

Appendix F.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE YEAR 1912.

1.—ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

The number of Actions instituted in this division of the Court during the year 1912 was 224, and there were 480 pending at the commencement of that year as against 200 and 419 respectively in 1911. 147 were disposed of during the year, 52 being settled or withdrawn before trial, leaving a balance of 557 undisposed of, as against 139, 50 and 480 respectively in 1911.

There was no interim injunction granted during the year.

The total amount involved was \$2,496,284, not including a claim for £2,983. 7s. 6d., as against \$1,509,463 in 1911.

The debts and damages recovered amounted to \$584,537 as against \$442,047 in 1911.

The total fees collected amounted to \$15,333 as against \$12,710 in 1911.

Tables setting out in detail the figures contained in this and the following paragraphs are printed at pages (O. 2), (O. 3), (O. 4) and (Y. 3) and (Y. 4) of the Blue Book for the year 1911.

2.—SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

The number of Actions instituted during the year was 2,037 and 230 were brought forward from 1911, as against 1,868 and 177 respectively in 1911, and were disposed of as follows:—Settled or Withdrawn 875, Judgment for the Plaintiff 796, Judgment for the Defendant 50, Non Suited 6, Struck out, Dismissed and Lapsed Writs (not served) 219, Struck out of the Cause Book as having been standing over for more than a year 123, leaving 198 as pending, as against 2,045, 621, 819, 48, 15, 224, 88 and 230 respectively in 1911.

The total amount involved was \$336,378 and the debts and damages recovered amounted to \$139,484 as against \$338,240 and \$140,874 respectively in 1911.

The total amount of fees collected amounts to \$8,895 as against \$8,614 in 1911.

The number of Distress Warrants for Rent issued was 575 representing aggregate unpaid Rents amounting to \$42,525 of which the aggregate sum of \$16,466 was recovered, as against 617, \$36,883 and \$11,618 respectively in 1911.

416 Warrants were withdrawn on settlement between the parties, as against 403 in 1911.

The total fees collected amounted to \$2,849 as against \$2,973 in 1911.

3.—CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

There were 61 cases and 104 persons committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions, as against 100 and 141 respectively in 1911.

The number of persons actually indicted was 104 of whom 76 were convicted and 27 were acquitted. Against 1 person the case was abandoned. In 1911 the figures were respectively 134, 94 and 40.

4.—APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

There were 8 Appeals instituted during the year, *viz.* :—

From the decision of the Chief Justice,	6	as against	6	in 1911.
" " " Puisne Judge,	1	" " "	7	"
" " " Magistrate,	1	" " "	0	"
	8		13	
	==		==	

of which the following were disposed of, *viz.* :—

From the Chief Justice,	2	as against	4	in 1911.
" Puisne Judge,	0	" " "	4	"
" Magistrate,	1	" " "	0	"
	3		8	
	

No leave to appeal to the Privy Council was granted but two judgments by the Privy Council were received during the year, *i.e.*, in Original Jurisdiction Actions No. 73 of 1904, Imperial Bank of China and Leung Shiu Kong, and No. 200 of 1908, Thomas Alexander Mitchell *v.* John Lemm. In the former action the appeal by the Imperial Bank was dismissed with costs and in the latter the appeal by John Lemm was allowed with costs.

5.—ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

There were 2 actions instituted and 2 actions were tried during the year. The case that was pending since 1908, is still pending.

No vessel was arrested.

The total fees collected amounted to \$77.25 as against \$80 in 1911.

6.—BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

There were 38 Petitions filed, 18 being Creditors' Petitions, and 20 being Petitions by the Debtors themselves. The figures for 1911 were respectively 36, 20 and 16.

The number of Receiving Orders made was 29, being 11 on Creditors' Petitions, and 18 on Debtors' Petitions; 3 Administration Orders were made. The figures for 1911 were respectively 23, 12 and 11 and 2 Administration Orders.

The number of Public Examinations held was 17 as against 15 in 1911.

There were 22 Adjudications. The figures in 1911 were 16 Adjudications, and 2 Compositions.

There were no Discharges granted.

The aggregate amount of estimated Assets, in case where Receiving Orders were made and were not rescinded, was \$216,856 and estimated Liabilities \$659,654 as against \$109,738 and \$275,321 respectively in 1911.

The fees collected amounted to \$1,854 as against \$2,332 in 1911 and the Official Receiver's Commission as Trustee where no Trustee had been appointed by the Creditors to \$4,945 as against \$14,435 in 1911.

7.—PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION.

There were 231 Grants made by the Court, being :—

Probate,.....	88
Letters of Administration, ..	143
	<hr/>
	231
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The figures in 1911 were respectively 91 and 126.

The aggregate value of the Estates was \$6,213,955 as against \$3,816,534 in 1911.

Probate Duties amounted to \$356,185. Court Fees amounted to \$10,600 and Official Administrator's Commission to \$1,914. The figures in 1911 were respectively \$197,981, \$8,649, and \$2,949.

There were 53 Estates vested in or administered by the Official Administrator during the year, representing an aggregate value of \$39,279. The figures for 1911 were respectively 38 and \$58,700.

22 Estates were wound up during the year, representing an aggregate value of \$25,785 as against 38 in 1911 representing \$85,687.

8.—OFFICIAL TRUSTS.

The total number of Trust Estates in the hands of the Official Trustee at the end of 1912 was 27 and the aggregate amount of Trust Funds \$116,085 as against 27 Estates aggregating \$116,085 in 1911 and certain house property.

The amount of Commission collected was \$226 as against \$428 in 1911.

9.—REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES.

The total number of Companies registered from the commencement of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, was 760 with an aggregate capital of \$363,083,603.

Of the 760 companies on the Register 140 are defunct, 2 were not floated, 155 were wound up and 135 were in the course of being wound up, leaving 308 on the Register at the end of 1912 representing an aggregate capital of \$338,254,343.

The figures in 1911 were respectively 724, \$348,047,200, 121, 2, 142, 114, 345 and \$326,445,192.

There were 36 companies registered in 1912 as compared with 39 in 1911 the revenue from which was:—

Registration Fees,	\$4,826	as against	\$5,806	in 1911.
Filing and other Fees,...	4,475	„	3,474	„
	<u>\$9,301</u>		<u>\$9,280</u>	

The number of licences granted under section 35 of "The Companies Ordinance 1911" (No. 58 of 1911) enabling Companies operating outside the Colony to keep local registers of members was 146.

The Fees collected in respect of such licences amounted to \$34,581.

10.—FEES AND COMMISSION.

The total sums collected during the year by way of Fees and Commission amounted to \$60,544 as against \$48,342 in the previous year.

Sir Francis Taylor Piggott retired from the post of Chief Justice on the 30th April and was succeeded by the Honourable Mr. (now Sir) William Rees Davies, Attorney General, on the 1st of May.

Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, Deputy Registrar and Appraiser, acted as 2nd Police Magistrate for the whole of last year and his duties were performed by Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, Official Receiver, in addition to his other duties until 20th November when he was appointed to act as Assistant Colonial Secretary. Mr. S. B. B. McElderry, Passed Cadet, succeeded Mr. Fletcher in the acting appointment.

I was appointed to act for Mr. Fletcher as Official Receiver and Registrar of Trade Marks in addition to my other duties, on the 20th November.

Mr. I. U. Mirza, 2nd Grade Clerk and Clerk to the Puisne Judge, returned from 6 months' leave of absence on the 9th February.

Mr. N. G. Nolan, Chief Interpreter, proceeded on 12 months' leave of absence on the 2nd of April. Mr. Wong Kwong Tin, 2nd Interpreter, was appointed to act as Chief Interpreter, Mr. A. J. Mackie, 3rd Interpreter, who returned from 9 months' leave of absence on the 21st of June, was appointed to act as 2nd Interpreter and Mr. Leung Tun Sheung, Sergeant Interpreter, was appointed to act as 3rd Interpreter.

On the retirement of Mr. F. Howell, First Bailiff, on the 31st December, 1911, the following appointments were made:—Mr. J. Leonard, 2nd Bailiff, to be First Bailiff, Mr. A. W. Hill, Clerk and Usher, to be 2nd Bailiff, and Mr. T. F. O'Sullivan, a Constable in the Police Force, to be Clerk and Usher.

HUGH A. NISBET,
Registrar.

28th February, 1913.

Table showing total number of Cases dealt with in, and Expenditure and Revenue of the Supreme Court.

(From 1903 to 1912.)

Year.	Total Number of Cases dealt with.	Expenditure.			Revenue.			Percentage of Revenue to Expenditure.
		Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	
1903,	963	75,744.52	4,926.87	...	41,738.83	1,483.41	...	55.27
1904,	1,038	58,681.03	...	16,863.49	49,108.37	7,349.54	...	83.68
1905,	1,166	66,711.72	8,030.69	...	61,984.69	12,876.32	...	92.91
1906,	1,039	69,667.23	2,955.51	...	52,904.11	...	9,080.58	75.93
1907,	1,031	69,592.75	...	74.48	56,156.78	3,252.67	...	80.69
1908,	1,014	87,270.40	17,677.65	...	46,592.80	...	9,563.98	53.38
1909,	1,030	89,209.17	1,938.77	...	45,861.55	...	731.25	51.40
1910,	1,259	91,789.15	2,579.98	...	65,527.80	19,666.25	...	71.38
1911,	1,963	86,702.10	...	5,087.05	*48,342.49	...	17,185.31	55.75
1912,	1,263	88,346.36	1,644.26	...	*60,544.50	12,201.81	...	68.53

* Not including amounts paid direct to Treasury for Fees in respect of licences to keep Local Registers issued by the Registrar of Companies under the Companies Ordinance, 1911.