I* did not operate at South Georgia. Allowing, however, for the absence of the *Thor I* the total catch shows a decrease of approximately 400 whales, confined entirely to the Blue species the catch of which numbered 492 as against 1,564 in the previous season. The catch of Blue whales is the lowest recorded since the year 1912. The yield of oil amounted to 242,950 barrels or a decrease of 97,550 as compared with the production in 1928-1929. The decrease is accounted for in large measure by the extraordinary scarcity of Blue whales and by the fact that the factory *Thor I* did not work.

On the whole the season at South Shetlands and South Orkneys was good. The weather during the latter part of the season at South Shetlands was very boisterous and whaling was rendered difficult. Both catch and production show a marked decrease but this is due to the fact that the catch of four factories which operated last season is not included in the figures of the present year, as these factories conducted operations outside the Falkland Islands sector.

At the South Sandwich Islands the season was remarkably good. The catch and production show an increase over those of the previous season but the percentage of Blue whales was considerably lower being 64 per cent as against 90.88 per cent in 1928-29.

The following table gives the comparative catch and production during the past five years:—

Season.	Actual whales killed.	Barrels of oil produced.	Average number of barrels per whale.
1925-26	13,188	723,831	54.88
1926-27	10,631	729,891	68.56
1927-28	10,220	787,826	77.08
1928-29	13,514	1,047,142	77.48
1929-30	10,725	759,947	70.85

The total number of bags of guano manufactured during the season 1929-1930 was 249,784 as compared with 254,901 in the previous season. The estimated value of the guano produced was £249,784.

Sealing operations in 1930 yielded 10,616 barrels of oil as compared with 9,224 in 1929. The average quantity of oil produced from each seal was 1.8 barrels, or, in other words, rather more than three seals went to the ton.

The market price of whale oil—that of seal oil being slightly higher—stood nominally at £25 a ton during the season, with a tendency to fall to £23 a ton or even lower. The enormously increased production made in the past two or three seasons by the ever-growing fleet of pelagic factories have resulted in an inevitable glut and consequent selling depression.

An export duty is payable on whale and seal oil at the rate of 2s. a barrel, or 12s. a ton, and on guano at the rate of 1½d. per 100 lb.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of the total trade of the Dependencies in 1930 was £3,226,002, of which £499,829 represented imports and £2,726,173 exports. Of the imports, coal, coke, and oil fuel accounted for £252,867, hardware and machinery £114,319, and provisions £48,190. The exports of whale and seal oil amounted to £2,504,617, and of guano and bone meal £219,399.

The following table gives the comparative value of the trade of the Dependencies during the past five years:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1926	530,017	4,160,743	4,690,760
1927	537,060	3,877,565	4,414,625
1928	436,019	3,763,149	4,199,168
1929	626,746	5,164,709	5,791,455
1930	499,829	2,726,173	3,226,002

The decrease in the value of the export trade is due solely to the fall in the market price of whale and seal oil.

Of the imports the bulk of the coal is obtained from the United Kingdom, and of the machinery, equipment and provisions from Norway. The exports of whale and seal oil and guano are sold on the European market in large measure to Norway, Holland and Germany, but the consumption in the United Kingdom is not inconsiderable. The firm of Lever Brothers of Port Sunlight owns the Southern Whaling and Sealing Company, which operates from a land station in South Georgia and with a floating factory expedition, and utilizes the produce for the purpose of its manufactures. The South Georgia Company, which operates similarly from a land station and with floating factories, is also British, being owned by Messrs. Salvesen and Company, of Leith. British capital has acquired recently further large holdings in the Anglo-Norse and Hektor Whaling Companies, and has interests in several other Companies.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

As stated in a previous Section of this Report, communication of a regular nature, more or less, between South Georgia and Stanley and once a year between the South Shetlands and Stanley is maintained by the s.s. *Fleurus*, of the Tonsberg Whaling Company, running under contract with the Government.

During the whaling season direct sailings between Europe and South Georgia in either direction are not infrequent and there is a fairly reliable service between Buenos Aires and Grytviken, furnished by the motor auxiliary s.v. *Tijuca*, of the Compania Argentina de Pesca. The vessels of the South Shetlands whaling fleet call, some at Stanley and some at South Georgia, on the way down to the fishing grounds in October and November, and on the return voyage in April and May.

Mails are received and despatched either direct or via Stanley by opportunities as they offer. In summer no long intervals occur, but in winter the delay may on occasion be considerable. Postal rates are the same as from and to the Colony proper.

The Government maintains a wireless station at Grytviken, which is in regular communication with Stanley, through which traffic is passed beyond the limits of the Colony. The Argentine Government is permitted to maintain a wireless station on Laurie Island, in the South Orkneys. There are no railways or roads in the Dependencies. Grytviken, South Georgia, and Port Foster at Deception Island, in the South Shetlands, are the only ports of entry.

The following table shows the number of vessels which entered at South Georgia during 1930:—

Nationality.	Steam.		Sailing.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	63	124,388	—	—
Foreign (mostly Norwegian)	79	103,708	3	2,202
	142	228,096	3	2,202

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Magistrate, South Georgia, sits at Grytviken in a court of first instance and the Supreme Court of the Colony at Stanley is common to the Dependencies. During 1930 only one case of serious crime came before the Courts; the person accused, of homicide, was discharged as having acted in self-defence. Despite the trying conditions, the personnel of the whaling industry forms a most peaceful and law-abiding community, calling seldom for the intervention of the civil authorities, a fact which in itself speaks highly for the discipline maintained by the managers of the several stations.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of importance were carried out by the Government during the year, but a concrete tennis court for use of the officials was completed.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

There is very little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence, though some unhealthiness, with occasional outbreaks of beri-beri, is caused by the lack of fresh food-stuffs.

No medical officer is maintained by the Government in the Dependencies, but the whaling companies have their own doctors, the Government contributing a share of the salary of the doctor stationed at Grytviken. At South Georgia there are well-equipped hospitals maintained by the whaling companies, and at Deception Island a very efficient hospital is kept in commission during the season by the Hektor Company.

The population of South Georgia fluctuates with the seasons of the whaling industry. During the summer it approximates to 1,500, practically all males, and during the winter to one-third of that number. The British inhabitants of South Georgia do not exceed one hundred, the remainder being almost exclusively Norwegian or of Scandinavian origin.

The number of deaths reported during the year was nine, as against fourteen in the previous year.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There are no children in the Dependencies and the problem of education does not therefore arise.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

All the land in the Dependencies is owned by the Government. At South Georgia five land stations have been established by whaling companies, sites of 500 acres in extent being taken up for

periods of twenty-one years at annual rentals of £250; some of these leases have been temporarily renewed. There are also five unoccupied leaseholds upon which rental is paid. Land stations have been similarly established at Deception Island in the South Shetlands and on Signy Island in the South Orkneys.

The mineral potentialities of South Georgia have yet to be determined and no attempt has been made hitherto to exploit them. No detailed survey of the lands has been undertaken and the charts of the coasts are of necessity very incomplete. Much information has been obtained, however, by the vessels of the whaling fleet, and of recent years the *Discovery* Expedition has undertaken a valuable series of detailed surveys of the harbours of South Georgia, and has also made extensive revisions of such charts as exist of the South Sandwich group and of the South Shetlands and Graham's Land.

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour in South Georgia and on board the floating factories is specially recruited on contract terms from Norway. The bonus system on production is generally in vogue, the wages of an ordinary labourer ranging from £10 to £15 a month with all found. The personnel of the several stations and expeditions for the most part arrive and depart with the whaling fleet at the beginning and the end of each whaling season. No labour troubles requiring the intervention of the Government occurred during the year.

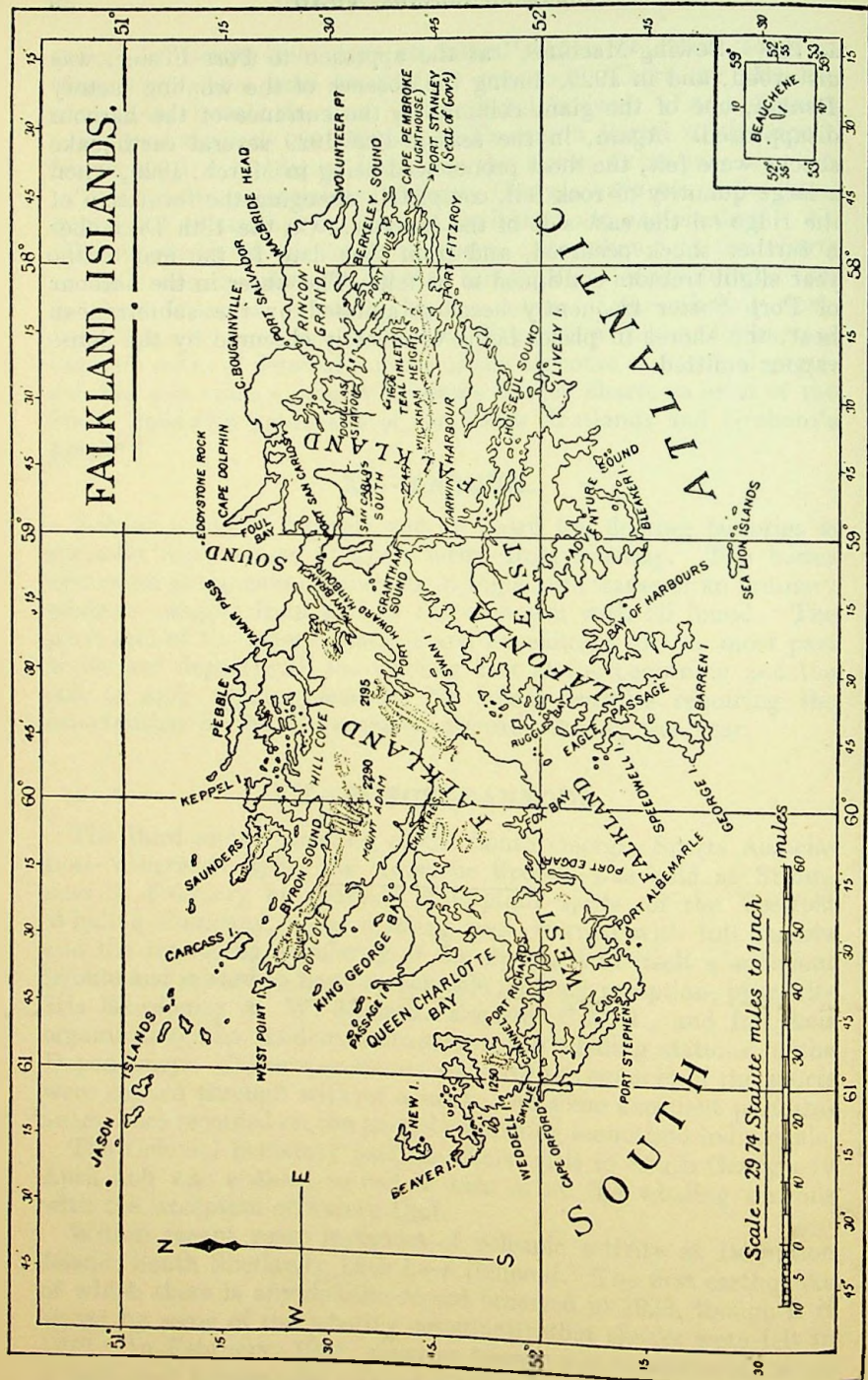
XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The third annual meeting of the South Georgia Sports Association—otherwise styled the Antarctic Sports—was held at Stromness in February by courtesy of Captain Sørle, of the Vestfold Whaling Company. The meeting was crowned with full success and the increasing popularity of the Sports is in itself a sufficient tribute and reward to those responsible for their inception, primarily His Excellency A. W. Hodson, Esquire, C.M.G., and for their organization, the resident managers of the whaling stations in the Dependency. The arrangements made for the conduct of the sports were carried through without a hitch, and some excellent performances were recorded on the part of competing teams and individuals.

The Colonial Secretary paid an official visit to South Georgia in April and was enabled to call in turn at all the whaling stations with the exception of Prince Olaf.

Within recent years instances of volcanic activity at Deception Island, South Shetlands, have been frequent. The first earthquake of which there is any definite record occurred in 1923, though it is stated by some of the whaling community that shocks were felt in 1912. In February, 1924, a strong tremor was experienced, when a large rock forming the crest of a natural arch, and known locally

as the "Sewing-Machine," at the approach to Port Foster, was disturbed, and in 1925, during the absence of the whaling factory *Ronald*, one of the giant columns in the entrance of the harbour disappeared. Again, in the season 1928-1929 several earthquake shocks were felt, the most pronounced being in March, 1929, when a large quantity of rock fell, completely changing the formation of the ridge on the east side of the harbour. On the 13th December a further shock occurred, and from that date to the end of the year slight tremors continued to be felt. The water in the harbour of Port Foster frequently becomes agitated by the subterranean heat, the shores in places being completely obscured by the dense vapour emitted.



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