

Appendix F.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE YEAR 1914.

1.—ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

342 actions were instituted in this division of the Court during the year 1914, and there were 655 pending at the commencement of that year, as against 250 and 557 respectively in 1913. 212 were disposed of during the year, 57 being settled or withdrawn before trial, leaving a balance of 785 undisposed of, as against 149, 59 and 655 respectively in 1913.

Two injunctions, one interim and one final, were granted during the year.

The amounts involved were \$2,149,905 and £5,189.11s.3½*d.* as against \$1,960,684 in 1913.

The debts and damages recovered amounted to \$1,437,417 and £4,519.1s.5½*d.* as against \$484,904 in 1913.

The fees collected amounted to \$19,485.90 as against \$15,250.40 in 1913.

Tables setting out in detail the figures contained in this and the following paragraphs are printed at pages (O. 2), (O. 3), (O. 4), (Y. 3) and (Y. 4) of the Blue Book for the year 1914.

1A.—ORIGINAL JURISDICTION—IN PRIZE.

10 actions were instituted under the above head. The following steamships were involved :—

“Elsbeth”, “Senegambia”, “C. Ferd Laeisz”, “Frisia”, “Rajaburi”, “Hanametal”, “Singan”, “Paklat”, “Tannenfels” and “Rio Pasig”.

In three of these cases the ships were condemned as lawful prizes, and in two the ships were released. Five of the actions are pending.

The ships condemned were the “Elsbeth”, the “Frisia” and the “Tannenfels”.

The ships released were the “Hanametal” and the “Singan”, the former by the Court after trial and the latter on application by the Crown.

2.—SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

2,380 actions were instituted during the year, and 412 were brought forward from 1913, as against 1908 and 198 respectively in 1913. The cases were disposed of as follows:—Settled or withdrawn 1,006, Judgment for the Plaintiff 806, Judgment for the Defendant 49, Non Suited 7, Struck out, Dismissed and Lapsed Writs (not served) 48, leaving 896 as pending, as against 757, 646, 56, 0, 37 and 412 respectively in 1913.

The amounts involved were \$456,021.28 and £124.18s.7d., and the debts and damages recovered amounted to \$179,193.17 and £28.10s.0d. as against \$362,046.09 and \$133,387.69 respectively in 1913.

The fees collected amounted to \$9,474 as against \$7,876 in 1913.

The number of Distress Warrants for rent issued was 702, representing aggregate unpaid rents amounting to \$89,342.32, of which the aggregate sum of \$37,869.42 was recovered, as against 524, \$44,519.08 and \$32,076.20 respectively in 1913.

397 Warrants were withdrawn on settlement between the parties as against 344 in 1913.

The fees collected amounted to \$4,443.25 as against \$2,884 in 1913.

3.—CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

There were 31 cases and 50 persons committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions, as against 92 and 107 respectively in 1913.

The number of persons actually indicted was 49, of whom 35 were convicted and 14 were acquitted. Against one person the case was abandoned. In 1913 the figures were respectively 94, 66 and 28.

4.—APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

There were 6 appeals instituted during the year, *viz.* :—

From the decision of the Chief Justice,	4	as against	5	in 1913.
" Puisne Judge,	1	"	4	"
" Magistrate,	1	"	1	"
Total 1914, . . .	6	1913, ..	10	

of which the following were disposed of, *viz.* :—

From the decision of the Chief Justice,...	3	as against	1	in 1913.
" Puisne Judge,....	1	"	2	"
" Magistrate,	1	"	0	"
Total,	5	"	3	"

Leave to appeal to the Privy Council was granted in one action, being action No. 101 of 1913, *The Great Western Smelting and Refining Company v. Francisco Pereira Marques*.

5.—ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

There were 5 actions instituted and 2 actions were tried during the year. Three actions are pending. Two vessels were arrested and were subsequently released.

The fees collected amounted to \$324.65 as against \$270.50 in 1913.

6.—BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

There were 74 petitions filed, 49 being Creditors' petitions and 25 being petitions by the Debtors themselves. The figures for 1913 were respectively 49, 29 and 20.

The number of Receiving Orders made was 57, being 35 on Creditors' Petitions and 22 on Debtors' Petitions. The figures for 1913 were respectively 33, 17 and 16.

The number of Public Examinations held was 16 as against 16 in 1913.

There were 38 Adjudications and 5 Schemes of Arrangement. The figures in 1913 were 29 Adjudications and one Scheme of Arrangement. There were 3 cases held over, 13 withdrawn, 1 dismissed and 5 proceedings annulled.

The aggregate amount of estimated assets, in cases where Receiving Orders were made and were not rescinded, was \$5,644,583, and estimated liabilities \$8,512,215 as against \$697,145 and \$2,075,191 respectively in 1913.

The fees collected amounted to \$4,376 as against \$2,986 in 1913, and the Official Receiver's Commission as Trustee, where no Trustee had been appointed by the Creditors, to \$12,027 as against \$9,010 in 1913.

7.—PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION.

There were 229 grants made by the Court, being :—

Probate,	94
Letters of Administration,	135
	229

The figures in 1913 were respectively 98 and 145.

The aggregate value of the estates was \$3,961,770 as against \$5,149,642 in 1913.

Probate Duties amounted to \$204,740.18, Court Fees to \$9,986.50 and Official Administrator's Commission to \$863.04. The figures in 1913 were respectively \$229,027.50, \$11,185 and \$830.

There were 48 estates vested in or administered by the Official Administrator during the year, representing an aggregate value of \$35,361.96. The figures for 1913 were respectively 44 and \$32,943.

15 Estates were wound up during the year, representing an aggregate value of \$8,449.09 as against 24 in 1913 representing \$20,479.

8.—OFFICIAL TRUSTS.

The total number of Trust Estates in the hands of the Official Trustee at the end of 1914 was 25, and the aggregate amount of Trust Funds \$83,167.13, as against 27 Estates aggregating \$105,603 in 1913 and certain house property. Two Estates were wound up during the year.

The amount of Commission collected was \$182.17 as against \$197.38 in 1913.

9.—REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES.

The total number of Companies registered from the commencement of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, was 846 with an aggregate capital of \$383,731,466.35.

Of the 846 Companies which have been on the Register 2 were not floated, 38 are in course of being wound up, 418 (exclusive of those in course of being wound up) were in existence at the end of 1914 and 388 have been struck off the Register.

The figures in 1913 were 800, \$373,468,329.35, 3, 150, 328 and 339.

There were 46 Companies registered in 1914 as compared with 40 in 1913, the revenue from which was:—

Registered fees,\$5,617.00 as against \$5,236.00 in 1913.

Filing and other fees,...\$4,220.10 ,, \$4,040.60 ,,

Total,.....\$9,837.10 ,, \$9,276.60 ,,

The number of licences granted under section 35 of "The Companies Ordinance 1911" (No. 58 of 1911) enabling Companies operating outside the Colony to keep Local Register of members was 152 as against 149 in 1913.

The fees collected in respect of such licences amounted to \$34,131.16 as against \$35,277.52 in 1913.

10.—FEES AND COMMISSION.

The total sums collected during the year by way of Fees and Commission amounted to \$73,422.69 as against \$63,303.78 in the previous year.

11.—STAFF.

His Honour the Chief Justice, Sir William Rees Davies, proceeded to England on leave of absence on the 16th April and returned on the 19th November. During his absence His Honour Mr. Justice Gompertz, Puisne Judge, acted as Chief Justice, and Mr. F. A. Hazeland, First Police Magistrate, acted as Puisne Judge.

I continued to perform the duties of Official Receiver and Registrar of Trade Marks, in addition to my other duties, until the 17th March when the substantive officer, Mr. E. V. Carpmal, arrived. I proceeded on leave of absence on the 10th June and resumed duty on the 28th January, 1915. Mr. G. H. Wakeman, Land Officer, acted as Registrar, in addition to his other duties, from 10th June to 18th November. Thereafter Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Deputy Registrar and Appraiser, acted as Registrar until my return.

Mr. C. D. Melbourne acted as 2nd Police Magistrate from 16th April until 18th November. Mr. G. A. Woodcock, First Clerk and Magistrate, performed the duties of Deputy Registrar and Appraiser from 10th June until 28th January, 1915.

Mr. J. W. Lee-Jones, Deputy Registrar and Accountant, proceeded on two months' leave of absence on the 18th November previous to retirement on pension, and Mr. J. D. Lloyd, Assistant Postmaster General, acted from the 27th November.

Mr. A. B. Suffiad, First Grade Clerk of Court and Clerk to the Chief Justice, was promoted to Higher Grade Clerk of Court and Clerk to the Chief Justice on 1st April.

Mr. A. W. Hill, Second Bailiff, went on nine months' half pay leave under the free passage scheme on the 1st April and returned on the 31st December.

HUGH A. NISBET.
Registrar.

27th February, 1915.

Table showing total number of Cases dealt with in, and Expenditure and Revenue of the Supreme Court.

(From 1905 to 1914).

Year.	Total Number of cases dealt with.	Expenditure.			Revenue.			Percentage of Revenue to Expenditure.
		Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	
		\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	%
1905,	1,166	66,711.72	8,030.69	...	61,984.69	12,876.32	...	92.91
1906,	1,039	69,667.23	2,955.51	...	52,904.11	...	9,080.58	75.93
1907,	1,031	69,592.75	...	74.48	56,156.78	3,252.67	...	80.69
1908,	1,014	87,270.40	17,677.65	...	46,592.80	...	9,563.98	53.38
1909,	1,030	89,209.17	1,938.77	...	45,861.55	...	731.25	51.40
1910,	1,259	91,789.15	2,579.98	...	65,527.80	19,666.25	...	71.38
1911,	1,963	86,702.10	...	5,087.05	*48,342.49	...	17,185.31	55.75
1912,	1,263	88,346.36	1,644.26	...	*60,544.30	12,201.81	...	68.53
1913,	898	98,351.02	10,004.66	...	*63,303.78	2,759.48	...	64.36
1914,	1,091	107,780.92	9,429.90	...	*73,422.69	10,118.91	...	68.12

* Not including amounts paid direct to Treasury for Fees in respect of Licences to keep Local Registers issued by the Registrar of Companies under the Companies Ordinance, 1911.