

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	Un-alienated	Total area of Colony
Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	£ s. d.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Sq. miles
1,317	0,656	1,973 (a)	289. 8. 7	16,633,157(b)	—	— (c)	121,844

Remarks:—

* For the Financial year 1925-26.

(a) Sites granted for building purposes.

(b) Cultivated and let on long or short leases.

(c) 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, 1925.	
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	184	Quarters 750		Horses	628
Meslin (Mischiato)	—	—		Asses	151
Barley	51	" 373		Mules	59
Maize †	6	" —		Horned cattle	320
Beans and Peas	31	" 129		Sheep	110
Potatoes	95	Tons 394		Goats	2,394
Onions	21	" 159		Pigs	107
Cumin seed	26	Cwts. 154			
Cotton	27	lbs. 5,190			
Vegetables	33	Cwts. 2,410			
Forages	206	Loads 13,596			
Citrus fruits	7	Dozen 6,550			
Vines and Other fruits	13	Cwts. 995			

† For Agricultural year June 1925—May 1926.

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

CROPS†				PASTURE‡	LIVESTOCK on 31st December, 1925.	
District and nature of crop				Average of pasture land	District and nature of livestock	Number
EAST DISTRICT				184 acres		
Wheat	...	1,925	Quarters 7,574		Horses	782
Meslin (Mischiato)	...	2	" 10		Asses	956
Barley	...	1,300	" 8,470		Mules	747
Maize*	...	37	" 155		Horned cattle	904
Beans and Peas	...	454	" 6,995		Sheep	4,745
Potatoes	...	1,287	Tons 7,375		Goats	9,481
Onions	...	459	" 3,480		Pigs	1,099
Cumin seed	...	54	Cwts. 3,597			
Cotton	...	344	lbs. 65,710			
Vegetables	...	223	Cwts. 15,326			
Forages	...	3,023	Loads 198,956			
Citrus fruits	...	20	Dozens 19,950			
Vines and other fruits	...	278	Cwts. 23,132			
CENTRAL DISTRICT				95 acres		
Wheat	...	1,965	Quarters 8,016		Horses	941
Meslin (Mischiato)	...	—	" —		Asses	977
Barley	...	450	" 2,628		Mules	660
Maize*	...	30	" 113		Horned cattle	1,000
Beans and Peas	...	209	" 904		Sheep	1,703
Potatoes	...	1,350	Tons 5,731		Goats	5,101
Onions	...	108	" 1,345		Pigs	534
Cumin seed	...	519	Cwts. 3,134			
Cotton	...	350	lbs. 66,600			
Vegetables	...	318	Cwts. 20,315			
Forages	...	2,124	Loads 132,799			
Citrus fruits	...	87	Dozens 93,750			
Vines and other fruits	...	251	Cwts. 20,569			
WEST DISTRICT				300 acres		
Wheat	...	3,831	Quarters 15,884		Horses	395
Meslin (Mischiato)	...	107	" 548		Asses	1,226
Barley	...	684	" 3,820		Mules	1,435
Maize*	...	65	" 270		Horned cattle	1,432
Beans and Peas	...	478	" 2,149		Sheep	3,385
Potatoes	...	1,204	Tons 5,229		Goats	3,973
Onions	...	343	" 2,573		Pigs	2,465
Cumin seed	...	347	Cwts. 2,159			
Cotton	...	363	lbs. 70,930			
Vegetables	...	1,431	Cwts. 91,925			
Forages	...	3,884	Loads 239,951			
Citrus fruits	...	46	Dozens 45,010			
Vines and other fruits	...	945	Cwts. 78,121			
GOLF DISTRICT				323 acres		
Wheat	...	1,473	Quarters 6,212		Horses	304
Meslin (Mischiato)	...	2,105	" 10,905		Asses	1,294
Barley	...	3,187	" 17,034		Mules	411
Maize*	...	104	" 412		Horned cattle	1,074
Beans and Peas	...	518	" 2,321		Sheep	7,303
Potatoes	...	148	Tons 586		Goats	5,536
Onions	...	40	" 303		Pigs	1,447
Cumin seed	...	282	Cwts. 1,732			
Cotton	...	544	lbs. 104,470			
Vegetables	...	147	Cwts. 10,118			
Forages	...	2,051	Loads 127,514			
Citrus fruits	...	14	Dozens 13,230			
Vines and other fruits	...	1,036	Cwts. 85,968			

† For Agricultural year June 1925—May 1926.

* 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.)	950	3,900	Malta 419	British* 3,500
Hammerhead	5	37	Gozo 174	Foreigners
Angel fish	340	1,365		
Rays (var. sp.)	500	2,000	Total 593	3,500
Eel	25	570		
Conger	120	800		
Murr-y	100	625		
Power	40	330		
Forkbeards (var. sp.)	75	530		
Brill	25	270		
Atlas shad	30	200		
Pfichard	65	375		
Garfish	30	250		
(Sardinus gri-nna)	15	85		
Grey mullet	150	625		
Sea pike	10	85		
Wrasse (various sp.)	100	625		
Rainbow wrasse	30	190		
Rainbow fish	9	110		
(Scorpaen cretensis)	12	70		
Stripped snout	480	2,400		
Snout	50	200		
(Dentex)	50	500		
Oilwife	50	320		
Gilthead	5	60		
Bream	40	450		
Pandora	60	600		
Axillary Bream	30	270		
Sparus (sp.)	40	400		
(Sargus vulgaris)	30	600		
Egyptian sargo	110	870		
Bogue	920	5,000		
(Box salpa)	100	625		
Black-tailed bream	265	2,300		
Red mullet	100	630		
Striped mullet	16	65		
Piper, garnard, etc.	65	375		
Scorpaena	65	400		
Percine scorpaena	75	500		
Basie	13	145		
Stone bause (various)	50	375		
Cumber	125	735		
Lettered perch	95	630		
Dusky perch	95	750		
(Umbra cirrosa)	45	350		
Sword fish	28	280		
Spanish mackerell	600	4,500		
Mackerell	14	65		
Tunny	60	550		
Long-nosed tunny	20	140		
Belted bonito	40	400		
(Thynnus tunnina)	95	850		
Pink bonito	90	560		
Pilot fish	85	600		
(Seriola dumerilli)	45	485		
Horse mackerell	450	1,875		
Corephene	600	4,500		
Greater weaver	35	200		
Lesser weaver	30	190		
Star-gazer	15	95		
	7,892	47,832		

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. It is intended, however, to enforce more stringent measures in the near future. The adoption of motor power and larger craft for undertaking 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 1926, 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:— Glosterina Limestone ...	c. ft. 7,500,000	109,400	No metallic ores		Nil.		Nil.
Coraline do. ...	c. ft. 50,000	2,100					
(a) in blocks ...	c. yds. 65,000	9,400					
(b) in spalls ...							
(iii) Produced:— Lime ...	salms* 41,000	5,100					
Common salt (sodium chloride):— (a) Total production ...	salms* 3,660	—					
(b) sold of slave ...	salms* 800	280					
Total ...		126,280					

The geographical survey of Malta is practically complete. About 90 square miles, including a portion of Gozo, 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, 1926.

(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... .. 152	—	Not available	litres 522,192	Not available
	Gozo 246	—		" 739,425	
Artificial Wine ...	Malta... .. 7	—		" 1,364,215	
	Gozo —	—		—	
Distilling Alcohol ...	Malta... .. 1	—		Nil	
	Gozo —	—		—	
Distilling Orange flower water ...	Malta... .. 35	—		" 2,580	
	Gozo 26	—		" 5,031	
Cigarettes ...	Malta... .. 7	472			
Cigars ...	Do. 2	17			
Caps ...	Do. 1	Not available			
Shoddy ...	Do. 1	do.			
Cottons ...	Do. 8	do.			
Furniture and Cabinet making ...	Do. 6	476			
Candles ...	Do. 1	—			
Flour milling ...	Do. 5	165*			

* In permanent employment.

7. SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

1. The rainy season commenced in the first days of October and, therefore, at the proper time. The rainfall was intermittent, but, on the whole, it favoured the crops, while the dry periods were somewhat relieved by the heavy fall of dew.

2. The average yield of wheat (33.04 bushels per acre) was very good. The crops of barley and maize were likewise satisfactory. The growth of the winter potatoes, very promising at first, was stopped by the furious gales of November and December, and the tubers remained undersized. The spring crop of potatoes was, on the whole, very satisfactory. Potato-blight was virulent throughout the Island, but, as spraying with Bordeaux Mixture has now become general, not much injury was noticeable. Onions gave a very good yield. Cumin was grown on a much smaller area than last year, owing to the slump in the price in this commodity. The yield was, however, good. Cotton was extensively grown in summer and the production was fairly satisfactory. The yield of forages was above the average, while vegetables, with the exception of cauliflower and cabbages which had suffered from the ravages of moths, were abundant and cheap throughout the year.

3. The production of Citrus fruits was good, but no increase in the area under Citrus trees has been registered. The crop of grapes was satisfactory, although in certain localities the vineyards suffered from an extensive attack of downy mildew (*Plasmopara viticola*). The bulk of the grapes produced has been manufactured into wine and should have yielded about 923,400 Imperial gallons. Many more new vineyards are now being planted every year than what would be sufficient to make good for those destroyed by the Phylloxera, while the Government Nurseries of American Vines have now been fully developed and are able to meet all demands.

4. The following statement shows the grants made by Government for the development of the natural resources of the Colony in 1925-26 :-

1).	Subsidy to the Società Economico-Agraria, Malta,	towards the improvement of agriculture	...	...	...	£	80
2).	Do.	do.	do.	towards the upkeep of the Society's experimental farm	...	...	30
3).	Do.	do.	do.	towards the holding of agricultural competitions	...	...	67
4).	Do.	do.	do.	towards encouraging the growing of vines and fruit trees	...	...	13
5).	Do.	do.	do.	for prizes to Exhibitors of the best Malta mule-breeding donkeys	...	...	10
6).	Subsidy to the Agricultural and Industrial Show, Gozo	...	...	...	...	...	200
7).	Subsidy to the Horticultural Society	...	...	...	...	...	50
				Total	...	...	£ 440