

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Council Paper No. 44 of 1920.

MINES DEPARTMENT.

Administration Report of the Inspector of Mines for the
year 1919.

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9th April, 1920.*

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HON'BLE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

I have the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the following report on the work of the Mines Department for the year ended 31st December, 1919 :—

Official Duties.

2. It was mentioned in the last Administration Report that the Secretary of State had sanctioned the amalgamation of the Crown Lands and Mines Departments, the details of this scheme being published in Council Paper No. 3 of 1919. The amalgamation will take place as from the date of the arrival in the Colony of the Director of Lands and Mines, but up to the time of writing no advice has been received regarding the filling of the appointment.

On the 15th July last the late Inspector of Mines, Mr. P. Stevens, went on three months leave of absence, and at the end of that period retired after 45 years service in the Colony. Since the date of his going on leave I have been acting as Inspector of Mines in addition to performing the duties of my substantive post, viz., Deputy-Inspector of Mines.

On the 19th December last the Chief Clerk, Mr. John de Nobriga, was seconded from this Department to act as Secretary to the Wages Committee, Mr. F. Delmas of the Audit Office being appointed to act in his stead.

Leave.

3. I was on leave of absence outside the Colony from the 20th February to the 9th July last during which time my duties were performed by Mr. N. Betancourt, the 2nd Assistant Inspector of Mines.

Legislation.

4. No further legislation in connection with the Department was enacted.

Work under the Mines, Borings and Quarries Ordinances.

5. MANJAK. This industry continues in a small way. The Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company recommenced their operations during the year and in all did about 5 months work, the total output being 208 tons.

Petroleum.

6. GENERAL REMARKS. During the past year there has been a considerable boom in the Oil Industry and a number of Companies of good financial standing have acquired lands with a view to commencing drilling operations, and I expect that in the near future the oil bearing lands of the Colony will be developed on a very much greater scale than has been done in the past. At the present moment, however, I understand that there is considerable difficulty in obtaining prompt delivery of drilling equipment, etc., largely due to the demand in all parts of the world for machinery.

Although, as will be seen later, the number of feet drilled shews a considerable increase over that of 1918 there is a decrease in the production of oil; but I expect to see this condition of affairs altered in the near future, as wells are being drilled in entirely new districts and, if oil is found in them, the production of the Colony should be considerably increased.

The export of crude oil and its products shows an increase over last year, the figures being 49,000,000 Imperial Gallons during the year under review as against 45,000,000 Imperial Gallons for 1918. The shipments of crude oil, oil fuel and distillates to the Admiralty have continued during the whole of the year, and constitute the largest part of the oil exported from the Colony. The bunkering trade continues to make good progress, as a considerable number of ships call to replenish their bunkers with oil fuel. The local and West Indian trade is also increasing.

7. The following table will shew the number of feet drilled and the quantity of oil produced during the period under review compared with the previous year :—

	<i>Year ended 31st December, 1918.</i>		<i>Year ended 31st December, 1919.</i>	
	<i>Feet drilled.</i>	<i>Oil won. Imperial Gallons.</i>	<i>Feet drilled.</i>	<i>Oil won. Imperial Gallons.</i>
Crown Lands	... 47,487	55,609,748	49,122	53,534,295
Private Lands	... 6,751	17,262,650	18,937	10,902,337
Totals	... 54,238	72,872,398	68,059	64,436,632

During the year 1919 the number of new wells drilled was 53 (37 on Crown and 16 on Private Lands), an increase of 12 over the previous year and in 36 of these oil was struck. The total number of wells drilled in the Colony to 31st December last is 463 of which 273 are on Crown Lands.

8. At the close of the year 13 Companies were engaged in the winning of oil as against 12 at the end of 1918.

9. The Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, continued their operations at the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve and Barrackpore during the whole of the year. The bulk of their production came from Crown Lands held under Lease by them at the Morne L'Enfer Reserve. At the time of writing this Company is opening up new fields in other parts of the Island, and I hope that in the near future a largely increased production will result. The oil produced on their fields has, as before, been pumped to their Refining and Storage Dépôt at Pointe-à-Pierre where most of it has been refined. The Refinery has been worked during the whole of the year, the products manufactured being oil fuel, kerosene, white oil and petrol; the greater part of these products have been sold to the Admiralty and exported by them. At the present time very considerable additions to the Refinery are being undertaken and, when completed, the Plant will be capable of a much larger throughput; part of these additions will consist of a Cracking Plant which should result in a much larger percentage of the lighter and more valuable products being obtained. Considerable additional constructional work has been undertaken at Pointe-à-Pierre during the period under review and now the Company possesses a very complete installation at that place.

10. The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, did no drilling on their private lands at Brighton, but continued to produce oil from the existing wells. This Company holds considerable stocks of crude oil at Brighton as there is still difficulty in obtaining facilities for shipment.

11. In addition to continuing drilling on the Parry area at the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited also recommenced drilling on the old field at Point Fortin. As before, the entire production of this Company has been sold to the United British Refineries, Limited, at Point Fortin, who have refined it and either exported or sold locally the resulting products.

12. The United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, have continued drilling at Los Bajos and Moruga. The production at Los Bajos has increased and, as hitherto, been pumped to Point Fortin where it is sold to the United British Refineries, Limited.

13. The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, have continued to increase their production, as during the period under review it was doubled. Their drilling operations are still confined to the area held under Lease at Tabaquite, but towards the close of the year they applied for a Prospecting Licence over the large area held by them under Exploration Licence and, I understand, it is their intention to open up new fields in the near future. The small Refinery at Tabaquite has continued to be worked during the year, the surplus production of crude oil being pumped to their Storage and Shipping Dépôt at Claxton's Bay and exported. Several small bulk shipments have been made from there during the year. The field at Tabaquite has been extended as a considerable amount of construction work has been undertaken. At Claxton's Bay additional storage tanks are in process of erection.

14. The Petroleum Development Company, Limited, resumed drilling operations on the lands held by them under Lease in the Morne L'Enfer Reserve in addition to producing oil from the existing wells. This oil has, as in the past, been disposed of to the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited.

15. Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer recommenced drilling operations on the Perseverance Estate at Guapo and continued to obtain a small production of oil from the existing wells.

16. The Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited, have not yet resumed drilling operations on the Crown Lands held by them under Lease at Palo Seco. At the time of writing, however, a new Field Manager has arrived from England and I understand from him that it is proposed to resume drilling operations as soon as the necessary material is obtained. The old wells continued to produce small quantities of oil which is passed through the Refinery and disposed of locally.

17. The Oropuche Oilfields, Limited, continued drilling operations on private lands adjoining the property of the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve. The oil produced is being sold to the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited.

18. The Ière Oil Company, Limited, drilled another well during the early part of the year and closed down operations in July last.

19. The Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates, Limited, have not yet recommenced drilling operations. A small quantity of oil still continues to flow from the existing wells.

20. The Fyzabad Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, commenced drilling operations during the year on private lands held by them near the San Françoise Road but, so far, no oil has been obtained.

21. The Anglo-Trinidad Oil Company, Limited, to whom a Prospecting License has been granted over alienated lands, of which the Crown holds the oil rights, commenced drilling operations during the year on private lands held by them but, so far, have not obtained a production.

22. No work has been done by any of the following Companies:—The Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company; The Trinidad Silverstream Oilfields, Limited; The Icaos (Trinidad) Development Company, Limited, and The Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Limited.

23. The Royalty earned during the period under review was £17,205 as against £18,542 in 1918. Leases accounted for £16,749 and Licences £456.

24. The revenue obtained from way-leave in respect of pipe-lines laid along the Trinidad Government Railway and along the public roads of the Colony was as follows:—

Railways	..	...	...	...	£2,955
Roads	...	...	...	...	1,327

25. Fees charged for crossing the Foreshore, Railway and Roads with pipe-lines amounted to £16.

26. The various oil companies have regularly submitted the returns required to be furnished by them in respect of their operations. These, after being checked, have been filed with our records in the office.

27. **INSPECTIONS.** Owing to the increased activity in the oilfields the work of the Officers of the Department has been increased. The usual routine inspections have been carried out and, in addition, a large number of special inspections in connection with accidents, royalty, way-leave, refineries and exclusion of water from wells have been necessary. In the majority of cases the provisions of the Ordinances and Regulations have been carefully carried out. It has only been found necessary to institute one prosecution.

28. **LEASES AND LICENCES.** The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, applied for a Prospecting Licence over 69,768 acres which they formerly held under Exploration Licence. This will shortly be issued and will date as from 1st January, 1920. A Prospecting Licence over 2,286 acres of alienated lands on which the Crown holds the oil rights was issued to the Anglo-Trinidad Oil Company, Limited. The United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, have applied for a Lease over some 34,000 acres of Crown Lands, formerly held by them under Exploration Licence, and this will be issued in due course.

29. **QUARRIES.** With the exception of the Eastern and Carrera Quarries, both owned by the Government, they are relatively unimportant and carry on operations on a very small scale. They have been regularly inspected and in most cases found to have been worked in a careful manner. During the period under review the number worked was 66 as compared with 73 in 1918.

Work under the Petroleum Ordinance, No. 20 of 1915.

30. The premises in which the various products of petroleum are stored have been carefully inspected by officers of this Department and as a general rule the utmost care is observed by the owners. There has only been one record of a fire occurring due to the storing of petrol; this occurred at one of the garages in Port-of-Spain whilst transferring petrol from a drum into an underground storage tank. It was not discovered how the petrol came to be ignited.

The prevention of Accidents Ordinance, No. 13 of 1915.

31. On the whole the machinery in the various factories is efficiently protected by the Owners and Managers who co-operate with the Department in ensuring safety to the workmen in their employment; in all 86 factories in Trinidad and 12 in Tobago were worked during the year. There were ten accidents of which I am pleased to report none proved fatal.

Work under the Asphalt Industry Ordinance.

32. Work has not yet been recommenced on the village lots at La Brea and I am not in a position to state when this industry is likely to be recommenced.

33. **APPENDICES.** Appendix A shews the average number of persons employed and the quantity and value of minerals obtained.

In Appendix B the list of accidents is given and indicate that they are such as are incidental to all industrial operations of this class.

In Appendix C is given a list of the Mines, Oilfields and Quarries worked during the year 1919.

A comparative statement of the oil produced, refined and exported is shewn at Appendix D.

34. **STAFF.** I have the greatest pleasure in recording the very able and loyal assistance I have received from the members of the Staff.

27th March, 1920.

A. P. CATHERALL,
Acting Inspector of Mines.

APPENDIX A.

Daily average number of persons employed and quantity and value of Minerals obtained from Mines, Oilfields and Quarries, during the year ended 31st December, 1919.

MINERALS.	Daily average number of persons employed.		Total.	Quantity.	Approximate Value.
	Males.	Females.			
Oil	2,393	32	2,425	64,436,632 Imp. Gals.	£ 295,453
Asphalt	475	...	475	93,806 Tons ..	56,685
Manjak	12	1	13	208 ,, ...	866
Private Quarries (Limestone, Gravel, etc.)..	232	67	299	82,531 ,, .	8,066
Government Quarries (Limestone, etc.) ..	231	97	328	59,518 ,, ...	9,964

NOTE.—The difference in value between metal won from Private Quarries and Government Quarries is that the former consists of both Limestone and Gravel whilst the latter is chiefly Limestone.

APPENDIX B.

List of Accidents which occurred at Mines, Oilfields and Quarries, during the year ended 31st December, 1919, reported under Section 19 of Ordinance, No. 13 of 1907.

Name of Mine, Oilfield or Quarry.	Date.	Number of Accidents Reported.			
		Minor.	Serious.	Fatal.	Total.
La Pique Quarry	15th January ...	1	...	...	1
Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited	{ 7th March ... ..	...	...	1	1
	{ 15th June	1	...	...	1
	{ 2nd July	1	...	...	1
	{ 13th August ... ..	...	1	...	1
	{ 15th September ... ..	...	1	...	1
	{ 8th October	2	...	...	2
	{ 23rd October ... ..	...	1	...	1
	{ 6th November	1	...	...	1
	{ 12th November	1	...	...	1
	{ 28th November	1	...	...	1
	{ 13th December	1	...	...	1
{ 16th December	1	...	...	1	
{ 30th December ... ..	...	1	...	1	
New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited	{ 2nd August ... ..	...	1	...	1
	{ 22nd September ... ..	...	...	1	1
	{ 22nd October ... ..	...	1	...	1
Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited	{ 5th August ... ..	...	1	...	1
	{ 15th October ... ..	...	1	...	1
	{ 15th November ... ..	...	1	...	1
United British Oilfields, of Trinidad, Limited	{ 7th August	2	...	...	2
	{ 20th August	1	...	...	1
	{ 13th September ... ..	...	1	...	1
	{ 19th December	1	...	...	1
Guaico Tamana Road 7½ mile Quarry..	5th September ...	..	1	...	1
Eastern Quarry	21st October ...	1	...	...	1
		15	11	2	28

APPENDIX C.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily average Number of persons employed.	Mineral worked.
<i>Mines.</i>						
1	La Brea Asphalt Works	La Brea	Stollmeyer, Limited	Claude Phelps	120	Asphalt.
2	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Limited	Brighton	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd., Brighton, Trinidad	Paul Munoz	355	"
3	Vistabella	San Fernando	Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company, San Fernando	J. J. Waddell	13	Manjak.
<i>Oilfields.</i>						
1	Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited	Palo Seco	Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited, 40-42, Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C.	George Rooks	13.44	Oil.
2	Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates, Limited	Pointe Ligoure	Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates Limited, London	L. S. Daly	2.5	"
3	Perseverance Estate	Gnapo	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain	E. Pereira	7	"
4	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited	Tabaquite	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, 2, Broad Street Place, London, E.C. 2.	R. H. May	653.70	"
5	Ière Oil Company, Limited	Barrackpore	Ière Oil Company, Limited, San Fernando	C. E. Burrows	7	"
6	Anglo-Trinidad Oil Company, Limited	Siparia	Anglo-Trinidad Oil Company, Limited, 5, Royal Bank Buildings, Port-of-Spain	P. Ashmead-Bartlett	19	"
7	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited	Brighton	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, Brighton	Paul Munoz	87	"
8	Petroleum Development Company, Limited	Do.	Petroleum Development Company, Limited, Brighton	Do.	45	"
9	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited	Point Fortin	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, Port-of-Spain	G. Bailward	606	"
10	United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited	Siparia and Moruga	United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, Port-of-Spain	Do.	95	"
11	Oropuche Oilfields, Limited	Oropuche	W. B. Mitford, Hampstead, London	P. Ashmead-Bartlett	14	"
12	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited	Fyzabad	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C.	Hon. H. S. Fuller	327.40	"
13	Do. do.	Barrackpore	Do. do.	Do.	147	"
14	Do. do.	Pointe-à-Pierre	Do. do.	Do.	365	"
15	Fyzabad Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited	San Francisco Road	Fyzabad Oilfields of Trinidad Limited, 5, Royal Bank Buildings, Port-of-Spain	P. Ashmead-Bartlett	9	"
<i>Quarries.</i>						
1	Plum Quarry	Sangre Grande	Trinidad Government, Port-of-Spain	District Officer	3.49	Limestone.
2	Guiaico-Tamana 11th Mile	Do.	Do. do.	Do.	5.62	"
3	Mandillon	Do.	Do. do.	Do.	3.43	"
4	Tabaquite-Nariva	Tabaquite-Nariva	Do. do.	Do.	8	"
6	San Chu Chu	Do.	Do. do.	Do.	4.24	"
6	Guaico-Tamana 7½ Mile	Do.	Do. do.	Do.	16.22	"
7	Morne Diable No. 1	San Fernando	Do. do.	Do.	25	"
8	Buenos Ayres	Erin	Do. do.	Do.	8	Porcellanite.
9	Siparia	Siparia	Do. do.	Do.	20	"
10	Brasso	Brasso	Do. do.	Do.	4.73	Limestone.
11	Corosal	Do.	Do. do.	Do.	2	"
12	Morton's	Sangre Grande	Do. do.	Do.	3.61	Porcellanite.

APPENDIX C.—CONTINUED.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily Average Number of persons employed.	Mineral worked.
<i>Quarries.—Contd.</i>						
13	Morichal	Brasso	Trinidad Government, Port-of-Spain	District Officer	6	Limestone.
14	Mayo	"	Do. do.	Do.	6	"
15	Guaracara	"	Do. do.	Do.	5	"
16	Mount Parnassus	Tobago	Do. do.	Do.	2-15	Dead Rock.
17	Eastern	Laventille	Do. do.	F. J. Horsford	95	Limestone.
18	Southern Road 73½ Mile	Cedros	Do. do.	District Officer	8	Porcellanite.
19	Do. 71¼ "	"	Do. do.	Do.	7	"
20	Chatham Main Road 5th mile	Do.	Do. do.	Do.	5	"
21	Matchapoorie	Arima	Do. do.	Do.	6-20	Limestone
22	Moruga	Moruga road	Do. do.	Do.	11	Sandstone.
23	Trinidad Government Railway	St. Joseph	Do. do.	H. A. Sharpe	4	Limestone.
24	Carrera	Carrera Island	Do. do.	Supt. of Prisons	35	"
25	Guaioco Tamana 8½ mile	Sangre Grande ..	Do. do.	District Officer	15-70	"
26	Moreau	Princes Town	Do. do.	Do.	8	Sandstone.
27	Mount Hope	St. Joseph	Do. do.	J. McInroy	5	Limestone.
28	River Estate	Diego Martin	Do. do.	District Officer	6	"
29	La Coulée	San Fernando	Heirs of Joaquin, San Fernando	S. Passee	1	Gravel.
30	Basilon street	Port-of-Spain	Gerold and Scherer, South Quay, Port-of-Spain	L. A. Robertson	6	Limestone.
31	Irving Lane	Do.	J. W. McCarthy, Queen's Park East	F. Cumberbatch	4	"
32	Clark's	Laventille	Chas. Newallo, Port-of-Spain, 38, Belle Eau road	Chas. Newallo	36	"
33	Prizgar	Do.	Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., Port-of-Spain	C. C. Carmichael	12	"
34	Adivinanza	Princes Town	C. H. Packer, Princes Town	C. H. Packer	5	Sandstone.
35	Jsine	San Fernando	Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company, Limited, England	A. G. Mahon	12	Gravel.
36	Boea View	Gasperee	T. de Fague, 45, Belmont Circular Road, Port-of-Spain	B. James	2	Limestone.
37	Masson	Pointe Gourde	Lee Lum, Port-of-Spain	F. B. Masson	11	Blue Limestone.
38	Gonzales	Laventille	L. A. Fitzwilliam	L. A. Fitzwilliam	3	Limestone.
39	Duke street	Port-of-Spain	V. Prime, 12, Duke street, Port-of-Spain	W. Bowers	4	"
40	Circular road	San Fernando	Borough Council, San Fernando	J. J. Waddell	1	Gravel.
41	Borough Council	Do.	Do. do.	Do.	1	"
42	Pointe-à-Pierre	Pointe-à-Pierre	Trinidad Leaseholds Limited, Port-of-Spain	Hon. H. S. Fuller	50	Sandstone.
43	Glendale	San Fernando	H. R. McClean, San Fernando	H. R. McClean	29	Gravel.
44	Bourne's Bay	Gasperee	St. Madeleine Sugar Company, Limited, San Fernando	G. Archibald	11	Limestone.
45	Mahon	Pointe Gourde	G. F. Huggins & Co., Port-of-Spain	Do.	4	"
46	Verdant Vale	Arima	Trinidad Cocoa and Coffee Co., Limited, Arima	E. Thatcher	2	"
47	Charles	San Fernando	L. Charles, 115 Tragarete road, Port-of-Spain	C. Lucas	1	Gravel.
48	Mitchell's Bay	Pointe Gourde	J. W. Edwards, 45, Queen street, Port-of-Spain	J. W. Edwards	2	Limestone.
49	Stollmeyer	Guapo	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain	E. Pereira	7	"
50	St. Joseph No. 1	San Fernando	G. W. Harwood and P. P. Pickering, San Fernando	P. P. Pickering	1	Gravel.
51	Aranguez Farm	San Juan	M. A. Rapsey, Maraval	A. Maradge	12	"
52	St. Ann's	St. Ann's	Martin Campbell, St. Ann's	N. Charles	3	"
53	La Pena	Port-of-Spain	Mrs. Blackman, 5, Duke Street, Port-of-Spain	W. Gittens	4	Limestone.
54	La Pique	San Fernando	T. L. Dunsire, San Fernando	Arch. Sandiford	2	Gravel.
55	Champs Elysee No. 1	Maraval	Mrs. P. de Boissière, Maraval	C. Mohan	5	Sand and Gravel.
56	Plum	Manzanilla	Manzanilla Local Road Board, Sangre Grande	R. W. Collins	1	Limestone.

APPENDIX C.—CONTINUED.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily Average Number of persons employed.	Mineral worked.
<i>Quarries.—Contd.</i>						
57	Verdun ...	San Fernando ...	P. P. Pickering, San Fernando ...	P. P. Pickering ..	1	Gravel.
58	Champs Elysee No. 2 ...	Maraval ...	Mrs. P. de Boissière, Maraval ...	David John ...	5	Sand and Gravel.
59	Cocorite Farm ...	Cocorite ...	City Corporation, Port-of-Spain ...	P. Charles ..	2	Limestone.
60	La Corona ...	Cumuto ...	Dr. Guiseppi, England ...	R. de Verteuil ..	4	"
61	Monte Cristo ...	Do. ...	H. Monceaux, Cumuto ..	E. Monceaux ...	2	"
62	Renown ...	Pointe Gourde ...	Charles Archibald, Gasparee ...	C. C. Cambridge ..	2	"
63	Arena ...	Arima ...	M. Lange, Guanapo ...	M. Lange ...	1	Gravel.
64	Barataria ...	San Juan ...	Mrs. M. A. Rapsey, San Juan ..	J. H. Rapsey ..	28	"
65	Point Baleine ...	Gasparee ...	A. G. Agostini, 10, Queen's Park East, Port-of-Spain ...	G. T. Mathiew ...	6	Limestone.
66	David ...	Gloster Lodge ...	Mrs. Gittens, 40, Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain ...	W. Gittens ..	6	"

APPENDIX D.—Comparative Statement of Oil produced, refined and exported year by year since inception of industry.

YEAR.	Production in Gallons.	Quantity of Crude Oil refined in Gallons.	Quantity of Crude and Refined Oil exported in Gallons.
1905-1909-10 ...	368,934	...	...
1910-11 ...	4,378,942	...	...
1911-12 ...	9,985,748	Previous to 1912-13 ...	7,685,374
1912-13 ...	17,626,563	331,928	4,295,707
1913-14 ..	22,523,060	1,227,134	13,570,152
1914-15 ..	36,753,931	1,449,445	12,192,289
9 months ended December, 1915 ...	23,489,362	2,045,286	14,286,585
1916 ..	32,475,695	3,773,770	34,129,955
1917 ...	56,080,914	17,675,068	37,777,919
1918 ...	72,872,398	73,722,915	45,689,234
1919 ...	64,436,632	40,248,014	49,219,226
	340,092,179	141,798,028	218,846,441