

Appendix G.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT, OFFICIAL TRUSTEE, OFFICIAL ADMINISTRATOR AND REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES FOR THE YEAR 1934.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

1. 417 actions were instituted in this division of the Court during the year 1934, as against 523 in 1933, 191 were disposed of during the year and 77 were settled or withdrawn before trial, as against 257 and 85 respectively in 1933.

2. The claims amounted to \$3,594,726.57 as against \$5,726,915.02 in 1933.

3. The debts and damages for which judgments were given amounted to \$2,772,364.05 as against \$2,313,529.39 in 1933.

4. The fees collected amounted to \$24,732.75 as against \$25,860.00 in 1933.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

5. 2,781 actions were instituted during the year, as against 2,787 in 1933.

6. The cases were disposed of as follows:—Settled or withdrawn 548: Judgment for the plaintiff 1,502, Judgment for the defendant 52, Nonsuit 1; Struck off, dismissed or lapsed 62, and pending 616. as against 701, 1,370, 44, 2, 89 and 581 respectively in 1933.

7. The claims amounted to \$912,468.71 as against \$865,033.45 in 1933 and the amounts for which judgments were given were \$477,427.98 as against \$501,580.51 in 1933.

8. The number of rent distress warrants issued was 2,431 representing unpaid rents amounting to \$517,225.03 of which \$80,971.39 was recovered by enforced sales in 956 warrants; as against 2,201, \$482,588.10 and \$82,541.77 respectively in 1933.

9. 1,431 warrants were withdrawn on settlement between the parties as against 1,383 in 1933 and the remaining warrants were cancelled or otherwise disposed of.

10. The fees collected amounted to \$35,918.00 as against \$33,398.50 in 1933.

SUITORS' FUNDS.

11. During the year \$457,557.27 was paid into Court and \$995,116.31 was paid out.

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

12. There were 117 cases and 135 persons committed for trial at the criminal sessions, as against 130 and 146 respectively in 1933.

13. Of the 135 persons indicted, 98 were convicted, 26 were acquitted and 11 were not proceeded against. In 1933 the figures were respectively 146, 94, 41 and 11.

14. Three appeals were lodged during the year. In two cases the appeals were dismissed, while in the third case the sentence of two years' imprisonment with hard labour was quashed and in substitution therefor a fine of \$100, with a sentence of two months' imprisonment with hard labour in default, was imposed.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

15. 10 appeals were lodged during the year.

16. 3 were dismissed, 2 were allowed, 3 were settled, and 2 are pending.

ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

17. 11 actions were instituted during the year.

18. 1 was settled, 2 were discontinued and 8 are pending.

19. The fees collected amounted to \$673.50 as against \$1,981.00 in 1933.

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

20. 389 grants were made by the Court being:—

Probate	156
Letters of Administration	233
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	389
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53 grants by other Courts were sealed, making an aggregate of 442 grants dealt with. The figure in 1933 was 470.

21. Court fees amounted to \$29,309.90 and Official Administrator's commission to \$12,921.63. The figures in 1933 were \$31,182.60 and \$3,797.53 respectively.

22. During the year there were 84 deceased estates accounts on the Court books. The cash balance at the end of the year was \$16,963.96.

23. 46 accounts were closed during the year and 60 new accounts were opened. No estate was transferred to trust account.

DIVORCE JURISDICTION.

24. No new proceedings were instituted during the year. One *decree nisi* for dissolution of marriage was pronounced.

OFFICIAL TRUSTS.

25. The number of trust estates in the hands of the Official Trustee at the end of the year was 20. The invested funds totalled \$176,702.73 and £2,850 and the cash balance \$9,465.62.

26. The amount of commission collected was \$125.59.

During the year the Belilios Star in bronze was awarded to eight persons and monetary awards made to a further eleven persons for gallantry in saving people from drowning.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES.

27. On the 31st December there were 722 companies on the Hong Kong register, of which 103 were in course of liquidation. 207 companies incorporated outside the Colony and not on the Hong Kong register have registered the requisite documents.

28. During the year 66 new companies were put on the register and 65 companies were struck off. One company was transferred from the Hong Kong to the Shanghai register.

29. The fees collected in respect of "China" companies amounted to \$177,867.91, and those in respect of other companies to \$19,813.00. The fees for licences to keep local registers amounted to \$1,991.45.

30. One firm was registered under the Chinese Partnerships Ordinance, 1911, and no firm was registered under the Limited Partnerships Ordinance, 1912.

31. Deposits to the total value of \$4,046,666 have been made by Insurance Companies under the Fire and Marine Insurance Companies Deposit Ordinance, 1917, \$1,418,700 representing cash deposits.

32. Deposits under the Life Insurance Companies Ordinance, 1907, amount to \$1,209,246.51, of which \$344,246.51 is by cash deposits.

33. The work of the Companies Registry during the past six years is shown in Table II appended to this report.

BILLS OF SALE.

34. The number of Bills of Sale registered during the year was 48 as against 57 in 1933.

REVENUE.

(FEES, COMMISSION, &c.).

35. The total sum collected during the year by way of fees and commission amounted to \$343,885.68 as against \$314,149.78 in the previous year.

PERSONNEL.

36. His Honour Mr. A. D. A. MacGregor, K.C., was appointed Chief Justice with effect from the 22nd February, 1934, in succession to Sir Joseph Horsford Kemp, K.C., C.B.E.

His Honour Mr. R. E. Lindsell was appointed Puisne Judge with effect from the 10th August, 1934, in succession to Mr. J. R. Wood.

Mr. P. Jacks, Land Officer, acted as Puisne Judge from the 16th April to the 13th December, 1934.

Mr. E. P. H. Lang acted as Registrar from the 7th April to the 28th November, 1934, during the absence of Mr. T. M. Hazlerigg on leave.

T. M. HAZLERIGG,

*Registrar, Supreme Court,
Official Trustee, Official Administrator,
Registrar of Companies.*

Table I.

Table showing total number of cases dealt with by the Supreme Court and the expenditure and revenue of the Supreme Court and the Companies Registry 1923-1934.

Year.	Total number of cases dealt with (exclusive of distraints).	Expenditure.		Revenue.	
		\$	c.	\$	c.
1923.....	962	128,838.62		*69,955.20	
1924.....	1,549	136,136.99		*89,624.99	
1925.....	1,908	150,698.14		*121,606.20	
1926.....	3,416	133,680.40		*117,252.61	
1927.....	2,267	141,493.29		*96,254.96	
1928.....	2,330	165,114.93		*101,624.20	
1929.....	2,303	167,632.95		*102,876.25	
1930.....	2,016	218,933.24		*95,560.75	
1931.....	2,113	240,030.30		*97,773.74	
1932.....	3,095	231,828.63		*155,461.92	
1933.....	3,315	244,996.00		*170,422.62	
1934.....	3,209	249,032.71		*164,026.32	

*Not including amounts paid for fees in respect of licences to keep local registers and China Companies fees—in 1934 \$179,859.36.

Table II.

Table showing the work of the Companies Registry.

Year.	Number of companies on the Hong Kong Register.	Number of new companies registered during the year.	Amount of fees collected.	
			\$	c.
1929.....	560	56	13,651.70	
1930.....	572	63	17,472.60	
1931.....	621	81	20,233.20	
1932.....	674	84	21,958.00	
1933.....	722	94	25,298.20	
1934.....	722	66	19,813.00	