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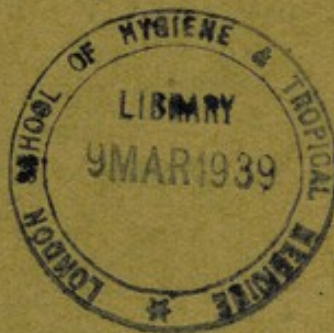
Annual Report on the Social and Economic  
Progress of the People of the

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1937

(For Reports for 1935 and 1936 see Nos. 1788 and 1808  
respectively (Price 1s. 3d. each).)

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# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ITS DEPENDENCIES FOR THE YEAR 1937

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## PART I.—THE COLONY.

### I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean some 300 miles east and somewhat to the north of the Straits of Magellan between  $51^{\circ}$  and  $53^{\circ}$  south latitude and  $57^{\circ}$  and  $62^{\circ}$  west longitude. In addition to the two main islands, known as the East and West Falklands, which are divided by the Falkland Sound, running approximately north-east and south-west, the group comprises about 200 smaller islands clustered around them within a space of 120 by 60 miles. The area of the group, as computed by measurement from the Admiralty chart, is as follows:

	<i>Square Miles.</i>
East Falkland and adjacent islands ...	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands ...	2,038
	<hr/>
Total area of the group ...	4,618
	<hr/>



The islands have a very deeply indented coast-line and possess many excellent harbours and anchorages. The surface is hilly, attaining its maximum elevation of 2,315 ft. in Mount Adam on the West Falkland. There are no rivers navigable at any distance from the coast. The entire country is covered with wild moorland interrupted by outcrops of rock and the peculiar collection of angular boulders called "stone runs" the origin of which is scientifically disputed. There is no cultivation except in the immediate vicinity of the farm settlements and shepherds' houses where vegetables and in some places oats and hay are grown. The soil is chiefly peat, but considerable areas of sand also occur. In comprehensive appearance the Falkland Islands are bleak and inhospitable. Trees are almost entirely absent and the scenery is said to resemble parts of Scotland and the northern islands. The only town is Stanley, the capital, situated on a natural harbour entered from Port William, at the north-east corner of the group. It has about 1,200 inhabitants. Smaller settlements have been established throughout the Colony as the headquarters of the various farm stations into which it is divided; of these the most important is Darwin, the headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company, with a population of about 100 persons.

The climate of the Falkland Islands is characterized by the same seasonal variations as in the United Kingdom. These are, however, less noticeable in the Colony on account of its scant vegetation. The winters are slightly colder and the summers much cooler than in London, which is about as far north of the equator as Stanley is south. The average midsummer temperature of the Colony is even lower than the annual mean at London. While the relatively low temperatures are mainly due to the oceanic circulation, the daily weather is largely dependent on the direction of the wind, which, not infrequently, is so inconstant as to give rise to wide ranges of temperature within short intervals. Though the annual rainfall is not excessive, averaging only 26 ins., precipitation occurs on two out of every three days in the year, and, in consequence, the atmosphere is usually damp. A large proportion of the days are cloudy and tempestuous; calm, bright weather being exceptional and seldom outlasting 24 hours.

The Falkland Islands, called by the French "Iles Malouines" and by the Spaniards "Islas Malvinas", were discovered on 14th August, 1592, by John Davis in the *Desire*, one of the vessels of the squadron sent to the Pacific under Cavendish. They were seen by Sir Richard Hawkins in the *Dainty* on 2nd February, 1594, and were visited in 1598 by Sebald Van Weert, a Dutchman, and styled by him the Sebald Islands, a name which they still bear on some of the Dutch maps. Captain Strong in the *Welfare* sailed through between the two principal islands



in 1690 and called the passage, where he landed at several points and obtained supplies of wild geese and fresh water, the Falkland Sound, in memory of the well-known Royalist, Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland, killed at the battle of Newbury in 1643; and from this the group afterwards took its English name of "Falkland Islands" although this name does not appear to have been given to it before 1745.

The first settlement on the islands was established in 1764 by de Bougainville on behalf of the King of France, with a small colony of Acadians transferred from Nova Scotia, at Port Louis in the East Falkland Island on Berkeley Sound. In the following year Captain Byron took possession of the West Falkland Island and left a small garrison at Port Egmont on Saunders Island, which lies off and close to the north coast of the mainland.

The Spaniards, ever jealous of interference by other nations in the southern seas, bought out the French from the settlement at Port Louis, which they renamed Soledad in 1766, and in 1770 forcibly ejected the British from Port Egmont. This action on the part of Spain led the two countries to the verge of war. The settlement was restored, however, to Great Britain in 1771, but was again in 1774 voluntarily abandoned. The Spaniards in turn abandoned their settlements early in the nineteenth century, and the entire group of islands appears for some years to have remained without formal occupation and without inhabitants until in 1829 Louis Vernet, enjoying the nominal protection of the Government of the Republic of Buenos Aires, planted a new colony at Port Louis. Vernet thought fit to seize certain vessels belonging to the United States' fishing fleet and in 1831 his settlement suffered from an American punitive expedition. Finally, in 1833, Great Britain, who had never relaxed her claim to the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, expelled the few Argentine soldiers and colonists yet remaining at Port Louis and resumed occupation, which has been maintained without break to the present day.

The Colony was under the charge of Naval Officers engaged in making Admiralty surveys until 1843, in which year a Civil Administration was formed, the headquarters of Government being at Port Louis until 1844, when they were removed to Stanley, then called Port William. Prior to the opening of the Panama Canal, the Falkland Islands lay on the main sea route from Europe, through the Straits of Magellan to the west coast of South America, and in the days of sail frequently harboured vessels which had been worsted in the struggle to round Cape Horn. On 8th December, 1914, they were the scene of the naval battle in which Sir F. C. Doveton Sturdee defeated and destroyed the German Squadron under Admiral Graf von Spee, and a memorial commemorating this victory was unveiled at Stanley on 26th February, 1927.



## II.—GOVERNMENT.

At the head of the Government of the Colony is the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, who is advised by an Executive Council consisting of five official and two unofficial members. There is also a Legislative Council composed of four official and four unofficial members, the latter being nominated by the Crown. The Colony received a regular grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury until 1880, and a special grant for a mail service until 1885, since which date it has been wholly self-supporting. There is no local government in the Colony.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population is almost entirely white and has been derived to a large extent from the United Kingdom. There is a considerable element of Scandinavian blood.

The estimated population on the 31st of December, 1937, was 2,391 made up of 1,319 males and 1,072 females. The density of the population is about one person to every two square miles. Approximately one-half of the inhabitants lives in Stanley, the capital, and the remainder are divided more or less equally between the outlying districts of the East and West Falklands. The number of births registered in 1937 was 37, and of deaths 20, or respectively 15·48 and 8·36 per 1,000. Eighteen marriages were celebrated during the year. Two deaths occurred among infants under two years of age. One hundred and twenty-nine persons arrived in the Colony and 154 left in the course of the period under review.

## IV.—HEALTH.

The climate is healthy, especially in the Camp districts, but damp in and about Stanley; consequently it is not very suitable for persons with any rheumatic tendencies.

During the summer months the constant high winds are rather trying. The weather conditions in winter are slightly milder and more pleasant than those of the north of England. The conditions of living are simple; the ordinary social amenities of a larger Colony are almost entirely lacking. The quality of the food is good although it lacks variety especially with regard to vegetables, but with care in cultivation it is possible to guarantee at least a nine months supply. Fruit is imported from Monte Video and the supply becomes better each year with the improved transport and a greater local demand. Steps are being taken by both the Medical and Agricultural Departments to improve the supply of fresh milk in the town of Stanley.

Dental caries and pyorrhea are very prevalent amongst the Falkland Islanders, the children suffering from defective teeth



at a very early age. The Dental Surgeon makes periodical tours of the East and West Falklands and holds a special clinic for school children every Saturday morning.

Vaccination is compulsory and the Vaccination Ordinance is rigidly enforced, every Medical Officer being appointed a Public Vaccinator for the area in which he is stationed.

Gastritis and dyspepsia are common complaints. Eleven appendicectomies were performed during 1937, the majority being in the quiescent stage. From time to time outbreaks of acute enteritis occur but so far the origin of these outbreaks has not been definitely determined.

Coryza in epidemic form is very common.

Two cases of tuberculosis were under treatment during the year. The incidence of bovine tuberculosis is being investigated, the double intradermal test being used.

Several school children were under treatment for impetigo contagiosa. Thread worm infection is very common among the children also.

Thirty confinements took place in the hospital and seven in the town, making a total of 37 as compared with 45 in the previous year.

The Government maintains out of public funds a hospital in Stanley, the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital. The hospital has 17 beds, an operating theatre, quarters for nurses, stores, and an out-patient department. Outside buildings provide an office and workshop for the Dental Surgeon, and also a drug store and laboratory. An improved X-ray apparatus has been installed.

The staff of the Medical Department includes a Senior Medical Officer, two Medical Officers, one of whom is stationed on the West Falkland Island, a Dental Surgeon, a Nurse Matron and a qualified Nursing Sister, in addition to junior nurses locally recruited and trained.

A Medical Officer made periodical tours of the North-East Falkland, the remainder of the East Falkland being under the Falkland Islands Company's Medical Officer stationed at Darwin.

During the year the Senior Medical Officer made an extensive tour of the West Falkland.

The out-patient department of the hospital provides ante-natal and post-natal services. Maternity nursing services are provided for Stanley and outlying districts.

During the year 1937, 219 persons were admitted to the hospital as compared with 149 in the previous year and 1,010 new cases were seen in the out-patients' department. Six deaths occurred in hospital; 184 operations were performed as compared with 241 in the previous year.



The medico-electrical section of the out-patient department has carried out successful work during the year with radiant heat, vapour and Turkish baths, especially valuable in skin disease and muscular rheumatism.

Artificial sunlight treatment has been carried out in cases of adenitis and anaemia in children, and also in cases of tubercular bone and joint diseases.

In the town of Stanley, sewage is disposed of partly by the water-carriage system and partly by the earth closet method. The disposal of sewage, which is deposited in the harbour, is efficient as it is carried out to sea by the strong tidal currents.

In accordance with the Public Health bye-laws, all ashes and household refuse must be stored in properly constructed bins which are required to be emptied once a month at least. This system is found to work satisfactorily.

The water supply is wholesome and satisfactory. Water is brought by pipe-line from a distance of three miles and stored in a reservoir and a tank with an aggregate capacity approximating to 500,000 gallons. Distributing mains have now been extended so as to serve the whole of Stanley. The inhabitants have taken advantage of the facilities offered, and the use of rain water from tanks and barrels is gradually disappearing.

The system of roads in Stanley is now adequate for present needs. The drainage system of the town continues to be improved.

Bi-annual rat weeks continued, with considerable success; rats appear to have diminished as a result, but they are still numerous enough to warrant periodical poison-baiting of rubbish dumps, waste lands and the foreshore.

## V.—HOUSING.

The houses erected are of a suitable type, and conform to the requirements of the Board of Health as regards both construction and sanitary arrangements. There is no overcrowding in Stanley, the rate of building being adequate to the needs of the population. In the majority of cases, the wage-earning population own their own houses, which are well built and comfortable. Building loans are made by the Government in suitable cases, to facilitate the construction of new houses. The Government also maintains sufficient accommodation for its officials, and two blocks of tenement dwellings which are rented to the more necessitous families in the community.

All premises in the town are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and householders are required to keep their premises in as sanitary a condition as circumstances permit. Power is vested in the Board of Health to condemn premises as unfit for human occupation. In general terms the housing of the people may be said to be fully satisfactory.



## VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The whole acreage of the Colony is divided into sheep farms varying approximately in extent from 24,000 to 150,000 acres and carrying on the average between 8,000 and 35,000 sheep, or say one sheep for every three to five acres.

The Colony has no resources of known value apart from the production of wool, skins and tallow. Forage crops are produced to a limited extent but with this exception there is practically no agriculture in the Colony. The country may be said to be still in its virgin state and is capable of development. With the exception of some 40,000 acres of Government Reserve the entire land is under alienation.

During the year an Agricultural Department was established and certain investigations were made in connexion with the sheep-farming industry generally.

An officer of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station at Aberystwyth visited the Colony in November and carried out an analysis of the pastures with a view to their subsequent improvement.

No statistics are kept of the actual quantity of wool produced in any one year, as distinct from the quantity exported, but the average production during the past five years was four million pounds annually. The actual return of wool exported during 1937 was 4,602,959 lb. valued at £162,511, or more by 608,422 lb. than the preceding year. The average price realized was 1s. 2d. per lb. against an average price of 8½d. per lb. in 1936.

Some 30,000 sheep were exported during the year to Chile for freezing with a view to re-export and sale on the market in the United Kingdom. The estimated value of the sheep exported was £13,773. The experiment proved successful and the mutton met with ready sale on the London market.

*Hides and skins* exported were valued at £17,923 as against £7,825 in the previous year, or an increase of £10,098.

*Livestock*.—A number of rams were imported from New Zealand and Patagonia for the purpose of improving flocks in the Colony.

*Seal oil*.—Sealing operations were conducted by the Falkland Islands and Dependencies Sealing Company, Limited, during the months of June to October. The total production of oil amounted to 278 tons valued at £4,200. The price of seal oil remained at £16 per ton.

The whole of the produce of the Colony is exported to the United Kingdom.



## VII.—COMMERCE.

With the exception of meat and a limited quantity of garden produce practically the whole of the Colony's requirements in foodstuffs is imported.

The total value of imports and exports for the year under review and each of the preceding four years is shown in the following tables:

IMPORTS.					
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco...	28,858	35,113	32,741	34,078	40,100
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	5,902	9,125	10,513	13,403	12,601
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	33,729	45,644	48,599	51,245	57,476
Miscellaneous and un- classified ...	747	1,315	8,988	2,401	5,450
Bullion and specie ...	25	750	—	960	1,125
<i>Total imports ...</i>	<i>£69,261</i>	<i>91,947</i>	<i>100,841</i>	<i>102,087</i>	<i>116,752</i>

EXPORTS.					
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Wool ...	100,749	130,325	109,381	98,684	162,511
Hides and skins ...	8,807	9,257	6,927	7,825	17,923
Tallow ...	1,768	1,867	2,070	2,089	2,618
Livestock ...	—	—	457	591	13,773
Seal oil ...	4,660	16	4,135	6,581	4,200
Other articles ...	988	1,249	1,331	887	2,995
<i>Total exports ...</i>	<i>£116,972</i>	<i>142,714</i>	<i>124,301</i>	<i>116,657</i>	<i>204,020</i>

There were no re-exports during the year.

## Imports.

The percentage of total imports provided by the British Empire and foreign countries for the year under review and each of the preceding four years is given below:

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	Per	Per	Per	Per	Per
	cent.	cent.	cent.	cent.	cent.
British Empire ...	81·29	79·73	77·53	78·62	76·23
Foreign Countries ...	18·71	20·27	22·47	21·38	23·77

The principal supplying countries were:

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	56,301	73,234	71,560	80,143	85,107
Other parts of British Empire.	—	84	6,624	116	3,756
Argentina ...	2,143	3,459	3,904	5,520	4,263
Brazil ...	94	1,054	2,272	1,035	1,848
Chile ...	625	3,530	6,209	4,491	9,839
Uruguay ...	9,918	9,780	9,118	9,567	9,701



The principal articles imported during 1937 and the previous year were as follow:

	1936.		1937.		<i>Principal sources of supply with values in £.</i>
	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Quantity.</i>	
Provisions...	22,471	—	23,039	—	United Kingdom (18,367), Uruguay (2,106), Argentine (1,254).
Hardware ...	15,865	—	21,133	—	United Kingdom (19,857).
Drapery ...	5,123	—	5,012	—	United Kingdom (4,987).
Coal, coke and oil fuel.	7,510	—	4,769	—	Chile (2,415), Uruguay (2,330).
Timber ...	4,526	—	6,452	—	Chile (3,144), United Kingdom (1,812).
Paints, etc.	4,110	—	5,064	—	United Kingdom (2,231), Uruguay (1,828).
Chemicals ...	5,279	—	4,760	—	United Kingdom (4,479).
Beer ...	1,690	10,384 gal.	2,789	17,032 gal.	„ „ (2,750).
Spirits ...	1,830	2,079 „	3,613	4,657 „	„ „ (3,612).
Tobacco ...	2,652	8,293 lb.	4,321	13,215 lb.	„ „ (4,250).
Wines ...	700	1,050 gal.	1,130	1,503 gal.	„ „ (1,030).

### Exports.

Almost the entire trade continued, as in previous years, to be with the United Kingdom, shipments to other countries being inconsiderable.

The values and quantities of the principal domestic exports for the years 1936 and 1937 are given in the table below:

	1936.		1937.		<i>Principal countries of destination with values in £.</i>
	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £	<i>Quantity.</i>	
Wool ...	98,684	3,994,537 lb.	162,511	4,560,063 lb.	United Kingdom (all).
Tallow ...	2,089	248,496 „	2,618	205,896 „	„ „ (2,570).
Hides and Sheepskins.	7,825	75,812	17,923	110,153	„ „ (17,904).
Seal Oil ...	6,581	2,732 bls.	4,200	1,654 bls.	„ „ (all).

*Coin and Notes.*—Statistics of the imports of coin for the year 1937 and the previous four years are as follows:—

1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
£	£	£	£	£
25	750	—	960	1,125

There were no imports of notes and no exports of coin or notes during the five years 1933 to 1937.

### VIII.—LABOUR.

The principal industry, which is sheep-farming, absorbs labour to the extent of some 500 persons. In Stanley employment is almost solely at the disposal of the Government and of the Falkland Islands Company, Limited. There was a slight



increase in the number of men seeking employment in 1937, some of whom were granted relief work by the Agricultural Department during the winter months.

### IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Rates of wages and hours of work remained the same throughout the year. Unskilled labourers were paid at the rate of 1s. 2d. an hour while skilled labourers and artisans received 1s. 4d. and 1s. 7d. an hour respectively. The number of hours worked per day was eight with a total of 40 to 45 a week. Wages for housemaids in domestic service with free board and lodging vary from £2 to £3 10s. per month; cooks receive from £3 to £4 10s. per month.

The average rate of wages on farm stations remained at £5 to £8 a month, with free quarters, fuel, meat and milk.

The cost of living varied little during the year, the average prices of the main articles of food being:—

Mutton	...	...	...	...	3d. per lb.
Beef	...	...	...	...	4d. per lb.
Pork, fresh	...	...	...	...	1s. per lb.
Fowls	...	...	...	...	2s. to 3s. each.
Fish, fresh	...	...	...	...	2d. to 3d. per lb.
Eggs	...	...	...	...	2s. to 3s. per doz.
Milk	...	...	...	...	8d. to 1s. per quart.
Potatoes	...	...	...	...	1½d. to 3d. per lb.
Bread	...	...	...	...	1s. per 4 lb. loaf.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	2d. per lb.
Tea ...	...	...	...	...	2s. to 3s. per lb.
Coffee	...	...	...	...	1s. 10d. to 2s. 8d. per lb.
Fresh vegetables	...	...	...	...	5d. per lb.
Butter (imported)	...	...	...	...	1s. 6d. to 2s. per lb.

The supply of fresh fish, fowls, and fresh pork is uncertain and irregular and in consequence diet is somewhat limited in variety.

The cost of living is moderate. There are no hotels in Stanley in the accepted sense of the term, but there are several boarding-houses which offer a reasonable degree of comfort and convenience for residents and occasional visitors, with charges ranging from £2 2s. to £3 3s. per week.

Unfurnished houses for workmen cost from £2 to £3 10s. per month.

In the majority of cases the Government provides houses for its officials. Houses, if not provided by the Government, are difficult to obtain and the average rent of an unfurnished house is £50 a year.

### X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years residing in Stanley is compulsory. There are two schools in Stanley, both elementary, the one maintained by the Government and the other by the Roman Catholic Mission. Provision is made at the Government school for attendance at a



continuation class for a two-year course of more advanced study. Grants are made by the Government in approved cases to enable children from country districts to be taught in Stanley.

Children who are unable to come to Stanley are taught by travelling teachers of whom the Government maintains three on the West Falkland and one on the East Falkland. The Falkland Islands Company, Limited, also maintains a schoolmaster at its settlement at Darwin, and in addition two itinerant schoolmasters for service in the outlying districts of Lafonia.

There are no facilities in the Colony for higher or vocational education.

There are no Government institutions, orphanages, or Poor Law institutions. Poor relief is granted by the Government in certain necessitous cases. The total amount expended in this connexion in 1937 amounted to £515. Legislative provision exists for the payment of compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment and a society known as the Stanley Benefit Club insures its members for sickness and death.

In Stanley there are three social clubs, the Colony Club, the Falkland Club and the Working Men's Social Club. Football is played throughout the year and the Stanley golf course provides a pleasant alternative to badminton under cover. Tennis and cricket are scarcely attempted. The most popular pastime is rifle shooting and the Defence Force Rifle Association, which is affiliated to the National Rifle Association, holds an annual meeting in Stanley on the lines of those held at Bisley. The Colony has been represented at Bisley by teams in the Junior Kolapore and Junior Mackinnon Competitions for a number of years. The Falkland Islands were successful in winning the Junior Kolapore Cup in 1930 and 1934 and the Junior Mackinnon trophy in 1937. Miniature rifle shooting in the Drill Hall and in several of the camp districts is also very popular during the winter months. The local Miniature Rifle Club has been successful from time to time in the competitions inaugurated by the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs. In 1933 it carried away the honours in the Dominion Clubs' Team Shoot.

The Stanley Sports Association holds an annual sports meeting in December of each year for horse-racing and athletic events.

Physical training forms an important part of the regular curriculum of the Government school as well as football, hockey and gymnastics.

There are also public baths and a well-equipped gymnasium.

The Town Hall, Stanley, in addition to housing the offices of several Government departments and the museum, contains a



fine main hall which is used for functions of varying description and for dances; the floor is well-sprung and can hold up to 250 couples at a time.

There is one sound-cinema in Stanley and also a public library with books to suit every taste.

## XI.—COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT.

Communication between Stanley and the outside world is effected principally through Monte Video, to which port a service is maintained in accordance with actual requirements by the s.s. *Lafonia* a vessel of some 1,800 tons dead weight, belonging to the Falkland Islands Company, Limited, and running on a mail contract for a period of five years from January, 1937. The Falkland Islands Company, Limited, also maintains the s.s. *Fitzroy* of some 600 tons dead weight. This vessel normally makes 12 to 15 voyages a year to Patagonia.

The distance from Stanley to Monte Video is rather more than 1,000 miles and the time taken on the voyage by the s.s. *Lafonia* averages four days. The average time occupied in the transit of mails to and from the United Kingdom, via Monte Video, is 26 days. Opportunities for the receipt and despatch of mails are available every four weeks.

Communication with South Georgia is maintained by the Falkland Islands Company's s.s. *Lafonia* which makes two voyages between Stanley and the Dependency during the year. The time occupied on the voyage in either direction averages three days.

The Government operates a wireless station for external traffic at Stanley under the style of the Falkland Islands Radio. Regular communication is maintained with London and Monte Video, while the South Georgia Radio at Grytviken provides a link between Stanley and that Dependency.

The telegraph charges for messages to the United Kingdom are 2s. 6d. a word for ordinary, 1s. 3d. a word for deferred, and 1s. 6d. a word for code.

No submarine cables exist.

Postage to the United Kingdom and the Empire is 1d. per ounce.

During the year 1937 there were 160 wireless sets licensed.

A broadcast relay service is maintained by the Government. The fee for subscribers to this service is £1 per annum and the number of subscribers in 1937 was 112. Overseas programmes are relayed from the studio to subscribers. Local programmes of gramophone records are also given, as well as news and sports items from London.



Communication between Stanley and the farms is carried out on horseback or by boat. There are no railways and no roads beyond the immediate vicinity of Stanley. The inter-insular service for mails and passengers is carried out by the s.s. *Fitzroy* and s.s. *Roydur* belonging to the Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

No inland telegraphs exist, but a telephone system is maintained by the Government in Stanley both for official and general use. Several of the farm stations have their own lines which are connected to the Stanley system on the East Falkland and on the West Falkland converge at Fox Bay where the Government maintains a small wireless station for inter-insular traffic. Two farm stations have constructed radio stations of lower power for local communication.

There are no omnibuses or tramways plying for the service of the public in the Falkland Islands; nor has the aeroplane as yet been introduced, although the possibility of development in this direction would seem certainly to warrant investigation.

The number, nationality, and description of the vessels which entered the Colony from overseas during 1937 are shown in the table below:—

<i>Nationality.</i>					<i>Steam vessels.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British	...	...	...	...	36	52,526
Foreign	...	...	...	...	3	960
					—	—
					39	53,486
					—	—

## XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year new roads were constructed and improvements in drainage carried out in the outskirts of the town. The work of re-surfacing and tarring was continued over a considerable area of the town.

An extension of the Surf Bay roadway in an easterly direction was commenced and roads to the peat banks were further extended.

Several light wooden bridges were placed over streams on the tracks leading to the north camp for the convenience of travellers and the tracks leading to the west camp were dressed and drained.

Alterations were effected in several Government buildings, including the re-roofing of parts of Government House, improvements to the Government school, and the erection of a solarium at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, the latter being a presentation by public subscription. Alterations were also made to the public gymnasium to permit of the installation of a sound-cinema apparatus.



Heating systems were installed at the Defence Force drill hall and the wireless telegraph station.

The Medical Officer's quarters at Fox Bay were dismantled, removed from an isolated spot and re-erected with modern conveniences at a more central site at the port.

An average number of 61 men, exclusive of monthly employees, were on the pay roll during the year, as compared with 68 in 1936.

The total expenditure incurred under Public Works was £18,905.

### **XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISON.**

The judicial system of the Colony is administered by a Supreme Court, in which the Governor sits alone as Judge, and a Magistrate's Court in Stanley. A number of the farm managers are Justices of the Peace, and as such, have power to deal with minor offences. There is a local Police Force consisting of four constables and a Chief Constable. The Chief Constable is also gaoler-in-charge of the gaol in Stanley, which accommodates only short-sentence prisoners.

In general the Colony shows a remarkable absence of crimes of violence, while serious crime of any description is rare. Cases of petty theft and of injury to property, however, occur from time to time. Twenty-two persons were dealt with in 1937 in the Summary Court and of this number 15 were convicted. No criminal issue came before the Supreme Court during the year and no cases came before the juvenile court.

The prison in Stanley was inspected regularly by the medical authority and was found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition.

### **XIV.—LEGISLATION.**

Ten Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1937. In addition to the Supplementary Appropriation (1936) Ordinance, No. 2, and the Appropriation (1938) Ordinance, No. 3, the following measures were enacted:—

*The Discovery Ordinance*, providing for the disposal of the Royal Research Ship *Discovery*.

*The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance*, making provision for the payment of compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment.

*The Pensions Ordinance*, providing for the grant of pensions, gratuities and other allowances to persons who have been in the public service of the Colony.

*The Government Employees Provident Fund Ordinance*, establishing a Provident Fund for certain non-pensionable employees of the Government.



*The Forgery Ordinance*, extending to the Colony and Dependencies thereof The Forgery Act, 1913, of the Imperial Parliament.

*The Shipworkers Protection Ordinance*, to give effect to the International Labour Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships.

The following subsidiary legislation was also enacted during the year:

Proclamation dated the 1st of December, declaring certain preparations to which Part II of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1925, shall cease to apply.

Order in Council dated the 13th of November, revoking Sections 2 and 3 of the Harbour Regulations of the 24th of April, 1929.

Order in Council dated the 6th of December, declaring the discontinuance of the use of all stamps for denoting duties of postage, bearing the effigies of Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria and His Late Majesty King Edward the Seventh.

Regulations providing for leave and passages of officers serving in the Colony and the Dependencies.

Regulations enacting minor amendments to existing legislation with regard to medical fees.

Regulations enacting a minor amendment to existing legislation regarding the quarantining of sheep imported from South America.

Regulations making provision for the granting of pensions, gratuities and other allowances to officers.

## **XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.**

There are no banks in the Colony other than the Government Savings Bank. Interest is paid at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The total sum deposited at the close of the Bank's financial year on the 30th of September, was £185,418, and the number of depositors 1,069. The average amount standing to the credit of each depositor was £173, or about £77 per head of the population.

Remittances for the credit of any person or firm in the Colony can be made through the Commissioner of Currency and the Crown Agents for the Colonies, a charge being payable at the rate of 1 per cent. The Falkland Islands Company, Limited, who act generally as bankers or financial agents for the farm stations, also undertake a similar service.



The legal tender currency is British sterling and local £5, £1 and 10s. notes issued under the Falkland Islands Currency Notes Ordinance, 1930. The estimated value of coin and notes in circulation on the 31st of December was £3,000 and £22,000, respectively.

Imperial weights and measures only are used in the Colony.

## XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The revenue of the Colony for the year 1937 from all sources was £85,599 as compared with £64,505 in 1936, and from ordinary sources £69,656 as compared with £57,944 in 1936. The increase in revenue is due mainly to the following surplus receipts:—Customs duties £3,485, estate duty £583, hospital and medical fees £540, sale of stamps £8,338, and wireless messages £301.

The actual ordinary expenditure was £48,865. To this, however, should be added the sum of £19,383 consequent on depreciation of investments, making a total of £68,248 or more by £27,134 than in 1936, and less by £1,408 than the revenue from ordinary sources.

The principal causes contributing to the excess expenditure on recurrent services in 1937 were:—An over-expenditure of £1,403 under the Post Office Department, due chiefly to the extraordinary large sales of Coronation stamps which necessitated additional printing, and the cost of the new 1938 issue of stamps; £201 under Military, attributable mainly to a special gratuity paid to the late Gymnastic and Drill Instructor; an excess of £20,221 under Miscellaneous, the chief contributory cause being the amount of £19,383 charged to this head consequent on the depreciation of investments; whilst under Public Works Recurrent an additional amount of £309 was spent on furniture for Government buildings, and the vote for minor works was exceeded by £130. In addition to expenditure on recurrent services a sum of £13,041 was expended on Public Works Extraordinary.

The revenue from all sources during the year was more than the expenditure of £81,289 by £4,310.

Comparative figures of the expenditure and the revenue for the past five years are given in the following table:—

		Revenue.		Expenditure.	
		Ordinary.	Total.	Ordinary.	Total.
		£	£	£	£
1933	...	59,333	66,417	37,156	52,335
1934	...	101,584	102,700	37,519	54,463
1935	...	49,633	49,813	44,829	59,806
1936	...	57,944	64,505	41,115	51,702
1937	...	69,656	85,599	68,248	81,289



The Colony has no public debt. The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1937, amounted to £308,595 made up as follows:—

Land Sales Fund	...	...	...	...	£	258,282
Other Surplus	...	...	...	...		50,313
						<hr/>
						£308,595

The Falkland Islands Reserve Fund which stood at £34,000 on the 31st of December, 1936, remained unchanged.

The principal heads of taxation are:—

- (1) Customs import and export duties.
- (2) Rates levied on house property.

Customs import duties are payable on wines, malt, spirits, tobacco and matches, at the following rates:—

Wines	...	...	...	...	3s. a gallon in bulk or 3s. 6d. a dozen bottles of reputed pints.
Malt	...	...	...	...	6d. a gallon in casks or 6d. a dozen bottles of reputed pints.
Spirits	...	...	...	...	20s. a gallon.
Tobacco	...	...	...	...	4s. a pound.
Matches	...	...	...	...	For every gross of boxes not exceeding 10,000 matches, 4s.

A preferential rate of nine-tenths of the duty is allowed on tobacco and cigarettes of Empire production and manufacture, and matches of Empire manufacture and provenance are admitted duty free.

Export duties are collected on wool, whale oil and seal oil at the following rates:—

Wool	...	...	...	...	1s. for every 25 lb.
Whale oil and seal oil	...	...	...	...	1s. 6d. for every barrel of forty gallons, or 9s. a ton.

The receipts from each source in 1937 were as follows:—

Import duties	...	...	...	...	...	£	8,016
Export duties	...	...	...	...	...		9,468
Rate on house property	...	...	...	...	...		872

There are no excise or stamp duties and no hut tax or poll tax.

## PART II.—THE DEPENDENCIES.

### I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

#### General.

The Dependencies are divided into two main groups, the one consisting of South Georgia with the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands, and the other of the South Shetlands with Graham's Land.



### Geography.

The island of South Georgia lies about 800 miles to the east of the Falkland Islands, in  $54\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  south latitude, the South Orkneys and the South Sandwich Islands being 450 miles to the south-west and south-east, respectively, of South Georgia. The northern point of the South Shetlands is about 500 miles to the south of the Falkland Islands. South Georgia with the South Orkneys and South Sandwich group of Dependencies is bounded by the fiftieth parallel of south latitude and by the twentieth and fiftieth meridians of west longitude, and the South Shetlands and Graham's Land by the fifty-eighth parallel of south latitude and by the meridians of longitude 50 and 80 west. South Georgia is the principal island in the Dependencies and is the only portion of them inhabited throughout the year except for the meteorological station which is maintained by the Argentine Government on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys. It has an area of about 1,450 square miles (statute), is about 100 miles in length with a maximum breadth of 20 miles, and consists mainly of steep mountains from which glaciers descend. There is but little flat land and the island is almost entirely barren, the south-west side being permanently frozen. The main vegetation is some coarse grass which grows on the north-eastern side of the island, where the snow melts in the summer. There are no indigenous quadrupeds other than seals but reindeer have been introduced and are thriving well. There are many sea-birds including penguins and albatrosses. The sea-elephant, the sea-leopard and the Weddell's seal frequent its shores. The coast line has been indifferently charted but much useful work has been done in this direction during the past five years by the *Discovery* Expedition.

### Climate.

Although Grytviken in Cumberland Bay, South Georgia, is little over a 100 miles further south than Stanley the difference in climate is very marked, that of the former approximating closely to conditions in the Antarctic. The mountains are ice-bound and snow-capped throughout the year and glaciers descend on the grand scale right to the sea. During the year 1937 the average mean temperature was  $35.38^{\circ}$  F. Rain fell on 87 days and snow or sleet on 101 days.

Within recent years instances of volcanic activity at Deception Island, South Shetlands, have been frequent. The first earthquake of which there is any definite record occurred in 1923, though it is stated by some of the whaling community that shocks were felt in 1912. In February, 1924, a strong tremor was experienced when a large rock forming the crest of a natural arch, and known locally as the "Sewing Machine," at the approach to Port Foster was disturbed, and, in 1925, during the absence of the whaling factory *Ronald*, one of the giant columns in the entrance of the harbour disappeared. Again, in the season 1928-9 several earthquake shocks were felt, the most pronounced



being in March, 1929, when a large quantity of rock fell, completely changing the formation of the ridge on the east side of the harbour. The water in the harbour of Port Foster frequently becomes agitated by the subterranean heat, the shores in places being completely obscured by the dense vapour emitted.

### History.

South Georgia and the South Shetland Islands were sighted and taken possession of for Great Britain by Captain Cook in 1775, and the South Orkneys were discovered by Captain Powell of the British ship *Dove* who landed on Coronation Island on 7th December, 1821, and took possession of the group in the name of King George IV. The South Shetlands were discovered by Mr. W. Smith in the brig *Williams* in 1819 and were examined by Captain Bransfield in 1820. Captain Bransfield also discovered the first part of Graham's Land and Mr. John Biscoe discovered the west coast in 1832. Profitable sealing voyages to South Georgia were made prior to 1793 and British whalers were reported there in 1819. The fur-seal industry in the Dependencies achieved such proportions in the early part of the nineteenth century that expeditions were made to them in the two seasons 1820-1 and 1821-2 by no less than 91 vessels. So recklessly did they slaughter, however, that they are said practically to have exterminated the fur-seal, James Weddell stating that in 1822-4 these animals were almost extinct.

The meteorological station on Laurie Island in the South Orkneys to which reference has been already made was established in 1903 by the Scottish Antarctic Expedition under Mr. W. Bruce and was transferred by him in 1904 to the Argentine Government. Valuable contributions to the survey of the Dependencies have been made in recent years by the ships under the direction of the Discovery Committee, particularly the R.R.S. *Discovery II*. Knowledge of the South Georgia coast was much advanced in the years 1926-30, the South Sandwich group was surveyed in 1930, extensive running surveys were made in the South Orkneys in 1933, and from time to time in the South Shetlands.

## II.—GOVERNMENT.

Constitutionally the Dependencies are subject to the same authority as the Colony proper, that is to say to the Governor and to the Executive and Legislative Councils. Ordinances enacted by the latter body, however, in respect of the Colony do not have application to the Dependencies unless they are specially applied.

The Dependencies, in contradistinction to the Colony, are peopled almost exclusively and utilized mainly by foreigners and are governed from the Falkland Islands with a central administration in common. A resident magistrate and official staff are



maintained at South Georgia, and control over whaling operations in the other Dependencies is carried out by representatives of the Government who accompany the expeditions.

There is no local government in South Georgia; in fact there are no communities other than the whaling stations which are run by the managers on behalf of the several companies owning them.

### III.—POPULATION.

There is no permanent population in the Dependencies except in South Georgia where the figures fluctuate with the seasons of the whaling industry. The population in South Georgia is resident either at the privately-owned whaling stations or at the Government Headquarters at King Edward Cove in Cumberland Bay. During the summer it approximates to 700, practically all males, but during the winter it is not more than one-third of that number. The British inhabitants of South Georgia are limited practically to the Government staff and to the crews of British vessels. The remainder are almost exclusively Norwegian. One birth, no deaths and no marriages occurred in the Dependencies in 1937.

### IV.—HEALTH.

There is little or no sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being of rare occurrence. Some unhealthiness, however, arises from the lack of fresh food-stuffs.

The Government does not maintain a Medical Officer in the Dependencies, but the whaling companies provide their own doctors, the Government contributing a share of the salary of the medical officer resident at Grytviken. In the Dependency of South Georgia there are well-equipped hospitals maintained by the whaling companies.

Weather conditions were very bad during the year but health conditions were relatively good except that the monotony of the climate and the lack of sunshine tended to produce a state of mental depression.

### V.—HOUSING.

The housing question does not really arise in the Dependencies. All the officials are suitably housed in quarters at King Edward Cove and the accommodation provided by the whaling companies for the personnel working on their stations may be said to be fully adequate.

### VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Apart from sealing on a small scale, the only industry in the Dependencies is whaling, and whale and seal oil and by-products of the whale, such as guano, are their sole products. The whaling season is restricted to the period from 16th October to 16th April, and sealing operations are carried on at South Georgia during the period 1st March to 31st October.



At South Georgia two stations only conducted operations while the land station at Deception Island remained closed. No floating factories operated under licence from the Government. There was little or no improvement in the price of whale oil during the year. The price ranged from £14 to £21 a ton according to grade.

The season was a very poor one, blue whales in particular being scarce and weather conditions boisterous.

The catch amounted to 1,887 whales of which 97 only were blue, 1,552 fin, 40 humpback, 43 sperm and 155 sei. The number of barrels of oil produced was 90,266 with an average per "standard" whale of 96.85 barrels. 95,576 bags of guano and 47 tons of baleen were also produced.

For comparative purposes, the following table shows the actual catch, "standard whales", the oil and guano production, and the average for the season under review and the four preceding seasons:—

Season.	Actual Catch of Whales.	"Standard" Whales.	Oil Produced (Barrels).	Averages.		
				Guano (Bags).	Oil (Barrels).	Guano. (Bags).
1933-34 ...	2,364	1,431	132,190	123,996	92.37	86.65
1934-35 ...	1,575	1,022	108,261	91,073	105.90	89.09
1935-36 ...	1,785	1,493	143,192	114,666	95.90	76.80
1936-37 ...	1,759	783	81,089	80,378	103.56	102.65
1937-38 ...	1,887	932	90,266	95,576	96.85	102.54

The total value of the season's production is estimated at £253,790 of which £180,502 represents the value of oil, £72,361 guano and £927 baleen.

## VII.—COMMERCE.

The whole of the Dependencies requirements in foodstuffs is of necessity imported.

The total value of imports and exports for the year under review and each of the preceding four years is shown in the following tables:—

	Imports.				
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink and tobacco...	9,884	7,898	9,804	8,340	11,430
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	57,368	72,745	70,547	77,554	141,469
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	133,305	124,211	96,888	174,673	218,142
Miscellaneous and unclassified.	—	—	—	—	182
Bullion and specie ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total imports including importations from the High Seas for re-exportation.	£200,557	204,854	177,239	260,567	371,223



*Exports.*

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Whale bone ... ..	160	2,200	1,221	1,362	728
Bone meal ... ..	—	1,521	1,589	4,454	4,401
Guano ... ..	41,674	65,838	62,768	70,268	34,328
Hardware, etc. ... ..	1,740	440	3,460	1,720	3,600
Seal oil ... ..	37,258	14,806	4,230	33,738	32,496
Whale oil ... ..	256,506	359,881	245,815	444,639	305,049
Whale meat meal ... ..	—	—	—	—	26,044
Other articles ... ..	15	10,800	6,400	—	—
Total exports including re-exports.	£337,353	455,486	325,483	556,181	406,646

*Re-exports.*

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Whale oil ... ..	102,982	93,842	60,015	133,658	178,190
Whale meat meal ... ..	—	—	—	—	4,574
Guano ... ..	—	—	—	4,667	—
Total re-exports	£102,982	93,842	60,015	138,325	182,764

**Imports.**

The percentage of total imports provided by the British Empire and foreign countries, excluding importations from the "high seas" for re-exportation, for the year under review and each of the preceding four years is given below:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
British Empire ... ..	39·36	29·70	48·50	24·74	19·94
Foreign Countries ... ..	60·64	70·30	51·50	75·26	80·06

The principal supplying countries were:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ... ..	38,410	32,968	50,029	29,751	37,583
British West Indies ... ..	—	—	6,048	—	—
Argentina ... ..	4,772	5,524	7,505	3,952	3,710
Canary Islands ... ..	2,700	6,315	8,842	8,975	7,950
Cape Verde Islands ... ..	—	—	—	—	10,292
Denmark ... ..	—	—	2,583	4,317	—
Dutch West Indies ... ..	26,631	41,610	24,184	36,005	103,473
Holland ... ..	1,016	670	—	5,551	6,206
Norway ... ..	24,046	14,180	16,564	31,693	19,245



The principal articles imported during 1937 and the previous year were as follows:—

	1936. Value.	1937. Value.	Principal sources of supply with values in £.
Provisions ...	£ 6,910	£ 9,028	United Kingdom (3,609), Argentine (2,606), Norway (1,799).
Coal, coke and oil fuel.	75,076	140,124	Dutch West Indies (103,469), United Kingdom (18,114), Cape Verde (10,290), and Canary Islands (7,950).
Bags and bagging...	4,773	4,456	United Kingdom (3,004), Holland (1,452).
Canvas, rope, etc....	3,618	4,379	Norway (2,837), United Kingdom (1,013).
Hardware ...	18,847	17,229	Norway (9,061), United Kingdom (5,750), Holland (2,380).
Paints and oils ...	2,289	2,847	United Kingdom (1,679), Norway (1,016).

### Exports.

The percentage of domestic exports sent to the British Empire and foreign countries for the year under review and each of the preceding four years is given below:—

	1933. Per cent.	1934. Per cent.	1935. Per cent.	1936. Per cent.	1937. Per cent.
British Empire ...	96·34	98·65	92·14	41·93	39·31
Foreign Countries ...	3·66	1·35	7·86	58·07	60·69

The principal countries of destination were:—

	1933. £	1934. £	1935. £	1936. £	1937. £
United Kingdom...	325,009	438,681	293,999	191,902	159,846
Argentine ...	12,344	5,606	12,084	70	9,065
French West Africa ...	—	—	13,000	—	—
Canary Islands ...	—	—	—	30,000	160,255
Denmark ...	—	—	—	—	77,480
Cape Verde Islands ...	—	—	—	177,040	—
Holland ...	—	—	—	15,385	—
Norway ...	—	—	—	42,380	—

The values and quantities of the principal domestic exports for the years 1936 and 1937 are given in the table below:—

	1936.		1937.	
	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.
Whale bone ...	£ 1,362	23 tons	£ 728	49 tons.
Bone meal ...	4,454	8,335 bags	4,401	10,867 bags.
Guano ...	65,601	113,105 „	34,328	61,632 „
Hardware ...	1,720	—	3,600	—
Seal oil ...	33,738	11,246 brls.	32,496	11,953 brls.
Whale oil ...	310,981	116,616 „	126,859	36,246 „
Whale meat meal ...	—	—	21,470	42,490 bags.



**Re-exports.**

The re-exports from the Dependencies consist of whaling products from the "high seas" produced by pelagic whaling companies operating in the ice.

The values and quantities of the re-exports from South Georgia for the year 1936 and the year under review were as follows:—

	1936.		1937.	
	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.
	£		£	
Whale oil ... ..	133,658	50,050 brls.	178,190	47,058 brls.
Whale meat meal ... ..	—	—	4,574	8,695 bags.
Guano ... ..	4,667	8,486 bags	—	—

There have been no imports or exports of coin or notes during the past five years.

**VIII.—LABOUR.**

Labour in South Georgia and on board the floating factories is especially recruited on contract terms. The average number of men employed during the whaling season from October to April is 700 and the average number of hours worked per week is 54. During the remainder of the year the number decreases to about 200 and the average number of hours per week worked without overtime to 40.

A number of Falkland Islands labourers were again employed on the two land stations at South Georgia and also on board the floating factories belonging to Messrs. Chr. Salvesen of Leith.

**IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.**

The bonus system on production is generally in vogue, the total earnings of an ordinary labourer ranging from £10 to £15 a month with all found. There are no shops and no private trade in the Dependencies and all foodstuffs are provided by the whaling companies for the personnel engaged on their stations. The question of the cost of living does not, therefore, arise.

**X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.**

There are no children in the Dependencies and the problem of education does not therefore arise.

In South Georgia private cinematograph shows are run by the whaling companies for the benefit of the men employed on their stations. Football is played during the summer months and interest is taken in other forms of sport such as ski-ing during the deep snow of the winter months.



## XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

As has been stated in Chapter XI, Part I, of this Report, communication with South Georgia and Stanley is maintained by the Falkland Islands Company's s.s. *Lafonia*, a vessel of some 1,800 tons which makes two voyages during the year for the conveyance of mails to and from South Georgia. Opportunities occur not infrequently during the whaling season for the despatch of mails between Europe and South Georgia direct and there is a fairly reliable service three times in the year between Buenos Aires and Grytviken which is furnished by the motor auxiliary s.s. *Tijuca* of the Compañia Argentina de Pesca. The majority of the vessels of the high seas whaling fleet call at South Georgia on their way to the fishing grounds in November and also on their return journey in April.

Mails are received and despatched either direct or via Stanley by opportunities as they occur. Postal rates in the Dependencies are the same as from and to the Colony proper.

There is a wireless station at Grytviken maintained by the Government which is in regular communication with Stanley through which traffic is passed beyond the limits of the Colony. The Argentine Government is permitted to maintain a wireless station on Laurie Island, in the South Orkneys.

No railways or roads exist in the Dependencies. Two floating docks are maintained at South Georgia, by the whaling companies, one at Grytviken and the other at Stromness Harbour. At Grytviken the dock has an overall length of 133 feet and a breadth of 34 feet with a lifting capacity of 600 tons. It is capable of taking vessels up to 140 feet in length and drawing 15 feet 6 inches. Stromness dock is 150 feet long, 34 feet wide and its lifting capacity is 700 tons. It will accommodate vessels up to 160 feet in length and 15 feet in draught.

There are only two ports of entry in the Dependencies, one at Grytviken, South Georgia, and the other at Port Foster, Deception Island, in the South Shetlands.

The number, nationality, and description of the vessels which entered at South Georgia in 1937 are given in the table below:—

Nationality.	Steam.		Sailing.	
	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Vessels.	Tonnage.
British ... ..	73	127,449	—	—
Foreign (mostly Norwegian) ...	48	63,403	1	497
	121	190,852	1	497

## XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of importance or interest were carried out by the Government during the year.



### XIII.—JUSTICE AND POLICE.

The Magistrate, South Georgia, sits at Grytviken in a court of first instance and the Supreme Court of the Colony at Stanley is common to all the Dependencies. One constable is stationed at South Georgia. No cases of serious crime came before the Courts during the year. The personnel of the whaling industry forms a most peaceful and law-abiding community, rarely calling for the intervention of the civil authorities. A very high standard of discipline is maintained by the managers of the several whaling stations.

### XIV.—LEGISLATION.

See under Chapter XIV of Part I of this Report.

### XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

No banks of any description are in existence in the Dependencies. The same facilities as are afforded in the Colony through the Treasury at Stanley by the Government Savings Bank for deposit or by the Commissioner of Currency for remittances, are available in South Georgia through the agency of the Magistrate.

The legal tender currency is British sterling and Falkland Islands £5, £1 and 10s. notes.

Weights and measures are generally British or Norwegian standard. Whale and seal oil is calculated by the barrel at six barrels of forty gallons to the ton, and guano and other by-products of the whale in hundreds of pounds or in kilograms.

### XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

The revenue of the Dependencies is derived almost entirely from the whaling industry and amounted in 1937 to £12,942. As a result of the poor season export duty on whale oil and guano fell short of anticipated receipts by £3,364. The expenditure for the year amounted to £12,942 which is equal to the amount of revenue collected.

Comparative figures of the revenue and the expenditure for the past five years are given in the following table:—

				<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
				£	£
1933	...	...	...	12,081	18,384
1934	...	...	...	14,892	14,892
1935	...	...	...	12,617	12,617
1936	...	...	...	24,344	19,851
1937	...	...	...	12,942	12,942



The Dependencies have no public debt. The surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1937, amounted to £239,462 all of which is earmarked for the Research and Development Fund.

The principal heads of taxation are Customs duties on the importation of alcoholic liquors and tobacco, and on the exportation of whale and seal oil and other products of the whaling industry such as guano. The amount collected by way of import duties in 1937 was £712 while export duties amounted to £8,436. The Customs tariff on importation is the same as in the Colony. Export duty on whale and seal oil was fixed at 1s. 6d. per barrel of 40 gallons or 9s. a ton. No change was made in the rate of export duty on guano which remained at 1½d. per 100 lb.

As in the Colony proper there are no excise or stamp duties, and no hut tax or poll tax.



APPENDIX.  
BIBLIOGRAPHY.*Books relating to the Falkland Islands.*

<i>Title.</i>	<i>Author.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Publisher.</i>	<i>Price.</i> s. d.	
Egmont Port, Account of last expedition.*	Bernard Penrose	1775	—	—	—
Falkland Islands.	G. T. Whittington	1840	Smith, Elder and Co. and J. Ridgway.	—	—
Falkland Islands.	Sir W. L. Allardyce, G.C.M.G.	1909	Garden City Press, Letchworth.	—	—
Story of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies.	Sir T. R. St. Johnstone, K.C.M.G.	1920	Colonial Secretary's Office, Stanley.	—	—
The Falkland Islands.	V. F. Boyson	1924	Clarendon Press	10	0
Falkland Islands, a short notice prepared on the occasion of the Centenary of the Colony.	J. M. Ellis	1933	Colonial Secretary's Office, Stanley.	1	0
Antarctica.	Nordenskjold and Anderson.	1905	Hurst and Blackett	18	0
Memorandum on the sheep-farming industry in the Falkland Islands.	Sir John Middleton, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.	1924	Colonial Secretary's Office, Stanley.	2	6
Report of an Investigation into the Conditions and Practice of Sheep-farming in the Falkland Islands.	Hugh Munro	1924	Colonial Secretary's Office, Stanley.	2	6
Final Report on Geological Investigations in the Falkland Islands, 1920-2.	H. A. Baker	1924	Colonial Secretary's Office, Stanley.	2	6
The Climate and Weather of the Falkland Islands.	C. E. P. Brooks	1923	Colonial Secretary's Office, Stanley.	1	0
A botanical survey of the Falkland Islands.	Carl Skottsberg	1913	Almquist and Wiksells, Uppsala.	11	6
Illustrations of the Flowering Plants and Ferns of the Falkland Islands.*	E. F. Vallentin	1921	Reeve.	42	0
Voyage of a Naturalist.	Charles Darwin	1882	John Murray	—	—
Falkland Islands, Wild life in.	A. F. Cobb	1910	Gowans and Gray	0	6
Birds of the Falkland Islands.	A. F. Cobb, B.A., F.R.G.S.	1933	H. F. & G. Witherby	7	6
<i>Books relating to the Dependencies.</i>					
Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Research and Development in the Dependencies of the Falkland Islands.	Cmd. 657	1920	H.M. Stationery Office.	2	6
South Georgia.	L. Harrison Matthews.	1931	Simpkin and Marshall, Ltd.	15	0
Whaling in the Antarctic	A. G. Bennett	1931	Blackwood	7	6
Whaling and other Researches.	"Discovery" Reports.	1929-	Cambridge University Press.	Various prices.	

Blue Book.

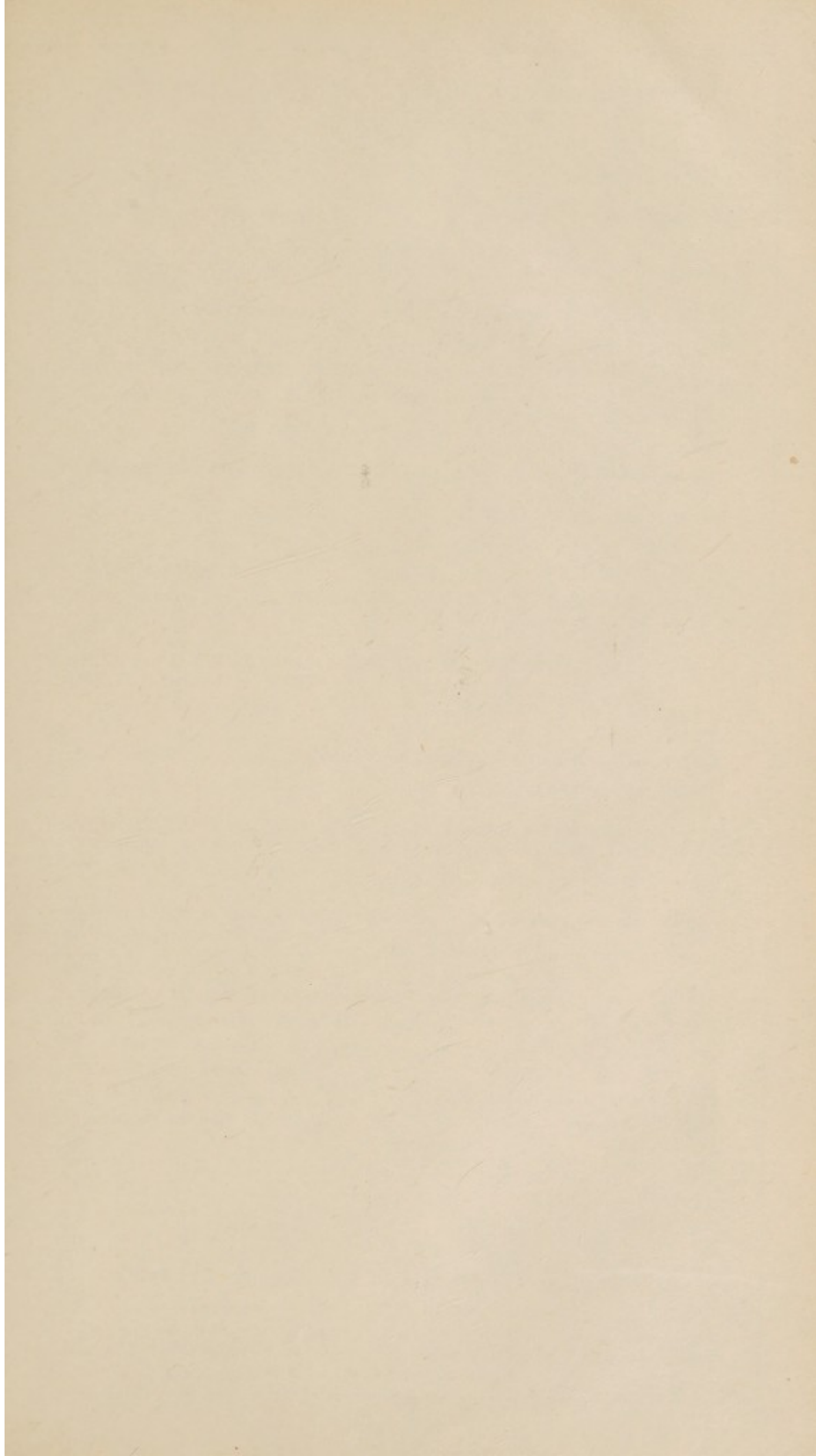
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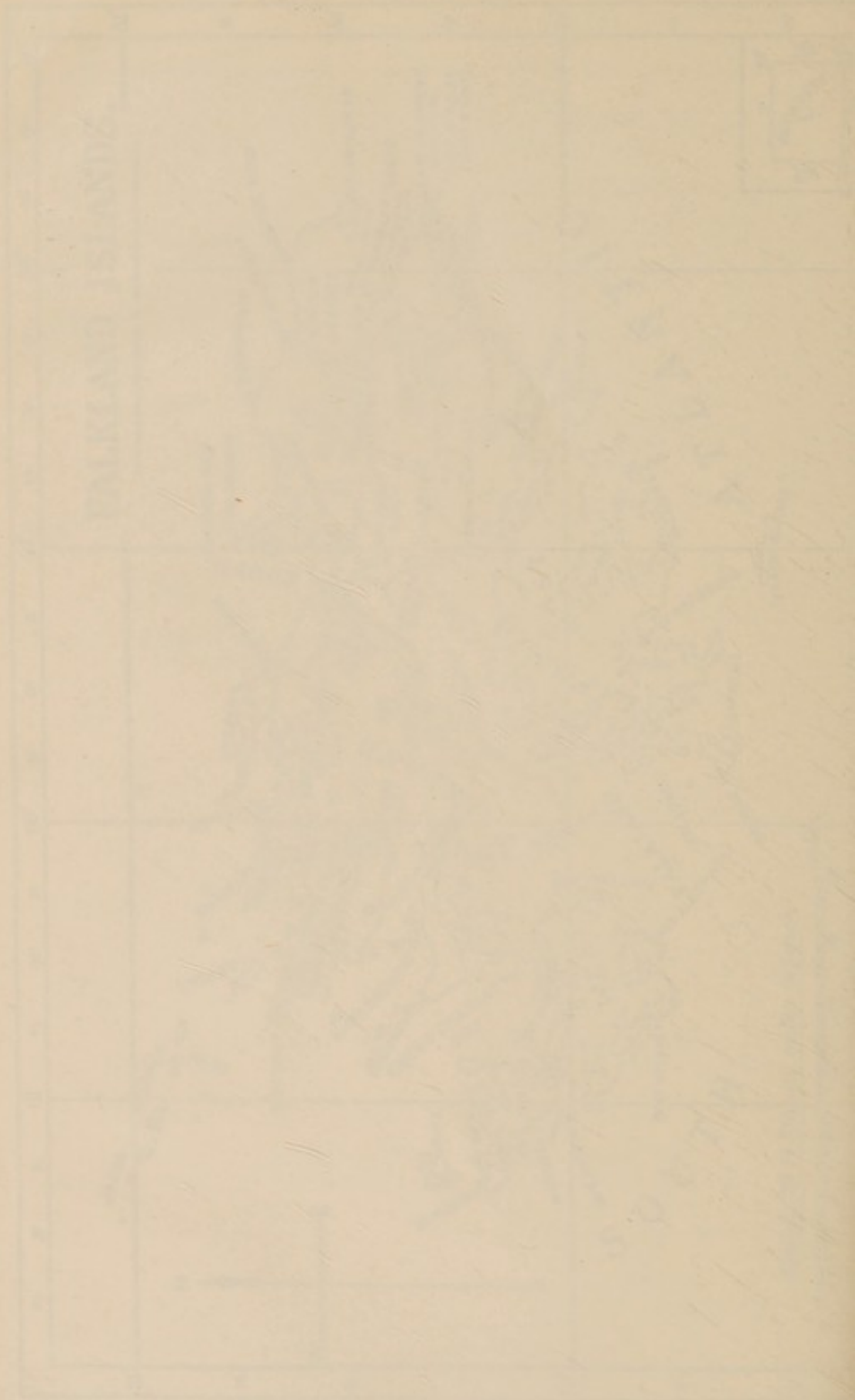








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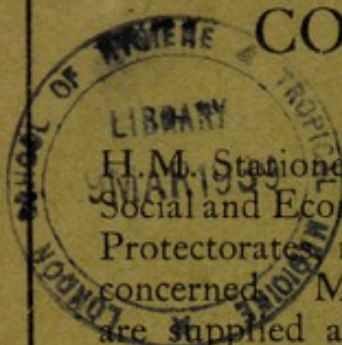
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