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The ACTING GOVERNOR directs the publication of the following Annual General Report of Jamaica for the year ended the 31st December, 1927.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea, to the southward of the eastern extremity of Cuba, situated between 17° 43' and 18° 32' N. latitude and 76° 11' and 78° 20' 50'' W. Longitude. It is the largest island of the British West Indies, its extreme length being 144 miles, greatest width 49 miles, and least width (from Kingston to Annotto Bay) 21½ miles.

2. The Island is divided into three counties and fourteen parishes, viz.:-

<u>Surrey.</u>		<u>Middlesex.</u>		<u>Cornwall.</u>	
	Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.		Sq. Miles.
Kingston	7¾	St. Catherine	498	St. Elizabeth	473½
St. Andrew	183	St. Mary	251	Trelawny	353
St. Thomas	298½	Clarendon	487	St. James	239½
Portland	338	St. Ann	487	Hanover	177
		Manchester	337	Westmoreland	320
Total	827¼		2,060		1,563

comprising a total area of 4,540¼ square miles, or 2,848,160 acres, of which approximately 646 square miles, or 413,440 acres, are flat and consist of alluvium, marl and swamps. For purposes of comparison it may be observed that Jamaica exceeds in area the above-named English Counties by about the extent of Norfolk. The population was ascertained by census in 1921 to be 858,118; or 189 per square mile. The Island is therefore more populous in proportion to its size than, for instance, France which has only 187 persons to the square mile. The Colony and its Dependencies (consisting of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Morant Cays and the Pedro Cays) comprise a little more than a third of the area and contain nearly half the population of the British West Indies.

3. A great diversity of climate is obtainable, the temperature varying according to the season from 80° to 86° on the seacoast to as low as 40° at the tops of the highest mountains. The dryness of the atmosphere renders the climate of the Jamaica uplands particularly delightful and suited to the most delicate constitutions. Through the county of Surrey, and partly through Middlesex, runs a central mountain chain trending generally in an east and west direction, the highest point of which, Blue Mountain Peak, attains an altitude of 7,388 feet. This is the highest elevation in the British West

Indies being more than double the height of Snowdon in Wales. From the central range subordinate ridges or spurs run to the north and south coasts of the Island; these are the parents of smaller ridges, which branch off in every direction with considerable regularity and method until the whole surface of the country is cut up into a series of ridges with intervening valleys.

4. Numerous rivers and streams suggest the origin of Jamaica's aboriginal Arawak name "Xaymaca," which is supposed to imply an overflowing abundance of rivers. Most of the streams have a rapid fall and are not, to any extent, navigable.

5. Jamaica has many mineral springs, some of which possess valuable properties for the cure of various diseases and infirmities. The two principal are the spring at Bath, in the parish of St. Thomas, and that at Milk River, in the parish of Clarendon. Both these springs are radio-active, the latter in a very marked degree.

6. Jamaica possesses several harbours, the largest and most important being that of Kingston, the Capital, one of the finest natural harbours in the world. This harbour has a total area of some 16 square miles, of which approximately 7 square miles have a depth of from 7 to 10 fathoms.

HISTORICAL.

7. Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on the 3rd of May, 1494. He called it St. Jago, after the Patron Saint of Spain, but the new name was soon dropped in favour of the native one of Jamaica (Xaymaca—well watered). The first settlement on it was effected on the shores of St. Ann's Bay, by Esquivel in 1509, under the direction of Diego, the son of Columbus, while Governor of Hispaniola.

8. Although invaded by Sir Anthony Shirley in 1596 and by Colonel Jackson in 1643, Jamaica remained in the possession of Spaniards for 161 years when it was again attacked by a force sent by Cromwell under Admiral Penn and General Venables, against Hispaniola, and capitulated, after a trifling resistance, on the 11th of May, 1655. Until the Restoration, Jamaica remained under military jurisdiction, but in 1661 a regular civil government was established by Charles II., who appointed General Edward D'Oyley, Governor-in-Chief with an Elective Council. In 1670 peace was made with Spain, and the title of England to Jamaica was recognised by the Treaty of Madrid. The colony grew fast, stimulated by the wealth brought into it by the buccaniers, who made Port Royal their headquarters and storehouse. This town was engulfed in the great earthquake of 1692. Kingston then consisted of a few sheds and St. Jago de la Vega (Spanish Town), became practically the capital. During the 18th century, the Island suffered from hurricanes, earthquakes, numerous slave insurrections as well as wars with maroons, or mountaineers, the descendants of African slaves left by the Spaniards, who lived mainly in the east of the island, among the Blue Mountains. When the Slave Trade was abolished in 1807, there were 319,351 slaves in Jamaica. During the last eight years of the trade, 86,821 slaves were imported. On the abolition of slavery in 1833, Jamaica received £5,853,975 of the £20,000,000 granted by the Imperial Government as compensation to the slave owners. A serious rebellion among the black population in 1865, was suppressed by Governor Eyre.

9. In January, 1907, Kingston was devastated by a terrible earthquake which caused great loss of life and immense destruction of property. A Mansion House Fund was opened and contributions poured in from all parts of the Empire for the relief of distress. A free grant of £150,000 was voted by Parliament and a loan of £800,000 chiefly in aid of the re-building was authorised from the Home Exchequer.

Constitution.

10. The original Constitution granted by Charles II., which after existing for over 200 years, was surrendered in 1865, was a representative one, consisting of a Governor, Nominated Council, and an Elected Assembly, which on its first meeting in 1664 consisted of 20 members but fluctuated in numbers from time to time. The depression caused by the abolition of slavery led to a grave constitutional crisis, the Assembly refusing to vote supplies and endeavouring to enforce sweeping reductions in establishments, without compensation to the displaced officers. Lord Melbourne's Government, 1839, actually introduced a Bill into Parliament for the suspension of the Constitution but was defeated and it was not till 1854 that by a change in the Constitution of the Council, harmony was temporarily restored.

11. After the suppression of the rebellion in 1865, Governor Eyre, at the meeting of the Legislature urged the unsuitability of the then existing form of Government to meet the circumstances of the community and the necessity of making some sweeping change by which a strong Government might be created. The Legislature willingly responded, abrogated all the existing machinery of legislation, and left it to Her Majesty's Government to substitute any other form of Government which might be better suited to the altered circumstances of the Colony.

By Orders in Council of the 11th June, 1866 and 11th November, 1869, a Legislative Council was established, consisting of such numbers of official and unofficial members as Her Majesty might think fit. The numbers of each were six until 1878, when they were enlarged to eight, and a ninth was added in 1881.

12. By Order in Council, dated 19th May, 1884, and Amending Order of 3rd October, 1895, the Constitution was fixed in the following manner:

The Council to consist of the Governor (with only a casting vote) five ex-officio members, viz.: the Senior Military Officer, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Director of Public Works and Collector General: such other persons, not exceeding ten in number, as Her Majesty may from time to time appoint or as the Governor may from time to time provisionally appoint, and fourteen persons to be elected as therein provided; the Council to be dissolved at the end of five years from the last preceding General Election, if it shall not have been previously dissolved.

13. There is also a Privy Council, with the usual powers and functions of an executive council. It consists of the Lieutenant-Governor (if any), the Senior Military Officer in command, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and such other persons as may be named by the King, or provisionally appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of His Majesty; the number of members not to exceed eight. The Governor presides at each meeting, and the Governor and two members form a quorum.

14. The first registration under Law 22 of 1886, the Franchise Enlargement Law, was in August, 1887. At the General Election of Members to serve in the Legislative Council which was held in 1925, the number of voters on the list was 54,103. There were ten contested elections, the total number of votes cast being 15,359.

Local Administration.

15. A Corporation of the amalgamated parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, with a Mayor, Council and Corporate Officers, was set up in 1924. In the 13 other parishes there are Elective Boards with jurisdiction over secondary roads, markets, sanitation, poor relief, water works, and pounds. The chief towns are Kingston (including Port Royal) (population in 1921, 63,711), Spanish Town (population, 8,694), Port Antonio (population, 6,272), Montego Bay (population, 6,580), Falmouth (population, 2,136), Port Maria (population, 2,481), and Savanna-la-Mar (population, 3,442).

16. The parish is the unit of local Government, and each parish has its own institutions managed by the Parochial Board, the members of which are elected by the persons entitled to vote for the election of members of the Legislative Council. The administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards is controlled by a Board of Supervision. The total number of registered poor in 1927 was 8,030 being at the rate of 8.5 per thousand of population.

Judicial.

17. There is a Supreme Court of Judicature consisting of a Chief Justice and two Puisne Judges. There are also the Kingston Court—"to transact the civil jurisdiction of the Resident Magistrates' Courts for the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew"—and the Resident Magistrates' Courts and Petty Sessions of Justices of the Peace throughout the Island. The Resident Magistrates, besides holding courts of their own, preside in the Courts of Petty Sessions.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

18. The year 1927 was in most respects a very satisfactory one for Jamaica. Although high winds and rain towards the end of the year did considerable damage, destroying about a million and a half stems of Bananas and entailing an expenditure of some forty thousand pounds in repairs to roads and railways, the Colony was so fortunate as to be spared once more from the ravages of hurricanes, and the year as a whole was a good one in respect of agriculture.

19. The most striking feature of the year was that the exports of bananas reached the high figure of over twenty-one million stems, an increase of more than three million stems over that of the year 1926.

20. The exports of coffee increased by over a million and a half pounds and as a result of the application of the Produce Protection Law, there was a marked improvement in the quality of the coffee produced by small settlers.

21. For the same reasons there was a distinct improvement in the quality of ordinary cocoa, so that, although the year's exports show a reduction of some 5,000 cwt., compared with those of 1926 there are good prospects for the future. It should be noted that though the quantities exported were smaller the value of the cocoa was considerably greater than in the previous year.

22. The number of coconuts exported reached the record figure of over 32 millions, an increase of nine millions on the figures for 1926, and though this increase was to some extent offset by a reduction of about sixteen hundred thousand pounds of copra, the total value of coconut products, exported showed an increase of something like £33,000.

23. Pimento also showed an increase of approximately 10 per cent. in quantity and over £60,000 in value.

24. As regards citrus fruits, there was a great decrease in the export of oranges but Grape fruit maintained the position secured in 1926.

25. As one indication of the plenitude of money during the year, it may be mentioned that the value of the motor-cars imported amounted to over £227,000 of which more than £72,000 was accounted for by cars manufactured in the British Empire. Five years previously the corresponding figures were £120,807 and £19,000 respectively.

26. That the circumstances of classes other than those that own motor cars were also improved may be inferred from the fact that the number of tax accounts in arrears on the 31st of December, showed a decrease of almost 15 per cent. on that for 1926.

27. It is also generally accepted that a reduction of the prison population is an indication that the conditions of life among the poorer classes have been easier and the figures in this respect for 1927 show a reduction of nearly 10 per cent. on those for 1926.

28. The most noteworthy event of 1927 was the visit paid to the Colony by Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, on their way to Australia to open the new Commonwealth Parliament buildings at Canberra.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived in the Island on the 20th of January and left on the 23rd: brief as was their visit they nevertheless won the hearts of one and all in Jamaica.

29. In February, the Hon. L. H. Tennyson brought out an English Cricket team which played three matches against "All-Jamaica". These periodical visits besides improving the standard of local cricket do much to strengthen the good feeling towards the Mother Country which obtains amongst the inhabitants of the Colony.

30. During this month the Jamaica Philatelic Society held a successful exhibition in Kingston.

31. In March, a strong squadron of the United States Navy visited Kingston and remained for some days.

32. The Canada-West Indian Trade Agreement which was signed at Ottawa, in 1925, and ratified by the Canadian Parliament in 1926 was brought into operation on the 30th of April.

33. During the year the Jamaica Banana Producers Association was formed. The object of the Association is the marketing of bananas and citrus fruits on co-operative lines.

34. In the latter part of November an Empire Shopping Week was inaugurated by the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Exchange for the development of Trade within the Empire, and met with much success.

35. The Honourable Arthur Selborne Jelf, Colonial Secretary, was honoured by the King on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday with the Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George. Mr. Jelf was invested with the Order by His Royal Highness the Duke of York during the Royal Visit in January.

36. During the year under review the following changes took place in the Civil Service of the Colony:

Mr. C. E. Law, Resident Magistrate was appointed Judge of the Kingston Court.
Lt. J. H. Owen, D.S.C., R.N.R., Harbour Master, Kingston, was appointed Harbour Master, Malacca.

Mr. W. T. Fretz, Attorney-General, St. Lucia, was appointed Resident Magistrate.

Mr. T. D. H. Bruce, Resident Magistrate, was appointed Solicitor-General, Kenya Colony.

Mr. Adrian Clark, O.B.E., Stipendiary Magistrate, Trinidad, was appointed Puisne Judge.

Mr. A. E. V. Barton, Comptroller of Customs of British Guiana was appointed Collector General.
Commander C. C. Dix, C.M.G., D.S.O., Harbour Master, Barbados, was appointed Harbour Master, Jamaica, vice Lt. Owen.

Dr. A. S. Westmorland, Resident Medical Officer at the Public Hospital, Kingston, was appointed Senior Medical Officer.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

37. There has been but little fluctuation in the tide of Emigration and Immigration during recent years. The departures in 1925, were 5,449, in 1926, 5,102 and in 1927, 4,755. The arrivals in 1925, were 4,924, in 1926, 5,625 and in 1927, 5,896.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION,

38. The increased interest in Public Health reported last year, continued and much was done towards improving sanitation.

39. Health Week was observed by all the parishes and was a great success.

40. The Hookworm Campaign extended its activities to the parishes of Portland and St. Mary and the parishes of St. Andrew and Manchester carried through the preliminary sanitation of their districts without aid from the central authorities.

41. Alastrim, which has been in the Island since 1920, has almost been eradicated. Only a few sporadic cases were reported in the last half of the year. No other epidemic was reported during the year.

42. A Malarial Survey and a Tuberculosis Survey have been arranged for in the coming year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

43. The estimated population of Jamaica at the close of the year 1927 was 953,768, this figure being arrived at by taking the estimated population at the 31st of December, 1926, adding thereto the births and arrivals and deducting therefrom the deaths and departures during the year ended 31st of December, 1927.

44. The number of marriages registered during 1927, was 4,412 the rate being 4.6 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 4.2 for 1926. During the same period 32,910 births were registered of which 16,453 were boys and 16,457 were girls. The birth rate works out at 34.7 per 1,000 as against 38.4 during 1926.

45. The number of deaths registered was 20,015 of which 9,972 were males and 10,043 females, the death rate being 21.1 per 1,000. The rate for 1926 was 20.5. During 1927, 7,287 or 36.5 per cent. of the total deaths, were those of children under two years of age and of these 5,708 or 28.5 per cent. were those of children under one year of age. The corresponding figures in 1926 were 40.0 per cent. and 31.5 per cent. The total infantile death rate under one year was 17.3 per cent. as compared with 16.8 in 1926.

46. The principal causes of death per 100 of total deaths among the inhabitants of Kingston were:—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis, 6.2; Congenital Debility, 11.6; Tuberculosis, 10.1; Typhoid Fever, 8.1; Pneumonia, 9.5; Heart Disease, 7.2; Syphilis, 2.7 Cerebral Haemorrhage, Apoplexy, 3.8; Old Age, 3.7.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

47. The Colony's trade in 1927 was the most satisfactory since the war, for although the extravagant figures of the post war boom were not approached, the high mark reached was directly due to steady progress over several years.

48. The value of the Imports (exclusive of goods imported through the Parcels Post) amounted to £5,717,521 as compared with £5,365,950 in 1926. Prices continued to fall, and the quantity of goods imported was relatively greater.

Class I.—(Food, Drink and Tobacco) showed a decrease in value of £11,238. Nevertheless the quantities of butter, salted and corned fish, rice, flour, salt beef, condensed milk, edible oils and refined sugar imported showed a considerable increase. The only notable decrease was in pickled fish.

Class II.—(Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured) also showed a decrease of £8,797 which is accounted for chiefly by decreased importations of coal. The 1926 figures were however swelled by vessels taking coal here during the strike in England, and the local coaling of vessels shows a progressive tendency. There were largely increased importations of timber, petroleum, oils, &c.

Class III.—(Manufactured Articles) showed an increase of £367,673 owing chiefly to larger importations of cotton piece goods, silks, apparel, boots and shoes, motor vehicles and soap. With regard to the sources of supply the United States furnished 34% of the total imports, the United Kingdom 29%, Canada 19% and other countries 18%.

The yield from Import Duties amounted to £984,580, an increase of £66,731 over that of the previous year.

49. The Package Tax realized £63,118 or £4,653 more than in 1926. Of this total £47,339 was allocated to General Revenue whilst £15,779 went to the credit of the parishes in which the Tax was collected. Of the latter amount Kingston received £13,286.

50. The improvement noticed in the Island's Export Trade towards the close of 1926 continued in 1927 and resulted in an increased value of £598,235, *i. e.*, from £4,236,855 in 1926 to £4,835,090 in 1927.

51. As regards individual quantities, an increase of 2,850,471 stems of bananas brought the total for that fruit to 21,151,881 stems, thus constituting a record in the history of the Colony. Prices again improved, the average being 4/- per count bunch as against 3/- in 1926.

Figures for sugar, rum and copra are dealt with under Manufactures. 33,179,198 Coconuts were exported as against 23,040,616 in 1926.

Cocoa fell off 324,753 lbs. in weight with a total of 6,414,063 lbs., but the value increased from £122,374 to £176,477.

9,152,673 lbs. of coffee valued at £320,178 were exported showing a fair increase in both respects over 1926. In addition to the articles shown above as "manufactures", other exports included oranges 86,238 boxes, or two-thirds of the 1926 figure; honey, 2,269,888 lbs., a large increase over 1926; ginger, a slight decrease at 2,789,404 lbs.; pimento 9,864,441 lbs., an increase of 15%, and logwood 25,641 a decrease of 15%. The chief of the minor products were hides and skins.

52. The markets to which we sent our Exports varied slightly. The United Kingdom took 18.9% of the total, chiefly logwood extract, rum, sugar and bananas; Canada absorbed 17.5% comprising mainly coffee and sugar, whilst the United States claimed 44.7% consisting principally of Fruit, Nuts and cocoa. Other Countries took bananas, dyewoods, logwood extract, pimento and tobacco to the extent of 21.9%.

A matter of note was the large increase in the export of bananas to Germany, which took nearly 18% of the total exported.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

53. The following statement shows the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the past five years:—

Revenue.				
1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
£	£	£	£	£
2,061,202	1,922,963	2,021,046	2,147,042	2,275,094
Expenditure.				
1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.
£	£	£	£	£
2,074,271	2,022,746	2,009,593	2,046,205	1,980,888

54. The total Expenditure during the year 1927-28 was £294,206 less than the total Revenue.

The assets and liabilities at 31st March, 1928, were £1,173,868 and £754,256 respectively. The year therefore closed with a surplus of £419,612.

55. The amount of Public Debt outstanding at 31st March, 1928, was £4,922,330. The Sinking Funds for the redemption of the debt amounted to £2,199,437. If the amount standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds be deducted from the Public Debt, the difference (£2,722,893) exceeds by only £702,518 the estimated revenue for the current financial year (1928-29). As most of the investments on account of the Sinking Funds have in recent years been made at rates varying from 5% to 6% the accumulations of these funds will accrue in advance of the original calculations which were made at lower rates of interest.

56. For purposes of comparison, it may be interesting to append a tabulated statement of the incidence of the Public Debts of the United Kingdom and Jamaica in 1927.

	Population.	National Debt.	Per Capita.
		£	£
United Kingdom	48,000,000	7,652,687,904	159.4
Jamaica	904,405	4,671,640	5.1

If the accumulations standing to the credit of the Jamaica Sinking Funds on 31st March, 1927, *viz.*: £2,023,586 be deducted from the Public Debt at that date, the amount per capita is £2. 18s. 6d. The year 1926-27 has been taken as the figures relative to the United Kingdom for the year 1927-28 are not available locally.

57. The Colony's Insurance Fund against earthquake, hurricane or calamity of a like nature amounted to £159,310 at 31st March, 1928.

TAXATION.

58. The following laws relating to taxation were passed during the year:—
- (1) Law 6 of 1927 "A Law to continue various Expiring Laws"—This Law continued in force from the 1st April, 1927, the following Laws:—
 - (a) The Package Tax (Temporary) Law 1919, Law 9 of 1919.
 - (b) The Excise Duties (Temporary increase) Law 1920 (9 of 1920) with the exception of the surtax on matches and King's Warehouse fees.
 - (2) Law 11 of 1927. A Law to amend the Tariff Law 4 of 1925, to give effect to the provisions of the Canada West Indies Trade Agreement, 1925.
 - (3) Law 29 of 1927. A Law to further amend the Tariff Law 4 of 1925. This law was introduced to stimulate local production of the following articles, viz.:—Biscuits, matches, edible oils, potatoes, laundry soap, cigarettes, cigars, cordage, sauce and corn.

CURRENCY.

59. Local Currency Notes, which are legal tender under Section 5 of Law 27 of 1904, were in circulation on 31st December, 1927, to the extent of £79,783 12s. 6d. in denominations of 2/6, 5/, and 10/.

2/6 Notes.			5/ Notes.			10/ Notes.			Total.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
132	12	6	37,535	10	0	42,115	10	0	79,783	12	6

The notes of the denomination of 2/6 are gradually being withdrawn from circulation.

III.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

60. The following statement compares the values of Exports and Imports for certain years since 1886. It must, however, be pointed out that in 1886 the values were calculated on an F.O.B. basis, whilst in 1927 they were calculated on a C.I.F. basis.

	1886 to 30.9.86.	1896 to 31.3.97.	1906 to 31.3.07.	1916 to 31.12.16.	1926 to 31.12.26.	1927 to 31.12.27.
Value of Export	£ 1,280,118	£ 1,470,241	£ 1,992,007	£ 2,821,234	£ 4,236,855	£ 4,835,090
Value of Imports	1,332,336	1,856,377	2,261,469	3,107,004	5,365,950	5,717,521

In considering these figures, the excess of Imports over Exports is explained partly by the tourist trade, and partly by the fact that many Jamaican labourers abroad remit money to their dependents in the Island. There are also the explanations common to all trade figures such as the quotation of Imports C.I.F. and of Exports F.O.B.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

61. Although the Island rainfall for 1927 was 4 inches below normal, the distribution was again favourable for agricultural production.

62. The outstanding fact of 1927 was the exportation of 21,151,881 stems of bananas, an increase of over 3 million stems over the previous record of 1926, and but for the autumnal gales which destroyed 2 million stems of fruit the banana crop of 1927 would have passed the 23 million mark.

63. The fight against Panama Disease has continued. With an increased staff of Inspectors, it has been possible to supervise the chief banana areas. The records show that 40,000 diseased plants were dealt with during the year.

64. The parish of Portland continues to supply over 70 per cent. of cases of this disease. Encouragement has followed the commercial cultivation of the immune "Robusta" banana on clay lands in St. Mary infected with Panama Disease.

65. The Banana Breeding Experiments are now approaching a very interesting stage.

A number of hybrids between edible species have grown so quickly that fruit may be expected in 2½ years from sowing the seed. The variations in seedlings from the same cross are marked and it is hoped that continuous efforts in the raising of cross-fertilised banana seedlings will produce the immune commercial banana required to solve the problem of Panama Disease.

66. The exports of coffee show an increase of over 2½ million pounds in weight. The Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Department continued the work of issuing coffee plants whereby 59,000 plants were sold to the public at one shilling per hundred—the estimated cost of production of the seedlings.

67. The effect of the new Produce Protection Law has been quite marked in the case of small settlers' coffee which had previously been badly prepared and deteriorated greatly through the absence of proper and necessary equipment for the production of good commercial coffee. Co-operative selling of small

settlers' coffee has been tried with success. This should lead to a great improvement in the coffee trade of the Colony which is now chiefly in the hands of small growers.

68. Cacao shows a small reduction on last year's record of 3,000 tons. Here, again, the Produce Protection Law with its drastic provisions has forced a number of Chinese buyers of cacao to erect suitable apparatus for curing and drying the cacao which they buy from small producers. Commercial firms report that a marked improvement in Jamaica "ordinary" cacao has recently taken place.

69. Coconuts.—A record for the coconut industry was created in 1927 by the export of over 32 million nuts and copra to a total equivalent of 55,730,000 nuts, as against an equivalent of 51,439,000 nuts in 1926 which constituted the previous record for coconuts from Jamaica.

By the passing of a protective duty on imported Cottonseed and bean oils the Legislative Council at its Autumn Session sought to inaugurate a local industry in the production of edible coconut oil. The Government Laboratory has carried out successfully, experiments to test the simplest methods of (a) deodorising (b) removing rancidity from native coconut oils.

The health of the coconut groves remains excellent and a marked recovery has been made by the plantations at the eastern end of the Colony which were damaged by the hurricane of 1917.

70. Sugar continues to improve and the exports for 1927 stood at just over 50,000 tons, valued at £800,000. An even larger crop may be expected this year, for favourable seasons combined with a higher standard of tilling on the larger areas of sugar cane have produced the highest tonnage of canes grown in Jamaica for the past half century. The substitution of some of the new canes introduced by the Department of Agriculture for the standard estate cane has greatly improved the yield of sugar on many fields and a rapid extension of new canes is now taking place.

71. The problem of Rum remains one of grave difficulty. Estates are seeking to reduce the production of rum by every means and some are even using molasses as manure for the cane fields, a proceeding hitherto unknown in this Colony, which had always been able to find a profitable use for molasses in the manufacture of rum. Some new canes resistant to Mosaic Disease are of great promise and the best of these are being propagated at Hope for issue to planters next season.

72. The Fibre industry has received encouragement by the fiscal protection for locally made Sisal rope which was effected by the Legislature at its Autumn Session. The Government Sisal Plantation and Factory at Lititz has been leased and is now to be operated by the lessee.

73. Ginger yielded a good crop slightly below that of 1926.

74. Citrus suffered a decline of 50 per cent. in the export of oranges. Grapefruit, however, shows an increase of 4,000 boxes and now stands at 80,000 boxes approximately. The Department continued to supply grape fruit plants on a large scale, a total of 90,000 plants having been issued in 1926 and 1927.

75. The loss in trade from oranges was offset by an increase in the manufacture of orange oil from 64,000 to 88,000 lbs. Under present conditions of transport and trade it would appear that Jamaica is more likely to secure a good trade for grapefruit with Canada and England than for oranges.

In a few years the large plantings of grapefruit recently established should have an effect on the available supply of grapefruit for export.

76. Honey, due to a more favourable year, increased from 124,000 to 156,000 gallons (approximately.) The Foul-brood epidemic in Kingston and St. Andrew was successfully dealt with by burning all infected hives and a system of frequent inspection of all apiaries in the declared area. For the past seven months no new cases have been found and the Order has now been revoked.

77. Logwood.—A modest recovery has taken place but the exports of wood show a reduction on those for the previous year. A good deal of logwood has recently been cut and chipped at the west end of the Island and there would appear to be some recovery in the trade in this dyewood.

78. Tobacco again shows a drop in the export of cigars. The Jamaica Agricultural Society is carrying on a system of nurseries and prizes to encourage the tobacco industry among small growers in St. Elizabeth and other places. The duty on imported cigarettes having been raised there is now a greater encouragement to the local producers of native cigarettes.

79. Animal Diseases—No cases of Anthrax or Foot and Mouth Disease occurred in 1927.

80. Livestock.—The Legislature having decided to reduce the area of "Grove Place" in Manchester from 3,000 to 1,000 acres by sale of 2,000 acres for purposes of land settlement, the herd was reduced from 450 to approximately 200 head which is now regarded as a convenient number to utilise the pastures associated with the public Stud Farm at this centre.

The sum of £2,397 was realised from the sale of cattle at "Grove Place" and paid to the credit of General Revenue.

The Hope Farm had a very successful year and substantial improvements were effected out of current revenue.

The average milk yield of the herd has been increased by 45 per cent. since 1922 by selection and breeding.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

81. The Farm School at Hope has been enlarged and improved in many ways and is now in a flourishing condition with 54 students in residence.

THE GOVERNMENT STOCK FARM, HOPE.

82. When the Farm School was started 18 years ago the lands available for practical farming were only about 50 acres in extent and the live stock at the start consisted of 5 horses, 3 donkeys, 15 cattle, 2 pigs, 4 sheep. In the following year, the old Hope lands of approximately 1,600 acres in extent were leased at a rental of £200 per annum for the extension of the operations of the Farm School. These lands were purchased by Government for £5,423 in 1914 and have been placed free of rent at the disposal of the Agricultural Department for the development of a Government Stock Farm to be operated in conjunction with the Farm School. Although no rent has been paid, large sums have been expended by the Farm in the development of the Estate which is now valued in the region of £28,000.

IV.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

83. With the exception of a small amount of triangulation survey work which has within recent years been carried out by the Military Authorities for their own information, the Island has never been properly surveyed, and therefore its area cannot be said to have been accurately determined. It is however, estimated to contain 2,848,160 acres, of which 2,566,977 acres have been alienated, leaving 281,183 un-alienated or in process of alienation, of which about 10,000 acres is morass land.

84. Alienation began immediately after the Spaniards were driven out of Jamaica in 1655, for in the month of October of that year, under the Cromwellian regime, the Protector issued a Proclamation with regard to the settlement of the Island in which it was provided, *inter alia*, that, "Those who shall transport themselves (*i. e.*, to Jamaica) as aforesaid shall have land set forth unto them according to the proportion of 20 acres besides lakes and rivers for every male of 12 years and upwards, and ten acres every other male or female, etc., etc." The process of alienation, rather slow at first was considerably accelerated during the earlier part of the eighteenth century on account of the development of the sugar and rum industries, and the cultivation of coffee, with the result, that, at the close of the century, the total acreage of estates had increased to an extent more than commensurate with their requirements.

85. The abolition of slavery in 1838, and the adverse fortunes of sugar, caused the abandonment of a large number of properties, and in process of time these were squatted on by persons having no equitable claim to them.

86. Between the years 1867 and 1887 the Government by successive legislative enactments became trustees of all lands in the possession of persons, without any legal or equitable title, and in this way, upwards of 27,000 acres were recovered from 1,600 squatters. The lands so recovered are scattered all over the Island. Some of them have been restored to their rightful owners, some have been sold and some still remain in the possession of the Government.

87. During the year 1890, the Jamaica Railway was sold to the West India Improvement Company, one of the conditions of the purchase being that the Government should give the Company one square mile of Government lands for every mile of railroad constructed, and about the year 1894, 74,443 acres were conveyed to the Company, leaving 2,367 acres to be conveyed later on. In 1911 this large acreage passed back into the hands of the Government who purchased it for £18,435.

88. Within recent years, the Government has granted to 300 time-expired East Indian Immigrants, 3,333 acres in lieu of return passages to India, each adult receiving 10 acres, with an additional acre for each child born in the Island.

89. The scheme for the sale of Crown lands to small settlers, which was inaugurated in 1897, is still in operation, and up to the 31st December, 1927, 46,852 acres have been sold, and put in the possession of instalment and outright purchasers. The largest sale made during 1927 was 414 acres of morass land to one purchaser for £70. In all cases in which the full amount of purchase money has been paid the purchasers have received titles from the Government.

90. There are large numbers of prædial tenants on the Crown lands who pay rent at from 12s. to 16s. per nominal acre per annum. While the value of private property has increased to an appreciable extent, during the past few years, Crown lands are still being sold at from £1 to £5 per acre, according to their situation and fertility. The lands are, for the most part, in remote situations and difficult of access.

91. As regards progress in the investigation and development of the natural resources of the Island little has been done by the Government beyond the publication of a Report by James G. Sawkins, F.G.S. on "The Geology of Jamaica" in 1889 and a Report upon "The Forests of Jamaica," by E. D. M. Hooper, of the Indian Forestry Department in 1886.

92. There is no Forestry Department in the Island, and the cultivation of timber trees is an unknown industry. Almost all the timber which clothed the plains and much of that which clothed the hill slopes up to 2,500 feet above sea level, and in some places up to 4,500 feet, has been destroyed. In a few places destruction has extended to a higher elevation than 5,000 feet.

93. The history of forest denudation may be described as the history of peasant cultivation and goes back to the days of slavery, during which it was decided by an Act of the Local Legislature that an acre of yams was to be grown for every ten slaves. Mr. Hooper asserted that the forests were becoming poorer and the area under hardwood smaller, and this without the woods being utilized for their timber, or the area under cultivation or pasture being materially increased by the clearing of the land. Mr. Hooper's remarks are of the same cogency to-day as when they were written 42 years ago. Efforts are, however, being made by some landowners to remedy this wanton destruction by the planting of timber trees and they are being encouraged by the free distribution by the Government of certain classes of seedlings.

94. With reference to mining, it appears that attempts at exploiting this industry were made from the earliest times in the known history of the Island, and it might not be out of place to state that in 1511, the King of Spain in a despatch to Diego Colon, the son of the discoverer of Jamaica, wrote as follows:—

"Juan de Esquivel (the first Governor of Jamaica) and the Christians in Xaymaca should endeavour to find gold." In 1519 the King ordered the "Controller" of Jamaica to "report every year as to the gold smelteries," and in 1521, the Spanish Sovereign announced that, "colonists should only pay one-tenth instead of one-fifth of the gold smelted for the next 8 years." In 1601, Melgarejo de Cordova, the then Governor, wrote that he was informed that "in the Bastidas Mountains" (eastern part of the Blue Mountains) there was a "a large amount of gold."

95. At this time it appears that the existence of copper in the Island was well known because, in 1597 Pedro d'Acena, the Governor of Cartagena, wrote to Melgarejo suggesting that he should send him some Jamaica copper ore to be tested, and in the following year the Governor of Jamaica in writing home referred to the copper which he was sending to Cartagena "for the founding of artillery." He refers to "mines situated at sea ports" and wanted the artillery forging done in Jamaica. The location of these mines appears to have been completely lost on account of the extermination of the native Indians as a result of Spanish cruelty, an epidemic of small pox, and wholesale suicides caused by drinking cassava water.

96. Individuals and Companies have, during the past 70 years, endeavoured to emulate the efforts of the Spanish miners of the 16th century. These efforts have not so far as is known been directed towards prospecting on the Crown Lands, but have been confined to properties long since alienated from the Crown.

97. It is interesting to note that gold was found in the Charing Cross Copper Mine in Clarendon nearly 70 years ago, and having been mistaken for pyrites, was actually thrown away. In 1857, the Wheal Copper Co. extracted from the Charing Cross Mine, 208 tons of copper ore which was shipped to the English and American markets and sold for £2,817. The highest price paid was £24 15s. 0d. per ton, and the lowest £9 2s. 9d., the average figure being £13 1s. 3d. per ton.

98. Recent experiments have shown that, by means of a carbonizing process, half-formed coal called "lignite" may be used largely as a substitute for coal, and in this connection it is interesting to recall that about 35 years ago, certain deposits, declared to be "lignite," were found at Lichfield Mountain in the parish of Trelawny. The greater portion of Lichfield Mountain was in 1915 sold by Government in lots to small settlers, who had resided on the property for many years.

99. In 1923, Dr. C. A. Matley, F.G.S., who was then Government Geologist, reported the discovery of an issue of natural gas (methane) from a salt spring near the mouth of the valley through which the Great River flows, in the parish of St. Ann. The geological relationships of this spring to the associated strata indicate the possibility of the occurrence of petroleum in the neighbourhood. Dr. Matley's reports on the subject are published at pages 396-398 of the Jamaica Gazette, dated 25th of September, 1924, and pages 13-15 of the Jamaica Gazette dated the 15th of January, 1925.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS.

100. No surveys of this nature were undertaken during the year.

FISHING.

101. This industry, which is regarded as an important and lucrative one in every maritime country, continues to languish in this Colony, with the result that there is a marked shortage in the fresh fish diet. The price of fresh fish is exorbitantly high, but no improvement seems likely to take place until the industry is properly organized and controlled. With 400 miles of seaboard, it is hard to understand why the bulk of fish consumed should be imported in the cured state. Transport facilities, both on land and sea, have greatly increased in recent years, but are not being taken advantage of and the supply of fish is precarious and below the demand. There is room for the expansion of the industry if it be handled on intelligent lines instead of by the haphazard and antiquated methods at present employed.

102. As a sport, good facilities are offered for fishing both on sea and on the larger rivers and visitors occasionally indulge in the pastime.

MANUFACTURES.

103. The principal articles manufactured are Sugar, Rum, Copra, Sisal Hemp, Banana Figs, Essential Oils, Cigars, Cigarettes, Leather and Logwood Extract.

104. *Sugar*.—The Sugar industry has been improving since 1925 for the more lucrative prices received in 1925 stimulated production. In 1927 we exported 49,799 tons, an increase of 1,644 tons over the 1926 figure, and 12,073 over 1925, though prices were lower in 1926-27 than in 1925.

105. *Rum*.—The local consumption of rum increased to some extent. The quantity exported, however, though greater than in 1926, fell short of the 1925 quantity, as the following figures indicate.

Year	Exports.
1925	1,121,332 gallons
1926	693,435 "
1927	740,528 "

106. *Copra*.—The manufacture of Copra decreased from 9,682,834 lbs. in 1926 to 8,078,991 lbs. but this was more than set off by an increased export of coconuts.

107. *Sisal Hemp*.—Only 1,503 bales were exported as against 2,349 in 1926, but the production of sisal rope increased from 92 to 119 tons.

108. *Banana Figs*.—The output of Banana Figs in 1927 was 879,421 lbs. as against 745,919 lbs. in 1926.

109. *Essential Oils*.—These consist chiefly of orange and lime oils. 13,319 gallons were produced as against 7,638 in 1926. There was, however, a large decrease in the quantity of oranges exported, and much fruit went to waste.

110. *Cigars and Cigarettes*.—The Cigar industry continued to decline, and the export figure of 61,519 lbs. was less than in 1926 by 14,821 lbs. This however was due to a strike at the chief factory, and not to a decreased demand. The cigarette industry received a stimulus from the protective tariff introduced in November, and showed a great immediate improvement.

111. *Leather*.—The tanneries in the various parts of the Island and the Leather Factory in the capital are kept busy. In addition to the large quantity consumed locally, 15,471 lbs. were exported.

112. *Logwood Extract*.—The manufacture of Logwood Extract, which recommenced in 1926, continued to progress, and 9,806 packages valued at £103,988 were exported as compared with 7,197 packages valued at £74,830 in 1926.

113. The Minor Industries include Aerated and Mineral Waters, Ice, Soap, Coconut Oil, Jippi Jappa Hats, Baskets and Furniture. By Law 29 of 1927 Import Duties on soap and edible oils were increased, and present indications point to a probable development of these industries locally.

WATER POWER.

114. There has been little progress in the development of Water Power. The only plant of importance in the Island, which is operated by water power, is that of the Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd., which generates electricity for the purpose of operating tramways and lighting Kingston and lower St. Andrew.

115. The desirability of utilizing the water from some of the rivers for the development of electric energy has from time to time been considered, and many of the rivers of the Island have been investigated with this object. Legislation has been enacted to control and regulate the use of water for public and private purposes.

116. A scheme has been formulated for developing hydro-electrical power in conjunction with the improvement of the water supply of Kingston and lower St. Andrew, but the project has been postponed for the present. A small private plant, developing about 250 H.P. by means of a dam and reservoir, has been installed at Serge Island Sugar Estate in St. Thomas. Power is transmitted some $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Sugar Factory, Saw Mills, etc.

V.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

117. The commercial Banks doing business in the Island are Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank), The Bank of Nova Scotia, The Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

118. The value of the local notes of each Bank outstanding at the 31st of December, 1927, was as follows:—

	£
Barclay's Bank—Dominion, Colonial and Overseas (formerly the Colonial Bank)	139,349
The Bank of Nova Scotia	25,118
The Royal Bank of Canada	16,226
The Canadian Bank of Commerce	5,988

These Banks all have their principal Offices for the Island in Kingston.

Barclay's Bank has branches at Annotto Bay, Falmouth, Lucea, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, Savanna-la-Mar and St. Ann's Bay.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has branches at Black River, Brown's Town, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Morant Bay, Port Antonio, Port Maria, St. Ann's Bay, Savanna-la-Mar and Spanish Town.

The Royal Bank of Canada has one branch at Montego Bay.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has no branches.

119. A Government Savings Bank was started in the Colony in 1870. This Bank used to allow interest on deposits at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum. When, however, the commercial banks entered the field by starting savings branches and giving higher rates of interest and more facilities to depositors, the deposits of the Government Savings Bank declined considerably, and steps were taken to re-organise the Bank by the passing of Law 7 of 1917. Under this Law, the management of the Bank was placed in the hands of a Board. New regulations were drawn up and approved by the Governor in Privy Council and the rate of interest on deposits was increased to that given by the commercial banks, namely 3% per annum, compounded half-yearly. There are now 84 branches throughout the Island as compared with 19 prior to the re-organization, and the Bank's progress is fully demonstrated by the following figures:—

(a) Balance at credit of depositors in 1919, £287,178; in 1927, £573,646.

(b) Investments held in British and Colonial and other securities in 1919 amounted to £335,734, and in 1927 to £546,825.

(c) The net profit paid into General Revenue in 1919 was £964, £3,082 was paid into General Revenue as net profit for 1926, and £1,313 was carried to the Reserve Fund. The net profit for 1927, all of which will be carried to the Reserve Fund, is £4,921.

120. Under Law 11 of 1925, which repealed Law 7 of 1917, the funds of the Government Savings Bank may be invested (1) in British and Colonial Securities, (2) in loans to Agricultural Loan Societies, (3) in real securities in Jamaica (4) on deposit in Banks, (5) in any other manner authorised by the Governor in Privy Council.

121. *Co-Operative Loan Banks.*—There are 55 Co-Operative Loan Banks on the Register under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law (33 of 1902). The greater number of these were started early in 1913, in order to handle loans made by the Government for the resuscitation of cultivations damaged by the drought and hurricane of the previous year. Loans were also made through Loan Banks in 1916-17 and 1918, in consequence of the hurricanes of 1916 and 1917. These loans were made through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board under the provisions of Statutes giving the Banks extraordinary powers of recovering loans. Loans have also been made to the Banks under Law 6 of 1912, "A Law for the encouragement of Agricultural Loan Societies," such moneys being used with their own funds for the purpose of making loans to their members for short periods on personal security, note of hand, mortgage, etc., for agricultural and industrial purposes, *e. g.*, for the purchase of stock, cane mills, tools and the like. These Banks have supplied a long felt want among the small settlers.

122. The following figures, referring to 37 Banks which obtained loans from Government funds, will serve to show the extent of their operations:

Total loans made to 31st December, 1927	£122,076 1 4
Repayments do do	108,858 19 0
Balances outstanding	13,217 2 4

The Co-operative Loan Banks also collected to 31st December, 1926, a sum of £38,674 share capital in addition to £108,859 loan moneys repaid with interest. These figures indicate that the work of the

Loan Banks has been successfully carried out and that they are likely to prove of permanent benefit to small holders and peasant proprietors. Some of these banks have extended their sphere of usefulness by taking advantage of the Land Settlement Scheme, whereby Government moneys are lent for the purchase of properties for re-sale in lots to small settlers. £56,641 has been loaned to nine banks for this purpose.

VI.—LEGISLATION.

123. Thirty-nine Laws were passed during the year 1927. A brief summary of those which may be considered to be of general interest is given below.

Law 1 of 1927.—A Law to enable Law Agents to act for remuneration in conveyancing and other matters. Under this Law, Law Agents admitted by the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands are entitled, for reward, to act in the Cayman Islands in the preparation or completion of, or in advising on, any Contract, Conveyance, Lease, Mortgage, Will, or other Instrument.

Law 2 of 1927.—A Law to make further provision for expenses incurred in the extension of the Chapelton to Frankfield Railway. This Law empowers the Governor to raise a loan of £12,840, to meet the extra cost incurred in completing the extension of the Chapelton to Frankfield Railway and making up the amount by which the original loan fell short.

Law 3 of 1927.—A Law to prohibit the photographing of prisoners. This Law makes it an offence for anyone to take or attempt to take, with a view to publication, any portrait or sketch of any prisoner.

Law 4 of 1927.—A Law to authorise the raising of loans in England independently of the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Law 1921, and of the Colonial Treasury Bills Law 1922. This Law gives power to the Governor or the Crown Agents acting on his behalf, to raise loans in England independently of anything contained in the General Loan and Inscribed Stock Law 1921 (Law 12 of 1921) and The Colonial Treasury Bills Law 1922 (Law 11 of 1922). The principal moneys and interest on any such loan are to be charged upon and payable out of the general revenues of this Colony.

Law 8 of 1927.—A Law to suppress obscene publications. This Law makes it an offence for any person who for the purposes of or by way of trade or for distribution or public exhibition makes or produces or has in his possession any obscene writings, drawings, prints, paintings, or any other obscene objects.

Law 9 of 1927.—A Law to amend the Motor Vehicle Law, 1922 (Law 21 of 1922). This Law amends and substitutes new sections in the principal Law, namely Law 21 of 1922.

Law 10 of 1927.—A Law relating to the carriage of goods by sea. This Law deals with carriage of goods by sea in ships carrying goods from any port in this Island to any other port whether in or outside of this Island, and also secures international uniformity of Maritime Law as regards bills of lading.

Law 11 of 1927.—A Law to amend the Tariff Law 1925 (Law 4 of 1925). The first schedule to the principal Law (Law 4 of 1925) is repealed by this Law and a new schedule substituted.

Law 15 of 1927.—A Law to amend the Protection from Diseases (Plants) Law 1925. Under this Law it is compulsory for any owner, tenant, occupier, or other person in charge of lands, who knows or suspects the existence of any notifiable plant disease on the land, with all practicable speed, to give notice thereof in writing to the Director of Agriculture of the fact.

Law 17 of 1927.—A Law to amend the Agricultural Produce Law 1926 (Law 19 of 1926). This Law repeals sections 2 (5) and 24 (4) and substitutes new subsections and also adds a new subsection to section 17 of the principal Law, namely Law 19 of 1926.

Law 21 of 1927.—A Law to regulate Local Forces in the Island. This Law deals with the constitution and actual service of Local Forces. "Local Forces" under this Law means the Jamaica Militia Artillery, the Kingston Infantry Volunteers, the Band, and any other Corps raised in the Colony in accordance with the provisions of any Law.

Law 25 of 1927.—A Law to provide for the trial "in camera" of cases against children. This Law provides for the trial of any child under the age of fourteen years, charged with any offence triable in a Resident Magistrate's Court or a Court of Petty Sessions, to be heard in camera as the Resident Magistrate or presiding Justice may think fit to order.

Law 28 of 1927.—A Law to authorise the raising of a loan for the relaying of certain portions of the track of the Jamaica Government Railway. Under this Law the Governor is authorised to raise by the issue of a loan either at one time or by instalments a sum of £200,000, and such further sum as may be necessary for the relaying of the Railway track.

Law 30 of 1927.—A Law to regulate the Milk River Bath in the parish of Clarendon. This Law repeals Laws which placed the management of the Milk River Bath under the Parochial Board for the parish of Clarendon and gives the Governor power to appoint in lieu thereof a Board of Management which shall consist of the Custos for the time being of the parish of Clarendon, the Member for the time being of the Legislative Council for the said parish, the Superintending Medical Officer for Jamaica, the Director of Public Works and three other Members appointed annually by the Governor on the nomination of the Parochial Board for the parish of Clarendon: the Custos being ex-officio Chairman of the Board. The Law also vests all property of the Bath in the Colonial Secretary for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of Jamaica. Power is also given to the Board with the approval of the Governor in Privy Council and subject to the consent of the Legislative Council, to lease the property or any part thereof.

Law 33 of 1927.—A Law to regulate afforestation. Under this Law it shall be lawful for the Governor in Privy Council from time to time as occasion may require to declare to be a Forest Reserve any land in the Island necessary to be utilised without acquisition or to be acquired for afforestation purposes.

- Law 34 of 1927.*—The Soap License Duty Law. This Law repeals the excise duty on soap and at the same time retains the necessary control over the manufacture of soap.
- Law 35 of 1927.*—The Match License Duty Law. This repeals the excise duty on matches and at the same time retains the necessary control over the manufacture of matches.
- Law 36 of 1927.*—The Dental Practitioners Law. This Law makes provision for the examination and registration of persons practising dentistry in this Island, and ensures that only persons properly qualified are permitted to practise dentistry.
- Law 37 of 1927.*—A Law further to amend the Motor Vehicle Law 1922 (Law 21 of 1922) and the Motor Vehicle Amendment Law 1927 (Law 9 of 1927). This Law makes provision for the making of regulations to control effectively the increased Motor Vehicle traffic and introduces a system of licensing that will ensure prompt payment of the duties required by the principal Law.
- Law 38 of 1927.*—A Law to regulate the sale of Spirits and the granting of Licenses in connection therewith. The principal alterations made by this Law are:—
- (1) The establishment of a Licensing Authority for each parish.
 - (2) More stringent conditions with regard to Taverns and Hotels.
 - (3) The creation of a Town off License and a Special Hotel License.
 - (4) Alteration of some of the hours of opening and closing.
 - (5) The abolition of the system of the renewal of a license as was contained in the old Laws.
- Law 39 of 1927.*—A Law to consolidate and amend the Resident Magistrates Law. The chief alteration in this Law is the increased jurisdiction given to Resident Magistrates in Common Law actions, Equity and Probate and Administration.

VII.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY.

124. Attendances at the Public Elementary Schools during the past year again show a considerable advance on those of previous years, the average number on the registers being 125,739 for 1927 as compared with 122,337 in 1926 and the average attendance 76,990 as compared with 75,063 in 1926.
125. Attention to school garden work, Friday sessions and supervision by Managers, three prominent features of the new system, continued to show improvement..
- Courses of instruction in school garden work and manual training were still in suspension owing to the need for economy.
126. The sum of £2,161 was disbursed during the year in Building Grants for schools and teachers' dwellings, but this as usual enabled only the most urgent cases to be helped.
127. The total departmental expenditure continued to rise and for the year was £166,567 as compared with £159,525 in 1926.

SECONDARY.

128. The endowed Secondary Schools, which are under the care of the Jamaica Schools Commission and some unendowed schools, were inspected and in all cases the reports recommended the continuance of the grants-in-aid. The number of Aided Secondary Schools was 17 an increase of one. The results of the Public Examinations continued to compare favourably with those of similar schools elsewhere.
129. Jamaica was again constituted a centre for holding several examinations of the University of London, and candidates were successful in passing the Matriculation, which for the first time was the examination for the Jamaica Scholarship (Girls), the intermediate examinations in Arts and Science and the final in Arts. For the Matriculation examination the number of candidates increased from 21 to 26 and the number of passes from 6 to 16, the number of candidates for intermediate was again 4 and the number of passes increased from 1 to 2, whilst the number who sat for the final B.A. increased from one, in a supplementary subject, to 5 of whom 2 obtained Honours and 2 a pass.

TECHNICAL.

130. The Government Technical and Continuation School in Kingston continued to do good work.
131. The Manual Training classes attached to Government Schools in country towns were in most cases in operation during the year and doing some useful work.
132. The Continuation and Domestic Training School at Carron Hall, under the Presbyterian Church has made very satisfactory progress as also has a smaller but similar institution near Highgate under the Friends Mission.

INDUSTRIAL.

133. No new Industrial Schools or Homes were opened during the year, but those already in existence continued to do useful work in vocational training for boys and girls who would otherwise be uncared for.

VIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

RAINFALL.

134. The mean rainfall for the four Divisions of the Island for the year 1927 was 72.45 inches, or 4.01 inches below the 50-year average. The shortage occurred in the first half of the year. The rainfall in the North-eastern Division was 3% below normal; in the Northern, West-central, and Southern Divisions, the shortage was 10%, 5%, and 5%, respectively. The total mean number of rainy days for the year was 125, as compared with 126 for the previous year. The total rainfall for Kingston amounted to only 25.73 inches, as compared with the 50-year average of 33.59 inches.

TEMPERATURE.

135. At Kingston the mean temperature for the twelve months was 78.3 degrees or 0.4 degrees below the 33-year normal; the maximum temperature for the year was 92.6 degrees in August, and the minimum 62.3 degrees in January.

HUMIDITY.

136. For the year the mean relative humidity was 83% for the 7 a.m., and 63% for the 3 p.m. observations, *i. e.*, about normal.

WEATHER DISTURBANCES, &c.

137. There was no tropical disturbance reported in the Caribbean in July, August and September; but on October 17th a weather disturbance of minor intensity developed to the south-west of Cayman Islands, and proceeded on a track in a north-easterly direction, passing across eastern Cuba, and thence into the Atlantic Ocean. Heavy gales were felt in some districts on the northside of the Island at the same time, causing some damage to cultivation. On 28th October a depression, of minor intensity, occurred over the Island of St. Lucia, and moved in a north-westerly direction towards the west of Porto Rico.

138. "Northers" were experienced at Kingston in January and also at Morant Point and at Negril Point during the months of January and November.

139. Hail fell at Darliston on the 30th June and on the 21st and 30th July, also at Grange Hill on the 23rd June. On the 20th August, hail was reported to have fallen at Kempshot and on the 19th September, a hailstorm occurred at Wallingford.

EARTHQUAKES.

140. Shocks of earthquake of slight to moderate intensity were reported at different parts of the Island, in the months of February, March, June, July, August, September, October and November.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAY.

141. The Jamaica Government Railway (main and branch lines) is 210½ miles in length. It traverses the Island by two main lines:—

(a) Kingston to Montego Bay—112¾ miles.

(b) Spanish Town (11¾ miles from Kingston) to Port Antonio—63¼ miles.

There are branch lines as follows:—

(1) From May Pen Junction (32½ miles from Kingston) to Frankfield—23 miles.

(2) From Bog Walk (20½ miles from Kingston on the Port Antonio Line) to Ewarton—8½ miles.

(3) From Linstead (3½ miles from Bog Walk on the Ewarton Branch Line), to New Works—3 miles.

No passenger trains are run over this branch.

142. The main lines run across the high mountains which form the back-bone of the Island, to the north coast; Port Antonio being north-east, and Montego Bay north-west, of Kingston. The Frankfield and Ewarton lines traverse rich agricultural districts near the centre of the Island. The gauge is 4' 8½". The maximum gradients are 1 in 30 and the maximum curves 5 chains. The highest point of the Railway is Greenvale on the Montego Bay Line, 1,680 feet above sea level. The highest point on the Port Antonio Line is between Richmond and Troja at 31 miles—900 feet.

143. The Revenue for the year ended 31st of December, 1927, was £387,430 and the expenditure £354,820. There is no depreciation fund, but provision is made in the Annual Estimates for renewals, depreciation and betterment. The total weight of goods carried during the year under review was 378,834 tons, as compared with 341,218 tons for the year 1926; the number of passengers carried in 1927 was 659,794, as compared with 620,328 in 1926.

144. The management of the Railway is assisted by an Advisory Board of ten members, consisting of the Director and nine others, chiefly local business men, who advise the Government on matters of policy.

SHIPPING.

145. The following statement shows the volume of Shipping during the past five years:—

1923 entered	1,323	Vessels of	2,011,500	tons.
1924 "	1,306	"	2,056,496	"
1925 "	1,412	"	2,207,618	"
1926 "	1,553	"	2,552,987	"
1927 "	1,754	"	3,001,232	"
1923 cleared	1,335	"	2,005,771	"
1924 "	1,299	"	2,054,100	"
1925 "	1,401	"	2,183,663	"
1926 "	1,550	"	2,553,138	"
1927 "	1,754	"	3,008,172	"

146. The following regular Steamship Lines serve the Colony:—

British Register.—The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., Leyland Line, Elders and Fyffes, Harrison Line, Pickford and Black, the Canadian Government Mercantile Marine, The Canadian Transport Co., The Shaw Savill & Albion Co., Ltd., James Nourse, Ltd., The Canadian Pacific R. R. Steamship Co.,

the Webster Steamship Line and the Jamaica Fruit & Shipping Co. (The two last named Companies are registered in Jamaica.) Although Messrs. Elders and Fyffes is a British registered company, the firm is in fact controlled by the United Fruit Company, an American Corporation which owns the bulk of their capital.

U.S.A.—The United Fruit Co., Atlantic Fruit Co., The Colombian Steamship Co., Inc., the Alexander Shipping Co., the Di Giorgio Fruit Steamship Co., Inc., and the Lanassa Corporation.

Dutch.—The Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.,

German.—The Horn Steamship Co., and the Hamburg Amerika Line.

Cuban.—The Empresa Naviera de Cuba Line.

147. No ships were built in Jamaica during the year.

ROADS.

148. The Island is intersected by a system of water-bound macadam roads. They are divided into two classes (a) Main Roads, of a total length of 2,277 miles, which are maintained out of the General Revenue of the Colony and (b) Parochial Roads, aggregating 4,366 miles of which 1,844 miles are suitable for light motor car traffic and 2,522 miles are cart or bridle roads. Class (b) is maintained by the Parochial Boards out of their own funds.

149. During 1927, the Main Roads were maintained at an average cost of £91 per mile, including expenditure on repairing flood damage. With few exceptions, these roads, were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundation and are therefore suitable only for light wheeled traffic. This type of construction is inadequate to meet the ever-increasing requirements of motor traffic. Legislation prohibiting the importation and use without special permission of Motor Vehicles weighing more than 2½ tons unladen has been enacted. The existing roads are gradually being improved so as to enable them to carry such motor traffic with safety. Up to the end of the year under review, about 51 miles of roads had been improved and tar sprayed.

CANALS.

150. There are no navigable canals in the Island.

IRRIGATION.

151. There is a system of canals which conveys water from the Rio Cobre to the plains of the parish of St. Catherine for irrigation purposes. The main canal carries 18,000 cubic yards of water per hour and is approximately 6 miles long; subsidiary channels with a total length of 42 miles, distribute the water over an area of 50,000 acres, of which some 20,000 acres are now under irrigation.

152. In the parish of Clarendon a small irrigation scheme has been constructed. Water is pumped from the Cockpit River to a height of 70 feet and discharged into channels which convey it by gravity to several Sugar Estates. The main channel carries 5,000 cubic yards of water per hour, but is capable of being extended to carry double that volume.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

153. The Government Postal Telegraph system was inaugurated in 1879, with a complement of 47 offices. At the close of the calendar year 1927, there were 1,015 miles of telegraph and telephone lines, with 60 Telegraph and 84 Telephone Offices. Only one new Telephone Office was opened during the year.

154. The charge for telegrams is 9d. for the first twelve words and a half-penny for each additional word. Press telegrams are granted a special rate of approximately half the above charges. An all-night and holiday telegraph service is provided on payment of graduated fees.

155. The Railway Telegraph System, in connection with which there are 39 offices, assists in placing telegraphic communication within the reach of all. These offices work in collaboration with the Postal Telegraph System, but are controlled by the Management of the Railway.

156. The number of messages transmitted in 1926 numbered 34,593 and the receipts totalled £13,007. In 1927, 362,234 telegrams were despatched and the revenue amounted to £19,589.

157. There are two Wireless Telegraph Stations in the Island. One is situated at Christiana and was established by the Admiralty during the Great War. This Station does not now accept traffic. The other station is at Kingston and is operated by the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., under Government License. This station communicates with Merchant Shipping on a 600-metre wave. This Company was granted a license to erect a modern Wireless Station at Stony Hill, nine miles from Kingston for the purpose of handling commercial traffic. This station was completed during the year. The Kingston station will be re-modelled and used for ship to shore work. Numerous wireless receiving sets have been established (under Government License) throughout the Island by persons desirous of receiving the programmes broadcast by American and other Broadcasting Stations. No Broadcasting Station exists in the Island.

158. Telegraphic communication with all parts of the world is furnished by two Cable Companies, viz.: the Direct West India Cable Co., Ltd., and the West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd.

159. The cable of the former Company runs from Jamaica through Turks Island to Bermuda and thence to Halifax, N.S., at which point connection is made with all the important Trans-Atlantic Lines eastward and with the Canadian Pacific Railroad, Commercial Cable Companies, and Western Union Lines inland and westward. This Company also connects at Halifax, N.S., with the Imperial route to Great Britain and Australia, and with the Marconi Company's Trans-Atlantic Service. The Pacific Cable Board has established communication with all the British West Indian Islands, and West Indian traffic entrusted to the Direct West Indian Cable Company is now handed over to the "P.C.B." at the latter's Turks Island Office.

160. The West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd., maintains communication with Foreign Countries by means of cables to Cuba, where they transfer their cablegrams to their connecting companies, who have cables connecting with different parts of the United States of America. In addition, this Company has a network of cables touching at practically every West Indian Island.

AERIAL SERVICES.

161. No Aerial Service has so far been established in connection with this Colony.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

162. An extensive programme of Road Construction was commenced during the year, with the object of improving access to fertile areas and of improving through traffic.

A Scheme for the general improvement of Hospitals was commenced, and one important parish Hospital has been replaced by a new and up to date structure.

The provision of Government Elementary Schools, in all parts of the Island, was steadily pushed on, and a number of buildings completed.

163. The Hermitage Dam which was being built for the Corporation of Kingston and St. Andrew, for the purpose of conserving the surplus water of the Wag Water River, was completed in May and has been put into use.

164. The reconstruction, in Asphalt, of the Kingston Streets, commenced in 1925, was resumed in the early part of the year, and a considerable mileage was completed.

XI.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

165. A list of Official Publications relating to Jamaica, which are likely to be of interest, is given below:—

	Price.		Where obtainable.
	s.	d.	
Handbook of Jamaica (published annually)	8	0	The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, Westminster, London, W.C.
Jamaica in 1924	2	0	H. Sotheran & Co., Strand, London, S.W. 1
Annual Report of the Collector General of Internal Revenue, Customs and Excise	1	0	Superintendent, Government Printing Office, Kingston, Jamaica.
Blue Book of Jamaica (published annually)	10	0	ditto
Annual Report of the Director of Agriculture	1	0	ditto
The Rainfall of Jamaica, 1870-1919	2	6	ditto
Notes on the Geography of Jamaica, 1913, by Maxwell Hall	1	0	ditto
Education Code, 1921	1	0	ditto
The Principal Agricultural Pests of Jamaica, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S. (1923)	2	0	ditto
Catalogue of Insectorum Jamaicensis, by C. C. Gowdey, B.Sc., F.E.S., F.Z.S., parts 1-3 (1928)	3	0	ditto
Proceedings of the Ninth West India Agricultural Conference (1925)	2	6	ditto
Historic Jamaica (1915)	2	6	The West India Committee, London.

D. H. HALL,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretariat, Jamaica,
30th August, 1928.