

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 637.

WEI HAI WEI.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, see No. 605.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1910.



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No. 637.

WEIHAIWEI.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 605.)

THE COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Port Edward,
Weihaiwei,
15th April, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying Report on the territory of Weihaiwei for the year 1909.

I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Commissioner.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,

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

FINANCIAL.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$83,499, as compared with \$83,277 during the previous year. The expenditure during the year amounted to \$145,852, as compared with \$168,740, the expenditure of the previous year.

The following are the heads of revenue and expenditure for last year, as compared with those of the previous year:—

<i>Revenue.</i>			
Head.	1908-9.	1909-10.	
	\$	\$	
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	32,830	58,403	
Fees of Court	2,802	3,426	
Rents of Government Property,			
Land and Houses	45,815	18,838	
Interest	991	1,357	
Miscellaneous	839	1,475	
Total	83,277	83,499	

<i>Expenditure.</i>			
Head.	1908-9.	1909-10.	
	\$	\$	
Commissioner's Establishment	24,541	25,586	
Secretary to Government ...	12,813	14,796	
District Officer	8,004	8,610	
Police and Gaol	26,498	26,427	
Medical and Sanitary	15,469	16,930	
Public Works Department ...	2,993	2,738	
Public Works	33,605	19,700	
Fruit and Forestry Department	3,938	2,015	
Miscellaneous Services ...	40,879	29,050	
Total ...	168,740	145,852	

The total revenue and expenditure for the last five years is as follows:—

Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	\$	\$
1905-6	105,934	146,120
1906-7	76,777	160,973
1907-8	80,331	173,340
1908-9	83,277	168,740
1909-10	83,499	145,852

The deficit each year has been met by a grant-in-aid from Imperial funds, which has been as follows during the past five years:—

Years.	Amount.
	£
1905-6...	3,000
1906-7...	4,500
1907-8...	10,000
1908-9...	10,000
1909-10	4,400

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year no new buildings were erected and no extension was made to the Government main roads. The roads were subject to a much greater strain than in any previous year, on account of the increase in cart traffic, which was unknown here a few years ago. The carts in use, having heavy clumsy wheels and no springs, make deep ruts in the roads after rain and snow, and, as a result, the cost of maintenance of roads will be greater than it used to be when no cart traffic existed. Village roads were extended for about five miles under the superintendence of Mr. Liang Tê-yang, who gave his services gratuitously. The cost of the extension was met by a grant from Government, and by subscriptions from the Chinese either in the shape of money or labour.

The improvement in the road system in this Territory is so much appreciated that there is a general desire among the farmers and others for an extension of the roads to the neighbouring district cities of Jung ch'êng, Wên-têng, and Ninghai, and an influential petition has been addressed to this Government asking that the Chinese authorities may be urged to construct cart roads between those cities and the frontier of this territory. The petition has been forwarded to the Governor of Shantung, who seems disposed to favour the proposal, though it is feared that want of funds may delay the work for some time to come.

Bridges suffered no damage of any kind during the year.

POLICE.

The total strength of the force was 3 European inspectors, 3 Chinese sergeants, and 53 Chinese constables, who were disposed as follows:—

Two European inspectors, 2 sergeants, and 38 constables were stationed at Port Edward.

One sergeant and 7 constables at the headquarters of the district officer in the Territory.

One European inspector and 8 constables on the Island.

The Police are moved about from time to time, as it has been found that it is not satisfactory to allow them to remain too long in one place.

All the constables were trained in musketry during the year with satisfactory results, the percentage of first-class shots and marksmen being 75.4. All available members of the force also

attended a field firing scheme, which was well executed, the figure of merit being 13·9, and ten men were trained in the use of a machine gun. The health of the force was excellent, but several constables had to be punished and dismissed for accepting bribes in connection with gambling.

FIRE BRIGADE.

Three fires occurred at Port Edward but were quickly extinguished, without doing much damage, by the local volunteer fire brigade. There was also a fire in the city of Weihaiwei, which is under Chinese jurisdiction. The volunteer fire brigade helped to extinguish it and its assistance was much appreciated. Fire alarms were held monthly and on each occasion the volunteer brigade turned out in full numbers and very smartly.

A volunteer fire brigade has just been formed on the Island and is working satisfactorily.

TRADE.

The trade of the territory during 1909 was satisfactory.

The export of ground-nuts and ground-nut seeds was nearly double that of the previous year. The following are the figures for the last three years:—

—	1907.	1908.	1909.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Ground-nuts	12,294	16,000	39,600
Ground-nut seeds	25,320	60,753	100,700

A picul = 133½ lbs.

The export of salt was large during the earlier part of the year, but fell off during the latter part.

22,466 cases of Devoe's Brilliant Brand and 6,784 cases of Tiger Brand Oil, as compared with 18,000 cases and 3,000 cases in 1908, were imported by the Standard Oil Company, and only 100 cases of Sumatra oil.

The shark-fishing industry, started by the Japanese in 1908, was continued last year, 19 boats having been engaged in it.

Owing to the increase of exports from the mainland, the anchorage at Port Edward has been so much used by steamers that the agents of the shipping and banking firms who have hitherto had their headquarters on the Island have decided to remove them to Port Edward. This change will save native shippers expense and will be more convenient for them in every way. Their cargoes have hitherto been sent in lighters to the Island anchorage, distant three miles, and there put on steamers or stored until an opportunity of shipping them arose.

There is a good anchorage at Port Edward, and, as steamers are able to anchor close to the shore, the loading and discharge of cargo will be much facilitated. It would be still more convenient if they could go alongside the pier at Port Edward and thus save transhipment of cargoes in lighters; but a considerable expenditure would be necessary to extend that pier, and in the present financial position of the Territory the necessary funds are not available. But if trade and shipping continue to increase this is a question which must receive attention.

SHIPPING.

The total number of steamers that called here during the year was 567, with a total net tonnage of 481,291 tons, as compared with 599 steamers in 1908, with a total net tonnage of 488,151 tons. Of the steamers that called: 381 were British, 9 German, and 177 small Japanese and Chinese coasting boats; the total net tonnage of the last being 22,981.

The above figures do not include Admiralty colliers and Government transports.

AFFORESTATION.

50,000 fir trees were planted out on the Island last year, as compared with 150,000 in 1908. It is intended to plant out 500,000 this year, which number, together with those planted in previous years, will more than cover the south side of the Island. It is hoped that the whole of the Island, which is Government property, will be covered with fir trees by 1912.

As has been pointed out before, the afforestation of the hills on the mainland would much improve the appearance of the Territory and would have a beneficial effect on the rainfall. But to carry out such afforestation would necessitate a larger outlay than can at present be afforded as, in addition to the cost of trees, it would be necessary to purchase the private rights of owners, who either cultivate the hills or plant them with trees or scrub oak for fuel or rearing silkworms. It has, therefore, only been possible under present circumstances to plant 80,000 fir trees on hills in the immediate neighbourhood of Port Edward and to line the roads with acacia, willow, and other trees.

LEGISLATION.

Only one Ordinance was introduced after having been approved, viz., "The Opium Ordinance, 1909."

EDUCATION.

During the past year 51 boys attended the Government Free School. The school curriculum is in accordance with that laid down by the Chinese Government for first-grade schools, and

students attending it are, by arrangement with the Chinese Government, allowed, if they so desire, to enter, after examination, a middle-grade school in China. Though the highest form in the Government Free School compares very favourably, as regards several subjects, with a middle-grade school in one of the provinces of China which was visited, and though the examination last year was more satisfactory than that of the previous year, there is still much room for improvement throughout the school generally. Special attention was paid to hygiene, in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. A few boys have attained a fair grasp of the subject, but most of the boys are only able to repeat like parrots the text-book they study. A special prize is awarded for this subject, which, it is hoped, will encourage a more intelligent study of it.

The Anglo-Chinese School, managed by the Rev. A. E. Burne, whilst still showing good results, was not so well attended as in the previous year, the average attendance being 20, as compared with 30 in 1908.

The attendance at the Mission School, formerly managed by Dr. Case and now under the management of Mr. Ward Wilson, averaged 22, as compared with 20 last year; whilst Father Hallam's School for young boys about ten years of age was attended by ten boys.

The school for girls started by Mrs. Case and now carried on by Miss Gresham and Miss Rout, had an average attendance of 25, as compared with 20 in 1908. In this school a good elementary education is given in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, needlework, and lace-making.

The school for girls established by members of the Anti-Foot Binding Society, has made good progress during the year, the attendance being ten, which, it is thought, will be increased this year.

The day school started last year by Franciscan Sisters for girls other than Chinese, is attended by children of British, Corean, and Japanese nationality, the average age and attendance being ten.

Mr. Beer's school for European boys, known as the Weihaiwei School, showed a considerable increase in numbers, which rose from 35 in 1908 to 51 in 1909. The staff now consists of two masters and one mistress in addition to the headmaster. The school possesses a well-instructed, enthusiastic, and smart corps of boy scouts.

The attendance at the Free School on the Island for Chinese boys, established and maintained by Mr. Duncan Clark, had only an average attendance of 8 boys, as compared with 26 in 1908.

As regards the village schools throughout the Territory maintained by Chinese, it is noticeable that new books are gradually finding their way into common use, and that history and geography, subjects never taught in such schools, are beginning to receive attention.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

There were 754 convictions in all, as compared with 909 in 1908. The total number of civil cases was 522, of which 64 were heard by the Magistrate at Port Edward and 458 by the District Officer and Magistrate at Wên Ch'uan t'ang.

The marked immunity from crime of a serious nature continues. The only serious cases of crime during 1909 were one of manslaughter which was tried by the High Court and resulted in the conviction and sentence of two men to two years' imprisonment with hard labour; one case of gross ill-treatment of a woman, which led to suicide; and five cases of robbery. In one of the last, jewellery was stolen on the Island and was eventually all recovered, the guilty parties showing themselves, as in previous cases of a similar kind here, to be anything but experienced burglars. Out of a total of 754 convictions, 266 were for gambling, as compared with 224 in 1908, which shows that gambling still continues to be a very prevalent vice.

Suicides have, as usual, been numerous. Forty cases were reported to Mr. Johnston, the District Officer, and investigated by him; and several other cases were reported to Mr. Walter, Magistrate and Secretary to Government. In reporting on this subject, Mr. Johnston states: "It is probably true to say that 90 per cent. of the persons who destroy themselves in Weihaiwei as, indeed, in China generally, are women. Precisely the opposite state of affairs has been observed in Europe, where suicide is a phenomenon of which the male sex possesses almost the monopoly" (*see Chatterton Hill's "Heredity and Selection in Sociology,"* page 187). Mr. Walter also points out that in Weihaiwei practically no cases of suicide of children occur, whilst in the West such cases are said to show an alarming increase. It is satisfactory to be able to report that the instructions distributed by Government among the villages explaining in the vernacular what should be done in the way of first-aid in cases of poisoning have been, at least on one or two occasions, of practical use.

There has been a marked increase in the number of civil cases in the Court of the District Officer. Of the total of 650 cases heard by him, only 192 were criminal or police cases, the remaining 458 being civil cases. It was formerly the custom for litigants in civil suits to present written petitions drawn up by professional petition-writers, but, as it was discovered that exorbitant fees were charged for such petitions and the writers of them stirred up litigation, the Magistrates refused to receive any petition drawn up by a professional petition-writer, and depended on the oral statement made by each litigant of his case in court, no fee of any kind being charged. But this system has not been found to work well. The absence of all fees has encouraged litigation and induced parties to bring into court family disputes and other cases of a nature which, according to Chinese custom, should be settled by arbitration, and as the ordinary litigant in Weihaiwei is an illiterate peasant he is very rarely capable of giving the court a clear and succinct

account of his case. In order to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs, provisional Rules of Court have been made under which petition-writers, who are salaried Government officers, have been appointed and attached to the clerical staff of the Magistrates. Their duty is to draw up for the parties to a civil suit a statement of their case in the form of a petition to the Magistrate exercising the jurisdiction of the High Court in civil cases, a fee of \$2 being charged for each statement thus prepared. It is hoped that this system, while not deterring persons from prosecuting their reasonable claims in the Courts, will help to effect a reduction in litigation which is either vexatious and unnecessary, or which should be settled by arbitration instead of being brought into Court. In this connexion it is interesting to note that a suggestion has recently been made by Mr. Ameer Ali, one of the leaders of the Mahometan community of India, that the Government of India should be moved to re-establish the arbitration courts which existed in the early part of the nineteenth century for the settlement of family disputes and to induce the ordinary courts of justice to discourage the besetting evil of family litigation.

The number of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment in the Weihaiwei Gaol during 1909 was 157, as compared with 163 in 1908, with a daily average of 28 as compared with a daily average of 26 during the previous year. The general health of the prisoners was excellent, no cases of serious sickness having occurred, and their conduct was very good. They repaired nearly all the roads on the Island during the year and assisted in the work of tree-planting.

It has been usual to send prisoners sentenced to long terms of imprisonment to the gaol in Hong Kong with the consent of the authorities of that Colony. In accordance with this practice, two prisoners, convicted of manslaughter by the High Court and sentenced to two years' imprisonment, were sent to Hong Kong last year. Since 1902, the total number of long-sentence prisoners imprisoned in the gaol at Hong Kong amounts to twelve.

OPIUM.

During the past year every endeavour was made, so far as this territory is concerned, to carry out the policy of His Majesty's Government with regard to opium and to assist China in her task of suppressing the opium habit.

The opium farm, which was vested in a farmer who paid the Government for his privilege a sum of £700 a year, having expired on the 30th June last, an Ordinance was at once introduced prohibiting generally the importation, sale, and smoking of opium, and any other hypnotic, and only allowing an exception on medical grounds in the case of a few licensed vendors, who are permitted to import the drug and to retail it only to persons who produce a doctor's certificate that it is required for medicine. Since the introduction of the Ordinance only two chests of opium have been imported, and the number of shops licensed to sell opium, which to commence with was seven, has

been reduced to one. The number of opium smokers holding a medical certificate has been gradually reduced from 220 to 110. At the present moment there are no opium divans in the territory. A refuge for those who desire to rid themselves of the opium habit has been opened under the control of the Medical Officer. There were 31 admissions during the year. All those admitted were at once deprived of the drug, other hypnotics being given as required for the first few nights. Digestive and other symptoms were treated on general principles as they arose. The average stay in the refuge was fourteen days, and all who had been admitted left in good health without any craving for opium. Whether there have been many relapses, it is impossible to say.

As was stated in the Report on this Territory for 1908, public opinion among the Chinese of Weihaiwei is opposed to opium, and the number of smokers is comparatively small. It seems, therefore, reasonable to hope that through the influence of public opinion, supported by the prohibitive legislation which has been introduced, opium smoking will become a rare habit here.

HOSPITALS.

The in-patients treated during the year in the hospital on the Island numbered 23, as compared with 27 in 1908, whilst the out-patients numbered 2,635, as compared with 2,339 in 1908.

At the Port Edward Hospital there were 112 in-patients, as compared with 106 in 1908, and 2,826 out-patients, as compared with 2,347 in 1908.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of both the European and Chinese communities during the year was good. There were five cases of dysentery in the King's Hotel among 45 children resident there during the summer. Three of those cases were severe, and resulted in the death of an infant, ten months old. There was one case of dysentery at Half Moon Bay, and there were three cases of the same disease on the Island, all of which recovered.

It has been suggested that the cases of dysentery in the King's Hotel were due to the water supply, but an analysis of the well from which the water used at the hotel was obtained showed that it was fit for potable purposes. Further, the fact that there were three cases of dysentery in the hotel on the Island where condensed water is used, tends to prove that the disease was not owing to the water supply but was climatic, a view which is also supported by statistics of the health of Europeans in other parts of China about the same time and by reports from Chinese. An outbreak of diphtheria occurred among Chinese in a house on the Island. There were five cases and two deaths before the disease was notified. The remaining three cases, which were severe, were treated with anti-toxin, and all recovered.

There was one case of scarlet fever on the Island, which appears to have been imported from Shanghai.

During the summer a severe epidemic of cholera broke out at Chefoo, the Treaty Port, distant 60 miles by road and 40 miles by sea from Weihaiwei, and the disease gradually spread along the high road from Chefoo to Weihaiwei until it reached several of the villages in this Territory, the nearest affected being situated seven miles from Port Edward. Chefoo was at once declared an infected port, and all native passengers arriving by sea were subjected to medical inspection, whilst the villages infected were visited by a medical officer. Printed instructions regarding the treatment and prevention of cholera were also circulated throughout the Territory by the headmen of the villages. As a result of the precautions taken, the disease did not spread in this Territory and soon disappeared.

The number of vaccinations performed on the mainland during the year amounted to 3,563, as compared with 4,234 in 1908, and on the Island 55, as against 194 in the previous year.

SANITATION.

The sanitary condition of Port Edward and the Island is in a satisfactory condition. The conservancy arrangements on the Island have been undertaken by Government instead of being carried out by a contractor, with the result that the work is now discharged more efficiently. Two new dairies have been built on the Island to take the place of former buildings which were not suitable. Steps are also being taken to cover the wells in use at Port Edward, and to fit them with pumps instead of leaving them open as at present. As was pointed out in last year's report, analysis has shown that the water of these wells is good in every instance except one, the defect in which is being remedied; and it is hoped that by covering them in the manner proposed all risk of pollution will be prevented.

METEOROLOGICAL.

The Meteorological Returns for the year are given in the Appendix.

The highest monthly barometrical average was that of January, 30·660, and the lowest that of July, 29·009.

The highest temperature was 94° F., recorded in July, and the lowest 11°, in January and February.

Rain or snow fell on 81 days, the total rainfall for the year being 33·54 inches. August was the wettest month, with a rainfall of 9·48 inches. In June it rained 4·89 inches and in July 7·33, so that during the three months when Weihaiwei is chiefly frequented by visitors it rained a total of 21·70 inches

in 35 days. It is not surprising, therefore, that to visitors, at any rate, Weihaiwei does not appear to be such a dry place as its annual rainfall shows it to be. But the rain soon dries up and, therefore, does not for long prevent people from indulging in their usual outdoor amusements.

POSTAL.

The number of mails received during the year from Shanghai was 457, in 665 bags, containing ordinary correspondence, and 1,722 registered articles and parcels. The number of mails despatched for Shanghai, Chefoo, and Tientsin was 421, in 482 bags, containing ordinary correspondence, and 2,706 registered articles.

Since May last the Post Office has been sending bags by way of Siberia addressed to the General Post Office in London. The number of mails despatched in this manner was 140, in 140 bags, containing 45,094 ordinary letters, 4,106 postcards, and 846 registered articles. The numbers of letters received by way of Siberia was 6,176; of postcards, 306; and registered letters, 95.

The quickest time in which a mail reached here by way of Siberia during the past year was 16 days, or about half the time it requires for a letter to arrive by way of Suez. A resident of Weihaiwei accomplished the journey between London and Weihaiwei in 13½ days, and it seems pretty certain that before long the time now required to complete that journey will be considerably shortened.

The total receipts for the sale of stamps and postal notes during 1909 were as follows:—

	\$	cts.
Stamps 	5,891.41	
Imperial Postal Notes	12,917.94	
Local ,, ,,	6,453.92	

LIGHTHOUSES.

The two lighthouses at Flagstaff Point and Chaopeitsui, which are inspected by Engineer-Commander Parker, R.N., have worked very satisfactorily during the year and the lightkeepers have discharged their duties with zeal and efficiency.

GENERAL.

The year 1909 will be memorable in the history of China for the inauguration of Provincial Assemblies, the first important step in a series of reforms intended to introduce into China Constitutional Government,

A register of the electors in this Territory entitled to vote or to become members of the Provincial Assembly was prepared, on which appear the names of about 500 persons. The Provincial Assembly of Shantung, which is composed of 103 members, one of whom is a native and resident of this Territory, was opened on the 14th October by His Excellency Sun Pao-ch'i, the Governor of Shantung, with an address which has been highly commended.

The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Sir Hedworth Lambton, was here during the summer months, and is to be congratulated on the excellence of its shooting, in which it proved itself second to none as compared with other fleets in the Navy.

The American fleet, under the command of Rear-Admiral Harber, visited Weihaiwei in August, a visit which was much appreciated by all those afloat and on shore who had the pleasure of extending a hearty welcome to Admiral Harber, his officers, and men. I regret that, owing to my absence on leave in England, I could not take part in that welcome; but Mr. Walter, who was administering the Government, was able to enjoy what I missed.

I visited Chinan, the capital of Shantung, in spring, in order to return the official call paid me by His Excellency Yuan Shu-hsün in the autumn of the previous year. This is the third occasion in which I have paid an official visit to the capital of Shantung, and on each occasion the welcome accorded to me by the Governor and the leading officials has been of the most cordial and friendly nature. Since my visit, His Excellency Yuan Shu-hsün has been promoted to be Governor-General of the two Provinces of Kuangtung and Kuangsi.

On my way to Chinan, I passed through the German Colony of Kiaochou, where my old friend Governor Truppel entertained me with that hospitality for which His Excellency and his countrymen in that Colony are so justly famous.

The number of visitors during the summer was more numerous than in any previous year, nearly all the accommodation available being occupied.

The general state of affairs during the past year may on the whole be regarded with satisfaction. Trade was good, but would be still better if capital could be attracted to the Territory; the farmers were prosperous, having enjoyed bountiful harvests; the health of the public was excellent, no serious epidemic of any kind having occurred, and peace and good order reigned throughout the year, owing to the orderly nature of the inhabitants of Weihaiwei, among whom crime is rare and good behaviour prevalent.

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Commissioner.

Government House,
Weihaiwei,
15th April, 1910.

APPENDIX.

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN for 1909.

1909.	Barometer.				Temperature.						Rain or Snow.	
	Highest in the Month.	Lowest in the Month.	Mean for the Month.	Range.	Highest in the Month.	Lowest in the Month.	Range in the Month.	Mean of all the Highest.	Mean of all the Lowest.	Mean daily Range.	Days it fell.	Amount collected.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.	°F.		Inches.
January ...	30·660	29·916	30·308	·744	49	11	38	36	19	17	9 (7 snow)	·60
February ...	30·482	29·886	30·206	·596	52	11	41	39	19	20	7 snow	·11
March ...	30·566	29·802	30·226	·764	58	19	39	44	25	19	5 (3 snow)	·68
April ...	30·238	29·020	29·882	1·218	83	26	57	65	38	27	3	3·92
May ...	30·220	29·075	30·336	1·145	84	40	44	66	44	22	1	·06
June ...	30·000	29·592	29·803	·408	92	47	45	79	57	22	5	4·89
July ...	30·038	29·009	29·804	1·029	94	52	42	83	64	19	14	7·33
August...	29·980	29·505	29·780	·475	90	64	26	81	66	15	16	9·48
September	30·220	29·674	30·327	·546	89	52	37	78	58	20	4	·87
October	30·386	30·010	30·190	·376	81	36	45	69	48	21	5	2·30
November	30·466	29·900	30·218	·566	71	16	55	58	35	23	11 (2 snow)	2·15
December	30·540	29·798	30·361	·742	55	13	42	42	25	17	1	1·15
Mean ...	30·316	29·598	30·120	·717	74	32	42	61	41	20	81*	*33·54

* Total.

23rd January, 1909 : Earthquake shock, 7.50 p.m.

Port Edward,
Weihaiwei.

W. M. MUAT, M.B.

WEIHAIWEI, 1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
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68	Do. do.	Do. do. 1906-7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.