

(B) ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE, 1913.

The aggregate production of tobacco in the British Empire cannot be stated for any year. The following statement gives the available information for 1913.

| Country. | Area under Tobacco in 1913. | Production of Tobacco in 1913. |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Acres. | Lbs. |
| United Kingdom (1913-14) | No returns. | 38,735 |
| British India (excluding Native States) 1913-14 ... | 1,001,710 | No returns |
| Ceylon | 12,968 | No returns |
| Mauritius | 15 | 14,475 |
| British North Borneo... .. | 1,900 | 1,840,000 |
| | (approximate) | (approximate) |
| Australia (1913-14) | 3,007 | 2,827,552 |
| Papua | 65 | 20,000 |
| Fiji | 114 | 81,312 |
| Union of South Africa | 20,000 | 15,000,000 |
| | (approximate) | (approximate) |
| Southern Rhodesia | 5,000 | 3,000,000 |
| Nyasaland (1913-14) | 9,534* | 3,841,600* |
| Canada | 11,000 | 12,500,000 |
| Jamaica (1913-14) | 1,144 | No returns |

* European cultivation only.

CHARITIES.

Mr. BRIANT asked the Home Secretary if the Committee to consider as to the supervision of charities has yet made any report on the subject?

Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I understand that the Committee has finished taking evidence and is now considering its report.

PROBATION OFFICERS.

Mr. BRIANT asked the Home Secretary whether he proposes to exercise any control over the conditions of employment by voluntary societies of agents who receive a portion of their salary from public funds as probation officers, either as regards religious tests or the amount of duties which they may be required to perform?

Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The Criminal Justice Act and the Probation Rules made under it give the fullest powers to the appointing authority both in the selection and control of probation officers, including the matters mentioned by the hon. Member.

Mr. BRIANT asked the Home Secretary whether he will consider the advisability of requiring that any voluntary societies in receipt of public funds on account of the performance by their agents of the

duties of probation officers, whether whole or part time, should publish their accounts in such a manner that the probation account, both as to receipts and expenditure, is distinct from temperance propaganda or other religious or charitable work, and that the salaries paid to probation officers are shown distinct from those paid to other officials?

Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I will bear the hon. Member's suggestion in mind, but I may say that the largest societies such as the London Police Court Mission make a practice of publishing full accounts of the cost of their probation work and the amounts received from public and private sources.

DEFAULTING TAXPAYERS (PRISONERS).

Mr. HARMSWORTH asked the Home Secretary whether he will give the number of persons now in prison for failure to pay taxes?

Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Two, Sir.

INFANTICIDE.

Viscount SANDON asked the Home Secretary whether he has any statistics as to the number of infants in the United

Kingdom, or in England, killed by criminal and intentional action, at birth or within the first few days; and whether he proposes taking any action, legislatively or administratively, to meet this situation?

Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The numbers of inquests in England and Wales on children not more than 24 hours old at which verdicts of murder, manslaughter or infanticide were returned in 1923, 1924 and 1925 were 42, 41 and 44. I am afraid I do not understand what action it is suggested should be taken.

LIFT ACCIDENT, BIRMINGHAM.

Mr. CROOKE asked the Home Secretary if his attention has been called to the lift accident at Messrs. Rudge-Whitworth's, Birmingham, in which two employes lost their lives owing to the lift ropes being very much worn; and will he consider the advisability of making it compulsory that in future periodical examinations shall be made of all lift apparatus in factories and warehouses by responsible officials?

Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Yes, Sir, I have received a report on this accident, which appears to have been due to failure on the part of the occupier to exercise a proper supervision over the condition of the lift. I agree that there ought to be periodic examinations of lifts by competent persons, and my hon. Friend will find that a provision to this effect has been included in the Factories Bill.

WORCESTER QUARTER SESSIONS (SENTENCE).

Colonel DAY asked the Home Secretary if his attention has been drawn to the sentence of three years' imprisonment passed at the Worcester Quarter Sessions, on the 5th July, on Michael Williams, aged 20 years, who pleaded guilty to office-breaking and stealing an article valued 2d.; and will he cause such sentence to be reconsidered with a view to clemency?

Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: The sentence was one, not of imprisonment, but of detention in a Borstal institution. Such a sentence is only passed if the Court is

satisfied that a young offender requires training on account of his criminal habits or tendencies, or his association with persons of bad character. Williams is not only reported to have marked criminal tendencies; he has committed a number of previous offences for which he has been placed on probation or fined, or sent to prison for short terms. Borstal training was designed for such cases.

COAL TRADE DISPUTE.

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS (OFFENCES).

Mr. PALING asked the Home Secretary how many offences have been committed under the Emergency Regulations since they were last sanctioned by the House of Commons?

Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: I am afraid I have not yet received the figures, but I hope to have some in time for to-morrow's Debate.

NATIONALISATION.

Mr. TAYLOR asked the Prime Minister, in view of the suffering and economic loss caused by the stoppage in the mining industry, if he will now utilise the Government's powers under the Emergency Regulations to take over the coal mines and produce and sell coal at the cost of production and distribution?

The PRIME MINISTER: No, Sir.

POOR LAW RELIEF (MINERS' DEPENDANTS).

Mr. MARDY JONES asked the Minister of Health what is the maximum scale of out-relief now in force for emergency cases (latest weeks available), and the weekly relief granted to the wife and to each child of the coal miners in each of the following counties in England and Wales: Northumberland, Durham, West Riding (Yorks), Lancashire, Cumberland, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Flint, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, and Carmarthenshire?

Mr. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN: I am obtaining the information which the hon. Member desires, and will communicate with him as soon as it is available.

Mr. MARDY JONES asked the Minister of Health what is the total sum