

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF
SOUTH AFRICA.

F11

No.

22 / 6

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL From	SUBJECT
S of S No. 28.	Tristen da Cunha Letter from the Reverend H.M.C. Rogers forwarding a report on the island of Tristen da Cunha for the year 1923.
1924 21st. January.	
PREVIOUS PAPERS	MINUTES
22/5	<i>cc. to ... for information.</i>
13-2-24 to minister	<i>13/2</i>
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source of supply is decreasing seriously.

There is no desire or disposition on the part of the inhabitants to leave the island as they would have no knowledge of the outside world and its method of life and they are timid and fearful of having no capital to start elsewhere. In such an event as re-settlement elsewhere they would require Government help and supervision. If trained and protected against bad characters outside they might make useful settlers in any British Colony. The removal of the islanders upon kindly terms would probably be the best that could happen to them.

I have etc.,

(Sgd) H. Martyn Cheselden-Rogers.

Missionary at Tristan da Cunha.

Tristan da Cunha.

custom of H.M. Government and the Board of Admiralty of allowing a Man of War to visit the island annually.

The obvious benefits are a mail, the carriage of Relief Stores and news of the World and also the moral effect is excellent as there is no magistrate or supervisory here. The benefit of the ships' chaplain and Medical Officer would be great.

There has been a good deal of sickness on the island during the year, several accidents but none fatal.

There has been an absence of all serious criminal offences, the people in general being very peaceful and law-abiding.

A new church has been built, roads repaired, several boats built, houses repaired and enlarged.

Day school has been held regularly and well attended by the young people of the island.

In the absence of a Missionary a schoolmaster should be sent out but the Missionary teaches when on the island.

There has been some loss of live stock owing to bad weather and short pasture. The only live stock on the island are sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens, geese, dogs and cats. None of these are of first-rate character.

There has been much bad weather and few ships have been sighted or launched at the island. Besides the "Dublin", ships were communicated with on three occasions only in 1923. Fishing has been bad during the year owing to bad sea weather. The Wireless Receiving plant on the island has been out of order during most of the year. The islanders depend much for food on penguins and other sea birds visiting the island but probably owing to the number of birds and their eggs annually consumed as food, this
source

Report on the Island of Tristan da Cunha
for the year 1923.

There has been one death, Mrs. Rebekah Ann Rogers wife of Thomas Hill Rogers aged 47. Cause of death heart failure and dropsy following bronchitis (so far as known there being no medical officer to certify).

There have been five births, four males, one female.

The visit of H.M.S. Dublin in March was of great benefit to the island enabling the people to receive a Mail (this has been the only mail received up to the time of writing this report during the year) also Relief Stores which were much needed owing to the almost complete failure of the potato harvest on which crop the islanders depend largely for food as the quantity of other vegetables grown is very small.

The climate suits but few kinds of seeds. Cabbage, onions, leeks, carrots, turnips, lettuce and beet and pumpkins will grow here. Corn does not ripen and all crops are troubled by rats and mice.

The visit of the "Dublin" also enabled the Bishop of St. Helena to visit the island and hold a confirmation and other services which was of spiritual and moral benefit to the people. The Captain of the "Dublin" kindly permitted the Assistant Editor of the Cape Argus and some other friends of the islanders from the Cape to accompany his ship. The islanders desire to take this opportunity of placing on record their gratitude to the Captain, officers and men of the "Dublin" for their kindness and to thank the Admiralty and H.M. Government for sending the Warship to the island.

Any visit from one of H.M. Ships is much appreciated and of great help to the island at all times and the islanders hope that it may be possible to renew the kindly custom

St. Mary's Parsonage,
Tristan da Cunha,
South Atlantic.

29th September, 1923.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit for your information a report covering matters on this island for the year 1923.

As the Missionary in the island I think it might be of use to His Majesty's Colonial Office and this is my only reason for troubling you in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) H. MARTYN CHESELDEN-ROGERS.

Missionary at Tristan da Cunha.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office,
London, S.W.
England.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

No. 28

Downing Street,

21 January, 1924.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 338

22/5
of the 31st of December, I have the honour to transmit
to Your Excellency, for the information of your Ministers,
29th Sept.
a copy of a letter from the Reverend H.M.C. Rogers
forwarding a report on the island of Tristan da Cunha
for the year 1923.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Devonshire.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Copy sent to

✓
Ministers.

For

Information.

Minute No.

22/6

Date

13 February 1924.

(Signed) ATHLONE.