

PRODUCTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

1. 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
1,293	3,292	4,585 (a)	198. 3. 10	16,639,910 (b)	-	— (c)	121,844

Remarks:—

* For the Financial year 1927-28.

(a) Sites granted on long lease 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 †

District and nature of crop	Number of acres under cultivation	Gross quantity of produce	PASTURE † Acreage of pasture land
VALLETTA DISTRICT			6 acres
Wheat	188	Quarters 789	
Meslin (Mischiatu)	—	—	
Barley	67	" 376	
Maize ‡	7	" 39	
Beans and Peas	20	" 94	
Potatoes	105	Tons 483	
Onions	11	" 91	
Cumin seed	27	Cwts. 170	
Cotton	14	lbs. 1,650	
Vegetables	12	Cwts. 1,235	
Forages	288	Loads 15,015	
Citrus fruits	6	Dozen 4,690	
Vines and Other fruits	19	Cwts. 6,405	

† For Agricultural year June 1927—May 1928.

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

CROPS†			PASTURE †	LIVESTOCK on 31st December, 1927.	
District and nature of crop	Number of acres under cultivation	Gross quantity of produce	Average of pasture land	District and nature of livestock	Number
EAST DISTRICT			151 acres		
Wheat	2,013	Quarters 8,245		Horses	1,109
Meslin (Mischiato)	—	" —		Asses	1,365
Barley	1,229	" 9,623		Mules	953
Maize *	20	" 76		Horned cattle	1,173
Beans and Peas	375	" 1,487		Sheep	6,137
Potatoes	1,599	Tons 7,315		Goats	8,356
Onions	639	" 5,095		Pigs	1,256
Cumin seed	401	Cwts. 2,075			
Cotton	82	lbs. 21,510			
Vegetables	315	Cwts. 12,415			
Forages	3,021	Loads 207,021			
Citrus fruits	26	Dozen 19,130			
Vines and other fruits	388	Cwts. 26,886			
CENTRAL DISTRICT			97 acres		
Wheat	2,035	Quarters 8,188		Horses	740
Meslin (Mischiato)	—	" —		Asses	269
Barley	660	" 3,699		Mules	349
Maize *	25	" 111		Horned cattle	335
Beans and Peas	200	" 900		Sheep	319
Potatoes	1,281	Tons 5,909		Goats	2,571
Onions	155	" 1,298		Pigs	179
Cumin seed	396	Cwts. 2,435			
Cotton	24	lbs. 10,270			
Vegetables	305	Cwts. 25,080			
Forages	2,318	Loads 148,708			
Citrus fruits	89	Dozen 70,660			
Vines and other fruits	475	Cwts. 19,726			
WEST DISTRICT			300 acres		
Wheat	4,123	Quarters 16,115		Horses	1,191
Meslin (Mischiato)	124	" 646		Asses	1,581
Barley	1,209	" 6,597		Mules	1,266
Maize *	53	" 259		Horned cattle	1,999
Beans and Peas	599	" 2,634		Sheep	4,311
Potatoes	1,011	Tons 4,622		Goats	8,908
Onions	434	" 3,401		Pigs	2,333
Cumin seed	282	Cwts. 1,779			
Cotton	73	lbs. 10,040			
Vegetables	1,017	Cwts. 70,213			
Forages	3,704	Loads 228,718			
Citrus fruits	54	Dozen 40,050			
Vines and other fruits	961	Cwts. 63,067			
GOZ DISTRICT			323 acres		
Wheat	667	Quarters 2,784		Horses	193
Meslin (Mischiato)	3,185	" 16,126		Asses	1,309
Barley	3,411	" 17,402		Mules	378
Maize *	220	" 859		Horned cattle	1,250
Beans and Peas	679	" 3,177		Sheep	7,394
Potatoes	155	Tons 667		Goats	5,700
Onions	28	" 235		Pigs	1,122
Cumin seed	165	Cwts. 1,061			
Cotton	449	lbs. 93,604			
Vegetables	186	Cwts. 12,205			
Forages	2,563	Loads 155,827			
Citrus fruits	14	Dozen 9,979			
Vines and other fruits	1,123	Cwts. 73,495			

† For Agricultural year June 1927—May 1928.

* 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.)	900	3,000	Malta 430	British *3,500
Hammerhead	10	80	Gozo 201	Foreigners —
Angel fish	157	580	Total 631	3,500
Rays (var. sp.)	330	1,100	General information regarding the industry and the possibilities of its development.	
Eel	19	110	<p>The industry is practically wholly dependent on inshore fishing, the craft at present in use being unfit for distant fishing grounds. Owing to unprovident methods of fishing, the industry has suffered considerably during recent years. Fishing Regulations were issued mainly for the purpose of protecting fish in their young stages; these regulations, however, have proved inadequate to check the indiscriminate use of harmful implements, especially small meshed drag nets, consequently the destruction of immature fish is still carried on to no little extent. It is intended to enforce more stringent protective regulations and also provide better supervision for their due observance. It is anticipated that when these measures will be adopted, the industry will eventually be restored to its normal conditions. The adoption of motor power and larger craft for the exploitation of distant fishing grounds has been, though on a very limited scale, already initiated.</p>	
Couger	100	750		
Murrey	88	810		
Powder	21	210		
Brill	25	280		
Forkbeards (var. sp.)	49	490		
Allis shad	60	275		
Filchard	32	145		
Garfish	37	305		
(Saurus griseus)	13	45		
Grey mullet	65	540		
Sea pike	9	80		
Wrasse (var. sp.)	37	145		
Rainbow wrasse	17	85		
Razor fish	8	100		
(Scaurus cretensis)	21	130		
Streaked snare	375	1,800		
Snare	98	405		
(Dentex)	51	510		
Oldwife	40	265		
Gilthead	7	80		
Braize	37	370		
Pandora	49	405		
Axillary Bream	2	11		
(Sparus sp.)	30	350		
(Sargus vulgaris)	58	600		
Egyptian sargo	80	955		
Bogue	1,114	4,645		
(Box salpa)	102	510		
Black tail	173	1,585		
Striped mullet	9	75		
Red mullet	134	1,115		
Piper, gurnard, etc.	50	220		
Scorpaena	58	290		
Porcine scorpaena	62	300		
Basse	11	125		
Stone-basse (var. sp.)	39	250		
Comber	112	650		
Lettered perch	48	320		
Dusky perch	112	930		
(Umbrina cirrosa)	40	280		
Sword fish	32	285		
Spanish mackerell	112	1,025		
Tunny	47	430		
Long finned tunny (Thynnus thynnus)	7	75		
Belted bonito	44	330		
Plain bonito	41	290		
Pilot fish	73	365		
(Seriola dumerilli)	141	1,055		
Hotse mackerell	46	460		
Corephene	317	1,980		
Greater weaver	445	3,810		
Lesser weaver	35	200		
Stargazer	35	200		
	15	85		
	6,279	36,986		

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 1928, 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 :— Globigerina Limestone	c. ft. 11,300,000	188,330	No metallic ores	—NIL—		—NIL—	
Coralline do.	c. ft. 59,000	2,375					
(a) in blocks	c. yds. 72,000	11,200					
(b) in spalls							
(iii) Produced :— Lime	salsms* 60,000	7,500					
Common salt (sodium chloride) :— (a) Total production	salsms* 2,500	—					
(b) sold of above	salsms* 1,400	455					
Total		210,360					

The geographical survey of Malta is complete. About 98 square miles, including a portion of Gozo, have been surveyed also geologically. No important mineral deposits are known which are not worked.

* One salsm=8 Imperial bushels.

5. WATER POWER.

No water power available in the Colony.

6. INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND MANUFACTORIES
from 1st January to 31st December, 1928.

(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... 146	—	Not available	litres 518,326	Not available	
	Gozo... 217	—		" 554,227		
Artificial Wine	Malta... 6	—		" 3,690		
	Gozo... —	—		—		
Distilling Alcohol	Malta... —	—		—		
	Gozo... —	—		—		
Distilling Orange flower water	Malta... 39	—		" 1,857		
	Gozo... 22	—		" 5,132		
Cigarettes	Malta... 10	650				
Cigars	Do... 2	31				
Caps	Do... 2	Not available				
Shoddy	Do... 1	do.				
Cottonina	Do... 5	do.				
Furniture and Cabinet making	Do... 6	550				
Candles	Do... 1	—				
Flour milling	Do... 5	165				
Beer	Do... 1	227				

7. SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

1. The commencement of the autumnal rains in Malta was greatly delayed, the first useful showers falling on November 11th and 13th (1927). In Gozo there were good showers towards the close of September and in October, and all crops benefited accordingly. On the 19th November heavy rain clouds settled over the district between Siggiewi in Malta to Ghajnsielem in Gozo, the maximum downpour of rain on that day occurring at Melleha and Ahras, where 7 inches of rain were registered. This heavy downpour was repeated with nearly equal intensity on the 2nd and 8th December, but on these occasions the weather settled more towards St. Paul's Bay and Wardija. Much damage to growing crops was caused by these cloudbursts. On the whole the year was exceptionally wet, the total rainfall amounting to 30 inches.

2. The area under wheat was slightly reduced but the yield was very good, with an average of 32.01 bushels per acre. There was an increase in area under barley and meslin, and the production was also comparatively higher than that of last year. Owing to the favourable spring weather, there has been an increase in acreage under maize, and the production was also good. Winter and spring potatoes were sown on a slightly reduced area, but the yield was good being about the same of the preceding year, and was sold at satisfactory prices. There was an increase in the area under beans and cummin, and the production particularly of cummin was very good in quantity and quality, the prices of cummin were also more remunerative than those of last year. The acreage under onion was slightly increased, and the yield was good, but there was a slump in prices, and only the earliest and also the late keeping sorts could command remunerative prices. The slight reduction in the acreage of forages was fully compensated by a considerable increase in yield, the quality being also all that could be desired.

3. The yield of Citrus trees was rather poor as compared with that of last year, but the production of other fruits was about the same, and notwithstanding a rather heavy attack of Downy-Mildew which was met by insistent spraying with Bordeaux mixture, the yield of the vineyard suffered no appreciable reduction, and was of excellent quality. The quantity available for the press amounted to 113,000 cwts. and should have yielded about 835,000 Imperial gallons.

4. The following statement shows the grants made by Government for the development of the natural resources of the Colony in 1927-28 :-

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	...	...	20
3).	Do.	do.	do.	towards the holding of agricultural competitions	...	...	77
4).	Do.	do.	do.	towards encouraging the growing of vines and fruit trees	...	...	43
5).	Do.	do.	do.	for prizes to Exhibitors of the best Malta male-breeding donkeys	...	...	10
6).	Subsidy to the Comitato Agricolo Industriale pel Gozo	...	...	...	...	...	200
7).	Subsidy to the Horticultural Society	...	...	...	...	...	60
Total							...	£ 480