

Appendix J.

REPORT ON NEW TERRITORIES FOR THE YEAR 1924.

A.—NORTHERN DISTRICT

I.—STAFF.

Mr. E. I. Wynne-Jones was in charge until the end of the year. Mr. Lau Chi Wa, shroff, was promoted from 5th grade to 4th class on 1st May, and Mr. Chan Hei Wo, 5th grade clerk promoted to 4th class on 1st October. Mr. Lam Tin and Mr. Chan Ho Chi (probationers) were transferred from Treasury and Colonial Secretary's Office respectively on 1st February, for additional land registration work.

II.—MAGISTRACY.

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

The continued increase in fines is due to the large number of opium cases, one fine being for \$4,800.00.

III.—LAND OFFICE.

The number of sales and other transactions affecting land which took place are set out in Table B.

The number of memorials registered was 2846 as against 3625 in 1923, the registration fees being \$4,546.70 as against \$6,046.16. The decrease being due to the slackening of the land boom.

New conditions of sale were introduced and had the effect of stifling the outburst of wild speculation, which while bringing in greater revenue had no real effect on the development of the Territories.

The collapse of the land boom had the effect of most of the reclamation proposals put forward last year being dropped.

IV.—REVENUE.

The Revenue collected in this Office is set out under the various heads in Table C, the total being \$213,651.88. Table D gives the revenue for each year since 1919.

The following amounts were paid by the District through other offices :—

	\$	cts.
Liquor Duties, Sai Kung	4,553.60	
Harbour Dues „ „	2,518.50	
„ „ No. 1 Launch	4,968.25	
„ „ No. 2 Launch	1,819.90	
„ „ No. 3 Launch	2,624.60	
„ „ No. 4 Launch	3,150.65	
Crown Rents paid to Treasury	2,945.00	
Mining Licence Fees paid to Treasury ...	1,121.50	
„ „ „ „ C. S. O.... ..	559.00	
Tobacco Duties	14,287.53	
Tobacco Licence fees	144.00	
Total	\$38,692.53	

The total revenue for the Northern District during 1924 was therefore \$252,344.41 as against \$316,804.41.

V.—GENERAL.

Crops.—These as a whole were normal, without any special features.

Crime.—There was a considerable increase in Serious Crimes reported as compared with 1923. This increase was largely due to the unsettled conditions prevailing over the border, where the Sun and Chan armies indulged in a continual war for the control of the Po On district.

An analysis of these crimes is given in Table G.

Eight of these robberies are known to have been committed by gangs from Chinese Territory, and some almost certainly by Chinese soldiers.

The murder took place near Pan Chung, the victim being an elderly man. Robbery was undoubtedly the motive. No arrests were made, there being an entire absence of clues or information. The manslaughter case arose from the collision between two Motor Buses at Lam Ti, Castle Peak Road.

The two drivers were tried at Sessions and sentenced to 3 years each.

The work of widening the bridges on this road was proceeded with immediately after this and should reduce the risk of such fatalities. Of the robberies, in only one case could an offender be brought to book, when one of a gang who raided a shop in British Shataukok was arrested and subsequently sentenced to 10 years at Sessions.

A nest of Triad Societies in Taipo was discovered and six persons convicted and variously sentenced. This appears to have stamped out these Societies in the District.

Accidents.—The number of fatal accidents reported, *viz.*, 13, is largely due to the increase in motor traffic, six fatal motor accidents having been reported.

The remainder were for the most part accidental drownings.

Local Public Works.—Table E gives the works constructed from this vote. The large surplus is due to the fact that it was difficult to find contractors to take on certain works which it is hoped will be in hand next year.

Rainfall.—Table F gives the rainfall for the year at Taipo, and the average for the preceding 5 years.

E. I. WYNNE-JONES,
District Officer, North.

28th February, 1925.

Table A.

	1924.	<i>Average from 1919-1923.</i>
Cases heard,	355	300
Persons brought before the Police Magistrate,	563	409
Persons convicted and punished,.....	373	325
Persons bound over,	26	40
Persons discharged,	160	119
Persons Committed,	4	6
Persons imprisoned,	115	105
Fines inflicted,	\$18,988.50	\$330,491
Warrants executed,	40	50

SMALL DEBTS COURT.

Cases heard,	105	194
Writs of Execution,	33	148

Table B.

Heading.	No. of Sales, Permits, Li- cences, etc.	No. of Lots.	Area in Acres.	Increase of Annual Rent. \$ c.	Decrease of Annual Rent. \$ c.	Amount of Premium, Fees, etc. \$ c.	Amount paid for Resump- tion of Land. \$ c.	Term of Years.	Remarks.
Sales of Land for Agriculture ... ..	...	114	19.27 acres.	27.00	—	3,978.00	—	75	
Brick-kiln and Yard ... ..	...	2	35.78 "	179.00	—	15,331.00	—	75	
Building	421	251	22.92 "	2,011.00	—	61,538.00	—	75	
Garden ... ..	...	3	1.30 "	24.00	—	400.00	—	75	
Orchard ... ..	...	3	11.20 "	14.20	—	3,449.00	—	75	
Threshing floor ... ..	...	14	.48 "	2.30	—	249.00	—	75	
Water Tank	1	1	.03 "	2.00	—	15.00	—	75	
Lime Kiln	4	4	.02 "	2.00	—	8.00	—	75	
Kerosine Store	2	2	.02 "	1.50	—	9.00	—	75	
Extension for Building	14	14	.20 "	10.50	—	65.00	—	75	
Conversions	12	13	.71 "	54.50	—	251.49	—	75	
Exchanges	1	1	.03 "	4.00	—	—	—	75	
Permits to occupy Land for Agriculture ...	98	—	34.14 "	—	—	90.36	—	1	
" " " "	14	—	9.78 "	—	—	21.14	—	5	

Table B,—Continued.

Heading.	No. of Sales, Permits, Li- cences, etc.	No. of Lots.	Area in Acres.	Increase of Annual Rent.	Decrease of Annual Rent.	Amount of Premiums, Fees, etc.	Amount paid for Resump- tion of Land.	Term of Years.	Remarks.
Permits to occupy Other than Agriculture	3	—	1.93 acres.	—	—	1.90	—	1	
"	3	—	3.32 "	—	—	1.50	—	5	
Stone Quarry Leases ...	2	8	176.00 "	—	—	784.59	—	—	
Re-entries, ...	—	85	9.81 "	—	33.34	—	—	—	
Resumptions	—	774	28.68	—	29.53	—	3,896.46	—	
Stone Quarry Permits	136	—	—	—	—	395.00	—	—	
Permits to cut Earth, etc.	292	—	—	—	—	946.00	—	—	
Mashed Permits	185	—	—	—	—	811.50	—	—	
Ferry Licences	5	—	—	—	—	9.00	—	—	
Forestry Licences	276	—	15,500.00 "	—	—	1,608.76	—	—	*
Pineapple Land Leases	30	—	11.00 "	—	—	33.00	—	—	
Water-wheel Licences	2	—	"	—	—	2.00	—	—	
Grave Certificates	223	—	—	—	—	90.75	—	—	
Deeds Registration and Fees	2,846	—	—	—	—	4,546.70	—	—	

* 221 licences: Area 14,500 acres; Fees \$1,470.00 in 1925 account.

Table C.

	<i>Revenue for 1924.</i>	<i>Average of Revenue for 1919-1923.</i>
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Crown Rent, (Leased Lands), ...	88,290.12	83,049.22
Kerosine Oil Licences,	360.00	299.00
Chinese Wine & Spirit Licences,	4,725.06	3,743.75
Distillery Licences,	2,690.25	2,484.60
Pawnbrokers' Licences,	1,400.00	960.00
Money Changers' Licences,	420.00	530.00
Fines,	2,624.00	321.55
„ Reward Fund, (Opium),	1,107.00	390.30
„ „ (Liquor and Tobacco),	116.50	148.50
Forfeitures,	188.30	667.59
„ (Land Sales),	15.00	38.60
Distress Warrants,	38.00	150.20
„ „ (Crown Rent),	19.00	25.80
Courts Fees,	<i>Nil.</i>	.68
House Rent,	<i>Nil.</i>	460.56
Liquor Duties,	13,373.71	7,211.66
Arms Fine Fund,	<i>Nil.</i>	19.20
Arrears of Revenue,	366.70	3.28
Rent of Government Furniture,	<i>Nil.</i>	19.36
Other Miscellaneous Receipts, ...	114.82	43.78
Forestry Licences,	1,608.76	2,846.45
Permits to cut Earth, etc.,	551.00	205.00
Mining Licences,	<i>Nil.</i>	40.00
Grave Certificates,	90.75	64.25
Pine-apple Land Leases,	33.00	29.14
Matshed Permits,	811.50	289.90
Permits to occupy Land,	383.73	750.83
Stone Quarry Permits,	790.00	249.40
Stone Quarry Leases,	784.59	1,004.75
Water Wheel Licences,	2.00	2.50
Ferry Licences,	9.00	9.00
Certified Extract,	255.00	131.00
Sunprints,	40.00	98.40
Premia on Land Sales,	85,943.20	28,405.20
Stamps for Deeds,	4,546.70	2,705.87
Boundary Stones,	355.00	100.00
Deposit not Available,	1,539.25	525.63
Crown Leases,	60.00	36.00
Old Building,	<i>Nil.</i>	32.00
Piers,	<i>Nil.</i>	4.50
Total,	\$ 213,651.88	\$ 138,097.45

Table D.

Revenue collected from 1915-1924.

1915.....	\$112,075.71	1920.....	\$115,865.45
1916.....	174,153.77	1921.....	121,080.38
1917.....	117,095.84	1922.....	159,191.56
1918....	120,244.93	1923.....	280,848.64
1919.....	117,174.51	1924.....	209,105.18

Table E.

LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS, 1924.

	\$	c.
Repair to a bund and dam at Ho Sheung Heung,	260.00	
„ path at Yun Long Old Market,	200.00	
„ bridge near Kwan Ti,	450.00	
Improvements to the open triangular space at Tai Po Market,	100.00	
Unexpended,	3,990.00	
		<u>\$5,000.00</u>

Table F.

Rainfall at Tuipo Police Station.

<i>1924</i>	<i>inches</i>	<i>Average 1920-1924.</i>	<i>inches</i>
January	44	January	3.35
February	8.02	February	4.58
March	1.82	March	3.40
April	5.23	April	5.51
May	11.33	May	14.68
June	24.86	June	19.66
July	15.43	July	20.21
August	9.51	August	27.89
September	5.55	September	8.53
October	12.22	October	5.61
November	<i>Nil.</i>	November	2.40
December	1.27	December .....	.55
Total	95.68	Total Average...	116.37

Table G.

<i>On Land.</i>	<i>1924.</i>	<i>1923.</i>
Murder and Robbery,	1	1
Manslaughter,	2	...
Attempted Murder,	1	...
Armed Robbery and Kidnapping,	1	1
Armed Robbery,	8	2
Attempted Armed Robbery and Shooting,	1	...
Attempted Armed Robbery,	1	...
Robbery with Violence,	2	2
Highway Robbery.....	2	...
Attempted Highway Robbery,.....	1	...
	<u>20</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<i>On Water.</i>	<i>1924.</i>	<i>1923.</i>
Armed Robbery.....	1	1

(No other crimes in both years).

B.—SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

1.—STAFF.

Mr. N. L. Smith was in charge until March 5th; Mr. D. W. Tratman from March 6th until May 7th; Mr. J. A. Fraser from May 8th until October 16th., and Mr. W. Schofield from October 17th until the end of the year.

Mr. Leung Kong, 6th Grade clerk and shroff, was transferred to the Police Department on 1st July, and Mr. Ng Wah was engaged to replace him on the same date. Mr. Yeung Ki Sau, 5th Grade clerk, was promoted to the 4th Grade on October 1st.

2.—MAGISTRACY.

The District Officer sitting as Police Magistrate heard during the year 214 cases affecting 389 persons; 348 persons were convicted, 41 were discharged and 84 imprisoned. The following table gives a comparison with 1922 and 1923.

	1922.	1923.	1924.
No. of cases	127	175	214
No. of persons affected	242	403	389
No. of persons convicted	173	283	348
No. of persons discharged... ..	22	58	41
No. of persons imprisoned	47	62	84
Fines	\$1,705.85	\$2,739.21	\$2,658.48
Forfeitures	\$183.25	\$1,412.78	\$372.04
Reward Fund (Opium)	\$150.00	\$919.50	\$893.47
Reward Fund (Arms Fines)	—	—	\$85.25
Reward Fund (Liquor and Tobacco Fines)	—	—	\$604.42

3.—SMALL DEBTS COURT.

33 cases were instituted during the year as compared with 22 in 1923 and 56 in 1922.

4.—LAND OFFICE.

The number of land sales and other transactions affecting land which took place in 1924 are set forth in Table A. 1637 deeds were registered during the year as compared with 1929 in 1923. Registration fees for 1924 were \$4,433.30 as compared with \$9,894.90 in 1923. The slump in land prices due to over-speculation in 1923 materially diminished the number of purchases of land, especially agricultural; the knowledge that conversion of such land to building land is always refused no doubt helped to check such speculation.

5.—REVENUE.

The total revenue collected by the District Officer is shown in Table B. Table C gives details of revenue collected in Licence fees by the Police in 1923 and 1924.

Table D shows the revenue collected in the District during 1923 and 1924 by all Departments other than the District Office and includes the totals in Table C.

Table E shows comparatively the total revenue collected from the Southern District by all Departments during the last three years.

6.—LIQUOR.

Liquor duties collected in the Southern District during 1924 amounted to \$155,014.24. The total for 1923 was \$162,651.40. The chief sources of this revenue are given in the following Table which shows the totals of the last three years :—

District.	No. of Distilleries in 1924.	Revenue 1922.	Revenue 1923.	Revenue 1924.
Sham Shui Po,...	3	\$42,993.54	\$38,182.50	\$29,354.60
Kowloon City, ..	1	18,030.60	17,885.00	19,880.00
Tsun Wan,	11	68,223.36	96,450.08	95,999.38
Kwai Chung, ...	1	11,086.67	6,500.00	4,560.00
Kap Shui Mun,...	2	189.60	224.40	189.00
Cheung Chau, ...	4	1,292.90	1,398.60	1,560.30
Tai O,	3	1,243.52	650.24	1,592.32
Hang Hau,	5	2,385.92	2,137.94	1,685.76
Po Toi,	1	17.92	55.04	25.60
Tsing I,	1	91.00	110.00	95.60
Mang Kung Uk,...	1	55.68	57.60	71.68

7.—GENERAL.

In two respects the district has suffered a setback. The land boom of 1923 was followed by a slump, causing a return to normal values for land, and temporarily crippling those who had been expecting to convert or exchange their land and put up tenement houses. This discouragement of building has led to a falling off in the demand for lime, and forced the limekiln owners to cut down expenses.

The other factor causing a setback has been an extremely poor fishing season. The 'Wong Fa' fish, a migratory species, appeared in small numbers, and shrimps, used principally for making shrimp paste, were extremely scarce, and in spite of higher prices the fish trade is now suffering from great depression.

On the other hand, the crops everywhere are reported to have been good; both padi and dry crops gave good returns.

Tai O had a bad year. It depends almost entirely on fishing, and the severe depression in that industry led to bad business among the shopkeepers and a reduced output of salt, 19,000 piculs as against 22,000 in 1923. The catch of fish of all kinds reported was only 10,000 piculs compared with 35,800 piculs the preceding year.

26 small police cases were dealt with during the year. No serious crime was reported in the district.

The path from Tai O to Tung Chung was repaired; the cost was contributed half by Government and half by the inhabitants of the two places.

Cheung Chau was also badly hit by the fish shortage. Two salt fish dealers gave up business at the end of the year. The distilleries' business appears to have been affected, as it was not as good as last year; most of the wine is sold to junks. The quarry did even better business than last year; \$5,000 worth of granite was sold for building purposes in the island; none was exported.

1924 is the first complete year in which the Ferries Ordinance has been applied to the island. Experience shows that the greatly increased cost of running the ferry under the new conditions makes it unprofitable to keep more than one launch in service during the winter months, when first class passenger traffic is slack. Further, less money is now available for municipal purposes from the launch profits; hence market stall fees are to be raised from \$2.50 to \$5.00 a month.

The number of European residents during the summer months was the same as last year. The new Assembly Hall was opened by Lady Severn in July, 1924.

There were 238 deaths during the year; in 1923, 170 were reported.

Ping Chau now has 12 limekilns; the population has increased by about 20% during the year. One result of the increased demand for coral and shell for lime burning is that the supply of this material around Ping Chau and Cheung Chau is rapidly diminishing. A large limekiln has been built on Nei Kwu Chau.

Serious crime appears to be on the increase in this district. One murder, one poisoning, one manslaughter, four robberies, and 22 larceny cases are reported from the Cheung Chau police district. The manslaughter and one armed robbery took place on Cheung Chau, the murder and one armed robbery on Ping Chau.

Tsun Wan and Tsing Yi depend far more upon agriculture than on fisheries, and as 1924 was a very good season this district prospered. The pineapple crop in particular was abundant and prices high. The second padi crop was slightly damaged by wet. Production of lime in Tsing Yi decreased by 30,000 piculs compared with last year, the amount being 120,000 piculs; the price obtained was \$1 a picul. The export of pigs fell off 1400 head as against 1800 in 1923. The catch of fish was extremely poor, not enough for local consumption.

Other industries are: manufacture of sandal-wood powder, beancurd making, and soy and preserve manufacture, all of which are prospering. Two new industries have been started, a dyeworks and an olive preserving factory. The health conditions remained good.

Recent large sales of land for industrial and building purposes indicate that this district is about to undergo rapid development as a seaport.

Lamma had a good year, both padi and dry crops giving a good return. There were no special events calling for notice.

Junk Bay district and Hang Hau also prospered during the year; several purchases of agricultural and building land took place, indicating that there is more money in the district than usual.

W. SCHOFIELD,
District Officer, South.

27th April, 1925.

Table B.

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

	1923.	1924.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Land Sales	3,885.18	16,390.00
Boundary Stones	396.00	276.00
Permits to Cut Earth & Stone	2,183.50	2,462.00
Forestry Licences	1,666.08	1,756.55
Forfeitures	1,412.78	372.04
Fines	2,739.21	2,658.48
Water Wheel Licences	25.00	24.00
Deeds Registration Fees	9,894.90	4,433.30
Warrants of Attachment	23.00	56.00
Writs of Summons	—	42.00
Crown Leases	180.00	110.00
Legal Costs	—	—
Grave Certificates	11.25	6.50
Crown rent	29,401.26	28,263.63
Matshed Permits	973.50	1,229.50
Permits to occupy land	615.86	468.95
Pineapple Land Leases	819.27	802.60
Market Fees	1,191.00	1,340.70
Leases of Stone Quarries	725.00	1,050.00
Interest on deposit account	238.80	647.60
Miscellaneous Receipts	—	68.90
do. (Certified Extracts) ..	49.00	35.00
do. (Sunprint plans)	85.00	15.00
Reward Fund (Opium fines).....	919.50	893.47
do. (Liquor or Tobacco Fines) ..	—	604.42
— (Arms Fines)	—	85.25
do. (Forfeitures)	—	102.00
Total.....	\$57,435.09	\$64,193.89

Table C.

Licence Fees collected by the Police Department.

Station.		Distilleries.	Wine and Spirit.	Kerosene.	Dogs.	Pawn Brokers.	Money Changers.	Total.
		\$ c.	\$ c.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ c.
Kowloon City	{ 1923	...	4,550.00	...	243	3,000	...	7,793.00
	{ 1924	...	4,550.00	...	291	2,250	...	7,091.00
Sham Shui Po	{ 1923	1,200.00	7,200.00	...	438	8,000	150	16,988.00
	{ 1924	1,200.00	11,600.00	...	483	8,000	100	21,383.00
Tai O	{ 1923	50.00	650.00	52	...	400	50	1,202.00
	{ 1924	50.00	650.00	62	...	400	50	1,212.00
Cheung Chau	{ 1923	100.00	937.50	88	...	800	60	1,985.50
	{ 1924	75.00	1,075.00	72	...	800	60	2,082.00
Tsun Wan	{ 1923	532.00	462.50	24	...	...	...	1,018.50
	{ 1924	655.00	500.00	36	...	...	...	1,191.00
Lamma Island	{ 1923	50.00	100.00	...	...	...	...	150.00
	{ 1924	50.00	100.00	...	...	...	...	150.00
Total	{ 1923	\$1,932.00	13,899.00	164	681	12,200	260	29,136.00
	{ 1924	\$2,030.00	18,475.00	170	774	11,450	210	33,109.00

Table D.

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

	1923.	1924.
	\$ c.	\$ c.
Treasury, Village Rates	39,749.45	58,366.84
„ (Crown Rent for Inland Lots)..	28,795.19	33,175.34
„ (Quarries in New Kowloon) ...	18,703.65	12,864.45
„ Eating House Licence Fees ...	355.00	260.00
Harbour Office, (Harbour Dues, Stake Nets, &c.)	19,378.55	18,407.40
Police, (Licence Fees)	29,136.00*	33,109.00*
Imports and Exports Office, (Liquor Duties)	162,651.40	155,014.24
Total,.....	\$299,769.24	311,197.27

* See Table C.

Table E.

*Total Revenue collected from Southern District,
New Territories, during the last three years.*

	1922.	1923.	1924.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
By District Office,.....	63,386.75	57,435.09	64,193.89
By Other Departments,.....	245,257.96	299,769.24	311,197.27†
Total,.....	\$308,644.71	\$357,204.33	\$375,391.16

† See Table D.