

The total area of land granted during the year was 1,386 Acres 3 Roods and $1\frac{1}{2}$ poles of which 209 Acres and $8\frac{1}{2}$ Poles were dealt with by the District Officers.

The total area resumed was 2,065 Acres 2 Roods $34\frac{2}{3}$ Poles including two large mining lots for which mining licences have since been granted.

The number of deeds registered in the Land Office was 4,360 which is a slight increase on the preceding year.

The Northern District of the New Territories has not yet recovered from the Conditions which prevailed in 1925; the demand for building sites in the development areas is still small, on the other hand in rural area there is quite a good demand for agricultural land and many new Village houses are being erected.

In the Southern District there was an almost complete cessation of demand for sites. No European or industrial applications were received, and only three agricultural lots, *viz.* at Mui Wo, Lantao Island.

There were a few applications for sites on Lantao plateau but these were held up pending completion of the cadastral survey. Considerable trouble has been experienced in securing the fulfilment of Building Covenants relating to lots already sold.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Sixteen (16) ordinances were passed during 1926, of which five were amendments of previous ordinances.

The most important matters with which these ordinances dealt were:—

The Regulations (No. 1)—The object of this ordinance was to authorise the preparation of a new edition of the regulations in force in the Colony at the end of 1925.

The Rating (Refunds), (No. 3)—The object of this ordinance was to refund rates.

The Former Enemy Aliens, (Disabilities Removal) (No. 4)—The object of this ordinance was to repeal certain enactments imposing disabilities on former enemy aliens.

The Hong Kong Treasury Bills (Local). (No. 5)—The object of this ordinance was to authorise the Governor-in-Council to borrow by the issue in Hong Kong of Hong Kong Government Treasury bills.

The Hong Kong Treasury Bills (London), (No. 6)—The object of this ordinance was to authorise the Governor-in-Council to request the Crown Agents for the Colonies to borrow by the issue in London of Hong Kong Government Treasury bills.

The Bank of Canton Limited (Capital Conversion). (No. 8)—The object of this ordinance was to empower the Company to convert gold capital into silver.

The Wireless Telegraphy (No. 11)—The objects of this ordinance were to make it necessary for receiving sets to be licensed and to make it an offence to maintain, or possess, a wireless telegraph station without a license.

The Trade Loan (No. 13)—The object of this ordinance was to charge a certain loan upon the general revenue and assets of the colony of Hong Kong.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The European staff was increased by nine during the year.

The total number of pupils at schools in the Colony excluding the Police School are :—

	Number of Pupils.		Total.
	English Schools.	Vernacular Schools.	
Government Schools - - -	3,280	293	3,573
Military Schools - - -	136	—	136
Excluded Private Schools	150	—	150
Grant Schools - - -	3,901	1,041	4,942
Controlled Private Schools - - -	3,376	21,088	24,464
Controlled Private Schools, New Territories - - -	15	4,890	4,905
Technical Institute - - -	460	—	460
Total - - -	11,318	27,312	38,630

The most important schools are *Queen's College* and *King's College* for Chinese, three *District Schools* their feeders and the *Belilios Public School* for Chinese girls. There is an *Indian School* of growing importance housed in a building presented to the Colony by the late Sir Ellis Kadoorie. *The Central School* and *Kowloon Junior, Victoria* and *Quarry Bay Schools* for children of