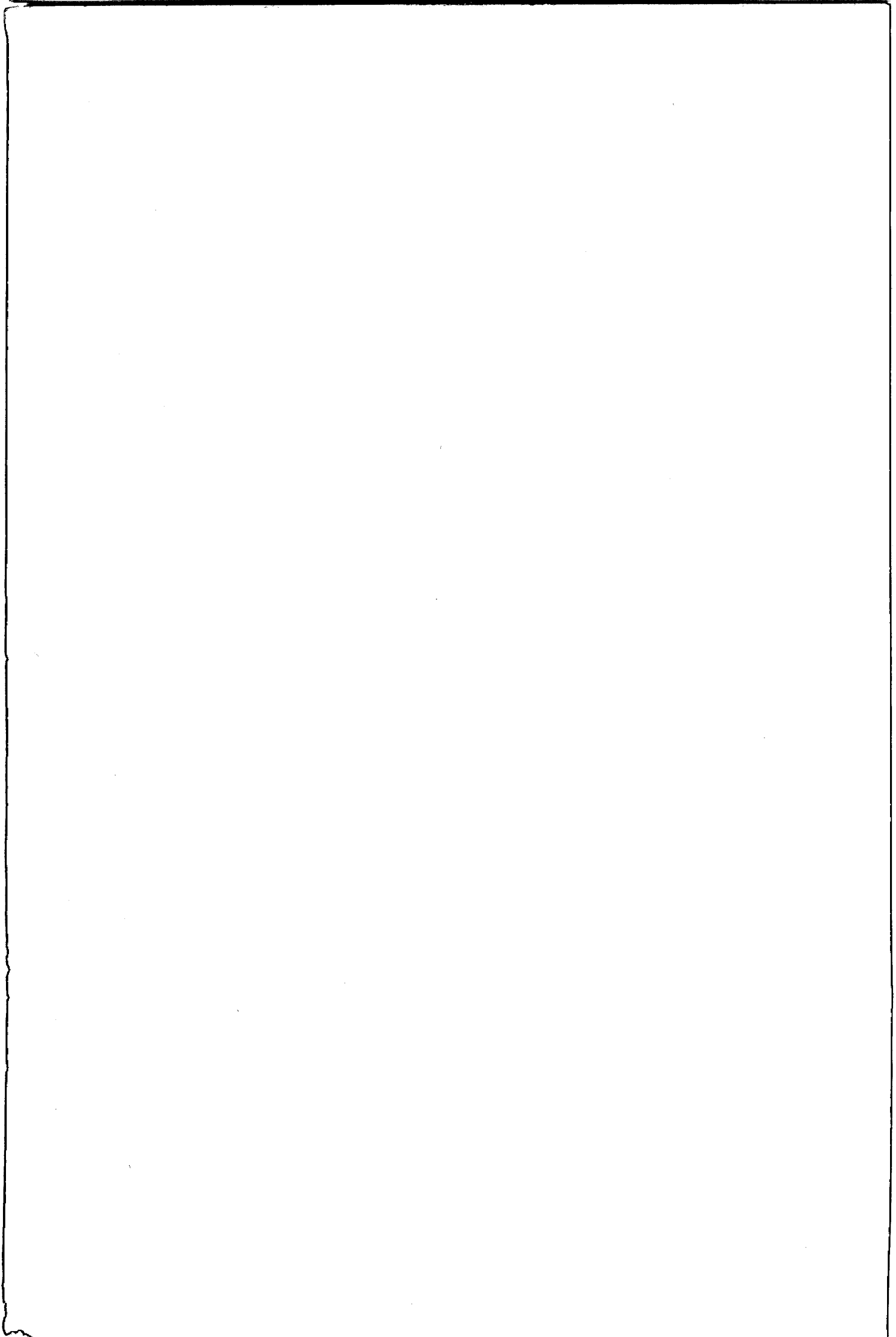
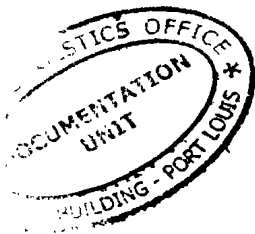


COLONY OF MAURITIUS

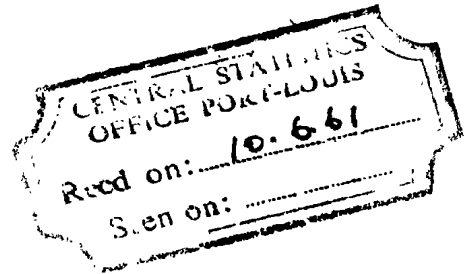
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Central Statistical Office
for the year 1960







ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1960



FUNCTIONS

In July, 1945, a Statistical Bureau was created in consequence of a recommendation made by the Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943.

The original functions assigned to this Bureau were to collect and compile accurate information as to wages of labour, the number and type of employment in various industries, the level of prices and the computation of cost of living indices. The Bureau was also assigned the task of supervising and coordinating the statistical data collected in various Government Departments. These functions of the Bureau were gradually extended to involve the periodical statistical survey of every branch of economic activity in the island: agricultural, industrial, financial and commercial. It also keeps under review the demographic, vital, health, educational and other social statistics of the life of the Colony. In July, 1948, the original Statistical Bureau became the Central Statistical Office.

The information collected, tabulated and analysed by the Central Statistical Office had up to last year been presented in an annual handbook. It is proposed to discontinue the publication of the Yearbook and to substitute in its stead, as from March 1961, a Quarterly Digest of Statistics which will provide information more quickly to users of statistics. Data relating to 1960 will be incorporated in the 1961 issues of the digest.

The office draws up complete annual tables of the Balance of Payments of the Colony, of Capital Formation aggregates, of National Income and National Accounts.

In addition, the Central Statistical Office has also to prepare a large number of statistical reports for submission to the Colonial Office and to the various agencies of the United Nations Organisation. It has to reply to a great number of enquiries from abroad, in addition to those from local organisations, institutions and individuals. When time and opportunity offer, it also carries out research on the statistical material collected by the Department.

LOCATION

In March, the Central Statistical Office moved to a new two-storey building erected at Rose Hill on Crown Land adjoining the former Police Station. This building forms part of the plan for the reconstruction and centralisation of Government Departments and Offices on that site. It was constructed specifically to meet the requirements of this department and in particular to accommodate the new and bulkier Hollerith equipment.

For 11 years, from 1949 to 1960, the Central Statistical Office had been housed at No. 5 Abbe de la Caille Street, Beau Bassin.

STAFF

The strength of the staff as at the end of the year consisted of:

The Director of Statistics
The Assistant Director
The Statistician
Two Assistant Statisticians
An Office Superintendent
Eleven Compilers
A Hollerith Operator
A Typist-Stenographer
Four Punch & Verifier Operators.

STAFF MOVEMENT

Mr. L.Honore who had been acting as Director of Statistics since the 29th March, 1959, was appointed to that post on the 16th March, 1960 with effect from the 29th September 1959.

Consequent upon this appointment, the following officers were promoted with effect from the same date: -

- Mr. M.Etienne, Statistician, to the Post of Assistant Director.
- Mr. F.Empeigne, Assistant Statistician, to the post of Statistician.
- Mr. M.T.Pillay, Compiler, to the post of Assistant Statistician.
- Mr. L.Honore was absent from the Colony

- (a) On overseas leave from the 27th June to the 8th September;
- (b) on mission from the 2nd November to the 27th November to attend the Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians in New Zealand.

During both periods of absence, Mr. M.Etienne acted as Director and Mr. F.Empeigne as Assistant Director.

YEAR BOOK OF STATISTICS

The Year Book of Statistics for 1959 was issued in November 1960 and will be the last one to be published.

CONSUMERS' PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

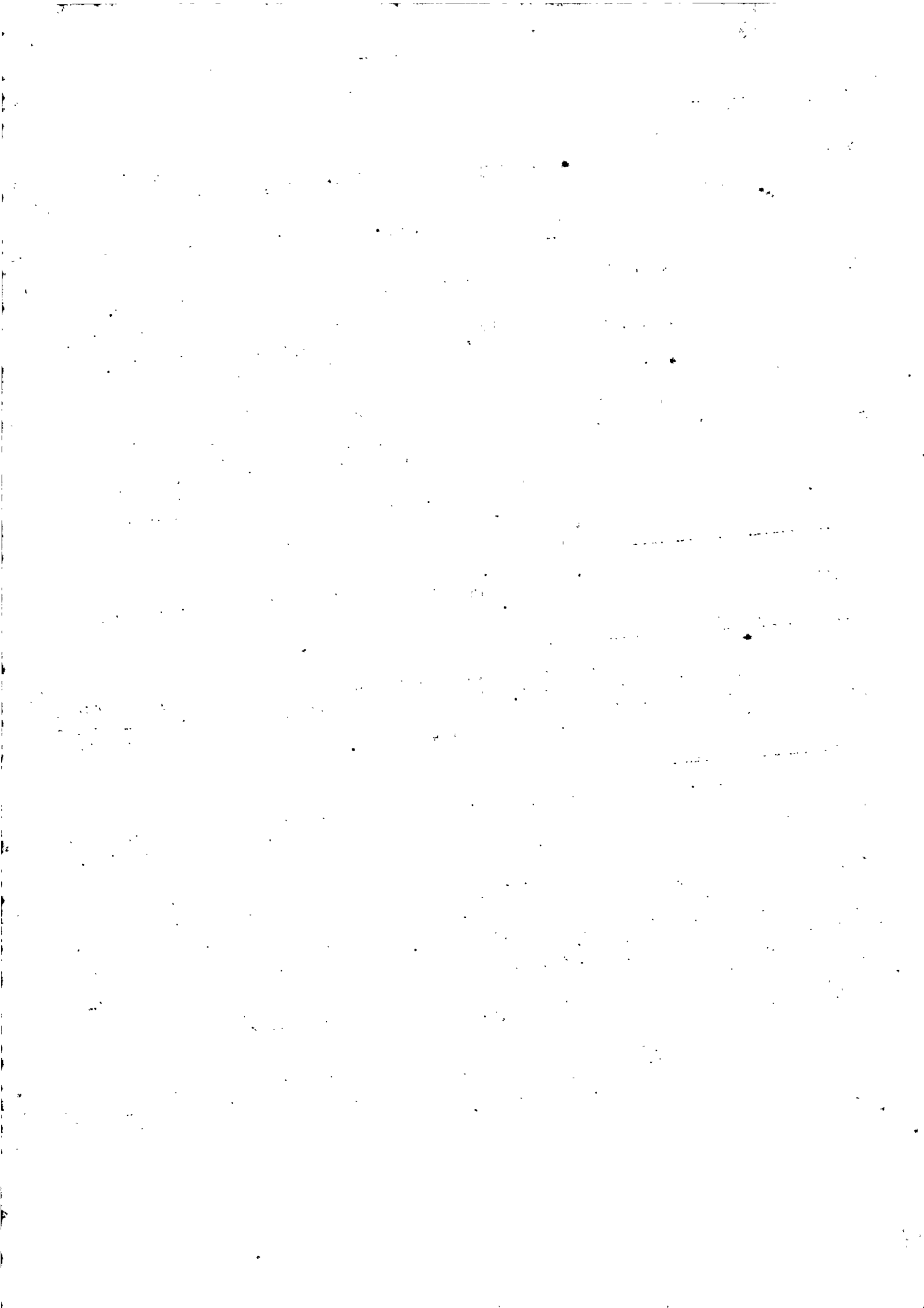
Monthly surveys of the current retail prices of a large number of articles of common consumption were continued. Indexes of these prices relative to pre-war were worked out for 72 articles of food and beverages, 40 articles of clothing and textiles and 43 articles of household necessity, including fuel.

CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX

This index (otherwise called "the cost of living index") was computed each month for six different categories of consumers. These monthly indexes were regularly published in the Government Gazette.

At the end of 1959, Mr K.J. Penniment, a member of the Statistical Division of the International Labour Organisation made a thorough study of the present arrangement for collecting information relating to household expenditure, and of the method used in the computation of the various consumers' price indexes. His report was received in May 1960. During his overseas leave the Director of Statistics was invited to discuss Mr. Penniment's findings as well as a Mauritius request for technical assistance with the Director and members of the Statistical section of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, and with the Chief Statistician of the Colonial Office in London.

In order to implement the recommendations contained in that report, the International Labour Organisation has offered to send an expert to Mauritius to carry out a sample survey of consumers' expenditure. He is expected to arrive early this year.



STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR THE COLONIAL OFFICE

Several monthly and quarterly returns of demographic, vital, industrial production and trade statistics were regularly furnished to the Statistical Department of the Colonial Office.

The sections on Mauritius in the Digest of Colonial Statistics published by the Colonial Office are also periodically revised.

STATISTICS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION

Extensive questionnaires from the United Nations Organisation and its agencies, dealing with demographic and vital data and statistics of cultivation, production, livestock, foodstuffs, external trade, etc., for Mauritius and its Dependencies were answered.

Since January 1951, monthly statistical tables (covering various subjects) have been furnished for the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations Organisation.

STATISTICS OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

As in previous years, the Central Statistical Office undertook the compilation of complete data relating to cultivation, production and manufacture in the sugar industry. Tabular statements on the crop results were circulated to the Director of Agriculture, the Chamber of Agriculture, the Central Board and the Agricultural Bank. In addition, with the kind assistance of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, a satisfactorily large sample of data relating to small plantations was analysed and published.

Bi-annual statements of employment and wages for artisans and skilled personnel in the sugar industry were collected, compiled and analysed.

TRADE STATISTICS

Complete statistics of imports and exports on the basis of the Standard International Trade Classification continued to be compiled in the office in collaboration with the Customs Authorities. Since 1953 a publication embodying complete trade accounts has been produced by the Customs and Excise Department.

NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

During the year under review the National Income and National Accounts estimates for the 6-year period 1953/58 were completely overhauled to incorporate inter alia additional information made available to the Economic Survey Mission by the Sugar Industry.

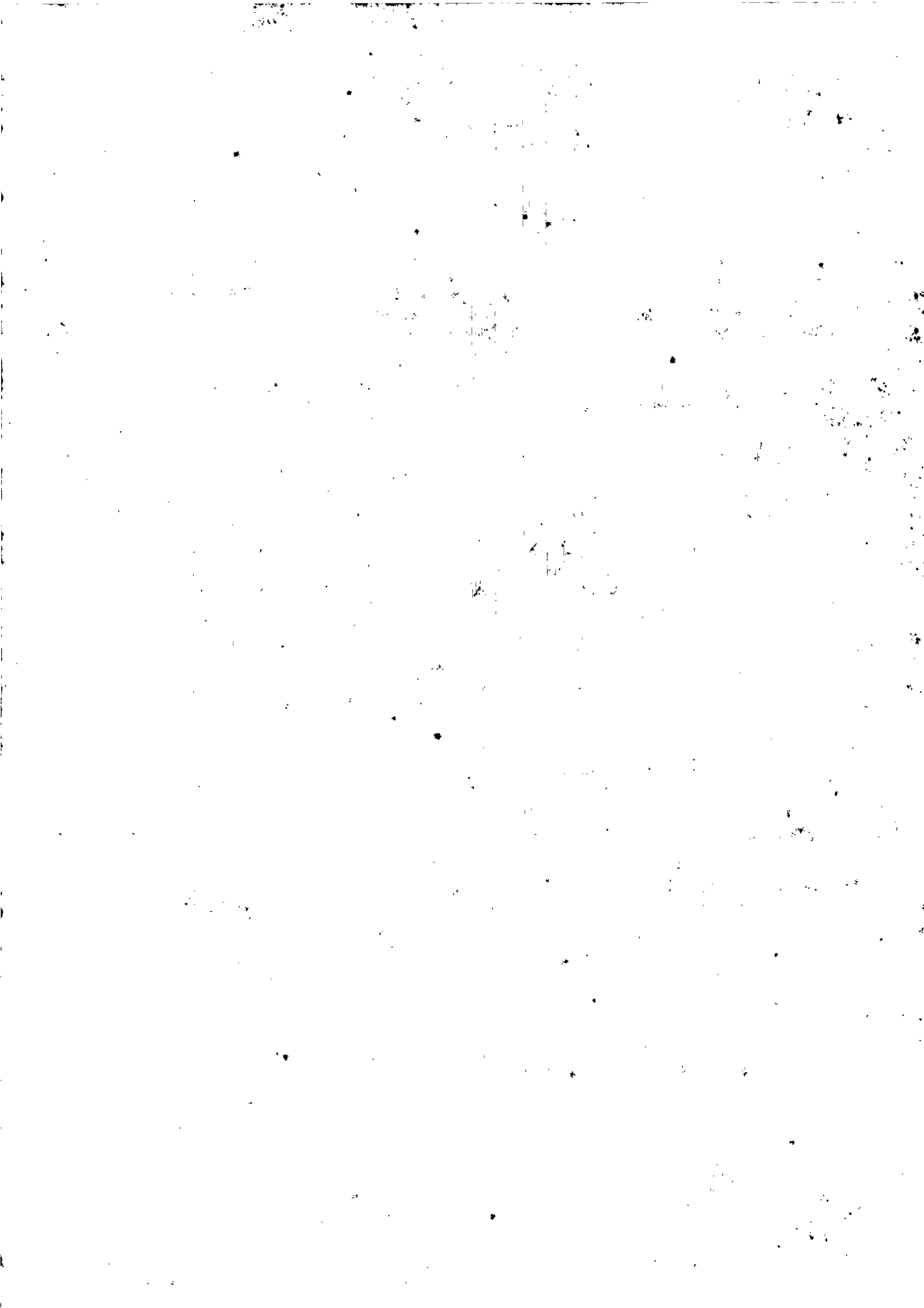
The computation of the 1959 estimates was consequently much delayed, but was nearly completed at the end of the year.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OF THE COLONY

Tables of the Balance of Payments for the year 1959 were computed as in previous years and this work, which necessitated analyses of the records of the Treasury and the Post Office, and the compilation of returns from private banks and commercial agencies, was completed in August.

CAPITAL FORMATION ESTIMATES

Tabular statements of Capital Formation and Consumption in the colony during the year 1959 were compiled and issued as previously at the request of the Secretary of State. Provisional tables were forwarded to the Secretary of State by the middle of April and the final tables in July.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Titmuss Mission. Mr T. Lynes arrived in Mauritius on the 23rd of February and Professor R. Titmuss and Dr. B. Abel Smith on the 3rd of March to complete their enquiry with a view to advising Government as to the provisions to be made for social security bearing in mind the resources of Mauritius and the needs of the people.

The assistance of the Director of Statistics and that of his staff were again sought by the members of the Mission and from January to June this office was engaged in preparing data and statistical analyses for them.

Subsequently during his leave in the United Kingdom, the Director of Statistics was invited to have further discussions with Professor Titmuss on matters connected with the work of the Mission.

The Economic Survey Mission

On the 12th of March an Economic Survey Mission headed by Professor J. Meade arrived in the colony "to survey the present economic and social structure of Mauritius and to make recommendations concerning the action to be taken to render the country capable of maintaining and improving the standard of living of its people, having regard to current and foreseeable demographic trends".

Well before its arrival, this department was engaged in preparing statistical data for Professor Meade's team of experts.

Both during and after the stay of the Mission in the colony, the Central Statistical Office was called upon to give it extensive assistance and to prepare for it special tabulations and analyses on such varied matters as: Public revenue and expenditure, banking, education, production, employment and wages in the principal industries, balance of payments of the colony, capital formation and especially on national income and national accounts.

The Director of Statistics would like to acknowledge the invaluable help received from the Chamber of Agriculture, especially from its Statistics Committee, in the revision of the National Income figures and in the preparation of financial tables for the Mission.

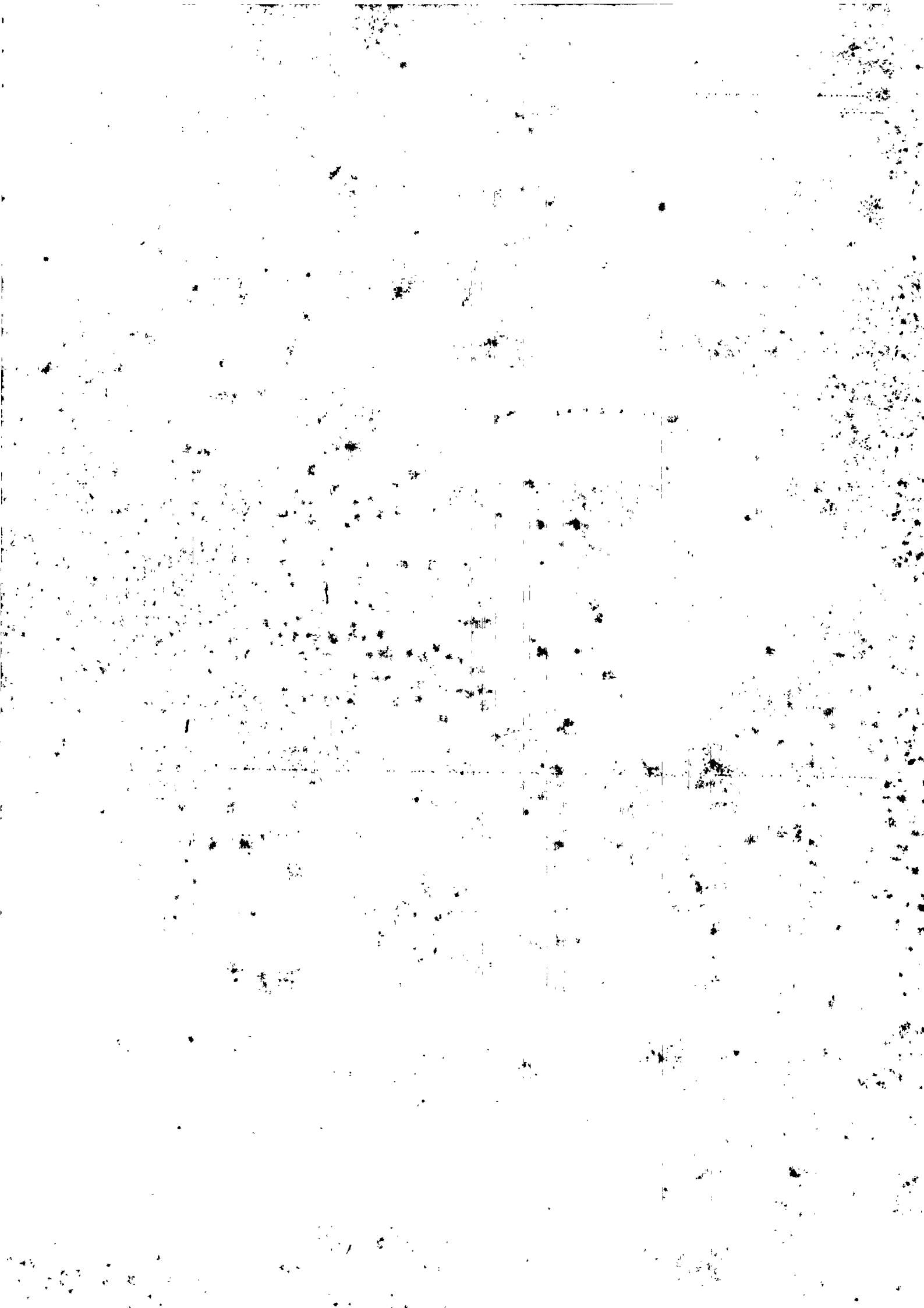
Registration of cyclone victims and of damages to residential buildings.

After cyclone Carol, this department was requested to help in: -

- (1) devising the registration card for cyclone victims;
- (2) supervising the registration of these victims;
- (3) drawing a 1% random sample of the declarations made with a view to checking their accuracy, and analysing the information obtained.

The analysis gave a clear picture of the extent of damages caused by the cyclones to residential buildings and was used by Mr. Atkinson in the preparation of his report.

The same random sample of houses was again surveyed at a later date, and the information obtained were analysed in this department to furnish statistical data as to the extent of reconstructions to the Ministerial Delegation which left the colony for talks with the Secretary of State.



MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

During the year the office took over the statistics of the Labour Department and dealt with a large number of enquiries of a private nature from individuals and institutions both local and abroad.

HOLLERITH PUNCHED CARD EQUIPMENT

In addition to the work of the Central Statistical Office, the Hollerith equipment is at present used to compile and tabulate:

- (i) trade statistics of which monthly, quarterly and annual accounts are produced;
- (ii) statistics of the Health Department;
- (iii) statistics of the Income Tax Department;
- (iv) statistics of crime;
- (v) complete monthly and annual statements of vital statistics for the Civil Status Office;
- (vi) certain statistics of the Posts & Telegraphs Department;
- (vii) Crown Agents monthly statements of Revenue and Expenditure for the Accountant General's Department;
- (viii) statistics of employment and wages of artisans in sugar factories.

The equipment was also put to considerable use in making special compilations and tabulations for the Titmuss Mission and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

A valuable improvement in the machine section was the replacement of the existing sorter by a modern high-speed one of the International Computers and Tabulators Ltd. This new machine which, as its name implies, is used to sort numerically punched cards into sequence, operates at the remarkable speed of 600 cards per minute.

But the major item of importance was the introduction of an I.T.C. 902 Tabulator which can tabulate 12,000 cards per hour. This machine is far in advance of any previously installed in the machine room.

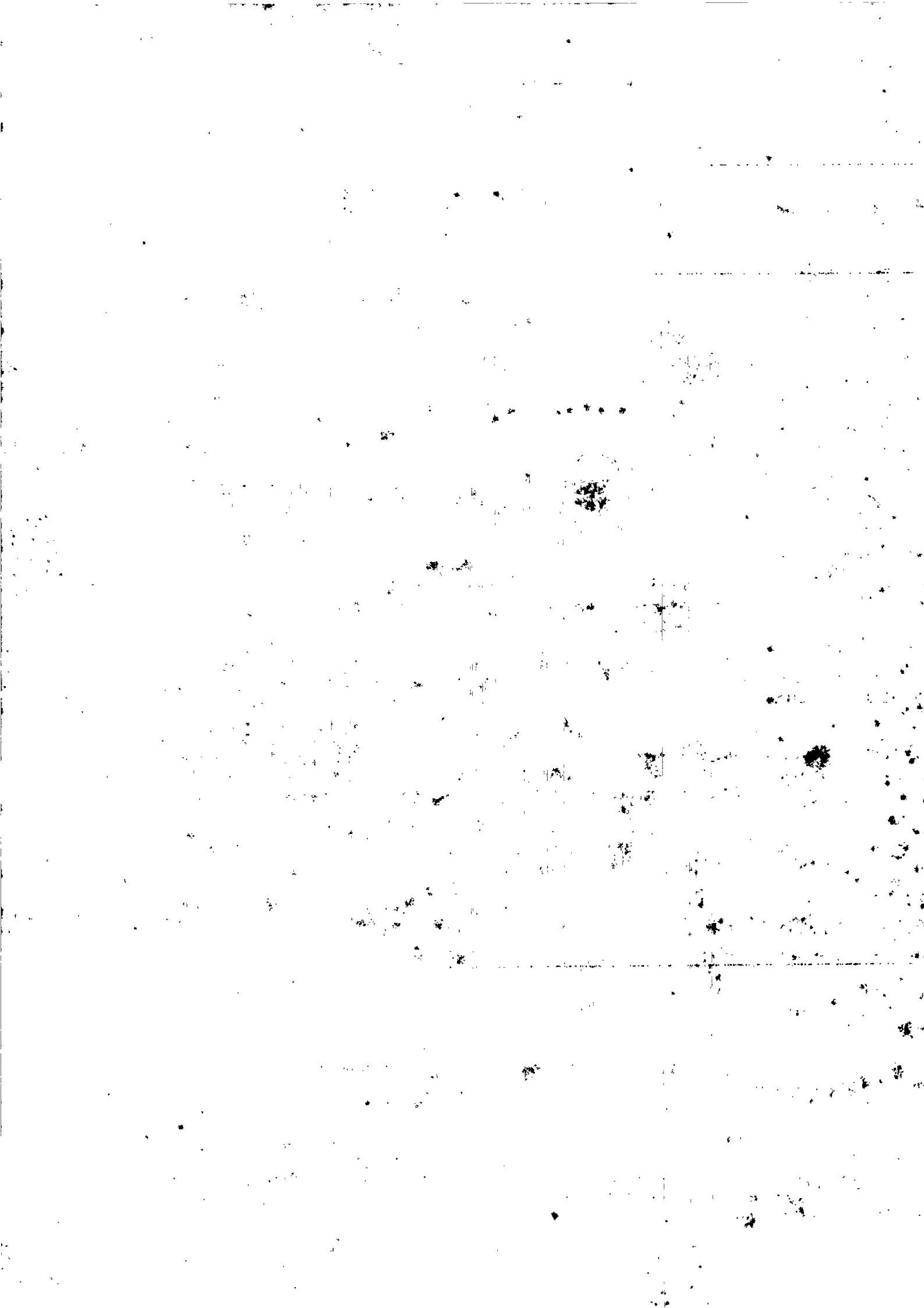
During 1960 a total of some 175,000 cards were punched and verified. There were about 5 million sorter passages, and nearly 2 million tabulating passages.

THE CONFERENCE ON COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIANS

The Director of Statistics left on the 2nd of November, by air, to attend the Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians which opened in Wellington, New Zealand on the 7th of November.

Among the topics of special interest to Mauritius discussed at the Conference were: - National Accounting, Sampling, Financial Statistics, External Trade, Production and Productivity, Overseas Investments and Family Budget Enquiries.

Useful guidance on many problems was derived from the Conference. In particular, the Director was able to obtain valuable advice from the New Zealand and Australian delegations on the method of dealing with certain difficulties which had been encountered whilst revising our National Income and National Accounts estimates on orthodox lines.



PUBLICATIONS OF THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

The following list of all publications issued by the Central Statistical Office as from its foundation is inserted here for reference: -

<u>Title of Publications</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
Year Book of Statistics	Annually
Mauritius Life Table (1944-1946)	September, 1947
Mauritius Life Table (1951-1953)	December, 1954
National Income & National Accounts of Mauritius 1948-1954 ⁺	November, 1955
Gross & Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948-1954	March, 1956
Natality and Fertility in Mauritius 1825-1955	June, 1956
Highlights of Mauritian Economy 1946-1956	January-February 1957 (Revue Agricole et Sucriere de l'Ile Maurice)
Gross & Net Capital Formation in Mauritius 1948-1956 (revised version)	December, 1957

⁺ computed annually since 1954.

L.Honoré
Director of Statistics

20th February, 1961.