

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 904.

CEYLON.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 855.)

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



PRINTED IN CEYLON.

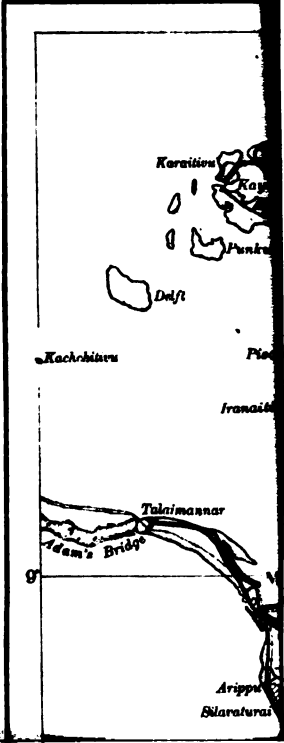
To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, 29, BREAMS BUILDINGS FETTER LANE, E.C.
and 28, ABINGDON STREET, S.W., and 54, ST. MARY STREET, CARDIFF : or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (SCOTTISH BRANCH),
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH ; or
E. PONSONBY, LIMITED, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN ;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LIMITED, LONDON, W.C.

1916.

[Cd. 8172-30.] *Price 4d.*

CONTENTS.

Map of Ceylon,		PAGE
I.—General .. .. .	..	1
II.—Financial .. .. .	..	4
III.—Agriculture and Industries ..	..	5
IV.—Trade .. .. .	..	9
V.—Shipping .. .. .	..	16
VI.—Legislation .. .. .	..	18
VII.—Education .. .. .	..	18
VIII.—Government Institutions ..	..	20
IX.—Crime .. .. .	..	21
X.—Vital Statistics .. .. .	..	24
XI.—Postal Service .. .. .	..	28
XII.—Public Works .. .. .	..	29
XIII.—Excise .. .. .	..	31



Digitized by Google

REPORT ON THE CEYLON BLUE BOOK FOR 1915.

I.—GENERAL.

THE Colony was administered by Sir Robert Chalmers, K.C.B., until December 4, when he left to resume duties at the Treasury. After this date Mr. R. E. Stubbs, C.M.G., became Officer Administering the Government.

Sir Allan Perry, Principal Civil Medical Officer, and Mr. R. S. Templeton, Surveyor-General, retired from the Public Service during the year.

Mr. J. Thomson Broom and Mr. A. Wood Renton, Chief Justice, received the honour of Knighthood, and the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George was conferred on Mr. F. Bowes, Principal Collector of Customs.

The deaths of the following are recorded with regret :—Mr. A. Rutherford, Entomologist; Captain A. N. Galbraith, of the Ceylon Civil Service (while serving with the Ceylon Contingent in Egypt); Mr. J. van Langenberg, K.C., Solicitor-General; Mr. R. A. Brohier, retired Assistant Auditor-General; Mr. J. C. W. Pereira, K.C., Senior Puisne Justice; Sir Hector van Cuylenberg, Burgher Member of the Legislative Council; Sir William Mitchell, for many years formerly a Member of the same Council; and Mr. James Conroy, of the Ceylon Civil Service (while on leave in England).

On March 1 occurred the centenary of British rule over the whole of Ceylon. Sir Robert Chalmers presented a *pintaliya*, or drinking fountain, to the people of Ceylon in commemoration of the occasion.

The general condition of the Island has been prosperous in 1915. In most parts of the country the people have been only slightly, or not at all, affected by the war. The food supply has been plentiful, and prices show only a moderate increase over those prevailing before the outbreak of war. Imported luxuries and frozen meat have, however, risen considerably in price. As the stocks of goods of continental manufacture have been exhausted, there has been a scarcity in the bazaars of articles of common use, such as lamps, lamp chimneys, glassware, crockery, &c., and the cost of such things has increased. Importations from Japan are said to be taking to some extent the place of articles formerly made in Germany, Belgium, Austria, and other countries in Europe.

There has been no distress, and the conditions of living have been quite normal in Ceylon. In the early months of the war suits for the realization of securities and the recovery of rents were on the increase, but lately nothing has been heard of such cases. A decrease in the rates of wages of labourers has been noticed, due to the lack of employment in certain occupations, and the suspension of public works and private enterprises. Minor industries have naturally suffered, but the statistics of the exports of the Colony show, in spite of difficulties of freight, a successful year as regards the staple products of the Island.

Owing to the fall in the revenue of the Colony, it was found necessary to continue the reduction of public expenditure as far as possible. The list of public works completed shows that without undertaking any new works, except the most urgent, the Colony has been able to finish a number of much-needed buildings, &c., which had been begun or sanctioned in previous years. In such cases cessation of operations would involve considerable damage to materials and a loss of labour forces. Progress has been made with the railway extensions to Chilaw and Opanake, and with the harbour and lake schemes and the drainage works in Colombo.

Unfavourable reports concerning the state of the people have been received only from the districts of Galle and Matara. About the former district, it is stated, "the depression in trade in consequence of the war, damages caused by floods, sickness, abnormal rise in the price of food stuffs, and the riots in June, all contributed to make the lot of the villager less favourable than usual." And as regards Matara District, a report says, "the district was, on the whole, not in a prosperous condition. The war was responsible for this partly, but the riots of June upset all trade, employment, &c. To add to all these troubles, severe floods were again experienced in 1915."

The general health of the population has been good, and no disease broke out in epidemic form. A separate account of plague in Colombo is given in a later section, and shows a decrease in the number of cases as compared with those of 1914, the first year in which the infection appeared in the Island.

The Anti-Tuberculosis Institute was completed and handed over to the Medical Department, but it has not been possible to open it yet, for want of a trained medical officer to take charge of the anti-tuberculosis campaign.

The International Health Commission of America (Rockefeller Foundation) has started a campaign against anchylostomiasis, the Ceylon Government bearing half the expenditure and the Estate Agents' Association the other half. Dr. Snodgrass arrived in December, being followed by Dr. Howard, and work has begun among the inhabitants of estates and villages in the Matale District.

A Commission was engaged in the year in investigating the condition of labourers on estates in the planting districts of the Province of Sabaragamuwa. It has since made its report, and the conclusion of the Commissioners on the general condition of labourers is, "We consider the condition of the Indian cooly far better than it is in India, where he is left more or less to himself. Certainly no other community in Ceylon receives the same amount of individual attention and care from his employer. We have no hesitation in stating that the condition of coolies employed on estates in this Province gives no cause for complaint." The Commission has made various suggestions for improving the sanitary conditions of lines, and increasing the attention paid to cases of ill-health among coolies.

No Volunteer Camp was held during the year, owing to the war. The Force has maintained its efficiency. The strength of the Planters' Rifle Corps is slightly lower than in 1914. Most of the Volunteers belonging to the Planters' Rifle Corps, the Ceylon Mounted Rifles, the Ceylon Light Infantry, and the Colombo Town Guard were called out to help in suppressing the riots in June. The Ceylon Artillery Volunteers, the Town Guard Artillery, and the Ceylon Engineer Volunteers assisted in manning the defences of Colombo, the last-named Corps being employed on the searchlights in the vicinity of the harbour.

The war was brought home to the inhabitants of the Island by the sinking of the "Ville de la Ciotat," which left Colombo on December 9, having on board 49 Ceylonese going to the United Kingdom to enlist. The steamer was sunk by a torpedo in the Mediterranean on December 24, and 14 of the Volunteers were reported missing.

The German prisoners of war, who had been interned at Diyatalawa, were removed from Ceylon in the course of the year, the last batch in November. The women decided to go to Australia with the male members of their families in preference to being sent elsewhere. One German lady was repatriated in the steamer "Goloonda," which was employed by the Indian Government to convey persons of enemy nationality to Europe for repatriation. There are now no German prisoners of war in Ceylon, and steps are being taken to wind up the businesses of the former German residents.

The Prize Court continued its sittings, but there were no new ships to be dealt with, and the work of the court was confined to the settlements of claims arising out of the seven ships originally seized. There was one case under the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, in which the manager of an Indian firm

in Ceylon was fined £500. Prize Court proceedings have been instituted against the goods as enemy goods brought into the harbour during the war.

In November a law was passed enabling the Colony to make a contribution of a million pounds sterling in ten annual instalments to the mother country towards the cost of the present war. New export duties on the products of Ceylon tea, rubber, cacao, coconuts, copra, and coconut oil were imposed to help in raising the annual contribution, as well as to provide funds for carrying on to their completion existing loan works and other urgent requirements of the Colony.

A one day's pay fund from Government servants was initiated, and the sums collected in the first three months were Rs. 5,394, Rs. 20,682, and Rs. 21,627, respectively. The contributions are purely voluntary. The amount collected is divided by the Committee amongst various war funds in the allied countries and in Ceylon.

In view of the number of Australian troops passing through Colombo an allowance of Rs. 500 a month to supplement other funds and private efforts was granted by Government towards the end of the year for their entertainment. It has since been raised to Rs. 1,000 a month, and its scope extended to soldiers and sailors of allied nations.

The most remarkable event of the year, and the most deplorable, took place on the last days of May and the first days of June, when Sinhalese rioters attacked the Moorish traders throughout the greater part of the Central, North-Western, Sabaragamuwa, Western, and Southern Provinces, plundered their possessions, and destroyed many of their shops and mosques.

The following is an estimate of the loss of property and of the number of persons injured :—

(1) Injury to property caused by rioters :—

Moor boutiques looted	..	..	4,075
Moor boutiques and houses burnt	..	..	350
Moor mosques burnt	..	..	17
Moor mosques otherwise damaged	..	..	86
Total value of damage as provisionally assessed..			Rs. 5,527,745·35

(2) Injury to persons caused by rioters :—

Moors murdered	..	..	25
Moors wounded	..	..	189
Moor women raped (ascertained cases)	..	..	4

Martial law was proclaimed in the Sinhalese Provinces, and steps were taken to punish offenders and to assess the damage by the appointment of Special Commissioners. Pending the recovery of compensation from the inhabitants of areas in which the damage was committed, money has been advanced by Government for the payment of claims, and as much as possible has been done to make reparation to the sufferers.

The wide-spread nature of the disturbances had the effect of stopping business for the month of June to a great extent, and a fall in the revenue for that month was experienced. Besides this, rebates had to be allowed to the holders of excise rents owing to the closing of taverns during June. The destruction of food stuffs and boutique goods, which took place all over the affected Provinces, tended to raise the prices of the small stock in the hands of others (the Moormen having practically a monopoly of petty trade), and the closing of many shops and restrictions on traffic and trade operated in the same direction.

The riots, however, appear to have left little permanent effect. Prices, so far as they were raised by the riots, have resumed their normal rates, the damage done has been repaired, and the majority of the Moorish traders have resumed their business.

The cause of the riots is attributed to the ebullition of religious and racial feelings and trade jealousy, which had been felt by the Sinhalese towards the Moormen for several years, and which were inflamed by a local dispute and litigation regarding a procession at Gampola.

A Commission was appointed to inquire into the organization of the police, and to advise what measures are required for strengthening or otherwise re-organizing the force, regard being had in particular to the experience which has accrued respecting the conduct of the police in connection with the recent riots in the Island.

II.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The revenue collected during the period October, 1914, to September, 1915, amounted to Rs. 51,545,472, a decrease of Rs. 6,134,527 on the estimate.

The fall in the revenue is mainly attributable to the war. The principal sources which contributed to the decrease are the Customs, Harbour Dues, Railway, and Excise.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for 1914–15 was estimated at Rs. 66,555,207, but on the outbreak of war a fall in the revenue was anticipated, and a policy of retrenchment was accordingly embarked upon. The estimates of expenditure were revised, and reduced from Rs. 66,555,207 to Rs. 48,287,484. It was, however, found possible, owing to the revenue exceeding expectations, to allot further sums to various departments from time to time. The amount (excluding expenditure chargeable to Loan Funds) actually spent during the year was Rs. 50,148,001, which includes Rs. 1,364,156 for war services and expenses of the Ceylon Volunteer Contingent. Apart from ordinary expenditure, a sum of Rs. 3,430,014 was spent on Extraordinary Public Works chargeable to Loan Funds.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Colony on September 30, 1915, were Rs. 39,974,826, and the liabilities Rs. 15,347,370. The assets consist largely of advances to local bodies, and in particular to the Municipality of Colombo, the principal item among the liabilities being the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.

PUBLIC DEBT.

At the close of the financial period the public debt of the Colony stood at £5,805,687, or 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 other public works, a sum of £1,500,000 was raised at 98½ in 1909–10, bearing interest at 3½ per cent., and a further sum of £1,000,000 was floated in 1914 at 99, bearing interest at 4 per cent. A balance (£65,906) of the latter loan has been carried forward to meet expenditure in 1915–16.

CURRENCY.

On September 30, 1915, the value of currency notes in circulation was Rs. 27,325,500, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of Rs. 3,525,000 in gold, Rs. 8,639,200 in silver, and Rs. 15,161,300 in British, Colonial, and Indian investments.

III.—AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

AGRICULTURE.

In purely native agriculture more or less normal conditions prevailed, the paddy crop being an average one; but owing to an increase in the number of unemployed, steps had to be taken to prevent a shortage in the local food supply. The Agricultural Society provided the necessary funds for encouraging the cultivation of quick-growing food crops, and in co-operation with the officers of the Department of Agriculture carried on a campaign in the villages, instituting inquiries and distributing seeds of vegetables and of short-lived cereals (such as sorghum), as well as cuttings of tuberous plants (sweet potatoes, &c.), which helped appreciably to increase the output of edible products and to provide against any possibility of scarcity in the villages.

School of Tropical Agriculture.—During the year 1915 plans were completed for the opening of a School of Tropical Agriculture, which is now in full working order, with 60 English-speaking students and 7 vernacular. Over 30 applications have had to be refused for admission at present. The school is attached to the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Experiment Station, wherein practical demonstrations take place daily.

Tea Industry.—The area planted in tea is approximately 392,500 acres, and ranges from the tropical climate at sea level to the semi-tropical or temperate climate at 7,000 feet elevation. It is almost entirely in the hands of Europeans, the estates being managed by European managers with Tamil labour imported from Southern India.

These estates vary in size from 100 or 200 acres to about 2,500 acres, the average being about 400 acres, yielding an average outturn for Ceylon of 483 lb. of made tea per acre. Well-cultivated estates yield more heavily, an average of 600 to 800 lb. being frequent.

The year 1915 was exceptionally favourable climatically for tea, there being a complete absence of extreme cold in higher districts, and a uniformly good distribution of rain in every month of the year. This was especially marked in the Province of Uva, where the usual drought was not experienced. The crop was, therefore, a record one from most estates, and the high prices ruling afforded unusually good profits.

A considerable area of tea has been cut out from under rubber, but other areas, chiefly on patana soil, are being gradually opened.

The shot-hole borer pest is under investigation by a Government specialist.

The average prices are as follows:—

1913	..	..	..	45·84 cents per lb.
1914	..	..	..	46·35 cents per lb.
1915	..	..	..	56·79 cents per lb.

Cacao.—The cacao growing area ranges from 500 to 1,800 feet above sea level, and is chiefly in the Kandy and Matale Districts. There are approximately 22,000 acres under cacao, mostly in the hands of European planters, but there is also a fair acreage in native gardens, where it is grown in a very neglected state. Very few new plantations are being opened, as there remains little suitable available land.

Pod fungus and bark canker, the two most serious diseases of cacao in Ceylon, are still very prevalent during wet seasons.

The crop has been fairly maintained, and owing to the sunny weather prevailing during the main cropping season of October and November the beans have been sun dried and finer colour obtained than if dried in the drying rooms, which the continual wet weather in these months generally necessitates. But the failure of the north-east monsoon has affected the spring crop for 1916, which will probably be a poor one.

The average prices are as follows :—

1913	..	..	..	44·03 cents per cwt.
1914	..	..	..	37·76 cents per cwt.
1915	..	..	..	37·48 cents per cwt.

Coconut Industry.—From 800,000 to 1,000,000 acres are under coconuts in Ceylon, and for a time after the outbreak of war the industry suffered severely from low prices. The coir fibre industry in the south-west of the Island was also seriously affected.

During the last few months the price of copra has greatly improved, reaching Rs. 90 per candy. The average for the last three years has been : Rs. 91·88 in 1913, Rs. 73·39 in 1914, and Rs. 61·73 in 1915. The price of coconut oil for the first quarter stood at Rs. 600 per ton, reached a maximum of Rs. 640, and then dropped again to Rs. 600; desiccated nut ranged from 22 cents to 22½ cents per lb.; and bristle fibre, which was Rs. 8·25 per cwt. in the first quarter, rose to Rs. 9·25 per cwt. in December.

New plantations are being opened up in the northern districts, in the semi-dry zone, under irrigation from the tanks.

Rubber.—The year 1915 has seen a considerable increase in the output of rubber, as young plantations have come into bearing, and the older ones increased their yield through better cultivation and tapping.

The area under Hevea rubber is approximately 240,500 acres, almost entirely in the hands of European planters, and ranges from sea level to 2,000 feet.

Few new plantations are being planted, owing to lack of suitable available land, as Hevea will not thrive in the dry northern districts, even under irrigation.

By far the greater amount is shipped as crêpe, though a certain amount of smoked sheet and biscuit is also made.

Prices have ruled satisfactory throughout the year, the average price being Re. 1·65 per lb.

Experiments in the upbringing of plantations with green manure, seed selection, wide spacing, artificial manuring, and the best methods of tapping are being carried out.

Experts are engaged on research work connected with the physical problems connected with the tree, latex, and rubber, and with the fungus diseases attacking the tree, which are somewhat serious in the wetter districts.

Cinnamon.—2,000 acres of cinnamon were uprooted last year in one Province alone and planted with coconuts; in another large areas have been replaced by rubber. In recent years cinnamon has fallen very much in price, owing probably to the more extended use of cheap cassia bark from China. The white sandy soils of Negombo, on which the best cinnamon is grown, is proving, under good cultivation, well adapted for coconuts, which do not require skilled labour in the preparation of the product for market, as is the case of cinnamon, which must, moreover, be harvested in the wet seasons, and is altogether a more troublesome crop to grow.

Fodder Plants.—One of the chief agricultural needs of Ceylon in general is a supply of fresh food for cattle. Efforts have been renewed at the hill gardens at Hakgala and Nuwara Eliya to introduce and establish plants likely to meet this want. *Paspalum dilatatum* has so far proved to be the most suitable grass for the hill districts, and its cultivation is now being taken up and extended by planters and others. The tree lucern and teosinte grass are being tried as possible supplementary sources of supply.

Fibres.—With a view to a possible demand for plants yielding commercial fibres, a consignment of the Manila hemp plant was obtained from the Philippines. Trial plots have been planted at the Peradeniya Experiment Station, where it is doing well, and at Hakgala. At the latter place a trial plot of the New Zealand hemp has also been established.

Palm Collection in Peradeniya Gardens.—What may some day prove of economic importance is the classified collection of palms, which has been begun in 1915 in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya. This extends over a considerable area, and includes species from all parts of the tropics.

CATTLE.

Rinderpest.—Outbreaks occurred in five Provinces, and four remained free during the year. The steady decrease of the last four years continued:—

Year.	Number of Cases.	Year.	Number of Cases.
1911 ..	.. 15,195	1914 ..	.. 3,835
1912 ..	.. 9,103	1915 ..	.. 1,493
1913 ..	.. 4,848		

Of the cases during 1915, 271 recovered, 1,153 died naturally, and 69 were shot. At the close of the year the Island was free.

Foot-and-mouth Disease.—During 1915 outbreaks occurred in seven Provinces. Cases 1,916, recoveries 1,849, deaths 47, balance ill at close of the year 20. In 1914 there were 8,664 cases.

Anthrax.—Deaths from this disease occurred in the Western and Central Provinces. Western Province: 18 cases, 18 deaths; Central Province: 31 cases, 31 deaths.

Swine.—During 1915 an epidemic of disease resembling swine fever occurred amongst swine in the Colombo District of the Western Province. It spread northwards, and cases occurred in the North-Western Province. Western Province: cases 2,431, deaths 2,401, shot 30; North-Western Province: cases 81, deaths 13, recoveries 1, shot 67.

SALT.

The manufacture and collection of salt is a Government monopoly. Salt is sold to purchasers from all Government salt stores at Rs. 3 per cwt.; the amount realized by its sale in 1915 was Rs. 1,800,856·22, as compared with Rs. 1,582,178·89 in 1914 and Rs. 1,618,674·22 in 1913.

The year was not favourable for the production of salt, as the weather interfered with the manufacture at different centres. There was no collection of natural salt in Jaffna District, as the formations in the lewayas were all dissolved by untimely rains. A fair harvest was, however, collected on the whole. Though no restriction was placed on the output, the total yield for the Island amounted only to 295,965 cwt. The quantity secured in 1912 was 276,781 cwt., in 1913 it was 210,310 cwt., and in 1914 522,350 cwt.

SALE OF CROWN LAND.

The total extent of Crown land sold and settled (exclusive of settlements under the Waste Lands Ordinances) was 14,773 acres, as compared with 27,471 acres in 1914 and 30,861 acres in 1913.

Sales of Crown lands were restricted during part of the year, owing to an apprehension that during the war the lands would not fetch their proper value. As, however, the villager is anxious to buy lands, and is ready to offer prices equivalent to those ruling at sales before the war, the continuance of land sales was permitted in most of the Provinces towards the end of the year.

The Land Settlement Department settles title to land as between the Crown and the subject. During the year 1915 an area of about 94,245 acres has been settled. Almost all the claims were settled without recourse to litigation.

The confidence of the people in the fairness of the settlements offered continues, and the increased facilities for acquiring land from the Crown are appreciated.

PEARL FISHERY.

No pearl fishery was held in 1915, nor does there appear any prospect of a fishery being undertaken in the near future. The last was in 1907.

MINERAL SURVEY.

During the year attention has been paid mainly to prospecting for sources of thorium, in view of the shortage of the mineral in home markets. Some valuable deposits of monazite sand have been found on the coast, and arrangements are being made to develop them. The hopes that have been entertained of producing thorium in marketable quantities, either from primary or secondary deposits, have been proved to be unfounded.

FORESTS.

Re-afforestation.—Considerable attention has been paid to re-afforestation. Areas which are exploited for firewood supplies to the Railway and Public Departments are now being re-afforested on a systematic basis. Existing plantations are being extended. During the year the area of plantations was increased by nearly 300 acres.

Exploitation.—Public Departments were supplied with timber, fuel, and other forest produce valued at Rs. 326,398·51. The supplies included 25,060 broad gauge and 14,600 narrow gauge sleepers, 25,000 cubic feet of timber, and 58,000 cubic yards of firewood.

Since 1906 the Forest Department has supplied the Railway with 706,155 broad gauge and 234,619 narrow gauge sleepers, at an average cost of Rs. 3·64 and Re. 1·58 per sleeper respectively. By obtaining these supplies from the local forests a very large saving over the cost of imported sleepers has been effected, while it is admitted that the local sleepers are far more durable than anything that has hitherto been imported.

The revenue received from the public on account of timber, fuel, and minor forest produce during the year was Rs. 239,822·11.

MANUFACTURES.

Ceylon is essentially an agricultural country, and its manufactures on any large scale are chiefly confined to the products of agriculture. The figures given under "Exports" show the output of factories in the year.

Minor industries, such as silver and brass work, ivory work, jewellery, lace-making, furniture, &c., have suffered from the lack of demand owing to the war and the absence of visitors to the Island.

About 6,500 acres were under tobacco cultivation in the Jaffna District, which is the principal tobacco-growing part of the Island. The crop was good, and the prices normal. The industry is languishing for want of a market, Cochin and Travancore being the only places to which the product is sent at present. The future depends on the success of the experiments now being conducted in Jaffna, with the object of turning out a tobacco suitable for the European market. During the year a number of foreign varieties of tobacco were successfully raised in the Government experimental garden under the direction of the tobacco expert.

A sugar refining company under European management has been formed, with partly European and partly Ceylonese capital, and a factory has been erected on the sea coast near Point Pedro. The necessary plant and machinery have been received, and are being installed in the buildings erected for the purpose. The company has taken on lease a large number of palmyra trees in the neighbourhood, from which sweet toddy is to be extracted, and sugar will be manufactured on an extensive scale.

MINING.

There was slackness in the plumbago industry, except towards the end of the year, when the price of the plumbago rose high owing to a sudden demand, due to facilities having been given for export to America, and some activity was in consequence displayed in mining.

The gemming industry has suffered from the effects of the war, and has been depressed for the greater part of the year. At one mine in Matara District a few precious stones were found, and this led to a renewal of digging operations in the vicinity.

IV.—TRADE.

The total value of Ceylon trade in 1915, excluding specie but including the value of coal supplied for the use of steamers, is estimated at Rs. 449,550,045. This is the highest figure recorded, and is due to the highly prosperous export trade in the staple products of the Colony.

The following table gives the total value of trade in lakhs of rupees for the past ten years :—

Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.	Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.
1906 ..	.. 2,363½	1911 ..	.. 3,523½
1907 ..	.. 2,631½	1912 ..	.. 3,886½
1908 ..	.. 2,647½	1913 ..	.. 4,329½
1909 ..	.. 2,853½	1914 ..	.. 4,022½
1910 ..	.. 3,321½	1915 ..	.. 4,495½

The Customs revenue collected in 1915 totalled Rs. 17,588,625·17. This sum, which is the largest ever collected by the Department, includes the new export duties, aggregating nearly two million rupees, which have been recovered since October 1. A large portion of this additional revenue is, however, being refunded under the regulations which exempt from the increased export duty goods in stock on September 30, 1915, or purchased under forward contracts entered into before October 1, 1915. In imports there were slight decreases under all heads, i.e., all heads under which revenue is classified, with the exception of kerosine oil, the total decrease amounting to 86½ lakhs as compared with 1914, and 224½ lakhs as compared with 1913. The chief articles contributing to the revenue in the last two years are—

	1914. Rs.	1915. Rs.
Grain ..	.. 4,071,681	.. 3,910,501
Spirits ..	.. 2,045,214	.. 1,881,294
Kerosine Oil ..	.. 1,712,643	.. 1,733,002
Sugar ..	.. 1,433,476	.. 1,331,786
Cotton Goods ..	.. 499,917	.. 419,578

The following table shows the annual value of imports and exports for a period of ten years. The figures do not include the value of specie or the value of coal supplied for the use of steamers :—

Year.	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.	Total. Rs.
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
1915 ..	163,637,758	273,375,987	437,013,745

The excess in the value of exports over imports was Rs. 109,738,229, or 67 per cent.

Of the total exports in 1915, Rs. 265,733,258 represent the produce and manufacture of the Colony, and Rs. 7,642,729 represent British, foreign, and other colonial produce and manufacture.

The following table shows the percentage of the trade of Ceylon with the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries. Imports of rubber are excluded, as in previous years, this being an import only in name, the article being almost at once re-exported :—

<i>Imports.</i>			
	1913.	1914.	1915.
From United Kingdom ..	30·1	29·5	22·3
From British Possessions ..	54·4	55	62·6
From Foreign Countries ..	15·5	15·5	15·1
<i>Exports.</i>			
To United Kingdom ..	45·3	52·9	53·8
To British Possessions ..	12·2	13·5	14·1
To Foreign Countries ..	42·5	33·6	32·1
<i>Total Trade.</i>			
With United Kingdom ..	38·7	42·8	42·2
With British Possessions ..	30·6	31·4	31·9
With Foreign Countries ..	30·7	25·8	25·9

Egypt is entered this year among British possessions and protectorates. Our imports from and exports to that country were valued at Rs. 263,162 and Rs. 2,566,304, respectively.

The British share in respect of imports has declined, while the total value of trade has been distributed among the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries in much the same ratio as in 1914.

IMPORTS.

The principal articles imported in 1915 show decreases as compared with 1914.

Confectionery.—The total imports were 952,612 lb. valued at Rs. 390,936, as against 1,052,870 lb. valued at Rs. 382,137 in 1914, the United Kingdom supplying the greater part. Switzerland supplied Rs. 22,723 worth in 1915, while supplies from other foreign countries were negligible.

Cement.—331,372 cwt. were imported in 1915, a decrease of 23,775 cwt. as compared with 1914. More than half of this came from the United Kingdom, while Japan and Denmark supplied most of the remainder. Japan occupies the place formerly held by Germany in this trade. The article supplied by Japan is cheap; it is put up in strong barrels to prevent wastage, and is gaining in popularity, the higher British freights being a handicap in this as in many other commodities.

Cotton, Manufactured and Raw.—There is a decrease in value from Rs. 14,013,451 in 1913 and Rs. 13,062,117 in 1914 to Rs. 9,483,674 in 1915, due principally to smaller imports of dyed and bleached piece goods from the United Kingdom. Imports from British possessions rose from Rs. 1,879,544 in 1914 to Rs. 2,806,612 in 1915, the chief increase being in imports from British India, while those from foreign countries fell from Rs. 2,145,909 to Rs. 956,222 in the same period. There was a better demand than in 1914 for yarn and twist for use in the local weaving industry.

Grain.—The quantity of rice cleared for consumption decreased from 7,400,269 cwt. in 1914 to 7,175,581 cwt. in the year under review. More rice came from the Straits Settlements and Burma, and less from British India.

Motor Cars and Horses.—296 cars have been imported during 1915. During the previous five years the imports were—

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

While the war restricted imports from the United Kingdom, there was an increased demand for low-priced cars, which has been supplied by the United States of America, imports from that country rising from 120 cars in 1914 to 174 cars in 1915.

Imports of petrol, which is mainly used as a source of motive power for cars in Ceylon, also declined. The figures since 1910 are—

Year.					Gallons.
1910	..	..	..	..	136,646
1911	..	..	..	..	206,208
1912	..	..	..	..	216,714
1913	..	..	..	..	383,442
1914	..	..	..	..	701,082
1915	..	..	..	..	607,774

Only 60 horses were imported in 1915, chiefly from British India. Under normal conditions imports should be appreciably larger, the number of horses imported in 1913 being 246.

Lamps.—Of the 156,985 lamps imported in 1915, 101,222 came from Japan. These were principally small glass kitchen lamps of trifling value. Most of the better kinds are imported from the United Kingdom, and to a less extent from the United States of America. Germany figures as the principal foreign country in the return for lamps in 1915, the value of German lamps imported being Rs. 13,089. This represents principally imports from British possessions of lamps purchased before the war, while a part consisted of prize cargo sold in Colombo.

Metals and Metalware.—There was a drop of Rs. 353,157 as compared with 1914. The most important head in metals and metalware is hardware. This shows the largest decrease, which, in the case of the United Kingdom, amounts to 50 per cent., due no doubt to the fact that the factories at home are being largely used for the manufacture of war materials; barbed wire also showed a large diminution. The increase in the imports of pig lead for conversion into tea lead more than made up for the decrease in imports of manufactured tea lead, and was due to the demand caused by increased exports of tea.

Manure.—Imports of all kinds amounted to 81,501 tons, an increase of 19,613 tons over 1914. Groundnut manure from British India showed an increase of 16,635 tons compared with the previous year. Kainit, sulphate of potash, and muriate of potash, of which Austria and Germany were the chief exporters, have been but poorly supplied during the year.

Spirits.—The quantity cleared for home consumption was 229,516 gallons, as against 331,006 gallons in 1914. Whisky was the spirit imported in the largest quantity, and while this was on a level with the imports of 1914, gin, the import of which in recent years was greater than that of whisky, showed a decline of about 45 per cent., a similar decrease being also noticeable under brandy.

Sugar.—Imports of palm and jaggery, unrefined sugar, and refined sugar, including candy, aggregated 467,762 cwt., the quantity of candy and refined sugar alone being 430,573 cwt., as against 470,378 cwt. in 1914. Java and Hong Kong are the principal countries supplying this article.

Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes.—The amounts cleared during the past three years have been—

Year.	Cigars.		Cigarettes.		Manufactured Tobacco.		Total.
	lb.	..	lb.	..	lb.	..	lb.
1913 ..	22,051	..	318,955	..	48,258	..	389,264
1914 ..	22,803	..	329,230	..	39,149	..	391,182
1915 ..	22,745	..	231,500	..	20,432	..	274,677

It will be seen that while the supply of cigars is maintained, that of cigarettes and manufactured tobacco has declined considerably.

Ceylon's Chief Sources of Supply.

The principal countries exporting goods to Ceylon, with the percentages of value supplied by each, are shown in the following table :—

Position.	Countries.	1915. Per Cent.	1914. Per Cent.	1915 Per Cent.
1.	British India ..	40·83	35·93	41·19
2.	United Kingdom ..	29·19	28·58	21·66
3.	Straits Settlements ..	6·12	8·94	10·41
4.	Burma ..	3·82	6·11	6·88
5.	Japan ..	2·21	1·71	3·22
6.	United States of America ..	1·28	1·33	2·95
7.	Java ..	1·75	1·5	2·21
8.	Maldiv Islands ..	1·19	1·21	1·39
9.	Hong Kong ..	·91	·77	·98
10.	Siam ..	·37	1·1	·78
11.	China (excluding Hong Kong) ..	·38	·53	·75
12.	France ..	·79	·83	·64
13.	Holland ..	·72	·85	·62
14.	Natal ..	·73	·79	·6
15.	Borneo (excluding British) ..	·51	·46	·57
16.	Persia ..	·01	·88	·5
17.	New South Wales ..	·17	·23	·47
18.	India (excluding British) ..	·34	·46	·41
19.	Sumatra ..	—	—	·37
20.	Norway ..	·09	·11	·36
21.	Switzerland ..	·26	·22	·34
22.	Western Australia ..	·29	·39	·31
23.	Sweden ..	·19	·23	·29
24.	Mauritius ..	·06	·34	·26
25.	Italy ..	·54	·46	·21
26.	Victoria ..	·44	·76	·19
27.	Germany ..	3·24	2·49	·18
28.	Egypt ..	·05	·04	·16

The setback under United Kingdom is due to restricted imports, principally of coal, cotton goods, hardware, and cars and parts. British India has improved her percentage by sending larger supplies of coal to make up the deficiency from the United Kingdom.

Japan is leading among foreign competitors, and now occupies the position held by Germany before the war. The fact that the latter country appears at all at the bottom of the table, with a total value of Rs. 302,518 to her credit, is mainly due to the importation of articles manufactured in Germany, but exported into other countries prior to the war. The importation of goods made in Germany is now prohibited, except with the special sanction of the Principal Collector of Customs.

EXPORTS.

The staple products in order of value are as follows :—

		Lakhs of Rupees.					
		1913.		1914.		1915.	
1.	Tea ..	877	..	897	..	1,225	
2.	Rubber ..	612	..	572	..	790	
3.	Copra ..	209	..	232	..	177	
4.	Coconut oil ..	167	..	134	..	130	
5.	Desiccated coconuts ..	78	..	78	..	86	
6.	Plumbago ..	90	..	42	..	79	
7.	Arecanuts ..	30	..	18	..	33	
8.	Cacao ..	30	..	20	..	31	
9.	Cinnamon ..	24	..	16	..	20	
10.	Citronella oil ..	16	..	13	..	15	
11.	Coir yarn ..	15	..	13	..	10	
12.	Poonac ..	11	..	9	..	10	
13.	Coir fibre ..	15	..	13	..	9	
14.	Cardamoms ..	9	..	7	..	8	
15.	Tobacco ..	8	..	9	..	6	
16.	Coconuts ..	14	..	9	..	5	

The increase under tea, rubber, and plumbago are significant.

Arecanuts, poonac, and cardamoms have advanced ; while cacao, coir fibre, tobacco, and coconuts have receded.

The principal countries buying Ceylon produce and manufacture are given in the following table, with the percentages of value taken by each :—

		1913.		1914.		1915.	
		Per Cent.		Per Cent.		Per Cent.	
United Kingdom	..	45·54	..	53·88	..	55·05	
United States of America	..	16·63	..	14·1	..	18·39	
Russia in Europe	..	4·63	..	3·13	..	3·99	
Victoria	..	2·14	..	2·46	..	2·57	
British India	..	2·39	..	2·07	..	2·39	
New South Wales	..	2·24	..	2·56	..	2·26	
Denmark	..	·26	..	1·2	..	2·14	
Russia in Asia	..	1·42	..	1·32	..	2·06	
Canada	..	1·68	..	1·97	..	1·68	
China (excluding Hong Kong)	..	1·7	..	1·31	..	1·44	
New Zealand	..	1·11	..	1·57	..	1·4	
Egypt	..	·25	..	·33	..	·96	
Holland	..	·25	..	·71	..	·94	
France	..	·38	..	·54	..	·91	
Norway	..	·57	..	·35	..	·9	
South Australia	..	·34	..	·42	..	·42	
Natal	..	·28	..	·29	..	·36	
Cape Colony	..	·23	..	·27	..	·35	
Straits Settlements	..	·32	..	·26	..	·27	
Spain (excluding Gibraltar)	..	·22	..	·25	..	·23	
Queensland	..	·22	..	·28	..	·22	
Japan	..	·37	..	·31	..	·2	
Western Australia	..	·18	..	·21	..	·17	
Philippines	..	·17	..	·17	..	·13	
Newfoundland	..	·06	..	·08	..	·08	
Hong Kong	..	·06	..	·16	..	·06	
Italy	..	·18	..	·1	..	·05	

The loss of markets in Austria and Germany, representing a loss of something approaching 25 million rupees, as well as the general restrictions introduced with a view to preventing supplies from reaching enemy countries, has not had the effect of checking the total quantity exported. Substantial increases are noticeable all round, except in the percentages of three Australian States, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, the Philippine Islands, Hong Kong, Spain, and Italy.

Tea.

The figures for tea, which have been fairly stable for some years, showed a remarkable rise, the increase being one of over 22 million pounds above last year's total, the average price per pound ruling for the article being also about 23 per cent. more. The exports during the past seven years are shown below :—

	Millions of lb.		Millions of lb.
1909 ..	.. 192	1913 ..	.. 191
1910 ..	.. 182	1914 ..	.. 193
1911 ..	.. 186	1915 ..	.. 215
1912 ..	.. 192		

The distribution among the principal countries, with their increases and decreases, is set out in the following table :—

	1914. lb.	1915. lb.	Increase. lb.	Decrease. lb.
United Kingdom ..	115,888,689 ..	124,396,216 ..	8,507,527 ..	—
British Colonies—				
British India ..	2,062,129 ..	2,875,159 ..	813,030 ..	—
Canada ..	8,522,964 ..	7,162,572 ..	—	1,360,392
Cape Colony ..	975,502 ..	1,394,126 ..	418,624 ..	—
Egypt ..	1,232,202 ..	4,320,278 ..	3,088,076 ..	—
Hong Kong ..	193,060 ..	130,701 ..	—	62,359
Malta ..	100,222 ..	132,246 ..	32,024 ..	—
Mauritius ..	104,787 ..	119,712 ..	14,925 ..	—
Natal ..	1,241,785 ..	1,529,459 ..	287,674 ..	—
Newfoundland ..	349,744 ..	371,877 ..	22,133 ..	—
New South Wales ..	10,797,256 ..	9,880,166 ..	—	917,090
New Zealand ..	6,679,761 ..	6,170,492 ..	—	509,269
Queensland ..	1,087,632 ..	874,344 ..	—	213,288
South Australia ..	1,782,070 ..	1,776,178 ..	—	5,892
Straits Settlements ..	461,680 ..	442,511 ..	—	19,169
Victoria ..	7,972,142 ..	8,698,999 ..	726,857 ..	—
Western Australia ..	873,774 ..	692,948 ..	—	180,826
Other British Possessions ..	414,973 ..	432,602 ..	17,629 ..	—
Total British Possessions	44,851,683	47,004,370	5,420,972	3,268,285
		Deduct Decrease ..	3,268,285	
		Nett Increase ..	2,152,687	
Foreign Countries—				
China (excluding Hong Kong) ..	5,862,619 ..	6,631,778 ..	769,159 ..	—
France ..	928,118 ..	1,681,917 ..	653,799 ..	—
Japan ..	66,039 ..	55,150 ..	—	10,889
Mozambique ..	201,446 ..	156,027 ..	—	45,419
Persia ..	1,920 ..	99,149 ..	97,229 ..	—
Philippine Islands ..	65,181 ..	73,680 ..	8,499 ..	—
Russia in Asia ..	5,983,696 ..	9,369,899 ..	3,386,203 ..	—
Russia in Europe ..	7,925,794 ..	15,727,736 ..	7,801,942 ..	—
South America ..	58,731 ..	75,213 ..	16,482 ..	—
United States of America ..	10,667,008 ..	10,250,652 ..	—	416,356
Other Foreign Countries ..	1,082,668 ..	210,940 ..	—	871,728
Total Foreign Countries	32,843,220	44,232,141	12,733,313	1,344,392
		Deduct Decrease ..	1,344,392	
		Nett Increase ..	11,388,921	
Grand Total ..	193,583,592	215,632,727	22,049,135	—

The largest quantitative increase was in the shipments to Russia, while the largest proportionate increase was in the shipments to Egypt—an increase of about 250 per cent. over last year, and accounted for by supplies sent for the use of His Majesty's troops there. More tea was also taken by the United Kingdom, British India, China, Victoria, France, and the Cape Colony; while Canada, New South Wales, New Zealand, and the United States of America took less.

Products of the Coconut Palm.

The exports under this head were valued at 429 lakhs, as against 491 lakhs in 1914. Recent exports of the three principal products have been—

Year.	Desiccated Coconuts. Cwt.	Copra. Cwt.	Coconut Oil. Cwt.
1910	242,286	758,711	619,880
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
1915	349,009	1,208,529	501,510

Prices realized for the products of the coconut palm generally were lower than in 1914. Of the three products mentioned above, coconut oil showed a decrease in the average price, from Rs. 27·54 per cwt. in 1914 to Rs. 25·84 in 1915; while the average value entered for copra was Rs. 14·61 per cwt., as against Rs. 16·46 per cwt. in 1914. The average value entered for desiccated coconuts was practically the same as in 1914.

Rubber.

Exports of Ceylon rubber constitute a record, the quantity being 435,748 cwt. for 1915. For the previous five years, a period notable for the remarkable growth in the exports of this product, the exports have been—

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

The United Kingdom and the United States of America continue as the principal buyers, their purchases being 55·12 per cent. and 39·72 per cent. respectively of the total, as against 62·9 per cent. and 23·19 per cent. in 1914.

Besides the United States of America and France and Russia, the only other foreign country to be supplied with this article was Japan, due to restrictions necessitated by the war.

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

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

Under Ordinance No. 17 of 1869, as amended by Ordinance No. 5 of 1914, the following export duties have been levied with effect from October 1, 1915:—

	Rs. c.		Rs. c.
Tea, per 100 lb.	1 50	Coconuts, fresh, per 1,000	2 0
Rubber, per 100 lb.	7 50	Coconut, desiccated, per cwt.	0 70
Cacao, per 100 lb.	1 50	Copra, per cwt.	0 40
Cardamoms, per 100 lb.	7 50	Coconut oil, per cwt.	0 75

The duty on cardamoms was rescinded early in 1916, as a concession to an industry which is not at present in a prosperous condition.

Separate recoveries made under the Medical Wants Ordinance, No. 9 of 1912, in respect of the first four articles ceased when the new duties were imposed, a portion of the new duties, equivalent to the duties previously levied under the Medical Wants Ordinance, being credited to the Medical Wants Fund.

V.—SHIPPING.

The total number of all vessels which entered the ports of the Island of Ceylon in 1915 was 4,272, with a tonnage of 7,883,268. This shows a decrease of 129 vessels and a decrease of 1,455,267 tons as compared with 1914.

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

	1913.		1914.		1915.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
Merchant vessels (with cargo and in ballast) ..	2,464	7,981,773	2,523	7,041,986	1,560	4,984,122
Merchant vessels (called to coal) ..	651	1,816,376	615	1,728,558	655	1,937,572
Native sailing vessels ..	1,115	106,958	1,159	103,541	1,847	268,938
Warships* and trans-ports ..	53	198,620	104	464,450	210	692,636
Total ..	4,283	10,103,727	4,401	9,338,535	4,272	7,883,268

* Warships' displacement tonnage.

Omitting warships and vessels calling to coal, the following table gives the comparative distribution according to nationality for 1914 and 1915:—

	1914.		1915.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
British	1,840	4,610,513	1,103	3,508,012
British Colonial	1,033	83,813	1,728	253,985
Maldivian	108	13,428	119	14,953
Total British Ships ..	2,981	4,707,754	2,950	3,776,950
American	—	—	5	11,745
Austrian	77	225,966	—	—
Belgian	—	—	1	1,860
Danish	16	45,640	14	37,249
Dutch	120	446,706	83	302,279
French	116	403,375	92	320,656
German	151	612,852	—	—
Greek	4	12,351	1	2,489
Italian	19	52,349	18	50,453
Japanese	105	435,657	139	573,542
Norwegian	25	31,440	54	66,173
Russian	38	98,600	10	13,614
Siamese	1	2,228	—	—
Spanish	26	63,297	28	65,283
Swedish	3	7,312	12	30,767
Total Foreign Ships ..	701	2,437,773	457	1,476,110

The predominance of British shipping continues, but the decrease in the number and tonnage is due to the war.

There have been no German or Austrian vessels on account of the war. There have been increases in the number of Japanese, Norwegian, and Swedish vessels; and decreases in the number of Russian, French, Dutch, and Greek vessels, probably due to the same cause.

The entrance of five American vessels is a feature of the year 1915, there having been none in the past two years.

COLOMBO PORT COMMISSION.

In spite of the reduction in expenditure necessitated by the war, progress has been maintained in increasing the warehouse accommodation and other facilities of the port. Six new warehouses, which have been named the Delft warehouses, and a covered roadway, situated on the old coaling grounds immediately east of the passenger jetty, were completed by the Public Works Department and handed over for use; while two new warehouses intended for export cargo, constructed by the Colombo Port Commission on the new quay wall in front of the old Harbour Works premises, are approaching completion.

The construction of the quay wall between the Patent Slip and Block Jetty and of the quay walls of the canal leading from the lake to the harbour has advanced considerably. The water service was laid throughout the Customs premises, and arrangements have been made for supplying the shipping from meters on the south-west breakwater, thus relieving the congestion of the foreshore used for coaling and the discharge of cargo.

The Chalmers' granaries for the storage of rice were opened in May. Three of these sheds were completed by the end of 1915, and a fourth is approaching completion. The question of the provision of complete facilities for the discharge, bunkering, and storage of liquid fuel and other petroleum products at Colombo has still further engaged the attention of the Commission. A site for the new oil installations has been selected at a distance from the harbour at Mattacooly; detailed plans and estimates of the installation, to be connected with a basin for the discharge and bunkering of oil vessels to the north of the present Graving Dock, are being prepared by Messrs. Coode, Matthews, Fitzmaurice, & Wilson, Consulting Engineers. The survey of a proposed railway to Mutwal, which will serve the proposed new oil installations and link up the harbour direct with the main line, is in hand; its construction will very greatly increase the facilities of the port.

The work of deepening the harbour has been suspended during 1915. The work at Colombo is, however, in advance of the work of deepening in the Suez Canal.

Two new pilot launches, costing Rs. 103,932, were received in June, 1915.

The nett tonnage of vessels (sailing and steam) visiting Colombo harbour in 1915 amounted to 6,787,891 tons; in addition 210 warships and transports with a tonnage of 692,636 and coasting vessels with a tonnage of 19,652 entered the port. The receipts from the Graving Dock were Rs. 108,743·69 (inclusive of Rs. 45,481·61 in respect of charges for docking His Majesty's ships from 1907 to 1913), and from the Patent Slip Rs. 14,586·50.

The management of the Galle harbour was placed in the hands of the Master Attendant, Colombo, from November 1, 1915. The signal station at Galle was transferred by Lloyds' Agents to the Ceylon Government from October 1, 1915. Arrangements have since been made to send and receive signals both night and day.

The expenditure by the Colombo Port Commission (apart from the works carried out by the Public Works Department) during the financial year 1914-15 (October 1, 1914, to September 30, 1915) amounted to Rs. 1,769,990·16. The sum expended by the Public Works Department in the construction of new warehouse and wharf accommodation during the financial year 1914-15 was Rs. 188,273·92, the total expenditure in connection with the harbour during the financial year thus amounting to Rs. 1,958,264·08.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed during the year 1915. Of these, the three following owed their origin to the present war :—

- (a) *The Tea Cess Ordinance, No. 1 of 1915*, authorizing a further appropriation out of the Tea Cess Fund, similar in character to those authorized by “ The Tea Cess Ordinance, No. 21 of 1914 ” ;
- (b) *The Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (Temporary Rules) Ordinance, No. 10 of 1915*, framed on the lines of “ The Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Temporary Rules Act, 1914 ” ; and
- (c) *The War Contribution Ordinance, No. 24 of 1915*, providing for a contribution out of the revenue of the Colony towards the cost of the present war.

Besides these, the following Ordinances are of interest :—

- (i.) *The Dentists Registration Ordinance, No. 3 of 1915*. Its special features are—
 - (a) The prohibition of dental practice by unqualified persons ;
 - (b) The prohibition of the use of the title “ doctor ” by dentists ;
 - (c) The authority reserved to vedaralas, Government apothecaries, and estate dispensers to render all dental services, except dental operations ; and
 - (d) The issue of special licenses to practise to existing unqualified practitioners.
- (ii.) *The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 18 of 1915*, empowers the Governor to give directions for the trial of the offence of sedition, and any other offence, which owing to the circumstances of the time is not appropriately triable by jury, by a special tribunal consisting of three Judges of the Supreme Court.
- (iii.) *The Housing and Town Improvement Ordinance, No. 19 of 1915*, is a comprehensive Ordinance, enlarging the powers of local authorities to control the growth of towns, and to take measures for the improvement of insanitary areas, and areas otherwise requiring special action by means of improvement schemes.
- (iv.) *The Riot Damages Ordinance, No. 23 of 1915*, provides for the assessment of damages caused by riots, and for the recovery of compensation from the inhabitants and property owners of the districts in which they have occurred.

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 1915 there were 801 Government vernacular schools, with an attendance of 82,418 boys and 26,705 girls. There were also 1,827 aided schools, with an attendance of 125,364 boys and 73,707 girls.

The total sum expended by Government on vernacular education in 1915 was approximately Rs. 1,355,176, of which, roughly speaking, Rs. 660,486 was spent on Government schools and Rs. 694,689 on aided schools.

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

At the end of 1915 there were 242 aided estate schools, and returns from 569 estates showed that of a total of 16,622 children of school-going age 7,217 were attending estate schools. Of these, 6,056 were boys and 1,161 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.

SCHOOLS TEACHING ENGLISH.

In 1915 there were 258 English and Anglo-vernacular schools attended by 44,684 pupils, of whom 35,317 were boys and 9,367 girls.

In many of the schools candidates are prepared for the Senior and Junior Cambridge Local Examinations. In 1914 the candidates who presented themselves and the results obtained were—

			Candidates.	Honours.	Passed.
Senior	..	..	792	57	427
Junior	..	..	1,078	49	639

The results of the London University Examinations in 1915 showed that 72 candidates from Ceylon presented themselves for the Matriculation Examination, 22 of whom passed. In addition, 13 candidates passed the Intermediate Examination in Arts, 10 passed the Intermediate Examination in Science, 1 the Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, 5 the First Examination in Medical Degrees, and 2 the Intermediate Examination in Laws.

The encouragement offered by Government takes the form 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. The grants paid to English schools in the financial year 1914-15 amounted to Rs. 314,933.

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 £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 1915 the number of students in training was English 45, Sinhalese men 53, 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 1915 the aided industrial schools, which are 39 in number, received grants amounting to Rs. 23,788. 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 of 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. 287 school gardens attached to Government schools are worked under this scheme, and 56 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 78 Government hospitals (in addition to the Lunatic and the Leper Asylums) equipped with modern hospital furniture and surgical appliances; the number of beds in the institutions ranges from 12 to 497, while the number accommodated in the Lunatic Asylum numbered 837 as lowest and 903 as highest; in addition to the hospitals, there are 430 Government outdoor dispensaries. The owners of estates have also provided 54 estate hospitals, which receive a rebate on export duty, and 353 dispensaries, which receive drugs free from Government to a value of 50 cents per labourer per annum.

Four new hospitals are under construction at Pimbura in the Western Province, Passara in the Province of Uva, and Kitulgala and Pelmadulla in the Province of Sabaragamuwa. A new building is also being erected at Alutnuwara in the Province of Uva to replace the present hospital building; a new dispensary was opened during the year at Kahataruppe in the Province of Uva.

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 for the manufacture of calf lymph; there are special dispensaries at Kandy and Galle for the treatment of eye diseases.

ASYLUMS.

The Lunatic Asylum contained 897 inmates on December 31, 1915. 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 1915 was 1,136 (717 males and 419 females). The number discharged was 165 (110 males and 55 females), and the number of deaths was 74 (48 males and 26 females). In the House of Observation 391 persons were treated, of whom 191 were transferred to the asylum, 174 were discharged, 9 cases died, and 17 remained at the end of the year.

The Leper Asylum is situated 6 miles from Colombo; it contained 402 patients at the end of the year; the total treated during 1915 numbered 509. 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. An institute for the treatment of tuberculosis has been built in Colombo, but was not opened, as no suitable officer was obtainable.

IX.—CRIME.

POLICE.

The strength of the Force on December 31, 1915, provided for in the Estimates was 1 Inspector-General, 9 Superintendents, 15 Assistant Superintendents, 3 Probationers, 36 Inspectors, 87 Sub-Inspectors, 4 Station House Officers, 318 Native Sergeants, and 2,169 Native Constables.

European Police : 1 Inspector, 3 Sub-Inspectors, 7 Second Class Sergeants, and 22 Third Class Sergeants.

Total of all ranks 2,675.

The cost of the Force was Rs. 1,506,100 approximately.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

General Character of the Year.—The following statement shows the state of crime in 1915 as compared with 1914 :—

	1914.	1915.*	1915.†
Murder and homicide ..	209 ..	204 ..	52
Grievous hurt ..	613 ..	615 ..	16
Hurt with knife ..	1,218 ..	1,214 ..	12
Rape ..	53 ..	56 ..	14
Robbery ..	303 ..	381 ..	54
Arson ..	192 ..	267 ..	63
Burglary ..	1,609 ..	1,911 ..	116
Theft of cattle and prædial produce ..	796 ..	981 ..	17
Treason, &c. ..	— ..	— ..	141
Attempted homicide ..	— ..	— ..	19
Unlawful assembly and rioting ..	— ..	— ..	1,162
Destroying building: mosque and shop breaking ..	— ..	— ..	107
Other offences committed in connection with rioting ..	— ..	— ..	285
Total ..	4,993	5,629	2,058

* Not including crime committed during the disturbances in May-June.

† Crime committed during the disturbances.

There was a general increase in crime against the person and property.

Disturbances.—Crime committed during the disturbance is shown separately.

Starting in Kandy on the night of May 28, when the Muhammadan mosque was attacked by the Buddhists, and continuing in Kandy on May 29, disturbances broke out round Kandy on the 30th, and on May 31 in the Sabaragamuwa, North-Western, and Western Provinces. On June 1 rioting was in progress in four Provinces, in 86 different centres, extending over an area of 112 miles from north to south. On June 2 disturbances were spread over five Provinces, in 116 different centres, extending over an area of 136 miles from north to south. The severity of the disturbances may be gauged by the fact that between May 28 and June 5 serious offences were committed to the number of 36 per cent. of other crime for the whole year.

Of the persons convicted by Courts Martial for offences committed in connection with the disturbances, 96 per cent. were Sinhalese and 90 per cent. were Buddhists. Out of 5,315 habitual criminals in the Island, only 10 were convicted by Courts Martial. 1,508 persons were arrested by the police while rioting was going on.

Crime committed during the disturbances cannot, therefore, be classed with the ordinary crime in the Colony.

The statement below shows the distribution of crime during the disturbances from May 28 to June 5 :—

Offences committed during the Disturbances from May 28 to June 5 dealt with by Police Courts, District Courts, and Courts Martial.

Province.	Offences against the State.	Offences against the Person.	Offences against Property.	Total.
Western ..	826	66	210	1,102
Sabaragamuwa ..	180	3	91	274
North-Western ..	101	15	123	239
Southern ..	73	18	131	222
Central ..	123	16	82	221
Total ..	1,303	118	637	2,058

Distribution of Crime.—The following table shows the distribution of crime, excluding offences committed during the disturbances :—

Province.	Homicide.	Attempted Homicide.	Grievous Hurt.	Hurt with Dangerous Weapons.	Burglary.	Thefts of Cattle and Pederal Produce.	Other Offences.	Total.
Western ..	70..	10..	213..	367..	572..	381	879..	2,492
Southern ..	36..	5..	117..	276..	497..	199..	303..	1,433
Central ..	17..	11..	59..	104..	232..	44..	522..	989
North-Western ..	23..	8..	43..	103..	235..	189..	520..	1,121
Sabaragamuwa ..	32..	6..	53..	116..	212..	64..	331..	814
Colombo City ..	6..	1..	41..	82..	46..	4..	279..	459
Uva ..	7..	2..	19..	43..	55..	43..	151..	320
Northern ..	8..	—	48..	63..	18..	18..	226..	381
Eastern ..	3..	—	14..	41..	24..	21..	82..	185
North-Central ..	2..	—	8..	19..	20..	18..	76..	143
Total ..	204	43	615	1,214	1,911	981	3,369	8,337

The state of crime in each Province may best be determined by comparing the number of serious offences committed with the population. Such an analysis shows that (crime and population of Colombo excluded)—

	Persons.
In the Western Province there was 1 case of crime to every ..	357
In the North-Western Province ..	387
In the Southern Province ..	439
In the Colombo City ..	472
In the Province of Sabaragamuwa ..	502
In the North-Central Province ..	603
In the Central Province ..	679
In the Province of Uva ..	677
In the Eastern Province ..	993
In the Northern Province ..	970

Comparison with Madras.—Compared with the Madras Presidency—

	Ceylon.	Madras.
	Persons.	Persons.
Proportion of crime to population is 1 case of crime to ..	492	1,971
Proportion of murders to population is 1 case of murder to ..	20,129	38,863

That there is a large amount of serious crime to be dealt with in Ceylon may be gauged by the fact that the proportion of murders and crime generally to population in Ceylon is three times as high as in the Madras Presidency. In Ceylon a murder is committed every other day.

Steps have been taken to deal with the increase of crime in the Colony during the year by the appointment of additional officers to supervise the work of the police in the criminal Provinces and by other expedients.

A punitive police force was established at Hanwella in the Western Province. This was the first place where it was reported that the Moors were still being molested by the Sinhalese after martial law had been withdrawn.

Supreme Court sessions were held in the outlying criminal districts, with good effect. For example, in the North-Western Province sessions were held twice in Kurunegala and once in Chilaw, with marked success.

The War.—Since the outbreak of war 84 male and 20 female enemy subjects in the Colony have been interned. The Harbour Police detected 87 enemy subjects arriving on vessels in the harbour, all of whom were arrested and detained. 172 prisoners were removed from prize ships and interned.

PRISONS.

There was an increase of 5,524 in the total number of admissions of convicted prisoners of Ceylon during the year 1915, excluding Road Ordinance defaulters, of whom there were 114, as against 119 in 1914. The figures are as follows : 1914, 10,221 ; 1915, 15,745.

The increase in the number of admissions was due to the large number of prisoners committed to jail during June and July last in connection with the anti-Moorish riots. The number of rioters thus committed to prison was 5,492.

The number of prisoners sentenced to death was 156, as against 54 in 1914. There were 90 executions during the year, as against 41 in 1914. The figures for 1915 include 83 sentences of death and 34 executions as a result of Court Martial trials. Of the 90 whose capital sentences were carried out, 81 were Sinhalese, 8 Tamils, and 1 Moor. Of the number sentenced to death in 1915, 3 were hanged in 1916, and of the number hanged, 1 had been sentenced in 1914. Six convicts were deported to the Andamans for life.

There were 8 escapes and 3 recaptures during the year.

The total number of deaths in jail was 232, as against 75 in 1914; and the death-rate per 1,000 of the prisons population was 8·63, as against 4·38 in 1914 and 6·77 in 1913. The daily average of sick was 167·98, as against 80·51 in 1914 and 92·93 in 1913.

The number of punishments inflicted during the year for prison offences was 1,422, as against 885 in 1914 and 1,272 in 1913. There were 34 cases of corporal punishments, as against 19 in 1913.

Prisoners, whenever possible, are employed on public works of utility and remunerative industrial labours. At Welikada jail in Colombo and Bogambra prison in Kandy various trades are taught, such as carpentry, blacksmiths' and tinsmiths' work, boot making, cane furniture, coir mats, rugs, brooms, coal bags and string, tailoring, laundry work, bookbinding, and printing. An average of 250 prisoners is daily employed in the Government Printing Office, Colombo.

The articles manufactured are supplied to Government Departments free of charge. The demand for articles made from coir fibres and strings is great from all Government Departments since the abolition of inter-departmental payments.

The carpenters in Welikada prison have all been busily employed since August last on making the whole of the furniture required for the new Agricultural School at Peradeniya, the wood for this purpose being obtained from the Government Forest Department.

Owing to the riots it was found necessary to increase the accommodation at Mahara. This was done by utilizing the portable prison from Mankulam, and turning the meal sheds into wards for prisoners. Since July last a daily average of 1,080 prisoners has been employed there on account of the Harbour and Public Works Departments, turning out metal, rubble, and granite setts.

Similarly, additional accommodation was provided at Jaffna by the erection of a temporary prison on the Karaiur reclamation, the majority of the rioters being sent there. By this means over 1,200 prisoners have been found daily work of a remunerative nature. To obtain still further accommodation, it was decided to reopen the old jails at Ratnapura and Hambantota. At Ratnapura 100 prisoners are employed on railway extension works, while at Hambantota 250 will be employed on the salt leways.

At Galle, Chilaw, Anuradhapura, and Tangalla stone and metal are supplied to the Railway and Public Works Departments. Chilaw has, in addition, a party of prisoners daily employed on reclamation work on behalf of the Local Board.

At Badulla prisoners are employed on metal breaking for the Public Works Department and Local Board, with a small party on works of improvement.

The convalescents at Negombo are employed in basket making and twisting coir string, while at Batticaloa the prisoners are employed at husk beating and in improving the water supply of the town.

X.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

Estimated on the basis of the Census of 1911, the population (exclusive of the military and shipping) at the end of 1915 was about 4,424,300, an increase of nearly 107,600 on that of the previous year, due to an excess of about 51,100 births over deaths and 56,500 arrivals over departures of Indian coolies. Thus, in population, Ceylon approximates to Bulgaria, Ireland, Scotland, and Switzerland among the countries of Europe.

The population comprised the various nationalities shown below :—

Nationality.	Number.	Percentage of Total Population.
Sinhalese	2,846,400 ..	64·3
Tamils (indigenous)	612,100 ..	13·9
Tamils (immigrants and their descendants)	628,300 ..	14·2
Moors	271,600 ..	6·2
Burghers	28,000 ..	·6
Malays	13,600 ..	·3
Europeans	7,600* ..	·2
Others	16,800 ..	·4

* Exclusive of the Europeans who left the Island for military purposes.

There are 113 males to every 100 females in the population of Ceylon, while in England and Wales the proportions are reversed, with only 94 males to every 100 females.

MARRIAGES.

The marriages registered during the year corresponded to a rate of 14·4 persons married per 1,000 of the population at all ages, showing an increase of 2·6 on that of the previous year and of 3·1 on the average for the past ten years. This rate compares not unfavourably with that in the United Kingdom, where the average is 14·7.

BIRTHS.

The birth-rate was 37·0 per mille, and was ·9 below the rate in the preceding year and ·2 less than the average. The proportion of births to population in Ceylon is similar to that prevailing in other tropical countries, but is considerably higher than the rate (about 26) in England and Wales, whilst being nearly double the rate in France. There were 105 male to every 100 female births, almost like the English rate.

DEATHS.

The death-rate was 25·0 per 1,000 of the population, and was 5·8 below the average, and 7·2 below the rate in the previous year. This rate was the lowest on record since 1898, when improved registration began, with the exception of the rate in 1904, when it was only ·1 less. 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 cacao estates at the end of the year contained a population of about 695,271, mostly of Tamil immigrants from Southern India. The estate death-rate was 32·3, against an average of 35·4, and ranged from 20·8 in Kegalla to 54·8 in Matara.

The urban death-rate was 28·0 per mille, against 30·5 in the preceding year and 29·9 the average for the preceding six years. The rate ranged from 8·5 in Nuwara Eliya to 50·4 in Anuradhapura and 50·1 in Mullaittivu. Excluding Nuwara Eliya—the rate for which is obviously flattering, as it is calculated on the population estimated on the Census taken at the height of the Nuwara Eliya season—the healthiest town was, as usual, Kegalla, with a rate of 15·0.

Infantile Mortality.

171 infants under 1 year died to every 1,000 born, against an average of 195. This rate is the lowest recorded during the preceding decennium, though still considerably higher than the rate (121) in England and Wales.

The estate infantile mortality rate was 212 per 1,000 births, and the urban 237.

Causes of Deaths in the Island.

The proportion of deaths in the general community from certain principal causes to a million of the estimated population was as follows:—Infantile convulsions, 2,596; diarrhoea, 2,465; bronchitis and pneumonia, 1,146; phthisis and other forms of tuberculosis, 952; dysentery, 774; anchylostomiasis, 468; malaria and malarial cachexia, 390; premature birth and congenital defects, 307; cancer, 92; enteric fever, 88; and smallpox, 35.

Plague, which broke out in 1914 for the first time in the history of Ceylon, is still continuing, though the victims claimed in the year under review are very much less—about a third of the number in 1914.

108 deaths per million were due to accidental drowning, 80 to falls from trees, and 53 to snake-bite.

202 deaths resulted from suicide, and corresponded to a rate of 46 per million persons living—about half the rate in England and Wales.

342 deaths were attributed to homicide, against an average of 181. This corresponded to a rate of 77 per million—the highest ever recorded in Ceylon—and was due to the riots in June. The number of executions, too, rose to 76, from an average of 29, owing to the same cause.

Causes of Deaths in the Estates.

The chief causes of mortality on the estates were debility under three months of age, 3,355 per million of the estate population; debility over three months, 1,458; diarrhoea, 3,292; dysentery, 2,738; bronchitis and pneumonia, 2,696; anchylostomiasis, 2,574; infantile convulsions, 1,921; premature birth and congenital defects, 564; malaria and malarial cachexia, 510; and phthisis, 409.

Causes of Deaths in the Towns.

In the 33 towns in the Island (inclusive of Colombo), of the total number of deaths, pneumonia accounted for 2,986 per million of the population, phthisis and other tubercular diseases for 2,447, infantile convulsions for 2,378, diarrhoea for 2,105, malaria and malarial cachexia for 2,032, dysentery for 1,610, anchylostomiasis for 1,211, enteritis for 1,009, bronchitis for 620, enteric fever for 534, smallpox for 217, and cancer for 142.

PLAGUE IN COLOMBO.

There was a great improvement as regards the incidence of plague in Colombo during 1915 compared with 1914, the total number of cases reported being only 139, as against 413 during the previous year. On the other hand, and contrary to expectations, there was no diminution in the virulence of the disease, the total case mortality being 92 per cent., as in the previous year.

The following are the chief statistical data for the two years :—

	1914.	1915.
Total cases ..	413	139
Total deaths ..	381	128
Septicæmic cases ..	247	81
Septicæmic deaths ..	246	80
Bubonic cases ..	166	58
Bubonic deaths ..	135	48
Total case mortality per cent. ..	92	92
Septicæmic mortality per cent.* ..	99·6	98·7
Bubonic mortality per cent. ..	81·3	82·7

* The septicæmic figures for each year include one recovery, in which the diagnosis of plague was not confirmed bacteriologically. If these are excluded, the septicæmic case mortality was 100 per cent. each year.

The following table shows the monthly incidence of cases during each year :—

	1914.	1915.
January ..	4	19
February ..	67	6
March ..	58	3
April ..	28	3
May ..	29	3
June ..	49	1
July ..	47	5
August ..	40	20
September ..	18	21
October ..	23	24
November ..	24	10
December ..	26	24
Total ..	413	139
Monthly Mean ..	34	11·5

As in the previous year, the largest number of cases occurred amongst young adults, males being attacked much more frequently than females.

During 1915, as was also the case in 1914, the chief focus of infection as regards both rat and human plague was situated in the Sea street area. During 1914 there were, in addition to the Sea street centre, three other outbreaks, viz., in Union lane, Symonds road, and San Sebastian areas. During 1915, on the other hand, none of these areas suffered, except for a few sporadic cases in San Sebastian. It may be said, in fact, that during 1915 there was only one endemic centre, viz., the Sea street area, all the other cases in the town being sporadic.

The comparative absence of the usual signs of an epizootic amongst the rats, which was such a striking feature of the 1914 experience, was repeated in 1915.

In like manner, the extraordinary precision with which the disease selected, and in fact was, so far as the people are concerned, confined to the most insanitary quarters of the town, was observed in 1915 also.

With a view to limiting the danger associated with insanitary rat-infested wholesale grain stores situated in the heart of the town and surrounded by dwellings, the Government took steps to erect a series of rat-proof rice stores in the Racquet Court (the Chalmers' granaries), which are under official control. The transport of rice from the private godowns in the town to estates up-country was at the same time forbidden, unless it was previously exposed for two hours in the sun.

The same preventive measures as hitherto were carried out, reliance being placed chiefly upon isolation of patients, segregation of contacts, evacuation of insanitary tenements in infected localities pending the carrying out of structural improvements, pestering of infected houses, capture and destruction of rats, including the fumigation of rat runs by Clayton machine. Inoculation with anti-plague vaccine has not become a popular measure, and very few people have undergone the operation.

Rat Catching.

	1914.		1915.
Number of rats trapped and found dead	142,015	..	147,198
Number of poison baits placed	2,298,035	..	3,913,944
Number of poison baits eaten or removed by rats	427,362	..	734,697
Number of rats sent to Municipal Bacteriologist	17,163	..	23,187
Number of rats found infected	260	..	57

CLIMATE.

General Remarks.—There is a marked variation in climate between the different parts of Ceylon. In the low-country, with a mean temperature of the order of 80° F., a noticeable feature is the small range of both temperature and pressure; there is, however, wide divergence between the moist conditions in the south-west of the Island, where the average annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches, and the dry zone areas of the north, north-west, and south-east.

Inland, with altitudes reaching 8,000 feet, the temperature is cooler, and shows a bigger range; there is a corresponding change in vegetation, and the conditions are altogether more akin to those in the temperate zone.

Rainfall.—The highest annual rainfall registered was at "Carney estate," Ratnapura, which had a total of 266·82 inches and 212 days on which rain fell. The lowest annual rainfall was at Mantota, in Mannar, which had a total of 25·85 inches in 39 days. The stations with the highest and lowest average annual rainfall are, respectively, Padupola with 220·25 inches in 202 days, and Marichchukkaddi with 33·03 inches in 56 days. The longest drought occurred at Kalpitiya, lasting for 85 days, June 27 to September 19. The longest wet period occurred at Padupola estate, near Dikoya, lasting for 47 days, April 11 to May 27.

The annual rainfall at Colombo (Cinnamon Gardens) was 96·81 inches in 192 days. At Kandy 91·33 inches were registered in 193 days, while the annual rainfall at Nuwara Eliya was 91·88 inches in 206 days. On the whole, the annual rainfall was much in excess of that of the average in the south-west, in slight excess up-country, and in deficit elsewhere.

Temperature.—The station showing the highest mean shade temperature for the year was Trincomalee with 84·4° F., and the lowest Nuwara Eliya with 60·7° F. The figures for Colombo and Kandy were 81·0° F. and 77·1° F., respectively.

The highest shade temperature recorded during the year was 101·6° F. at Trincomalee on May 25. The highest on record is 103·7° F. at Trincomalee on May 12, 1890. The highest shade temperature at Colombo in 1915 was 97·2° F. on February 23.

The mean daily range, *i.e.*, the difference between the mean of the maximum and the mean of the minimum, was highest at Nuwara Eliya (19·1° F.) and lowest at Galle (8·0° F.). At Colombo and Kandy it was 12·0° F. and 14·9° F., respectively. The absolute range for the year, *i.e.*, the difference between the highest and the lowest readings actually recorded, was greatest at Nuwara Eliya (44·3° F.) and least at Galle (21·1° F.).

XI.—POSTAL SERVICE.

Eight new post offices and 6 new receiving offices were opened during 1915. Fourteen post offices were converted into combined post and telegraph offices, and 11 receiving offices were closed. The total number of post and receiving offices now is 508, of which 181 are also telegraph offices.

The number of articles, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the post in 1915 is estimated at 46½ millions, as against 49½ millions in 1914 and 46½ millions in 1913. The number of parcels dealt with was 717,817, an increase of 12,158 over the figures of the previous year. Of these, 36,825 were to or from the United Kingdom.

There has been a decrease in the number of telegrams dealt with, as will be seen by the following figures :—

	1914.	1915.
Inland	1,028,846	971,620
Indian	236,613	225,625
Other countries	114,736	110,357

In 1913 the number of inland telegrams was 916,578.

Mail Services.—A contract was entered into for a motor mail service between Polgahawela and Kegalla.

The motor mail route from Matara to Hambantota was diverted at Dikwella from the main road to the Dikwella-Beliatta-Tangalla road, and the runner service between Tangalla and Beliatta was discontinued.

Parcels Services.—An agreement was entered into for a direct exchange of parcels between Ceylon and Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa) in place of the service *viâ* India, but has been suspended for want of suitable communications owing to the war.

The parcel post rates for New Zealand were increased from Re. 1·50, Rs. 2·25, and Rs. 3 to Rs. 2, Rs. 3, and Rs. 3·75, to cover the more expeditious overland transit in Australia.

The rates to Sweden were reduced from Rs. 2·25, Rs. 3, and Rs. 3·75 to Re. 1·35, Rs. 2·35, and Rs. 3·35.

Stamps.—Rolls of 500 postage stamps of 2 and 5 cents denominations, suitable for inserting in stamp-affixing machines, were introduced during the year, and were sold at the face value.

Telegrams.—Arrangements were made for acceptance of special week-end letter telegrams at quarter rates, without a minimum number of words, for transmission to soldiers, sailors, and nurses serving with His Majesty's Forces in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Egypt, Gibraltar, Malta, the Persian Gulf, and all British possessions outside of Europe (except Hong Kong) where such Forces were employed.

A service of free telegraphic inquiries regarding officially reported sick or wounded members of His Majesty's Forces serving in the countries above named (as well as Gibraltar and Malta) was also introduced.

Telephones.—The main trunk line was duplicated between Colombo and Polgahawela and Kandy and Gampola. A trunk line between Kalutara Government Exchange and Neboda Planters' Exchange was completed, and also one between Colombo and Negombo. The Panadure-Bandaragama-Horana-Ingiriya telephone-telegraph circuit was completed during the year.

Call offices were opened at the following places:—Law Courts (Colombo), Kelaniya, Gampola, Negombo, Polgahawela, Ambalangoda, Mutwal.

Junction lines were constructed by the Department between private exchanges: (1) Galaha to Hewaheta, (2) Kandapola to Ragalla.

Two licenses for planters' telephone exchanges were granted during the year: (1) Maturata, (2) Deniyaya.

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. 8,044,211 in 1915, the latter figure showing a decrease of Rs. 6,623,756 below 1914. The average annual expenditure during the past twenty years is Rs. 5,642,110.

The total length of roads maintained by the Public Works Department during the year was 4,014 miles, of which 3,802 miles are cart roads and 212 miles are bridle roads.

Among the more important works which have been completed or were in course of construction may be mentioned the following:—Bungalows for Government officers stationed in Colombo; erection of grain sheds, Colombo; Colombo Lake Development project; Colombo Customs quay wall and jetties; extension to Custom-house; quarters and office for District Engineer, Panadure; quarters for Assistant Superintendent of Police, Kalutara; police station and barracks, Panadure; quarters for District Engineer, Kalutara; residence for Colonial Secretary, Nuwara Eliya; Post Office, Nanu-oya; District Judge's quarters and Government bungalow, Hatton; married quarters for police, Gampola; quay wall and export shed, Galle Customs; additional jetty, Galle Customs; quarters for Police Magistrate, Matara; reconstruction of Kananke bridge; Government buildings, Talaimannar; Police Office and quarters for Sub-Inspector, Jaffna; Post Office, Jaffna Kachcheri; Leper Asylum, Eastern Province; Batticaloa waterworks; officers' quarters, Batticaloa prison; additions to police barracks, Batticaloa; residence for Provincial Surgeon, Kurunegala; police barracks, Kurunegala; quarters for Public Works Department clerks, Kurunegala; Public Works Department buildings, Maho; administration block, Marawila hospital; clerks' quarters, Anuradhapura; quarters for jail guards and Sub-Inspector of Police, Badulla; new resthouse, Ratnapura; new office for Provincial Surgeon, Sabaragamuwa; quarters for police at Avissawella; additions to hospitals at Matala, Kegalla, Kolonna, Lunugala, and Dambulla; new hospitals at Pimbura, Passara, Alutnuwara, Kitulgala, and Kahawatta; and various roads and bridges.

IRRIGATION.

The total expenditure of the Irrigation Department for the financial year 1914–15 was Rs. 792,661.

The schemes under construction were Karachchi, Unnichehai, Pattipola-aar, Kirinde-oya right bank, and Tabbowa. Work on the last-named scheme was closed down temporarily at the end of the financial year.

Surveys were made in connection with the following schemes :—Kirinde-oya right bank, Walawe left bank, Nalanda-oya, Karachchi, Unnichchai, Pattipola-aar, Batticaloa flood prevention, Kantalai, Allai, and Nachchaduwa.

The area irrigated and paying rate under the Crown works is 123,710 acres ; in addition, there is a large area irrigated free. A considerable area of irrigable land is ready for development.

SURVEY.

During the year under review a considerable reduction in the staff and expenditure was effected owing to the war.

25,930 acres of block surveys and 129,727 acres of " topographical surveys with block survey insets for settlement purposes " were surveyed.

The number of block survey preliminary plans issued was 176, containing 6,867 lots, covering an area of 58,474 acres. The number of topographical preliminary plans issued with block survey insets for settlement purposes was 4, containing 121 lots, covering an area of 111,593 acres.

The total areas now covered by block survey and by " topographical surveys with block survey insets for settlement purposes " are 2,059,414 acres and 1,015,668 acres respectively, making a total area of 3,075,082 acres issued for settlement.

175 final village plans for 68,026 acres in 3,337 lots were issued to the Government Agents and the Assistant Government Agents during the year. The total area covered by final village plans in the hands of the Government Agents and their Assistants now stands at 645,579 acres contained in 22,528 lots, or 1,579 final village plans.

1,274 preliminary plans for 22,010 acres in 5,267 lots were forwarded to the Government Agents and the Assistant Government Agents. Fifty-five railway settlement survey plans for 758 acres in 1,559 lots were forwarded to the Settlement Officer.

There have been 21 applications to purchase Crown lands for rubber cultivation dealt with during the period, totalling 808 acres. Most of them lie in the Western and Central Provinces.

Surveys have been continued in connection with the Bandarawela-Badulla railway extensions.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Open Line.

The length of the line open for traffic on September 30, 1915, was 692½ miles, as against 672 miles in the preceding year. The increase is due to the opening of a section of the line to Chilaw on June 1, 1915.

The revenue for the year, exclusive of a sum of Rs. 745,682, being the value of work done for other Government Departments, is Rs. 15,693,563, but for purposes of comparison with previous years the total revenue is taken as Rs. 16,439,245. This figure compared with 1913-14 shows a decrease of Rs. 96,046, made up of a decrease of Rs. 445,754 under the head of " Coaching," and increases of Rs. 330,121 and Rs. 19,587 under the heads of " Goods and Live Stock " and " Miscellaneous," respectively.

The number of passengers conveyed during the year has considerably fallen off, the decrease being 1,351,507 passengers. As regards goods traffic, the total tonnage of all classes of goods, including foreign traffic, shows an increase of 43,721 tons. The most noticeable increases are under the head of rubber 5,013 tons, tea 15,552 tons, coconut produce 3,893 tons, tea and rubber packing 5,917 tons. The working expenses, including a sum of Rs. 27,295 expended on maintenance works, amount to Rs. 8,087,156.

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

			Rs.
Receipts	..	..	15,693,563
Working expenses	..	..	8,087,156
Balance..	..	..	7,606,407

Of this profit on working, a sum of Rs. 1,458,626 was expended on improvements, and a further sum of Rs. 193,187 on new works and rolling stock. During the year 18 passenger and 186 new goods vehicles, including a number of tank wagons, were put into traffic. The total capital cost to September 30, 1915, including additional accommodation and improvements, amounts to Rs. 125,735,236, and capital outstanding on railway loans to Rs. 56,072,776.

Railway Extensions.

The work on the Chilaw line during 1915 was approaching completion, and on June 1 the railway up to Kochchikade was opened for all descriptions of traffic, and the stations at Nattandiya and Madampe were opened for goods traffic only.

Steady progress was made with the Pelmadulla and Badulla Extensions, especially on the sections between Ratnapura and Dela and between Bandara-wela and Ella.

Work is in progress on the Colombo Stations Extensions, and during the year a large broad gauge goods shed and connecting sidings were brought into use by the open line of railway. Earthwork is in hand on the Main line duplication between Ragama and Veyangoda.

In December, 1915, the survey of the line from Chilaw to Puttalam was commenced, and the survey connecting the harbour line with the railway *viâ* Mutwal was completed.

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 1915 115 miles of sewers and rain-water drains had been laid, and 5 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 884 other premises had been drained.

XIII.—EXCISE.

No change of any radical nature was introduced during the year under review. The policy inaugurated in previous years of sternly repressing illicit practices and supervising licensed premises more closely than before was pursued in 1915.

The strength of the sanctioned staff was practically the same as in the previous year, viz., 1 Excise Commissioner, 1 Deputy Commissioner of Excise, 1 Excise Adviser, 4 Assistant Commissioners of Excise, 1 Superintendent of Excise, 14 Assistant Superintendents of Excise, 100 Inspectors, 223 Peons.

The Acting Excise Commissioner continued throughout 1915 to perform the duties of Deputy Commissioner of Excise in addition to his own.

Mr. E. H. J. Eames, lately Excise Adviser to the Ceylon Government, who was lent by the Government of India, returned to India at the end of June on the expiry of his term. He was succeeded by Mr. E. C. Ward, also of the Madras Salt and Abkari Department.

The work of the staff in the detection of offences against the Excise law has been satisfactory. In 1915 2,575 cases were decided in the courts, resulting in fines amounting to Rs. 121,268·47, besides other punishments, such as imprisonment. Moreover, some cases were settled departmentally by recovery of "composition fees"; these fees amounted in 1915 to Rs. 21,509·55.

The financial results as evidenced by the sale of arrack and toddy rents and by the fees recovered on foreign liquor licenses were satisfactory, though the war affected some rents. Various remissions were allowed, because the renters at the time of bidding for the rents could not anticipate the war in which the Empire is now involved. The war has caused a fall in consumption of liquor generally.

Some 247 licenses were issued in 1915, as against 256 in 1914, for the working of distilleries.

Efforts have been made, with very considerable success, towards the detection, punishment, and suppression of illicit practices at and in connection with these distilleries.

As is well known, the large number of these distilleries, and the fact that they are scattered along a section of coast about 100 miles in length, make adequate supervision practically impossible under existing circumstances.

Government has approved the establishment of a distillery for distillation of non-potable alcohol by private enterprise. Two inspectors have been sent to India for a short course of training in distillery work. They will be appointed to supervise the distillery on their return.

New forms of passes and licenses have been prescribed for the import, transport, and sale of cocaine, and trade in cocaine is now to be brought under close supervision. It is recognized that timely efforts should be made for preventing the spread of the cocaine habit in Ceylon.

April, 1916.

E. SUETER,
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:—

A N N U A L.

No	Colony, &c.	Year.
869	British Solomon Islands	1914-1915
870	Tongān 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	1915-1916
903	Cyprus	"

M I S C E L L A N E O U S.

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.

(C316) Wt.45316 1003. 1000 & 90. 10.16. B.&F.Ltd. Gp 11 2

