

But from 1922 to 1946 infant mortality among the General Population was higher than among Indians in only three years (1933, 1944, 1946), and the average rates were 137 and 153. Thus, there has been a notable reduction of infant mortality among the General Population and an insignificant one among Indians. It should be noted, however, that conditions have deteriorated for both groups in recent years. The average rate for the General Population rose from 130 in 1922-36 to 143 in 1937-41, and to 151 in 1942-6. The corresponding rates for Indians were 149, 161, and 158 respectively.

TABLE 69. *Quinquennial Infant Mortality-rates, Mauritius 1871-1945*

Years	General Population	Indian Population	Total	Years	General Population	Indian Population	Total	Years	General Population	Indian Population	Total
1871-5	163	164	163	1896-1900 ¹	215	182	191	1921-5	139	143	142
1876-80	147	163	158	1901-5	181	165	170	1926-30	127	148	141
1881-5	178	165	169	1906-10	188	170	189	1931-5	139	158	151
1886-90	162	161	161	1911-15	159	154	156	1936-40	142	165	156
1891-5	198	167	178	1916-20	178	162	167	1941-5	148	157	154

¹ 1896 and 1898-1900.

The figures on mortality by age of infants published for 1935-9 and 1945-6¹ indicate that mortality in earliest childhood is particularly high among Indians. In those 7 years the ratio of deaths under 3 months to 1,000 live-born was 77, 80, 68, 78, 78, 91, and 90 respectively for the General Population, but 97, 104, 101, 108, 98, 122, and 96 for the Indians. The high rates for Indians are the more noteworthy in view of the excessive number of still-births in this section of the population. The Medical Reports attribute the high neo-natal mortality mainly to the same causes as the frequency of still-births and point out that 'those children which survive till birth usually are weaklings and must tend to an early death'.²

A closer study of mortality by age since 1871 might reveal peculiarities which are not frequently found. It seems that neo-natal mortality in Mauritius is high, that mortality during the rest of the first year of life is moderate, and that mortality among older children and among young adults is very unfavourable.

3. Population Growth

1835-66. At the time of the abolition of slavery the population of Mauritius numbered about 92,000, of whom about one-tenth were whites, while the rest, with the exception of some Asiatics, were negroes or mulattoes. In 1866 the population was nearly four times as large. The number of whites was probably about the same as in 1835; the number of negroes and mulattoes had apparently increased from 80,000 to 115,000, and there

¹ See *Report of the Registrar General 1935*, p. 26; 1936, p. 27; 1937, p. 29; 1938, p. 27; 1939, Table 10; 1945, p. 25; 1946, p. 25.

² *Medical Report 1922*, p. 2. See also, for example, *ibid.* 1924, p. 5: 'The average weight of children at birth appears to be 2 kilogrammes in Mauritius.' The failure of the Ordinance to secure the training of midwives in the Colony and to regulate their practice (No. 26 of 1926) is fully described *ibid.* 1935, pp. 29-30.

were about 235,000 Indians in the island. The rise in the number of non-Indians was due to immigration.¹ The same is true, of course, of the Indians who were mostly male coolies.²

1867-9. Owing to the malaria epidemic the total population decreased from about 365,000 to about 310,000.³

1870-1922. The total population, which at the beginning of 1870 numbered about 310,000, amounted at the end of 1922 to about 378,000. The total increase was about 68,000, of which 47,000 were due to an excess of births over deaths. The average yearly natural increase was one-quarter of one per cent. In 1881-90, when fertility was high and mortality comparatively low, the net reproduction-rate was 1.2.⁴ In 1920-2, when fertility was lower and mortality slightly higher than in 1881-90, the net reproduction-rate hardly exceeded 1.⁵

1923-46. The population increased from about 378,000 at the beginning of 1923 to about 430,000 at the end of 1946. The total increase was about 52,000, and there was apparently some net emigration, since births exceeded deaths by 63,000. The average yearly natural increase was nearly two-thirds of 1 per cent. Taking the period as a whole the net reproduction-rate was well above 1. But it certainly was not higher than in 1881-90.

B. DEPENDENCIES

I. CENSUSES

The provisions of the Census Ordinances for Mauritius were applied from 1851 onwards, as far as practicable, to the several Dependencies.⁶

In 1851 the census of the Dependencies comprised the Seychelles, Rodrigues, two islands of the Amirantes Archipelago (Poivre, Desroches), the Islands North of Madagascar, Agalega, Coëtivy, Diego Garcia, Salomon Islands, Peros Banhos, and Trois Frères.⁷ The census of 1861 covered

¹ According to the records, deaths among non-Indians in 1835-66 exceeded births by about 9,000. Birth registration, it is true, may have been more incomplete than death registration, and there was probably a small natural increase in 'normal' years in spite of the excessive mortality of the ex-apprentice population, but in years of epidemics deaths were much more numerous than births. (In the ex-apprentice class deaths exceeded births from the census date 1851 to the end of 1857 by 7,616, and in 1859-66 by 4,754; see *Blue Book 1857*, p. 310, and Table 61 above.) As regards immigration the available data are scanty and uncertain. It seems that among the non-Indian population recorded arrivals exceeded recorded departures in 1852-60 by 8,291 (see p. 781 above) and from 8 Apr. 1861 to 31 Dec. 1866 by 14,659 (see *State of Colonial Possessions 1867*, Part III, p. 29).

² The net immigration of Indians amounted in 1835-66 to 276,000, excluding those who had come at their own expense.

³ Apart from the great mortality, there was a net emigration of 3,600 Indian coolies in 1867-9.

⁴ The gross reproduction-rate was 2.6 (see p. 870 above). The net reproduction-rate was so low because, according to a (crude) life table which I computed, only 584 out of 1,000 newly-born girls reached the age of 15, and only 331 survived the age of 45. The years lived by them between 15 and 45 numbered only 13,700 (instead of 30,000, if none had died under 45).

⁵ The gross reproduction-rate was 2.3. Of 1,000 newly-born girls 601 reached the age of 15, and 296 the age of 45. The years lived by them between 15 and 45 numbered 13,300. It seems that the net reproduction-rate was well above 1 in most years between 1871 and 1891, but below 1 in most years between 1892 and 1922.

⁶ See pp. 735-8 above.

⁷ Two special counts were made in 1856 and 1859; see Table 74.

the same area and in addition St. Brandon and Six Islands, but no returns were received from the Islands North of Madagascar. The censuses of 1871 and 1881 included all islands enumerated in either 1851 or 1861 and in addition two more Amirantes Islands (St. Joseph, Darros).¹ From 1891 onwards the census area was more restricted. The report for 1891 said:

In previous Censuses Seychelles was included but this group of islands is now separated from Mauritius in administration and the results are given separately.

The dependencies comprised in this Census are Rodrigues and the various groups islands or atolls known generally as the Oil Islands.

They are Diego Garcia, Agaléga, Trois Frères, Salomon Islands, Six Islands and Coëtivy. St. Juan de Nova² is one of the dependencies that should appear in this Census and Schedules were sent but not received in time. . . .³

Thus the 1891 census excluded not only the Seychelles (and the Amirantes Archipelago as well as the Islands North of Madagascar transferred to the Seychelles) but also Peros Banhos and St. Brandon. The 1901 census covered the same area, except Trois Frères, and in addition Peros Banhos, St. Brandon, St. Juan de Nova (Farquhar Isles), and Eagle Island.⁴ The censuses of 1911 and 1921 comprised the same islands, except Coëtivy,⁵ which had been transferred to the Seychelles. The census of 1931 excluded Eagle Island and also Farquhar Island,⁶ which (in 1921) had been transferred to the Seychelles. Furthermore, the 1944 census excluded Trois Frères and Six Islands which then were uninhabited.⁷ I shall deal with Seychelles in Chapter XVI and discuss here the population ascertained in Rodrigues and the Minor Dependencies of Mauritius.

II. TOTAL POPULATION

1. Rodrigues

1691-1809. The first inhabitants were apparently the French Protestant refugee François Leguat and 7 men, who had sailed from Texel (Holland) on 4 September 1690 and arrived in Rodrigues on 30 April 1691. They left for Mauritius on 21 May 1693.⁸ 'After the departure of Leguat and his companions, Rodriguez once again became uninhabited.'⁹ On 20 July 1725 the Superior Council of the Isle of Bourbon decided to take possession of the island in the name of the King and the India Company. Several French officers were immediately sent there and took possession.¹⁰ The different Governors of Mauritius soon imported numerous tortoises from Rodrigues,¹¹ but the island had no permanent inhabitants until in

¹ See *Census Report 1861*, Appendix No. 19; 1871, Part II, pp. 5-6; 1881, Appendixes, pp. 482-3.

² This was apparently the only one of the 'Islands North of Madagascar' which was still inhabited in 1881. (Providence Island, with 28 inhabitants in 1881, had been transferred to the Seychelles.)

³ *Census Report 1891*, p. 38.

⁴ See *ibid.* 1901, pp. 49, 168. Eagle Island and Trois Frères belong to the Chagos Archipelago.

Trois Frères was possibly no longer inhabited. It certainly was not so in 1911 and in 1944, see *ibid.* 1911, p. iii; 1944, p. 5.

⁵ See *ibid.* 1911, p. iii; 1921, p. 13.

⁶ See *ibid.* 1931, p. 5.

⁷ See *ibid.* 1944, p. 5.

⁸ See François Leguat, *Voyages et Aventures* (1708), vol. i, pp. 6, 60; vol. ii, p. 1.

⁹ Bertuchi, *The Island of Rodrigues* (1923), p. 35.

¹⁰ See de Froberville, 'Rodrigues, Galega, Séchelles' (1848), pp. 78-9; Rouillard, 'Relation de l'Isle Rodrigues', p. 15; Bertuchi, p. 36.

¹¹ See *ibid.*, p. 37.

1760 a small settlement was made.¹ When the abbé Pingré visited Rodrigues to observe the first passage of Venus over the sun (6 June 1761) 'the little colony consisted of only 3 or 4 Whites under the orders of M. de Puvigné, lieutenant in the troops of the company', who resided with his family in the island. There were in addition a number of slaves.² But 'owing to tortoises having become rarer' the Governor of Mauritius withdrew 'the garrison stationed at Rodriguez, allowing the inhabitants to cultivate the land and trade on their own'.³ This apparently did not affect the size of the population.⁴ In the following two decades the Government considered the possession of Rodrigues to be rather a nuisance.⁵ But 'during the revolution concessions were granted to several persons resident in the Isle of France, one of whom received the title of government agent'.⁶ However, on 30 January 1806, Decaen reported that he had ordered the almost complete evacuation of the island.⁷ Bertuchi relates:

In 1803⁸ General Decaen, Governor of Mauritius, considering the Isle of Rodriguez a menace to the Isles of Bourbon and Mauritius, and in order to render the isle valueless as a re-victualling station for British ships, ordered most of the planters, with their families, to return to Mauritius, where land concessions were given them as compensation. Only a few families were left at Rodriguez to show that the island had not ceased to be French territory.⁹

Prentout reports that by 1 March 1806 Decaen had not been able to carry out his plan; only one family had returned to the Isle of France.¹⁰ De Froberville, on the other hand, says that 'the eight families which resided' in Rodrigues returned to the Isle of France.¹¹ When in 1809 the British took the island, they found there 3 French planters with 70 or 80 slaves.¹²

1810-1945. Rodrigues is now by far the most populous Dependency of Mauritius. But this was not the case during the first decades of British administration. According to Bertuchi 'there were in 1820 over 150 people residing on the island'.¹³ D'Unienville, in 'An Account of the Islands and Isles comprehended under the name of Dependencies of the Island of Mauritius', signed 18 August 1826, wrote:¹⁴

At present this island is not inhabited by more than 123 individuals; viz.:—

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Whites	7	5	8	—
Free Persons . .	2	1	—	—
Slaves	49	28	12	11

It is possible that the population had been actually larger in 1820, since D'Unienville says: 'No civil or military establishment has existed there

¹ See de Froberville, 'Rodrigues, Galega, Séchelles', p. 79; Rouillard, p. 61; Bertuchi, p. 37.

² See de Froberville, p. 79.

³ Bertuchi, p. 39; see also de Froberville, p. 80.

⁴ See Bertuchi, p. 39; 'The population consisted of a few whites from Mauritius and Bourbon, and a good number of slaves from Madagascar and the East Coast of Africa.'

⁵ See, for example, Fauvel, *Unpublished Documents on the History of the Seychelles Islands*, pp. 143, 162.

⁶ De Froberville, p. 80.

⁷ See *ibid.*

⁸ Should probably read 1805.

⁹ Bertuchi, p. 43.

¹⁰ See Prentout, pp. 327-8.

¹¹ De Froberville, p. 80.

¹² See Pridham, pp. 309-10; Bertuchi, p. 45; Toussaint, *Port-Louis*, p. 223.

¹³ Bertuchi, p. 68.

¹⁴ See *Return of the Number of Dependencies of Mauritius* (1827), pp. 2, 11.

since 1824. An agent of government was formerly stationed there. . . . He adds, however: 'There are several demands for grants of land on the part of persons of the Island of Mauritius, who are desirous of going there, to settle with the few slaves which they possess.' The population seems in fact to have soon increased, since the number of slaves registered between 16 October 1826 and 2 December 1827 was 142 (83 males, 59 females; 32 under 8 years of age, 106 between 8 and 60, and 4 over 60). On 2 January 1830 there were 154 slaves (88 males, 66 females), and on 1 May 1832, 162 (92 males, 70 females).¹ In 1838, after the abolition of slavery, 'the population consisted of a few whites, 127 apprentices, and 42 children',² but it apparently increased in the following years, and on 19 June 1843 the Governor of Mauritius enacted an Ordinance 'for the purpose of forming at the Island of Rodrigues a Judicial and Police Establishment'.³ Since then the population has risen constantly and rapidly. According to the census of 1851 it numbered 495; according to the census of 1944 it amounted to 11,885. For 31 December 1945 it was estimated at 12,542.⁴ The area is about 42 square miles,⁵ so that there are about 300 inhabitants to the square mile.

TABLE 70. *Population by sex, Rodrigues 1851-1944*¹

	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1944
Males . . .	327	464	693	812	1,154	1,685	2,523	3,300	4,033	5,740
Females . . .	168	229	415	619	914	1,477	2,306	3,284	4,169	6,145
Total . . .	495	693	1,108	1,431	2,068	3,162	4,829	6,584	8,202	11,885

¹ See *Census Report 1891*, p. 38; *1901*, p. 45; *1911*, Statistical Abstracts, pp. xevi-cii; *1921*, Appendixes, p. clxxiv; *1931*, p. 3; *1944*, p. 3.

2. Minor Dependencies

D'Unienville, in his Account signed 18 August 1826, describes each of the Minor Dependencies.⁶ I shall give a short extract:⁷

St. Brandon or Cargados Carayos. On the bank of St. Brandon . . . are 12 islets,

¹ See Commissioners of Eastern Enquiry 1828, *Mauritius Slave Trade Returns*, No. 6; *Blue Book 1830*, pp. 501-2; 1833, folio 214.

² Ordinance No. 7 of 1843, *Recueil des Lois 1843*, pp. 37-9. The Preamble read: 'Whereas the Inhabitants of the Isle of Rodrigues, one of the dependencies of this Colony, have frequently expressed their desire for the appointment of a resident Police Magistrate and Police Establishment within the same, which its increased population now renders the more indispensably necessary as well for the security and protection of its inhabitants as in the interests of the public in general.'

³ See Mauritius, *Report of Registrar General 1945*, p. 26. The intercensal estimates are not satisfactory. The population was put, for example, on 31 Dec. 1932, 1933, and 1934 at 8,691, 8,950, and 9,111 respectively (see *ibid.* 1932, p. 9; 1933, p. 10; 1934, p. 11). But the Government Medical Officer relates that 770 persons emigrated during the second half of 1933 to Reunion, of whom 687 came back in 1934 (see Mauritius, *Medical Report 1933*, p. 113; 1934, p. 103). If this statement is correct, the population of Rodrigues must have been much smaller on 31 Dec. 1933 than on 31 Dec. 1932, and much larger on 31 Dec. 1934 than on 31 Dec. 1933.

⁴ *Census Report 1944*, p. 5, gives 40 square miles as area; *Colonial Office List 1946*, p. 160, gives 42 square miles.

⁵ See *Return of the Number of Dependencies of Mauritius*, French text, pp. 2-5, 8-10; English translation, pp. 11-14, 17-20.

⁷ The English translation is very inaccurate. I have corrected it wherever necessary.

forming five separate groups. . . . [Five] persons to whom the government of the Island of Mauritius has granted the private privilege of the fisheries of these isles¹ . . . have no permanent establishment upon these islets; on which account there is no fixed population. . . .

Diego Garcia. It produces abundance of cocoa. . . . The privilege of this island was granted to and shared among three inhabitants of the Mauritius, by a decree of the 2d May 1809,² on condition of receiving thereon any individual attacked with leprosy, whom the government might send there. These three proprietors . . . domiciled at the Mauritius have, each of them, an establishment on the Island of Diego, conducted by a white manager. . . . The total population of this island amounts to 275 individuals, of whom 37 are leprosy; viz.:—

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Whites . . .	5	1	—	3
Free Persons . . .	1	4	6	10
Slaves . . .	168	37	3	2
Leprous . . .	30	5	—	—

Les Six Isles. An inhabitant of the Mauritius . . . has been established there for twenty years, with some negroes, without any title having apparently been granted to him for that purpose.

Les Trois Frères. By an Act of the 18th May 1823, an inhabitant of the island of Mauritius . . . obtained the confirmation of the privilege of these [3] islets³ where he has established a manufactory of cocoa oil. He employs 43 individuals; viz.:—

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Whites . . .	1	—	—	—
Free Persons . . .	2	—	—	—
Slaves . . .	19	12	3	1
Leprous . . .	5	—	—	—

Isles Salomon. Two inhabitants of the island of Mauritius . . . enjoy the privilege; first of four of these islets, by virtue of an Act dated the 18th June 1822; and, secondly, of the seven other islands, by virtue of an Act of the first September 1823. They employ there ten individuals; viz. [Whites, 1 man; Slaves, 4 men, 5 women].

Les Peros Banhos. An inhabitant of the Island of Mauritius, to whom the privilege of these [22] islets was confirmed by an Act of the 18th May 1823,⁴ has formed there a fine establishment of oil and fisheries, where 120 individuals are employed; viz.:—

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Whites . . .	1	—	—	—
Free Persons . . .	3	1	1	1
Slaves . . .	58	33	12	10

Isle Legour. . . . Mr. Legour, to whom the privilege was accorded, by an Act of the 20th December 1820, has not formed any establishment there.

Agalega. . . . an inhabitant of the Island of Mauritius . . . to whom it was made over in privilege, confirmed by an Act of the 28th October 1820,⁵ has formed there

¹ The grant of these concessions began in 1818; see de Froberville, 'Rodrigues, Galéga, Les Séchelles', p. 80.

² When in 1784 the British temporarily occupied Diego Garcia, they found some French residents; see J.-F. Charpentier-Cossigny, *Voyage à Canton*, pp. 178-9. See also Pridham, p. 300: 'The French used to keep a small settlement of slaves and a few Europeans on this island.' See, furthermore, D'Unienville, vol. iii, pp. 183-4.

³ A first concession had been granted on 31 May 1813; see *ibid.*, p. 187.

⁴ A first concession had been granted on 12 July 1813; see *ibid.*, p. 189.

⁵ Some French colonists settled in Agalega after 1785, but later renounced their concessions. The island had been uninhabited for several years when on 19 Aug. 1808 two inhabitants of

two excellent manufactories of oil, which employ 199 individuals; viz. [Whites, 1 man; Free Persons, 2 men; Slaves, 105 men, 53 women, 24 boys, 14 girls].

Coëtivy. A captain of the merchant navy . . . , an inhabitant of the island of Mauritius, . . . obtained the privilege in 1814. . . . He has a small establishment there, where 100 individuals are employed; viz.:—

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Whites . . .	1	—	—	—
Free Persons . . .	4	4	5	6
Slaves . . .	40	25	7	8

Les Amirantes. These [11] islets . . . are uninhabited, and frequented in the fishing season merely by a few inhabitants of the Seychelles, to whom some of them [6] have been granted, or ceded, in privilege.

L'Isle Alphonse. This island . . . was granted, in privilege, to Mr. G. Harrison,¹ by an Act of the 17th December 1820, but as yet is not inhabited.

Isle de la Providence. It was granted in privilege, by an Act of the 20th July 1817, to an officer of the health department of the island of Mauritius, Monsieur Margeot, who engaged to receive and treat there persons attacked with leprosy. In consequence of this he formed an establishment, wherein are 35 individuals;² viz.:—

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
Whites . . .	1	—	—	—
Free Persons . . .	4	2	1	—
Slaves . . .	16	7	1	1
Leprous . . .	2	—	—	—

Les Isles Jean de Nove. These islets . . . were granted in privilege to an inhabitant of Mauritius . . . by an Act of the 10th December 1813; that person having died without having formed any establishment on them, they were accorded, by Act of the 4th of February 1826, to Mr. Margeot. . . . The establishment formed there by the grantee, employs 7 individuals who live there; viz. [Free persons, 1 man; Slaves, 5 men, 1 woman].

Isle Astove. It was granted in privilege, by Act of the 25th January 1821, to two Creoles of the Mauritius . . . who have not as yet taken possession of it.

Isle Cosmoledo. That island was granted in privilege, by Act of the 21st December 1820, to an inhabitant of Mauritius . . . who as yet has formed no establishment there.³

The figures concerning the population may be summarized as shown in the table on page 891.

Excluding the few inhabitants of the Six Islands, the Total Population was 789, of whom 682 were slaves. The Original Slave Registers of 1815 had shown only 356 slaves. The Registers established in accordance with the Order in Council of 30 January 1826 contained up to 2 December 1827 particulars of 639 slaves. Table 72 shows the distribution of the slaves then registered in Rodrigues and the Minor Dependencies by age and race. It appears that altogether 283 were Creoles (born in the Colony), 346 Mozambiques, 131 Malagasy, 20 Indians, and 1 Malay. The 170 slaves under 16 were all Creoles. On 2 January 1830 there were in the Minor

Mauritius were granted permission to form an establishment (see D'Unienville, vol. iii, p. 192; de Froberville, p. 83).

¹ He was then commander of the Seychelles; see de Froberville, p. 111.

² See also *ibid.*, p. 112: 'In 1837 some 40 persons resided there.'

³ See also *ibid.*, p. 114: 'During the fishing season it [the island] is inhabited by some blacks.'

Dependencies	Whites		Free Coloured		Slaves		Lepers ¹		Total		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
Diego Garcia .	5	1	7	7	171	47	30	7	213	62	275
Trois Frères .	1	—	2	—	22	13	5	—	30	13	43
Salomon .	1	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	5	5	10
Péros Banhos .	1	—	4	2	70	43	—	—	75	45	120
Agalega .	1	—	2	—	129	67	—	—	132	67	199
Coëtivy .	1	—	9	10	47	33	—	—	57	43	100
Providence .	1	—	5	2	17	8	2	—	25	10	35
Jean de Nove .	—	—	1	—	5	1	—	—	6	1	7
Total .	11	1	30	21	465	217	37	7	543	246	789

¹ See also in this connexion Government Notice, dated Chief Secretary's Office, Port-Louis, 7 July 1829 (*Recueil des Lois 1829*, pp. 135-6):

'The Colonial Government having it in contemplation to collect at *Île Curieuse* the Leprous Slaves now distributed in the Islands forming the minor dependencies of Mauritius—notice is hereby given that, until the 10th August next, at 12 o'clock, Sealed Tenders will be received at this Office, for the conveyance to *Île Curieuse* of the Leprous Slaves at present at *Diego Garcia*, *Péros Banhos* and *Trois Frères*, as also for the conveyance, to the same destination, of those at *Île Providence* and *Jean de Nove*.

'The number of Lepers in the minor dependencies to be removed, may be stated as under, and Provisions for their subsistence during the voyage, will be supplied from the Public Stores.

Leprous Slaves & Convicts at <i>Diego Garcia</i>	45.
Ditto at <i>Péros Banhos</i>	15.
Ditto at <i>Trois Frères</i>	14.
Ditto at <i>Providence & Jean de Nove</i>	40.'

For further details concerning *L'Île Curieuse* (one of the Seychelles Islands) see p. 910 below.

Dependencies 527 slaves and on 1 May 1832, 575. According to the census of 1851 the population numbered 695.¹ It increased to 1,450 in 1881. The census of 1891 showed only 1,188 inhabitants, but the decrease was due in part to the transfer of several islands to the Seychelles and in part to the fact that the population of some islands was not enumerated in 1891.² In 1901, when the islands omitted at the 1891 census were included, the population amounted to 1,697.³ The census of 1911 showed 1,361 inhabitants, but Coëtivy (with 143 inhabitants in 1901) had in the meantime been transferred to the Seychelles. Taking the census area of 1911, but excluding Farquhar Island, which was transferred in 1921 to the Seychelles, the number of inhabitants developed as follows:

Sex	1871	1881	1901	1911	1921	1931	1944
Males	631	794	927	1,041	1,009	806	842
Females	343	404	552	721	764	651	736
Total	974	1,198	1,479	1,762	1,773	1,457	1,578

The combined area of these islands is 47 square miles, and there were in 1944, 34 inhabitants to the square mile.

¹ In Rodrigues and the Minor Dependencies the General Population comprised 349 males and 120 females, and the Ex-Apprentice Population 501 males and 220 females; see Mauritius, *Blue Book 1857*, p. 307.

² Considering only those islands which were included in 1891 in the Minor Dependencies and which were enumerated in that year, the population increased from 1,149 in 1881 to 1,188 in 1891.

³ Excluding those islands it amounted to 1,426 as compared with 1,340 in 1881.

TABLE 71. *Slaves in Minor Dependencies of Mauritius 1815-32*¹

Dependencies	1815 ²	1816-18	1819	1820-1	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827 ³	2 Jan. 1830	1 May 1832
Agalega	196	196	123	196	196	196	196	196	199	176	182	197
Providence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	28	27
Coëtivy	—	60	—	66	67	67	67	60	67	70	44	36
Péros Banhos	16	16	45	92	92	93	92	93	99	105	96	89
Salomon	—	—	—	—	8	2	3	—	6	6	2	2
Trois Frères	25	25	25	25	25	25	33	34	34	33	31	29
Six Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	15	15
Diego Garcia	89	126	61	137	67	132	118	149	141	171	118	170
St. Brandon	30	30	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	12	11	10
Total	356	453	264	526	455	515	509	532	546	640 ⁴	527	575

¹ See Commissioners of Eastern Enquiry 1828, *Mauritius Slave Returns*, Nos. 1, 6; *Return of the Slave Population of the Seychelles and of the Isle of France* (1828), pp. 6-7; *Blue Book* 1828, pp. 408-9; 1830, pp. 501-2; 1833, folio 214.

² Number of Slaves registered in the Original Slave Registers.

³ Number of Slaves registered between 16 Oct. 1826 and 2 Dec. 1827.

⁴ Including 1 not stated.

TABLE 72. *Slaves Registered in Dependencies of Mauritius, except Seychelles, between 16 October 1826 and 2 December 1827*¹

Age years ²	Creoles		Mozambique		Malagasy		Indians		Total		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 6	43	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	55	98
6-11	27	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	21	48
12-16	12	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12	24
17-60	54	58	274	67	88	42	14 ³	4	430	171	601
61 and over	—	1	5	—	1	—	3	—	9	1	10
Total	136	147	279	67	89	42	17	4	522 ⁴	260	782 ⁴

¹ See Commissioners of Eastern Enquiry 1828, *Mauritius Slave Trade Returns*, No. 6.

² See footnote 2 to Table 16.

³ Including 1 Malay.

⁴ Including 1 'Caste omitted'.

TABLE 73. *Population by Sex, Minor Dependencies of Mauritius 1851-81*¹

Dependencies	1851			1861			1871			1881		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Amirantes ²	28	2	30	57	17	74	64	33	97	66	44	110
St. Brandon	..	..	..	35	—	35	9	—	9	6	—	6
Islands North of Madagascar ³	61	—	61	..	..	..	46	16	62	23	13	36
Agaléga	167	75	242	101	40	141	177	99	276	214	107	321
Six Islands	..	..	..	30	6	36	22	24	46	50	32	82
Coëtivy	23	5	28	22	14	36	48	20	68	67	39	106
Diego Garcia	134	44	178	297	79	376	245	128	373	291	152	443
Salomon Islands	31	3	34	36	16	52	66	33	99	72	36	108
Péros Banhos	62	38	100	63	36	99	82	43	125	126	59	185
Trois Frères	20	2	22	21	6	27	30	16	46	35	18	53
Total	526	169	695	662	214	876	789	412	1,201	950	500	1,450

¹ See *Census Report* 1881, Appendixes, pp. 482-3.

² 1851 and 1861 Poivre, Desroches; 1871 and 1881 also St. Joseph, Darros.

³ 1861 Aldabra, Cosmoledo, Juan de Nova, Providence, Assumption, Astove, Glorieuse; 1861 not enumerated; 1871 Aldabra, Cosmoledo, Juan de Nova, Providence, Assumption; 1881 Juan de Nova.

TABLE 74. *Population of Some Minor Dependencies of Mauritius 1856 and 1859*¹

Year	Providence	Agalega	Six Islands	Coëtivy	Diego Garcia	Salomon Islands	Péros Banhos	Trois Frères	Juan de Nova
1856	7	213	25	23	299	91	60	22	14
1859	..	..	44	44	338	77	104	26 ²	..

¹ See *State of Colonial Possessions 1856*, pp. 160-1; 1859, Part I, p. 128 ('Report of the Commissioners appointed by His Excellency the Governor to visit the smaller Dependencies of Mauritius').

² Eagle Island.

TABLE 75. *Population by Sex, Minor Dependencies of Mauritius 1891-1944*¹

Year	Sex	Diego Garcia	Agaléga	Péros Banhos	Coëtivy ²	Salomon	Six Islands	St. Brandon	Farquhar ³	Trois Frères ⁴	Total
1891	M.	308	215	..	40	88	47	..	20	52	770
	F.	161	121	..	18	54	20	..	12	32	418
	Total	469	336	..	58	142	67	..	32	84	1,188
1901	M.	324	223	111	95	69	69	85	55	46	1,077
	F.	202	149	73	48	50	48	2	20	28	620
	Total	526	372	184	143	119	117	87	75	74	1,697
1911	M.	315	228	165	..	90	88	97	56	58	1,097
	F.	202	187	135	..	70	68	13	43	46	764
	Total	517	415	300	..	160	156	110	99	104	1,861
1921	M.	255	267	194	..	81	117	21	29	74	1,038
	F.	190	250	156	..	62	48	1	8	57	772
	Total	445	517	350	..	143	165	22	37	131	1,810
1931	M.	249	161	192	..	65	37	61	..	41	806
	F.	206	169	180	..	40	21	—	..	35	651
	Total	455	330	372	..	105	58	61	..	76	1,457
1944	M.	246	228	160	..	115	—	93	..	—	842
	F.	255	209	172	..	100	—	—	..	—	736
	Total	501	437	332	..	215	—	93	..	—	1,578

¹ See *Census Report* 1891, pp. 38, 41; 1901, p. 169; 1911, Statistical Abstracts, pp. xcvi-ci; 1921, Appendixes, p. clxiv; 1931, p. 3; 1944, p. 3.

² From 1911 onwards under Seychelles.

³ From 1931 onwards under Seychelles.

⁴ In 1901, 1911, and 1921 Eagle Island.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION

Race. Immigration of Asiatics into the Dependencies has been very small. At the last three censuses the distribution by races was as follows:¹

	Year	General Population	Indo-Mauritians	Other Indians	Chinese
Rodrigues	1921	6,404	83	23	74
	1931	7,949	103	16	135
	1944	11,547	79	7	252
Minor Dependencies	1921	1,493	291	26	—
	1931	1,354	102	1	—
	1944	1,575	3	—	—

Birth-place. Of the 8,394 persons enumerated in 1921 in the Dependencies of Mauritius 7,068 were returned as born in such Dependencies, 1,016 in Mauritius, 51 in Seychelles, 38 in Madagascar, 21 in Réunion, 48 in British possessions in Asia, 36 elsewhere in Asia, 14 in Great Britain, 51 elsewhere in Europe, 1 in Australia, and 3 on sea, while for 47 (including

TABLE 76. *Population by Birth-place, Dependencies of Mauritius 1921 and 1944*¹

Birth-place	Rodrigues		Minor Dependencies	Birth-place	Rodrigues		Minor Dependencies
	1921	1944	1921		1921	1944	1921
Mauritius	252	2,149	764	England	12	1	—
Rodrigues	6,223	9,003	9	Scotland	2	—	—
Minor Dependencies	2	2	634	Alsace	1	—	—
Seychelles	5	—	46	Denmark	—	—	1
Madagascar	13	—	25	Germany	—	—	1
Réunion	4	2	17	Norway	—	—	1
Africa not specified	—	—	19	Sweden	—	—	47
Africa Total	6,499	11,756	1,714	Europe Total	15	17 ²	50 ³
Ceylon	—	—	1	Australia	—	—	1
India	23	7	24	On sea	—	—	3
China	34	105	—	Not stated	12	—	16
Cochin-China	—	—	1	Total	6,584	11,885	1,810
Pondicherry	1	—	—				
Asia Total	58	112	26				

¹ See *Census Report 1921*, Appendixes, pp. clxxxii, excv, cci, ccv, cxi, ccxi, ccxxix, ccxxxiv, ccxlii; 1944, p. 124.

² Including 16 'Country not stated'.

³ All persons born in Europe were enumerated in Six Islands.

19 born in Africa) the birthplace was not stated. Data concerning birth-place are lacking altogether for 1931, and for 1944 in the case of the Minor Dependencies. The most startling change which occurred in Rodrigues between 1921 and 1944 was the increase in the number of persons born in Mauritius from 252 to 2,149.

¹ See *Census Report 1921*, Appendixes, p. clxxiv; 1931, p. 3; 1944, pp. 115, 124, 127

Nationality. No data are available either for 1921 or 1931. In Rodrigues there were in 1944, 11,772 British, 10 French, and 103 Chinese subjects.¹

Sex. In Rodrigues males exceeded females at every census up to 1921. In the Minor Dependencies there is still to-day a preponderance of males. In 1921, 1931, and 1944 the ratio of females to 100 males was 99.5, 103.4, and 107.1 in Rodrigues, and 74, 80, and 87 in the Minor Dependencies.

TABLE 77. *Population by Age and Sex, Rodrigues 1921 and 1931*¹

Age years	Total Population 1921		General Population excluding Chinese			
	Males	Females	1921		1931	
			Males	Females	Males	Females
0-4	539	600	531	582	595	683
5-9	535	576	525	561	596	595
10-14	514	513	504	504	573	590
15-19	363	387	357	379	457	527
20-4	310	304	300	298	410	426
25-9	224	228	213	223	298	318
30-4	183	166	175	163	207	213
35-9	147	132	135	129	157	183
40-4	118	105	109	103	141	147
45-9	105	95	97	93	121	110
50-4	77	53	74	52	100	92
55-9	57	43	55	42	63	68
60-4	37	28	34	28	63	45
65-9	35	16	33	16	29	29
70-4	24	18	22	18	36	20
75-9	17	13	15	13	13	13
80-4	7	4	6	4	10	1
85-9	2	—	2	—	5	2
90 and more	6	3	6	3	6	7
Total	3,300	3,284	3,193	3,211	3,880	4,069

¹ See *Census Report 1921*, Appendixes, pp. clxxx-clxxxi; 1931, p. lviii.

Age. In 1921 the proportion of children (under 15) among the total population of Rodrigues was 49.8 per cent., the proportion of males between 15 and 50 years 22.0 per cent., the proportion of females between 15 and 50 years 21.5 per cent., and the proportion of old people (50 and over) 6.7 per cent. For 1931 data are available only for the General Population (excluding Chinese).² In 1944 the percentages among the total population were 46.9 for children, 20.5 for males between 15 and 50, 24.2 for females between 15 and 50, and 8.4 for old people. In Mauritius the corresponding percentages were 34.6, 27.8, 25.4, and 12.2. It appears that the proportion of children was very much larger in Rodrigues, while the proportion of males between 15 and 50 and the proportion of old people were very much smaller.

The age data from the Minor Dependencies for 1931 are useless, as the

¹ See *ibid.* 1944, p. 125.

² The percentages were 45.7 for children, 22.5 for men between 15 and 50, 24.2 for women between 15 and 50, and 7.6 for old people.

group 'Not Stated' comprises nearly one-half of the population.¹ No data were published for 1944.

TABLE 78. *Population by Age and Sex, Rodrigues 1944*¹

Age years	General Population		Indian Population		Chinese Population		Total Population		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
0-4	998	995	7	8	24	26	1,029	1,029	2,058
5-9	904	977	14	2	23	24	941	1,003	1,944
10-14	787	746	5	6	14	17	806	769	1,575
15-19	568	640	6	2	4	8	578	650	1,228
20-4	449	554	1	3	5	6	455	563	1,018
25-9	342	468	3	2	5	9	350	479	829
30-4	314	374	3	3	11	7	328	384	712
35-9	298	334	5	2	3	4	306	340	646
40-4	207	261	—	3	15	7	222	271	493
45-9	187	179	3	—	12	3	202	182	384
50-4	132	141	1	—	9	2	142	143	285
55-9	114	95	2	—	5	1	121	96	217
60-4	83	74	1	—	5	1	89	75	164
65-9	65	56	—	1	2	—	67	57	124
70-4	53	56	2	—	—	—	55	56	111
75-9	23	23	1	—	—	—	24	23	47
80-4	14	12	—	—	—	—	14	12	26
85-9	5	6	—	—	—	—	5	6	11
90 and more	5	7	—	—	—	—	5	7	12
Total	5,549 ²	5,998	54	32	137	115	5,740 ²	6,145	11,885 ²

¹ See *Census Report 1944*, p. 115.

² Including 1 'Age not stated'.

Conjugal Condition. In the General Population of Rodrigues (excluding Chinese) 56.5 per cent. of the males 15 years and over in 1931 were bachelors, 41.2 per cent. husbands, and 2.3 per cent. widowers or divorced. Of the females 15 years and over, 54.1 per cent. were spinsters, 40.0 per cent. wives, and 5.9 per cent. widows or divorced. The proportion of

TABLE 79. *General Population (excluding Chinese) by Conjugal Condition and Sex, Dependencies of Mauritius 1931*¹

Dependencies	Unmarried		Married		Widowed		Divorced		Not stated	
	Single	Concubinage	Religiously	Civilly	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Rodrigues	2,724	2,820	226	236	1	—	870	879	46	124
Minor Dep.	691	582	1	—	—	—	37	23	3	11

¹ See *Census Report 1931*, Appendixes, pp. lix, lxi.

adults living as husbands and wives without being civilly married was 10.7 per cent. both for males and for females. In the Minor Dependencies nearly the whole General Population was returned as unmarried. No data on the conjugal condition of the other sections of the population are available from any Dependency for 1931.

¹ See *Census Report 1931*, Appendixes, p. lxi.

Conditions among the General Population of Rodrigues were quite different in 1944. The proportion of bachelors among the males over 15 years had decreased to 49.9 per cent., while the proportion of husbands had risen to 48.1 per cent.; the proportion of widowers or divorced was 2.0 per cent.

TABLE 80. *Population by Conjugal Condition and Sex, Rodrigues 1944*¹

Population	Unmarried				Married				Widowed		Divorced	
	Single		Concubinage		Religiously		Civilly		M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
General	3,839	4,030	79	104	197	217	1,376	1,453	54	184	4	10
Indian	36	17	1	—	1	1	15	14	—	—	1	—
Chinese	81	84	9	4	2	2	41	24	4	1	—	—
Total	3,956	4,131	89	108	200	220	1,432	1,491	58	185	5	10

¹ See *Census Report 1944*, pp. 116-18.

The percentage of spinsters had decreased to 49.9, while the proportion of wives had risen to 44.2, that of widows or divorced (5.9) remaining unchanged. The proportion of adults living as husbands and wives without being married either civilly or religiously had dropped to 2.8 per cent. for males and 3.2 per cent. for females. The number of people only religiously married had risen from 1 to 414, the proportion in 1944 being 6.9 per cent. for men and 6.6 per cent. for women. Thus, there was the same trend towards exclusively religious marriage as in Mauritius,¹ but unlike in Mauritius the proportion of legally married had increased likewise.

No data concerning conjugal condition in 1944 have been published for the Minor Dependencies.

IV. BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION

The Civil Status Ordinance for Mauritius applies also to the Dependencies, but contains the following special provisions with regard to them:

3.—(1) This Ordinance shall apply to Mauritius and the Dependencies thereof. . .

(2) The Governor in Executive Council may by Proclamation enact such modifications of the provisions of this Ordinance as may be required by the local circumstances of every Dependency.

Any such Proclamation may at any time be repealed, amended or added to by the Governor in Executive Council.

7.—(1) There shall be a civil status office in Rodrigues and the Magistrate of Rodrigues shall be the civil status officer for the Dependency.

In case the said Magistrate shall be unable to act as such officer through unavoidable absence from office or illness, it shall be lawful for the said Magistrate to authorise the Chief Officer of Police to act as civil status officer in his stead.

Whenever the said Chief Officer of Police shall act as civil status officer, as provided in the preceding paragraph, mention of the authorization given to him by the said Magistrate shall be made in the acts received and drawn up by such Chief Officer of Police.

(2) It shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint any person to act as civil status officer in any other Dependency for such time and under such conditions as he may

¹ It is possible, of course, that many of the couples returned in 1944 as married only religiously had immigrated from Mauritius.

deem fit. When a person so appointed is in such Dependency, he shall be deemed a civil status officer for such Dependency, and the house in which he resides in the Dependency shall be deemed the civil status office.

(3) Such person shall not be bound to take any oath prescribed to be taken by Ordinance 12 of 1869 or Ordinance 29 of 1876 and may receive such a salary as shall be fixed by the Governor with the consent of the Council of Government.

When there is no person appointed in a Dependency any person for the time being the manager of the Dependency may act as civil status officer.

V. BIRTH AND DEATH STATISTICS

1. Rodrigues

Live-births. The number of recorded live-births oscillated in 1919-27 between 243 and 316, in 1928-34 between 327 and 384, and in 1935-9 between 405 and 486; they amounted in 1945 to 589. The increase was due to an increase in the adult female population. The official birth-rate in 1919-39 averaged 43 and was 48 in 1945. Fertility must be very high, since the proportion of women of child-bearing age is rather low.

Still-births. The number of still-births in 1932-8 were 16, 11, 11, 8, 9, 16, and 10 respectively.¹ No figures seem to have been published for earlier years.

TABLE 81. *Births and Deaths, Rodrigues 1913-39 and 1945*¹

Year	Live-born			Total deaths			Deaths under 1	Year	Live-born			Total deaths			Deaths under 1
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total			M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1913	118	135	253	50	48	98	16	1927	131	158	289	34	29	63	20
1914	131	108	239	36	37	73	29	1928	154	180	334	30	31	61	22
1915	123	143	266	38	28	66	22	1929	162	167	329	58	62	120	29
1916	130	129	259	28	23	51	13	1930	173	154	327	57	60	117	36
1917	145	148	293	40	26	66	19	1931	198	186	384	56	53	109	32
1918	136	149	285	22	32	54	24	1932	180	178	358	54	62	116	30
1919	132	111	243	36	30	66	22	1933	180	200	380	51	53	104	33
1920	138	161	299	36	33	69	22	1934	187	196	383	89	94	183	49
1921	134	126	260	54	73	127	25	1935	218	201	419	57	52	109	40
1922	155	157	312	49	32	81	25	1936	208	197	405	36	34	70	20
1923	147	116	263	40	32	72	25	1937	208	224	432	95	110	205	81
1924	155	161	316	36	45	81	28	1938	223	263	486	52	51	103	34
1925	137	128	265	36	32	68	24	1939	217	254	471	63	85	148	58
1926	141	149	290	45	24	69	17	1945	323	266	589	61	63	124	46

¹ See Mauritius, *Report of Registrar General* 1913, p. 21; 1914, p. 21; 1915, p. 19; 1916, p. 17; 1917, p. 14; 1918, p. 15; 1919, p. 17; 1920, p. 15; 1921, pp. 16-17; 1922, p. 15; 1923, pp. 16-17; 1924, pp. 16-17; 1925, pp. 16-17; 1926, pp. 16-17; 1927, pp. 15-16; 1928, pp. 15-16; 1929, pp. 16-17; 1930, pp. 15-16; 1931, pp. 16-17; 1932, pp. 22-3; 1933, pp. 23-4; 1934, pp. 25-6; 1935, pp. 27-8; 1936, pp. 28-9; 1937, pp. 30-1; 1938, pp. 28-9; 1939, Table 12; 1945, pp. 26-7.

Total Deaths. The number of recorded deaths oscillated in 1919-28 between 63 and 81, with the exception of 1921 when it was 127, and in 1929-39 between 103 and 205, with the exception of 1936 when it was 70. The official death-rate averaged 11 in 1919-28 and 14 in 1929-39.² The

¹ See Mauritius, *Medical Report* 1933, p. 114; 1934, p. 118; 1935, p. 122; 1936, p. 98; 1937, p. 98; 1938, p. 104.

² No data are available for 1940-4. In 1945 the number of deaths was 124 and the death-rate 10.

increase in the latter period was due in part to the big rise in mortality in 1934 and 1937. The rise in 1934 was attributed by the Government Medical Officer of Rodrigues to the return of a large number of people who had been healthy when they had emigrated the year before to Reunion, but who now brought 'with them numerous cases of Beri-Beri and of Malaria' and introduced into Rodrigues 'diseases like Typhoid Fever, Bacillary Dysentery, and Measles, all of which were not met with in 1933'.¹ Mortality was normal again in 1935, but in his report for that year the Director of the Medical and Health Department of Mauritius was rather pessimistic as to the sanitary future of Rodrigues:

The large disproportion between the birth and death rates of the population shew that it is in process of vigorous growth. This, in itself, will inevitably bring serious problems in its train. The growth of the population in numbers is far outstepping its growth in productivity and sanitary practice, and it would appear that this community is fast heading for the kind of trouble experienced in a congested community whose hygienic practice and general economic level is low. Hookworm infection is already present and is bound to increase unless the people can be induced to build sanitary latrines and to use them habitually.

The prospect of establishing such habits in this population are not very encouraging at present.²

In any case there cannot be the least doubt that until recently Rodrigues has been one of those exceptionally healthy islands with an enormous excess of births over deaths.³

Infant Deaths. Mortality of infants has been very low in Rodrigues in most years.

2. Minor Dependencies

Vital statistics have been published in an haphazard fashion for 1912-32 and none thereafter. The results are summarized in Table 82.⁴

¹ Mauritius, *Medical Report* 1934, p. 103.

² Ibid. 1935, p. 35.

³ In 1877-99 births and deaths numbered as follows:

Year	Births	Deaths	Year	Births	Deaths	Year	Births	Deaths	Year	Births	Deaths
1877	67	14	1883	64	28	1889	91	33	1895	140	109
1878	81	25	1884	91	29	1890	131	80	1896	164	38
1879	76	18	1885	94	29	1891	109	22	1897	165	39
1880	76	48	1886	101	24	1892	130	23	1898	166	44
1881	70	26	1887	88	27	1893	128	30	1899	169	41
1882	88	17	1888	106	32	1894	140	41			

(See Mauritius *Almanac* 1879, p. 87; *Colonial Possessions Reports* 1879, p. 270; 1880-2, p. 236; 1883-5, p. 18; 1884-6, p. 149; *Reports on Blue Books, Mauritius, Seychelles and Rodrigues* 1886, p. 22, 1887, p. 22, 1888, p. 17; *Colonial Reports, Seychelles and Rodrigues* 1889 & 1890, pp. 26, 33; *Rodrigues* 1891, p. 6, 1892, p. 5, 1893, p. 5; *Mauritius* 1895. *Rodrigues Annual Reports* for 1894 and 1895, p. 26; *Rodrigues* 1896, p. 8; *Mauritius and Rodrigues* 1897, p. 38, 1898, p. 50, 1899, p. 64.)

The death-rates in 1872-87 were 16.1, 16.4, 11.9, 10.0, 14.8, 10.0, 17.1, 11.8, 31.1, 18.4, 11.0, 17.9, 17.8, 17.1, 14.2, and 15.3 respectively (see Meldrum, p. 120; Davidson, *Geographical Pathology*, vol. ii, p. 783). In 1902-6 the death-rate averaged 19.3 (see Ross, *Report on the Prevention of Malaria in Mauritius*, p. 57).

⁴ Mortality was evidently much higher than in Rodrigues. This was apparently also the case in earlier years. In 1902-6, when the population of Rodrigues was twice as high as in the Minor Dependencies, deaths in Rodrigues totalled 332, and in the Minor Dependencies 249 (see *ibid.*).

TABLE 82. *Births and Deaths, Minor Dependencies of Mauritius 1912-32*¹

Year	Diego Garcia		Agalega		Péros Banhos		Salomon		Six Islands		Saint Brandon		Trois Freres ²	
	B.	D.	B.	D.	B.	D.	B.	D.	B.	D.	B.	D.	B.	D.
1912	26	20	16	18	9	9	8	5	12	10	—	6	6	11
1913	28	13	..	..	11	8	6	6	5	5	..	..	3	8
1914	22	14	18	8	14	6	..	..	..	..	—	4	..	..
1915	22	18	22	11	10	18	13	2	6	5	—	6	5	3
1916	32	18	..	..	15	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1917	..	..	25	5	6	5	8	3	10	8	—	2	4	8
1918	25	18	24	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2	..	..
1919	31	36	..	..	14	11	7	8	11	4	—	2	6	6
1920	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1921	23	25	27	18	13	18	6	6	5	7	..	..	8	11
1922	22	21	26	22	13	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	7
1923	..	..	28	21	15	14	8	15	3	4	..	..	6	3
1924	19	13	25	23	12	8	5	6	3	4	..	..	5	5
1925	..	..	30	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	3	..	..
1926	14	8	22	17	17	10	10	2	2	4	..	..	2	8
1927	15	9	19	27	11	5	9	5	5	3	..	..	6	5
1928	17	5	19	12	20	8	8	7	3	3	..	..	3	6
1929	16	10	30	17	11	8	4	1	6	3	..	..	5	3
1930	19	19	24	13	13	14	10	5	—	2	..	..	4	3
1931	21	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4
1932	17	11	27	14	16	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

¹ See Mauritius, *Report of Registrar General* 1913, p. 8; 1914, p. 8; 1915, p. 7; 1916, p. 7; 1917, p. 5; 1918, p. 5; 1919, p. 5; 1920, p. 5; 1921, p. 6; 1922, p. 5; 1923, p. 6; 1924, p. 6; 1925, p. 6; 1926, p. 6; 1927, p. 5; 1928, p. 5; 1929, p. 6; 1930, p. 5; 1931, p. 6; 1932, p. 9; 1933, p. 10. In Farquhar Island (St. Juan de Nova) the births registered in 1913, 1914, 1916, 1918, and 1920 numbered 3, 7, 5, 11, and 6, and the deaths, 2, 2, 10, 10, and 6, respectively.

² Figures for 1912-24 refer to Eagle Island.

CHAPTER XVI

SEYCHELLES

I. CENSUS-TAKING

THE decennial censuses of 1851-91¹ were authorized by the Census Ordinances made for Mauritius and its Dependencies.² The decennial censuses of 1901-31 were taken in accordance with 'The Census Ordinance, 1900',³ which began as follows:

Whereas it is expedient to take the Census of the Seychelles Islands in the year one thousand nine hundred and one.

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of the Colony of Seychelles,⁴ with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

The Ordinance was *mutatis mutandis* the same as for Mauritius and does not differ in any essential point from the Mauritius Census Ordinance, 1930.⁵ The schedule and instructions attached to the Census Ordinance, 1900, of the Seychelles are likewise almost identical with those attached to the Census Ordinance, 1930, of Mauritius.⁶

'The Census (Amendment) Ordinance, 1910' made the following provisions for the taking of future censuses:⁷

1. A Census of the Seychelles Islands shall be taken in the year one thousand nine hundred and eleven, and in such other years thereafter as may be ordered by Proclamation of the Governor in Executive Council:

2. (1) The provisions of Ordinance No. 27 of 1900 shall be held to be hereby re-enacted and to be applicable 'mutatis mutandis', to every Census taken under section 1 hereof.

(2) The Governor in Executive Council shall have power to alter, vary or modify the Schedule annexed to Ordinance No. 27 of 1900.

In accordance with this Ordinance the Governor proclaimed on 28 January 1931 that a census should be taken on 26 April 1931.⁸

¹ For earlier censuses see Section II of this chapter.

² See pp. 735-6 above.

³ No. 27 of 1900 (10 Oct.), 'An Ordinance For taking the Census of the Seychelles Islands', *Government Gazette*, 13 Oct. 1900 (also *Seychelles Ordinances 1898-1901*), reprinted in *Laws of Seychelles Revised*, vol. iii, 1899-1906, pp. 1124-33.

⁴ The original Ordinance said 'Administrator of the Seychelles Islands'; but by Letters Patent dated 31 Aug. 1903 the Seychelles Islands, which had been a Dependency of Mauritius, were erected into a separate Colony, and in Nov. 1903 the Administrator was raised to the rank of Governor. See also 'The Seychelles Legislature Order in Council, 1903' (10 Aug.).

⁵ The only differences worth mentioning are:

Article 7 (2) of the Ordinance of Mauritius says that the Census Commissioner shall at least five days before the day fixed for taking the Census, cause one or more schedules to be left at every dwelling-house. The Census Commissioner of the Seychelles Islands shall do the same 'as far as possible'.

Article 15 of the Ordinance of Mauritius says that every superintendent shall take an account of the occupied houses. In the Seychelles Islands every enumerator shall take such an account.

⁶ The only differences are that in the Seychelles the age at the time of marriage was not asked and that the instructions concerning the country of birth were less explicit.

⁷ No. 10 of 1910 (1 Aug.), *Government Gazette*, 4 Aug. 1910, reprinted in *Laws of Seychelles Revised*, vol. iv, 1907-11, pp. 164-5.

⁸ Proclamation No. 5 of 1931, reprinted in Seychelles, *Proclamations 1931*, p. 7. The Census of 1921 had been taken on 24 Apr. in accordance with a Proclamation of 14 Mar. 1921, Proclamation No. 8 of 1921, reprinted in Seychelles, *Proclamations 1921*, p. 13.

wrote to the minister de Sartine that he had always considered it essential to permit a few inhabitants of Bourbon to settle in the Seychelles, and he recommended sending there an officer with 15 soldiers from the Regiment of the Isle of France to keep order and to distribute land to would-be settlers.¹ On 3 December 1778 a lieutenant, a surgeon, 15 soldiers, and 2 ships' carpenters were embarked.² According to an unsigned report of 20 May 1785, called *Renseignements sur l'archipel des Seychelles*,³ there were then in the Seychelles 28 persons in the pay of the French King, viz. the commandant, 1 surgeon, a detachment of 12 men from the Regiment of Pondicherry (1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 10 fusiliers), 7 male and 7 female negro slaves. There were, in addition, 7 male inhabitants with 123 slaves, viz. in 'the principal island of Mahé' 4 white inhabitants with 109 slaves, and 1 free negro with his son and 1 slave; and in the Isle Praslin 1 white inhabitant with 13 slaves.⁴

A report from the Administrators of the Isles of France and Bourbon to the Minister of the Navy, dated 10 November 1786, states that in view of dissensions between the inhabitants and the Commandant of the Seychelles, and in view of the fact that the English had taken possession of Diego Garcia, they had sent out the *ingénieur-géographe* Malavois to make an inquiry.⁵ The instructions to Malavois,⁶ dated 5 November, said, among other things, that he should make a count of the inhabitants and the slaves. An Ordinance for the administration of the Seychelles⁷ of the same date stipulated that no concession should be granted in any of the other islands as long as land was available in the principal island, that no bachelor was eligible for a concession of land, that, as a rule, concessions should be granted only to married Creoles from the Isles of France⁸ and from the Seychelles, and that a piquet in charge of a corporal from the detachment of the Isle Séchelles be posted in the Isle Praslin. Malavois, between 1 March and 2 April 1787, wrote eight comprehensive Memoranda.⁹ In his Memorandum of 1 March 1787¹⁰ he related that there were in the Isle Séchelles 12 or 13 habitations exploited by 8 white inhabitants and 4 free negroes and negresses and cultivated by 158 slaves fit for work,¹¹ and that in the Isle Praslin, which the only settler had left,¹² there was a corporal with 3 soldiers.¹³ From his second Memorandum, dated 8 March,¹⁴ it appears that the permanent Royal establishment consisted of 20 soldiers, 1 pilot-fisher, and 12 slaves, but that he temporarily employed, at the

¹ See Fauvel, pp. 142-3.

² See *ibid.*, pp. 145-6. See also the Instructions to Lieutenant de Romainville, 1 Oct. 1778, *ibid.*, pp. 146-8.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 152-6.

⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 151-3. The first settlement in the Isle Praslin was made in Dec. 1774; see *ibid.*, p. 211. According to a Memorandum submitted in 1786 by De Saulx de Rosnevet to the Minister of the Navy, the population of the Isle Séchelles consisted then of 24 people in the pay of the King, viz. the Commandant, 11 military (1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 9 fusiliers), and 12 male and female negro slaves, and of 4 white inhabitants and 1 free negro who among them had 122 black slaves, while there was in the Isle Praslin 1 inhabitant with 12 or 13 slaves. See *ibid.*, pp. 53-4; see also *ibid.*, p. 162.

⁵ See *ibid.*, p. 156.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 157-9.

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 159-61.

⁸ This means probably persons born either in the Isle of France or in Bourbon.

⁹ Reproduced in Fauvel, pp. 225-318.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 225-47.

¹¹ See *ibid.*, p. 233.

¹² He had gone to the Isle Séchelles; see *ibid.*, p. 261.

¹³ See *ibid.*, pp. 240-1.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 248-68.

expense of the King, 20 more slaves whom he had rented from the inhabitants.¹ He now lists for the Isle Séchelles 3 free negroes and 3 free negresses who were all unmarried, but of the white inhabitants 4 were married, 2 apparently with no child, and 2 with 4 children each. He reports that in the Isle St. Anne there were 2 black guards.² In 1788 the Administrators reported that the population of the Isle Séchelles (apart from the Royal establishment) consisted of 20 white persons, 9 free negroes and negresses, and 221 negro slaves. 'In order to avoid the loss of an officer and 30 good soldiers of the King' who might be made prisoners at the first attack by the enemy, they had withdrawn the white garrison and replaced it by black creole volunteers engaged for three years. Malavois was appointed Commandant of the Seychelles and went there with his wife and children and with the detachment of free negroes.³ But when the British Captain Newcome appeared on 16 May 1794 with a squadron and summoned the Commandant to surrender, there was no garrison, and only about 20 of the 40 inhabitants were fit to bear arms. The Commandant, de Quinssy, capitulated the following day. The British squadron sailed on 1 June without actually taking possession of any of the islands.⁴ The Seychelles remained under the protection of France, but pledged themselves to preserve neutrality between the belligerent powers.⁵

It was under the rule of this treaty and under the wise and competent administration of Mr. de Quincy⁶ that the archipelago prospered in a prodigious manner: its population, which before 1794 consisted of only 5 or 6 families and about 200 slaves, rose in less than 5 years to more than 80 families and nearly 2,000 blacks.⁷

One addition to the population caused some inconvenience. Davidson relates:⁸

The next trouble [after the capitulation of 1794] arose in consequence of the alleged attempt by means of an infernal machine on the life of the first Consul in the Rue St. Nicaise in Paris. The street was closed by the police and 130 persons were arrested and sentenced to be deported beyond French territory in Europe. Of these, 70 were sent to Seychelles, including the citizen Jean Rossignol notable for his part in the storming of the Bastille and as a revolutionary general in the quelling of the revolt in La Vendée. The prisoners were landed in July 1801 but so great was the fear of these men (who preached subversive doctrine, such as the liberty of the blacks,) among the residents that Rossignol, Lefèvre (a Colonel of gendarmerie), and 33 others were adroitly surprised by citizen Savy and citizen Mondon and removed without resistance on board the corvette 'Le Belier' and consigned to the tender mercies of the Sultan of Anjouan. This occurred in May

¹ See *ibid.*, pp. 256-7, 265-6.

² See *ibid.*, pp. 257-61.

³ See *ibid.*, pp. 162-6.

⁴ See *ibid.*, pp. 169-79.

⁵ De Froberville, p. 106. See also Davidson, Introduction to Fauvel, p. xvi: 'After he [de Quinssy] was forced to capitulate, to superior forces—which he did on seven occasions—he flew French colours when a French ship appeared or hoisted the flag assigned to him in terms of his capitulation, viz. a blue flag bearing the words in white letters "Seychelles—Capitulation".'

⁶ He 'had the honour of being the last French Commandant and first English Commandant of Seychelles' (Bradley, Part I, p. 53).

⁷ De Froberville, p. 106. I doubt whether the increase was really as large. The number of slaves probably exceeded 200 before 1794. According to D'Unienville, vol. iii, p. 202, the Isle Séchelles comprised in 1790 'only half a dozen white families, few free [coloured] persons, and at the utmost 400 or 500 slaves'. It seems unlikely, moreover, that the number of white families and of blacks was as high in 1798 or 1799 as stated by de Froberville.

⁸ Introduction to Fauvel, pp. xvii-xviii.

First published 1949
(London: Oxford University Press, 1949)

Copyright Royal Institute of International Affairs

Reprinted 1977 by
AUGUSTUS M. KELLEY • PUBLISHERS
Fairfield, New Jersey 07006

ISBN 0 678 00740 3

and

THE HARVESTER PRESS LIMITED
(Publisher: John Spiers)
2 Stanford Terrace, Hassocks
Sussex, England

ISBN 0 85527 769 6

This reprint has been authorized by the Oxford University Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Kuczynski, Robert René, 1876-1947.

Demographic survey of the British Colonial Empire.

"Issued under the auspices of the Royal Institute of International Affairs."

Reprint of the 1948-1953 ed. published by Oxford University Press, London.

Includes bibliographies and indexes.

CONTENTS: v. 1. West Africa. — v. 2. South Africa High Commission territories, East Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles. — v. 3. West Indian and American territories.

1. Great Britain — Colonies — Population. I. Title.

HB3584.A1K8 1975 312'.09171'241 68-26540

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

by SENTRY PRESS, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10013

Bound by A. HOROWITZ & SON, CLIFTON, N. J.

CONTENTS

SECOND PART

SOUTH AFRICA HIGH COMMISSION TERRITORIES

CHAPTER VI. BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND, AND SWAZILAND

I. CENSUS-TAKING	1-16
II. TOTAL POPULATION	16-26
1. Basutoland	16-24
2. Bechuanaland	24-5
3. Swaziland	25-6
III. COMPOSITION OF THE NATIVE POPULATION	27-34
1. Basutoland	27-31
2. Bechuanaland	31-3
3. Swaziland	34
IV. COMPOSITION OF THE NON-NATIVE POPULATION	34-43
1. Basutoland	35-40
2. Bechuanaland	40-1
3. Swaziland	41-3
V. NATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION	43-5
VI. NON-NATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION	45-57
1. Basutoland and Bechuanaland	45-52
2. Swaziland	52-7
VII. NATIVE FERTILITY, MORTALITY, AND POPULATION GROWTH	58-87
1. Basutoland	58-72
Fertility	58-66
General Mortality	66-71
Child Mortality	71
Population Growth	72
2. Bechuanaland	72-81
Fertility	72-3
General Mortality	73-80
Infant Mortality	80
Population Growth	81
3. Swaziland	81-7
Fertility	81-2
General Mortality	82-6
Infant Mortality	86-7
Population Growth	87
VIII. NON-NATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH STATISTICS	87-8
SOURCES QUOTED	89-93

THIRD PART

EAST AFRICA

CHAPTER VII. INTRODUCTION

I. CENSUS-TAKING	95-7
II. TOTAL POPULATION	97-102
1. Native Population	97-9
2. Non-Native Population	99-101
3. Population Density	102