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REPORT FOR 1914.

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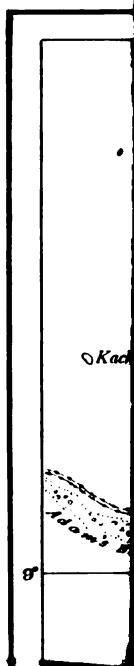
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REPORT ON THE CEYLON BLUE BOOK FOR 1914.

I.—GENERAL.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

APART from the outbreak of war in August and its effect on the Colony, the following are the principal events which occurred during 1914 :—

In the early part of the year plague made its appearance in Colombo for the first time. The infection spread throughout Colombo, but though imported cases occurred in Jaffna and Kurunegala, no other place became infected. The disease did not become epidemic, the greatest number of cases in one month being 71 in March.

The railways and ferry service connecting Ceylon with India by way of Mannar and Dhanushkodi were formally opened on February 24.

In April an administrative change of importance was introduced by the appointment of a Consultative Committee on Roads.

The foundation stone of the King Edward VII. Memorial, which is to take the form of an Anti-Tuberculosis Institution, was laid in June.

The Commission which was appointed to report on the affairs of the Colombo Municipality concluded its sittings in September.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Sir Alfred Lascelles, K.C., Chief Justice, retired in August, 1914, and was succeeded by Mr. A. Wood Renton, Senior Puisne Justice.

Mr. W. S. Shaw, Chief Justice, British Honduras, was appointed Third Puisne Justice.

Mr. G. S. Saxton, Government Agent, Central Province, retired from the Public Service in December.

Mr. A. R. Slater of the Civil Service and Mr. D. MacGregor, Colonial Auditor, were appointed to posts in other Colonies, the former as Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast and the latter as Treasurer of Nigeria.

Dr. A. Castellani, Director of the Bacteriological Institute, retired from the Public Service to take up the appointment of Regius Professor of Tropical Medicine at the University of Naples.

Mr. H. L. Dowbiggin, Superintendent of Police, was appointed Inspector-General of Police in succession to the late Mr. Ivor E. David.

Mr. R. E. Stubbs, Colonial Secretary, received the honour of Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Mr. Hector van Cuylenburg, Burgher Member of the Legislative Council, received the honour of Knighthood.

The deaths of Mr. E. R. Ayrton, Archæological Commissioner, and Mr. G. M. Clark, Irrigation Engineer, who were drowned while boating on Tissamaharama tank, of Mr. J. N. Tisseveresinghe, Second Tamil Member of the Legislative Council, of Mr. W. E. Thorpe, Government Agent of the Eastern Province, and Mr. J. O'K. Murty, District Judge of Jaffna, are recorded with regret.

THE EFFECT OF THE WAR ON CEYLON.

The outbreak of war with Germany and Austria in August and the subsequent breach of relations with Turkey served to emphasize the unquestioned loyalty of the permanent population of the Colony. The latter event in particular

evoked from the Muhammadan community striking and unanimous manifestations of their adherence to the Throne. Hardly less noteworthy was the absence of any symptoms of panic, and it is gratifying to be able to record that, in spite of some unavoidable disturbance to the continuity of certain industries, there has been a remarkable lack of distress arising from unemployment.

The effects of the war on the finances and the trade of the Colony are dealt with in other sections of this report, and it will be sufficient here to note briefly such local incidents of importance as occurred in consequence of the war.

A Prize Court was established shortly after the commencement of the war and dealt with the enemy merchant ships—seven in number—which were captured or detained in Colombo Harbour. One of these ships was sold locally after condemnation, another was used to convey local produce to the United Kingdom, and the remainder were handed over to the Indian Government.

The crews of the captured ships were detained as prisoners of war at Ragama. After a short time they were removed to Diyatalawa, where they were interned, together with Ceylon residents of enemy nationality, in the camp which was originally constructed for the detention of prisoners sent to Ceylon during the Boer war.

Their number has been increased by the addition of enemy subjects captured on vessels calling at Colombo, and also of wounded prisoners taken by H. M. A. S. "Sydney" after her engagement with the "Emden."

A company of the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps after training at Diyatalawa left for Europe in November. War with Turkey broke out while they were on their way, and the company disembarked at Port Said and remained in Egypt, where they were attached to the New Zealand Forces. A number of the rank and file received commissions in other units.

Excellent work was done by the principal Ceylonese Corps, the Ceylon Light Infantry. Several companies were mobilized soon after the commencement of the war, and performed the important duties of guarding bridges and other points of strategic importance.

The Ceylon Artillery Volunteers and the Ceylon Engineer Volunteers were also mobilized, and assisted in their respective capacities in manning the defences of Colombo, the latter Corps being employed on the searchlights in the vicinity of the harbour.

A Town Guard was formed for the defence of Colombo, and nearly all the European residents of Colombo who were not already members of the existing Volunteer Forces were enrolled in this Corps.

THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

In spite of the effects of the war on prices and employment the year under review was, on the whole, a prosperous one. There were no serious floods, and, with the exception of plague in Colombo and one or two small outbreaks of smallpox, no serious epidemics.

The condition and health of the villager throughout the Island are being materially improved, as a result of the increased attention paid to sanitation and of the spread of medical facilities. Most striking results were obtained from the new treatment of "parangi," a disease which until recently was believed to be ineradicable.

Paddy crops were in the main satisfactory, and the other principal agricultural products of the Island—tea, rubber, coconuts, cocoa, and cinnamon—continued to flourish.

The general prosperity of the Island was reflected in the steady demand for Crown land.

II.—FINANCIAL.

Owing to the decision that the financial year of the Colony should in future run from October 1 to September 30 instead of from July 1 to June 30, the period under review consists of fifteen months, viz., from July, 1913, to September, 1914.

REVENUE.

The revenue collected during this period amounted to Rs. 67,221,964, an excess of Rs. 5,351,963 over the estimate. The proportionate revenue for twelve months exceeds the revenue for the preceding year by Rs. 2,605,035.

The sources of revenue which contributed principally to this increase were the Customs, the Government Railway, and Excise and other Licenses.

In the last two months of the financial period there was a marked decrease in the revenue under the first two of these heads, owing to the outbreak of war and the consequent temporary disturbance to trade.

The average annual increase in the revenue since 1908 is between 3½ million and 4 million rupees, and it is probable that this average would have been maintained but for the outbreak of war.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for 1913-14 was estimated at Rs. 73,203,454, and the amount actually expended was Rs. 69,367,397.

The proportionate expenditure for twelve months shows an increase of Rs. 7,822,989 over the expenditure of 1912-13. This was due mainly to the increased expenditure of the Public Works and Railway Departments and of the Port and Marine Department of Colombo.

Apart from ordinary expenditure, a sum of Rs. 6,897,951 was spent on Extraordinary Public Works chargeable to Loan Funds.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Colony on September 30, 1914, were Rs. 40,615,386, and the liabilities Rs. 14,941,983. The assets consist largely of advances to local bodies, and in particular to the Municipality of Colombo, and the principal item among the liabilities is the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.

PUBLIC DEBT.

At the close of the financial period the public debt of the Colony stood at £5,949,151, approximately one and two-third times the annual revenue.

Of the loan of £3,436,854 authorized by Ordinance No. 6 of 1909 to meet the cost of the Colombo Harbour and Drainage Works, the Mannar Railway, and railway and other public works, a sum of £1,500,000 was raised at 98½, bearing interest at 3½ per cent., in 1909-10, and a further sum of £1,000,000 at 99, bearing interest at 4 per cent., was raised in 1914. A balance (£128,653) of the latter loan has been carried forward to meet expenditure in 1914-15. Any excess thereon will be met from revenue till the remaining portion of the loan is raised.

CURRENCY.

On September 30, 1914, the value of currency notes in circulation was Rs. 27,902,000, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of Rs. 3,682,500 in gold, Rs. 9,058,200 in silver, and Rs. 15,161,300 in British, Colonial, and Indian investments.

III.—AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural industries suffered serious dislocation on the outbreak of war, but by the close of the year normal conditions had been for the most part restored.

Coconuts.—The price of copra, which had fallen to Rs. 30 per candy for a few parcels on the declaration of war, rapidly recovered and rose to Rs. 77 at the close of 1914, with the prospect of the market still further improving. Some of the largest local buyers were German firms, whose partners were interned as prisoners of war, and whose businesses were put in the hands of controllers; there has, however, been no lack of markets, and there is every prospect of new and important markets being opened by the war.

Coconut Fibre.—This industry, especially on the seaboard on the Western and Southern Provinces, has been seriously affected by the war, as the market was chiefly continental.

Tea.—Owing to shortage of rainfall in the early months of the year, causing considerable deficiency in some districts, the estimate for the year was not quite realized, though the output was slightly in excess of that of 1913. The reduction of labour on rubber estates has had the effect of a more plentiful supply being available for tea plantations, which have been maintained in a state of good cultivation. The large demands from Russia have helped to keep up prices, which have been maintained at a high level.

Rubber.—The outlook was uncertain during the latter part of the year, owing to the continental market being cut off and exports to America prohibited. The fears of a serious slump were not realized, and though standard crêpe fell in December to 1s. 11½d.—the lowest price touched during the year—this created no uneasiness. Reduction in cost of production has more than kept pace with reduction in price, while the standard of cultivation has improved.

Cocoa.—The crop was below that of 1913, and the quality below average on account of the unusually wet weather of October, November, and December, necessitating curing indoors and causing a considerable increase of canker. After the outbreak of war prices fell considerably, and lower grades became almost unsaleable. The market speedily recovered, and the year ended with prices slightly higher than those at the end of 1913.

Tobacco.—This industry has also been seriously affected by the war, especially in the Northern Province. A Government expert is at work endeavouring to establish better types suitable for the English market.

Co-operative Credit Societies.—Progress has been made with the movement in some parts of the Island, in spite of a considerable amount of local apathy to be overcome. There are now 50 registered societies.

THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society has a roll of 1,889 members—922 local and 967 foreign.

The organ of the Society is the "Tropical Agriculturist."

The Society publishes two vernacular magazines, one in Sinhalese (Govikam Sangarawa) and the other in Tamil (Kamat Tholil Velakkam), and periodically issues special leaflets.

A stock of plants and seeds is available at cost price, to members only, at the beginning of each planting season.

Twelve instructors were employed during the year for service chiefly among native cultivators, and ten experimental and demonstration gardens were maintained in different parts of the Island.

SALE AND SETTLEMENT OF LAND.

The total extent of Crown land sold and settled (exclusive of settlements under the Waste Lands Ordinance) was 27,471 acres. An area of 87,275 acres was settled under the Waste Lands Ordinance by the Land Settlement Department, as against 99,500 acres in 1913.

The decrease is due to the fact that the activities of the Department were curtailed by a number of its officers and those of the Survey Department being employed on special duty after the outbreak of the war.

CATTLE.

Rinderpest.—Outbreaks occurred in all Provinces except the Southern. The steady decrease of the last three years continued. The totals for the last four years are :—

Year.				Number of Cases.
1911	..	..	..	15,195
1912	..	..	..	9,103
1913	..	..	..	4,848
1914	..	..	..	3,835

Of the cases during 1914, 1,182 recovered, 2,298 died naturally, 352 were shot, and 3 remained on hand at the close of the year.

Foot-and-mouth Disease.—During 1914 this disease prevailed all over the Island. Cases 8,664, recoveries 8,305, deaths 79, shot 5, balance ill at the close of the year 275.

SALT.

The manufacture and collection of salt is a Government monopoly, which is protected by the imposition of a duty on imported salt. Salt is sold to purchasers from all Government salt stores at Rs. 3 per cwt.; and the amount realized by its sale in 1914 was Rs. 1,582,178·89, as compared with Rs. 1,618,674·22 in 1913 and Rs. 1,522,542·73 in 1912.

The year was favourable for the production of salt, and a fairly large harvest was collected. No restriction was placed on the output, and the total yield for the Island amounted to 522,350 cwt., the best since 1910, when the total reached 759,396 cwt. The quantity secured in 1911 was 328,199 cwt., in 1912 it was 276,781 cwt., and in 1913 210,310 cwt.

PEARL FISHERY.

No pearl fishery was held in 1914, nor does there appear to be any prospect of a fishery in the near future. The last was held in 1907.

MINERAL SURVEY.

During the first five months of the year explorations of the high patana country and of the Kalu-ganga valley were carried on. Valuable information was obtained as to the source of the thoria minerals and corundum in the alluvial deposits of the Island, but no deposits of actual commercial value were discovered. The examination of the Kalu-ganga valley, with special reference to the occurrence of deep-lying alluvial deposits, was not completed before the end of the the dry season.

From June to December both officers of the Survey were on leave.

FORESTS.

Forest exploitation has been directed towards the elimination of over-mature timber, which retarded future generation of crops, and the utilization of timber on areas to be alienated for sale, lease, or irrigation purposes.

Public Departments have been supplied during 1914 with 1,257,860 cubic feet of timber approximately, the royalty value of which was Rs. 149,283, and cost Rs. 244,345.

Since 1906 the Forest Department has delivered 682,308 broad gauge and 223,969 narrow gauge sleepers to the Railway, the average cost of delivery to date being Rs. 3·64 per broad gauge and Re. 1·57 per narrow gauge sleeper. The Railway previously paid over Rs. 5 per broad gauge sleeper and Rs. 3·25 per narrow gauge sleeper for supplies of Jarrah, so that a considerable saving has been effected by the supply being obtained from the local forests, while the local sleepers are admittedly more durable than the imported ones.

MINING.

The plumbago industry suffered during 1914, first, from competition with Madagascar ; and secondly, from the war, owing to prohibition of export to the American markets. The value of plumbago exported in 1914 was approximately 42 lakhs, as compared with 90 lakhs in 1913.

The gemming industry, which is principally carried on in Sabaragamuwa, also suffered from the effects of the war.

MANUFACTURES.

There is nothing of note to record with regard to the manufactures of Ceylon in 1914. They are for the most part confined to the preparation of agricultural products.

Weaving, lace-making, silver and brass work, and ivory-carving give employment to a few families, who have carried on these arts for generations and supply only local demands.

IV.—TRADE.

The total value of Ceylon trade in the year 1914, though falling short of that of 1913, showed an increase over that of previous years, as will be seen from the following table :—

Aggregate Value of Imports and Exports for the last Ten Years (omitting Specie, but including Coal exported for the use of Steamers).

Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.	Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.
1905 ..	.. 2,240	1910 ..	.. 3,321
1906 ..	.. 2,363	1911 ..	.. 3,523
1907 ..	.. 2,631	1912 ..	.. 3,886
1908 ..	.. 2,648	1913 ..	.. 4,329
1909 ..	.. 2,853	1914 ..	.. 4,022

The Customs revenue collected in 1914 showed a decrease of Rs. 581,581 compared with 1913. Up to the end of August the revenue showed an advance of Rs. 913,673 over the corresponding period of 1913, when it declined rapidly during the months of September and October owing to the war, and more particularly to the presence of the "Emden" in the Indian Ocean and shortage of freight. There was a slight recovery during the last two months of the year, but it cannot be expected that the revenue will maintain its former level under present conditions.

The chief articles contributing to the revenue in 1914 were :—

	Ra.
Grain ..	.. 4,071,681
Spirits ..	.. 2,045,214
Kerosine Oil ..	.. 1,712,643
Sugar ..	.. 1,433,476
Cotton Goods ..	.. 499,917

The total trade of the Colony, excluding specie and coal exported for use of steamers, amounted to Rs. 390,681,395, a decrease of Rs. 28,378,645 below 1913.

The following table shows in detail the annual value of the trade of the Colony for the last ten years, excluding specie and value of coal exported for the use of steamers :—

Year.		Imports. Rs.		Exports. Rs.		Total. Rs.
1905	..	108,324,328	..	102,189,709	..	210,514,037
1906	..	112,789,269	..	109,711,644	..	222,500,913
1907	..	120,061,934	..	129,368,251	..	249,430,185
1908	..	122,420,393	..	128,962,156	..	251,382,549
1909	..	125,441,597	..	146,899,631	..	272,341,228
1910	..	150,195,648	..	166,471,607	..	316,667,255
1911	..	156,986,106	..	180,526,959	..	337,513,065
1912	..	175,322,979	..	198,954,902	..	374,277,881
1913	..	186,073,086	..	232,986,954	..	419,060,040
1914	..	172,317,549	..	218,363,846	..	390,681,395

The excess of exports over imports in recent years is due almost entirely to the influence of rubber. In 1906, the last year in which the value of imports exceeded the value of exports, the value of rubber exports was Rs. 1,527,539. In 1914 it was Rs. 57,220,155, exclusive of Straits and Indian rubber transhipped here to the value of 4½ millions of rupees.

Of the total exports in 1914, Rs. 210,711,403 represents the produce and manufacture of the Colony, and Rs. 7,652,443 represents British, foreign, and other colonial produce and manufacture.

The following table gives an analysis of the distribution of the trade of Ceylon among (1) the United Kingdom, (2) British Colonies, (3) Foreign Countries during the last three years, excluding imports of rubber, specie, and coal exported for the use of steamers :—

<i>Imports.</i>						
		1912.		1913.		1914.
From United Kingdom	..	29·6	..	30·1	..	29·5
From British Colonies	..	55·4	..	54·4	..	55
From Foreign Countries	..	15	..	15·5	..	15·5
<i>Exports.</i>						
To United Kingdom	..	49·1	..	45·3	..	52·9
To British Colonies	..	13·3	..	12·2	..	13·5
To Foreign Countries	..	37·6	..	42·5	..	33·6
<i>Total Trade.</i>						
With United Kingdom	..	40·1	..	38·7	..	42·8
With British Colonies	..	32·7	..	30·6	..	31·4
With Foreign Countries	..	27·2	..	30·7	..	25·8

These figures show a marked decrease in the percentage of the trade with foreign countries, due principally to Germany having dropped out of the market.

It is, however, significant that the proportion of imports from foreign countries has not been affected, probably owing to large German imports previous to the outbreak of war.

IMPORTS.

A comparison of the value of imports in 1913 and 1914 shows decreases under nearly all the important heads.

Confectionery.—The total imports were 1,052,870 lb., a decrease of 30 per cent.

Cement.—355,147 cwt. were imported in 1914, as against 439,426 cwt. in 1913. The United Kingdom sent in 1914 as much as in the previous year, but while 176,152 cwt. were imported from Germany in 1913, she was only able to supply 77,360 cwt. in 1914. Coal imports have decreased from 744,529 tons in 1913 to 598,957 tons in 1914. There was a drop in Indian and Japanese coal.

Cotton, manufactured and raw, shows a decrease from Rs. 14,013,451 in 1913 to Rs. 13,062,117 in 1914, due principally to smaller imports of dyed piece goods from British India. The value of imports from the United Kingdom shows a decrease of Rs. 117,370, from British Colonies of Rs. 983,894, but there was an increase of Rs. 149,930 from foreign countries.

Grain.—The quantity of rice cleared for home consumption was practically the same as that cleared during the previous year, the figures being: 1913, 7,530,723 cwt. ; 1914, 7,400,269 cwt.

Horses and Motor Cars.—The number of motor cars imported during the last six years is as follows :—

1909 ..	..	75	1912 ..	..	239
1910 ..	..	151	1913 ..	..	407
1911 ..	..	213	1914 ..	..	459

There was a corresponding decrease in the number of horses imported, the figures being as follows :—

Year.	No. of Horses imported.	Year.	No. of Horses imported.
1910 ..	.. 786	1913 ..	.. 246
1911 ..	.. 483	1914 ..	.. 332
1912 ..	.. 384		

(The large number imported in 1914 is only apparent, as 217 horses re-exported during the last four months of the year have to be deducted from the figures, the number re-exported under normal conditions being trifling.)

The increasing popularity of motoring is strikingly reflected in the imports of petrol. The figures since 1909 are—

Year.	Gallons.	Year.	Gallons.
1909 ..	.. 66,208	1912 ..	.. 216,714
1910 ..	.. 136,646	1913 ..	.. 383,442
1911 ..	.. 206,208	1914 ..	.. 701,082

Lamps.—The total number imported was 322,040, valued at Rs. 232,786. Austria and Germany together supplied about half the number, representing one-third of the total value. The average value entered at the Customs was highest for English lamps, and lowest for lamps made in Japan ; the latter consisting largely of small glass kitchen lamps costing 6 cents each.

Metals and Metalware.—The total value of imports was Rs. 7,837,819, a decrease of Rs. 3,207,367 below 1913. The most noticeable decreases were in hardware (10½ lakhs), galvanized iron (6½ lakhs), cast steel (5½ lakhs), and steelware (4½ lakhs). On the other hand, tea and pig lead alone showed a fair increase, due to activity in the tea trade.

Manure.—There was a decrease in manure imports from 80,600 tons in 1913 to 61,800 tons in 1914. The decrease under fish manure alone was 16,270 tons. The total imports in 1914 are the lowest since 1910. Supplies from Germany during the second half-year of 1914 fall short of the figures for the corresponding period of 1913 by 4,060 tons.

Spirits.—The total quantity cleared has fallen from 391,366 gallons in 1913 to 331,006 gallons in 1914. All kinds show decreases except brandy. The importation of arrack from India under the Governor's warrant has now ceased.

Sugar.—The imports of candy and refined sugar decreased from 527,378 cwt. in 1913 to 470,378 cwt. in the year under review. Java and Hong Kong, the two chief suppliers, sent 68 per cent. of the total, as against 87 per cent. in 1913. Mauritius took the third place in 1914 by supplying nearly 13 per cent. of the total.

Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes.—The amounts cleared during the last three years are—

Year.	Cigars. lb.	Cigarettes. lb.	Manufactured Tobacco. lb.	Total. lb.
1912 ..	21,842	282,158	53,276	357,276
1913 ..	22,081	318,955	48,258	389,294
1914 ..	22,803	329,230	39,149	391,182

The duty on tobacco was considerably enhanced with effect from December 18, 1914.

Ceylon's Chief Sources of Supply.

The following table shows the changes in the relative positions of the various countries which export goods to Ceylon. The percentages are percentages of value :—

	1912.		1913.		1914.	
	Per Cent.	Position.	Per Cent.	Position.	Per Cent.	
1. British India	45·81	1	40·83	1	35·93	
2. United Kingdom	28·76	2	29·19	2	28·58	
3. Straits Settlements	3·81	3	6·12	3	8·94	
4. Burma	2·37	5	3·82	4	6·11	
5. Germany	3·37	4	3·24	5	2·49	
6. Japan	2	6	2·21	6	1·71	
7. Java	1·86	7	1·75	7	1·5	
8. United States of America	1·11	10	1·28	8	1·33	
9. Maldiv Islands	1·29	8	1·19	9	1·21	
10. Siam	·48	18	·37	22	1·1	
11. Persia	·00	30	·01	29	·88	
12. Holland	·92	11	·72	14	·85	
13. France	·74	12	·79	12	·83	
14. Belgium	·7	13	·93	10	·8	
15. Natal	·12	27	·73	13	·79	
16. Hong Kong	1·27	9	·91	11	·77	
17. Victoria	·51	15	·44	20	·76	
18. Austria	·49	17	·51	19	·6	
19. China (excluding Hong Kong)	·17	25	·38	21	·53	
20. Italy	·37	22	·54	17	·46	
21. India (excluding British)	·31	23	·34	23	·46	
22. Borneo (excluding British)	·63	14	·51	18	·46	
23. Western Australia	·39	21	·29	24	·39	
24. South Australia	·49	16	·56	16	·36	
25. Mauritius	·02	28	·06	28	·34	
26. Sweden	·16	26	·19	26	·23	
27. New South Wales	·21	24	·17	27	·23	
28. Switzerland	·4	20	·26	25	·22	
29. Tasmania	·01	29	·00	30	·18	
30. Russia in Asia	·47	19	·66	15	·15	

The United Kingdom has maintained her position as against foreign competitors.

India's position at the head of the table is by virtue of her enormous supplies of rice and other food stuffs for the native population. Her setback during the year was largely owing to a reduction in her export of rice, which has been met by a corresponding increase in the supplies from the Straits Settlements and Burma.

The figures for the Straits Settlements are somewhat fictitious, as they include the value of rubber which is brought here and speedily re-shipped.

EXPORTS.

Ceylon's chief export products in order of value are as follows :—

		Lakhs of Rupees.				Lakhs of Rupees.	
		1913.	1914.			1913.	1914.
1.	Tea ..	877	897	9.	Cinnamon ..	24	16
2.	Rubber ..	612	572	10.	Citronella oil ..	16	13
3.	Copra ..	209	232	11.	Coir yarn ..	15	13
4.	Coconut oil ..	167	134	12.	Coir fibre ..	15	13
5.	Desiccated ..			13.	Tobacco ..	8	9
	coconuts ..	78	78	14.	Poonac ..	11	9
6.	Plumbago ..	90	42	15.	Coconuts ..	14	9
7.	Cocoa ..	30	20	16.	Cardamoms..	9	7
8.	Arecanuts ..	30	18				

Plumbago, arecanuts, coir fibre, coconuts, and cardamoms have receded, and desiccated coconuts, cocoa, coir yarn, and tobacco have advanced. Until 1911 the total value of the products of the coconut palm came next to that of tea, but thereafter rubber took the second place. Its value in 1914 was some 80 lakhs more than the value of the products of the palm for the same year.

Ceylon's best customers are given below :—

	1912.		1913.		1914.	
	Per Cent.		Per Cent.		Per Cent.	
United Kingdom ..	49·45	..	45·54	..	53·88	
United States of America ..	16·58	..	16·63	..	14·1	
Germany ..	7·08	..	10·11	..	5·48	
Russia in Europe ..	3·61	..	4·63	..	3·13	
Belgium ..	3·34	..	4·59	..	2·71	
New South Wales ..	2·28	..	2·24	..	2·56	
Victoria ..	2·11	..	2·14	..	2·46	
British India ..	2·86	..	2·39	..	2·07	
Canada ..	2·09	..	1·68	..	1·97	
New Zealand ..	1·24	..	1·11	..	1·57	
Russia in Asia ..	1·39	..	1·42	..	1·32	
China (excluding Hong Kong)	1·49	..	1·7	..	1·31	
Denmark ..	·65	..	·26	..	1·2	
Austria ..	·83	..	·66	..	·85	
Holland ..	·25	..	·25	..	·71	
France ..	·41	..	·38	..	·54	
South Australia ..	·33	..	·34	..	·42	
Norway ..	·45	..	·57	..	·35	
Egypt ..	·3	..	·25	..	·33	
Japan ..	·18	..	·37	..	·31	
Natal ..	·3	..	·28	..	·29	
Queensland ..	·26	..	·22	..	·28	
Cape Colony ..	·26	..	·23	..	·27	
Straits Settlements ..	·3	..	·32	..	·26	
Spain (excluding Gibraltar)	·35	..	·22	..	·25	
West Australia ..	·2	..	·18	..	·21	
Philippines ..	·21	..	·17	..	·17	
Hong Kong ..	·05	..	·06	..	·16	
Italy ..	·13	..	·18	..	·1	
India (excluding British) ..	·12	..	·09	..	·08	
Newfoundland ..	·14	..	·06	..	·08	
Roumania..	—	..	·04	..	·07	
Sweden ..	·11	..	·09	..	·07	
Turkey in Asia ..	·06	..	·07	..	·07	

A striking feature in the table is the general increase in the percentages taken by the United Kingdom and her Colonies. Their combined takings rose from Rs. 127,866,155 in 1913 to Rs. 140,509,097 in 1914, an increase of Rs. 12,642,942, or about 10 per cent.

Tea.

Tea exports were the largest on record, and showed an increase of nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds over the previous record (1909). The increase over 1913 amounted to 2 million pounds, while the average price was also higher than in

that year. The figures for the last seven years are here shown in millions of pounds :—

	Millions of lb.		Millions of lb.
1908 ..	180	1912 ..	192
1909 ..	192	1913 ..	191
1910 ..	182	1914 ..	193
1911 ..	186		

The following table shows the comparative distribution, 1913 and 1914 :—

Principal Markets for Ceylon Tea.

	1913. lb.	1914. lb.	Increase. lb.	Decrease. lb.
United Kingdom ..	111,646,640	115,888,689	4,242,049	—
British Colonies—				
British India ..	1,624,400	2,062,129	437,729	—
Canada ..	7,624,464	8,522,964	898,500	—
Cape Colony ..	832,729	975,502	142,773	—
Hong Kong ..	186,081	193,060	6,979	—
Malta ..	122,357	100,222	—	22,135
Mauritius ..	107,627	104,787	—	2,840
Natal ..	1,221,449	1,241,785	20,336	—
Newfoundland ..	310,620	349,744	39,124	—
New South Wales ..	9,823,133	10,797,256	974,123	—
New Zealand ..	5,153,207	6,679,761	1,526,554	—
Queensland ..	908,802	1,087,632	178,830	—
South Australia ..	1,560,867	1,782,070	221,203	—
Straits Settlements ..	504,200	461,680	—	42,520
Victoria ..	7,910,968	7,972,142	61,174	—
Western Australia ..	786,294	873,774	87,480	—
Other British Possessions	517,092	414,973	—	102,119
Total British Possessions	39,194,290	43,619,481	4,594,805	169,614
		Deduct Decrease ..	169,614	
		Nett Increase ..	4,425,191	
Foreign Countries—				
Austria ..	368,149	223,109	—	145,040
Belgium ..	104,711	49,877	—	54,834
China (excluding Hong Kong) ..	8,247,053	5,862,619	—	2,384,434
Egypt ..	578,264	1,232,202	653,938	—
France ..	752,918	928,118	175,200	—
Germany ..	631,677	399,071	—	232,606
Japan ..	56,135	66,039	9,904	—
Mozambique ..	119,225	201,446	82,221	—
Philippine Islands ..	61,182	65,181	3,999	—
Russia in Asia ..	6,930,732	5,983,696	—	947,036
Russia in Europe ..	13,304,651	7,925,794	—	5,378,857
South America ..	54,159	58,731	4,572	—
Sweden ..	123,676	80,042	—	43,634
Turkey in Asia ..	105,697	79,072	—	26,625
United States of America	8,896,386	10,667,008	1,770,622	—
Other Foreign Countries	333,869	253,417	—	80,452
Total Foreign Countries	40,668,484	34,075,422	2,700,456	9,293,518
		Deduct Increase ..	2,700,456	
		Nett Decrease ..	6,593,062	
Grand Total ..	191,509,414	193,583,592	2,074,178	—

The very large diminution in the supplies taken by Russia in Europe was due to the Russian Volunteer Fleet having suspended its service between Colombo and Odessa owing to the war. China and Russia in Asia also show considerable decreases, but the end of the year saw a very large demand for teas for Russia *via* Vladivostock; exports to nearly every British Colony and the United Kingdom were appreciably larger than in the previous year.

Products of the Coconut Palm.

The exports under this head were valued at 491 lakhs, as against 514 lakhs in 1913. Of the three principal products, copra and desiccated coconuts show large increases, while coconut oil shows a decrease. The figures for the last six years are as follows :—

Year.	Desiccated Coconuts. Cwt.	Copra. Cwt.	Coconut Oil. Cwt.
1909 ..	230,791 ..	784,522 ..	599,795
1910 ..	242,286 ..	758,711 ..	619,680
1911 ..	292,210 ..	821,814 ..	505,016
1912 ..	278,806 ..	614,089 ..	401,779
1913 ..	303,808 ..	1,117,292 ..	546,984
1914 ..	311,864 ..	1,411,947 ..	486,286

The average price for coconut oil was Rs. 27·54 per cwt. The price for copra varied considerably during the year, the average entered value per cwt. being about Rs. 3 lower than in 1913.

Rubber.

The export of Ceylon rubber has increased in amount but declined in value. 226,491 cwt. valued at 61½ million rupees were exported during 1913, but while the exports amounted to 306,724 cwt. during 1914, their value was only 57½ million rupees.

The distribution of rubber among the two largest buyers for the past two years is—

	1913. Per Cent.	1914. Per Cent.
United Kingdom ..	55·38 ..	62·9
United States of America ..	23·89 ..	23·19

The following statement shows the growth in the amount of rubber exported :—

	Cwt.		Cwt.
1910 ..	33,952	1913 ..	226,491
1911 ..	61,212	1914 ..	306,724
1912 ..	132,569		

Ten years ago the export for the year only amounted to 676 cwt.

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

All imports not specially rated or exempted by the tariff are liable to a Customs duty of 5½ per cent. *ad valorem*.

From December 18, 1914, all spirits other than perfumed and sweetened are liable to an import duty of Rs. 9·37 per proof gallon with a minimum rate of Rs. 8 per gallon, sweetened spirits to Rs. 9·37 per imperial gallon, unmanufactured tobacco, including hooka, to Re. 1·50 per lb., and cigars, cigarettes, and manufactured tobacco to Rs. 3 per lb.

V.—SHIPPING.

The total number of all vessels which entered the ports of the Island in 1914 was 4,401, with a tonnage of 9,338,535. This shows an increase of 118 vessels and a decrease of 765,192 tons as compared with 1913.

The following table gives the total number and nett tonnage of shipping entering all ports in Ceylon during the last three years :—

	1912.		1913.		1914.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
Merchant vessels (with cargo and in ballast) ..	2,430 ..	7,610,101 ..	2,464 ..	7,981,773 ..	2,523 ..	7,041,986
Merchant vessels (called to coal) ..	764 ..	2,032,397 ..	651 ..	1,816,376 ..	615 ..	1,728,558
Native sailing vessels ..	1,120 ..	96,989 ..	1,115 ..	106,958 ..	1,159 ..	103,541
Warships* ..	38 ..	177,110 ..	53 ..	198,620 ..	104 ..	464,450
Total ..	<u>4,352</u>	<u>9,916,597</u>	<u>4,283</u>	<u>10,103,727</u>	<u>4,401</u>	<u>9,338,535</u>

* Warships displacement tonnage.

Omitting warships and vessels calling to coal, the following table gives the comparative distribution according to nationality for 1913 and 1914 :—

		1913.		1914.	
		Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
1. {	British ..	.. 1,660 ..	.. 5,075,607 ..	.. 1,840 ..	.. 4,610,513
	British Colonial ..	.. 992 ..	.. 93,657 ..	.. 1,033 ..	.. 83,813
	Total British Ships ..	.. <u>2,652</u>	.. <u>5,169,264</u>	.. <u>2,873</u>	.. <u>4,694,326</u>
2.	German ..	.. 251 ..	.. 1,013,884 ..	.. 151 ..	.. 612,852
3.	French ..	.. 131 ..	.. 461,530 ..	.. 116 ..	.. 403,375
4.	Japanese ..	.. 100 ..	.. 416,620 ..	.. 105 ..	.. 435,657
5.	Dutch ..	.. 104 ..	.. 330,268 ..	.. 120 ..	.. 446,706
6.	Austrian ..	.. 110 ..	.. 326,428 ..	.. 77 ..	.. 225,966
7.	Russian ..	.. 62 ..	.. 168,086 ..	.. 38 ..	.. 98,600
8.	Spanish ..	.. 26 ..	.. 64,819 ..	.. 26 ..	.. 63,297
9.	Italian ..	.. 17 ..	.. 48,003 ..	.. 19 ..	.. 52,349
10.	Danish ..	.. 16 ..	.. 38,328 ..	.. 16 ..	.. 45,640
11.	Norwegian ..	.. 23 ..	.. 36,084 ..	.. 25 ..	.. 31,440
12.	Maldivian ..	.. 123 ..	.. 13,301 ..	.. 108 ..	.. 13,428
13.	Siameese ..	.. 5 ..	.. 8,139 ..	.. 1 ..	.. 2,228
14.	Swedish ..	.. 1 ..	.. 3,267 ..	.. 3 ..	.. 7,312
15.	Greek ..	.. — ..	.. — ..	.. 4 ..	.. 12,351
	Total Foreign Ships ..	.. <u>969</u>	.. <u>2,928,757</u>	.. <u>809</u>	.. <u>2,451,201</u>

The predominance of British shipping continues, but the decrease in tonnage of 474,938 tons is due to the war.

The falling off in German, Austrian, Russian, and French shipping is traceable to the same cause.

There has been a slight increase in the number of Dutch and Japanese vessels.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-four Ordinances were passed during the year 1914. The only Ordinances of special interest are a group connected with the outbreak of the present war. These Ordinances were as follows:—

- (a) "*The Effect of War Ordinance, No. 18 of 1914*," declared that all questions relating to the effect of war upon the legal rights and liabilities should be determined in accordance with law by which such questions would for the time being be determined in England.
- (b) "*The Necessaries of War Exportation Ordinance, No. 19 of 1914*," enlarged to the fullest possible extent the power of the Governor to prohibit the exportation of necessaries of war and generally of any articles the exportation of which would be liable to increase the resources of the King's enemies or to restrict the supplies of his forces and subjects.
- (c) "*The Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, No. 20 of 1914*," was passed to enforce the Trading with the Enemy Proclamation issued in the United Kingdom.
- (d) "*The Tea Cess Ordinance, No. 21 of 1914*," authorized the "Thirty Committee" to make patriotic gifts to the Prince of Wales's War Fund and the Russian troops.
- (e) "*The Volunteer Amendment (Town Guards) Ordinance, No. 22 of 1914*," put the Colombo Town Guard on a legal footing, and provided for the organization of similar town guards elsewhere.

About the time of the enactment of these Ordinances, two other Ordinances sanctioned before the outbreak of the war were opportunely passed, namely, "*The Wireless Ceylon Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 15 of 1914*," which increased the Government control of wireless telegraphy, and "*The Aerial Navigation Ordinance, No. 24 of 1914*," which made the legislation of the Colony uniform with that of the mother country.

Another group of Ordinances to which attention may be called consists of Ordinances making the necessary adjustment in regard to cooly camps and Customs for the purpose of the new railway connection with India *via* Talaimannar. They are "*The Indian Coolies (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 3 of 1914*," and "*The Ceylon Railways (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 4 of 1914*." Contemporaneously with these was passed "*The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 5 of 1914*," which cleared up various doubts and regularized the various practices already in existence in the administration of the Customs of the Colony.

Two Ordinances, namely, "*The Excise (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 25 of 1914*," and "*The Ceylon Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 26 of 1914*," while dealing with other matters, were passed mainly with a view to give effect to the new and the more stringent policy adopted with regard to the importation and use of cocaine.

The only other Ordinance of any interest was "*The Habitual Criminals and Licensed Convicts Ordinance, No. 32 of 1914*," which introduced two new elements into the legislation on the subject, namely:—

- (a) A new scheme for the recording and improving of previous convictions of habitual criminals by means of finger prints;
- (b) A scheme of preventive detention following the lines of that recently introduced into the United Kingdom.

VII.—EDUCATION.

It is difficult to draw a clear line between elementary and secondary education in Ceylon. The English-speaking community form scarcely one per cent. of the total population, so that most of the schools where English is taught are teaching a language which is foreign to the large majority of their pupils.

The vernacular schools constitute the real elementary education of the country.

VERNACULAR EDUCATION.

In 1914 there were 794 Government vernacular schools, with an attendance of 82,092 boys and 25,273 girls. There were also 1,807 aided schools, with an attendance of 126,554 boys and 72,640 girls.

The total sum expended by Government on vernacular education in 1914 was approximately Rs. 1,217,888, of which, roughly speaking, Rs. 551,458 was spent on Government schools and Rs. 666,430 on aided schools.

The Rural Schools Ordinance is now in force in all districts of the Island except Jaffna.

At the end of 1914 there were 255 aided estate schools, and returns from 576 estates showed that of a total of 15,882 children of school-going age 7,703 were attending estate schools. Of these, 6,423 were boys and 1,280 girls.

A school for the deaf and blind has been carried on since 1912, and receives an annual grant from Government of Rs. 3,000.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

In 1914 there were 247 English and Anglo-vernacular schools attended by 45,139 pupils, of whom 35,915 were boys and 9,224 girls.

In many of the schools candidates are prepared for the Senior and Junior Cambridge Local Examinations. In 1913 the candidates who presented themselves and the results obtained were—

			Candidates.		Honours.		Passed.
Senior	..	..	693	..	53	..	337
Junior	..	..	939	..	44	..	619

The results of the London University Examinations in 1914 showed that 63 candidates from Ceylon presented themselves for the Matriculation Examination, 29 of whom passed. In addition, 8 candidates passed the Intermediate Examination in Arts, 13 passed the Intermediate Examination in Science, 2 the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, 2 the First Examination in Medical Degrees, and 1 the Bachelor of Laws.

The encouragement offered by Government takes the form either of grants or scholarships. In the majority of the aided English schools grants are paid on the results of examinations in the schedules of the Code, but in some of the more advanced schools the greater part of the grant is paid on the average attendance. Considerably more than Rs. 250,000 was expended in grants to English schools in 1914.

Two Government scholarships are offered annually, one on the results of the Intermediate Examination in Arts and the other on the results of the Intermediate Examination in Science. These scholarships are tenable for three years, and are of the value of £200 each per annum, with free passage to England and a £50 outfit allowance. The holders may join any British University, or study at any recognized engineering institution in the United Kingdom.

TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

The Government Training College consists of three departments : English, Sinhalese men, and Sinhalese women. The object is to supply trained teachers for aided English schools and Government vernacular schools. At the beginning of 1914 the number of students in training was English 34, Sinhalese men 55, Sinhalese women 20.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

There are no Government industrial schools, but carpentry schools are attached to five Government schools in the Kandyan Provinces. In 1914 the aided industrial schools, which are 39 in number, received grants amounting to over Rs. 22,000. The trades taught were carpentry, dressmaking, printing, shoemaking, tailoring, lace-making, embroidery, gardening, and masonry.

The most important of these schools is the Maggona Certified Industrial School, which is utilized by Government as a reformatory for youthful offenders, and is carried on by the Roman Catholic Mission. This institution has an estate of some 300 acres and excellent buildings, towards the cost of which Government has contributed. Over 200 youthful offenders are at present receiving instruction in this school, and an allowance is paid by Government for the maintenance of each offender.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION.

An attempt has been made to supply elementary agricultural instruction by a scheme for school gardens conducted in connection with Government schools. The gardens are under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture ; there is a Superintendent of School Gardens, who is assisted by three inspectors. 286 school gardens attached to Government schools are worked under this scheme, and 53 grant-in-aid schools receive garden grants. Seeds and implements are supplied by the Department of Agriculture, and prizes are offered for competition.

VIII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

There are 80 Government hospitals equipped with modern hospital furniture and surgical appliances ; the number of beds in the institutions ranges from 12 to 647 ; in addition to the hospitals, there are 427 Government dispensaries and 366 estate dispensaries. The estate dispensaries are provided by the owners of the estates, and receive drugs free from Government up to a value of 50 cents per labourer per annum.

Three hospitals were completed and opened during the year, at Ingiriya, Undugoda, and Tissamaharama, respectively, and five others are in course of construction, at Pimbura near Agalawatta, Alutnuwara, Passara, Kitulgala, and Pelmadulla.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

A general rebuilding scheme is in contemplation for the improvement of the Medical College. The full course of training for medical students is five years ; a diploma in medicine, surgery, and midwifery (which can be registered in the United Kingdom) is granted to successful medical students.

In Colombo there are a Bacteriological Institute, a General Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, an Ophthalmic Hospital, a Lying-in Home, a hospital for women and children, and one for infectious diseases ; there is an establishment where calf vaccine is manufactured, and there are special dispensaries at Kandy and Galle for the treatment of eye diseases.

ASYLUMS.

The Lunatic Asylum contains 826 inmates. As there is very considerable overcrowding in the present building, it is proposed to build a new institution a few miles out of Colombo, with accommodation for 1,000 patients, and for the necessary staff, officers, and servants. The number of patients treated in the asylum during 1914 was 1,068 (685 males and 383 females). The number discharged was 166 (males 128 and females 38), and the number of deaths was 76 (males 42 and females 34). In the House of Observation 297 persons were treated, of whom 276 were discharged or admitted to the Asylum, 5 cases died, and 16 remained at the end of the period.

The Leper Asylum is situated 6 miles from Colombo; it contained 426 patients at the end of the period. The total treated during 1914 numbered 557. A small establishment for lepers exists at Kalmunai, in the Eastern Province, and has accommodation for 30; it is proposed to establish a leper colony at Mantivu in the same Province.

A Home for Incurables (containing 80 beds) is administered by a Committee of Government officials and representatives of the public.

IX.—CRIME.

POLICE.

The authorized strength of the Police on December 31, 1914, was 1 Inspector-General, 8 Superintendents, 15 Assistant Superintendents, 35 Inspectors, 84 Sub-Inspectors, 20 Station House Officers, 290 Sergeants, 2,127 Constables.

In addition, the strength of the European Police was 1 Inspector, 2 Sub-Inspectors, 7 2nd Class Sergeants, 21 3rd Class Sergeants.

The cost of the Force was Rs. 1,578,500 approximately.

CRIME STATISTICS.

The following table shows the more important forms of serious crime in the year under review and in the previous year :—

	1913.	1914.
Murder	172	209
Grievous hurt	593	613
Causing hurt by dangerous weapons	1,002	1,218
Burglary	1,203	1,609
Theft of cattle and prædial produce	666	796

More than half the murders committed were stabbing cases, and a large majority followed on sudden and unpremeditated quarrels. In all but 16 out of 209 cases the offenders were traced. In 11 cases the accused died or proved to be insane, and in 113 cases the accused were convicted. It can be claimed, therefore, that the number of murders in which the offender was undetected is small in proportion to the number committed.

It will be seen that there was an increase in the number of cases of crime committed in the year under review as compared with the previous year. Examination of the criminal returns shows that this increase occurred entirely in the second half of the year. In an ordinary year the majority of the cases of crime occur in the first rather than in the second half of the year. This has always been attributed to the fact that the Sinhalese New Year, invariably an occasion for an outbreak of crime against property, falls within the first half of the year. However, in 1914 far the greater proportion of cases occurred in the last six months of the year.

The unusual increase in crime between July and December may be attributed to the war. Following on the outbreak of war in August, although there were

no cases of complete destitution, there was an undoubted increase in the cost of luxuries and certain articles in common use. Moreover, the closing of plumbago pits, the more economical working of factories, mills, and estates with smaller labour forces, added to the number of persons not regularly employed. In one Province, in which there had been a great increase in crime in the months of September, October, and November, a noticeable decrease in burglary coincided with the re-employment of labour early in December, when conditions became more favourable.

There were no cases of riot, looting, or serious disorder. Throughout the Colony order was maintained, and the crime which occurred is not out of proportion to the returns of previous years in view of the exceptional conditions prevailing during the war.

PRISONS.

There was an increase of 918 in the total number of admissions of convicted prisoners of Ceylon during the year 1914: 1913, 9,303; 1914, 10,221.

The convictions for murder and manslaughter were 113, as against 92 in 1913. Fifty-four criminals were sentenced to be hanged, and in 41 cases the sentence was carried out. Of these, 35 were Sinhalese, 5 Tamils, and 1 Moor. Eleven convicts were deported to the Andamans for life.

There were 5 escapes during the year and 6 recaptures, inclusive of 1 prisoner who escaped prior to January, 1914.

The total number of deaths in jail was 75, as against 105 in 1913 and 167 in 1912—a marked improvement. The death-rate per 1,000 of the prisons population was 4·38, as against 6·77 in 1913 and 10·32 in 1912. The daily average sick was 80·51, as against 92·93 in 1913 and 115·09 in 1912.

The portable prison at Mankulam was closed in July and has been moved to Mahara, where it will be erected, thus affording additional accommodation for prisoners to be employed for the Harbour Works and Government Factory.

X.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of Ceylon on December 31, 1914, was about 4,260,700, a decrease of nearly 1,400 on that of the previous year. The decrease was due to an excess of about 26,700 departures over arrivals of Indian coolies, a number which exceeded the natural increase by births over deaths.

The population comprised the various nationalities shown below :—

Nationality.	Number.	Percentage of Total Population.
Sinhalese	2,798,800 ..	65·7
Tamils (indigenous)	613,500 ..	14·4
Tamils (immigrants and their descendants)	512,800 ..	12·0
Moors	269,800 ..	6·3
Burghers	27,700 ..	·7
Malays	13,400 ..	·3
Europeans	7,800 ..	·2
Others	16,900 ..	·4

There is an excess of males over females in the population, viz., 113 males to 100 females, as contrasted with England and Wales, where the proportion is 94 males to 100 females.

BIRTHS.

The birth-rate in Ceylon for 1914 was 38·1 per mille, and was slightly above the average (37·5) for the previous decade, but below the rate in the preceding year (38·6). The proportion of births to population in Ceylon is similar to that

prevailing in other tropical countries, but considerably higher than the rate (about 26) in England and Wales. It has shown no marked tendency in the last sixteen years either to rise or to fall. There were 104 male to every 100 female births, the same as the English rate.

DEATHS.

The death-rate for the whole Island was 32·2, and was higher than the average (30·2) for the previous decade and the rate (28·4) in the preceding year. Since 1898, when improved registration began, the death-rate, with slight fluctuations, has had a tendency to rise. The average death-rate of Ceylon is generally much lower than that prevailing in the Straits Settlements; it is almost identical with the rates which obtain in Bombay Presidency, Bengal, and British Guiana; but the mortality exceeds that of Madras and Jamaica, whilst it is more than double the average annual mortality in England and Wales, and almost three times the rate in the Australian Commonwealth and New Zealand.

The tea, rubber, and cocoa estates at the end of the year 1914 contained a population of about 579,300, mostly of Tamil immigrants from Southern India. The estate death-rate rose to 42·85 per mille from an average of 33·2, and was as high as 79·2 and 74·5 in Ratnapura and Kurunegala estates respectively.

The urban death-rate was 30·5 per mille, as against an average of 29·3 for the preceding five years. The rate rose from 8·9 in Nuwara Eliya town to 64·8 in Anuradhapura and 64·4 in Mullaittivu. But the mortality rate of Nuwara Eliya is calculated, not on the average population of the town, which is not known, but on the population estimated on a census taken at the height of the Nuwara Eliya season, and this recorded rate is obviously flattering to the sanatorium of Ceylon. Excluding Nuwara Eliya, the healthiest town, as in the previous year, was Kegalla, with a death-rate of 16·1.

Infantile Mortality.

The infantile mortality was 213 per 1,000 registered births compared with an average of 191 and an average rate in England and Wales of 121 to 1,000 births registered. In the last sixteen years the infantile mortality has shown a tendency to rise.

The estate infantile mortality was 246 per 1,000, as in the previous year, and the urban rate was 255, as against 246 in the previous year.

Causes of Death.

The proportion of deaths in the general community from certain principal causes to a million of the population was as follows:—Diarrhoea, 3,511; infantile convulsions, 3,438; bronchitis and pneumonia, 1,262; dysentery, 1,112; phthisis, 994, and other forms of tuberculosis, 101; malaria and malarial cachexia, 645; anchylostomiasis, 620; premature birth and congenital defects, 365; cancer, 99; enteric fever, 70; smallpox, 24; and cholera, 11.

The total number of deaths from plague registered in the Island during the year was 401, of which 378 were within the Municipal limits of Colombo and 23 elsewhere. This number corresponded to a rate of 94 per million persons living in the Island.

Accidental drowning accounted for 101 deaths per million, falls from trees for 86, and snake-bite for 56.

209 deaths (including 2 of Europeans) resulted from suicide, and corresponded to a rate of 49 per million persons living. The rate in England and Wales in 1912 was 98 per million.

Homicide also accounted for 209 deaths, corresponding to a rate of 49 per million—more than five times the rate prevailing in England and Wales.

CLIMATE.

Rainfall.—The highest annual rainfall registered was at St. Martin's estate, Rangalla, which had a total of 178·93 inches and 174 days on which rain fell. The lowest annual rainfall was at Mankulam, which had a total of less than half its average, i.e., 26·01 inches in 90 days. The stations with the highest and lowest average annual rainfall are, respectively, Padupola with 220·73 inches in 202 days, and Marichchikaddi with 33·06 inches in 57 days. The longest drought occurred at Mantota, lasting for 143 days, May 9 to September 28. The longest wet period occurred at Duckwari estate, Rangalla, lasting for 62 days, May 27 to July 27.

The annual rainfall at Colombo (Cinnamon Gardens) was 74·26 inches in 181 days. At Kandy 78·90 inches were registered in 197 days, while the annual rainfall at Nuwara Eliya was 83·95 inches in 220 days. On the whole, the annual rainfall was above normal in the north and east, and slightly below it elsewhere.

Temperature.—The highest average for the year was Trincomalee 83·8° F., and the lowest Nuwara Eliya 60·4° F. At Colombo and Kandy the averages were 81·1° F. and 76·7° F. respectively.

The highest shade temperature recorded during the year was 101·2° F. at Anuradhapura on September 17. The highest on record is 103·7° F. at Trincomalee on May 12, 1890. The highest shade temperature at Colombo in 1914 was 93·1° F. on February 10.

The mean daily range, i.e., difference between the average maximum and average minimum, was highest at Nuwara Eliya (19·1° F.), and lowest at Galle (9·4° F.). At Colombo and Kandy it was 12·8° F. and 14·2° F. respectively. The absolute range, i.e., difference between actual highest and lowest readings, for the year was maximum at Nuwara Eliya (51·2° F.), and minimum at Galle (21·1° F.).

XI.—POSTAL SERVICE.

Five new post offices and 3 new receiving offices were opened during 1914. The total number of post offices now is 500, of which 168 are also telegraph offices.

The number of articles, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the post in 1914 is estimated at 49 millions, as against 46 millions in 1913. The number of parcels dealt with was 705,659, an increase of 28,085 over the previous year. Of these, 10,313 were despatched to the United Kingdom and 24,885 received from the United Kingdom.

The increase in telegrams is shown by the following figures :—

	1913.	1914.
Inland	916,578	1,028,846
Indian	227,830	236,613
Other countries	101,803	114,736

The increase is not so large as it would have been in normal circumstances, the war causing a considerable falling off in telegrams in the closing months of the year.

Postal Improvements.—On the opening of the Indo-Ceylon Railway from March 1 the letter mails for India were despatched by this route, and advantage taken of the night service for the despatch of mails for the Northern and North-Central Provinces. A railway travelling post office for sorting correspondence to and from India and to expedite the disposal of the northern mails is attached

to the Indo-Ceylon train between Colombo and Anuradhapura. The British India steamer daily service between Colombo and Tuticorin was suspended in August, and all mails are now despatched by the inland route.

Motor mail services replaced the existing horse and coach services on Matara-Deniyaya (52 miles) and Matale-Dambulla (29 miles) lines.

The inland rules relating to registered newspapers were extended to include newspapers and periodicals registered in the United Kingdom or British Colonies and re-posted in Ceylon for inland delivery.

In September the British Post Office notified the total suspension of postal relations with Germany, the German Colonies, and Austria-Hungary, and letters, parcels, &c., for these countries were not accepted for onward transmission. Special arrangements were subsequently made by the British Post Office for the interchange of correspondence of prisoners of war.

Telegrams.—In May a reduction was made in the rates for telegrams to Europe, West Africa *via* Europe, and America; and a scheme for week-end telegrams at reduced rates providing for the transmission of telegrams on Saturday night to be delivered at destination on Tuesday morning was introduced between Ceylon and the United Kingdom, Germany, South and Central Africa. This service was subsequently extended to Australia and New Zealand.

Since the outbreak of the war the service of week-end telegrams has been temporarily suspended.

A Baudot duplex system of telegraph working between Colombo and Madras was successfully inaugurated by an expert lent by the British Post Office.

Telephones.—Government telephone exchanges were opened at Peradeniya and Matara, bringing the total of Government exchanges up to nine.

Increased use of the telephone system has been made for transmitting telegrams.

The number of subscribers to the Colombo exchange rose from 992 to 1,215, and the total number of telephones maintained from 1,803 to 2,172.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department has increased from Rs. 3,437,862 in 1896 to Rs. 14,667,967 in 1914, the latter figure showing an increase of Rs. 6,451,624 over 1913. The average annual expenditure during the past nineteen years is Rs. 5,709,655.

The total length of roads maintained by the Public Works Department during the year was 3,946 miles, of which 3,646 miles are cart roads and 300 miles are bridle roads.

Among the more important works completed or in course of construction may be mentioned the following :—Office for the Master Attendant, Colombo; warehouses on old coaling grounds; Colombo Customs quay wall and jetties; bungalows for Government officers stationed in Colombo; residence for Colonial Secretary, Nuwara Eliya; Government and Police buildings, Talaimannar; and the Leper Asylum, Eastern Province.

Progress was also made with the Colombo Lake Development Scheme.

The necessity for retrenchment in consequence of the war led to the postponement in the latter part of the year of a number of projected works.

IRRIGATION.

The total expenditure of the Irrigation Department for the fifteen months of the financial period was Rs. 1,119,380.

Work during the year was continued on Karachchi, Unnichchai, Pattipolai-aar, Kirinde-oya right bank, and Tabbowa schemes. The Nachchaduwa scheme was completed.

A large amount of survey work under the Pattipolai-aar work was done, and 1,000 acres blocked out for sale under Karachchi scheme.

The area irrigated and paying rate under the Crown works is 123,060 acres : in addition, there is a large area irrigated free. A considerable area of irrigable land is ready for development.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

Open Line.

The total length of line open for traffic on September 30, 1914, was 672 miles, the increase being due to the opening of the new line to Talaimannar on March 1, 1914.

The revenue derived amounts to Rs. 16,535,291, or an increase of Rs. 781,721 as compared with the previous financial year.

In passenger traffic 1,074,131 passengers and in goods traffic 14,999 tons were conveyed in excess of last year. The principal increases in goods traffic are rubber 5,824 tons, coconut produce 4, 873 tons, tea and rubber packing 2,829 tons, liquid fuel 1,530 tons, and other goods 4,976 tons.

The working expenses for the year amount to Rs. 9,616,780, including a sum of Rs. 511,831 expended on maintenance works.

The result of the year's working is as follows :—

				Rs.
Receipts	..	..	..	16,535,291
Working expenses	..	..	..	9,616,780
Balance	..	..	..	6,918,511

Of this balance, a sum of Rs. 1,913,985 was expended on additional accommodation and improvements. A further sum of Rs. 2,868,568 was also spent on new works and rolling stock, 34 engines and 67 passenger and goods vehicles being put into traffic on the broad and narrow gauge lines during the year.

The capital cost, including additional accommodation and improvements to September 30, 1914, amounts to Rs. 118,963,006, and capital outstanding on Railway loans Rs. 56,336,656.

Railway Extensions.

In addition to the completion of the Talaimannar line, to which reference has already been made, steady progress was made during the year with the extensions to Chilaw, Pelmadulla, and Badulla, and the Colombo Stations Extension, and with the duplication of the line from Ragama to Bambukkana.

COLOMBO DRAINAGE WORKS.

The drainage of Colombo has been undertaken by Government at the request of the Municipal Council, the necessary funds being advanced by Government on loan, while further assistance is being given by the contribution of a part of the expenditure as a free grant.

The scheme provides for a complete system of sewers and rain-water drains throughout the city, and for the disposal of the sewage by bacterial treatment upon modern lines.

At the end of 1914 111 miles of sewers and rain-water drains had been laid, and 4 pumping stations brought into regular operation.

The City Sanitation Engineer's report for December showed that 24 public water-carriage latrines had been constructed and put into use, and that 816 other premises had been drained.

XIII.—COLOMBO PORT COMMISSION.

During the year 1914 the organization of the new Port Department was completed. Practically the whole of the maintenance work in connection with the harbour has been transferred from other departments and is now in the hands of the Port Department.

Considerable progress was made with the sanctioned Port Improvement Works. In the Harbour Works area (between the Patent Slip and the Block Loading Jetty) 714 feet of new quay walling was completed, and paved yard with an area of 9,200 sq. ft. is now available. The Public Works Department has made further progress with the new Customs warehouses on the old coaling grounds, and six warehouses and a covered roadway of a total area of 52,650 sq. ft., with the necessary quay wall and jetties, have been practically completed. The work on the eastern portion of the old coaling grounds has been somewhat retarded, owing to the erection of temporary sheds for the storage of rice in connection with measures taken on the outbreak of plague in the city of Colombo in January. The extension of the export warehouses in the old Customs premises west of the passenger jetty was completed in May. Further progress has also been made with the scheme for connecting the Colombo lake with the harbour by means of a canal and locks. Owing to the reduction of expenditure consequent on the war the prosecution of the less important works was postponed during the latter portion of the year.

The Port Commission has had under consideration the question of the provision of complete facilities for the discharge, bunkering, and storage of liquid fuel and other petroleum products at Colombo, and expert advice on the subject is being obtained from England.

The "Sir John Coode" was engaged during the year in deepening the harbour to a depth of 33 feet. The new dredger "Sir William Matthews," the cost of which is £72,250, arrived at Colombo in August, and a certificate of delivery of the vessel, which is capable of dredging to a depth of 45 feet, was given to the contractors in October. The port is now fully equipped to keep pace with the dredging work being carried on in the Suez Canal for the passage of vessels of greater draught.

The protection of the sea face of the South-west Breakwater by the deposit of a wave breaker of 30-ton blocks on the outer side of the structure was completed in March.

The tonnage of vessels visiting Colombo harbour in 1914 amounted to 1,657,199. The receipts from the Graving Dock were Rs. 30,195·11, and from the Patent Slip Rs. 16,508.

The expenditure on Harbour Works (apart from those being carried out by the Public Works Department) during 1914 amounted to Rs. 2,047,492·01; the total expenditure since the commencement of the South-west Breakwater in 1873, including maintenance charges, is therefore Rs. 47,252,032·01. The sum expended by the Public Works Department in the construction of new warehouse and wharf accommodation during the year was Rs. 895,199·53, the total expenditure for the year thus amounting to Rs. 2,942,691·54.

XIV.—EXCISE.

The year under review started with an increased staff, and there has been marked progress in the operations of the Department, particularly in the direction of detection and suppression of illicit practices and regulation and supervision of licensed places.

No change of any striking nature was introduced during the year, and the policy inaugurated in the previous year was pursued. The only change in the Legislature dealing with Excise was the passing of Ordinance No. 25 of 1914 to amend the principal Ordinance No. 8 of 1912.

The chief amendment was the inclusion of "cocaine" in the sections relating to bhang, ganja, &c., in the principal Ordinance. Soon after the passing of the Ordinance some notifications regulating the importation, possession, and sale of cocaine were published.

In December, 1914, the rate of Customs duty leviable under Ordinance No. 5 of 1914 on all foreign spirits imported into Ceylon was raised from Rs. 7 per proof gallon with a minimum of Rs. 6 (Rs. 8 for unenumerated spirits) to Rs. 9·37 per proof gallon with a minimum of Rs. 8.

As experience was acquired the general conditions applicable to all Excise licenses and the sale conditions of arrack and toddy rents were duly revised, with slight alterations in minor details, for the financial year October, 1914, to September, 1915.

The arrack and toddy rents for the same period were sold in May and June, and satisfactory prices were secured, resulting in an aggregate increase of Rs. 1,806,733 over the figures for the previous financial year in terms of twelve months. Thus, the increase in the arrack rents was 24·55 and that in the toddy rents was 46·9 per cent. over the preceding period.

The fees on those foreign liquor licenses which are assessed on a system of gallonage or business done were substantially increased in all the districts of the Island with due regard to the extent of business done, as calculated on the statistics carefully collected and checked by the Department. The revenue from this source for the financial year 1914–15 shows a marked increase of 29 per cent. over the revenue for the previous financial year in terms of twelve months, and of 93 per cent. over the revenue derived in 1911–12 before the present Ordinance was introduced.

The experimental distillery was worked from May 1 to December 31, and information was collected in regard to distillation, fermentation, cost, and other material points.

There were 256 private distilleries licensed during 1914. The rules which were passed and published in May, 1913, were enforced as far as practicable, with the result that much improvement is noticeable in the condition and working of the distilleries.

Considerable energy was exercised by the subordinate officers of the Department in the detection and suppression of illicit practices. Some 2,249 cases of offences against the Excise law were decided in the courts during 1914, resulting in fines amounting to Rs. 144,950, exclusive of other punishments, such as imprisonment, &c., and those settled departmentally by way of composition fees. The fines imposed by courts in 1913 were Rs. 62,603·75.

A departmental Excise Manual, containing the Excise law and the regulations made thereunder, with references to the leading cases on the subject, departmental instructions for the guidance of officers, &c., was printed and published during the year.

March 29, 1915.

M. A. YOUNG,
Third Assistant 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.
818	Malta	1913-1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	"
820	Jamaica	"
821	Northern Nigeria.. .. .	1913
822	Grenada	"
823	Zanzibar	"
824	Barbados	1913-1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	"
827	British Honduras	"
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913-1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
830	Swaziland	"
831	Uganda	"
832	Nyasaland	"
833	British Guiana	"
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913-1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"
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

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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