

raisins, coffee, pepper, rice, salt, spice, sugar, tea, etc., might not be purchased for the whole of the penitentiaries at wholesale prices from large wholesale houses, and distributed to the several penitentiaries from one central depot, say at Kingston.

ARTS, AGRICULTURE AND STATISTICS.

For the year 1890-91 the expenditure under this head amounted to \$410,000. Of this sum \$250,000, spent on account of census, is of a transitory character. The chief portion of the balance is composed of expenditures on account of the central and other experimental farms, and the dairying interests. Before touching in detail upon the several services included under the vote, your Commissioners deem it desirable to point out that apart from the extra services rendered in the department and charged to civil government contingencies, over \$8,000 was spent last year for temporary services performed in the department and charged to the votes for care of archives, criminal statistics, health statistics, dairying interests, Jamaica Exhibition, and immigration. The Commissioners find that the pay for these temporary services varies; that some of the extra officials have in addition to their daily pay, been paid for extra work, and for translating, copying, &c.; that the temporary staff appears to have been paid for every day in the year, including Sundays and holidays; and that no rule or regulation appears to exist fixing the rate of remuneration for this extra labour. With these few preliminary observations your Commissioners now propose to take up the several sub-heads of the vote, and they find the cost of the care of archives appears to have been only about \$6,000. This amount is a smaller sum than that previously spent, and fair work can be shown for it.

The "Patent Record" cost \$11,000 exactly, and your Commissioners understand that the expenditure is about to be reduced. The outlay for the collection of criminal statistics is small, and does not seem to call for any remark, and it is understood that the collection of health statistics, for which over nine thousand dollars was spent last year, is to be dropped, and accordingly this expenditure will disappear.

With regard to experimental farms, your Commissioners notice that at the Central Farm, in addition to the staff there were employed some 80 labourers, who do not appear, however, to have been employed continuously, but from time to time as required.

With regard to the sums expended for census and statistics, your Commissioners are pleased to report that the work under this sub-head, so far as they have enquired into it, has been performed expeditiously and economically. The remaining services included in the main vote, such as Jamaica Exhibition, seed barley, &c., seem to be transitory in character and call for no remark.

IMMIGRATION.

In their other report your Commissioners have recommended that this service should be transferred to the Department of the Interior, and in addition to the reasons which prompted them to make that recommendation, viz., the desirability of bringing the emigrants into touch with the land agents and facilitating their speedy location, it would appear to your Commissioners that a large expenditure now made for salaries and contingencies of immigration agents could be done away with, and as a matter of economy, in addition to improving the efficiency of the service, they consider it advisable that the transfer should be made.

QUARANTINE.

Under this head there was expended in the year 1890-91, the sum of \$77,243, and the only points connected with this service that seem to call for remark are whether it is necessary in the public interest to have inspectors at such a large number of ports, and whether effective supervision is exercised over them.

PENSIONS.

The pensions paid in the year 1890-91 amounted to about \$103,850, a large part of which consists of judges' pensions regulated by statute. This service only calls for