

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 611.

The following Report on the Blue Book for 1901 was laid before the Legislative Council at a Meeting held this day, and is published.

By Command,

F. H. MAY,  
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 9th October, 1902.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1901.

No. 390.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
HONGKONG, 29th August, 1902.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following general Report in connection with the Blue Book for 1901.

I.—FINANCES.

The Revenue for the year 1901, exclusive of Land Sales, was \$3,973,578, or \$636,523 more than the estimate; inclusive of Land Sales the total revenue was \$4,213,893. The Expenditure, exclusive of the cost of Public Works Extraordinary, was \$3,723,249, or \$455,317 more than the estimate; including the heavy outlay on Public Works Extraordinary, the total expenditure was \$4,111,722. There was thus an excess of Revenue over Expenditure of \$102,171.

The sources of Revenue which proved most productive and were chiefly responsible for the excess of actual over estimated receipts were the opium monopoly, the assessed taxes, chair and jinricksha and some other forms of licences, the Post Office, and stone quarries.

The items which yielded a smaller sum than the estimate were not numerous, and represented no very large amounts, with the exception of the item of New Territory Land Revenue, from which a sum of \$140,000 had been anticipated and only \$28,783 received. This return, however, compares well with that of 1900, when only \$1,300 was collected from this source. As has already been pointed out in New Territory Reports, the difficulties in connection with the settlement of land claims make the collection of Crown Rent a slow process.

The figures quoted above do not represent the whole of the revenue derived from the New Territory during 1901, as they do not include its share in the considerable increases to general Revenue derived from the opium monopoly and other miscellaneous sources.

The amount realised from land sales was much less than that realised in 1900. In that year more than \$816,000 was received from this source; in 1901 only \$240,315, or nearly \$160,000 less than the estimate.

(a.)—GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following is a brief abstract of the heads of Revenue and Expenditure for 1900 and 1901 :—

	REVENUE.			
	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Light Dues, .....	55,379.38	58,375.98	2,996.60	...
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise specified, .....	1,847,272.78	2,270,145.69	422,872.91	...
Fees of Court, &c., .....	285,586.11	284,453.22	...	932.89
Post Office, .....	325,693.33	355,912.74	30,309.41	...
Rent of Government Property, .....	482,777.27	555,469.58	72,692.31	...
Interest, .....	...	1.14	1.14	...
Miscellaneous, .....	238,910.74	280,100.36	41,189.62	...
Water Account, .....	151,034.87	169,119.45	18,084.58	...
Land Sales, .....	816,222.92	240,315.06	...	575,907.86
Total, .....	4,202,587.40	4,213,893.22	588,146.57	576,840.75
			Deduct Decrease, ....	576,840.75
			Nett Increase, .....	\$11,305.82

## EXPENDITURE.

	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Charge on account of Public Debt, .....	153,363.07	162,363.84	9,000.77	...
Pensions, Departmental Expenditures, Military Contribution, &c.....	3,001,578.17	3,560,885.60	559,007.43	...
Public Works Extraordinary, .....	473,205.89	388,473.05	...	84,732.84
	3,628,447.13	4,111,722.49	568,008.20	84,732.84
		Deduct Decrease, ...	84,732.84	
		Nett Increase,.....	\$483,275.36	

Revenue for 1901,.....\$4,213,893.22

Expenditure for 1901,..... 4,111,722.49

Surplus.....\$102,170.73

## TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1897-1901.

	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue, .....	2,646,914.70	2,918,159.24	3,610,143.25	4,202,587.40	4,213,893.22
Expenditure, .....	2,641,403.71	2,841,805.20	3,162,792.36	3,628,447.13	4,111,722.49
Surplus, .....	45,504.99	76,354.04	447,340.89	574,140.27	102,170.73

## (b.)—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

At the end of the year under review the total Assets of the Colony amounted to \$2,023,581.00, and the Liabilities to £987,058.00, thus leaving a credit balance of \$1,036,523.54 not including certain arrears of Revenue amounting to \$61,132.

## (c.)—PUBLIC DEBT.

The nature of the loans contracted by the Colony and the conditions governing their repayment may be ascertained by reference to I (D) of the Blue Book Report for 1898, page 3.

## LOAN ACCOUNT.

Dr.			Cr.
To Inscribed Stock Loan at 3½% interest, to be paid off on the 15th April, 1943. ....	£341,799.15.1	By Sinking Fund	£20,363.12.8

II.—TRADE, INDUSTRIES, FISHERIES, AGRICULTURE, AND LAND.

(a.)—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

The following table shows the principal articles of import in the year 1901 in vessels of European construction, compared with similar returns for 1900. The figures represent the tonnage:—

Articles.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
Beans, .....	530	1,290	730	...
Coal, .....	1,045,812	917,144	...	128,668
Cotton Yarn and Cotton,.....	19,993	14,423	...	5,570
Flour,.....	154,111	145,287	...	8,824
Hemp, .....	54,105	31,195	...	22,910
Kerosine, (bulk), .....	64,732	70,728	5,996	...
„ (case), .....	69,979	77,977	7,998	...
Liquid Fuel, .....	2,759	3,973	1,214	...
Lead, .....	2,350	260	...	2,090
Opium, .....	3,194	2,872	...	322
Rattau, .....	10,204	3,488	...	6,716
Rice, .....	673,029	618,780	...	54,249
Sandalwood, .....	3,811	5,272	1,461	...
Sulphur, .....	22	55	33	...
Sugar, .....	238,863	241,291	2,428	...
Tea, .....	6,393	1,473	...	4,920
Timber, .....	82,311	66,860	...	15,451
General,.....	1,172,094	1,278,619	106,525	...
Total,.....	3,604,322	3,480,987	126,385	249,720
Transit,.....	2,143,749	2,134,585	...	9,164
Grand Total,.....	5,748,071	5,615,572	126,385	258,884
		Nett,.....	...	132,499

There was a considerable decrease in coal imports as compared with 1900, but the amount imported in 1900 was far above the average. The coal imports for 1898, also, were stated to have been abnormally large, but the returns for last year show an increase as compared with that year of nearly 100,000 tons.

The principal features to be remarked in the reported trade of the Port for the year 1901 are:—

- (i.) A decrease in the Coal imports of 12.3%.
- (ii.) A decrease in the Cotton imports of 27.8%.
- (iii.) A decrease in the Rice imports of 8%.
- (iv.) A decrease in the Timber imports of 18.7%.
- (v.) A decrease in the Hemp imports of 42.3%.
- (vi.) An increase in the General imports of 9.8%.
- (vii.) Also small increases in case and bulk Kerosine and in Liquid Fuel.

The nett decrease in import cargo is 123,335 tons or 3.4%.

In exports there appears to be an increase of 150,823 tons or 7.7%.

In transit cargo, a decrease of 9,163 tons or 10.4%.

The Import Trade was very depressed throughout the year. In the interior of China there was much poverty, and trade was hampered by unauthorised exactions on goods beyond the confines of the Treaty Ports. The fall in the exchange of silver and the high values ruling on the home markets—especially in raw cotton and all cotton fabrics—also militated severely against this branch of trade.

The Opium Trade was far from prosperous during the past year. In the Bengal drug, owing to large stocks early in the season and a declining exchange in the latter half of the year, the business done, though considerable, was productive of loss to both importers and native dealers. The demand for Malwa was poor and disappointing, and the prices obtained left no margin for profit. Owing to the Formosan Government being practically the only buyer of superior Persian, the rates for this drug fell from \$825 per picul, the opening quotation, to \$640 per picul in the latter end of the year.

As regards the trade in Indian Cotton yarn, the year under review shows a decidedly marked improvement over the previous twelve months.

The *Imports* to Hongkong and Shanghai, which showed a shrinkage of close upon 60 per cent. in 1900, increased again over 100 per cent. during the past twelve months, whilst *sales* in Hongkong showed an excess of 45,715 bales and those in Shanghai of 69,083 bales.

A great and important movement has taken place which has opened the whole of the markets of inland China to the world. Manufacturers on the spot will certainly be unable, at least for some time, to meet the greatly increased demand which will thus be occasioned; and in the meantime India may fairly hope to reap some share of the harvest, more especially if Lekin—a veritable millstone round the neck of this trade—is effectually removed.

The following figures are of interest:—

COMPARATIVE TABLES OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AND REPORTED SALES OF INDIAN GREY YARN EFFECTED IN HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI DURING THE YEARS 1876 TO 1901.

Year.	Imports to Hongkong from India.	Direct shipments from India to Shanghai and Japan.	Total Imports to China and Japan.	Total Sales effected in Hongkong.	Total sales in Shanghai.
	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>	<i>Bales.</i>
1876 .....	17,598	.....	17,598	6,758	.....
1877 .....	39,288	.....	39,289	17,806	.....
1878 .....	37,799	.....	37,799	30,031	.....
1879 .....	47,338	6,721	54,059	42,093	.....
1880 .....	60,265	3,980	64,245	49,571	.....
1881 .....	55,705	7,834	63,539	54,411	.....
1882 .....	82,286	6,458	88,744	77,945	.....
1883 .....	97,200	16,514	113,714	89,889	.....
1884 .....	137,075	12,858	149,933	112,450	.....
1885 .....	150,221	27,954	178,175	147,894	.....
1886 .....	175,291	50,089	225,380	142,974	.....
1887 .....	178,790	88,435	267,225	182,152	.....
1888 .....	187,368	90,242	277,610	182,198	.....
1889 .....	225,457	104,850	330,307	197,941	55,401
1890 .....	209,689	167,353	377,042	187,330	104,016
1891 .....	218,732	171,130	389,862	161,501	134,337
1892 .....	237,569	186,305	423,874	219,189	154,386
1893 .....	207,935	119,625	327,560	171,491	112,786
1894 .....	237,260	146,121	384,381	169,117	129,938
1895 .....	257,803	144,250	402,053	213,854	120,911
1896 .....	256,367	214,376	500,743	215,375	151,935
1897 .....	279,412	167,623	447,035	187,948	117,861
1898 .....	308,978	168,467	477,445	221,144	147,678
1899 .....	315,369	288,307	603,676	205,441	167,860
1900 .....	153,610	110,409	264,019	152,277	125,796
1901 .....	291,885	228,688	520,573	197,992	194,879

#### SHIPPING.

The total tonnage entering and clearing during the year 1901 amounted to 19,325,384 tons, being an increase, compared with 1900, of 880,248 tons, and the same in excess of any previous year. Of this increase, 165,128 tons are due to the

fact that steam launches trading to ports outside the Colony have been included this year, whereas in former years they have been returned separately.

There were 45,349 arrivals of 9,681,203 tons, and 45,171 departures of 9,644,181 tons.

Of British Ocean-going tonnage, 2,917,780 tons entered, and 2,897,200 tons cleared.

Of British River Steamers, 1,697,242 tons entered, and 1,701,417 tons cleared, making a grand total of British tonnage of 9,213,330 tons entering and clearing.

Of Foreign Ocean-going tonnage, 2,637,552 tons entered, and 2,539,992 tons cleared.

Of Foreign River Steamers, 48,545 tons entered, and 49,503 tons cleared, making a grand total of Foreign tonnage of 5,315,430 tons entering and clearing.

Of Steam Launches trading to ports outside the Colony, 82,564 tons entered, and 82,564 tons cleared.

Of Junks in Foreign Trade, 1,631,272 tons entered, and 1,634,896 tons cleared.

Of Junks in Local Trade, 666,248 tons entered, and 663,699 tons cleared.

Thus—

British Ocean-going tonnage represented.....	30.1%
„ River „ „ .....	17.2%
Foreign Ocean-going „ „ .....	27.5%
„ River „ „ .....	0.5%
Steam launches „ „ .....	0.9%
Junks (Foreign Trade) „ „ .....	16.9%
„ (Local Trade) „ „ .....	6.9%

The actual number of ships of European construction (exclusive of river-steamers and steam-launches) entering the Port during 1901 was 682, being 337 British and 345 Foreign. Thus 682 vessels entered 3,570 times, and gave a total tonnage of 5,555,332 tons. A comparison of the Shipping Returns for 1900 and 1901 appears in the following table, from which it will be seen that though there was a large decrease in the number of vessels under the British flag (chiefly due to the withdrawal of some river steamers) there is an increase in British tonnage of 58,441 tons.

	1900.		1901.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British, .....	7,511	9,155,198	6,715	9,213,639	...	58,441	793	...
Foreign, .....	3,429	4,866,969	4,092	5,315,502	663	478,533	...	...
Junks in Foreign Trade, .....	35,425	3,224,856	35,394	3,266,168	...	41,312	31	...
Total, .....	46,365	17,247,023	46,201	17,825,309	663	578,286	827	...

The above table does not include junks in local trade, the business of which shows an increase of more than 700,000 tons over that of the preceding year.

The problem of providing berthing accommodation in the Harbour for the ever-increasing tonnage frequenting the Port is one that is getting more difficult each year, and though there may not be any very pressing necessity just at present, there can be no reasonable doubt that, with the constant advance in size, draught, and number, as well of Ships-of-War as of the Mercantile Marine, and of Foreign as well as British Shipping, the water space will soon be found inadequate.

The following tables, as showing the relative importance of the Shipping conducted under the various national flags, will be of interest:—

NATIONALITY OF VESSELS.	ENTERED.		CLEARED.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
American, .....	111	155,667	104	147,711
Austrian, .....	53	128,483	51	122,632
Belgian, .....	9	12,407	9	12,407
British, .....	3,360	4,615,022	3,355	4,598,617
Chinese, .....	138	18,932	140	19,113
Chinese Junks, .....	17,736	1,631,272	17,658	1,634,896
Corean, .....	1	796	1	796
Danish, .....	12	25,903	12	25,903
Dutch, .....	29	40,872	29	40,872
French, .....	328	243,588	328	238,427
German, .....	844	1,242,642	843	1,239,967
Italian, .....	13	18,732	14	19,502
Japanese, .....	336	692,981	333	688,140
Norwegian, .....	79	78,004	75	73,821
Portuguese, .....	83	10,456	83	10,456
Russian, .....	4	8,797	4	8,797
Siamese, .....	.....	.....	2	407
Spanish, .....	1	784	1	784
Swedish, .....	7	6,923	7	6,923
No Flag, .....	1	80	7	2,747
Steam launches trading to ports outside } the Colony, .....	1,542	82,564	1,542	82,564
Total, .....	24,687	9,014,955	23,056	8,892,918

(b.)—INDUSTRIES.

During the year 1901, most of our local industries, which are chiefly carried on upon joint stock principles, were well employed throughout the year, with satisfactory results.

Cotton spinning by the local company was hampered by the plague. The results to original shareholders were not good, owing to the initial cost of the Mill being higher than originally estimated. However, the capital was written down largely, and fresh capital brought in, with the effect that the present condition of the Company is very satisfactory, and the future outlook promising. Improved dwellings for their operatives are shortly to be erected, and the system of piece work has been successfully introduced.

The sugar industry has been hampered by the large importations of Continental bounty fed sugar into Japan and other markets which used to draw their supplies from here.

The shipping industry during 1901 was prosperous throughout the year.

Over-speculation in shares both here and in Shanghai has in many cases adversely affected the value of shares in several of the local undertakings, but I think that this is merely a temporary condition and that things will come to their normal level before long.

If the heavy fall in silver becomes permanent, it must eventually stimulate local productions in many directions, particularly in the repairing and docking of ships, as this work can be excellently done by Chinese under European supervision.

The local Dock Company is a large and well equipped institution, and the docking facilities of the colony will, in the course of the next few years, be largely augmented by the Admiralty Dock and by considerable works of the same sort at present under construction by Messrs. Butterfield & Swire at Quarry Bay.

The Hongkong Dock Co. are at present building a large river steamer for the Canton route, and if the result is satisfactory a considerable development in ship-building may shew itself, especially if silver remains low.

The labour question—the crux of the industrial problem here—gives serious food for thought, and it is to be hoped that the extension of the boundaries of the colony may make it possible to provide cheaper and healthier house accommodation for the labouring classes, so that the two chief elements of industrial prosperity—cheap labour and cheap money—may be successfully united.

At present, high rents and some unseen influence—probably Chinese guilds—militate against full advantage being taken of the abundant supply of labour in the adjoining provinces.

(c.)—FISHERIES.

There are no fisheries of importance. The local demand for salt and fresh fish is met by fleets of fishing junks and a large number of net stations, and the fish that are required for salting are dried and salted on the beach. There is a very large local demand for fish from the Canton River, which are brought down alive in tanks in the daily passenger steamers.

(d.)—FORESTRY, BOTANICAL SCIENCE, AND AGRICULTURE.

The Forestry and Botanical Department is under the charge of a Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, aided by a large staff of gardeners and foresters. Perhaps the most important work carried on by this Department is the planting of trees. Camphors have been planted as an experiment in the New Territory, but it is feared that they cannot be grown there so as to give an adequate return on the capital invested. The experiment was not successful, but will be repeated. Rubbers were also tried, but the climate is not suitable to this Central American and Malayan tree and most of the plants died in the cold season.

Much interesting botanical work is yearly carried on in Hongkong. Mr. FORD, the Superintendent, has shown that the total number of plants, exclusive of mosses, lichens, sea-weeds and fungi, indigenous to Hongkong, is 1,397, probably more than are indigenous to the whole of the British Isles. Plants and seeds are regularly interchanged with other botanical institutions, and the number of plants which are successfully introduced into the Colony by this means is constantly increasing. It is hoped that before long an experimental Economic Garden will be established in the New Territory for the purpose of introducing and distributing amongst the natives new plants of economic value.

The hilly character of the Island and its comparative absence of fertilising soil has prevented agriculture from becoming an active source of industry in Hongkong. The acreage of cultivated land in the Island is a little over 400 acres only. The old dependency of British Kowloon, which is chiefly composed of level ground, contains almost the same amount of cultivated land. This, however, tends to diminish as buildings extend. The only part of the Colony where agricultural industries can be expected to thrive is the New Territory, which, though intersected by extensive ranges of barren hills, contains valleys where rice and sugar and other crops are grown with success. The acreage of cultivated land in the New Territory (including the islands) is not far short of 100,000, but much of this contains exceedingly poor soil and consists of minute holdings belonging to the poorest class of peasants. The Government has taken steps to introduce some better qualities of sugar-cane into the New Territory. Some attempts have been made to grow the mulberry but without success.

(e.)—LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The available amount of building land in Hongkong, except in the New Territory; is so limited that it has for many years commanded a very high price, and Land Premia and Crown Rents form a considerable portion of the Colonial Revenue. Land in private hands has proved to be a most lucrative source of wealth to its owners, while at the same time its scarcity and high value have tended to

raise house-rents to such an extent as to seriously embarrass large numbers of Chinese and European tenants. Very extensive reclamation works have been and are still being successfully carried out, and large areas of level building ground have thereby been created. It is hoped that before long a practical commencement will be made of a new reclamation which will extend from the Naval Dockyard in the centre of the town to Causeway Bay in the East.

The sales of Crown land in 1901 were, as has been already stated, much less than those in 1900.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-seven Ordinances were passed during 1901, of which fifteen were amendments of Ordinances already in force, and two were private Ordinances for the naturalisation of Chinese.

From the Imperial point of view perhaps one of the most important measures of the year was the first Ordinance, which raised the annual Military Contribution of the Colony from 17½ per cent. to 20 per cent. of the total gross revenue, exclusive of land sales and premia on leases or statutory land grants.

Ordinance 5 is perhaps the most important measure of the year. It is an Ordinance "to establish a Code of Procedure for the Regulation of the Process, Practice, and Mode of Pleading in the Civil Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the Colony." The Supreme Court was established by legislative enactment in 1845 and all its proceedings were regulated by the practice of the English Courts "unless and until otherwise ordered by rule of the said Court." Successive attempts at improving the Civil Procedure of the Court were made in 1855, 1856, 1858, 1860 and 1861, and led to the enactment of what is known as the Old Code of Civil Procedure, in 1873, which abolished the old distinction between common law and equity, and established a uniform procedure for the administration of both. Alterations were from time to time carried out during many subsequent years, and the new Code, which was drafted last year by Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G., and enacted as Ordinance No. 5 of 1901, contains the final results, up to the present time, of all the changes and improvements which experience had found necessary.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1901—a Consolidating and Amending Public Health Ordinance—was an important measure which will probably, however, be partially superseded by new legislation during 1902.

### IV.—EDUCATION.

The system and methods of education in the Colony are fully described in the Report for 1899, since which time there have been few changes. The whole system of education is at present under consideration, and may shortly undergo considerable modifications as the outcome of the deliberations of a special Committee appointed towards the close of the year. A description of any changes which may take place should find a place in the next Report.

The principal school in the Colony is Queen's College, an institution which forms a distinct Government Department. The total number of pupils on the roll (European, Chinese and other Asiatics) is nearly 1,500. The average annual expenses of each boy are less than \$18, and the total fees received by Government amount to over \$28,000. There is a large staff of English and Chinese masters, who provide the pupils with an education which not only enables many of them to compete successfully in the Oxford local examinations but also fits them for important posts as interpreters and clerks in the Government service and in mercantile houses.

There is a growing feeling amongst both British and Chinese residents that the system of educating European and native children side by side in the same schools is not without its serious drawbacks. The subject has been fully dealt with in a



Petition forwarded to you in September last, and the outcome will probably be the establishment of one or more good schools for European boys and girls and similar schools for the children of the better class Chinese.

#### V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on Public Works during the year was \$687,325.70.

The principal work initiated was a greatly enlarged scheme for the construction of Water-works to supply the Kowloon Peninsula with water by gravitation, the estimated cost of the work being \$835,000. The reservoir to be constructed is situated in the New Territory, in connection with the development of which several works were in progress, principal among them being the road to Taipo, 16 miles in length.

Work was begun on an additional reservoir at Tytam for increasing the supply of water to the City of Victoria.

A number of buildings were in progress, including the New Law Courts, Harbour Office, Western Market, and Governor's Peak Residence.

A large Reclamation Scheme in front of the eastern section of the City, estimated to cost \$5,000,000, was under consideration, and arrangements for the construction of an electric tramway, 9 miles in length, were nearly brought to a conclusion.

#### VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

##### (a.)—HOSPITALS.

Government Hospitals consist of the Civil Hospital, to which is attached an isolated Lying-in Hospital; Kennedy Town Infectious Diseases Hospital, and the Hospital hulk *Hygeia*.

The Civil Hospital contains 124 beds in 18 wards; the Lying-in Hospital 6 beds for Europeans and 4 for Asiatics; and Kennedy Town Hospital 78 beds. In 1901, 267 cases were treated at Kennedy Town, of which 204 were cases of plague, 42 of small-pox, and 15 of cholera.

Two thousand nine hundred and forty-eight (2,948) in-patients and 12,663 out-patients were treated at the Government Civil Hospital in 1901, showing a slight decrease in the figures for 1900. Malarial fever alone was responsible for over 800 admissions.

The Tung Wa Hospital, supported by voluntary subscriptions among the Chinese and only to a small extent endowed by the Government, takes the place of a Poor House and Hospital for the Chinese sick and destitute. Chinese as well as European methods of treatment are employed in accordance with the wishes expressed by the patients or those who are responsible for them.

##### (b.)—ASYLUM.

The Lunatic Asylum is under the direction of the Principal Civil Medical Officer. European and Chinese patients are separated, the European portion of the Asylum containing 8 beds in 8 separate wards, and the Chinese portion containing 16 beds. Ninety patients of all races were treated during 1901, and there were 7 deaths.

##### (c.)—THE CHINESE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE.

This institution was founded in 1887, largely through the efforts of Dr. PATRICK MANSON, Dr. CANTLIE and others, for the purpose of teaching surgery, medicine and midwifery to Chinese. The Government of the College is vested in the Court, of which the Rector of the College, who has always been a Government Official, is President. 57 students had been enrolled up to 1901, and of these 12 have become qualified licentiates, who have obtained various posts under Government and elsewhere. The institution is of great value in spreading a knowledge of Western medical science amongst the Chinese.

*(d.)*—PO LEUNG KUK.

This is a Society, under the supervision of Government, for the protection of women and children. It has done much good work in connection with the suppression of brothel slavery, which was in Hongkong and still is in China, one of the gravest social evils. If the Registrar-General, who acts as President of the Society, has reason to believe that a girl is being sold into a life of prostitution against her will, or if she is, in his opinion, of too tender an age to judge for herself as to her mode of life, she is sent into the Po Leung Kuk, where she is fed, lodged, and, unless she has relatives who will receive her, appropriately educated until she has an opportunity of making a respectable marriage or of earning an honest livelihood by her own exertions. The institution is managed by a number of Chinese gentlemen who are annually elected as a Managing Committee.

The number of women and children admitted into the Home during the year was 389, being 52 more than in 1900. 187 were restored direct to parents or relatives or were sent to some Benevolent Society in China, 3 were adopted, 5 placed at school, and 50 were married.

*(e.)*—REFORMATORY.

The Belilios Reformatory, presented to the Colony by Mr. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G., has not been occupied. It has been proposed to make use of the building, with the donor's consent, by turning it into a School. The matter is at present under consideration.

*(f.)*—SAVINGS BANK.

There is no Post Office Savings Bank in Hongkong. A branch of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation takes the place of such an institution in this Colony.

*(g.)*—POLICE.

The total strength of the Police Force, which stood at 630 in 1898, 827 in 1899, and 929 in 1900, now stands at 920, including 145 Europeans, 366 Indians and 409 Chinese. The gradual diminution in armed robberies and lawlessness in the New Territory made it possible to withdraw a number of men from that part of the Colony during the year to strengthen the force in the City of Victoria and Kowloon. The executive staff now consists of a Captain Superintendent, a Deputy Superintendent and two Assistant Superintendents. The conduct of all the contingents is reported to have been satisfactory.

Since the middle of the year, the Chinese Provincial Authorities have maintained a force of soldiery along the northern boundary of the New Territory, who have co-operated with our Police in preventing the incursion of armed robbers into the Colony.

*(h.)*—PRISON.

The daily average of prisoners confined in Victoria Gaol was 499, as compared with 486 for the year 1900. There were 180 convicts in the Gaol on the 31st December, 1901, against 141 on the same date in 1900, 96 in 1899, 55 in 1898. This shows an increase of 125% during the past 3 years. This large increase is synchronous with and largely attributable to the inclusion of the New Territory in the Colony.

The total profit of all industrial labour amounted to \$24,783 as compared with \$17,458 for the preceding year. All minor repairs to the Gaol have been carried out by prison labour. A new wing was completed and occupied by long-sentence prisoners early in the year.

The question of extending the Prison accommodation in the Colony has been for some time engaging the attention of the Government.

The Superintendent of the Gaol is also Captain Superintendent of Police, and is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent, a medical officer, chaplains, and European and Indian warders.

(i.)—FIRE BRIGADE.

The Superintendent of Fire Brigade is also Captain Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of Victoria Gaol. The European members of the Brigade, with the exception of the Engineer, are also members of the Police Force voluntarily enlisted, and for their services in the Brigade they receive a small addition to their pay. There are also a number of Chinese foremen and engine-drivers. The Brigade possesses a powerful floating fire engine for use in the Harbour, four land steam engines, and 29 despatch boxes. The 5 fire engines were all built by Messrs. SHAND & MASON.

There were 58 fires and 84 incipient fires during the year, and the Brigade turned out 57 times. The estimated damage caused by the fires was \$630,381 and by the incipient fires \$212. The only year in which greater damage was done by fire was 1898, when the total damage was \$829,814.

Towards the end of the year the work of extinguishing fires was rendered more arduous by the drought and the consequent want of water in the mains.

VII.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The number of Convictions in the Superior Courts during the last 4 years are as follow:—

	1898	1899	1900	1901
1. For Offences against the Person,.....	19	49	54	54
2. For Offences against Property,.....	17	18	7	7
3. For other Offences, .....	3	10	12	21

The total of all cases reported to the Police was 9,172 as against 9,873 in 1900. This represents a decrease of 7.10 per cent. In offences which are classed under the term "serious" there was a decrease of 128 cases or 3.62 per cent.; in Minor Offences a decrease of 573 cases or 9.03 per cent. Three men were arrested and convicted for being members of an unlawful (the Triad) society. There was a notable decrease in piracies and armed robberies, partly no doubt owing to the efficacy of recent legislation on the subject.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(a.)—POPULATION.

The last Census was taken in January, 1901, when the population was found to be 283,975, exclusive of the Army and Navy. The numbers of those forces amounted to 7,640 and 5,597, respectively. In the middle of the year the population is estimated to have been as follows:—

Non-Chinese Civil Population, .....	9,560
Chinese Population, .....	280,564
Army, .....	5,462
Navy, .....	5,074
	300,660

The New Territory was not included in the recent Census, but a fairly accurate enumeration of its population was made. It numbers about 100,000, which brings the total population of the Colony up to rather over 400,000.

It is significant that while the total increase in the population of the Colony during the five years between 1897 and 1901 was 35,095, the increase during the same period in the population of British Kowloon (which used to be a garden suburb of Victoria) was no less than 16,534, or nearly half the increase for the whole Colony.

There were 1,088 births during the year, and of that number 848 were Chinese. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 3.6 per 1,000, as compared with 3.3 in 1900, 4.3 in 1899, and 4.7 in 1898. Owing, however, to the large number of Chinese infants who die unregistered, it is estimated that a more correct birth-rate for the past year would be 4.7 per 1,000.

(b.)—PUBLIC HEALTH.

As compared with the 1,088 births mentioned above, there were 7,082 deaths in 1901. This gives a death-rate of 23.5 per 1,000, as compared with 23.9 in 1900, 23.8 in 1899, and an average of 22.5 per 1,000 during the past five years. The deaths included 1,562 from bubonic plague, which again visited the Colony and ran its usual course. Excluding the deaths from plague, the death-rate for 1901 would have been 19.03 per 1,000. Among the non-Chinese the deaths numbered 412, of which 302 were among the Civil population, 96 among the Army, and 14 among the Navy. This is equal to a death-rate of 20.5 per 1,000. The British deaths among the non-Chinese numbered 116; the rest were chiefly Indians, Malays and Portuguese.

One thousand six hundred and fifty-one (1,651) cases of Plague were reported during the year, of which all but 89 were fatal. The disease showed an increased tendency to attack Europeans. The chief causes of death among the non-Chinese resident civil community were plague, phthisis, malaria and pneumonia. There were more cases of small-pox than usual, and some cholera cases were imported.

It is hoped that when the much-needed improvement in the sanitary condition of the City is effected, there will be a large decrease not only in the deaths resulting from bubonic plague but also in those from phthisis and other chest diseases, which are more or less directly attributable to overcrowded and insanitary dwellings.

It is to be regretted that the experiment of once more sending troops to reside in the building which was originally destined to be a Military Sanitarium, has not proved successful, and the hopes expressed in paragraph VIII (b) 8 of my Report on the Blue Book for last year have not been realised. After a brief period of freedom from malaria, the troops stationed there began to be attacked in considerable numbers and had to be wholly withdrawn from the building, which now stands empty.

The treatment with larvicides of the breeding places of the Anopheles mosquito is being actively continued.

(c.)—SANITATION.

In spite of the efforts of the Government, the Sanitary Board and the Legislature, during the past few years, the sanitary state of the Colony still leaves much to be desired. The City of Victoria retains its unenvied pre-eminence in the matter of surface crowding, and in spite of the enforcement of the provisions of the Insanitary Properties Ordinance of 1899, the condition of the vast majority of the Chinese dwelling houses is far from meeting the requirements of modern sanitary science. As there seemed to be no prospect of amelioration without the adoption of more radical measures than had hitherto been attempted, and as the Community showed by a Peti-

tion which they addressed to you in the course of the year that they were prepared to face the heavy expenditure which stronger measures would certainly involve, Sir HENRY BLAKE asked you to send out an expert to enquire into the sanitary state of the Colony and report upon the steps which in his opinion should be taken to remedy existing defects. In October, 1901, you informed Sir HENRY BLAKE that you had selected Mr. OSBERT CHADWICK, C.M.G., a sanitary expert of wide experience and no stranger to Hongkong, for this special work. About the same time you informed him that you had selected Professor SIMPSON, M.D., to pay a simultaneous visit to the Colony with a view to a thorough enquiry being made into the origin of bubonic plague, and the best means of providing against its annual re-appearance. A notice of the work done by these gentlemen, who had not yet arrived in the Colony at the end of 1901 will, it is hoped, appear in next year's Report. A certain result of their visit must be the introduction of legislative measures to consolidate and amend the present Health and Building Ordinances.

(d.)—CLIMATE.

The average monthly temperature throughout the year was 72.1° F. as compared with 71.6° F. during 1900; the maximum monthly temperature was attained in July, when it reached 82.2° F., and the minimum monthly temperature was recorded in the month of February, being 54.8° F.

The highest recorded temperature during the year was 92.7° F. on August 3rd, and the lowest was 38.4° F. on February 4th.

The total Rainfall for the year was 55.78 inches, as compared with 73.73 inches in 1900 and an average of 77.2 inches during the past ten years. The wettest month was May with 14.10 inches, while there were also 14 inches of rain in the month of August; the driest month was January, with only 0.685 inch. The greatest amount of rain which fell on any one day was 4.23 inches on April 7th, while no rain fell on 213 days of the year; the relative humidity of the atmosphere throughout the year was 75 per cent. as compared with 77 per cent. in the previous year. The average daily amount of sunshine throughout the year was 5.5 hours, and on 35 days only was no sunshine recorded.

It may be mentioned that the rainfall of 1901 was less than half the rainfall of the year 1891. Taitam Reservoir, the principal source of water supply, was not filled through the year, and only one rainfall during the last 20 years (that of 1895) was lower than that of the year under review.

IX.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The cessation of the Boxer troubles in the North of China gave an impetus to trade, which was faithfully reflected in the steady increase in postal business.

The monthly sales of stamps showed an increase of \$21,765, as compared with 1900, and for the first time since the adoption of the penny postage the revenue exceeded the highest revenue from the same source in former days. The returns from the Branch Post Offices at Shanghai and in China also show gratifying results.

The Revenue of the Department from all sources in 1901 was \$355,912, and the Expenditure \$273,685. The nett balance to the Hongkong Post Office on the year's transactions amounted to \$82,227.

The Acting Postmaster General comments on the fact that though many foreign Post Offices were opened at various ports in China during 1901, no new British Offices or Agencies were opened. He is strongly in favour of the establishment of Agencies at Chefoo, Tientsin and Peking.

## X.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

## (a.)—REGULAR FORCES.

The following Return shows the number and nature of the Forces employed in the Colony during 1901 :—

CORPS.	EUROPEAN.			INDIAN.			CHINESE.	TOTALS.
	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	N.C.O.'s and Men.	Officers.	Warrant Officers.	N.C.O.'s and Men.	N.C.O.'s and Men.	
General Staff.....	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Garrison Staff, .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Royal Garrison Artillery, .....	21	2	578	...	...	...	...	601
Hongkong-Singapore Battalion, R.A.	12	...	9	8	...	437	...	466
Royal Engineers, .....	13	4	221	...	...	...	...	238
Chinese S. M. M. Co., R.E., .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	65
Second Battalion Royal Welch Fusrs.	27	2	1,912	...	...	...	...	1,041
Army Service Corps,.....	2	...	6	...	...	...	...	8
Royal Army Medical Corps,.....	9	1	46	...	...	...	...	56
A.O.D. and Corps,.....	7	...	52	...	...	...	...	59
A.P.D. and Corps,.....	3	1	6	...	...	...	...	10
Indian Sub-Medical Dept., .....	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	3
Educational Dept.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hongkong Regiment, .....	13	...	...	17	...	898	...	928
22nd Bombay Infantry,.....	13	...	...	12	...	678	...	703
3rd Madras Light Infantry, .....	10	...	...	16	...	652	...	678
5th Infantry Hyderabad Contingent,...	13	...	...	15	...	671	...	699
Totals, .....	150	13	1,930	68	...	3,338	65	5,564

## (b.)—COLONIAL CONTRIBUTION.

The Colony contributed \$801,275 (being the statutory contribution of 20% of revenue) towards the cost of the maintenance of the regular forces in the Colony and Barrack Services.

## (c.)—VOLUNTEER CORPS.

The total establishment of the Corps is 351 of all ranks. The strength in 1901 was:—Staff 7 ; one Field Battery (80) of six 2.5" R. M. L. Mountain Guns ; three Machine Gun Companies (157) of four .303" Maxim machine guns each ; an Infantry Company (53) ; an Engineer Company (25), and a Band (19).

The .45" Maxim machine guns have been converted into guns of .303" calibre.

The expenditure on the Volunteers, which is entirely borne by the Colony, was \$26,772.60.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

W. J. GASCOIGNE,  
Officer Administering the Government.

The Right Honourable

JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN,

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies,

&c., &c., &c.