

Appendix I.

REPORT ON THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE YEAR 1914.

A.—NORTHERN DISTRICT.

I.—STAFF.

The Staff was increased by the addition of one 4th Grade Clerk, there were no other alterations in the Staff throughout the year.

II.—Magistracy.

The following Table shows the number of cases heard by the District Officer sitting as Police Magistrate:—

	1913.	1914.
Cases heard, - - - - -	287	221
Persons brought before the Magistrate,-	549	455
Persons convicted, - - - - -	390	257
Persons discharged, - - - - -	76	105
Persons imprisoned, - - - - -	96	69
Fines inflicted, - - - - -	\$1,611.50	\$2,158.00
Warrants executed, - - - - -	44	37

Civil (Small Debts).

Cases, - - - - -	116	42
Writs of execution, - - - - -	37	41
Summons fees, - - - - -	\$71.00	\$8.00

There was very little serious crime during the year under report and the number of persons imprisoned has steadily decreased.

A large number of Money Loan Association cases was heard which are not included under the heading Small Debts.

III.—LAND OFFICE.

The number of sales of land and other transactions affecting land which took place during the year are set forth in Table A.

The number of documents affecting land registered during the year was 2,886, as against 3,390 in 1913, but the registration fees paid amounted to \$1,713.80 as against \$1,659.50 in the previous year. Therefore, though there was a decrease in the number of transactions, the transactions covered larger and more valuable areas than those dealt with in 1913.

There was a considerable decrease in the amount of Crown land sold. The year 1913 was an abnormal year and the premia on land sales amounted to \$11,275.69. During the year under report the amount realised was \$6,982.78; this amount, however, shows a considerable increase on the amounts realised in any preceding year with the exception of 1913.

As predicted in last year's report considerable development has taken place both at Tsung Pak Long and also in the immediate neighbourhood of Fan Ling. Castle Peak appears to be a district favoured by well to do Hongkong Chinese, quite a number of really well constructed houses surrounded by gardens have recently been built in this neighbourhood.

IV.—REVENUE.

The Revenue collected in the District is set forth under the various heads in Table B.

The total amount collected is \$107,453.21; this is an increase on all previous years with the exception of 1913, when the total collected amounted to \$111,301.72, but during that year, as already pointed out, the amount collected on sales of Crown land was quite abnormal.

V.—LIQUOR.

The total liquor revenue collected in the District was:—

	\$	c.
Distillery Licences, - - - - -	2,920	03
Chinese Wines and Spirits, - - - - -	3,943	75
Liquor Duties, - - - - -	5,967	85
	<u>\$12,831</u>	<u>63</u>

The amount collected in 1913 was \$11,792.22.

VI.—GENERAL.

The year was a prosperous one. There was no typhoon and the two crops were good. There was, however, quite an abnormal rainfall, no less than 118.10 inches of rain fell during the year.

Towards the end of the year a ghari service was started between Au Tau and Castle Peak, and shortly after this service had started gharis were also running between Sheung Shui and Au Tau. There can be no doubt that these services would be of immense benefit to the Territory, connecting as they do Yun Long market with Castle Peak, and Yun Long market with Sheung Shui and the railway. It is doubtful, however, whether such services can be successful or even safe until the road between Au Tau and Castle Peak has been widened and the bridges between Sheung Shui and Au Tau railed off. The narrowness of the road and the unrailled condition of the bridges are at present a danger to all vehicular traffic.

The event of the year, the outbreak of the European War, had little effect upon the Territory. There was a small panic early in August because certain New Territory junks were unable to clear for the Territory, but this was due to a misunderstanding and the matter was quickly set right. There was at one time a rumour that airships were coming from Tsing T'au but this had little effect as few persons out here know anything about either airships or Tsing T'au. Large numbers of notices in simple Chinese were distributed telling the people that there was a war, but that it was a long way off, and that they had better attend to their own business and not worry about things which did not concern them. The people have taken this advice and I imagine that now the vast majority of the people out here are quite ignorant of the fact that there is a war at all.

S. B. C. Ross,
District Officer.

20th May, 1915.

Table A.

Headings.	No. of Sales, Permits, Licences, etc.	No. of Lots.	Area.			Increase of Annual Rent.		Decrease of Annual Rent.		Amount of Premiums, Fees, etc.	Amount paid for Resump- tion of Land.	Term of Period.	Remarks.
Sales of Land for :—													
Agriculture (K.C.R. Land), (Crown Land),	932	6	1.19 ac. =	1 0	30 $\frac{3}{8}$	1.32	...	...	143.72	.....	75 yrs.		
" ("),		148	1,542,589 s.f. =	35 1	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	49.00	...	...	3,682.00	.....	"		
Building ("),		263	226,244 " =	5 0	31	378.15	...	...	2,515.00	.....	"		
Farm-yard ("),		1	26,136 " =	... 2	16	6.00	...	...	262.00	.....	"		
Lime-kiln ("),		1	450 " =	... ..	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	2.00	...	...	5.00	.....	"		
Threshing floor ("),		33	26,573 " =	... 2	17 $\frac{3}{8}$	3.70	...	...	330.00	.....	"		
Permits to occupy Land for :—													
Agriculture (K.C.R. Land), (Crown Land),	38	67	8.74 ac. =	8 2	38 $\frac{3}{8}$	51.50	...	...	.....	.....	1 yr.		
" ("),	6	14	47,553 s.f. =	1 0	14 $\frac{3}{8}$	8.78	...	...	.....	.....	"		
" ("),	13	16	8.58 ac. =	8 2	12 $\frac{1}{8}$	21.04	...	...	.....	.....	5 yrs.		
Building ("),	5	5	9,104 s.f. =	... ..	33 $\frac{3}{8}$	21.10	...	...	.....	.....	1 yr.		
Re-entries,	...	68	112,889 " =	2 2	12 $\frac{3}{8}$	...	15.73	...	.....	.....	...	10 Unserved Lots.	
Surrenders,	...	18	87,154 " =	2 0	0 $\frac{1}{8}$	...	14.43	...	.....	.....	...	1 " Lot.	
Resumption of Land,	...	87	8.30 " =	8 1	8	...	18.92	...	.....	.....	75 yrs.		
Exchange of Land,	...	1	.36 " =	... 1	17 $\frac{3}{8}$	...	...	...	.....	2,224.56	1 yr.		
Stone Quarry Leases,	...	1	.....	76 0	0	710.00	...	...	.....	.....	...		
Matched Permits,	72	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	72.50	.....	...		
Permits to cut Earth, &c.,	97	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	98.00	.....	...		
Permits to quarry Stone,	66	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	229.25	.....	...		
Water Wheel Licences,	7	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	10.00	.....	...		
Ferry Licences,	6	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	12.00	.....	...		
Forestry Licences,	420	...	30,309.67 ac. = 30309 2 27 $\frac{1}{8}$	2	27 $\frac{1}{8}$	...	...	...	3,050.77	.....	...		
Pineapple Land Leases,	23	...	13.42 " = 13 1 27 $\frac{1}{8}$	1	27 $\frac{1}{8}$	...	...	...	37.26	.....	...		
Grave Certificates,	182	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	91.00	.....	...		
Registration of Graves,	205	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...		
Deeds Registered,	2,886	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	...		
Stamps sold for Registration of Deeds, .....	...	...	.....	...	20	7.37	...	...	1,713.80	.....	75 yrs.	Agricultural Land conver- ted into Building Land.	
Conversion,	5	6	5,437 s.f. =	...	...	...	...	...	45.06	.....	...		

Table B.

Revenue collected in the Northern District, during
the years 1913 and 1914.

	1913.	1914.
Crown Rent,	79,867.13	79,011.26
Kerosene Oil Licences,	268.00	278.00
Distillery Licences,	2,486.50	2,920.03
Chinese Wines and Spirits,	3,606.25	3,943.75
Pawnbroker's Licences,	1,600.00	1,600.00
Money Changer's Licences,	100.00	600.00
Forestry Licences,	3,257.51	3,050.77
Permits to cut Earth,	108.00	98.00
Fines,	1,611.50	1,647.00
Forfeitures,	175.35	149.24
Distress Warrants,	23.00	—
Grave Certificates,	113.75	91.00
Matshed Permits,	56.00	72.50
Stone Quarries,	285.00	229.25
Certified Extracts,	121.00	107.00
Sun Prints,	120.00	40.00
Pineapple Licences,	40.26	37.26
Water Wheels,	10.00	10.00
Ferry Licences,	12.00	12.00
Premium on Land Sales,	11,275.69	6,982.78
Summons Fees,	71.00	—
House Rent,	267.50	185.00
Liquor Duties,	5,699.47	5,967.85
Distress Warrants, (Crown Rent),	43.00	37.00
Arrears of Revenue,	1.56	.52
Forfeitures, (Sales of Land),	72.25	61.00
Permit to use Water,	10.00	—
Temporary Licence to sell Liquor,	—	2.00
Reward Fund, (Opium Fines),	—	320.00
	\$111,301.72	\$107,453.21

Table C.

Rainfall in 1914.

	<i>Inches.</i>
January,	00·00
February,	4·31
March,	1·69
April,	5·73
May,	13·59
June,	13·32
July,	34·27
August,	5·32
September,	22·41
October,	4·75
November,	11·58
December,	1·13
Total, ..	<u>118·10 inches.</u>

The rainfall during 1913 was 96·34 inches.

The average rainfall for the last nine years at Tai Po is 96·99 inches.

B.—SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

I.—STAFF.

Mr. S. B. B. McElderry acted as Assistant District Officer throughout the year.

II.—MAGISTRACY.

The Assistant District Officer sitting as Police Magistrate heard during the year 247 cases affecting 355 persons. 304 persons were convicted or bound over and 41 were discharged.

The following table gives a comparison with 1912 and 1913 :—

	1912.	1913.	1914.
No. of cases - - -	124	167	247
No. of persons affected - -	179	267	355
No. of persons convicted or bound over - - -	150	212	304
No. of persons discharged - -	29	55	41
Fines exclusive of opium - -	\$2,112.68	\$5,020.35	\$4,865.78
No. of persons imprisoned - -	33	56	45
Opium fines paid to the farmer -	\$67.74	\$711.77	—
Opium fines paid to Government Reward Fund - - -	—	—	\$242.00
Forfeitures - - -	\$164.64	\$299.56	\$196.71

III.—SMALL DEBTS COURT.

Fifty-seven cases were heard during the year as compared with seventy in 1913 and one hundred and thirty-six in 1912. Courts were held fortnightly in Tai O and Cheung Chan.

IV.—LAND OFFICE.

Eleven hundred and thirty-six deeds were registered as against eleven hundred and sixty-five in 1913. Registration fees for 1913 and 1914 amounted to \$1,229.50 and \$970.30 respectively.

Twenty-one lots of Crown land on 75 years lease were sold by public auction at a premium of \$5,609 and twenty-nine lots by private treaty at a premium of \$277.00. \$387.50 was collected as premium for encroachments on Crown land at Cheung Chau shown by the recent survey. In all 4.71 acres of land were sold at a premium of \$6,273 and an increased annual Crown rent of \$220.

Building licences affecting twenty-five lots were issued for 72 acres of agricultural land with a resultant increase of \$96.82 in the annual Crown rent. Sums amounting to \$150.60 were also paid as conversion fees in respect of the licences issued for New Kowloon.

Five five-year leases of 8.22 acres were granted at an annual rental of \$46.60.

Twenty-six annual permits were issued for 9·6 acres at a rental of \$336.70 but a number of these were merely renewals of permits formerly issued by the Public Works Department.

Two three-year quarry leases of 231·33 acres were issued at a total annual rental of \$820; one of these was for a new quarry opened at Cheung Chau, the other being a renewal of a former lease.

Twenty-three lots comprising 1·12 acres were resumed mostly in connection with the Ap Liu improvement scheme and compensation amounting to \$7,115.50 was paid for land and buildings.

Forty-three lots of 8·6 acres were surrendered during 1914 and in January 1915 for non-payment of Crown rent due for 1913-14.

Fourteen grave certificates were issued.

V.—REVENUE.

Table A shows the revenue collected by the Assistant District Officer. The total is considerably greater than in 1913 due chiefly to the increased land sales; the old Cheung Chau police station however accounts for more than half of the total land sale receipts.

The revenue collected in the District by other departments is set out in Table C. There is a slight decrease in liquor duties as compared with 1913.

Details of revenue for 1913 and 1914 collected under the heading of Police Licence Fees are shown in Table B.

VI.—LIQUOR.

Liquor duties amounting to \$105,620 were collected in the Southern District in 1914 as against \$111,400 in 1913.

The chief sources of this revenue for 1912, 1913, and 1914 are given in the following table:—

	No. of Distilleries in 1914.	Revenue 1912.	Revenue 1913.	Revenue 1914.
Tsun Wan	15	\$ 31,000	\$ 36,300	\$ 43,343
Kwai Chung	2	—	—	9,067
Rest of mainland in- cluding Kowloon City and Sham- shuipo	12	32,700	53,000	37,722
Cheung Chau	5	25,400	20,500	13,783
Tai O	4	—	—	1,432

Much of this liquor manufactured in the New Territories is for export and for Hongkong consumption.

VII.—OPIUM.

From the 1st of March, 1914, the opium monopoly was taken over by Government. 6,781 taels of prepared opium and 560 taels of dross opium were sold during the ten months of Government management. The figures for the corresponding ten months of 1913 were given as 10,000 taels of opium and 350 taels of dross.

VIII.—GENERAL.

Crops.—Both rice crops were up to the average. The pineapple crop of Tsun Wan was good.

Fishing.—Fishing generally was very good though some of the larger junks were kept away through shortage of capital.

Salt pans.—There are now four salt pans working at Tai O ; about eight hundred tons of salt were exported in 1914 at an average price of eighty cents per picul.

Cheung Chau.—The prosperity of Cheung Chau was adversely affected by the difficulty of obtaining capital which prevented the shops from financing the fishing junks to the usual extent, and in consequence fewer of the larger fishing junks made the island their headquarters.

The slackness of trade is shown by the decrease of liquor duties from \$20,500 in 1913 to \$13,800 in 1914 and in junk and boat licence fees from \$11,160 to \$9,530.

On the other hand a new industry was started by the opening of a granite quarry on the island and there were considerable sales of Crown land during the year.

The new survey of the island was completed and boundary stones were placed and Crown leases issued for the foreign house sites.

The market established by local enterprise is running smoothly under the management of a local committee. Regulations under the New Territories Land Ordinance were passed to restrict the sale of fresh meat in the island to the market.

A plague isolation hospital is now under construction on a site granted by Government, the funds being subscribed by the Cheung Chau people who also on their own initiative opened a subscription list for the Prince of Wales' Fund.

Public Works.—Resumptions and reclamation at Ap Liu were continued but otherwise there were no public works of importance in the district.

S. B. B. McELDERRY,
Assistant District Officer,
Southern District.

27th February, 1915.

Table A.

*Revenue collected by the Assistant District Officer, New
Territories, Southern District.*

	1913.	1914.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Land Sale,	755.00	6,459.10
Crown Rent,	27,325.05	29,687.73
Assessed Taxes,	8,996.96	7,560.77
Lease of Stone Quarries,	1,200.00	1,078.38
Forestry Licences,	1,396.04	1,926.46
Earth Permits,	160.00	77 50
Matched Permits,	775.50	725.50
Pineapple Licences,	1,023.20	1,071.85
Registration Fees,	1,229.50	970.30
Distress Warrants, (Crown Rent),	64.00	95.00
Distress Warrants, (Small Debts),	19.00	14.00
Writs of Summons,	91.00	80.00
Fines, (Police Court),	5,020.35	4,865.78
Forfeitures,	299.56	196.71
Certified Extracts,	27.00	13.00
Grave Certificates,	5.50	10.00
Miscellaneous Receipts,	99.16	62.00
Interest,	38.49	23.17
Legal Costs,	12 50	...
Sunprints,	35.00	20.00
Boundary Stones,	108.00	641.05
Water Wheel Licences,	34.00	46.00
Reward Fund, (Opium Fines),	...	242.00
Building Plans,	...	43.00
	<u>\$48,714.81</u>	<u>\$55,879.30</u>

Table B.

Licence Fees collected by the Police Department.

Station.		Distillery.	Wine and Spirit.	Kerosine.	Eating House.	Dogs.	Pawn-brokers.	Money Changers.	Total.
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Kowloon City, ...	1913	800	2,450	48	20	327	1,500	...	5,145.00
	1914	800	2,900	57	20	300	1,500	..	5,577.00
Shamshuipo,	1913	400	5,200	54	95	426	2,000	...	8,175.00
	1914	400	4,800	60	55	624	2,000	10	7,949.00
Tai O,	1913	100	462.50	40	...	...	...	...	602.50
	1914	112.50	650	66	...	...	400	50	1,278.50
Cheung Chau, ...	1913	173	575	68	...	...	2,800	30	3,646.00
	1914	149	800	66	...	...	800	20	1,835.00
Tsun Wan,	1913	372	425	36	...	...	...	...	833.00
	1914	679	425	34	...	...	...	10	1,138.00
Po Toi,	1913	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1914	25	25	...	...	...	...	...	50.00
Yung Shu Wan, ...	1913	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1914	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	50.00
Total,	1913	1,845	9,112.50	246	115	753	6,300	30	18,401.50
	1914	2,165.50	9,650	263	75	924	4,700	90	17,867.50

Table C.

*Revenue collected through other Departments from the
New Territories, Southern District.*

	1913.	1914.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Treasury, (Crown Rent for Inland Lots),	11,986.32	11,566.83
Treasury, (Quarries in New Kowloon),	12,933.27	14,399.22
Harbour Office, (Harbour Dues, Stake Nets, etc.),	27,369.30	28,384.85
Police, (Licence Fees),	18,401.50*	17,867.50*
Imports and Exports Office, (Liquor Duties), ..	111,401.79	105,620.34
	<u>\$ 182,092.18</u>	<u>\$ 177,838.74</u>

* See Table B.