

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1260.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1208.)



LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Astral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1925.

Price 1s. 6d. Net.

Printed in Trinidad.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

SITUATION AND AREA.

1. The Island of Trinidad is the most southerly of the West Indian Islands and is geographically and biologically a part of the South American Continent, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Paria, into which fall the northern mouths of the Orinoco. It is situated between $10^{\circ} 3'$ and $10^{\circ} 50'$ North latitude, and $60^{\circ} 55'$ and $61^{\circ} 56'$ West longitude from Greenwich. Its average length is about 69 miles, and breadth about 54 miles, and its total area is 1,862 square miles. The Island is traversed by three parallel ranges of hills running approximately east and west. The first, rising to over 3,000 feet, borders the northern coast; the second, rising only in one spot to 1,000 feet, runs diagonally across the centre of the Island; and the third, seldom rising above a few hundred feet, occupies a broad belt near the Southern coast.

2. The Island of Tobago lies between $11^{\circ} 8'$ and $11^{\circ} 21'$ North latitude and $60^{\circ} 30'$ and $60^{\circ} 50'$ West longitude, distance about 26 miles North-East of Trinidad. It is 26 miles long and $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles at its greatest breadth, and has an area of 114 square miles.

HISTORY.

3. Trinidad was first discovered by Columbus on the 31st July, 1498, and taken possession of by him for the Crown of Spain. It was visited by Sir Robert Dudley and by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1595, and was included in the Earl of Montgomery's grant in 1628. In 1640 it was raided by the Dutch, and in 1677 and 1690 by the French. In 1783 a Royal Proclamation was issued by the Court of Madrid by which extraordinary advantages were offered to foreigners of all nations to settle in Trinidad, the sole condition imposed being that they should profess the Roman Catholic religion. The result of the Proclamation was a large influx of population, which was augmented by many French families, who were driven from St. Domingo and elsewhere by the French Revolution, and to this

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

is due the preponderance of the French element in a Colony which never belonged to France. In 1797, Great Britain being then at war with Spain, a British expedition sailed from Martinique for the reduction of Trinidad which resulted in the surrender of the Island to His Majesty's forces, and on the 18th February, 1797, the articles of capitulation were signed by Sir R. Abercromby, Admiral Harvey, and Chacon, the Spanish Governor. In 1802 it was finally ceded to the Crown of Great Britain by the Treaty of Amiens.

4. Tobago was discovered by Columbus in 1498, at which time it was occupied by Caribs. The British Flag was first planted on the Island in 1580, and the sovereignty was claimed by James I. in 1608. In 1628 a grant of the Island was made by Charles I. to the Earl of Pembroke. It remained unoccupied until 1632, when 300 Zealanders were sent out by a company of Dutch merchants, who styled it New Walcheren. After a residence of about two years these settlers were all destroyed or expelled by the Caribs and Spaniards from Trinidad. In 1641 James Duke of Courland obtained a grant of the Island from Charles I., and in 1642 two vessels arrived with a number of Courlanders, who settled on the North side of the Island. These were followed by a second Dutch Colony in 1654, who established themselves on the Southern coast. In 1658 the Courlanders were overpowered by the Dutch, who remained in possession of the whole Island until 1662, when the Dutch Company resigned their right to it. In this year Cornelius Lampsis procured letters patent from Louis the Fourteenth creating him Baron of Tobago, and proprietor of the Island under the Crown of France. In 1664 the grant of the Island to the Duke of Courland was renewed by Charles II. The Dutch refused to recognise the Duke's title, but in 1667 they were compelled to evacuate it by the French Admiral Estras, who defeated the Dutch Admiral Binks in Scarborough Bay, whereupon Louis the Fourteenth restored it to the Duke of Courland, who made over his title to a company of London Merchants in 1681. In 1684, by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, the Island was declared neutral, the subjects of all European Powers being at liberty to form settlements but not to place garrisons on it. By the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Tobago was ceded by France to England in perpetuity. In 1781, it was captured by the French under the Duke of Bouillé, and in 1783 it was surrendered by treaty to the French Crown. In April, 1793, it was captured by a British force under Admiral Lefrey and General Cuyler, and was once more restored to the French by the Treaty of Peace in 1802, and again reconquered in 1803 by Commander Hood and General Greenfield. In 1814 it was finally ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown.

5. By Order in Council under Act 50 and 51 Vict : Tobago became part of the Colony of Trinidad as from 1st January, 1889. By a further Order in Council of 20th October, 1898, Tobago became a Ward of the United Colony of Trinidad and Tobago as from the 1st January, 1899.

CLIMATE.

6. The climate of Trinidad is tropical and may be divided into two seasons, a dry season from January to the middle of May, with an average rainfall of 2 to 3 inches per month, and a wet season from June to December, with an average of 8 inches per month. The coolest months of the year are December to April. The average temperature during the day is 84 and during the night 74. The average rainfall in 1924, from records taken at 110 stations, was 69.42 inches. The climate is healthy and by no means hurtful to Europeans, provided reasonable precautions are taken. Hurricanes are unknown.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

7. Sir Samuel Wilson, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., having been appointed Governor of Jamaica, left for England on the 10th July. Before his departure His Excellency unveiled the Trinidad and Tobago War Memorial erected at a cost of £6,300 from a design by L. F. Rosslyn, R.B.S.

8. Sir H. A. Byatt, K.C.M.G., arrived at Port-of-Spain on the 22nd November and assumed the Government of the Colony.

9. On the 21st August the new Constitution was brought into force by Order in Council. It provides for a Legislative Council of the Governor as President, twelve Official and thirteen Unofficial members. Of the Unofficial members six are nominated and seven elected.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

VITAL STATISTICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

10. The estimated population of the two islands Trinidad and Tobago, at 31st December, 1924, was 381,753. The white population is chiefly composed of English; French, Spanish and Portuguese. The large majority of the inhabitants are natives of the West Indies of African descent, the balance being made up of East Indians, estimated at 123,903 and a small number of Chinese.

11. The Birth-rate was 33.66 per 1,000 and the Death-rate 20.02 per 1,000.

12. The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 1,587 and the infantile mortality rate was 124.07 per 1,000 Births.

13. The Death-rates from the principal diseases were as follows :—

Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	1.38	per 1,000.
Malaria	...	1.99	do.
Tuberculosis	...	1.26	do.
Dysentery	...	0.56	do.
Enteric Fever	...	0.55	do.
Ankylostomiasis	...	0.82	do.

14. Measures for the reduction of Infantile Mortality have been maintained. The Mothers' and Infants' Clinic in Port-of-Spain continues to be well attended, and branches of the Child Welfare League are established in six country districts.

15. The year was a very healthy one, the Birth-rate being high and the Death-rate and Infantile Mortality rate reaching a low record for the Colony.

16. Venereal Clinics on modern lines continue to be well attended at the Out-patients' Departments of the Colonial Hospitals, Port-of-Spain and San Fernando.

17. On the recommendation of the Central Board of Health, drainage schemes for the control of malaria are being continued in the country districts. Minor Measures of a similar nature were maintained in all country districts during the year.

18. The intensive treatment of Hook-worm disease was continued by the Rockefeller International Board of Health. The Central Board of Health co-operated by enforcing the establishment of latrines in advance of the treatment in the areas about to be operated in.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

HOSPITALS.

19. The following hospital accommodation is provided :—
- | | |
|---|--------------|
| Colonial Hospital, Port-of-Spain | ... 310 beds |
| The San Fernando Hospital | ... 123 do. |
| The Government District Hospitals in Tobago
and at Arima, St. Joseph, Tacarigua,
Couva, Princes Town and Cedros | ... 248 do. |

There are also small temporary hospitals at Sangre Grande, Mayaro and Toco.

FINANCE.

REVENUE.

20. The Revenue of the Colony for the year 1924 amounted to £1,586,834, less than the Estimate by £93,530 and less than the Revenue for the preceding financial year by £46,717. The following comparative table shews the several heads of Revenue and how the decrease was made up :—

Heads of Revenue.	1923.	1924.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	594,043	556,491	...	37,552
2. Licences, Excise, &c.	509,055	454,738	...	54,317
3. Tax on Incomes	68,294	106,719	38,425	
4. Fees of Court and Office	150,936	138,734	.	11,302
5. Post Office	37,156	37,649	493	
6. Government Railway	186,062	171,775	...	14,287
7. Rent of Government Property	1,687	1,679	...	8
8. Interest	12,199	10,034	..	2,165
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	4,132	6,617	2,485	
10. Land Sales, Royalties	60,676	71,381	10,705	
11. Coastal Steamer " Belize "	9,970	12,971	3,001	
12. Produce Tax	242	18,046	17,804	
	1,633,552	1,586,834	72,913	119,631
	Net decrease	...	£ 46,718	

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

21. An export tax on produce was levied during the year for General Revenue purposes at the following rates :—

				£	s.	d.
Sugar,	per 1,000 lb.	..	...	...	2	8
Coconuts,	per 1,000	...	...	...		9
Copra,	per 1,000 lb.	...	...	...	2	8
Rum,	per 100 gallons	...	...	...	6	0
Bitters,	per 100 gallons	...	...	...	1	10
Molasses,	per 100 gallons	..	...	...		3

22. The tax on incomes in excess of £250 per annum imposed for revenue purposes realised £106,719. The rates levied were :—

At 3d.	in the £1	up to £	500
6d.	do.	from	501-£ 750
9d.	do.	do.	751- 1,000
1/-	do.	do.	1,001- 1,500
1/6	do.	do.	1,501- 2,000
2/-	do.	do.	2,001- 3,000
2/6	do.	do.	3,001- 4,000
3/-	do.	do.	4,001- 5,000
4/-	do.	do.	5,001- 6,000
5/-	do.	do.	6,001- 8,000
6/-	do.	do.	8,001 upwards
2/6	do.	do.	(Company Rate.)

EXPENDITURE.

23. The total expenditure for the year amounted to £1,572,765 being £75,399 less than the Estimates, and £52,676 less than the expenditure for the previous year, and was £14,069 less than the revenue for the same period.

24. The expenditure included £36,567 on account of extraordinary expenditure, of which £11,655 was expended on Extraordinary Public Works and £24,912 on Roads and Bridges.

25. The Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years were as under :—

Year.	Revenue.	EXPENDITURE.		
		Recurrent.	Extra-ordinary.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1920	1,917,743	1,566,113	86,484	1,652,597
1921	1,867,944	1,889,053	185,874	2,074,927
1922	1,661,607	1,846,771	92,444	1,939,215
1923	1,633,552	1,590,166	35,275	1,625,441
1924	1,586,834	1,536,198	36,567	1,572,765

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

BALANCES.

26. The Balance Sheet of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, showed a deficit of £4,593 and at 31st December, 1924, a surplus of £9,177.

PUBLIC DEBT.

27. The Public Debt at 31st December, 1923, amounted to £3,125,638. £18,885 was redeemed during the year, leaving a total indebtedness at 31st December, 1924, of £3,406,753. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £585,727.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

28. British Currency and United States gold are legal tender. Accounts are kept in sterling by the Government and in dollars by the public, and the coin in circulation is almost exclusively British silver and bronze, there being no limit to silver as legal tender.

29. In 1903 an Ordinance providing for the issue of Government Currency Notes was brought into force. Under this Ordinance notes of the denominations of \$1, \$2 and \$1,000 have been issued, the total value in circulation at 31st December, 1924, amounting to £117,290.

30. Government Savings Banks are established in 31 districts with a head office in Port-of-Spain. The total number of depositors at 31st December, 1924, was 28,309 with deposits amounting to £364,360. The savings banks are largely made use of by the East Indians, of whom at the 31st December, there were 10,749 depositors with £143,316 to their credit.

31. The Private Banks are the Colonial Bank, paid up capital £900,000 with a note circulation in the Colony estimated at £250,000; the Royal Bank of Canada, paid up capital £4,250,000 with an authorized note circulation in the Colony of £312,500; Messrs. Gordon, Grant & Company, Limited, paid up capital of £500,000; and the Canadian Bank of Commerce, paid up capital £3,125,000 with an authorized note circulation of \$750,000. In addition to engaging in banking business of every character, the Colonial Bank, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce have savings bank branches and pay the same rate of interest as is paid by the Government Savings Bank, viz: 3 per cent.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

32. The c. i. f. value of the total imports amounted to £4,287,943 of which goods valued at £4,286,410 were cleared for home consumption. In addition, goods valued at £481,168 were entered for transshipment giving a total import trade of £4,772,111, a decrease as compared with 1923 of £365,717.

33. The nature and value of the imports (excluding transshipments) for the last five years were as under:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class 1—Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	2,980,839	2,748,580	1,998,878	1,830,303	1,715,456
Class 2—Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	833,226	504,219	334,314	452,567	360,350
Class 3—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	4,622,614	3,570,813	2,223,330	1,991,870	2,181,502
Class 4—Miscellaneous and unclassified articles ...	49,837	19,279	19,359	9,978	15,784
Class 5—Bullion and Specie...	3,716	60,803	28,999	34,703	14,851
Total ...	8,490,232	6,903,694	4,604,880	4,319,421	4,287,943

34. Of the imports entered for home consumption, goods to the value of £751,218 were admitted free of duty. The Customs duty collected on the remainder amounted to £610,614.

35. The following table gives the direction of the import trade for the last five years, and shows that the effect which the war has had in deflecting the trade with the United Kingdom to other markets is on the wane. The share of the United Kingdom which in 1914 was 31·6 per cent. and had dropped in 1920 to 26·58 per cent. shows an upward tendency, being 31·57 per cent. for the year 1924 while the share of the United States which in 1914 was 29·5 per cent. and rose to 41·39 in 1920 shewed a decrease over the 1923 figures falling to 23·02 per cent.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
U. Kingdom ...	2,182,025 26·58%	1,726,565 25·37%	1,367,022 29·25%	1,271,012 29·38%	1,103,819 26·57%
Canada ...	1,252,069 15·26%	1,155,087 16·97%	956,578 21·17%	866,933 20·19%	814,386 20·05%
Other British Possessions ...	362,760 4·42%	273,794 4·02%	345,613 7·65%	365,427 8·64%	318,503 7·84%
United States ...	3,397,803 41·39%	2,457,593 36·11%	1,248,629 27·64%	1,066,855 25·21%	984,845 23·02%
Venezuela ...	677,421 8·25%	937,198 13·77%	280,567 6·41%	360,345 8·52%	293,065 7·22%
France ...	71,729 0·87%	55,758 0·82%	48,859 1·08%	63,671 1·50%	74,750 1·84%
Germany ...	...	...	48,224 1·07%	38,937 0·92%	58,654 1·39%
O. Countries... ..	264,970 3·23%	199,985 2·94%	213,978 4·73%	198,217 4·54%	162,989 4·07%
	8,208,807	6,805,940	4,518,670	4,231,397	4,061,011

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

The figures in respect of 1924 do not include parcel post which amounted to £226,932, of which it is estimated that 70 per cent. was from the United Kingdom, 20 per cent. from the United States, 5 per cent. from Canada and 5 per cent. from Other Countries.

EXPORTS.

36. The f. o. b. value of the exports for the year amounted to £4,893,863, of which £4,521,225 represented the value of local products and manufactures, and £372,638 of re-exports. The value of goods transhipped amounted to £484,168 giving a total export trade of £5,378,031. As compared with 1923 there was an increase of £222,817 in the value of the exports of local products.

37. The value of the exports for the last five years is given below, the products of the Colony being shown separately from re-exports and transit goods:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Local Produce ...	7,435,361	4,093,395	3,706,618	4,298,378	4,521,225
Re-exports ...	973,250	590,593	522,785	487,216	372,638
Total ...	8,408,611	4,683,988	4,229,403	4,785,594	4,893,863
Transit Goods ...	1,007,934	509,988	612,527	518,407	484,168
Total ...	9,416,545	5,193,976	4,841,930	5,304,001	5,378,031

38. Dividing the exports (exclusive of transhipments) into classes, their nature and value were as under:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class I—Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	6,987,758	3,317,216	2,715,734	2,720,037	2,711,618
Class II—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Un-manufactured ...	1,300,457	1,144,258	1,308,919	1,956,173	2,085,957
Class III—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured...	85,077	101,289	109,060	79,896	73,273
Class IV—Miscellaneous and Unclassified ...	2,916	1,541	3,492	2,591	4,427
Class V—Bullion and Specie...	32,403	119,684	92,198	26,897	18,588
Total ...	8,408,611	4,683,988	4,229,403	4,785,594	4,893,863

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

39. The quantity and value of the principal products exported during the year were :—

Asphalt (including Manjak) ...	166,757½ tons ...	£ 385,949
Bitters	44,569 gals. ...	44,567
Cocoa	60,359,629 lb. ..	1,249,396
Coconuts	10,163,610 nuts ...	51,929
Copra	11,180,358 lb. ...	164,300
Molasses	1,505,881 gals. ...	24,843
Rum	85,632 gals. ...	18,448
Sugar	43,422 tons ..	1,233,944
Petroleum, Crude and Fuel ...	98,593,167 gals. ...	981,348
Petrol Spirit	13,469,621 gals. ..	362,235
Refined Kerosene	839,526 gals. ...	26,513

40. The following table gives the direction of the export trade for the last five years :—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
	£	£	£	£	£
U. Kingdom ...	3,695,041 <i>43·94%</i>	1,899,004 <i>40·54%</i>	1,643,998 <i>38·46%</i>	2,200,525 <i>45·98%</i>	2,255,527 <i>46·09%</i>
Canada ...	194,780 <i>2·32</i> ..	385,584 <i>8·23</i> ..	465,190 <i>11·00</i> ..	315,177 <i>6·59</i> ..	465,774 <i>9·52</i> ..
O. B. Posses- sions	391,072 <i>4·66</i> ..	223,142 <i>4·76</i> ..	248,066 <i>5·87</i> ..	281,771 <i>5·89</i> ..	325,636 <i>6·65</i> ..
United States..	2,148,570 <i>25·55</i> ..	1,336,144 <i>28·53</i> ..	1,058,718 <i>25·03</i> ..	1,086,034 <i>22·69</i> ..	1,077,191 <i>22·01</i> ..
Venezuela ...	86,603 <i>1·03</i> ..	58,394 <i>1·24</i> ..	71,366 <i>1·68</i> ..	45,279 <i>·95</i> ..	34,812 <i>·71</i> ..
France ...	972,413 <i>11·56</i> ..	140,897 <i>3·01</i> ..	272,719 <i>6·45</i> ..	340,786 <i>7·12</i> ..	195,368 <i>3·99</i> ..
Germany ...	...	...	72,637 <i>1·72</i> ..	91,118 <i>1·90</i> ..	110,922 <i>2·27</i> ..
O. Countries ...	556,757 <i>6·62</i> ..	473,149 <i>10·10</i> ..	249,409 <i>5·90</i> ..	277,620 <i>5·80</i> ..	252,987 <i>5·17</i> ..
Ships' Stores and Bunkers	363,375 <i>4·32</i> ..	167,674 <i>3·59</i> ..	147,300 <i>3·49</i> ..	147,284 <i>3·08</i> ..	175,646 <i>3·59</i> ..
Total ...	8,408,611	4,683,988	4,220,403	4,785,594	4,893,863

41. The United Kingdom holds first place as the Colony's largest purchaser with 46·09 per cent. of the total exports, the United States second place with 22·01 per cent. and Canada third with 9·52 per cent. The exports to the United Kingdom fell from 40·54 per cent. in 1921, to 38·86 per cent. in 1922, but rose to 45·98 in 1923 and 46·09 in 1924, while those to the United States fell from 28·53 per cent. in 1921 to 25·03 per cent. in 1922 and to 22·01 in 1924. The principal decrease is in exports to France.

TOTAL TRADE.

42. The total aggregate trade for the last five years, has been :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1920	9,498,166	9,416,545	18,914,711
1921	7,413,682	5,193,976	12,607,658
1922	5,217,407	4,841,930	10,059,337
1923	4,837,828	5,304,001	10,141,829
1924	4,772,111	5,378,031	10,150,142

SHIPPING.

43. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year at the several ports of entry was 4,023 with a tonnage of 4,013,236 a decrease of 453 vessels and an increase of 143,654 tons as compared with 1923. There were 2,013 arrivals of 2,029,165 tons and 2,010 departures of 2,014,017 tons, of which 65.18 per cent. was British, as summarised below :—

	Number.	Tons.		
British Steamers entered	480	1,295,229		
British Steamers cleared	479	1,276,734		
British Sailing Vessels				
entered	485	20,613		
Do. cleared	479	20,797		
			Number.	Tons.
Total British	...	...	1,923	2,613,373
Foreign Steamers entered	398	682,788		
Foreign Steamers cleared	399	681,921		
Foreign Sailing Vessels				
entered	650	30,535		
Do. cleared	653	31,619		
Total Foreign	...	...	2,100	1,429,863
Total number and tons	...	...	4,023	4,013,236

AGRICULTURE.

44. The staple products of the Colony are Cacao, Sugar (with its by-products molasses and rum) and Coconuts. The chief minor products exported are Coffee and Rubber.

The price of Cacao which had dropped dangerously low during 1922-23 improved slightly early in the year, and advanced markedly during the last three or four months. Unfortunately the new crop was late so but little advantage was gained.

Sugar and Coconuts realized better prices than in 1923. The export of Coffee showed a sudden increase.

45. *Cacao*.—The exports, value £1,165,816, were 56,402,755 lb.; about 11,000,000 lb. below 1923 and 6,000,000 below the average of the last five years. The reduction is doubtless due partly to neglect of cultivation entailed by the long prevailing low prices, and partly to unfavourable weather at the end of the year.

46. *Sugar*.—The sugar crop was 52,045 tons, which although still below the average, was about 10,000 tons above that of 1923. The exports were: Sugar 43,423 tons of the value £1,233,944; Molasses 1,505,881 gallons of the value £24,813; and rum 82,751 gallons of the value £18,063. The exports of molasses and rum were both much greater than in 1923.

The Department of Agriculture with the co-operation of the estates was able to keep the Mosaic disease well under control and, although not eradicated, the damage done was negligible. There was one of the periodical outbreaks of the Frog hopper pest in the second half of the year which it is estimated will reduce the crop for 1925 by about 5 per cent. Proposals have been made by a joint Committee of the Agricultural and Commercial bodies for further work on this pest.

In the hope of allaying the dissatisfaction of some Cane Farmers with the price paid for their canes, His Excellency the Governor appointed a standing Cane Prices Committee to check the figures on which the prices paid under the sliding scale are based.

47. Angostura Bitters are manufactured entirely in the Colony the exports being 44,569 gallons of the value of £44,569

48. *Coconuts*.—The cultivation of Coconuts continues to increase, but there was a drop in exports compared with the record year 1923. The crop is exported in three forms: whole nuts, copra and coconut oil. Taking 1 lb. of copra as equivalent

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

to 3 nuts, and 1 gallon of oil as 45 nuts, the exports represented 45,351,339 nuts, viz. :—

Coconuts	9,927,600	of the value	£ 50,833
Copra	11,180,358 lb.	do.	161,300
Coconut Oil	41,837 galls.	do.	7,631

Total value £222,764 compared with £191,583 in 1923.

49. *Rubber*.—Para (Hevea) rubber thrives but is dealt with seriously on only one or two estates.

The exports were 86,153 lb. (£5,920) compared with 60,699 lb. (£3,828) in 1923.

50. *Coffee*.—There was a marked increase in exports; 4,620 cwt. valued at £15,873 compared about 15 cwt. worth £53 in 1923.

51. *Limes*.—Owing largely to the discouragement caused by Witherip disease, there were no exports in 1922. In 1923 1,522 gallons of concentrated lime juice were exported, value £381, and in 1924 the corresponding figures were 7,505 and £1,015.

52. *Fruit*.—The increased interest in fruit was maintained and from the Nurseries of the Department of Agriculture there were sold sufficient budded and grafted plants of citrus fruits mangoes and avocados to add about 100 acres to the area under fruit.

On the initiative of the Chamber of Commerce a scheme was being drawn up at the close of the year for more extended trials with bananas. This is being handled by the Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

The Government Fruit Depôt started in 1923 has continued to do useful work.

53. *Food Supply*.—The Government Ground Provisions Depôt, opened in 1917, has continued to be of service to both producers and consumers. The branch depôt at Princes Town opened in 1923 was not found to be of service and has been closed. The depôt at Tobago remains to be of utility to the small proprietor, buying produce for export to Port-of-Spain.

54. *Tobago*.—The agricultural exports from Tobago to Port-of-Spain which in 1923 showed a slight rise of about £1,000 over 1922, increased again by nearly £15,000 to £91,133.

55. *Agricultural Credit Societies*.—The registration of one society had to be cancelled during the year and one new society was formed, leaving the number 31 as before. Some have continued to do excellent work: many, however, are passing through a difficult period owing to the burden of comparatively large loans taken up in years of high prices and difficult to repay during the succeeding depression.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

56. *Agricultural Bank and Agricultural Relief.*—The Agricultural Bank was established with a capital of £250,000. It commenced operations in lending money (a) as mortgage loans of not more than 50 per cent. of the value of the estate, repayable in 30 years under an amortization scheme, or (b) as crop advances repayable in one year with extension under certain conditions. The limit for loans is £2,100 and for advances £210. The rate of interest charged is 7 per cent.

It was considered desirable to continue the operations of the Agricultural Relief Committee, which was instituted in the period of acute depression. It makes advances to maintain the cultivation of estates, receiving the produce in return. The Agricultural Bank will be able to deal with suitable cases and others are being gradually wound up. No new advances were made during the year.

The Mortgages Extension Ordinance, which protects the owners of mortgaged properties from foreclosure provided interest is not more than six months overdue, was again extended until March 31, 1925.

57. *Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.*—The foundation stone of the new main building of the College was laid by His Excellency the Governor on January 15: it is expected to be opened in 1925. During the year the model sugar factory of the College was erected and equipped so that it can commence work with the crop of 1925. It will provide for the first time in the British Empire a thoroughly practical course of training in sugar technology. Facilities on the Experiment Stations, Farm and Cacao estate of the Department of Agriculture have been placed at the service of the College and close co-operation is maintained.

FORESTS.

58. The area of forest land in the Colony is 1,004 square miles of Crown Land (exclusive of some small areas of private land still under forest), of which about 800 square miles, or approximately 80 per cent. is under commercial timber. The area set aside as Forest Reserves is estimated at 338 square miles or nearly 17 per cent. of the total area of the Colony. In locating the Forest Reserves mainly the indirect utility of Forests was considered. This indirect utility consists of the influence of forest growth on climatic conditions, in maintaining the humidity of the air, in protecting the water supply and preventing erosion. In addition the Reserves provide breeding places for the bird and insect friends of Agriculture. For the most part the Reserves are situated in hilly and mountainous land, around the sources of

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

streams. Some are designed as wind breaks and others are situated on poor land unfit for agricultural cultivation. During the year a Committee appointed by the Governor considered a Report put forward by the Conservator of Forests and their main recommendations comprised a policy providing for a fuller utilisation of the native timbers of the Colony, and for their replacement by the regeneration of 900 acres per annum. The production of seasoned timber being the first step, this work has now been taken in hand by the Forest Department.

59. Within the Forest Reserves there are now 1,248 acres of plantations containing nearly 350,000 planted trees. Of these 93 per cent. are indigenous species including 153,000 Cedar (*Cedrela mexicana*, Roem.), 81,000 Poui (*Tecoma serratifolia*, Don), 64,000 Cypre (*Cordia gerascanthus*, Jacq.), 9,000 Balsam (*Copaifera officinalis*, Jacq.) and 5,000 of other species, while the remaining 11 per cent. are exotic species including 27,000 Teak (*Tectona grandis*, L.). The Teak was first introduced from Burma in 1913, some of the trees now being nearly 70 feet high and over 3 feet in girth; the older trees are producing fertile seed in sufficient quantities for supplying the new plantations annually made as well as limited demands from places outside the Colony.

60. No new plantations were formed in 1924, the policy being to concentrate on silvicultural research. Forty-five 1-acre experimental plots were formed during the year with a view to the acquisition of knowledge respecting the silvicultural characteristics of several of the more important species especially *Cedrela mexicana*, Roem. A further 37 acres underwent experimental improvement cleanings. These operations were all carried out within the Forest Reserves.

61. The cut of timber of all kinds from Crown Lands during 1924, is estimated at 1,809,950 cubic feet, of which about 1,080,000 cubic feet is estimated to consist of the softer woods largely used for firewood and corduroy. These figures do not include wood cut from private lands, the quantities of which, though comparatively small, cannot be calculated. About half of the total cut of timber was utilised by the Petroleum industry; 14,061 cubic feet of Cedar value £1,966 and 15,713 cubic feet of timber value £840 were exported. One wood cutting concession, covering 6,000 acres is held by a sawmill concern that turns out lumber for local use. Eleven concessions, covering about 35,000 acres, are held by petroleum companies and are operated for the benefit of that industry. About 8,000 licences, mostly for less than 10 trees each and covering areas distributed throughout the Colony, were granted during the year.

62. The Forest Revenue for 1924 amounted to £10,678 and Expenditure to £7,237 leaving a surplus of income over expenditure of £3,441. In addition, timber to the value of £692 was supplied to the Public Works Department. The total surplus for the past 15 years now amounts to £48,927.

MINES.

63. The chief mineral industries of the Colony are Petroleum, Asphalt and Manjak.

64. Coal, Iron, Graphite and Gypsum are known to occur in small quantities and traces of Gold have been found in the Northern Range, but none of these minerals have up to the present proved to be of economic importance.

65. In the year 1856 a company operating at La Brea in the vicinity of the celebrated Pitch Lake, refined Local Asphalt for lamp and lubricating oils. In 1867 the first well was drilled for oil at Aripere and from that year to 1908 attempts followed with varying success. In 1908 the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company drilled one of the first big wells, and in the year 1910 this Company exported the first steamship cargo of oil from the Island. The total production of petroleum in 1908 was approximately 6,000 gallons, in 1912, 15,300,000 gallons and in 1924, 141,981,420 gallons.

66. Practically all the Petroleum produced in Trinidad has been obtained from strata of Tertiary age. The Island is separated into two geological provinces by an East to West fault passing near Matura in the East to Port-of-Spain in the West. This fault divides the Metamorphic area of the Northern Range from the covering of Tertiary sediments to the South. The chief features of the Tertiary structure are: A synclinal basin between the Central and Northern Mountain Ranges: an anticlinal uplift along the South side of the Central range striking in an E.N.E.-W.S.W. direction from Pointe-à-Pierre to the Nariva Swamp; and an undulating basin area between San Fernando, Mayaro Point, Guayaguayare Bay and Iacos Point with an East-West strike containing several zones of anticlinal and synclinal folding. These numerous local folds are important in the concentration of Petroleum and it is upon this latter area that the majority of the producing fields are situated. The average Specific Gravity of the Crude oil from the different fields varies from 0.9553 to 0.8015.

67. Two shallow wells were drilled in Tobago in the year 1911 without success.

68. At the end of 1924 there were sixteen Companies actively engaged in the exploitation of oil in the Colony. These Companies, having a total share capital of more than £14,000,000, held nearly 200,000 acres of Crown lands under Licenses and Leases, of which approximately 167,000 acres were held under Mining Lease.

69. The principal oil producing Companies are the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited from Crown and private lands at Fyzabad, Barrackpore, &c.; the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, from Crown and private lands at Point Fortin, Parry Lands, &c.; the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, from their own lands at Brighton; the Petroleum Development Company, Limited, from Crown lands in the Ward of Oropuche; the Apex (Trinidad) Oilfields, Limited, from Crown and private lands at Fyzabad; the Trinidad Central Oilfields Limited, from Crown lands at Tabaquite; the Kern (Trinidad) Oilfields, Limited, from private lands at Guapo and the General Petroleum Co. of Trinidad, Ltd., from private lands at Oropuche. The area held by the Trinidad Central Oilfields Limited under Prospecting License was taken up under Mining Lease as from the 1st January, 1923. There are four refineries at work in the Colony situated at Pointe-à-Pierre, Point Fortin, Brighton and Tabaquite, and all grades of petroleum products from Petrol to Road Oil are produced.

70. Seventy-six wells with a total footage of 87,148 were drilled on Crown lands and thirty-four wells with a total footage of 58,653 were drilled on private lands during the year. The total number of wells drilled to date in the Colony is 928, of which 596 are on Crown lands and 332 on private lands. The total quantity of oil produced during 1924 was 141,981,420 gallons, an increase of 35,200,889 gallons over the production for 1923. Of this total, 87,019,415 gallons were from Crown lands or lands in which the oil rights belonged to the Crown. The Royalty paid by operating Companies on oil, won from Crown rights during the year 1924 amounted to £31,006 as against £24,845 in 1923, and wayleaves to £9,291 as against £7,366 in 1923. The quantity of crude oil and products exported amounted to 112,858,523 gallons valued at £1,367,160 as against 85,136,457 gallons valued at £1,233,137 in 1923. The exports in 1924 formed 30.2 per cent. of the total exports of the Colony and exceeded in value the exports of the four other staple products of the Colony, viz. :—

Cocoa	...	...	£1,165,816
Sugar, Molasses and Rum	...	...	1,276,850
Asphalt	...	...	385,945
Coconuts and Copra	...	...	215,133

The petroleum industry provides employment for nearly 2,000 men.

71. The quantity of Asphalt produced during 1924 was 223,867 tons having a value of approximately £139,917 and yielding a Revenue of £71,050 as compared with £72,448 in 1923. The quantity of stone quarried for roads and other purposes amounted to 198,089 tons valued at £25,399. The Asphalt and Quarrying industries provide employment for nearly 2,000 men.

LAND.

72. The lands of the Colony can be divided into two classes, viz.:—Those which are vested in the Crown and those which have already been alienated. Crown land is alienated by Royal Grant under the hand of the Governor and Seal of the Colony. The alienation of Crown lands can be again sub-divided into those sold under freehold title, for agricultural purposes, and those held from the Crown on leasehold for 199 or 999 years for building purposes in residential areas, such as Port-of-Spain St. Joseph and the new village of La Brea. Lands for agricultural purposes situate in the Counties of St. George, St. David, St. Andrew, Caroni and Tobago are sold on petition to the Governor as Intendant of Crown lands at the following rates: £2 10s. 0d. per acre in parcels not exceeding 20 acres: at £3 15s. 0d. per acre in parcels exceeding 20 acres, but not exceeding 100 acres: and in parcels exceeding 100 acres at not less than £5 per acre except in special instances and by permission of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Lands situate in the Counties of Victoria, St. Patrick, Nariva and Mayaro are sold on petition in parcels of not less than 5 acres and upwards at £1 per acre. These prices include the cost of Survey, Registration and Grant. No purchaser of agricultural land can be permitted to buy more than one parcel of land at a time nor can he submit a further petition for additional land, until at least half the land already purchased is brought under cultivation, except with the permission of the Intendant. Three hundred and forty Grants and Leases of an acreage of 1,913 of a total value of £8,336 were issued during the year. The Land Regulations of the 24th December, 1917, and the Order made by His Excellency the Intendant, which was published on the 29th November, 1923, prescribed the mode of application, conditions of sale, and price of Crown lands. The area of Crown land remaining unsold on the 31st December, 1923, was:—

Trinidad	...	...	569,406 acres.
Tobago	...	...	15,777 do.
			<u>585,183 acres,</u>

a great deal of which is in Forest Reserves or under License to Oil Companies.

73. Alienated land varies in value according to its situation and fertility, and the nature and condition of the cultivation. The following may be taken as average values of properly cultivated land:—

Land with Cocoa (full bearing)	...	£40 per acre.
Do. Coconuts (full bearing)	...	100 do.
Do. Canes	...	20 do.
Do. Other products or cleared for cultivation	...	£10 and 20 do.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

74. Land alienated from the Crown prior to 1902 is held under a Grant, extant or presumed, from either the Spanish or the British Crown according to the date of its alienation. In these older Grants the reservation vary considerably, and in the oldest British Grants the terms are conditional. The Grants issued since 1869 contain the following reservation:—

The right to resume for works of public utility and convenience 1/20 part of the land granted, except any land on which buildings have been erected, or which may be in use as gardens or otherwise for the more convenient occupation of such buildings.

From 1869 to 1889: All precious metals and coal were reserved to the Crown.

From 1889 to January, 1902: All precious metals or coals, together with Asphalt in certain areas, were reserved.

From January, 1902, to 1910: All precious metals, coal, oil and other minerals (except Asphalt) were reserved.

From 1910: All precious metals, coal, oil and other minerals are reserved.

A Crown Grant issued since January, 1902, is registered free of charge to the Grantee under the provisions of the Real Property Ordinance, a statute which embodies the principles of the Torrens system of Land registration, and the Grant becomes the Certificate of Title guaranteed by the Crown.

75. The mineral rights of the Crown can be leased or licensed as follows: Under Exploration and Prospecting Licenses or Mining Lease. A petition for an Exploration License should describe the land required, giving the approximate acreage and boundaries and be accompanied by a deposit of £5. The license is granted at the discretion of the Intendant and grants the holder the right to explore or examine the surface of any lands on which the Crown has oil and mineral rights. The license is usually for one or two years and can be an exclusive one; it is issued for the purpose of enabling the licensee to select an area over which to apply for a Prospecting License for which a fee of £5 is charged. On the issue of Exploration and Prospecting Licenses over Crown Lands the following fees shall be paid:—

For an Exploration License in respect of Crude Oil underlying Crown Lands.

For any area not over 250 acres		...		an annual fee of £		50.
For any area over	250 acres but not over	500 acres	1,000 acres	do.	£	80.
Do.	do.	500 do.	1,000 do.	do.	£	100.
Do.	do.	1,000 do.	2,000 do.	do.	£	150.
Do.	do.	2,000 do.	3,000 do.	do.	£	200.
Do.	do.	3,000 do.	5,000 do.	do.	£	250.
Do.	do.	5,000 do.	7,000 do.	do.	£	320.
Do.	do.	7,000 do.	10,000 do.	do.	£	400.
Do.	do.	10,000 do.	14,000 do.	do.	£	550.
Do.	do.	14,000 do.	20,000 do.	do.	£	700.
Do.	do.	20,000 do.	30,000 do.	do.	£	900.
Do.	do.	30,000 do.	50,000 do.	do.	£	1,000.
Do.	do.	50,000 do.	100,000 do.	do.	£	1,250.

All such fees shall be payable in advance.

For an Exploration License in respect of other minerals no charge shall be made.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

For a Prospecting License in respect of Crude Oil underlying Crown Lands or over alienated lands with the oil and other mineral rights reserved to the Crown which may if the petitioner so desires include other bituminous minerals (except coal) and natural gas, without additional fee, that is to say:—

For any area not over 250 acres				...	an annual fee of £			
For any area over	250 acres but not over	500 acres	do.	£	100.			
Do.	do.	500 do.	do.	1,000 do.	do.	£	200.	
Do.	do.	1,000 do.	do.	2,000 do.	do.	£	300.	
Do.	do.	2,000 do.	do.	3,000 do.	do.	£	400.	
Do.	do.	3,000 do.	do.	5,000 do.	do.	£	500.	
Do.	do.	5,000 do.	do.	7,000 do.	do.	£	640.	
Do.	do.	7,000 do.	do.	10,000 do.	do.	£	800.	
Do.	do.	10,000 do.	do.	14,000 do.	do.	£	1,100.	
Do.	do.	14,000 do.	do.	20,000 do.	do.	£	1,400.	
Do.	do.	20,000 do.	do.	30,000 do.	do.	£	1,800.	
Do.	do.	30,000 do.	do.	50,000 do.	do.	£	2,000.	
Do.	do.	50,000 do.	do.	100,000 do.	do.	£	2,500.	

For a Prospecting Licence in respect of other minerals, a fee at the rate of 1/- per acre of the land included in the license shall be paid.

All such fees shall be payable in advance.

The holder of a Prospecting License is entitled to enter upon the land named in the license for such period as the Governor may deem desirable, which period shall not exceed two years with exclusive power to search in any part of it for the product or products named, to set up works, sink wells and export the produce subject, however, to the payment of such rates and duties as may be imposed by law upon such produce. If necessary, and provided the Governor considers the licensee has carried out the terms of his contract, the license may be extended for a period not exceeding a further two years. At the end or sooner determination of the period of the Prospecting License a Mining Lease may be granted over so much of the land held under License as the Governor may consider necessary for the purpose of erection of works, buildings, &c., for the continuation of the operations, at an annual rent to be agreed upon, and the licensee also has the privilege of leasing the crude oil or minerals underlying or upon such portion of the lands which has been held under the license as the licensee may select for a term of 21 years; this period may be extended, subject to such payment by way of rent or royalty as the Governor may approve. The lands held under Mining Lease must be first surveyed and all expenses of surveys and fees of grant or registration must be paid by the applicant together with a fee of £5 for expenses in connection with the lease.

76. The number of applications received for licenses to explore and prospect for oil during 1924 was 13.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

LEGISLATION.

77. Twenty-eight Ordinances were passed during the year 1924.

78. The following are the more important which are likely to be of interest outside the Colony :-

No. 2. The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance fixes the rate of tax on incomes over £250 per annum of persons other than companies and allows residents in the Colony and non-resident British subjects deductions in respect of wife, children and life insurance.

No. 12. The Agricultural Bank Ordinance. This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a bank for the purpose of fostering and encouraging agriculture in the Colony. The Bank is to be administered by a Board of five members appointed by the Governor. The funds of the Bank will be the proceeds of loans raised by the Government, but pending the raising of a loan, the Treasurer may be authorized to make advances to the Bank. The Board may make loans on first mortgage on agricultural lands, not exceeding £2,000 in any one case. The loans are repayable by equal annual or semi-annual instalments sufficient to cover the interest and to provide for repayment within a definite period, probably thirty years. Temporary advances not exceeding two-thirds of the value of the crop, and not in any case exceeding £1,000, may be made for labour and other crop expenses and for maintenance and improvement. Such advances will bear interest and be repayable on 30th June next following the date of the advance. Any owner who applies a loan or advance to purposes other than those authorized by the Ordinance or disposes of crops or produce in respect of which an advance has been made except in manner directed by the Board, is liable to a fine of £100 or imprisonment for six months.

The Governor in Executive Council is empowered to make regulations for all matters necessary for regulating the administration of the Bank and carrying out the provisions of the Ordinance.

No. 14. The Mortgages Extension (Continuance) Ordinance provides that the moratorium declared by Ordinance 1-1922 shall continue until the 31st March, 1925, and then expire.

- No. 18.* The Cinematograph (Amendment) Ordinance provides that posters advertising cinematograph films shall be subject to the same censorship as films.
- No. 19.* The Patents Ordinance, provides for the local protection of patents granted in the United Kingdom on registration in the Colony.
- No. 23.* The Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Ordinance, 1924, extends the definition of wireless telegraphy to include wireless telephony.

EDUCATION.

79. At the close of the year under review there were 292 Elementary and Intermediate Schools in the Colony, 48 being Government and 244 Assisted Schools. There were 256 schools in Trinidad and 36 in Tobago. Of the 244 Assisted Schools, 95 were Roman Catholic, 56 Church of England, 69 Canadian Presbyterian Mission, 12 Wesleyan, 11 Moravian and 1 Baptist. There were 2 Government and 4 Assisted Intermediate Schools.

80. The number of pupils on the roll in December, 1924, was 56,985 of whom 31,784 were boys and 25,111 were girls. The average daily attendance was 35,012, or 61.4 per cent. of the number on roll. As compared with the previous year there is a decrease of 970 on the roll or 1.6 per cent., and of 637 in average attendance or 1.8 per cent. There was an increase in average attendance of .01 per cent. in Government Schools and a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in Assisted Schools. The number of teachers and pupil teachers employed was 1,599 (1,634 in 1923).

81. The total expenditure on education during the year 1924, deducting the amount received in school and examination fees was £112,899 9s. 0d. as compared with £128,591 11s. 6d. in 1923. 123 candidates took the competitive examination for College Exhibitions and 35 the examination for Handicraft Exhibitions awarded by the Board of Education. 9 College and 2 Handicraft Exhibitioners were nominated, bringing up to 52 the total number of exhibitioners being educated in Secondary Schools. In December, 1924 there were 36 Teaching Bursars at the Queen's Royal College and Affiliated Schools, 9 students at the Assisted Hostels at Government expense and 4 students at the Government Training College. There were 321 candidates at the examination for Teachers' Certificates, of whom 153 passed their prescribed examinations. 29 of the candidates were from the Training Colleges and Training Hostels, of whom 19 passed.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

82. The following Colleges afford facilities for the higher education of boys:—The Queen's Royal College and its affiliated institutions, the St. Mary's College in Port-of-Spain, and the Naparima College in San Fernando. The St. Joseph Convent and the Bishop's High School in Port-of-Spain which are also affiliated to the Queen's Royal College, provide similar education for girls. The Education Board in 1924 agreed to the affiliation of a third school for girls, the Naparima Girls' High School, San Fernando, with effect from January, 1925. The number of pupils on roll at 31st December was:—

Queen's Royal College	...	...	209
St. Mary's College	...	...	408
Naparima College	...	...	107
St. Joseph's Convent School	...	...	421
Bishop's High School	...	...	93
Total	...	...	<u>1,238</u>

83. The Queen's Royal College and its affiliated Colleges are examined annually in July. The Middle Forms are examined by the Cambridge University Examinations Syndicate. The Upper Sixth Form is examined by the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board, being entered for the Higher Certificate Examination while the pupils of the Lower Sixth and Fifth Forms are entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations, taking the School Certificate and the Junior Examinations respectively.

84. Three hundred and five pupils of the Middle Forms of the Queen's Royal College and affiliated Schools sat for the examination conducted by the Cambridge University Examinations Syndicate in July, 1924. Two hundred and thirty pupils sat for the School Certificate and Junior Local Examinations, while thirty-one candidates sat for the Higher Certificate Examinations of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board. One hundred and fifty-eight candidates passed the School Certificate and Junior Local Examinations, forty-five gaining Honours, while forty-seven distinctions in various subjects were gained. Twenty Higher Certificates were gained. Two Scholarships, not exceeding in value £700 each, tenable at a University in the British Empire, or other Scientific or Technical Institutions to be approved by the Education Board, were awarded on the result of the Higher Certificate Examination. One of these Scholarships was awarded on the subjects of Group IV (Science) for the purpose of enabling the successful candidate to study the Science of Agriculture. Four "House Scholarships" of the annual value of £15 each were awarded on the results of the Cambridge Junior Local Examination.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

85. The Technical Classes of the Board of Industrial Training shewed another year of continued growth during 1924, when the weekly average attendance rose to 222 with a total number of 8,894 hours as against an average of 159 attendances and a total number of 6,159 hours in 1923. There were 164 students in attendance distributed among the following classes:—

Workshop Arithmetic	...	...	95
Workshop Drawing	...	...	93
Workshop Practice	...	...	32
Mechanics	...	...	77
Mathematics	...	...	52
Typography	...	...	32
Building Construction	...	...	26
Bookbinding	...	...	17

Four grades—Preliminary, Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced—are necessary in Workshop Arithmetic and Drawing, while the other subjects are organised in two or three grades as required. The total expenditure on the classes for the year, including instructors' fees, equipment, lighting, &c., was £433 14s. 1d., which works out at just over 11½d. for each hour of instruction. The students have continued to show interest and keenness in their work and it has been arranged that they shall be examined intermediately and finally by the City and Guilds of London Institute. Under the new scheme there will be, therefore, three classes of craftsmen—

- (1) Those who have served an apprenticeship but have passed no test of theoretical knowledge ;
- (2) those who have completed their five years' training and have passed the Intermediate Examination, showing they have *some* knowledge as well as practical ability ;
- (3) those with training and who possess the certificate of the London City and Guilds' Institute having passed an examination equivalent to that of the English apprentice.

86. The Board is also entrusted with the administration of an institution for the Blind towards which a grant of £250 was made by the Government, and voluntary public subscriptions to the amount of £277 10s. 0½d. were collected during the year. The Government also grants £150 for special work in the education and maintenance of destitute blind children. Instruction is given in Braille Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, while men are taught Basket-making and Chair-caning and women Knitting and Sewing. This institution deals with some forty to fifty blind people and is a residential one for the

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

education, maintenance and training of blind children and a day institution for the purposes of an adult school and affording a mid-day meal and a small wage for work done to the blind of Port-of-Spain and its environs who are no longer children. It is at present the only blind institution in the British West Indies and during the year celebrated its tenth anniversary.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

(a)—RAILWAYS.

87. The Trinidad Government Railway now consists (1) of the Port-of-Spain-Arima-Sangre Grande line running 29 miles along the southern foot of the northern range of hills to within eight miles of the eastern coast; (2) the San Fernando-Siparia line, 44 miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-Arima-Sangre Grande line at St. Joseph (6½ miles from Port-of-Spain) and following roughly the western coast of the Colony, total distance Port-of-Spain to Siparia, 51 miles; (3) the Caparo Valley line, 28½ miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-San Fernando-Siparia line at Jerningham Junction (14½ miles from Port-of-Spain), and running in a generally south-eastern direction, total distance from Port-of-Spain 43 miles; (4) the Guaracara line, 10 miles, leaving the Port-of-Spain-San Fernando-Siparia line at Marabella Junction (33 miles from Port-of-Spain) and running in an easterly direction to Princes Town, total distance from Port-of-Spain, 43 miles, and (5) the Cipero Tramway, another route from Corinth, 38 miles from Port-of-Spain to Princes Town, length with branches, 13 miles. The line is double line between Port-of-Spain and St. Joseph Station (6½ miles), the remainder of the line is single line. The total length of the system is 123 miles, of which about 8 miles are leased to other interests. The Railway is of standard (4'-8½") gauge.

88. The railways afford communication for passengers over all lines three times a day, and goods trains generally, once a day. A suburban service of trains is run between Port-of-Spain and Arima, giving a service of 13 trains daily each way.

89. In connection with the railway, a steamer makes two trips a week between Port-of-Spain, San Fernando and La Brea (near the celebrated Pitch Lake), the Oilfields, Cedros, and to the south-western point of the Island at Icaos, stopping at eight intermediate places along the coast, and carrying passengers and goods. Another steamer makes five trips a week each way between Port-of-Spain and the Bocas entrance to the Gulf, including the Islands to the West of Port-of-Spain

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

90. The railway stations are in telegraphic or telephonic communication one with the other on all parts of the system, and there is a telephone line south-west of San Fernando along the steamer route, giving a total length of 127 miles of telegraph and about 116 miles of telephone lines. There is also a service telephone along the Cipero Section between San Fernando and Princes Town.

(b)—CABLE.

91. Communication by cable with the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and other parts of the world is maintained by the Pacific Cable Board and the West India and Panama Telegraph Company.

92. The cable operated by the Pacific Cable Board was opened to traffic from this Colony on the 1st December. The cable after leaving Trinidad touches at Barbados and runs from thence to Turks Island. There is also a branch line from Barbados to Georgetown, British Guiana.

93. Connection north of Turks Island to North America and Europe is made through the cables of the Direct West India Cable and the Halifax-Bermuda cable, touching at Bermuda and Halifax. At Halifax cablegrams for Europe are transferred to the Imperial and Commercial cables, and Canadian and United States traffic to the C.P.R. Telegraphs which connects with the Commercial Cable Company and the Postal Telegraph Company.

94. Communication between Barbados and the islands of Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and St. Kitts is maintained by means of wireless stations. A station is also under construction at Montserrat. These stations are equipped with a continuous wave for point to point working, and with interrupted continuous wave for working ship stations on 600 metres. Montserrat will have spark equipment only for communicating with the other islands of the Leeward Group.

95. The West India and Panama Telegraph Company, until recently the only Company operating in the Colony, has a duplicate cable system. Both cables on leaving Trinidad touch at Grenada where they separate until they meet again at St. Lucia, Porto Rico, Jamaica and terminate at Santiago, Cuba, where the Company hand over their traffic to the Cuba Submarine Company who in turn at Havana hand over to the Western Union Telegraph Company which has a duplicate cable system to New York.

96. The shorter and more direct cable between Trinidad and Santiago, Cuba, touches at the Island of St. Croix (with a branch line to St. Thomas).

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

97. The other cable on leaving Grenada serves St. Vincent, (with a branch duplicate line to Barbados) St. Lucia, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Thomas and meets its sister cable at Porto Rico and Jamaica, and they both terminate at Santiago, Cuba.

98. The Company's cables connect with the French Cable Company's line at Guadeloupe and Porto Rico, which proceeds to New York *via* Hayti. In addition their lines connect with the Direct West Indian Cable Company's (called the all-British route) Line at Jamaica, which proceeds from there to Bermuda, Halifax and the United Kingdom.

99. Four Wireless stations were in operation during 1924, namely, stations at Port-of-Spain, North Post, Tobago and Pointe Baleine. The North Post Station dealt exclusively with ship and Tobago traffic, while communication with British Guiana, St. Martin and Venezuela was carried out by Port-of-Spain. The Pointe Baleine Station, situated on the island of Gasparee and operated by the Pointe Baleine Hotel is of small power and serves the purpose of linking the Gulf Islands with Port-of-Spain.

(c)—STEAMSHIP.

100. The following steamship lines call regularly at Trinidad:—

Harrison Line, Leyland Line, Royal Netherlands West India Mail, Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, La Veloce (Navigazione Italiana), Transatlantica Italiana, Horn Line, Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Canadian Pacific, Trinidad Line (Furness Withy & Co., Ltd.), Prince Line, Lamport and Holt, Colombian Steamship Line, Aluminum Line, Cia. Anónima Venezolana de Navigacion and the Nourse Line (from India). Mails are regularly forwarded and received by these steamers. In addition a number of Steamers call to load cargoes of petroleum, or to take in coal or oil fuel for bunker purposes.

101. There is a weekly Coastal Steamship Service between Trinidad and Tobago by the Steamer *Belize*, going every alternate week by the northern and southern routes. This service was previously run by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, but in March, 1923, the Government purchased the s.s. *Belize*, and is running the service through local Agents.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

102. The itinerary is as follows:—

Northern Route.—Leaves Port-of-Spain going north on Monday at 9 p.m., and calling at the following shipping places in Trinidad, viz.: Blanchisseuse, Matelot, Grande Rivière, and Toco, arriving at Scarborough, Tobago, on Tuesday afternoon; thence goes East around Tobago calling at the following shipping places, viz., Hillsborough, Pembroke, Roxborough, King's Bay, Speyside, Man-o'-War Bay, Parlatuvier, Castara, Plymouth, Mt. Irvine* and Milford,* arriving at Scarborough on Thursday, leaving the same day at 8 p.m. for Trinidad calling at Toco and thence to Port-of-Spain direct, arriving on Friday morning.

* The steamer calls at Mt. Irvine and Milford once a month alternately.

Southern Route.—Leaves Port-of-Spain going south on Monday at 6 p.m., calling at the following shipping places in Trinidad, viz.: Moruga, Guayaguayare, St. Margaret's, St. Ann's and St. Joseph, thence direct to Scarborough, Tobago, arriving there on Thursday morning and leaves at noon for Toco, Grande Rivière, Matelot and Blanchisseuse, arriving at Port-of-Spain on Friday morning.

(d)—ROADS.

103. The roads of the Colony are divided into main and local roads. The former and 50 per cent. of the latter are under the control of the Director of Public Works. The other local roads are under Local Road Boards. The main roads with a total mileage of 1,087·04 miles—made up of 555·58 miles metal, 298·64 miles gravel or burnt clay, 80·90 miles natural soil cart roads, and 151·92 miles bridle road—were maintained at a cost of £119,394 4s. 7½d. or at an average rate of £109·83 per mile; and the local roads, in districts where there are no Local Road Boards, comprising 662·92 miles—made up of 34·72 miles metal, 173·87 miles gravel or burnt clay and 196·13 miles natural soil cart road and 258·20 miles bridle road—at a cost of £26,867 14s. 0½d. or at an average rate of £40·52 per mile. In addition there are several miles of Crown Traces in charge of the Wardens who are provided with funds to maintain them merely as rights of way.

104. The road system is being extended gradually but the war interfered seriously with the progress of the work. In 1910 a road scheme to cost £588,663 increased in 1917 to £592,829 was adopted and it provided for completion of the

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 1924.

works estimated for within 10 years from 1st April, 1911. The outbreak of war in 1914 however completely upset the finance of the scheme owing to the difficulty of raising the loan which was necessary to cover a proportion of the cost. According to the arranged programme £530,000 should have been expended by 1919, but only a sum of £298,000 was available. This scheme has since been revised and extended. Under the revised scheme the expenditure provided for amounts to £963,614, but of this only £160,000 was recommended to be expended immediately from Loan funds. The Loan allocation has been exhausted and funds from General Revenue are not now available. In consequence work under the road scheme is temporarily at a standstill.

(e) POSTAL.

105. There is a General Post Office at Port-of-Spain, with branch offices at San Fernando and Tobago and 109 out offices throughout the Colony.

106. The rates of postage are as follows, per 1 oz. letter:—

Within the Colony	...	...	1½d.
To United Kingdom, British Possessions and United States	...	...	2d.
To other places for 1st oz.	3d.	and for each additional ounce	1½d.

107. The Government Savings Bank is a branch of the Post Office Department and has its Head Office in Port-of-Spain. In addition Savings Bank facilities are provided at 31 Post Offices throughout the Colony. The number of depositors at the end of 1924 totalled 28,309 with deposits amounting to £364,360 standing to their credit:

108. Maps of Trinidad and Tobago are attached.

T. A. V. BEST,
Colonial Secretary.

TRINIDAD,
21st May, 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

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

ANNUAL.

No.	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Year.</i>
1234	Mauritius	1923
1235	Straits Settlements	"
1236	Seychelles	"
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923-1924
1238	State of Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	"
1240	St. Lucia	"
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	"
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	"
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923-1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924
1249	Gambia	"
1250	State of Brunei	"
1251	St. Helena	"
1252	Ashanti	1923-1924
1253	Cyprus	1924
1254	Zanzibar	"
1255	Gold Coast.. .. .	1923-1924
1256	Federated Malay States	1924
1257	Nyasaland	"
1258	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
1259	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	<i>Colony, etc.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute.. .. .	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent.. .. .	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General.. .. .	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.