

## Appendix I.

### REPORT ON THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE YEAR 1912.

#### A.—NORTHERN DISTRICT.

##### I.—STAFF.

Mr. G. N. Orme acted as District Officer throughout the year.

Mr. S. B. B. McElderry acted as Assistant District Officer from January 1st to November 20th, and Mr. N. L. Smith from that date until the end of the year.

##### II.—POLICE.

The early part of 1912 brought with it a revival of piracies on our northern borders. The fighting in the neighbouring Chinese districts had led to considerable importation of arms and to the enlistment of many soldiers who on the cessation of the disturbance were disbanded but not disarmed; and as money and booty became scarce in their own country, they were naturally drawn, by the comparative opulence of the New Territories, into making some determined raids upon the nearest villages. The state of affairs became so serious that towards the end of June a request for military assistance was made and readily granted. Indian troops were sent out to camp at convenient points and patrol the border, and from that time the border robberies entirely ceased. In the neighbouring Chinese Territory robberies continued for 2 months more, until the looting of Lo Fong Customs Station, and of some shops in Sham Chun, led to more vigorous measures and the despatch of 300 troops from Canton to Sham Chun. Shortly afterwards four pirates before being shot in Sham Chun admitted that they had been concerned in several of the robberies across our border.

The troops remained on the border until October, when they moved into their usual winter camps at points more suitable for manœuvres.

The Police Force was increased by some 12 per cent. during the year, and arrangements made for a substantial increase in 1913. Measures were taken to discover and deal with the bad characters remaining in the Territory, and at the end of the year there were probably very few left. There was an increased demand by householders for permits to possess arms, and 345 were issued, as compared with 287 in 1911.

##### III.—MAGISTRACY.

The following table gives statistics of Magistracy work during the last three years. The diminution in number of warrants is due chiefly to the cessation of opium smuggling, and of search warrants on that account. In the civil court, summons fees of \$1 were charged from January 1st, 1912, in the case of all claims of \$5 and over.

A.—*Criminal.*

	1910.	1911.	1912.
Cases heard, ... ..	467	332	396
Persons brought before the Magistrate on various charges, ... ..	640	558	710
Persons convicted, ... ..	399	278	479
Persons discharged, ... ..	141	126	172
Persons imprisoned, ... ..	139	85	123
Fines, ... ..	\$2,627.05	\$1,829.92	\$2,477.26
Warrants, ... ..	292	157	53

B.—*Civil (Small Debts).*

Cases, ... ..	240	205	193
Writs of Execution, .. ..	35	75	86
Summons Fees, ... ..	Nil.	Nil.	\$179.00

IV.—LAND OFFICE.

There was an increase in private land transactions, especially in the Fan Ling neighbourhood, and 4,036 deeds were registered, bringing in fees to the amount of \$1,966.20. The following table shows the number of deeds registered annually since the Land Ordinance of 1905: a charge was made for registration from March, 1911.

	No. of Deeds.	Fees.
1905, ... ..	1,794	
1906, ... ..	1,407	
1907, ... ..	2,160	
1908, ... ..	2,384	
1909, ... ..	2,544	
1910, ... ..	3,885	
1911, ... ..	3,590	\$1,414.70
1912, ... ..	4,036	1,966.20

There was also a considerable increase in the amount of Crown Land disposed of; \$5,786.40 being realised in premia with Crown rent of \$388.83 against \$4,649 with Crown rent of \$315.61 in 1911.

On the other hand resumptions and surrenders were responsible for the abandonment of 21.07 acres carrying Crown rent of \$89.91, as against 12.24 acres in 1911 with Crown rent of \$41.58. This increase was mainly due to the increase in resumptions for public roads.

V.—REVENUE.

The revenue for the year is set out in Table E. The increase is considerably larger than appears from the figures, since Tsun Wan was transferred to the Southern District on May 1st, and with it some \$3,500 of revenue formerly collected in this office.

The collection of Crown Rent was carried out without friction, and only 17 warrants were executed on account of non-payment, as against 144 in 1909, 99 in 1910, and 20 in 1911.

The revenue from sales of Crown Land showed a substantial increase: but the larger revenue from forestry is due only to the payment of arrears in the early part of 1912.

#### VI.—OPIUM.

Owing to the stricter measures taken by the Chinese authorities against opium smoking, the smuggling of opium into British Territory has almost ceased, and the offences against the Opium Ordinance only numbered 22.

The price of Patua opium was raised to \$5.00 and that of Malwa to \$3.50 by the end of the year.

#### VII.—LIQUOR.

The total revenue from liquor duties for the Northern District was \$13,778 86, of which \$5,159.16 was collected through this office, and the rest paid direct to Hongkong.

The falling off under this head is due chiefly to the entry of Tsün Wàn and part of Sai Kung under the Southern District instead of the Northern.

#### VIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The necessary land was resumed for the Au Tau-San Tin Section of the Castle Peak-Sha Tau Kck road, and for the branch road from Au Tau to Kam Tin; and work on both was begun before the end of the year. A much needed path was constructed by the side of the light railway from Fan Ling to Au Ha Gap.

A portion of the proposed road from Tai Po to Fan Ling about 600 yards long with a 25' concrete bridge was constructed.

An additional section of the reclaimed land in front of Tai Po Market was raised to approved levels, and a new survey was made of this neighbourhood. A large scale survey (50 feet to 1 inch) of the New Territories villages was taken in hand, but little progress was made owing to press of other work: the revision of the 2" maps, begun in 1911, was completed during the year.

#### IX.—GENERAL.

The border line between the Northern and Southern Districts was materially altered by an order of the Governor-in-Council, the chief effect of which was to transfer the Police District of Tsün Wàn, and with it several hill villages formerly in Au Tau district, from the Northern to the Southern District.

The year 1912 was the driest on record in the New Territories, only 62.13 inches of rain being registered in the Tai Po rain gauge, as against an average of 99.40 for the last six years.

The first crop of rice was just saved by a timely fall of rain in June, and was nearly up to the average, while good prices were realised owing to the drought and disorder in the neighbouring Chinese Territory which were together responsible for a scanty harvest.

The second rice crop came in for a severe drought in September and October, and was very poor in consequence.

Sweet potatoes, sugar-cane and peanuts all did well in the beginning of the year, and the latter realised higher prices than usual.

Fruit growing began on a considerable scale in the Fan Ling district. Mr. Ho Tung planted several acres, chiefly of Lichees, on his land by the road from Fan Ling to San Tin, and near Fan Ling Station an extensive fruit farm has been opened by a Chinese company in Hongkong: with it are combined a distillery and a chicken farm.

In addition to the last named venture, the first steps were taken towards the erection of a new village close to San Wai about a mile eastward from Fan Ling.

The prosperity of the Fan Ling valley was further evidenced by the number of new houses which sprang up; and the demand for these was so large both here and elsewhere throughout the Territory as to cause a considerable boom in the brick-making industry.

Prospecting for tin was carried on in the valley to the S.E. of Au Tau Station, with the result that towards the end of the year steps were taken for the flotation of a tin mining company in Hongkong.

The development of the Fan Ling Golf Links and the construction of the new Golf House proceeded during the year, and an increasing number of members were attracted from Hongkong: but in other respects the Territory showed little sign during 1912 of supplying a much needed outlet for the surplus population of Hongkong.

G. N. ORME,  
*District Officer.*

*27th February, 1913.*

**Table A.**

Strength of the Police Force in the Northern District of  
the New Territories during 1912.

Stations.	Europeans.	Indians.	Chinese.	Total.
Ping Shan, .....	2	12	5	19
Sai Kung, .....	1	3	3	7
Sha Tau Kok, .....	1	11	2	14
Kat O, .....	..	3	..	3
Tai Po, .....	1	3	9	13
Sheung Shui, .....	1	10	3	14
Ta Ku Ling, .....	..	9	..	9
San Tin, .....	..	9	3	12
Au Tau, .....	1	8	3	12
Sha Tin, .....	1	4	2	7
"    (Block House), .....	..	3	..	3
No. 3 Launch, .....	2	..	13	17
Sergeant Interpreters, .....	..	.	7	7
Total, .....	10	77	52	139

**Table B.**

Health of Force.

Stations.	To Hospital with fever.	To Hospital for other causes.	Sick in Station with fever.	Sick in Station from other causes.	Total.
Ping Shan, .....	..	4	5	1	10
Au Tau, .....	3	..	21	3	29
San Tin, .....	..	1	..	..	1
Sheung Shui, .....	4	3	1	..	8
Tai Po, .....	3	2	5	..	10
Sai Kung, .....	2	1	2	3	8
Sha Tin, .....	2	5	3	..	10
Sha Tau Kok, .....	2	5	13	3	23
Total, .....	18	21	50	10	99

**Table C.**

Crimes in Northern District, 1912.

Stations.	Murder.	Manslaughter.	Piracy.	Armed Robbery.	Suicide.	Attempted Suicide.	Larceny.	Robbery, House-breaking, and Burglary.	Rape.	Total.
Ping Shan, .....	2	...	...	6	1	...	8	1	...	18
Sha Tin, .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	5	...	...	7
Au Tau, .....	1	...	...	6	1	...	8	2	...	18
San Tin, .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Sheung Shui, ...	...	...	...	9	1	...	1	...	...	11
Sai Kung, .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Sha Tau Kok, ...	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	3	...	9
Tai Po, .....	...	...	1	4	...	...	7	3	...	15
Total, .....	3	...	1	32	3	1	31	10	...	81

Table D.

Land Office Returns.

Heading.	No. of Sales, &c.	No. of Lots.	Crown Rent or Fee.	Premium.	Area		Reduction in Annual Rent.	Compensation.	Remarks.
					in acres.	in square feet.			
Auction Sales, .....	126	155	\$ 307.10	\$ c. 5,114.00	12.73	244,320 = Total	\$ 798,839	...	
Private Sales, .....	119	134	81.73	672.40	1.74	55,815 = "	131,609	...	
Agricultural land converted to Building land, .....	1	1	1.00	4.00	...	500 = "	500	...	
Re-sales of Railway land, .....	...	15	4.30	468.45	1.53	66,647 = "	66,647	...	
Permits to occupy land (Agricultural) .....	21	23	55.26	...	16.48	717,869 = "	717,869	...	
" (Building) .....	4	4	10.36	...	.06	2,386 = "	4,996	...	
Permits to occupy Railway land (Agricultural) .....	40	77	51.88	...	9.05	394,218 = "	394,218	...	
" (Building) .....	1	1	1.00	...	...	300 = "	300	...	for one month only.
Matched Permits, .....	40	...	45.00	...	...	.....	.....	...	
Permits to quarry stone, .....	54	...	208.00	...	...	.....	.....	...	
Permits to cut earth, &c., .....	66	...	144.00	...	...	.....	.....	...	
Sandal-wood Mill Licences, .....	10	...	10.00	...	...	.....	.....	...	
Ferry Licences, .....	7	...	16.00	...	...	.....	.....	...	
Resumptions, .....	...	410	...	...	19.79	.....	45.54	5,020.20	
Surrenders, .....	...	53	...	...	1.28	7,680	45.37	...	
Registration of Memorials, .....	4,036	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	
Stamps Sold (for Registration of Seeds), .....	...	...	1,966.20	...	...	.....	...	...	
Stamps Sold (for Fees of Small Debt Court), .....	...	...	62.00	...	...	.....	...	...	
Stamps Sold (for Postage), .....	...	...	124.16	...	...	.....	...	...	
Registration of Graves, .....	230	...	115.00	...	...	.....	...	...	

**Table E.**

Revenue collected in the Northern District, during the years  
1911 and 1912.

	1911.	1912.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Crown Rent, - - - - -	80,235.88	79,420.78
Kerosine Oil Licences, - - - - -	266.00	278.00
Distillery Licences, - - - - -	2,540.75	2,509.50
Chinese Wines and Spirits, - - - - -	3,706.25	3,943.75
Pawnbrokers' Licences, - - - - -	1,600.00	1,600.00
Money Changers' Licences, - - - - -	100.00	120.00
Forestry Licences, - - - - -	2,992.91	3,503.86
Permits to cut earth, - - - - -	96.00	144.00
Fines, - - - - -	1,767.60	2,487.26
Forfeitures, - - - - -	219.32	120.32
Distress Warrants, - - - - -	51.00	68.00
Grave Certificates, - - - - -	203.25	115.00
Matshed Permits, - - - - -	32.50	45.00
Stone Quarries, - - - - -	69.00	208.00
Certified Extracts, - - - - -	130.00	125.00
Sun Prints, - - - - -	100.00	150.00
Sales of wild trees, - - - - -	—	13.50
Pineapple Licences, - - - - -	989.82	46.47
Water Wheels, - - - - -	44.00	10.00
Ferry Licences, - - - - -	16.00	16.00
Premium on land sales, - - - - -	4,653.00	5,790.40
Summons Fees, - - - - -	—	179.00
House Rent, - - - - -	155.00	527.67
Liquor Duties, - - - - -	2,872.32	5,159.16
Distress Warrants (Crown Rent), - - - - -	20.00	17.00
European Wines and Spirits, - - - - -	100.00	—
	<u>\$ 102,960.60</u>	<u>\$ 106,607.67</u>

Table F.

Rainfall in 1912.

January,	- - - - -	2·37	inch.
February,	- - - - -	4·14	„
March,	- - - - -	2·35	„
April,	- - - - -	3·72	„
May,	- - - - -	5·18	„
June,	- - - - -	13·49	„
July,	- - - - -	9·76	„
August,	- - - - -	10·03	„
September,	- - - - -	3·74	„
October,	- - - - -	—	„
November,	- - - - -	0·23	„
December,	- - - - -	7·12	„
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	Total,	62·13	„
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Rainfall for 1911,	- - - - -	106·74	„
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B.—SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

I.—STAFF.

Mr. A. E. Wood acted as Assistant District Officer from January 1st to November 18th.

Mr. G. R. Sayer acted from November 18th to the end of the year.

One clerk and shroff was transferred from the Northern District in November.

II.—POLICE.

Considerable additions were made to the numbers of the force owing to the Cheung Chau piracy and the general unrest. At Cheung Chau one European constable and five Indian constables were added to the establishment; and eight special European constables did duty from September 3rd to November 26th. At Tai O the establishment was increased from 10 to 17. Two European constables and eight Indian police constables were added and three Chinese constables withdrawn. Two more Indian police constables were posted to Tung Chung. At Tsün Wàn the strength was reduced by the withdrawal of two Indian police constables and two Chinese constables. Two special constables were posted there from September to November.

The waters of the district were patrolled by No. 4 launch (Western patrol) and No. 2 launch (Eastern patrol). Table A shows the numbers of the force at its greatest strength.

Table B shows the health of the force. It is noticeable that Tsün Wàn has maintained its bad reputation. Both special constables were sent to hospital with fever and in all there were six cases.

There had been a large increase in crime in the district. Eight cases of armed robbery were reported and six of murder or manslaughter. Details are given in Table C.

III.—MAGISTRACY.

The Assistant District Officer sitting as police magistrate heard during the year 124 cases affecting 179 persons. Of these 150 were convicted or bound over and 29 were discharged. The large increase in the amount of fines over that of last year is due to convictions for illegal possession of arms and dynamite by junk-owners.

The following table gives a comparison with the year 1911:—

	1912.	1911.
No. of cases,.....	124	84
No. of persons affected, .....	179	118
Persons convicted or bound over,.....	150	112
Persons discharged, .....	29	6
Fines (exclusive of opium fines), .....	\$ 2,112.68	\$451.00
Persons imprisoned, .....	33	32
Opium fines paid to the farmer, .....	\$ 67.74	\$25.00
Forfeitures (estreated bail and gambling seizures), .....	\$164.64	\$97.91

#### IV.—SMALL DEBTS COURT.

One hundred and thirty-six cases were heard before the Small Debts Court during the year as against fifty-one last year. The Assistant District Officer held regular courts at Tai O, Cheung Chau and, later in the year, at Tsün Wàn.

#### V.—LAND OFFICE.

Eight hundred and sixty-five deeds were registered during the year. This is only slightly above the average for the last seven years during which the Land Ordinance has been in force. There is no doubt that much land changes hands without registration; and it is probable that not more than 10 per cent. of mortgages on land in the less accessible parts of the district are registered. The journey from Lantao is an almost insuperable obstacle and a "stamped paper" is generally considered sufficient security.

Thirty-five auctions were held during the year and 14 sales by private treaty. In all 170 acres were sold with a premium of \$1,138.00 and Crown Rent of \$156.15. Fifty-eight lots were resumed, 41 of these being in connection with improvements at Ap Liu. The total area of resumed land was 1137 acres at a cost of \$4,833.18. Fifty-four lots were voluntarily surrendered and 54 were re-entered for failure to pay Crown Rent.

Nine grave certificates were issued.

#### VI.—REVENUE.

The transfer of Tsün Wàn to the Southern District makes a comparison with last year's returns misleading. Tsün Wàn represents a Crown Rental of \$3,200. Excluding this amount the Crown Rent collected in 1912 falls short by \$860 of that collected in 1911. This is accounted for partly by late payments in 1910 which were credited to 1911 and partly by certain half-yearly payments of which both instalments were credited to 1911 but one only to 1912. It is noticeable that only \$27 short of the full collection was collected during the year.

Tsün Wàn is also accountable for the increased revenue from forestry licences, pineapple licences and water wheel licences.

The stone quarry at Chek Lap Kok after its failure last year was re-released at a more normal rental of \$90 a month.

The number of earth permits points to considerable activity in building. Matshed permits have fallen off proportionately.

Details of revenue collected by this office are given in Table D.

Table E shows the revenue collected through other departments. The increase in Harbour Office receipts is due to the raising of the scale of harbour dues.

Quarry returns from New Kowloon show a falling off owing to the small demand in 1911.

#### VII.—CROPS.

The first rice crop was an exceptionally good one for a district not essentially a rice-growing district. The second crop suffered somewhat from drought in October or, in the case of Cheung Chau and the East of Lantao Island from a serious blight.

Sweet potatoes on vegetable land were poor; but those planted on padi land after the rice harvest promise well thanks to the timely rains in December. Other vegetables, which are not planted on an ambitious scale and are chiefly for home consumption, were well up to the average. Onions from Tung Chung and bean curd from Tsün Wàn continue to find a ready sale in Hongkong. Pineapples, grown only in Tsün Wàn and Tsing I Island, were a fine crop. Nearly four hundred acres were under pineapples and thirty fresh applications have been received. There is no sugar-cane in the Southern District.

#### VIII.—LIQUOR.

The total receipts collected on liquor distilled in the Southern District amount to \$100,700.07.

There are ten distilleries in Tsün Wàn representing a revenue of \$31,000. This accounts for the great increase over last year's receipts.

Exclusive of Tsün Wàn, there are 8 distilleries on the mainland, including the large distillery at Sham Shui Po from which over \$34,000 were collected. There are also 5 distilleries on Cheung Chau giving a revenue of \$25,400; 2 at Tai O and 2 at Ma Wan.

There is no doubt that in spite of the heavy tax distilleries can be run at a profit.

A large proportion of liquor distilled is for Hongkong consumption.

#### IX.—OPIUM.

Prepared opium to the total amount of 12,430,685 taels was sold representing, at an average price of \$4 a tael, a total of \$49,722.74.

Tsün Wàn accounts for 1,938 taels but exclusive of this amount there was an increased consumption of about 3,000 taels over last year.

220 taels of dross opium were sold at Tai O.

These figures do not include New Kowloon.

X.—GENERAL.

The year has clearly been one of general prosperity. The district as a whole is well-watered and little affected by drought. Salt pans at Tai O proved a financial success. Quarries recovered somewhat from a dull season last year. Fish were plentiful and the fishing fleets can command good prices owing to the competition of local markets with those of Hongkong and Macao.

The one dissentient voice is that of Cheung Chau which was beset in turn by plague and by pirates. The attack by pirates, involving as it did the death of three Indian constables, was probably the most serious outrage in the history of the district and showed the necessity of some means of communication with Hongkong.

Cheung Chau however has sufficient enterprise to rise superior to bad fortune. It has added two storeys to the ill fated pawn shop. It has overcome considerable opposition to its new market run strictly on municipal lines. And it has established its own electric light plant and supplies light at a cheaper rate than Hongkong can do.

The transfer of some 20 square miles on the mainland including Tsün Wán from the Northern District took place during the year. Fortnightly courts have been held since May at the police station and full use has been made of the greater accessibility of the District Officer.

Resumptions and reclamations at Ap Liu were continued but with this exception there were no public works undertaken in the district. There has however been some activity in the building trade. Several two-storeyed Chinese houses have been built at Tai O and new European houses on Cheung Chau. And there are not wanting signs of a steady natural development from within.

In New Kowloon lands continue to change hands at high prices.

G. R. SAYER,  
*Assistant District Officer,*  
*Southern District.*

*14th February, 1913.*

Table A.

Strength of Police Force during 1912.

Station.	European.	Indian.	Chinese.	Total.
Tai O, .....	3	13	1	17
Tung Chung, .....	...	7	2	9
Cheung Chau, 2 special constables from 3-9-12 to 26-11-12, .....	2	9	1	12
Lamma, .....	...	5	...	5
Tsün Wán, 2 special constables from 3-9-12 to 26-11-12, .....	1	7	2	10
Total, .....	6	41	6	53

Table B.

Health of the Force during 1912.

Station.	Admitted to Hospital with fever.	To Hospital from other causes.	Sick in station with fever.	Sick in station from other causes.	Total.
Tai O, .....	1	3	...	...	4
Tung Chung, .....	2	...	1	...	3
Cheung Chau, .....	...	2	1	1	4
Lamma, .....	...	3	...	...	3
Tsün Wán, .....	3	3	3	...	9
Total, .....	6	11	5	1	23

Table C.

Crime in the Southern District during 1912.

Station.	Manslaughter and Murder.	Armed Robbery.	Suicide.	Kidnaping.	Burglary.	Larceny.	Total.
Tai O and Tung Chung, ..	2	4	...	...	1	6	13
Cheung Chau,.....	3	1	2	...	4	6	16
Lamma, .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Tsün Wán,.....	1	3	...	...	...	6	10
Total, .....	6	8	2	...	5	20	41

Table D.

Revenue collected during 1912 by the Assistant District Officer  
New Territories, Southern District.

	1911.	1912.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Land Sales, .....	1,421.00	1,138.00
Crown Rent, .....	24,430.32	26,775.62
Assessed Taxes, .....	8,756.52	8,938.05
Lease of Stone Quarries,.....	1,795.00	1,080.00
Forestry Licences, .....	938.28	1,550.15
Earth Permits, ... ..	34.00	109.00
Matshed Permits, .....	371.00	188.50
Pineapple Licences, .....	29.72	958.29
Registration Fees, .....	1,251.80	1,108.40
Distress Warrants, (Crown Rent), .....	94.00	113.00
Distress Warrants, (Small Debts), .....	20.00	9.00
Writs of Summons, .....	79.00	111.50
Fines, (Police Court), .....	478.85	2,159.03
Forfeitures,.....	97.91	164.64
Certified Extracts, .....	9.00	...
Grave Certificates, .....	9.75	3.50
Miscellaneous Receipts, .....	...	52.00
Interest, .....	7.24	23.43
Legal Costs,.....	...	65.00
Sunprints, .....	...	65.00
Boundary Stones, .....	...	150.00
Water Wheel Licences, .....	...	34.00
	<u>\$ 39,823.39</u>	<u>\$ 44,796.11</u>

Table E.

*Revenue collected through other departments from the  
New Territories, Southern District.*

	1911.	1912.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Public Works Department, (Land Permits, etc.), in New Kowloon, }	2,042.90	...
Treasury, (Crown Rent for Inland Lots), ..... }	11,929.82	11,628.60
Treasury, (Quarries in New Kow- loon), ..... }	23,156.00	17,781.24
Harbour Office, (Harbour Dues, Stake Nets, etc.), ..... }	14,394.30	20,860.80
Police, (Licence Fees), ..... }	2,801.75	2,880.75
Imports and Exports Office, (Liquor Duties), ..... }	60,137.86	100,700.07
	\$ 114,462.63	\$ 153,851.46
	\$ 114,462.63	\$ 153,851.46