

Appendix G.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE YEAR 1923.

1.—ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Two hundred and seventy five (275) actions were instituted in this division of the Court during the year 1923, as against 229 in 1922. One hundred and sixty eight (168) were disposed of during the year, 38 being settled or withdrawn before trial as against 130 and 52 respectively in 1922. Of the 49 cases which had been set down for trial 19 were disposed of during the year.

No injunction was granted during the year.

The claims amounted to \$2,170,228.52.

The debts and damages recovered amounted to \$1,550,436.35 as against \$771,401.97.

The fees collected amounted to \$12,166.40 as against \$11,073.35 in 1922.

Tables setting out in detail the figures contained in this and the following paragraphs are printed at page O 1, O 2, Y2 and Y3 of the Blue Book for the year 1922.

2.—SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

One thousand nine hundred and thirteen (1913) actions were instituted during the year as against 1689 in 1922.

The cases were disposed of as follows:—Settled or withdrawn 856, Judgment for the Plaintiff 645, Judgment for the Defendant 29, Nonsuit 2, Struck off, Dismissed, or Lapsed 16, and Pending 365 as against 710, 569, 23, 5, 13 and 369 respectively in 1922.

The claims amounted to \$355,439.12 as against \$310,577.34 in 1922, and the amounts recovered were \$127,916.62 as against \$122,871.85 in 1922.

The number of Rent Distress Warrants issued was 467 representing unpaid rents amounting to \$62,709.06 of which \$14,610.60 were recovered, as against 414, \$44,610.70 and \$15,604.96 respectively in 1922.

Three hundred and sixty nine (369) Warrants were withdrawn on settlement between the parties as against 327 in 1922.

The fees collected amounted to \$3,088 as against \$5,733.35 in 1922.

3.—CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

There were 146 cases and 209 persons committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions, as against 93 and 130 respectively in 1922.

The number of persons actually indicted was 203 of whom 167 were convicted and 36 were acquitted. Against 6 persons the case was abandoned. In 1922 the figures were respectively 123, 101, 22 and 7.

4.—APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

Four appeals were lodged during the year, three from the decisions of the Chief Justice, and one from the decision of the Puisne Judge.

Of the four appeals two were dismissed, one was discontinued and the other is pending.

Provisional leave to appeal to the Privy Council was granted in one action viz:—Procureur General in Hongkong of the *Société des Mission Etrangères v. The Nanyang Brothers Tobacco Company, Limited* (O. J. No. 229 of 1921).

5.—ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

Fourteen actions were instituted during the year. Three were tried, two were settled and the others are pending.

The fees collected amounted to \$584.85 as against \$945.45 in 1922.

6.—BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

Seventeen (17) petitions were filed, 9 being creditors' petitions and 8 debtors' petitions. The figures for 1922 were respectively 13, 10 and 3.

The number of Receiving Orders made was 7, being 3 on creditors' petitions and 4 on debtors' petitions. The figures for 1922 were respectively 8, 5 and 3.

The number of Public Examinations held was 3 as against 1 in 1922. There were 6 Adjudications as against 5 in 1922.

No Scheme of Arrangement was put through. Two petitions were withdrawn, 2 bankrupts obtained their discharge, 1 Receiving Order was rescinded, and no petition was dismissed.

The estimated assets, in cases where Receiving Orders were made and not subsequently rescinded, were \$39,176.02 and the estimated liabilities \$900,254.14 as against \$37,715.55 and \$356,703.00 respectively in 1922.

The fees collected amounted to \$2153.15 as against \$945.45 in 1922 and the Official Receiver's Commission as Trustee, where no Trustee had been appointed by the Creditors, was \$2,676.34 as against \$3,107.17 in 1922.

7.—PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION.

Two hundred and thirty (230) grants were made by the Court being:—

Probate	110
Letters of Administration.....	120
Declarations for Commissioner.	<i>Nil</i>
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	230
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The figures in 1922 were respectively 113 and 118 total 231.

The aggregate value of the estates was \$6,648,100.00 as against \$11,970,400.00 in 1922.

Probate and Estate Duties amounted to \$281,747.85, Court Fees to \$13,710.55, and Official Administrator's Commission to \$2,148.71. The figures in 1922 were, respectively, \$709,614.85, \$15,482.60 and \$2,045.88.

There were 116 Estates vested in or administered by the Official Administrator during the year, representing an aggregate value of \$117,032.02. The figures for 1922 were respectively, 94 and \$88,389.83.

Eighteen (18) were wound up during the year, of the total value of \$16,543.38 as against 23 in 1922 of the total value of \$33,141.89.

Twenty two (22) new accounts were opened during the year amounting to \$28,642.19.

8.—OFFICIAL TRUSTS.

The number of Trust Estates in the hands of the Official Trustee at the end of 1923 was 17 with Trust Funds amounting to \$15,727.45. In 1922 it was \$16,534.94. One trust was wound up during the year. No new trust was opened.

The amount of commission collected was \$68.82 as against \$70.72 in 1922.

9.—REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES.

On the 31st December there were 560 companies on the Hongkong Register, of which 35 were in course of liquidation. During the year 87 new companies were put on the Register and 19 struck off. One company was transferred from Shanghai to the Hongkong Register.

The fees collected in respect of "China" companies amounted to \$141,512.76 and those in respect of other companies to \$19,518.30.

No firm was registered under the Chinese Limited Partnership Ordinance, 1911, and no firm under the Limited Partnership Ordinance, No. 18 of 1912 was registered.

Deposits of the total value of \$3,930,000.00 have been made by Insurance Companies under the Fire and Marine Insurance Companies Deposit Ordinance, 1917.

10.—FEES AND COMMISSION.

The total sum collected during the year by way of fees and commission amounted to \$69,955.20 as against \$60,488.59 in the previous year.

11.—STAFF.

Mr. C. D. Melbourne, Deputy Registrar, acted as 2nd Police Magistrate from 25th June to 5th November.

Mr. H. R. Butters, Cadet Officer, acted as Deputy Registrar from 30th June to 3rd November.

Mr. J. V. Dodd was appointed Interpreter on probation on 1st December.

Mr. E. L. Stainfield, Clerk and Usher, proceeded on leave on 20th April and returned on 13th December.

HUGH A. NISBET,
Registrar, Supreme Court.

29th February, 1924.

Table showing total number of Cases dealt with in, and Expenditure and Revenue of the Supreme Court.

(From 1913 to 1923).

Year.	Total Number of cases dealt with	Expenditure			Revenue			Percentage of Revenue to Expenditure
		Total	Increase	Decrease	Total	Increase	Decrease	
		\$	c.	\$	c.	\$	c.	%
1913.....	898	98,351.02	10,004.66	...	*63,303.78	2,759.48	...	64.36
1914.....	1,091	107,780.92	9,429.90	...	*73,422.69	10,118.91	...	68.12
1915.....	832	110,667.68	2,886.76	...	*63,382.63	...	10,040.06	57.27
1916.....	753	105,252.44	...	5,415.24	*56,719.68	...	6,662.95	53.88
1917.....	764	99,662.88	...	5,589.56	*48,334.81	...	8,384.81	48.48
1918.....	931	98,281.40	...	1,381.48	*68,032.72	19,697.91	...	69.22
1919.....	982	98,844.23	562.83	...	*61,305.87	...	6,726.85	62.02
1920.....	872	113,082.79	14,238.56	...	*55,957.31	...	5,348.56	49.48
1921.....	851	118,782.72	5,699.93	...	*58,830.97	2,873.66	...	49.52
1922.....	827	126,424.34	7,641.62	...	*60,448.59	1,617.62	...	47.83
1923.....	962	128,838.62	2,414.28	...	*69,955.20	9,506.61	...	54.29

* Not including amounts paid direct to Treasury for fees in respect of Licences to keep Local Registers by the Registrar of Companies under the Companies Ordinance, 1911.