

Appendix J.

REPORT ON THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE YEAR 1926.

A.—NORTHERN DISTRICT.

I.—STAFF.

Mr. E. I. Wynne-Jones was in charge from 1st January to 19th February and Mr. J. A. Fraser from 20th February to the end of the year.

Mr. Chu Tak Hing, Class IV clerk, was promoted to Class III on 1st September.

II.—MAGISTRACY.

Table A shows the number of cases heard by the District Officer sitting as Police Magistrate and as Judge of the Small Debts Court.

III.—LAND OFFICE.

The number of sales and other transaction affecting land which took place during the year is set out in Table B.

The number of memorials was 2417 as against 2269 in 1925. The fees received as stamp duty amounted to \$2855.00 as against \$3015.80 in the previous year.

IV.—REVENUE.

The Revenue collected in this office is set out under the appropriate heads in Table C, totalling \$139,773.95.

The following amounts paid by the district but not through this office should be added to the figures in Table C:—

	\$	Cts.
Liquor Duties, Sai Kung,	7,691.52	
Harbour Dues, " " ,	2,205.50	
" " , No. 1 Launch,	4,331.40	
" " , plus L. D.	857.25	
" " , No. 4 Launch,	2,488.90	
" " , No. 2 Launch,	2,205.90	
Crown rent paid in Land Office,	2,848.00*	
Total,	<u>\$22,628.47</u>	

*Including \$302 Crown Rent for Mining Lot No. 3 at Lin Ma Hang, Sha Tau Kok district.

Tobacco duties and tobacco licence fees collected by the Imports and Exports Department are not included.

V.—GENERAL.

Afforestation.—(a) *Planting.* A new afforestation scheme was approved for 1927, to encourage local enterprise in growing pine-trees. At this date, 300,000 seeds have been planted under the scheme and there should be no difficulty in increasing this number next year.

(b) *Hill fires.* During the winter 1926-27 only five hill-fires, of which at least one was accidental, were reported. Widely distributed notices pointing out the dangers of hill-burning, with immediate police enquiry, followed by investigation by the District Officer seem to have a good effect.

Communications.—(a) *Ferries.* An additional ferry launch was run between Taipo and Sha U Chung (Chinese Territory) from August to December, and a second launch is now plying between Hong Kong and Castle Peak.

(b) *Roads.* The last section of the Shataukok road was completed early in the year, and the road came at once under heavy traffic.

Crime.—There was on the whole little crime in the District. More regular traffic supervision increased the number of traffic cases, but there was a decrease in other directions. The number of tree-cutting cases early in 1926 was low, and there were none at all in the latter part of the year. An attempt to cut a large number of wild trees near Fung Yuen was promptly dealt with, and voluntary compensation made for damage done.

A village dispute at Tai Kiu near Yuen Long led to the killing of an old man. The persons responsible for the crime were committed for trial and sentenced, and the most influential local elders interviewed the other parties concerned to prevent further trouble.

The system of Verex-light signals distributed to village-guards, begun in 1925, worked well in giving early warning of attempted robberies. In every case where these lights were used, the police turned out promptly, but it is still early to say whether the system has a real effect in discouraging this type of crime.

Building Development.—(a) *Development areas.* While owing to disturbed conditions over the border, rural development flourishes, the lowest level of the slump in semi-urban areas seems to have been passed, and there is a slight demand for modern houses near Taipo, Fanling and Yuen Long. Speculation in those areas is almost entirely at a standstill. Rents in Yuen Long are high, and further development there may be expected.

(b) *Rural Districts.* Increasing number of re-assessments in village areas, and sales of new house-sites in rural districts, are still unable to keep pace with the influx of Chinese from over the border, and collections of matsheds are springing up in various places, notably at Ngau Tam Mei, Chuk Yuen, Chiu Kang and Castle Peak. The newcomers are Chung Lok or Wai Chau Hakka cultivators with a sprinkling of Fa Yuen people. It is a healthy sign that some of these matshed-dwellers have applied for land, and are building houses.

Frontier.—On the cessation of the Canton boycott in October, normal intercourse with Chinese Territory was resumed, but determined attempts to circulate anti-British propagandist notices within our border made it necessary to take additional measures for policing the frontier, especially at Lo Wu and Shataukok.

Industries.—(a) *Brick-making.* Native brick kilns have had an unusually prosperous year, but those with modern plant at Castle Peak and Lo Wu have found it hard to carry on, as the market for their wares (mainly Hong Kong) is still very dull.

(b) *Fisheries.* Fishing in the Eastern part of the Territory was only fair. On account of disturbed conditions in China, boats did not go far afield, and the local fishing grounds were taxed to their utmost. A large number of fish in ponds on the Western side of the Territory were destroyed by drought.

Local administration.—A number of 諮議 (Tsz Yi) or "Head-boroughs", were appointed by H. E. the Governor to assist the District Officer with advice in matters of local interest or dispute. The appointment, which is honorary, lasts a year, and confers a valued recognition on the long and faithful service rendered by men without whose help the thirty years' successful administration of the District would have been, if not impossible, at least a much more difficult and onerous task.

Markets.—A new market building has been completed at Yuen Long, on ground reclaimed and drained by local enterprise, and the available open space at Taipo Market is being levelled and surfaced to take the stalls which now on market days crowd the narrow streets.

Produce.—(a) *Rice.* The first rice crop was successful in most parts of the District, but about a quarter of the second crop, which was late, was destroyed by rain.

Rice-growing, while here limited only by the area available for cultivation, depends in a great measure on man-power and water-supply; where either of these latter is lacking, the ground goes out of cultivation. Broadly speaking, every possible acre of ground is planted with rice

Private enterprise, fostered by Government, has over a long period reclaimed large areas from the sea for rice-growing, and converted many stretches of marsh into good first and second class padi-land. The local agriculturalist is not slow to avail himself of any means of increasing his area for rice-production, if the return justifies the outlay, so new ground continues to be broken in. Lately, too, land formerly disused has again been cultivated, and there is at present a certain amount of unauthorized encroachment on Crown land for precarious agriculture which it is difficult to trace, and which may later disappear.

(b) *Vegetables.* That all has not been done that might be done in producing vegetables for Hong Kong is shown by the recent large increase in this kind of cultivation. Castle Peak, Shatin and other places have for some years produced vegetables, but the difficulty and cost of transport has prevented the general spread of this industry, to which however no better encouragement could have been given than the withdrawal of Canton from the market during the recent boycott. As an immediate result, larger areas than usual at Pingshan were under vegetables throughout the winter of 1925-26, and even some riceland now produces them as a main crop. The gradual return to normal trade conditions has as was anticipated caused a slight falling-off in vegetable-growing which however, appears to have come to stay. Market-gardens are financed in some cases by companies with agencies in Hong Kong. The stimulus for this industry seems to come naturally from Hong Kong, whence buyers come out to the country, and make their own arrangements for transporting the vegetables they buy to the town. Vegetable-growing in the Territory depends entirely on the state of the market and the cost of transport. It is noteworthy that nearly all the vegetable seed used comes from Chinese Territory.

(c) *Fruit,* except pineapples, is mostly grown for local consumption. The Botanical and Forestry Experimental Garden at Fanling has done something to popularise certain fruits, for example an easily-grown and large papaya, which may now be found at Castle Peak and elsewhere.

(d) *Ginger.* The continued difficulty of getting supplies of ginger from Canton this year secured a market for the local product, which though small and less succulent than its up-country neighbour, commanded a good price, selling in August at \$11.00 a picul and later in September at \$6.00 a picul. 2000 piculs in the Taipo area fetched about \$15,000 and 6000 piculs at Yuen Long about \$48,000.

(e) *Laichees.* The laichee crop was a total failure throughout the District, on account of bad weather which destroyed the blossom.

(f) *Pineapples.* The area under pineapples increases slowly but definitely, and a complete check of the ground occupied for pineapple-growing was undertaken during the year.

(g) *Cattle.* Little or no cattle-rearing for food is done in the Territory. Although under prevailing conditions a certain number of locally-bred animals find their way to the markets, most of the cattle sold in Hong Kong come from Chinese territory. A scheme to rear cattle on the slopes of Tai Mo Shan was mooted, but owing to unfavourable economic conditions did not mature.

(h) *Pigs.* Pig-breeding flourishes, but always as a side-line, and mostly in conjunction with rice-farming. The good market now obtainable has caused a large increase in the number of pigs bred, but there is no pig-farming on a large scale, mainly because to specialise would, however slightly, raise the cost of production, an important consideration in a competitive market. One or two wealthier breeders have imported English stock, which makes a good cross with the local breed.

(j) *Poultry.* Poultry-rearing has increased in the main at Pingshan and Castle Peak. Chicken-farming favours the main centres, but is not common, most chickens being imported when a day or two old, and reared in the villages in small numbers. The market for turkeys has produced a limited number of breeders.

Duck-farming is more popular, as the birds are hardier and more easily fed and tended than chickens. Large flocks of ducks are reared on the swamps at Shatin, Taipo, San Tin and Yuen Long.

Special events.—On 1st September the elders of the District gave a dinner at Taipo at which H. E. the Governor was the principal guest. The function was marked by congratulatory speeches on the occasion of His Excellency's birthday, and many expressions of goodwill and esteem.

Transfer of Shing Mun Villagers.—During the year, sites were found to accommodate all the inhabitants of the Shing Mun Valley affected by the first part of the Shing Mun Waterworks Scheme.

J. A. FRASER,
District Officer, North.

25th April, 1927.

Table A.

POLICE COURT.

	1926.	Average from 1921-1925.
Cases heard	329	324
Persons brought before the Police Magistrate	519	518
Persons convicted and punished..	310	358
Persons bound over	53	35
Persons discharged	136	118
Persons committed	20	6
Persons imprisoned	95	94
Fines inflicted	\$16,040	\$8,166.72
Warrants executed	48	47

SMALL DEBTS COURT.

	1926.	Average from 1921-1925.
Cases heard	111	111
Writs of Execution	18	60

Table C.

	<i>Revenue for</i>	<i>Average of</i>
	<i>1926.</i>	<i>Revenue for</i>
		<i>1921-1925.</i>
Crown Rent, (Leased Lands),	\$88,274.84	\$86,107.19
Kerosine Oil Licences,	516.00	352.40
Chinese Wine & Spirit Licences,	4,925.00	4,362.50
Distillery Licences,	2,597.50	2,645.35
Pawnbrokers' Licences,	1,200.00	1,120.00
Money-changers' Licences,	420.00	442.00
Fines,	1,846.00	2,137.55
" (Land Sales),	1,020.00	25.00
" Reward Fund (Opium),	1,158.00	900.70
" " " (Liquor & Tobacco),	2.00	151.60
Forfeitures,	282.48	184.22
" (Land Sales),	33.00	28.60
Distress Warrants,	24.00	65.00
" " (Crown Rent)	40.00	17.00
House Rent,	Nil	137.60
Liquor Duties,	19,728.03	12,861.25
Rent of Government Furniture,	Nil	5.00
Arrears of Revenue,	199.74	95.91
Other Miscellaneous Receipts,	Nil	97.39
Fees of Court,	Nil	.72
Forestry Licences,	3,197.56	2,680.56
Permits to cut Earth, &c.,	665.00	356.00
Grave Certificates,	68.50	64.29
Pineapple Land Leases,	16.26	20.81
Matshed Permits,	1,151.50	566.89
Permits to occupy Land,	851.01	911.90
Stone Quarry Permits,	331.00	428.00
Stone Quarry Leases,	375.00	911.92
Waterwheel Licences,	2.00	2.00
Piers,	Nil	9.00
Ferry Licences,	9.00	9.00
Certified Extracts,	168.00	201.40
Sunprints,	115.00	97.40
Premia on Land Sales,	6,293.63	59,955.81
Stamps for Deeds,	2,855.00	3,902.18
Boundary Stones,	72.50	161.40
Deposits not Available,	1,246.40	1,210.93
Crown Leases,	60.00	160.00
Sale of Old Buildings,	Nil	40.00
Total,	\$139,773.95	\$183,426.50

Table D.

REVENUE COLLECTED FROM 1917-1926.

1917	\$117,095.84	1922	\$159,191.56
1918	120,244.93	1923	280,848.64
1919	117,174.51	1924	209,105.18
1920	115,865.45	1925	141,862.65
1921	121,080.38	1926	139,773.95

Table E.

LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS, 1926.

NEW WORKS.

	\$ cts.
Bridge at Tam Shui Hang	325.00
Forming of a playing field for the Government School at Un Long	20.00

REPAIRS.

Road and bridge near Tsai Kek in the Lam Tsun Valley	1,170.00
Bridge and bund at Lin Au	300.00
Dam at Ling Tsai near Tan Chuk Hang	733.48
Un-expended	2,451.52
	<u>5,000.00</u>

Table F.

RAINFALL AT TAIPO POLICE STATION.

1926.	inches	Average 1921-1925.	inches
January	Nil	January	4.03
February	1.82	February	3.60
March	3.44	March	4.09
April	12.87	April	5.97
May	9.12	May	12.45
June	7.28	June	20.13
July	23.25	July	20.58
August	8.45	August	24.12
September	11.78	September	8.05
October	4.86	October	5.38
November	4.86	November	1.15
December	Nil	December48
Total	<u>87.73</u>	Total average	<u>110.06</u>

Table G.

SERIOUS CRIMES REPORTED.

(A) On Land.	1926.	1925.
Murder	2	1
Attempted murder	—	1
Manslaughter	—	2
Armed robbery (including kidnapping)	18	9
Attempted armed robbery	—	2
Robbery with violence	1	2
Highway robbery	—	2
Attempted Highway robbery	—	1
	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>

(B) On Water.

Murder	1	—
Armed robbery	4	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>

REPORT ON THE NEW TERRITORIES
FOR THE YEAR 1926.

B.—SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

1.—STAFF.

Mr. W. Schofield was in charge until December 13th, when I took over and acted until the end of the year.

Mr. Tsoi Chak Fai, Class VI Probationer Clerk resigned from Government Service as from 15th December, and was replaced by Mr. Li Yuk To, Class VI Probationer Clerk, from Treasury, as from 21st December.

2.—MAGISTRACY.

Table A gives the number of cases heard by the District Officer, sitting as Police Magistrate and as Judge of the Small Debts Court.

3.—LAND OFFICE.

Table B gives the number of sales and other transactions affecting land which took place during the year.

The number of Memorials registered was 876 as against 1497 in 1925.

The fees received as stamp duties amounted to \$1,598.55 as against \$1,805.65 in 1925.

The general slump in property values, reflected by the decrease in the number of transactions was also shown by the general decrease in applications for land, there being but 21 sales of Crown Land for building purposes, and 6 grants of conversion of agricultural land to building lots.

4.—REVENUE.

The Revenue collected by the District Officer is set out under the appropriate heads in Table C totalling \$40,664.95. Tables D and E respectively shew the Revenues collected in the District by Police and other Departments, and Table F gives for purposes of comparison the total revenues collected in the District from all sources for the past three years.

5.—GENERAL.

The past year has shewn a fair average of prosperity in the District, both rice crops being good, and vegetables finding a ready market and good prices in Hong Kong. The fishing was not so good, but prices were fair, as a whole.

Tai O.—Business generally was good. The Wong Fa fishing was poor but prices were high. Both rice and vegetables did well, quantities of the latter being exported to Hong Kong until communications with Canton were restored, when business slackened.

Very little serious crime was reported. In two cases of armed robbery, arrests were made, but the suspects were released later.

At about 7.0 p.m. on the night of 25th November 1926, a serious fire broke out among the matsheds in the creeks, about 300 of which were burnt out, and damage done to the extent of about \$30,000. As it was high tide, the inhabitants were able to escape by boats, and no loss of life resulted. Full enquiry was held into the occurrence, and steps are being taken to minimise the risk of repetition of such a disaster.

The death of the chief Elder of Tai O, Li Shan Pui at the age of 76 was deeply regretted both by the inhabitants of Tai O and by those Europeans with whom he came into contact.

Cheung Chau.—Trade generally was not good: the Wong Fa fishing season yielding poor returns. The salt fish trade lost considerably as the typhoon crippled the fishing fleet.

The market did fairly well and steps are being taken to deal with the increased number of hawkers who compete with the stall-holders.

Health and crime were satisfactory there being no cases of contagious or infectious disease reported, and only one case of armed robbery, in which four arrests were made, and two offenders convicted.

The first crop of padi on Lantau was good, but the typhoon destroyed the second.

The Lime Kilns at Peng Chau still suffered greatly from the slump in building generally in the Colony.

His Excellency the Governor paid a ceremonial visit to Cheung Chau on 6th June, when he was officially welcomed by representatives of the European and Chinese communities, and he expressed his interest in the welfare and future development of the Island.

Tsun Wan:—The general conditions of trade were good except in the case of the lime kilns at Tsing I, and the pineapple industry in which both crops and prices were poor.

There was little crime during the year.

Lamma:—The island was quiet and trade good, especially in chickens for the Hong Kong market, and grass fuel for the boat breamers at Aberdeen. The banana crop failed, but both padi and vegetables did well.

Local Public Works:—During the year various small public works were assisted by the District Officer, as shewn in Table G attached.

For 1927 the vote has been increased to \$2,000.00, and it is hoped thereby to encourage still further the local efforts to provide and maintain these and similar necessities.

E. I. WYNNE-JONES,

District Officer, South.

25th March, 1927.

Table A.

POLICE COURT.

	1924.	1925.	1926
Cases heard,	214	201	156
Persons brought before the Police Magistrate,	389	370	295
Persons convicted and punish- ed,	348	318	174
Persons bound over,	18	44	1
Persons committed,	—	12	2
Persons imprisoned,	84	70	43
Persons discharged,	41	52	53
Fines,	\$2,658.48	\$2,635.53	\$1,704.11
Arms Fines,	187.25	60.00	271.00
Forfeitures,	1,412.78	349.20	427.61
Revenue Reward Fund,	1,497.87	1,006.87	1,449.42

SMALL DEBTS COURT.

	1924.	1925.	1926.
Cases heard,	33	31	66
Writs of Execution,	4	5	2

Table C.

Revenue collected by the District Officer, Southern District, New Territories.

	1925.		1926.	
	\$	c.	\$	c.
Land Sales,	1,711.81		718.20	
Boundary Stones,	40.00		42.00	
Permits to cut Earth and Stone,	2,122.00		1,193.50	
Forestry Licences,	1,536.98		1,691.18	
Forfeitures,	349.20		427.61	
Fines,	2,635.53		1,704.11	
Water Wheel Licences,	18.00		22.10	
Deeds Registration Fees,	1,805.65		1,598.55	
Warrants of Attachment,	88.00		179.00	
Crown Leases,	90.00		—	
Legal Costs,	—		97.00	
Grave Certificates,	11.50		9.25	
Crown Rent,	26,687.39		26,799.82	
Matshed Permits,	1,108.00		1,315.75	
Permits to occupy land,	253.74		254.16	
Pineapple Land Leases,	748.82		736.40	
Market Fees,	1,593.19		1,715.92	
Leases of Stone Quarries,	630.00		295.00	
Interest on Deposit Account,	—		107.98	
Miscellaneous Receipts,	1.00		11.00	
do. (Certified Extracts),	26.00		26.00	
do. (Sunprint Plans),	15.00		—	
Revenue Reward Fund,	1,006.89		1,449.42	
Arms Fines,	60.00		271.00	
Total,	\$42,538.70		\$40,664.95	

Table D.

Licence Fees collected by the Police Department.

Station.	Distilleries.	Wine and Spirit.		Kerosene.	Dogs.	Pawn Brokers.	Money Changers.	Total.	
		\$	c.						
Kowloon City	{	1925	800.00					\$ 7,689.00	
		1926	800.00	4,550.00		\$ 339	2,000	9,191.00	
Sham Shui Po	{	1925	1,200.00	4,900.00		1,491	2,000	21,360.00	
		1926	1,200.00	11,600.00		360	8,000	20,231.00	
Tai O	{	1925	75.00	10,400.00		1,431	7,000	1,377.00	
		1926	75.00	800.00	52		400	40	1,406.00
Cheung Chau	{	1925	100.00	825.00	66		400	40	2,053.00
		1926	75.00	1,025.00	78		800	50	1,951.00
Tsun Wan	{	1925	516.50	950.00	76		800	50	1,069.00
		1926	565.00	512.50	40				1,105.00
Lamma Island, Yung Shü Wan	{	1925	50.00	500.00	40				150.00
		1926	99.00	100.00					174.00
Total	{	1925	\$2,741.50	18,587.50	180	699	11,200	290	33,698.00
		1926	\$2,814.00	17,650.00	182	2,922	10,200	290	34,058.00

Table E.

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

	1925.		1926.	
	\$	c.	\$	c.
Treasury, Village Rates,	79,588.15		80,662.42	
„ (Crown Rent for Inland Lots),	34,925.70		41,484.65	
„ (Quarries in New Kowloon),	6,613.34		2,577.35	
„ Eating House Licence Fees,	.220.00		280.00	
Police, (Licence Fees),	33,698.00*		34,058.00*	
Harbour Office (Harbour Dues, Stake- nets),	16,258.05		18,143.50	
Total,	\$171,273.24		\$177,205.92	

*See Table D.

Table F.

Total Revenue collected from Southern District, New Territories, during the last three years, exclusive of liquor duties.

	1924.		1925.		1926.	
	\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.
By District Office,	64,193.89		42,538.70		40,664.95	
By Other Departments, ..	156,183.03		171,273.24†		177,205.92†	
Total,	\$220,376.92		\$213,811.94		\$217,870.87	

†See Table E.

Table G.

LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS, 1926.

NEW WORKS.		\$	c.
Pier at Tai O Creek,		150.00	
REPAIRS.			
Road in Cheung Chau European Reservation,		150.00	
Drainage in the Cheung Chau Market Place,		150.00	
Steps on each side of the Tai O Creek,		50.00	
Total,		\$500.00	