

SECTION 22.

PRODUCTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

I. AGRICULTURE AND LAND TENURE.*

Acreage disposed of during the year				Total acreage at end of year			
Granted without sale (on long lease)	Sold	Total	Amount realised	Alienated	In process of alienation	Unalienated	Total area of Colony
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Sq. miles
1.30	1.50	2.80	69. 10. 0	16,630.25 (a)	—	— (b)	121.8

Remarks:—
 * For the Financial year 1923-24.
 (a) Cultivated and let on long or short leases.
 (b) Uncultivated lands. They consist mainly of rocky wastes, and are uncultivable. Exact figures cannot be given.

Size of Holdings, specifying the Number of Holdings				
Under 10 acres	11 to 50 acres	51 to 100 acres	101 to 1,000 acres	Over 1,000 acres
236	10,864	Nil.		

CROPS†			PASTURE†	LIVESTOCK on 31st December, 1923.	
District and nature of crop	Number of acres under cultivation	Gross quantity of produce	Acreage of pasture land	District and nature of livestock	Number
VALLETTA DISTRICT			6 acres		
Wheat	169	Quarters 671		Horses	51
Mexico (Mischiato)	—	—		Asses	3
Barley	49	" 253		Mules	4
Maize ‡	7	" 28		Horned cattle	—
Beans and Peas	24	" 85		Sheep	—
Potatoes	102	Tons 364		Goats	4
Onions	22	" 144		Pigs	—
Cumia seed	32	Cwts. 112			
Cotton	12	Ibs. 990			
Vegetables	25	Cwts. 1,515			
Forages	245	Lodds‡ 15,745			
Citrus fruits	7	Dozen 6,400			
Vines and Other fruits	13	Cwts. 8.4			

† For Agricultural year June 1923—May 1924. *

‡ Chiefly grown as second crop, after potatoes or green-changes.

CROPS†				PASTURE†	LIVESTOCK on 31st December, 1923.	
District and nature of crop		Number of acres under cultivation	Gross quantity of produce	Acres of pasture land	District and nature of livestock	Number
WEST DISTRICT				308 acres		
Wheat		3,512	Quarters 14,680		Horses	672
Meslin (Mischiato)		64	" 319		Asses	1,021
Barley		615	" 3,380		Mules	1,010
Maize *		79	" 324		Horned cattle	1,068
Beans and Peas		475	" 1,072		Sheep	3,507
Potatoes		871	Tons 2,847		Goats	5,595
Onions		294	" 2,010		Pigs	1,631
Cumin seed		735	Cwts. 2,628			
Cotton		148	lbs. 11,525			
Vegetables		1,650	Cwts. 87,191			
Forages		4,132	Loads 235,715			
Citrus fruits		40	Dozen 44,500			
Vines and other fruits		942	Cwts. 81,085			
CENTRAL DISTRICT				95 acres		
Wheat		1,835	Quarters 7,308		Horses	1,081
Meslin (Mischiato)		—	—		Asses	1,446
Barley		450	" 2,546		Mules	931
Maize *		36	" 146		Horned cattle	1,399
Beans and Peas		285	" 1,035		Sheep	4,737
Potatoes		990	Tons 3,672		Goats	6,774
Onions		213	" 1,511		Pigs	1,479
Cumin seed		950	Cwts. 3,270			
Cotton		101	lbs. 7,944			
Vegetables		362	Cwts. 21,250			
Forages		2,276	Loads 138,130			
Citrus fruits		85	Dozen 89,410			
Vines and other fruits		226	Cwts. 19,415			
EAST DISTRICT				181 acres		
Wheat		1,963	Quarters 6,701		Horses	686
Meslin (Mischiato)		—	—		Asses	944
Barley		1,626	" 9,039		Mules	786
Maize *		46	" 152		Horned cattle	879
Beans and Peas		424	" 1,501		Sheep	7,288
Potatoes		1,162	Tons 4,124		Goats	7,838
Onions		495	" 3,495		Pigs	380
Cumin seed		1,524	Cwts. 5,370			
Cotton		100	lbs. 7,808			
Vegetables		268	Cwts. 16,425			
Forages		2,753	Loads 173,663			
Citrus fruits		20	Dozen 19,160			
Vines and other fruits		231	Cwts. 18,418			
GOLD DISTRICT				323 acres		
Wheat		1,222	Quarters 4,879		Horses	181
Meslin (Mischiato)		2,306	" 11,447		Asses	1,186
Barley		1,086	" 5,351		Mules	480
Maize *		148	" 597		Horned cattle	858
Beans and Peas		519	" 1,819		Sheep	8,511
Potatoes		73	Tons 242		Goats	6,605
Onions		30	" 223		Pigs	963
Cumin seed		857	Cwts. 3,045			
Cotton		439	lbs. 19,175			
Vegetables		101	Cwts. 9,630			
Forages		1,917	Loads 113,278			
Citrus fruits		14	Dozen 15,100			
Vines and other fruits		1,014	Cwts. 85,138			

† For Agricultural year June 1923—May 1924.

* Chiefly grown as second crop, after potatoes or green forages.

YIELD OF ANIMAL PRODUCE DURING THE YEAR.

No returns available.

2. FORESTRY.

There are no forests in Malta.

3. FISHERIES.

Catch of Fish			Number of boats engaged in fishing	Number of persons engaged in fishing
Kind of Fish	Quantity	Landed Value		
	(Crs.)	£		
Dog fish (var. sp.)	2,400	6,500	Malta 790	British *3,500
Hammerhead	3	22	Gozo 152	Foreigners
Angel fish	700	2,380	Total 942	3,500
Rays (var. sp.)	640	1,860		
Eel	21	175		
Conger	430	2,500		
Murrey	370	2,150		
Power	60	350		
Fourbeards (var. sp.)	150	1,050		
Brill	50	650		
Albis shad	10	80		
Pilchard	130	430		
Garfish	85	280		
(Saurus griens)	10	40		
Grey mullet	310	2,300		
Sea pike	12	100		
Wrasse (various sp.)	85	310		
Rainbow wrasse	65	370		
Razor fish	10	83		
(Saurus cretensis)	30	160		
Streaked saure	500	3,500		
Soare	180	600		
(Divers)	110	950		
Oldwife	54	360		
Gilthead	1	10		
Braze	35	130		
Panlora	330	2,700		
Axillary bream	95	630		
Sparus (sp.)	80	560		
(Sargus vulgaris)	160	830		
Egyptian sargo	140	1,050		
Bogue	1,300	11,000		
(Ilex salpa)	520	3,000		
Black-tailed bream	810	6,750		
Red mullet	550	4,580		
Striped mullet	19	150		
Piper, gurnard, etc.	30	150		
Scorpaena	100	400		
Percine scorpaena	100	400		
Basse	7	75		
Stone basse (various)	20	120		
Lettered perch	100	500		
Cumber	220	1,100		
Dusky perch	220	1,800		
(Uchirina cirrosa)	65	490		
Sword fish	32	320		
Spanish mackarell	900	5,600		
Tunny	200	1,600		
Long finned tunny	15	110		
(Thynnus tunnina)	170	750		
Belted bonito	50	500		
Plain bonito	225	1,700		
Pilot fish	320	1,600		
(Seriola dumerili)	65	650		
Horse mackarell	800	5,000		
Coryphene	1,550	7,750		
Greater weaver	40	200		
Lesser weaver	48	240		
Star-gazer	31	100		
	18,254	90,355		

General information regarding the industry and the possibilities of its development.

The industry is practically wholly dependent on inshore fishing, the craft at present in use being inadequate for deep sea fishing. Owing to the wholesale destruction of immature fish, the industry has during recent years suffered considerably, but energetic steps have been taken by the Government for securing a better control and Laws and Regulations have been issued for the purpose of ensuring the protection of immature fish. These Laws, though comparatively lenient, have yielded beneficial results and it is intended to enforce in due time more stringent measures. The adoption of motor power and larger craft for under-taking deep sea fishing has, though on a very limited scale, been already initiated and it is anticipated that the exploitation of distant fishing grounds will soon be taken in hand.

* The number of persons who live exclusively by means of fishing is in the last census given at 1438.

4. MINERALS.

Quantity and value of each class of Mineral mined or quarried during the year 1924, in Malta and Gozo				Mining Concessions and Prospecting Licences granted during the year		Oil Concessions and Prospecting Licences granted during the year	
Mineral	Quantity	Value	Metallic content (in case of metallic ores)	No. of Concessions	No. of Prospecting Licences	No. of Concessions	No. of Prospecting Licences
(i) Mined:— No mines		£					
(ii) Quarried:— Għolġestina Limestone ...	c. ft. 6,500,000	95,000	No metallic ores	Nil.		Nil.	
Coralline do. ...	c. ft. 40,000	1,500					
(a) in blocks ...	c. yds. 65,000	6,500					
(b) in spalls ...							
(iii) Produced:— Lime ...	salms* 30,000	3,900					
Common salt (sodium chloride):— (a) Total production ...	salms* 1,700	—					
(b) sold of above ...	salms* 400	150					
Total ...		107,060					

The geographical survey of Malta is practically complete. About 85sq. miles have been surveyed also geologically. No important mineral deposits are known which are not worked.

* One salm=8 Imperial Bushels.

5. WATER POWER.

No water power available in the Colony.

6. INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND MANUFACTORIES

from 1st January to 31st December, 1924.

(so far as not included under sub-sections 1-5 above).

Industry	Number of Establishments or Manufactories	Number of persons employed	Cost of Raw Material used	Output during the year		
				Quantity	Net selling value at factory or works	
Natural Wine ...	Malta ...	104	Not available	litres 549,799	Not available	
	Gozo ...	268		" 1,027,333		
Artificial Wine ...	Malta ...	10		" 1,073,374		
	Gozo ...	—		—		
Distilling Alcohol ...	Malta ...	1		Nil		
	Gozo ...	—		—		
Distilling Orange flower water ...	Malta ...	39		" 1,852		
	Gozo ...	23		" 4,858		
Cigarettes ...	Malta ...	7				
Cigars ...	Do ...	3				
Cups ...	Do ...	1				
Shoddy ...	Do ...	1				
Cottons ...	Do ...	5				
Furniture and Cabinet making ...	Do ...	6				
Candles ...	Do ...	1				
Flour milling ...	Do ...	4				

7. SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

The commencement of the rainy season of 1923-24 was late, although the incidence of the rain was very favourable for the growth of field-crops and fruit-trees. Winter potatoes suffered greatly from a fierce outbreak of potato-blight and the unirrigated crop was practically a failure. Even the spring crop was affected by the disease to a considerable extent and only the liberal spraying with Bordeaux mixture, which was resorted to by the farmers on an unprecedented scale, saved the crop from appreciable injury. The area under camlin as well as that under vegetables showed a marked increase over those of the preceding year.

2. With the exception of the winter potatoes, and in part also the spring potatoes, the crops were again free from disease. The abundant production of grapes, as well as the good prices fetched, have induced growers to extend their vineyards and have encouraged them to proceed with the reconstitution of those vineyards which had suffered from *Phylloxera*.

3. The following statement shows the grants made by Government for the development of the natural resources of the Colony in 1923-24 :-

1).	Subsidy to the Società Economica-Agraria, Malta,	towards the improvement of agriculture	...	...	...	£	80
2).	Do. do. do. do.	towards the upkeep of the Society's experimental farm	...	...	...		20
3).	Do. do. do. do.	towards the holding of agricultural competitions	...	...	...		67
4).	Do. do. do. do.	towards the encouraging the growing of vines and fruit trees	...	...	...		11
5).	Do. do. do. do.	for prizes to Exhibitors of the best Malta mule-breeding donkeys	...	...	...		10
6).	Subsidy to the Agricultural and Industrial Show, Ghasl	...	...	...	...		30
7).	Subsidy to the Horticultural Society	...	...	...	...		30
					Total	...	£ 320