

Appendix G.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

1.—ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Three hundred and fiftysix (356) actions were instituted in this division of the Court during the year 1924, as against 275 in 1923. One hundred and ninety five (195) were disposed of during the year, 60 being settled or withdrawn before trial as against 168 and 38 respectively in 1923.

The claims amounted to \$2,043,277.97.

Not including 1 amount:—*viz.* one for £1,064 2s. 2d. and the other 3 for Gold \$4,500 \$67,500, and \$50,000.

The debts and damages recovered amounted to \$1,432,883.86 as against \$1,550,436.35.

The fees collected amounted to \$14,642.95 as against \$12,166.40 in 1923.

Tables setting out in detail the figures contained in this and the following paragraphs are printed at pages O1, O2, Y2 and Y3 of the Blue Book for the year 1924.

2.—SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

Three thousand two hundred and forty three (3,243) actions were instituted during the year as against 1,913 in 1923.

The cases were disposed of as follows:— Settled or withdrawn 1,195, Judgment for the Plaintiff 1,280, Judgment for the Defendant 74, Nonsuit 6, Struck off, Dismissed, or Lapsed 41, and Pending 647 as against 856, 645, 29, 2, 41 and 365 respectively in 1923.

The claims amounted to \$607,632.27 as against \$355,439.12 in 1923, and the amounts recovered were \$267,290.98 as against \$127,916.62 in 1923.

The number of Rent Distress Warrants issued was 685, representing unpaid rents amounting to \$100,843.94 of which \$20,709.13 were recovered, as against 467, \$62,709.06 and \$14,610.60 respectively in 1923.

Five hundred and forty (540) Warrants were withdrawn on settlement between the parties as against 369 in 1923.

The fees collected amounted to \$5,054.50 as against \$3,088.00 in 1923.

3.—CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

There were 118 cases and 164 persons committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions, as against 146 and 209 respectively in 1923.

The number of the persons actually indicted was 157 of whom 137 were convicted and 20 were acquitted. Against 6 persons the case was abandoned. Against one person the case was postponed. In 1923 the figures were respectively 203, 167, 36 and 6.

4.—APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

Seventeen Appeals were lodged during the year.

Of the Seventeen, five were dismissed, two were granted, eight are pending and the remaining two were withdrawn.

5.—ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

Nine Actions were instituted during the year.

Four were tried, two were settled and the others are pending.

The fees collected amounted to \$1,056.75 as against \$584.85 in 1923.

6.—BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

Fifteen (15) petitions were filed, 5 being creditors' petitions and 10 debtors' petitions. The figures for 1923 were respectively 17, 9 and 8.

The number of Receiving Orders made was 5, being 1 on creditors' petitions and 4 on debtors' petitions. The figures for 1923 were respectively 7, 3 and 4.

The number of Public Examinations held was nil as against 3 in 1923. There were 3 Adjudications as against 6 in 1923.

No Scheme of Arrangement was put through. Three petitions were withdrawn, no bankrupts obtained their discharge, no Receiving Order was rescinded, and no petition was dismissed.

The estimated assets, in cases where Receiving Orders were made and not subsequently rescinded, were \$21,102.90 and the estimated liabilities \$64,324.77 as against \$39,176.02 and \$900,254.14 respectively in 1923.

The fees collected amounted to \$1,880.45 as against \$2,153.15 in 1923 and the Official Receiver's Commission as Trustee, where no Trustee had been appointed by the Creditors, was \$3,297.62 as against \$2,676.34 in 1923.

7.—PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION.

Two hundred and fifty (250) grants were made by the Court being :—

Probate.....	108
Letters of Administration	141
Declarations for Commissioner	1
	<hr/>
	250
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The figures in 1923 were respectively 110 and 120 total 230.

Court fees amounted to \$19,364.20, and Official Administrator's Commission to \$1,094.51. The figures in 1923 were respectively \$13,710.55 and \$2,148.71.

There were 116 Estates vested in or administered by the Official Administrator during the year, representing an aggregate value of \$122,385.19. The figures for 1923 were respectively, 116 and \$117,032.02.

Eight (8) were wound up during the year, of the total value of \$2,343.79 as against 18 in 1923 of the total value of \$16,543.38.

Eight (8) new accounts were opened during the year amounting to \$7,696.96.

8.—OFFICIAL TRUSTS.

The number of Trust Estates in the hands of the Official Trustee at the end of 1923 was 20 with Trust Funds amounting to \$83,718.12. In 1923 it was \$15,727.45. Three trusts were wound up during the year. Six new trusts were opened.

The amount of commission collected was \$388.06 as against \$68.82 in 1923.

9.—REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES.

On the 31st December there were 505 companies on the Hongkong Register, of which 59 were in course of liquidation. During the year 97 new companies were put on the Register and 30 struck off. One company transferred from Shanghai to the Hongkong Register, and one company from Hongkong to the Shanghai Register.

The fees collected in respect of "China" companies amounted to \$112,759.93, and those in respect of other companies to \$22,012.70.

Two firms were registered under the Chinese Limited Partnership Ordinance, 1911, and no firm under the Limited Partnership Ordinance, No. 18 of 1912, was registered.

Deposits of the total value of \$3,700,000.00 have been made by Insurance Companies under the Fire and Marine Insurance Companies Deposit Ordinance, 1917.

10.—FEES AND COMMISSION.

The total sum collected during the year by way of fees and commission amounted to \$89,624.99 as against \$69,955.20 in the previous year.

11.—STAFF.

H. H. Sir Wm. Rees-Davies, Kt., K.C., Chief Justice, proceeded on three months leave on 22nd April and retired on pension on 23rd July.

H. H. Henry H. J. Gompertz, Puisne Judge, acted as Chief Justice from 23rd April to 14th October.

Mr. A. Dyer Ball, Cadet Officer, acted as Puisne Judge from 23rd April to 14th October.

Sir H. C. Gollan, Kt., C.B.E., was appointed Chief Justice on 15th October.

Mr. H. A. Nisbet proceeded on leave on 1st November.

Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Deputy Registrar, acted as Registrar from 1st November to 31st December.

Mr. J. H. B. Nihill, Cadet Officer, acted as Deputy Registrar from 14th November to 31st December.

Mr. T. F. O'Sullivan, Second Bailiff, proceeded on leave on 22nd March.

Mr. E. L. Stainfield, Clerk and Usher, acted as Second Bailiff from 22nd March to 31st December.

Mr. E. A. Roberts acted as Clerk and Usher from 1st January to 31st December.

C. D. MELBOURNE,
Registrar, Supreme Court.

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

(From 1914 to 1924).

Year.	Total Number of cases dealt with	Expenditure				Revenue			Percentage of Revenue of Expenditure
		Total		Decrease		Total		Decrease	
		\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	
1914.....	1,091	107,780.92	9,429.90	...	*73,422.69	10,118.91	...	68.12	
1915.....	832	110,667.68	2,886.76	...	*63,382.63	...	10,040.06	57.27	
1916.....	753	105,252.44	...	5,415.24	*56,719.68	...	6,662.95	53.88	
1917.....	764	99,662.88	...	5,589.56	*48,334.81	...	8,384.81	48.48	
1918.....	931	98,281.40	...	1,381.48	*68,032.72	19,697.91	...	69.22	
1919.....	982	98,844.23	562.83	...	*61,305.87	...	6,726.85	62.02	
1920.....	872	113,082.79	14,238.56	...	*55,957.31	...	5,348.56	49.48	
1921.....	851	118,782.72	5,699.93	...	*58,830.97	2,873.66	...	49.52	
1922.....	827	126,424.34	7,641.62	...	*60,448.59	1,617.62	...	47.83	
1923.....	962	128,838.62	2,414.28	...	*69,955.20	9,506.61	...	54.29	
1924.....	1,549	136,136.69	7,298.07	...	*89,624.99	19,669.79	...	65.83	

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