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No. 934.

CEYLON.

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REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 904.)

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Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

*October, 1917.*

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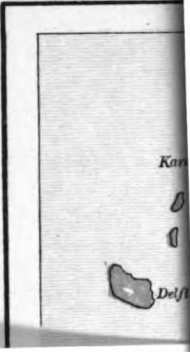


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# REPORT ON THE CEYLON BLUE BOOK FOR 1916.

## I.—GENERAL.

THE Colony was administered by Mr. R. E. Stubbs, C.M.G., until April 15, on which date Sir John Anderson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., arrived and assumed duties as Governor.

Mr. Anton Bertram, K.C., Attorney-General, received the honour of Knighthood, and the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George was conferred on Mr. Bernard Senior, I.S.O., Colonial Treasurer, and on Brigadier-General H. H. L. Malcolm, C.B., D.S.O., who had been Officer Commanding the Troops in Ceylon from 1913 to 1915.

The Imperial Service Order was conferred on Mr. W. C. Macready, Assistant Postmaster-General.

The following retired from the Public Service during the year :—Mr. J. Harward, Director of Education ; Mr. R. N. Lyne, Director of Agriculture ; Mr. D. S. Corlett, Superintendent of the Experimental Station, Peradeniya ; Mr. G. W. Waddell, Deputy Director of Public Works (proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement) ; Mr. W. C. Macready, Assistant Postmaster-General ; Mr. F. Booth, Chief Irrigation Inspector ; Mr. T. C. Campbell, of the Pilot Service ; and Mr. W. A. Taylor, Colonial Storekeeper.

The deaths of the following are recorded with regret :—Mr. E. B. F. Sueter, Third Assistant Colonial Secretary, by drowning ; Second Lieutenant A. H. Pinder, of the Ceylon Civil Service (on active service) ; Mr. A. H. Clark, retired Assistant Conservator of Forests ; Mr. W. G. Martin, retired Assistant Superintendent of Prisons ; Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, K.C.M.G., formerly Colonial Secretary ; Mr. R. B. Strickland, late Assistant Director of Education ; Mr. G. W. Templer, formerly Government Agent of the Eastern Province ; Mr. H. Thwaites, formerly Registrar of the Supreme Court ; Mr. G. H. Withers, retired Puisne Judge ; Mr. W. A. Taylor, Colonial Storekeeper ; and the Hon. Mr. J. N. Campbell, formerly European Member of the Legislative Council.

Mr. C. W. van der Wall was elected to represent the Burgher community in the Legislative Council, in succession to the late Sir Hector van Cuylenburg.

The constitution of the Legislative Council was altered with respect to the number of Official Members who hold their seats *ex officio*. These were reduced to five, the remaining Official Members being such six other persons holding office in the Island as the Governor may from time to time appoint.

Commissions were appointed during the year for the following purposes :—

- (1) To inquire into and report upon what measures are desirable to encourage such industries (other than agricultural) as exist in this Island, and to promote the establishment of new industries.
- (2) To consider the arrangements for the manufacture and sale of spirits in the Colony.
- (3) To inquire into and report upon the existing provision for, and machinery of, local government in the rural areas of the Island in regard to matters of sanitation, education, and communications, and to advise as to what steps it is desirable to take for their improvement.

- (4) To inquire into and report with regard to certain questions of Kandyan law.
- (5) To inquire into and report upon the circumstances connected with the shooting of certain persons during the riots of 1915.

Committees were appointed for the following purposes :—

- (1) To consider (a) whether it is desirable that a system of compulsory training for British-born Europeans should be established in Ceylon ; and (b) if so, what should be the general outlines of such a system.
- (2) To consider the terms and conditions on which land should in future be leased for agricultural purposes.
- (3) To consider and report on the general question of the cultivation of paddy and other agricultural food products in the tank districts of the Island.

Despite the continuance of the war, the condition of the Island has remained, on the whole, prosperous during 1916. The partial failure of two successive north-east monsoons has, however, led to a shortage of paddy and to restriction of paddy cultivation in parts of the North-Central, North-Western, and Eastern Provinces.

The prices of food stuffs and of imported articles have risen owing to the war.

The prices of coconuts and of the products of the coconut palm have continued low. Restricted freight and the restrictions on exports have checked the demand for these products. The exports of coconut oil and coir yarn show a notable decrease compared with the figures for 1915. In Colombo a number of fibre and desiccating mills were closed down during the year. In spite, however, of low prices and partial stagnation of the industries depending on the coconut, a fair amount of new plantation has been done, a fact which indicates the large profits obtainable from coconut growing. In the Kurunegala District the area under coconuts was increased by as much as 15,000 acres during 1916.

The stagnation in the coconut industries has been largely counterbalanced by the flourishing condition of the plumbago industry. The price of plumbago reached a record figure during the year, and the great demand for this product gave employment to many low-country people. In the Galle District alone no less than 3,087 declarations of intention to prospect for plumbago were received during the year.

The planting of rubber is being increasingly undertaken by native land-owners ; and a certain amount of land formerly cultivated for paddy has been planted in rubber.

No serious outbreaks of epidemic disease occurred during the year, except plague in Colombo, particulars of which are given under a separate heading.

The statistics show a certain decrease in serious crime throughout the Island as compared with 1915, even leaving out of account crimes connected with the riots of that year. It is probable, however, that the reaction from the riots of 1915 had not spent itself during the year under report ; moreover, police supervision is being continually improved and extended. It cannot yet be said with confidence that the advance of education has been attended by a diminution in crime.

A continued improvement in the standard of living and of comfort is reported from almost all districts of the Island, despite the rise in price of many of the articles and products which an improved standard demands.

Colombo and the neighbouring coast were visited by a severe storm on July 18, which resulted in the loss of 77 fishermen and of a number of fishing boats. Prompt measures were taken both by private persons and by the public authorities to alleviate the consequent distress.

The new railway extension from Negombo to Chilaw was opened by His Excellency Sir John Anderson on May 1.



The Anti-Tuberculosis Institute, which was erected in Colombo as a memorial to His late Majesty King Edward VII., was made available for public use.

The campaign against anchylostomiasis, which was started by the International Health Commission of America (Rockefeller Foundation), was continued within a certain area in the Matale and Kandy Districts, and, it is hoped, will shortly be extended to other planting districts. Rules have recently been framed enforcing the provision of adequate and sanitary latrine accommodation, an indispensable step towards the eradication of this very widespread disease. The results of the campaign have been very encouraging.

The co-operative credit movement made progress during the year. Fourteen new societies were registered, bringing the total to 68, and the total membership is now 6,488, an increase of 2,230 over the figure for 1915. The movement is still in the experimental stage, and comparatively few of the societies have as yet made any considerable use of the opportunities which co-operation affords.

Owing to the depressed market for cardamoms, the export duty on this product was repealed.

The Volunteer Force again bore a considerable share of the military duties connected with the defence of the port of Colombo. The total strength of the Force was very little less than in 1915, despite the number of men who left the Island for war service. The efficiency of the Force has been maintained. Camps were held for the Ceylon Mounted Rifles, Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps, Ceylon Light Infantry, and for a company of the Colombo Town Guard. Other corps were mobilized and performing active service duties.

A Motor Cyclist Corps was formed during the year, and a Volunteer Signalling Association was started, which is doing valuable work.

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## II.—FINANCIAL.

### REVENUE.

The revenue collected during the period October, 1915, to September, 1916, amounted to Rs. 66,013,010, showing an excess of Rs. 15,003,360 over the estimate, and an increase of Rs. 14,467,538 over the revenue of the previous financial year.

The principal sources which contributed to the increase were the Customs, Excise, and Railway. The new export duties levied from January 1, 1916, brought in a revenue of Rs. 6,780,300. The increase also includes a sum of Rs. 1,425,000 realized by the sale of the dredger "Sir William Matthews" and brought to account under "Miscellaneous Receipts."

### EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for 1915-16 was estimated at Rs. 54,679,216, but the amount actually spent was Rs. 56,104,514, which shows an increase of Rs. 5,956,513 over the expenditure of 1914-15. The increase is chiefly due to the Ceylon war contribution to the Imperial Government and the additional Government grant to the Colombo Municipal Council for Drainage Works.

### ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Colony on September 30, 1916, were Rs. 51,674,812, and the liabilities Rs. 16,577,608. 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 £5,656,751, or, approximately, one and a 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 (£25,872) of the latter loan has been carried forward to meet expenditure in 1916-17.

## CURRENCY.

On September 30, 1916, the value of currency notes in circulation was Rs. 27,885,000, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of Rs. 3,502,500 in gold, Rs. 9,221,200 in silver, and Rs. 15,161,300 in British, Colonial, and Indian investments.

## CEYLON SAVINGS BANK.

The Ceylon Savings Bank had a sum of Rs. 4,107,917 to the credit of 38,899 depositors on December 31, 1916, as against Rs. 4,115,634 to the credit of 38,827 depositors on December 31, 1915. The amount of the Bank's invested funds on December 31, 1916, was Rs. 4,653,885, which includes the reserve fund Rs. 686,634. Interest was allowed on deposits at the rate of 3 per cent. on sums of Rs. 1,000 and over and 4 per cent. on sums under Rs. 1,000.

## III.—AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

## AGRICULTURE.

*The Ceylon Agricultural Society.*—This Society, started in 1904, has 920 local members and 530 foreign subscribers. The subscription payable by local members is Rs. 10 and by foreign subscribers Rs. 15 (£1) per annum.

The “Tropical Agriculturist,” the Society's journal, is published monthly and issued free to members, in addition to an Agricultural Year Book published every other year.

The vernacular magazines, also issued monthly in Sinhalese and Tamil, are distributed free to members. Leaflets are published from time to time on special subjects.

Seeds and plants are procured for members at cost price; while periodically vegetable seeds are imported for each planting season. Grafted fruit plants from Australia and India required by members are also procured at cost price.

The Society employs nine agricultural instructors, who itinerate in the various Provinces and afford advice and instruction to native cultivators, who have every facility for securing information regarding control of plant diseases, crops, tillage, manuring, &c.

Seven demonstration gardens in different centres are being worked.

The advice and assistance of the scientific staff of the Department of Agriculture is freely available for members of the Society.

*School of Tropical Agriculture.*—The school was formally opened on January 15, 1916. In the daily programme the mornings are devoted to fieldwork, and the afternoons to classroom work. During tillage, sowing, and reaping operations, however, the whole day is spent in fieldwork; while at the termination of field operations, near the conclusion of the session, the whole day is given to revision classes.

The school staff consists of a Registrar and four agricultural teachers, who hold the Diploma of the Poona Agricultural College. These teachers carry out the groundwork in all subjects. The field demonstrations in horticulture and planting were in the charge of the Curator, Royal Botanic Gardens, and the

Manager, Experiment Station, Peradeniya, respectively. The members of the Scientific Division of the Department also gave special lectures. A special course of work, theoretical and practical, in tobacco cultivation was conducted in Jaffna. The number of students admitted during the year was 77.

Two hostels have been equipped for the residence of students under adequate supervision. In them 32 students were accommodated. As this was found insufficient, houses in the neighbourhood were recognized for residence of students; and these houses were regularly inspected. The health of the students was, on the whole, good.

The school has issued the first number of a magazine called "The Peradeniyan." It is hoped to make this the medium of all communications from students past and present. The school has, further, a debating society for the discussion of agricultural subjects.

*Tea.*—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. The estates are managed almost entirely by European managers, and worked with Tamil labour imported from Southern India.

The estates vary in size from 100 acres to about 2,500 acres, the average being about 400 acres, yielding an average outturn of 485 lb. of made tea per acre. Well-cultivated estates yield more heavily, an average of 600 to 800 lb. being frequent.

The year 1916 was, on the whole, favourable for tea, but in some districts the first two months of the year were exceedingly dry, and therefore there was a slight falling off in yields. Prices ruled high, and good profits were realized.

Considerable modifications were made in the manuring of tea during 1915 and 1916 owing to the impossibility of obtaining potash salts, which had been largely employed in manure mixtures for several years. The lack of potash has not so far affected crops, heavier liming and better cultivation having been carried out to utilize more fully the reserve potash in the soil.

The removal of tea from under rubber in the low-country continues, but other areas are being opened up on patana soils in the uplands.

The average prices are as follows :—

1914	..	..	..	46·35 cents per lb.
1915	..	..	..	56·79 cents per lb.
1916	..	..	..	51·79 cents per lb.

*Rubber.*—The output of rubber has again shown a considerable increase. Young plantations are coming into bearing, and older ones have shown increased yields through better cultivation and more careful tapping.

The area under Hevea rubber is now approximately 240,000 acres. There are some small plantings being carried out, but the lands most suited to rubber have already been planted. Some low-country tea is being interplanted with rubber with a view to removal of the tea at a later date, but, similarly, inferior up-country rubber is being replaced by tea.

Thinning operations are now general, and will probably induce conditions less favourable for the development of fungus diseases. A serious outbreak of pod disease and leaf-fall occurred in August, 1916, as a consequence of the continuance of heavy monsoon rains during that month, but steps are being taken by estate authorities to reduce disease to a minimum.

The greater part of Ceylon rubber is shipped as crêpe, though a certain amount of smoked sheet and biscuit is also made. Prices have been satisfactory during the year, the average price being Re. 1·79 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 of native gardens. Very few new plantations are being opened.

The failure of the north-east monsoon in the early part of the year affected the spring crop, and therefore the exports show a decided fall, below those of the previous year.

The average prices are as follows :—

1914	..	..	..	Rs. 37·76 per cwt.
1915	..	..	..	Rs. 37·48 per cwt.
1916	..	..	..	Rs. 38·57 per cwt.

*Coconuts.*—The coconut crop of 1916, owing to the well-distributed rainfall of the previous year, was higher than the crop of 1915, but the exports were somewhat less, owing to the considerable fall in prices during the latter part of the year and to shortage of freight.

There are now over 1,000,000 acres under coconuts in the Colony, and there have been considerable plantations during the past few years. During 1916 a fairly large area of new land was opened out under coconuts, the greater portion being on cinnamon soil.

*Cinnamon.*—During the year the cinnamon industry suffered very severely owing to low prices, and there was no market at all for the finer grades of quills. Consequently the whole crop of the year remains with the producers unsold.

Exports of ordinary grade cinnamon quills amounted to 2,176,970 lb., as against double the quantity in 1915. The prices obtained ranged from 25 to 30 cents per lb., which is more or less the cost of production.

The export of cinnamon chips (unquilled bark) was larger than in 1915, a large quantity of chips being available from areas which have been uprooted to make way for coconuts.

*Cardamoms.*—The export showed a considerable drop as compared with the previous year.

*Citronella Oil.*—There was a greater export of citronella oil, but the acreage under this grass remains stationary.

*Vanilla.*—An interest in this product is being re-awakened, and its cultivation has been begun upon several estates.

*Native Products.*—Normal conditions prevailed during the year. In some districts the drought at the beginning of the year resulted in a small (rice) paddy crop, but the shortage was not serious.

#### CATTLE.

*Rinderpest.*—Outbreaks occurred in six Provinces, and three remained free. The decrease recorded last year continued throughout 1916. The total number of cases for the year was 856, against 1,493 last year.

*Foot-and-mouth Disease.*—Outbreaks occurred in six Provinces, and three remained free. The total number of cases, including Colombo town and quarantine station, was 284, against 2,366 last year.

*Surra.*—Four cases were detected in the Province of Uva. Two of the animals died, and two were shot.

*Anthrax.*—Twenty deaths occurred from this disease in three Provinces (Western, Central, and North-Central). The disease is very prevalent amongst goats and sheep imported from India, and 1,196 of these animals died at the quarantine station out of 76,820 imported.

*Swine Disease.*—The outbreak referred to in 1915 continued during the early part of the year in the Western and North-Western Provinces. Western Province: 254 cases; 254 animals died, of which 7 were shot. North-Western Province: 20 cases; 20 animals died, of which 3 were shot. The outbreak ended in July.

## 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 1916 was Rs. 1,716,792·58, as compared with Rs. 1,800,856·22 in 1915 and Rs. 1,582,178·89 in 1914.

The year was not favourable for the production of salt, as wet weather interfered with the manufacture during the usual salt-producing season. There was, on the other hand, an unexpected collection of over 105,000 cwt. in the salt lewayas of Hambantota District during the first quarter of the year, in which period there are ordinarily no collections. There was no collection of natural salt in the lewayas of the Northern Province, except at Mattalan, in the Mullaithivu District, as the formations were dissolved by untimely rains. At Nilaveli, in the Trincomalee District, manufacture failed entirely, and the harvest at Puttalam, the largest salt centre, was not satisfactory. Though no restriction was placed on the output, the total yield for the Island amounted only to 298,799 cwt. The quantity secured in 1915 was 295,965 cwt. and in 1914 522,350 cwt. The best output was in 1910, when the total reached 759,396 cwt. In view of the shortage of stocks it will be necessary to import salt in 1917.

## SALE OF CROWN LAND.

The total extent of Crown land sold and settled (exclusive of settlements under the Waste Lands Ordinances) was 11,373 acres, as compared with 14,773 acres in 1915 and 27,471 acres in 1914.

The decrease in the acreage alienated is almost entirely due to the fact that sales of Crown land were in abeyance after the month of August, pending the introduction of a system of leasing. The demand for land does not appear to have decreased.

The Land Settlement Department settles title to land as between the Crown and the subject. During the year 1916 an area of about 208,817 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.

## MINERAL SURVEY.

The survey of the coast line in search of monazite sands has been completed. No additional deposits have been found. Newly found areas of sedimentary rocks in the north-west of the Island have been surveyed in the hope of discovering oil or coal-bearing beds, but with negative results. An investigation of the gem-bearing deposits of the Island has been begun with the objects (1) of discovering, if possible, an extension of the gemming belt; and (2) of discovering the source of the gems. The first part of the investigation has shown that the gemming belt ends somewhat abruptly at the south-east, as at the north end. The latter object is still being pursued.

## FORESTS.

*Re-forestation.*—During the year the area of plantations was increased from 2,870 acres to 3,396 acres.

*Exploitation.*—Public Departments were supplied during 1916 with 15,895 broad gauge and 21,121 narrow gauge sleepers, 109,436 cubic feet of timber, and 73,649 cubic yards of firewood, in addition to the usual indents for small round timber, &c. The value of these was Rs. 400,107·21.

Since 1906 the Forest Department has supplied the Railway Department with 722,050 broad gauge and 255,740 narrow gauge sleepers, at an average cost of Rs. 3·63 and Re. 1·59 per sleeper respectively. Thus, a very large saving

over the cost of imported sleepers has been effected in obtaining these supplies from the local forests, 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. 273,120·31, an increase of Rs. 33,298·20 over the previous year.

#### MANUFACTURES.

Ceylon is essentially an agricultural country, and its manufactures are chiefly confined to the products of agriculture. Particulars of the output of the staple Ceylon products are given under "Exports." The preparation of coconut oil, copra, and arrack gives employment to a large number of the inhabitants, and to a less extent that of citronella oil and cinnamon.

About 6,500 acres were under tobacco cultivation in the Jaffna District, which is the principal tobacco-growing district in the Island. Two varieties are grown, one for smoking and the other for chewing. The smoking tobacco crop was good, and prices were normal. The chewing tobacco crop was equally good, and fetched good prices. Most of the chewing tobacco is exported to South India. A small portion finds its way to the south of the Island for the use of the Indian labourers on estates. All the smoking tobacco is turned into cigars, which find a ready sale in all parts of the Island.

Experiments in the cultivation of foreign varieties of tobacco continued at the Government Experimental Garden under the direction of the tobacco expert.

The Ceylon Sugar Refineries Company, a newly established enterprise, in which a considerable amount of capital, both European and Ceylonese, is invested, has begun to buy jaggery, a product of the palmyra palm, for sugar refining and for distilling alcohol from the refuse molasses. The first samples of the sugar manufactured by the Company were put on the market towards the close of the year.

The fish industry is carried on principally in the Mannar District, from which salted, dried, and iced fish to the value of Rs. 386,110 were sent to other parts of the Island during 1916.

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.

#### MINING.

The year 1916 was a record year for plumbago mining in Ceylon, owing mainly to the continued demand and the facilities given for export of plumbago to America, which took approximately three-quarters of the output. At the end of the year 2,881 mines were actually working, the majority of which, however, are only prospecting ventures. 22,114 persons were employed in the mines at the end of the year.

#### IV.—TRADE.

Ceylon is fortunate in possessing staple products which are in constant demand, and the majority of which are actual necessities of war. In spite of high freights, the Colony consequently enjoyed a year of extraordinary trade prosperity until towards the end of December, when the financing of the export trade became a matter of great difficulty, owing to the adverse rate of exchange consequent on the restricted sale of India Council Bills in London. The effect of this financial difficulty did not show itself in 1916, and the subject is one which need not therefore be discussed in this report.

The total value of Ceylon trade in 1916, excluding specie but including the value of coal supplied to steamers, amounted to Rs. 521,280,838, as compared with Rs. 449,550,045 in 1915. The total value of trade in 1915 constituted a record, but while the increase in that year was only in exports, in 1916 both imports and exports show considerable increases, and in each case the total for the year constitutes a new record.

The following table shows the total value of trade in lakhs of rupees in each year for the period 1907 to 1916 :—

Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.	Year.	Lakhs of Rupees.
1907 ..	2,631½	1912 ..	3,886½
1908 ..	2,647½	1913 ..	4,329½
1909 ..	2,853½	1914 ..	4,022½
1910 ..	3,321½	1915 ..	4,495½
1911 ..	3,523½	1916 ..	5,212½

The Customs revenue collected in 1916 amounted to Rs. 25,488,407, an increase of Rs. 7,899,782 over 1915, itself a record year, due mostly to the new export duties on tea, rubber, copra, coconut oil, desiccated and fresh coconuts, and cacao, first imposed on October 1, 1915, and on plumbago, imposed on August 2, 1916. Of the total revenue, Rs. 7,977,976 represent the proceeds of the new export duties, of which a sum of Rs. 752,985·69 was refunded in accordance with the concessions granted in the case of goods in stock or already sold when the new duties came into force. The Customs revenue is, however, mostly derived from imports, of which the figures classified under the specified heads for the last two years are as follows :—

	1915. Rs.	1916. Rs.
Grain ..	3,910,502	4,493,038
Spirits ..	1,881,295	1,859,945
Kerosine Oil ..	1,733,002	1,756,296
Sugar. ..	1,331,786	1,240,842
Cotton Goods ..	419,579	547,844
Other Goods ..	3,356,196	4,377,842

The following table shows the total amount of the imports and exports for the past ten years. The figures given do not include specie and the value of coal supplied to steamers :—

Year.	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.	Total. Rs.
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
1916 ..	211,500,753	297,505,905	509,006,658

The considerable increase in the imports of 1916 over 1915 was due to larger importations of the principal articles, chiefly rice, cotton goods, manures, metals and metalware, cars and parts thereof, and haberdashery, and to enhanced prices owing to the war. In exports the increase was almost entirely due to larger exports of plumbago and rubber, and to the very remunerative prices realized for the former, both articles being in great demand to supply the needs created by the war. Of the total exports in 1916, Rs. 284,837,976 represent the value of Ceylon produce and manufactures, and Rs. 12,667,929 of imported goods re-exported.

The percentage of imports, exports, and total trade for the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries are shown in the following table. The value of rubber imports is omitted from the table, owing to the fact that

this article is brought here solely for purposes of export, and is therefore an import only in name. The percentages are:—

		<i>Imports.</i>			
		1914.		1915.	1916.
From United Kingdom	..	29·53	..	22·33	23·01
From British Possessions	..	54·90	..	62·54	59·97
From Foreign Countries	..	15·51	..	15·13	17·02
		<i>Exports.</i>			
To United Kingdom	..	52·92	..	53·79	44·28
To British Possessions	..	13·47	..	14·06	12·6
To Foreign Countries	..	33·61	..	32·15	43·12
		<i>Total Trade..</i>			
With United Kingdom	..	42·8	..	42·24	35·64
With British Possessions	..	31·43	..	31·86	31·83
With Foreign Countries	..	25·77	..	25·9	32·53

The United Kingdom, which had previously been well ahead both of her possessions and of foreign countries in her share of the trade with Ceylon, now takes only a slightly better share than the others, the change being brought about by the increase in the trade with foreign countries on account of large exports of rubber and plumbago, especially to the United States of America, and to increased imports from Japan and the United States of America.

#### IMPORTS.

The principal articles imported in 1916 show increases as compared with 1915.

*Confectionery.*—The imports rose in quantity from 952,612 lb. in 1915 to 1,017,441 lb. in 1916, and in value from Rs. 390,936 to Rs. 547,366. Most of the trade is with the United Kingdom, the 746,935 lb. supplied by her in 1916 being valued at Rs. 441,845, as against 899,450 lb. of the value of Rs. 357,294 in the previous year.

Imports from Japan increased in quantity from 1,525 lb. to 62,793 lb., and imports from British India from 25,464 lb. to 175,354 lb. Imports from other countries are negligible, with the exception of those from Switzerland, which supplied much the same quantity as last year, viz., 24,805 lb.

*Cement.*—The year's imports amounted to 315,598 cwt., or 15,774 cwt. less than in the previous year. The United Kingdom supplied 155,988 cwt., Japan 136,623 cwt., and Hong Kong and Denmark most of the remainder. The average value of cement imported from Japan was Rs. 2·65 per cwt., while that from the United Kingdom was Rs. 3·48 per cwt.

*Cotton, Manufactured and Raw.*—Imports rose in value from Rs. 9,483,674 in 1915 to Rs. 12,958,380 in the year under review. The largest increases were in printed piece goods from the United Kingdom, and dyed piece goods from British India, the United Kingdom, and Holland. The United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries have all shared in the increase.

*Grain.*—The imports of rice were 8,073,964 cwt., an increase of 900,186 cwt. over 1915. British India and the Straits Settlements sent less, and Burma more, than in the previous year.

*Horses and Motor Cars.*—On August 2, 1916, the duty on motor cars, except lorries, was raised from 5½ per cent. to 33½ per cent. *ad valorem*, with a view to restricting imports, but as this had not the desired effect action was taken early in 1917 still further to increase the duty. The importation of motor cars has increased considerably, the number for the past seven years being:—

1910	..	151	1914	..	459
1911	..	213	1915	..	296
1912	..	239	1916	..	590
1913	..	407			

The United States of America have supplied 526 cars out of the 590 imported in 1916.



Petrol imports, mainly for motor cars, have also increased. The figures are:—

Year.	Gallons.	Year.	Gallons.
1910 ..	136,646	1914 ..	701,082
1911 ..	206,208	1915 ..	607,774
1912 ..	216,714	1916 ..	776,092
1913 ..	383,442		

Only 60 horses were imported in 1915, but the number rose to 261 in 1916, and importations have again resumed normal proportions. Of the horses imported in 1916, 237 came from British India, 23 from the United Kingdom, and 1 from the Straits Settlements.

*Lamps.*—198,741 lamps were imported in 1916, as compared with 156,985 in 1915. Japan sent the largest number and of a somewhat better kind than last year. The United Kingdom, the United States of America, Japan, and British India, named in order of value, are the chief countries supplying Ceylon with lamps.

*Metals and Metalware.*—There was an increase of about 30 per cent. in value over the previous year. Increases are noticeable under nearly all the important heads, but especially under hardware, pig lead, and hoop iron. Drums and tanks, tea lead, and silver and silver gilt plate show decreases. Of the principal countries supplying metals and metalware, the United Kingdom furnished 55½ per cent. of the value, Burma 17 per cent. (due mainly to her supplies of pig lead), and the United States of America 12 per cent., the supplies of galvanized goods, including barbed wire, hardware, and cast steel, from the last-named country having specially increased.

*Manure.*—This also shows an increase, the total value of all kinds for 1915 and 1916 being Rs. 8,005,529 and Rs. 11,221,778 respectively. All the important manures show increases, except groundnut cake, which comes from British India. Of the manures supplied by foreign countries, superphosphates came from Japan, nitrate of soda from Japan and South America, and nitrolim (classified under "Other Manures" in the Customs returns) from Norway. There were no imports of nitrate of potash in 1916.

*Spirits.*—Whisky was in greatest demand, followed by gin and brandy in the order named. The total quantities cleared were, however, slightly less than in 1915, viz., 226,749 bulk gallons, as against 229,416 gallons. From April 1, 1916, the Customs monthly returns show imports in proof gallons (where the strength can be ascertained), in addition to the bulk gallons hitherto shown.

*Sugar.*—The total imports of sugar classified under the three heads "Palm and Jaggery," "Unrefined Sugar," and "Sugar, Refined or Candied," were 467,762 cwt. and 548,924 cwt. in 1915 and 1916 respectively, there being decreases under the chief head "Sugar, Refined or Candied," as well as under "Unrefined Sugar," and an increase in "Palm and Jaggery." Palm and jaggery, of which the imports averaged 26,135 cwt. for the three previous years, rose to the phenomenal figure of 180,560 cwt., most of which was taken by the sugar factory established during the latter half of the year 1916 at Valuvadditurai, in the Northern Province. The output at this refinery has so far been limited to a few tons of refined sugar, the industry having only lately gone beyond the experimental stage.

*Tobacco, Cigars, and Cigarettes.*—The quantities cleared during the past three years are given below. It will be seen that there has been an increased demand under each head as compared with 1915:—

Year.	Cigars.	Cigarettes.	Manufactured Tobacco.	Total.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
1914 ..	21,803	329,230	39,149	391,182
1915 ..	22,745	231,500	20,432	274,677
1916 ..	31,226	256,779	23,423	311,428

*Chief Sources of Supply.*

The following table shows the proportion of values for the principal countries exporting goods to Ceylon :—

Position.	Countries.	1914. Per Cent.	1915. Per Cent.	1916. Per Cent.
1. British India ..	..	35·93	41·19	35·05
2. United Kingdom ..	..	28·58	21·66	22·11
3. Burma ..	..	6·11	6·88	14·67
4. Straits Settlements ..	..	8·94	10·41	8·03
5. Japan ..	..	1·71	3·22	4·32
6. United States of America ..	..	1·33	2·95	3·65
7. Java ..	..	1·5	2·21	1·54
8. Borneo (excluding British) ..	..	·46	·57	1·28
9. Maldiv Islands ..	..	1·21	1·39	1·13
10. Hong Kong ..	..	·77	·98	·86
11. Holland ..	..	·85	·62	·78
12. China (excluding Hong Kong) ..	..	·53	·75	·56
13. France ..	..	·83	·64	·52
14. Siam ..	..	1·1	·78	·48
15. Persia ..	..	·88	·5	·47
16. New South Wales ..	..	·23	·47	·46
17. Norway ..	..	·11	·36	·43
18. Switzerland ..	..	·22	·34	·37
19. India (excluding British) ..	..	·46	·41	·37
20. Sweden ..	..	·23	·29	·29
21. Western Australia ..	..	·39	·31	·28
22. Russia in Europe ..	..	·03	—	·27
23. Mozambique ..	..	·06	—	·26
24. Italy ..	..	·46	·21	·23
25. Victoria ..	..	·76	·19	·15
26. Natal ..	..	·79	·6	·14
27. Sumatra ..	..	—	·37	·14
28. South America ..	..	·01	·01	·14
29. South Australia ..	..	·36	·12	·14

Burma has gained one place, mainly owing to increased supplies of rice, while the Straits Settlements has receded from the third to the fourth place. Japan and the United States of America appear as the principal foreign competitors. Both these countries are now supplying goods of a greater value than Germany did before the war, the total value for Japan and the United States of America for the year being Rs. 9,134,670 and Rs. 7,727,277, respectively, as compared with the value for Germany of Rs. 6,022,497 for 1913.

**EXPORTS.**

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

		Lakhs of Rupees.	
		1915.	1916.
1. Tea ..	..	1,225	1,053
2. Rubber ..	..	790	1,035
3. Plumbago ..	..	79	225
4. Copra ..	..	177	219
5. Coconut oil ..	..	130	89
6. Coconut, desiccated ..	..	86	87
7. Cacao ..	..	31	28
8. Arecanuts ..	..	33	28
9. Citronella oil ..	..	15	13
10. Cinnamon ..	..	20	13
11. Coir fibre ..	..	9	9
12. Coir yarn ..	..	10	8
13. Cardamoms ..	..	8	5
14. Tobacco, unmanufactured ..	..	6	5
15. Coconuts ..	..	5	4
16. Poonac ..	..	10	4

The increase in the value of plumbago is a special feature of the year. Good prices were obtained throughout, and there was a steady demand for the article. Rubber shows a substantial increase, its total value being almost equal to the value of tea. Copra, coconut oil, desiccated coconuts, arecanuts, cinnamon, and coir yarn have each lost a place. Cacao, citronella oil, cardamoms, tobacco, and coconuts have each gained a place. Coir fibre has advanced two places, while poonac has receded four places, exports of the article having fallen owing to high freights.

The following table shows the proportion of Ceylon produce and manufactures taken by the principal countries for the last three years :—

Position.	Countries.	1914. Per Cent.	1915. Per Cent.	1916. Per Cent.
1.	United Kingdom ..	53·88	55·05	45·89
2.	United States of America ..	14·1	18·39	26·87
3.	France ..	54	91	5
4.	Russia in Europe ..	3·13	3·99	4·17
5.	British India ..	2·07	2·39	2·53
6.	New South Wales ..	2·56	2·26	2·07
7.	Victoria ..	2·46	2·57	2·01
8.	Russia in Asia ..	1·32	2·06	1·96
9.	China (excluding Hong Kong) ..	1·31	1·44	1·74
10.	Denmark ..	1·2	2·14	1·42
11.	Egypt ..	33	96	1·24
12.	New Zealand ..	1·57	1·4	1
13.	Canada ..	1·97	1·68	·89
14.	Hong Kong ..	16	06	34
15.	Cape Colony ..	27	35	31
16.	Japan ..	31	2	31
17.	Natal ..	29	36	29
18.	South Australia ..	42	42	25
19.	Philippines ..	17	13	21
20.	Straits Settlements ..	26	27	20
21.	Norway ..	35	9	19
22.	Italy ..	1	05	17
23.	Western Australia ..	21	17	15
24.	Newfoundland ..	08	08	14
25.	Queensland ..	28	22	14
26.	Spain (excluding Gibraltar) ..	25	23	13
27.	Mozambique ..	05	05	08

The United States of America and France have made a marked advance, chiefly on account of larger purchases of rubber and plumbago by the former, and of copra by the latter. There were no exports to Holland during the year. The chief foreign country in Europe not being an allied country to be supplied was Denmark, the total value being Rs. 4,049,430 in 1916.

#### Tea.

The exports of tea during the past seven years in round figures are shown below. It will be seen that the quantity exported is the highest, with the exception of 1915, while the average price realized for the article was also only lower than the average price for 1915, the rate being 51·79 cents per pound in 1916, as against 56·79 cents per pound in 1915 :—

Year.	Millions of lb.	Year.	Millions of lb.
1910 ..	182	1914 ..	193
1911 ..	186	1915 ..	215
1912 ..	192	1916 ..	203
1913 ..	191		

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

Countries.	1916. lb.	1915. lb.	Increase over 1915. lb.	Decrease below 1915. lb.
United Kingdom	113,535,561	124,396,216	—	10,860,655
<b>British Possessions—</b>				
British India	2,393,152	2,875,159	—	482,007
Canada	4,341,831	7,162,572	—	2,820,741
Cape Colony	1,413,972	1,394,126	19,846	—
Egypt	6,405,167	4,320,278	2,084,889	—
Hong Kong	177,690	130,701	46,989	—
Malta	162,805	132,246	30,559	—
Mauritius	157,697	119,712	37,985	—
Natal	1,452,952	1,529,459	—	76,507
Newfoundland	779,341	371,877	407,464	—
New South Wales	10,107,538	9,880,166	227,372	—
New Zealand	5,039,998	6,170,492	—	1,130,494
Queensland	694,956	874,344	—	179,388
South Australia	1,268,700	1,776,178	—	507,478
Straits Settlements	571,446	442,511	128,935	—
Victoria	7,759,300	8,698,999	—	939,699
Western Australia	761,506	692,948	68,558	—
Other British Possessions	399,398	432,602	—	33,204
	43,887,449	47,004,370	3,052,597	6,169,518
			Deduct Increase	3,052,597
			Nett Decrease	3,116,921
<b>Foreign Countries—</b>				
China (excluding Hong Kong)	9,346,605	6,631,778	2,714,827	—
France	2,252,218	1,581,917	670,301	—
Mozambique	412,300	156,027	256,273	—
Russia in Asia	7,580,928	9,369,899	—	1,788,971
Russia in Europe	18,499,784	15,727,736	2,772,048	—
United States of America	7,225,813	10,250,652	—	3,024,839
Other Foreign Countries	515,689	514,132	1,557	—
	45,833,337	44,232,141	6,415,006	4,813,810
			Deduct Decrease	4,813,810
			Nett Increase	1,601,196
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>203,256,347</b>	<b>215,632,727</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>12,376,380</b>

It will be seen that the total quantity taken by foreign countries was more than in 1915, while that taken by the United Kingdom and her possessions was less. Egypt shows a substantial increase among British Possessions, and Canada and New Zealand a decrease. Among foreign countries, Russia (European) and China took more than in the previous year, and the United States of America took less.

#### *Products of the Coconut Palm.*

The total value of the products of the coconut palm was 422 lakhs, as compared with 429 lakhs in the previous year. The exports of its three principal products are shown below for a period of six years :—

Year.	Desiccated Coconuts.	Copra.	Coconut Oil.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
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
1916	306,149	1,309,939	323,017

The average values declared by the exporters for desiccated coconuts and copra were higher than in 1915. The average price for coconut oil was Rs. 27·26 per cwt. in 1916, as against Rs. 25·84 in 1915. The large decrease in exports of coconut oil was due to a reduced demand from the United States of America and to war trade restrictions.

#### Rubber.

Exports in 1916, in spite of the restrictions due to the war, exceeded the previous record (1915) by 50,942 cwt., and amounted to 486,690 cwt. in all. The extent of the growth in the trade can be seen from the following table, which shows figures from the year 1910. Should the present rate of increase continue, rubber will take first place among Ceylon products in 1917. The exports have been :—

Year.	Cwt.	Year.	Cwt.
1910 .. .. .	33,952	1914 .. .. .	306,724
1911 .. .. .	61,212	1915 .. .. .	435,748
1912 .. .. .	132,569	1916 .. .. .	486,690
1913 .. .. .	226,491		

The foreign countries supplied with rubber were the United States of America, France, Russia, Japan, and Italy.

#### Plumbago.

The total quantity shipped was 668,214 cwt. valued at Rs. 22,494,943 in 1916, as against 436,351 cwt. valued at Rs. 7,919,770 in 1915. Three-fourths of the total shipped in 1916 went to the United States of America, about 18 per cent. to the United Kingdom and her possessions, and the remainder to Russia. Since the imposition of the *ad valorem* duty on this article on August 2, 1916, the Customs have accepted F. O. B. prices for Customs purposes. These prices give for the period August to December an average of Rs. 819 per ton for all grades. For the year the average price of large and ordinary lumps was Rs. 873·61 per ton, and that of chips, dust, and flying dust Rs. 478·56 per ton. The best grades reached record values, while dust of low grades was unsaleable owing to high freights.

#### CUSTOMS DUTIES.

All imports not specially rated or exempted by the tariff are liable to a Customs duty of 5½ per cent. *ad valorem*. By resolution of the Legislative Council dated August 2, 1916, the import duty on motor vehicles other than motor lorries was increased from 5½ per cent. *ad valorem* to 33½ per cent. *ad valorem*, and the rebate of the import duty paid on petrol consumed in such cars was withdrawn with effect from September 5, 1916. On August 2, 1916, the export duty of 25 cents per cwt. on plumbago was replaced by an *ad valorem* duty of 3 per cent., the value accepted by the Customs being F. O. B. prices, Colombo harbour.

#### V.—SHIPPING.

The total number of all vessels which entered the ports of the Island of Ceylon in 1916 was 4,580, with a tonnage of 8,874,843. This shows an increase of 308 vessels and an increase of 891,575 tons as compared with 1915.

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

	1914.		1915.		1916.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
Merchant vessels (with cargo and in ballast) .	2,523	7,041,986	1,560	4,984,122	2,035	4,480,703
Merchant vessels (called to coal) ..	615	1,728,558	655	1,937,572	737	2,008,057
Native sailing vessels ..	1,159	103,541	1,847	268,938	1,372	106,646
Warships* and Government chartered vessels	104	464,450	210	692,636	436	2,279,437
Total ..	4,401	9,338,535	4,272	7,883,268	4,580	8,874,843

\* Warships' displacement tonnage.

Omitting warships and vessels calling to coal, the following table gives the comparative distribution according to nationality for 1915 and 1916 :—

	1915.		1916.	
	Number.	Tons.	Number.	Tons.
British ..	1,103	3,508,012	1,652	3,364,847
British Colonial ..	1,728	253,985	1,260	92,549
Maldivian ..	119	14,953	112	14,097
<b>Total British Ships</b>	<b>2,950</b>	<b>3,776,950</b>	<b>3,024</b>	<b>3,471,493</b>
American ..	5	11,745	4	14,062
Belgian ..	1	1,860	—	—
Chinese ..	—	—	3	3,666
Danish ..	14	37,249	11	31,694
Dutch ..	83	302,279	47	122,691
French ..	92	320,656	80	349,804
Greek ..	1	2,489	1	1,939
Italian ..	18	50,453	15	44,166
Japanese ..	139	573,542	102	341,517
Norwegian ..	54	66,173	79	108,070
Roumanian ..	—	—	1	1,452
Russian ..	10	13,614	3	5,319
Spanish ..	28	65,283	23	58,628
Swedish ..	12	30,767	14	32,848
<b>Total Foreign Ships</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>1,476,110</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>1,115,856</b>

The predominance of British shipping still continues. The increase in the number and tonnage of vessels is due to the increased number of Government chartered vessels which called at Colombo during the year 1916.

There has been a considerable falling off of Dutch vessels, and a decrease in French, Russian, and Japanese vessels calling at this port, but a continued increase of Norwegian and Swedish vessels.

A feature of the year 1916 was the arrival of one Roumanian and three Chinese vessels.

#### COLOMBO PORT COMMISSION.

Further progress has been made during the year 1916 in providing increased warehouse accommodation and making other improvements at the port of Colombo. The two warehouses (of an area of 40,000 square feet) east of the Patent Slip were completed in March, 1916. The quay wall between the Patent Slip and Block Jetty, 1,690 feet in length, was finished in August. In July sanction was given for the erection of a block of warehouses between the canal and the Patent Slip. These warehouses will be two in number, with an open cartway, and will be used for exports. The area of the warehouses will be 81,000 square feet. Despite the difficulty which has been experienced in obtaining the necessary materials for the erection of these warehouses, rapid progress has been made. One warehouse has been completed, and it is anticipated that the other will be finished in March, 1917. The quay walls of the lake to harbour canal basin have been completed, but owing to various difficulties it has not been possible yet to dredge this area for the use of cargo lighters. The four cranes for the Delft warehouse area (between the passenger jetty and canal) have arrived. The work of enclosing the Colombo Port Commission premises has been completed.

The work of deepening the harbour, which had been suspended since December, 1914, was resumed in October, 1916.

Fifteen more sheds at the Chalmers granaries were completed during the year 1916, making a total of twenty-one stores so far handed over to the rice merchants ; several more sheds are in hand.

Sanction has been given for the construction of a railway to connect the Colombo harbour with the general railway system of the Island, and the work is being begun within Colombo Port Commission premises.

A severe storm struck Colombo and the south-west coast of Ceylon on July 18, 1916, and wrecked a large number of fishing craft with the loss of many lives amongst the Mutwal fishermen. The Government tugs "Samson" and "Goliath" and the Ceylon Wharfrage Company's tug "Lady Mackay" rendered valuable assistance in rescue work, and saved 53 lives.

The nett tonnage of vessels (sailing and steam) visiting Colombo harbour in 1916 amounted to 6,203,474; in addition 436 warships and transports with a gross tonnage of 2,279,437 and coasting vessels with a nett tonnage of 25,168 entered the port. The receipts from the Graving Dock were Rs. 50,986.59, and from the Patent Slip Rs. 8,075.

The supervision and control of coast lights were placed in the charge of the Master Attendant, Colombo and Galle, from October, 1916. The Master Attendant's Department, Galle, and the Signal Station, Galle, which have been managed by the Master Attendant, Colombo, since November 1, 1915, and October 1, 1915, respectively, have worked very satisfactorily during the year.

The expenditure by the Colombo Port Commission (apart from the work carried out by the Public Works Department) during the financial year 1915-16 (October 1, 1915, to September 30, 1916) amounted to Rs. 1,128,989; the expenditure on work carried out by the Public Works Department for the Port Commission was Rs. 48,697, a total of Rs. 1,177,686. The revenue during the same period amounted to Rs. 2,607,250.

## VI.—LEGISLATION.

Forty-two Ordinances were passed during the year 1916. Of these, the nine following owed their origin to the present war :—

- (a) *The Necessaries of War Exportation (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 1 of 1916.*—This Ordinance amended "The Necessaries of War Exportation Ordinance, No. 19 of 1914," by giving power to the Principal Collector of Customs to issue licenses, subject to conditions, authorizing the exportation of any goods subject to prohibition under the main Ordinance to a particular person or place or to a particular person at a particular place named in the license.
- (b) *The Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 2 of 1916.*—This Ordinance amended "The Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, No. 20 of 1914," by giving further powers to the Principal Collector of Customs to seize imported goods which he suspects to have been imported in contravention of the law relating to trading with the enemy, and giving power to the Principal Collector of Customs to require goods in transit to be landed, and to require the person exporting the goods to make a declaration before shipment as to the person or country for whom or which the goods are ultimately destined.
- (c) *The Ceylon Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 3 of 1916.*—This Ordinance amended "The Ceylon Post Office Ordinance, 1908," and prohibited persons from having non-postal communication to or from Ceylon, and further prohibited persons from sending letters from Ceylon in invisible ink, &c.
- (d) *The Trading with the Enemy (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, No. 13 of 1916.*—This Ordinance further amended "The Trading with the Enemy Ordinance, No. 20 of 1914," on the lines of the Imperial Act, namely, The Trading with the Enemy (Extension of Powers) Act, 1915.
- (e) *The Enemy Firms Liquidation Ordinance, No. 20 of 1916,* passed with the object of liquidating all enemy firms in Ceylon.

- (f) *The Enemy Property Ordinance, No. 23 of 1916*, passed with the object of compiling a record of all properties belonging to enemy subjects in Ceylon.
- (g) *The Customs Amendment (War Powers) Ordinance, No. 30 of 1916*.—This Ordinance gave further powers to the Governor in Council to prohibit or restrict imports.
- (h) *The Disabled Ceylon Men's Fund Ordinance, No. 31 of 1916*, to incorporate an association which has been established consisting of persons interested in the welfare of persons from Ceylon who become incapacitated or disabled through wounds or diseases whilst in the service of the Allied Governments presently at war with the Central Powers, and for the administration of their funds.
- (i) *The Volunteer (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 42 of 1916*, providing for the obligatory enlistment of all male British subjects of European birth under the Volunteer Ordinance.

Besides these, the following Ordinances are of interest :—

- (i.) *The Vehicles Ordinance, No. 4 of 1916*, consolidated the law relating to all vehicles and motor cars.
- (ii.) *The Planters' Association of Ceylon Incorporation Ordinance, No. 12 of 1916*, incorporating the Planters' Association of Ceylon.
- (iii.) *The New St. Andrew's Church Ordinance, No. 16 of 1916*, incorporating the trustees of St. Andrew's Church, Colombo.
- (iv.) *The Hotel Keepers Liability Ordinance, No. 19 of 1916*, limiting the liability of hotel keepers in respect of the goods of their guests.
- (v.) *Ordinance No. 21 of 1916*, increasing the export duty on plumbago.
- (vi.) *The Local Loans and Development Ordinance, No. 22 of 1916*, provides facilities for the granting of loans for local purposes of public utility.
- (vii.) *The Firearms Ordinance, No. 32 of 1916*, amending and consolidating the law relating to firearms.

## VII.—EDUCATION.

It is difficult to draw a clear line between elementary and secondary education in Ceylon. The English-speaking community form scarcely 1 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 1916 there were 812 Government vernacular schools, with an attendance of 83,545 boys and 27,157 girls. There were also 1,840 aided schools, with an attendance of 129,612 boys and 75,441 girls.

The total sum expended by Government on vernacular education in 1916 was Rs. 1,234,146, of which approximately two-fifths were spent on Government schools and three-fifths on aided schools.

The Rural Schools Ordinance is now in force in all districts of the Island, having been introduced in the Jaffna District in December, 1916.

The Town Schools Ordinance was also introduced into the towns of Kurunegala, Trincomalee, Chilaw, and Matara during the year.

At the end of 1916 there were 242 aided estate schools, and returns from 589 estates showed that of a total of 18,585 children of school-going age 6,771 were attending estate schools. Of these, 5,566 were boys and 1,205 girls.

A school for the deaf and blind, started in 1912, receives an annual grant from Government of Rs. 3,000.



### SCHOOLS TEACHING ENGLISH.

In 1916 there were 252 English and Anglo-vernacular schools attended by 42,890 pupils, of whom 33,407 were boys and 9,483 girls.

In many of the schools candidates are prepared for the Senior and Junior Cambridge Local Examinations. In 1915 the candidates who presented themselves and the results obtained were:—

		Candidates.	Honours.	Passed.
Senior	..	1,057	66	499
Junior	..	1,274	56	601

There are special syllabuses for Ceylon students in English, Science, and Needlework, special stress being laid on the necessity for obtaining a high standard in English.

The results of the London University Examinations in 1916 showed that 89 candidates from Ceylon presented themselves for the Matriculation Examination, 36 of whom passed. In addition, 13 candidates passed the Intermediate Examination in Arts, 13 passed the Intermediate Examination in Science, 5 the Examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, 1 the Examination for the degree of Bachelor of Science, 2 the First Examination in Medical Degrees, 1 the Second Examination, Part I., and 4 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 1915–16 amounted to Rs. 328,471.

It was decided to amalgamate the Royal College and the Training College English School, which puts the former on its previous footing of a fully organized school with upper and lower forms. Its pupils now number 623.

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 and from 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 1916 the number of students in training was English 69, Sinhalese men 45, Sinhalese women 20. During the year steps were taken to increase the numbers, and to get the managers to send in candidates whose fees they would be prepared to pay. Trained teachers at present command high salaries, and there is a great demand for their services.

### INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

There are no Government industrial schools, but carpentry schools are attached to 6 Government schools in the Kandyan Provinces. In 1916 the aided industrial schools, which are 38 in number, received grants amounting to Rs. 23,961. The trades taught were carpentry, dressmaking, printing, shoe-making, 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; it is managed 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. 237 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. 327 school gardens attached to Government schools are worked under this scheme, and 45 grant-in-aid schools receive garden grants. Seeds and implements are supplied by the Department of Agriculture, and prizes are offered for competition.

#### WAR LEAFLET.

A war leaflet has been published monthly, commencing from July last, in English, Sinhalese, and Tamil; it gives an account of the progress of the war during the previous month, with stories of heroism. The price is 10 cents, and all proceeds go to the Red Cross. 20,000 copies were sold of the first number, and the monthly circulation is over 10,000 copies. Rs. 6,000 realized by sales have already been remitted to the Red Cross. The leaflet has proved very valuable in disseminating correct information regarding the war, and spreading amongst the schools a knowledge and appreciation of what is being done.

### VIII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

There are 81 Government hospitals, in addition to the Lunatic and the Lepér 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 varied between 891 and 949; in addition to the hospitals, there are 432 Government outdoor dispensaries. The owners of estates have provided 55 estate hospitals, which receive a rebate on export duty, and 375 dispensaries which receive drugs free from Government to a value of 50 cents per labourer per annum.

Five new hospitals are under construction: at Pimbura in the Western Province, Aranayaka and Kahawatta in the Province of Sabaragamuwa, and Chilaw in the North-Western Province, a Tuberculosis Hospital at Ragama, and a sanatorium at Kandana in the Western Province. New buildings are also being erected at Alutnuwara, Buttala, and Lunugala, in the Province of Uva, to replace the present hospital buildings. New hospitals were opened during the year at Passara, Kitulgala, and Mulhalkele, and new central dispensaries at Akmimana and Ambalantota in the Southern Province, Nildandahena in the Central Province, Makandura in the North-Western Province, and Maspana in the Province of Uva.

#### MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

The general rebuilding scheme in contemplation for the improvement of the Medical College was deferred; 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. The course of training for apothecaries is two years; on obtaining their qualifications they are employed by Government. The following were the attendances and passes during the past two years:—

Session.	Attendances.		Passes.	
	Medical.	Apothecaries.	Medical.	Apothecaries.
1915 May to July ..	123	52	2	7
1914 October to 1915 March ..	135	57	6	11
1916 May to July ..	164	81	6	10
1915 October to 1916 March ..	137	61	6	6

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. An Anti-Tuberculosis Institute in Colombo was opened during the year, fitted with an up-to-date X'ray apparatus.

#### ASYLUMS.

The Lunatic Asylum contained 966 inmates on December 31, 1916. As there is very considerable overcrowding in the present building, the Government is erecting a new institution a few miles out of Colombo, with accommodation for 1,000 patients and for the necessary staff and servants. The number of patients treated in the Asylum during 1916 was 1,248 (794 males and 454 females). The number discharged was 214 (135 males and 79 females). In the House of Observation 383 persons were treated, of whom 213 were transferred to the Asylum, 143 were discharged, 4 cases died, and 23 remained at the end of the year.

The Leper Asylum is situated 6 miles from Colombo; it contained 419 patients at the end of the year; the total treated during 1916 numbered 497. A small establishment for lepers exists at Kalmunai in the Eastern Province, and has accommodation for 30; a leper colony at Mantivu, a small island on the lagoon in the neighbourhood of Batticaloa, is being erected.

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

A campaign against anchylostomiasis has been started with the help of the Rockefeller Foundation, in the Matale, Dikoya, and Bogawantalawa districts.

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### IX.—CRIME.

#### POLICE.

The strength of the Force on December 31, 1916, as provided for in the Estimates, was 1 Inspector-General, 2 Deputy Inspectors-General, 10 Superintendents, 21 Assistant Superintendents, 3 Probationers, 36 Inspectors, 87 Sub-Inspectors, 1 Station House Officer, 326 Native Sergeants, 50 Special Class Constables, and 2,223 Native Constables. European Police: 1 Inspector, 3 Sub-Inspectors, 7 Second Class Sergeants, and 22 Third Class Sergeants. Total of all ranks 2,793.

The Force was increased by 2 Deputy Inspectors-General, 1 Superintendent, and 6 Assistant Superintendents for work in the Criminal Investigation Department and in the Provinces in which serious crime is most prevalent.

Two Assistant Superintendents were on active service with the Army in France throughout the year, and an effort is being made to permit a further number of physically fit officers to proceed on active service, their places being filled temporarily by gentlemen who have been disabled or are physically unfit for active service.

The cost of the Force was Rs. 1,863,175 approximately.

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

*General Character of the Year.*—There was a general decrease in crime in 1916 as compared with 1915. There were 7,634 cases of serious crime in 1916, as compared with 8,337 in 1915 (excluding crime committed during the disturbances

in May/June, 1915). The decrease was common to crime against the person and against property, as the following statement shows :—

	1915 (excluding Crime committed during the disturbances in May/June, 1915).	1916.
Homicide .. .. .	204 ..	158
Attempted homicide .. .. .	43 ..	29
Grievous hurt .. .. .	615 ..	641
Hurt with dangerous weapons .. .. .	1,214 ..	1,093
Burglary .. .. .	1,911 ..	1,899
Theft of cattle and prædial produce .. .. .	981 ..	911
Other offences .. .. .	3,369 ..	2,903
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>8,337</b>	<b>7,684</b>

There was a decrease in crime in all the five Provinces in which Martial law was in force in 1915, viz., the Western, North-Western, Southern, Central, and Sabaragamuwa Provinces. There was an increase in cases of theft in Colombo city. The war had a considerable effect on the city in this respect; many persons have been thrown out of employment by employers who have been unable to get out materials from England, and this with the increase in the cost of living has caused an increase in petty thefts.

*Distribution of Crime.*—The following table shows the distribution of crime :—

Province.	Homicide.	Attempted Homicide.	Grievous Hurt.	Hurt with Dangerous Weapons.	Burglary.	Theft of Cattle and Prædial Produce.	Other Offences.	Total.
Colombo City ..	6 ..	— ..	59 ..	89 ..	57 ..	5 ..	387 ..	603
Western ..	44 ..	7 ..	201 ..	333 ..	553 ..	340 ..	674 ..	2,152
North-Western ..	10 ..	7 ..	50 ..	114 ..	333 ..	182 ..	272 ..	968
Sabaragamuwa ..	23 ..	4 ..	62 ..	95 ..	188 ..	65 ..	285 ..	722
Southern ..	28 ..	5 ..	103 ..	201 ..	348 ..	155 ..	284 ..	1,094
Uva ..	10 ..	2 ..	21 ..	31 ..	71 ..	55 ..	171 ..	361
Eastern ..	6 ..	1 ..	13 ..	37 ..	51 ..	28 ..	139 ..	275
North-Central ..	— ..	— ..	6 ..	11 ..	21 ..	17 ..	68 ..	123
Central ..	22 ..	3 ..	86 ..	102 ..	246 ..	43 ..	435 ..	937
Northern ..	9 ..	— ..	40 ..	80 ..	31 ..	21 ..	218 ..	399
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>1,093</b>	<b>1,899</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>2,903</b>	<b>7,624</b>

Comparing the number of serious offences committed with the population in each Province it is found that—

	Persons.
In the Colombo City there is 1 case of crime to every	359
In the Western Province .. .. .	413
In the North-Western Province .. .. .	448
In the Province of Sabaragamuwa .. .. .	566
In the Southern Province .. .. .	575
In the Province of Uva .. .. .	600
In the Eastern Province .. .. .	668
In the North-Central Province .. .. .	701
In the Central Province .. .. .	717
In the Northern Province .. .. .	926

The steps taken to deal with crime in the Colony during the year were :—

- (i.) The provision of a separate Criminal Investigation Department for the duty of examining and registering all persons passing through the ports of Ceylon, collecting and distributing information from and to the Provinces, and supervising the vernacular Press.
- (ii.) The appointment of a Deputy Inspector-General of Police to be frequently on tour in the Provinces in which crime is most prevalent.

- (iii.) The appointment of five additional officers for the duty of investigating crime and supervising outlying police stations in the Provinces in which crime is prevalent.
- (iv.) The connection of outlying police stations with the headquarters of each district by telephone.
- (v.) The appointment of 22 additional Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors for special inquiries in areas where crime is prevalent.

#### PRISONS.

There was a decrease of 4,743 in the total number of admissions of convicted prisoners of Ceylon during the year 1916, excluding Road Ordinance defaulters, of whom there were 129, as against 114 in 1915. The figures are as follows:—

1915	..	..	..	..	15,745
1916	..	..	..	..	11,002

The number of prisoners sentenced to death was 48, as against 156 in 1915. There were 30 executions during the year, as against 90 in 1915. Of the 30 whose capital sentences were carried out, 22 were Sinhalese, 7 Tamils, and 1 Bengali Muhammadan. Of the number sentenced to death in 1916, 1 was hanged in 1917, and of the number hanged, 3 had been sentenced in 1915. Twelve convicts were deported to the Andaman islands for life.

There were 21 escapes and 19 recaptures during the year. Of these, 14 escapes and 12 recaptures occurred at Hambantota jail.

The total number of deaths in jail was 389, as against 232 in 1915; and the death-rate per 1,000 of the prisons population was 22·37, as against 8·63 in 1915 and 4·38 in 1914. The daily average sick was 259·48, as against 167·98 in 1915 and 80·51 in 1914.

The number of punishments inflicted during the year for prison offences was 2,526, as against 1,422 in 1915 and 885 in 1914. There were 66 cases of corporal punishment, as against 34 in 1915.

Prisoners are in all jails employed on works of public utility and remunerative industrial labours. At Welikada jail in Colombo and Bogambra jail in Kandy various trades are taught, such as carpentry, blacksmiths' and tinsmiths' work, bootmaking, tailoring, the making of cane furniture and matting, coir mats, brooms, door rugs, rope, string, coal bags, bamboo tats, &c., laundry work, printing, bookbinding, and masons' work.

The prisoners at Mahara are exclusively employed in the quarries on account of the Harbour Works and Public Works Departments, and supplied 2,019 cubes of metal to the Public Works Department, while 457 cubes of metal, 5,571 cubes of rubble, and 118,248 dressed stones were supplied to the Harbour Works Engineer. Kandy supplied 675 cubes of metal to the Public Works Department. Metal was also supplied from the Anuradhapura, Galle, Tangalla, Badulla, and Chilaw jails.

With the available labour for reclamation work on the Karaiyur reclamation at Jaffna, the work has progressed most satisfactorily. During the year 8 acres were reclaimed, making a total of 27 acres up to date.

The convalescent prisoners at Negombo are employed on basket making for Government Departments, and supplied 27,188 baskets during the year.

Hambantota and Ratnapura jails, which were temporarily reopened on account of the riots in 1915, were closed, as was also the temporary jail at Welikada.

Owing to the high sick rate at Mahara during the early part of the year, due to extreme drought, the old bathing tank and wells were condemned, and a good and sufficient water supply laid on to the jail from the Ragama pumping station. Ample supplies are now forthcoming for all purposes. In place of the old bathing tank, cast iron troughs have been erected on cement platforms. The old kitchen was pulled down and a new up-to-date fly-proof building put

up in its place. Since these improvements, the percentage of admissions to hospital of men suffering from bowel complaints has been reduced to 33·08 per cent., as against 50·66 per cent. before the improvements were made.

Additional accommodation is now in course of construction at Mahara, in order to meet the demands for increased labour by the Public Works Department.

## 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 1916 was about 4,547,200, an increase of nearly 122,900 on that of the previous year, due to an excess of about 54,800 births over deaths and 68,100 arrivals over departures of Indian coolies.

The population comprised the various nationalities shown below :—

Nationality.	Number.	Percentage of Total Population.
Sinhalese .. .. .	2,892,900 ..	63·6
Tamils .. .. .	1,314,000 ..	28·9
Moors .. .. .	274,000 ..	6·0
Burghers .. .. .	28,300 ..	·6
Malays .. .. .	13,800 ..	·3
Europeans .. .. .	7,600 ..	·2
Others .. .. .	16,600 ..	·4

To every 100 females there are 113 males in Ceylon. In England and Wales the proportion is 94.

### MARRIAGES.

The marriages registered during the year corresponded to a rate of 12 persons married per 1,000 of the non-Muhammadan population at all ages, an increase of ·5 on the average for the past ten years, though 2·4 less than the rate in 1915, when an extraordinarily large number of unions was contracted.

### BIRTHS.

The birth-rate was 39 per 1,000 of the population, and was the highest recorded during the past five years. The average rate for the past decade was 37·3, which is considerably higher than the rate in England and Wales. There were 105 male to every 100 female births, this rate approximating to the English rate.

### DEATHS.

The death-rate was 26·8 per 1,000 of the population, and was 1·6 higher than the rate in the previous year, though 3·9 less than the average. The proportion of deaths to the population in Ceylon is similar to the rates which obtain in Bombay Presidency, Bengal, and British Guiana, but is more than double the rate in England and Wales.

The tea, rubber, and cacao estates at the end of the year contained a population of about 766,700, mostly Tamil immigrants from Southern India. The death-rate in estates was 38·4, against an average of 35·6.

The urban death-rate was 28 per 1,000, as in the preceding year, against 29·4 the average for the preceding seven years. Excluding Nuwara Eliya, the healthiest town was Panadure, with a rate of 17·4, and the unhealthiest was Mullaittivu, with 47·9.

### *Infantile Mortality.*

184 infants under one year died to every 1,000 born, against an average of 195. The estate infantile mortality rate was 232 per 1,000 births and the urban 227.

*Causes of Death (General).*

The proportion of deaths in the general community from certain principal causes to a million of the estimated population was as follows:—Infantile convulsions, 3,029; diarrhœa, 2,473; bronchitis and pneumonia, 1,289; phthisis and other forms of tuberculosis, 953; dysentery, 816; anchylostomiasis, 559; malaria and malarial cachexia, 420; premature birth and congenital defects, 342; enteric fever, 127; and cancer, 94.

Plague was responsible for 285 deaths, more than double the number recorded in 1915.

98 deaths per million were due to accidental drowning, 83 to falls from trees, and 49 to snake bite.

50 deaths per million were attributed to suicide, 38 to homicide, and 6 to judicial executions.

*Causes of Death on Estates.*

The chief causes of mortality on the estates were, per million of the estate population: Diarrhœa, 3,537; debility under three months of age, 3,454; debility over three months of age, 1,414; bronchitis and pneumonia, 3,064; dysentery, 3,038; anchylostomiasis, 2,836; infantile convulsions, 2,035; premature births and congenital defects, 691; malaria and malarial cachexia, 630; and phthisis, 369.

*Causes of Death in Towns.*

In the 33 towns in the Island (inclusive of Colombo) pneumonia accounted for 3,482 deaths per million of the urban population, phthisis and other tubercular diseases for 2,530, convulsions for 2,501, diarrhœa for 2,101, malaria and malarial cachexia for 1,574, anchylostomiasis for 1,458, dysentery for 1,355, enteritis for 1,001, enteric fever for 713, bronchitis for 622, and cancer for 136.

**PLAGUE.**

122 cases of plague were treated in the medical institutions of the Island during 1916, as compared with 52 cases in 1915 and 437 in 1914. Of these, 88 cases with 64 deaths were admissions to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. 12 cases with 11 deaths occurred in the Western Province, outside the Colombo Municipal limits, all of whom may be regarded as having been infected within the Municipal limits, being persons whose work or business required their presence in infected localities in the city. One passenger on a train died at Moratuwa, 5 cases occurred among people living in or near Panadure, the infection being from Colombo. Infection from Colombo was responsible also for 5 cases which occurred in Beruwala. Five cases occurred in the Northern Province, all of these being passengers from Colombo. Two were found dead in the train *en route* for India. No cases occurred where local infection could be suspected in the Northern Province. In the Central Province 6 cases occurred, viz., 2 at Kadugannawa, people living in close proximity to the railway goods sheds, and 4 at Hatton. Three of the latter cases were among persons from infected localities in Colombo, the fourth case being direct infection of the Dikoya hospital mortuary cooly from contact with one of the imported cases. No cases occurred in the North-Western, Southern, North-Central, Eastern, Uva, or Sabaragamuwa Provinces.

As regards plague in Colombo, the improvement as regards incidence, which was observed during 1915, was not maintained during 1916, there being 291 cases recorded, as against 138 in 1915. Although more widespread, the cases were not so numerous as in 1914, when 413 cases were recorded.

Instead of the succeeding years showing a diminution of the virulence of the disease, as was hoped might be the case, the contrary has been experienced. Thus, the total case mortality, which was 92·2 per cent. in 1914, was 92·8 per cent. in 1915 and 93·8 per cent. in 1916.

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

	1914.	1915.	1916.
Total cases .. ..	413	139	291
Total deaths .. ..	381	128	273
Septicæmic cases .. ..	247*	81*	159
Septicæmic deaths .. ..	246	80	159
Bubonic cases .. ..	166	58	132
Bubonic deaths .. ..	135	48	114
Total case mortality per cent. ..	92.2	92.8	93.8
Septicæmic mortality per cent. ..	99.6	98.7	100
Bubonic mortality per cent. ..	81.3	82.7	86.4

\* The cases for 1914 and 1915 each include one septicæmic recovery, but the diagnosis was not in either case confirmed bacteriologically, and may have been erroneous.

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

	1914.	1915.	1916.
January .. ..	4	19	17
February .. ..	67	6	18
March .. ..	58	3	18
April .. ..	28	3	14
May .. ..	29	3	11
June .. ..	49	1	36
July .. ..	47	5	43
August .. ..	40	20	35
September .. ..	18	21	25
October .. ..	23	24	24
November .. ..	24	10	25
December .. ..	26	24	25
Total .. ..	413	139	291
Monthly Mean .. ..	34.4	11.5	24.2

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

Similarly, the chief focus of infection as regards both rat and human plague was again situated in the Sea street area. During 1916 there were, in addition to the main Sea street centre, five other outbreaks, viz., in Kehelwatta, Silver-smith street, Grandpass road, Skinner's road-south, Marichchikkade, and Short's road. In addition to these, there were a few sporadic cases throughout the town, notably in Modara, which, owing to its outlying and isolated situation, was one of the latest parts of the town to become infected. As regards the persistence of the Sea street area as the chief focus of infection, this is probably associated with (a) the existence of an old system of underground insanitary rain-water drains which are much infested with rats; and (b) the fact that the bulk of the private wholesale grain stores, in none of which has any attempt at rat proofing been made, are situated within this area. As regards the other centres of infection, there is, as was observed in the two previous years, one striking feature common to them all, viz., the existence of crowded insanitary tenements which are invariably found to be infested with rats.

The same preventive measures as hitherto were carried out, reliance being placed chiefly upon isolation of patients in hospital, segregation of contacts, evacuation of insanitary tenements in infected localities pending the carrying out of structural improvements, pesterining of infected and adjoining houses, and capture and destruction of rats, including trapping, poisoning, and fumigation of rat runs by Clayton machines, six of which are now in use. Anti-plague vaccination proved to be so unpopular that it has practically been abandoned, and the stock of serum which was obtained by the Municipality from Bombay has had to be destroyed.

The comparative absence of the usual signs of an epizootic amongst the rats was again a striking feature, but the very limited amount of work which has been possible in the matter of opening up rat runs indicates that most of the affected rats die within and remain concealed in their runs.



*Rat Catching.*

	1915.	1916.
Number of rats trapped and found dead ..	147,198 ..	146,751
Number of poison baits placed ..	3,913,944 ..	3,171,655
Number of poison baits eaten or removed by rats ..	734,697 ..	509,414
Number of rats sent to Bacteriologist ..	23,187 ..	22,476
Number of rats found infected ..	57 ..	62

## 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 about 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 Avissawella, which had a total of 208·17 inches and 182 days on which rain fell. The lowest annual rainfall was at Ettalai resthouse, which had a total of 25·99 inches in 45 days. The stations with the highest and lowest average annual rainfall are, respectively, Padupola with 219·53 inches in 200 days, and Pomparippu resthouse with 36·89 inches in 57 days. The longest drought occurred at Galgamuwa resthouse, lasting for 78 days, November 28, 1915, to February 13, 1916. The longest wet period occurred at Strathellie estate, Ambegamuwa, lasting for 54 days, July 3 to August 25.

The total rainfall at Colombo (Cinnamon Gardens) was 90·57 inches in 183 days. At Kandy 75·12 inches were registered in 178 days, while the total rainfall at Nuwara Eliya was 77·51 inches in 187 days. The rainfall for the year for the country to the west of a line drawn midway between Chilaw and Puttalam to a point little east of Matara was in decided excess. The remainder and the much larger portion of the Island was as decidedly in deficit.

*Temperature.*—The station showing the highest mean shade temperature for the year was Trincomalee with 83·3° F., and the lowest Nuwara Eliya with 59·6° F. The figures for Colombo and Kandy were 80·1° F. and 76·4° F. respectively.

The highest shade temperature recorded during the year was 101·0° F. at Trincomalee on April 20. The highest on record is 103·7° F. at Trincomalee on May 12, 1890. The highest shade temperature at Colombo in 1916 was 91·6° F. on December 8.

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 (19·9° F.), and lowest at Galle (8·6° F.). At Colombo and Kandy it was 12·4° F. and 16·4° 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 (46·8° F.), and lowest at Galle (20·8° F.)

## XI.—POSTAL SERVICE.

No new post offices were opened during the year 1916. One at Pinnawela, Sabaragamuwa, was closed owing to insufficiency of business. Four additional village receiving offices and two railway receiving offices were opened. Four additional postal telegraph offices were opened, and one railway telegraph office made available for public traffic. At the end of the year the total number of offices of all classes was 513, of which 185 were telegraph offices.

The number of articles, exclusive of parcels, which passed through the post in 1916 is estimated at 43½ millions, as against 46½ millions in 1915 and 49½ millions in 1914. The number of parcels dealt with was the highest on record, viz., 753,837, an increase of 36,020 over the figures of the previous year. Of these, 43,230 were to or from the United Kingdom, an increase of 6,405.

The total number of telegrams dealt with was also the highest on record. The figures for 1915 and 1916 were :—

		1915.	1916.
Inland .. .. .	..	971,620 ..	1,127,256
Indian .. .. .	..	225,625 ..	252,721
Other countries ..	..	110,357 ..	116,137
Total ..		<u>1,307,602</u>	<u>1,496,114</u>

The previous highest total was 1,380,195 in 1914.

*Mail Services.*—A motor mail contract service superseded the horse coach service on the Talawakele-Lindula-Agrapatana line. There are now three motor services performed for the Department by the Ceylon Government Railway, and eight motor services performed by private contractors.

Runner services were replaced by a bicycle service between Hambantota and Tissamaharama, and a hackery service between Galle and Nakiyadeniya.

Owing to the suspension of the Orient Line sailings, the English mail was received and transmitted fortnightly *via* the Indo-Ceylon Railway between Bombay and Colombo alternately with the usual fortnightly delivery by P. & O. steamers.

The parcel post service with Russia had to be suspended owing to transport difficulties caused by the war.

An express letter delivery service was inaugurated in Colombo.

*Post Office Savings Bank.*—The maximum allowed to be deposited in any one year was raised from Rs. 300 to Rs. 750, exclusive of one withdrawal repaid, and the total interest-bearing deposit allowable raised from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 3,000.

Sanction was obtained for the acceptance of stamped slips for deposits, and for the withdrawal of sums not exceeding Rs. 10 at any post office without reference to the head office.

A telegraph deposit account system was inaugurated at the Central Telegraph Office, Colombo.

*Telephones.*—Telephone exchanges were opened at Kelaniya, Ragama, and Negombo, and public call offices at Horana, Ingiriya, Ragama, Matale, and Pussellawa.

Seven licenses were granted for the installation of private telephone systems.

There was a steady increase in the number of subscribers to the Post Office Telephone System. The number of connections to the Colombo Exchange on December 31 was 1,495, Kandy 73, Nuwara Eliya 72, Galle 46, Kalutara 22, Negombo 18. There are five other smaller Government exchanges.

New trunk lines were completed between Polgahawela and Kandy (30 miles) (to complete the duplication of the Colombo-Kandy trunk line) and between Kandy-Wattegama-Matale (21 miles).

Junction lines were constructed between (1) Wattegama and Elkaduwa (8 miles); (2) Gampola and Pussellawa (11 miles); (3) Nuwara Eliya and Kanda-pola (6 miles); (4) Hatton-Kotagala-Talawakele (8 miles); (5) Pundaluoya-Watagoda-Talawakele (12 miles); (6) Kotmale and Nawalapitiya (7 miles).

*Telegraph Routes.*—An additional telegraph line was run from Colombo to Avissawella (36 miles) and one constructed between Matara and Akuressa (13½ miles) during the year. Eight additional sections of the Railway were equipped with the Tyer's tablet apparatus.

## 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. 9,797,672 in 1916, the latter figure showing an increase of Rs. 2,733,207 over 1915. The average annual expenditure during the past twenty-one years has been Rs. 5,648,460.

The total length of roads maintained by the Public Works Department during the year was 4,026 miles, of which 3,747 miles are cart roads and 279 miles are bridle roads.

Amongst the more important works carried out or in course of construction may be mentioned the following :—

*General.*—Bungalows for Government officers stationed in Colombo; grain sheds, Colombo; quarters for Police Magistrate, Matara; office for the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Haputale; quay wall, additional jetty, and export shed, Galle Customs; improvements to Customs, Colombo; office and quarters for District Engineer, Panadure; quarters for District Engineer, Maradan-kadawala.

*Medical Buildings.*—New Lunatic Asylum, Angoda; new Merchants' Ward, General Hospital, Colombo; new hospitals at Pimbura, Chilaw, Passara, Alutnuwara, Kitulgala, Kahawatta, and Aranayaka; additions to the hospitals at Buttala, Kegalla, Kolonna, and Lunugala; and new dispensaries at Watawala, Baduluwela, Hambegamuwa, and Kahataruppe.

*Police Buildings.*—Police station and barracks, Panadure; police barracks, Kurunegala; and quarters for police at Avissawella.

Progress was also made with the Colombo Lake Development Scheme; construction of a quarantine camp for coolies at Mandapam, South India; and the Karaiyur reclamation, Jaffna.

## IRRIGATION.

The total expenditure of the Irrigation Department for the financial year 1915-16 was Rs. 745,500.

The schemes under construction were Karachchi, Unnichchai, Pattipola-arū, and Kirindi-oya right bank. Work on Tabbowa scheme, which was closed down at the end of the last financial year, has not been re-started.

Surveys were made in connection with the following schemes :—Giant's tank, Kirindi-oya right bank, Walawe left bank, Nalanda-oya, Karachchi, Unnichchai, Pattipola-arū, Kantalai, Allai, and Nachchaduwa.

The area irrigated and paying rate under the Crown works is 123,844 acres; in addition, there is a large area irrigated free. A considerable area of irrigable land is ready for development.

## SURVEY.

The operations of the Survey Department for the period under review, with the staff reduced owing to the war, comprised 70,436 acres of block surveys and 77,620 acres of topographical surveys with block survey insets for settlement purposes.

The number of block survey preliminary plans issued was 64, containing 3,853 lots covering an area of 24,373 acres. The number of topographical preliminary plans issued with block survey insets was 4, containing 183 lots covering an area of 83,550 acres.

The total area now covered by block survey is 2,129,850 and by topographical survey with block survey insets 1,093,380 acres, making a total of 3,223,230 acres.

138 final village plans for 73,273 acres in 2,919 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 718,852 acres contained in 25,447 lots, or 1,717 final village plans.

1,318 preliminary plans for 14,888 acres in 5,001 lots were forwarded to the Government Agents and their Assistants.

There have been 37 applications to purchase Crown land for rubber cultivation dealt with during the period, totalling 461 acres. Most of them lie in the Western and Southern Provinces.

Many surveys have been carried out for acquisition in connection with important public purposes.

Extensive surveys for dealing with the irrigable lands under Vakaneri tank in the Eastern Province and forest reserves in the Northern Province were carried out.

The topographical flat map survey of the Province of Sabaragamuwa was completed.

#### RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

##### *Open Line.*

The total length of line open for traffic was 705½ miles, or 13½ miles in excess of the previous year, due to the opening of two sections, viz., Madampe to Chilaw on the broad gauge and Ratnapura to Dela on the narrow gauge.

The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 18,014,543, or an increase of Rs. 1,575,298 as compared with last year.

In passenger traffic the total number of passengers conveyed shows an increase of 1,726,063, coolie traffic contributing no less than 63,346 coolies.

The weight of goods conveyed during the year was 1,210,635 tons, as against 1,043,543 tons in the preceding year. Of this, 107,491 tons represent the weight of foreign goods conveyed between Colombo and India *via* Talaimannar.

The principal increases are under the heads of Rubber 3,804 tons, Rice 23,771 tons, Fruit and Vegetables 3,612 tons, Plumbago 12,320 tons, Manure 58,898 tons, Sundry Goods 47,985 tons, and Foreign Goods 19,501 tons. There has, however, been a falling off in Tea and Packing of 1,806 tons and 3,082 tons respectively.

The expenditure for the year was Rs. 7,944,893. This includes a sum of Rs. 56,126 spent on new works and charged to ordinary working expenses.

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

	Rs.
Receipts .. .. .	18,014,543
Working expenses .. .. .	7,944,893
Balance .. .. .	11,021,089

Of this balance, a sum of Rs. 805,082 was expended on new works and improvements and added to capital account.

The capital cost of the Railway to September 30, 1916, was Rs. 130,044,966, and the capital outstanding on Railway Loans Rs. 56,069,986.

During the year 3 Nanu-oya engines, 4 shunting engines, and 160 passenger and goods vehicles were put into use.

##### *Railway Extensions.*

On March 1 the Chilaw Railway was opened for all descriptions of traffic to Madampe, also for goods only to Kakkapalliya and Chilaw. On May 1 His Excellency the Governor opened the whole line for all traffic to Chilaw.

On April 3 the Pelmadulla extension was opened for goods only to Dela station, and a large traffic is being obtained. Good progress was made on the remainder of the extension.

Steady progress was made on the Badulla extension, especially between Bandarawela and Naulla.

The survey and estimate of the proposed line between Chilaw and Puttalam was finished.

The survey of the proposed line between Horana and Agalawatta was completed; and the survey of the line between Katukurunda and Agalawatta was well in hand, and will be completed about May, 1917.

The survey and estimate of the proposed harbour rail connection was completed, and application for the acquisition of land is being made.

On the Main line duplication good progress was made with the earthwork and masonry between Ragama and Veyangoda.

At the end of 1916 the work in Colombo under the Stations extension scheme was in a forward state.

Three large broad gauge goods sheds and yards are now in use, also two large sheds and yards to accommodate narrow gauge traffic.

The new Fort Station, Colombo, was partially prepared for traffic, but was not brought into use during the year under review.

#### COLOMBO DRAINAGE WORKS.

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

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

At the end of 1916 122 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 968 other premises had been drained.

#### XIII.—EXCISE.

The Excise Department is now in the fifth year of its existence.

The sanctioned strength of the Department in 1915 was 1 Excise Commissioner, 1 Deputy Commissioner, 4 Assistant Commissioners, 1 Excise Adviser, 2 Superintendents, 13 Assistant Superintendents, 1 Distillery Officer, 101 Inspectors, and some 227 Peons, in addition to a Clerical Staff.

The Deputy Commissioner continued to act as Excise Commissioner, in addition to his own duties.

The rules governing the constitution and procedure of Excise Advisory Committees were amended by providing for a majority of unofficial members on the Committees. New Committees were created for Negombo and Chilaw.

To prevent the "cocaine habit" from spreading in Ceylon, new notifications regulating the importation, fees, periods, restrictions, conditions, and forms of license for the sale and possession thereof were passed. The regulations affecting its possession and sale by medical practitioners were so framed as to allow a *modus operandi* in their case.

Stringent measures were also taken to put down the use of every part of the hemp plant (*cannabis indica* or *sativa*), *e.g.*, in forms commonly known as ganja and bhang. The import, export, and possession of these or any other preparation or admixture of each were prohibited in 1914. The regulations as they now stand prohibit this drug, with exceptions in favour of corn paints, corn plasters, bromidia, chlorodyne, and tinctura chloroformi et morphinæ composita.

The efforts of the Department to put down the use of ganja and bhang or any preparation thereof have resulted in prosecutions during 1916 as follows:—

Number of cases decided	..	..	339
Number of persons convicted	..	..	289
Total fines and forfeitures	..	..	Rs. 38,826-21

Illicit practices, such as distillation and the sale and possession of liquor by unauthorized persons and Excise offences generally, are being strongly repressed,

and considerable success has been achieved in this direction. The system of offering rewards for good work has been an inducement to satisfactory preventive work.

The constant supervision of the Excise Staff and the fear of detection on the part of the culprit have tended to reduce the number of offences against Excise law. The number of detections in 1916 was 3,981, of which 1,742 were compounded for Rs. 20,055. The prosecutions in courts resulted in fines and forfeitures amounting to Rs. 128,937·57, exclusive of other punishment, such as imprisonment, &c. The number of detections in 1915 was 4,113, of which 1,538 were compounded for Rs. 21,509·55. In 1915 the amount of fines and forfeitures was Rs. 121,268·47.

There has been an increase in the sums bid for the various arrack and toddy rents for the financial year 1916-17 as compared with those of 1915-16, thus :—

		Arrack. Rs.		Toddy. Rs.
1916-17..	..	7,807,658	..	1,459,772
1915-16..	..	6,747,378	..	973,844

The causes of this increase are, among others, decrease in illicit practices detrimental to *bona fide* licensees, recovery from the first shock of the war, and the great prosperity of the tea, rubber, and plumbago industries.

The fees obtained in the financial year 1916-17 by the issue of foreign liquor licenses, which are assessed on a system of gallonage or business done, amounted to Rs. 144,280·50. The revenue derived from this source for the financial year 1915-16 was Rs. 144,280.

The general conditions applicable to all Excise licenses remained the same.

The arrack and toddy rent sale conditions were revised, with minor additions, for the financial year 1916-17.

In 1916 there has been a rise in the consumption of arrack and toddy. Doubtless the high prices payable for foreign liquor have led to increased consumption of the cheaper beverages, arrack and toddy :—

		Arrack. Gallons consumed.		Toddy. Gallons consumed.
1916 ..	..	1,286,367	..	3,998,645
1915 ..	..	1,212,828	..	3,144,872

219 private distilleries were licensed in the year 1916, as against 247 in 1915. The Distillery Area is a narrow belt of sea coast extending about 100 miles south and east from Panadure. Increased supervision and control have been exercised over these distilleries.

In 1916 there were 108 successful prosecutions (as against 53 in 1915) by officers of the Distillery Circle. The fines imposed by courts in cases instituted by the Superintendent of Excise, Distillery Circle, amounted to Rs. 16,344·50. Apart from this, the fees imposed on account of compounded offences in the Distillery Area amounted to Rs. 1,354.

The Government Experimental Distillery at Kalutara worked for a short period in 1916, and useful information and data were gathered from the various experiments made there.

The Distillery which was erected at Point Pedro by the Ceylon Sugar Refineries, Limited, to distil non-potable alcohol, was licensed, and started work in the latter part of the year 1916. The spirit obtained has been distilled from molasses.

A Commission was appointed during the year to inquire into and consider the arrangements for the manufacture and sale of spirits in the Colony. The Commission had not sent in its report at the close of the year.

May, 1917.

R. H. WHITEHORN,  
Acting Third Assistant Colonial Secretary.



## COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

### ANNUAL.

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

### MISCELLANEOUS.

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

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