

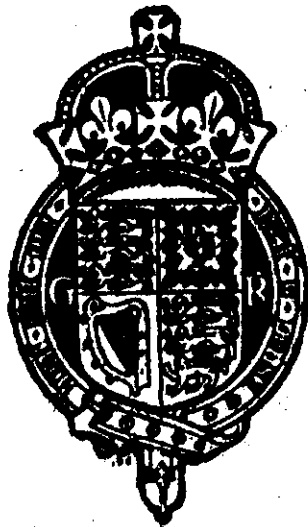
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1197.

NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1155.)



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No. 1197.

NIGERIA.**ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923.****1. GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.**

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. Great Britain has recently received a mandate over a small portion of the Cameroons (31,150 square miles) which, for purposes of administration, has been placed under the Nigerian Government. The remainder of the Cameroons is administered by the French under a mandate, so, for all practical purposes, all the land frontiers of Nigeria march with French territory.

2. The area of Nigeria, including the mandated area of the Cameroons, is approximately 367,928 square miles (Southern Provinces and Colony 91,894 square miles; Northern Provinces 276,034 square miles), and it is thus larger than any British Dependency other than Tanganyika, India, and the self-governing Dominions. It is more than three times the size of the United Kingdom. Along the entire coast-line runs a belt, from 10 to 60 miles in width, of dense mangrove forest and swamp intersected by the branches of the Niger delta, and other rivers, which are connected one with another by innumerable creeks, the whole constituting a continuous inland waterway from beyond the western boundary of Nigeria almost to the Cameroons. Behind this belt lie dense tropical forests, rich in oil-palm trees and valuable mahoganies. Further inland the forests become thinner and are succeeded by open ground covered with long grass and occasional clumps of trees. In the extreme north, where there is a very small rainfall and little vegetation, the desert is slowly but steadily encroaching. There are few mountains in the southern portion of Nigeria except along the eastern boundary, but north and east of the junction of the rivers Niger and Benue there is a large plateau from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers as far as Jebba and Yola respectively, there are a number of important rivers; of which the Cross River is the largest. Except for Lake Chad, on the extreme north-east frontier, there are no large lakes.

3. The population of Nigeria according to the 1921 census is 18,631,442* (Southern Provinces and Colony, 8,371,459;

* Includes population of the mandated area of the Cameroons.

Northern Provinces, 10,259,983), larger than that of any British dependency except India. There are about 4,000 Europeans temporarily resident in Nigeria, chiefly in the employ of the Government and of mercantile and mining companies. The country is not suited for European settlement. Of the native inhabitants the greater number are of pure negro race, but in the north there are Berber and negroid tribes. Of the former the Yorubas, Ibos and Benis are the most important, and of the latter the Fulani, the Kanuri and the Hausa-speaking tribes, generally called Hausas. The Yorubas occupy the south-west corner of Nigeria and from an early date possessed an organised government. The Benis are now a comparatively small tribe, but Benin was formerly a very powerful kingdom, and its influence extended over a considerable area. The Ibos are a large unorganised tribe who occupy most of the land east of the lower Niger. The Kanuri occupy Bornu, in the north-east of Nigeria, a kingdom which has survived for many centuries in spite of great vicissitudes. It was known to the Portuguese as early as the 15th century and to Arab geographers several centuries earlier. The Hausas occupy the greater portion of northern Nigeria, and from an early date had attained to a fairly high level of civilisation. At the beginning of the 19th century the Hausa States were conquered by the Fulani, a nomad people who had settled in the towns and country of Hausaland, and who, by their superior intelligence, had acquired great power and influence. The existing Hausa system of law and administration based on the Koran was retained, but Fulani dynasties were established in the various states.

4. The coast of Nigeria first became known to Europe towards the end of the 15th century as the result of the visits of Portuguese explorers. Shortly afterwards the demand for negro labour in the American and West Indian colonies created an immense trade in slaves, and for over three hundred years the west coast of Africa was visited in large numbers by the slave ships of all nations. At the beginning of the 19th century efforts were made to suppress the traffic, which was declared illegal, and a British naval squadron was stationed on the Coast to intercept the slave ships. With the decline of the slave trade the traffic in palm-oil and other tropical products rapidly increased, and the visits of naval ships and, later, of the British Consul at Fernando Po gave to the British a considerable prestige and influence among the tribes inhabiting the coasts of Nigeria. In 1851 British support was given to an exiled King of Lagos, who, in return, pledged himself to abolish the slave trade in Lagos, which was at that time the chief slave market in West Africa. Finding himself powerless against the slave-dealing faction, his son ceded Lagos to the British in 1861, and the British Colony of Lagos came into being the following year.

5. By the exertions of Mungo Park (1796-1805), Captain Clapperton (1822-26), Richard Lander (1826-30), Doctor Barth

(1850–55) and numerous other explorers, most of whom lost their lives in the country, the course of the Niger and the existence of the Fulani kingdoms in the interior had become known, and an attempt was made by Mr. Macgregor Laird and others to open up the interior to trade. In spite of the efforts of these pioneers, who were supported to a certain extent by the British Government and philanthropists eager to strangle the slave trade by legitimate traffic, the early efforts were not successful, owing to the heavy mortality among the European crews of vessels ascending the river. A better knowledge of conditions, and the use of quinine as a prophylactic against malaria, made later operations more successful, and before 1860 trade was established along the banks of the Rivers Niger and Benue. In 1879 the various British firms trading on these rivers were amalgamated, and in 1887 a Charter was granted to the amalgamated companies, which became known as the Royal Niger Company, Chartered & Limited. By this charter the Company became responsible for the government of the river basins and the whole of Hausaland and Bornu, but, in practice, their influence extended little beyond the banks of the rivers.

6. The Berlin Conference of 1885 had recognised the British claim to a protectorate over Nigeria, and that part of the country which was not included within the Lagos territories or the sphere of the chartered company was made into a separate administration under Foreign Office control and became known as the Oil Rivers and later as the Niger Coast Protectorate.

7. Owing to the restrictions on trade caused by artificial boundaries and the virtual monopoly which the Niger Company exercised, to the inability of the Company's forces to restrain the slave-raiding propensities of the Fulani chiefs, and to foreign aggression on the western frontiers, it became necessary for the British Government to assume a more direct control over the country. The Company's charter was accordingly revoked on the 1st January, 1900, and the northern portion of their territories became the Northern Nigeria Protectorate, the southern portion being added to the Niger Coast Protectorate and renamed the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, both Protectorates being placed under Colonial Office control.

8. In 1898 an Imperial Force, recruited locally but with British officers, was raised by Sir Frederick Lugard, and was later taken over by the Colonial Government. This force was named the West African Frontier Force, and the armed constabularies of the other West African Colonies and Protectorates were modelled on it. Soon after the establishment of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate, these troops were used to subdue the Muhammadan rulers of the Hausa states and Bornu, who had persistently ignored the British requests for the cessation of slave-raiding, and whose attitude was one of open hostility to an administration of whose power they had had no proof. As each in turn was conquered a new ruler was appointed, who undertook to govern his country

according to local law and tradition, but without slave-raiding and the extortion and inhuman cruelties which had marked the former regime. British residents were stationed throughout the country and exercised a wholesome check on any tendency to relapse.

9. In the south there were fewer large states, and the people on the whole were of a much lower standard of intelligence and development. On the lower reaches of the Benin river, a Jekri chief, named Nana, defied the Protectorate Government and dealt openly in slaves. He was attacked by a naval and military force and defeated in 1894 after severe fighting. In 1897 a peaceful mission to the King of Benin was massacred and another combined expedition was despatched : Benin was captured and was found to be full of the remains of human sacrifices, for which the city had long had an unpleasant reputation. In 1902 the Aro tribe was subdued.

10. While the remainder of the country was being opened up the hinterland of Lagos was being added by cession to the territories originally ceded by the King of Lagos in 1861. In 1866 Lagos had been included in the West African Settlements, and in 1874 it was united with the Gold Coast Colony. It became the separate Colony and Protectorate of Lagos in 1886.

11. In 1906 Lagos and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated, and in 1914 Northern Nigeria was included and the whole country became the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

12. On the outbreak of war in 1914 the Nigeria Regiment (of the West African Frontier Force) took part in the campaign which resulted in the conquest of the neighbouring German Colony of the Cameroons, and a strong contingent of the regiment also fought in the East African Campaign. On the whole the loyalty of the chiefs and people of Nigeria throughout the War was very marked, but there was a somewhat serious rising in Egbaland in 1918 which was quickly subdued.

II. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

13. The main political divisions of Nigeria are the Colony of Nigeria and two groups of Provinces known as the Northern and Southern Provinces which together form the Protectorate. The whole country is under the control of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief to whom the Lieutenant-Governors of the Northern and Southern Provinces and the Administrator of the Colony are responsible. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of a few of the senior officials. By Order in Council, dated the 21st of November, 1922, and entitled the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1922, the former bodies known as the Nigerian Council and the Legislative Council have been abolished and a larger and more representative Legislative Council has been substituted

for them. The new Legislative Council consists of:—The Governor, as President; twenty-six Official Members; three elected Unofficial Members representing the municipal area of Lagos and one representing the municipal area of Calabar; and not more than fifteen nominated Unofficial Members. These fifteen are selected to include nominees of the Chambers of Commerce of Lagos, Port Harcourt and Kano, of the Local Chamber of Mines, and of the Banking and Shipping interests, together with members representing African interests in parts of the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate which do not return elected representatives to the Legislative Council. This Council will legislate only for the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate, and the Governor will continue to legislate for the Northern Provinces of the Protectorate. The power of taxation in the Northern Provinces has been left with the Governor and the scope of the Legislative Council in financial affairs is confined to the Colony and Southern Provinces, except that the sanction of the Council is required for all expenditure out of the funds and revenues of the central Government which is incurred in the Northern Provinces. For the first time in the history of British West Africa a portion of the people is directly represented by persons elected by themselves to the Legislative Council.

14. The first elections for the unofficial members for Lagos and Calabar were held on the 20th of September, 1923, and aroused the keenest interest. The new Legislative Council was inaugurated by the Governor on the 31st of October, 1923.

15. The Protectorate (including the mandated territory of the Cameroons) is divided into 23 provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident. An important change in the Political Administration of the Northern Provinces, which has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State and partially undertaken during the year under review, is the reduction in the number of Provinces by the partition of the Kontagora Province between those of Nupe, Ilorin, and Sokoto. Simultaneously with this assimilation, the Birnin Gwari District of Nupe Province is being incorporated with the Zaria Province. The delimitation of the natural ethnographical boundaries between the Munshi and Ogoja Provinces has been completed, while that between Munshi and Muri has recently been undertaken, the District of Kassimbilla having already been transferred from the former to the latter Province. The boundary between the Yola and the Cameroons Provinces has also been delimited during the past year.

16. In the Northern Provinces and the western portions of the Southern Provinces, where there are chiefs of sufficient influence and ability, native administrations are recognised and supported by Government, the details of administration being left almost entirely in the hands of the paramount chief and his officials. In other parts, however, where there is no strong native authority capable of governing, the rule of the Political

Officers is a more direct one, but even in such districts a native judiciary with powers limited in proportion to its ability and integrity is made use of with results that are increasingly satisfactory. In the Muhammadan Emirates of the north and, in the south, among the Yorubas and Benis, the general progress in orderly administration has been well maintained. Everywhere throughout these States are to be found a peaceful, diligent, prosperous and thriving peasantry, tilling their fields in complete confidence and security, governed by their own hereditary rulers, and living under forms of government which are the natural growth of their own political genius. For the most part these hereditary rulers fully justify the confidence placed in them, but there are, of course, cases in which they do not fulfil expectations. In those cases steps are taken to provide the people with rulers who can be trusted. No retrospect of the work of the Muhammadan Emirates of the North would be complete without paying a tribute to the personal efforts of the leading Emirs whose efficiency and increased interest in all that tends towards administrative progress have been amply demonstrated.

17. The Mandates for the British Sphere of the Cameroons have been received and it will be possible to apply the Nigerian Laws almost *en bloc* to this area within a very short time. The country is being regularly toured by the political staff and the results of their labours are producing much information about many of the hitherto unknown pagan peoples who inhabit the mandated areas. Especially worthy of note has been the bringing into touch with the administration during the year of the whole of the primitive Daladiba pagan tribes in the Dikwa Emirate, adjoining the Bornu Province, with a population numbering upwards of 25,000, without the firing of a single shot. Some of these tribes were visited at a later date by the Shehu of Dikwa and the Resident in a motor car without any escort.

18. In the early part of the year it was found possible to dispense with the military escort which accompanied the Political Officer who was engaged in bringing the lawless pagan tribes of the Ikerri-Egedde District of the Munshi Province under administration and its place has been taken by a small escort of Police. Minor local troubles may recur in that District, but the whole of this area may now be said to have been brought under effective administrative control. Armed escorts and patrols are still found necessary amongst some of the primitive hill tribes in the Bauchi, Nassarawa, and Munshi Provinces. The Police patrol of 50 Rank and File in the Mama District of the Nassarawa Province, which began at the end of November, 1922, was not finished until the middle of February, 1923. Altogether 284 miles were covered by the patrol which achieved its objects without any fighting. Robbery, murder, and slave dealing had for long been rife in this District and, although it was inevitable that many of the 'wanted' persons should escape, yet the fact that two murderers and three slave dealers were brought to

trial, coupled with the sympathetic attitude of the political staff entrusted with the charge of these pagan areas, should do much to pacify this District.

19. The promise of an excellent harvest and signs of a revival in trade have combined to facilitate the collection of direct taxation and the number of cases of misappropriation of public funds by District Chiefs and Headmen has considerably diminished. Meanwhile the strong financial position of the leading Muhammadan Emirates is a matter for congratulation and the Reserves of the combined Native Treasuries of the Northern Provinces now total nearly £900,000. Much of the Revenue of these Treasuries—as also a portion of their Reserves—is being devoted to the development of land communication schemes which have been pursued with considerable activity during the past twelve months, and in Bauchi, Ilorin, Nassarawa, Sokoto, and Kano Provinces large expenditure is being incurred on roads and bridges. The greater part of the Zaria-Sokoto Road, which is rapidly approaching completion, has already been handed over to “Maintenance.” It is now possible to make almost a complete tour of all the Northern Provinces by car and—for local work—motor transport has practically everywhere superseded slower and more primitive methods.

20. The extensive well-boring operations, which were begun in the Bornu Province during 1922 at the expense of the Native Administration, have unfortunately proved unsuccessful and it has been reluctantly decided to abandon the work pending further geological investigation. It is hoped, however, that the valuable plant may yet be used with more satisfactory results elsewhere.

21. Serious consideration is being given to the possibilities of irrigation in the Sokoto Province, and the Native Administration has secured the services of a European expert to investigate and report thereon.

22. Encouraging news comes from Kano in connexion with the groundnut trade and thousands of tons are now awaiting railway transport to the Coast for shipment. At the present price the producer is able to obtain a reasonable return for his labours and a very vast community will be directly benefited thereby.

23. Contagious disease of various kinds—chiefly Rinderpest and Pleuro-Pneumonia—continues annually to take a very serious toll of the cattle in the most northerly Provinces. A Veterinary Laboratory is therefore in course of erection near Vom on the Bauchi Plateau and it is hoped that, during the coming year, it will be possible to undertake extensive scientific investigation of cattle diseases with a view to the manufacture of sera and vaccines for their control and ultimate prevention.

24. For the first time for many years the European Establishment of the Police Force in the Northern Provinces has attained its full complement, while the numbers of the native rank and file

have also been kept up to strength. At the Depot Training School 106 recruits have been enlisted and of these 61 have passed out and been sent to Provincial detachments. The course of instruction is made as practicable as possible and includes not only Law, Drill and Physical Exercises, but General Knowledge, Traffic Regulations, Observations, Self Defence and Court Procedure. This Depot has been very much needed for many years both for the progress of the Force and the proper training of the recruits, and it is of the greatest value and assistance towards efficiency. Provision has also been made at the Depot for an advanced course of training for Sub-Instructors.

25. A source of gratification to the Europeans in the Northern Provinces has been the appointment, through the Colonial and Continental Missionary Society, of an English Chaplain to the Northern Provinces.

26. Abubakr, Emir of Keffi, died on the 31st July, 1922. He was appointed Emir on the 1st September, 1921. He has been succeeded by Abdullahi.

Ibrahim, Emir of Lapai, died on the 26th September, 1923, after a reign of 16 years, having been appointed in 1907. He has been succeeded by Aliu Ganna.

Maazu Isa, Etsu of Pategi, died at Ladi on the 15th December. Throughout a reign of over twenty years, this Chief had proved himself a loyal supporter of the British Government.

27. In the more backward communities cannibalism still occurs and is probably more common than is realised, and cases of slave dealing are still to be found amongst the tribes to the east of the Niger. Every effort has been made to stamp out the traffic in slaves which breaks out sporadically between Nigeria and the Cameroons, but it must be some time before the spread of civilisation puts a definite stop to these evils.

28. In the Hausa states and Bornu, Muhammadanism was established at an early date, probably during the 9th century, but in the forest country of the south and in the broken country of the Bauchi plateau paganism has survived to the present day. The Christian religion is making some progress among the pagan tribes, and, among the Yorubas, Muhammadanism is spreading southwards. The bulk of the pure negro tribes, however, have retained their pagan beliefs, and although the vigilance of British officials has curtailed or stamped out the worst evils of cannibalism and human sacrifice, several millions of the inhabitants remain the victims of a barbarous and degrading fetish-religion, in which the juju-priest or witch-doctor exercises a baneful influence.

29. Muhammadanism in Nigeria has little of the fanaticism that distinguishes it in other countries. The Fulani *jihad*, led by Othman dan Fodio at the beginning of the 19th century, was largely political in its results (if not in its origin) and the ambitious leaders of this "holy war" did not scruple to attack the

rival Muslim state of Bornu. The self-styled Mahdis who have arisen from time to time since the establishment of the British Protectorate have been quickly and severely dealt with by the Muhammadan chiefs, and the entry of the Turks into the War on the side of Germany evoked only spontaneous protestations of loyalty to the British cause from their co-religionists in Nigeria. Within the last couple of years Indian missionaries of the Ahmadia movement have gained some adherents.

30. One of the principal religious obstacles to the advance of Christianity in tropical Africa is the prevalence and popularity of polygamy. Among the followers of Islam this institution has, of course, the sanction of religion. Among the non-Muslim tribes it has the equally strong sanction of immemorial custom. In West Africa children are assets rather than liabilities, the daughters being easily marketable as wives at an early age and the sons providing an unpaid labour supply; wives, besides their value as mothers, perform most of the manual labour in the home and on the family farms, but the custom which requires a mother to deny herself to her husband for the period during which she is nursing her child, often from two to three years, is, perhaps, the greatest cause of polygamy. The "Native African Church," modelled in other respects on the Church of England, but allowing to its members a plurality of wives, has met the difficulty of those who wished to adopt the Christian creed without abandoning one of the most cherished of their ancestral customs.

31. In the Southern Provinces there has been no serious disturbance involving bloodshed during the year. Towards the end of 1922, however, it became necessary to take measures to restore law and order in the Nkanu area of the Enugu Division of Onitsha Province, the people in that district having got entirely out of hand. Native Courts had ceased to function and warrants of arrests for murders and other crimes could not be executed by Police or Court Messengers owing, not only to the passive, but in some cases to the active, resistance of the people of this neighbourhood. The trouble was due to a controversy which had arisen between the descendants of the freeborn and the descendants of slaves. The latter had declined to continue the customary payments to the Chiefs for the land they were allowed to till, and the former were evicting them wholesale. The result was the situation described above. On the 8th of December, 1922, a police escort of an officer and 50 rank and file was detailed to accompany the Political Officer to restore order, hear complaints and adjust grievances. By February it had become evident that the people had adopted generally an attitude of passive resistance, and the Political Officer found it impossible to achieve the object of his mission. It also became clear that the natives regarded the Government as incapable of enforcing its decisions, and in order to disabuse their minds on this point it became necessary to add two platoons of troops to the police force, and convert the escort into a patrol. The troops arrived in the area on February

16th and remained there till the 14th of June. No active opposition was experienced, and there were no casualties amongst the troops or natives. The general effect of the patrol has been to restore law and order, to lead to the re-establishment of the Native Courts, and to prove to the natives in this neighbourhood that the removal of a garrison from a particular area does not mean that they are to be left to their own devices. The Political Officers have been enabled to get into closer touch with, and bring together, the freeborn and the descendants of the slaves. It has been brought home to the former that the status of slavery no longer exists, and the latter have been made to realise that their claim for freedom is not recognised by Government as entitling them to deprive the descendants of the original owners of the soil of the customary acknowledgments that are their due.

32. Two police escorts were also required in the Ogoja Province to enable the Political Officers to obtain the surrender of certain murderers in the Bende country, and to keep the peace while the settlement of the Obubra-Afumbonga land case was in progress. In the latter instance an effort was made to intimidate the police, but this was soon abandoned and the objects of both escorts were achieved without incident.

33. It is satisfactory to report that the condition of the Abeokuta Province is now such as to justify the removal in February, 1924, of the troops stationed at Abeokuta.

34. In the Benin Province the reconstruction of the Native Administration has been consolidated, and the system is now working smoothly. The Resident has commented on the loyalty and assistance rendered to Government by all sections of the African community, and the keen interest taken in the development of their country.

35. About 260 labourers from the Oyo Province volunteered for work on certain of the Gold Coast Mines for a period of 13 months. The recruiting of these people was controlled by the Nigerian Government and arrangements were made to secure payment of a proportion of their wages on their return to Nigeria.

36. A pleasing incident took place at Abak in the Calabar Province where a bronze memorial to the late Mr. G. F. Hodgson, District Officer, was set up in the Native Court house. The memorial had been suggested by the Chiefs themselves and was paid for by their own subscriptions.

37. The Resident of the Cameroons Province reports that the mandated territory has enjoyed profound peace, and that good progress has been made in consolidating the Native Administrations. Numerous detailed enquiries have been made by Political Officers into the customs of the various tribes living in their districts, and these have been embodied in a series of carefully compiled Assessment reports.

38. No further developments have taken place in connexion with Eshugbayi, the late Head-Chief of Lagos, but it is to be

feared that there are still some ill-advised persons who hope to secure a reconsideration of his case by agitation.

39. It was hoped at the beginning of the year that the Muhammadan dispute was on the way to complete settlement. That, unfortunately, has proved not to be the case, and the recent death of the Lemomu Brimah has led to the appointment of a successor by each of the opposing factions. It has been made plain to both that this is a matter which concerns only those Muhammadans who are resident in Lagos, and that any settlement that may be reached must be achieved by mutual arrangement, and without any interference by Government, whose sole interest in this regrettable dispute is the maintenance of law and order.

40. The decision of the Full Court on the question of the compensation payable for the land expropriated at Apapa in 1913 was given in April. The principal claimant in this area is the White Cap Chief Oluwa, who has intimated that he intends to appeal to the Privy Council. Government was prepared to accept the decision of the Full Court, and to pay those concerned at the rates awarded, but the majority have preferred to await the recommendations of the Privy Council. The decision of the Full Court has, however, enabled Government to arrive at a suitable basis for compensation in the case of the larger acquisition of 1917. This acquisition covered an area of approximately 720 acres. There were sixty-one claimants of whom the majority held plots varying in size from $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre to 2 acres, and 90 per cent. of them, accounting for over 70 per cent. of the actual value involved, have accepted the Government valuation and have been paid.

41. The Colony and Protectorate have throughout the year enjoyed comparative freedom on the whole, from epidemic diseases and from the attendant mortality that follows the progress of an epidemic through a country. The outbreak of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis that prevailed in the Kontagora Province during 1922, recurred in the month of February, but the infection expended itself by March and April, tailing off with the occurrence of some cases at Katsina and Kano in the north, and likewise a few cases at Jebba in the south which formed the limit of its march in a southward course. The country has been particularly free from any severe outbreaks of Smallpox, though during the first six months of the year a small recrudescence of the disease took place in its old haunts, comprising the Okigwi and Enugu Districts, to which the disease was restricted. In the Northern Provinces, it made its presence felt along the Benue River in the Muri and Yola Provinces. In the Cameroons, a moderate outbreak of the disease occurred in the districts of Buea, Mamfe and Bamenda. It is of some interest to record that a few cases of relapsing fever occurred in Lagos mainly during the month of September this year.

42. "Health Week," initiated in Lagos in 1922, was held for the second time in December, 1923. Self help being the principle,

much of the organisation was left to the people themselves who had gained experience of its working previously. It is to be hoped that, as the years go by and as the people become better educated, more and more will interest themselves in assisting to promote the health of the community. A visit to the Iju Water Works was a real success, for over 1,000 persons availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing how the town water was purified.

43. Nigeria is participating in the British Empire Exhibition in 1924 and an area of 19,000 superficial feet has been taken for the Nigerian section. The buildings, costing more than £20,000, take the form of a West African Walled City and consist of the Nigerian Pavilion, Cinema, Tea-Chalet, and Native Village. Space within the Pavilion has been allocated for the display of agricultural raw products, native industries and curios, palm-oil extracting machinery, and exhibits connected with the Survey, Mines, Colliery, Forestry, Marine, Railway, Prisons, Printing, and Public Works Departments and various Missions. The Native Village has been laid out in the form of Hausa and Yoruba compounds with round and rectangular thatched mud huts which will accommodate some fourteen craftsmen and their families. 24,000 feet of cinematograph film, representing life and industries in Nigeria, have been taken and will be shown daily in the Cinema Theatre.

III. GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

44. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the past five years are as follows :—

	True Revenue.	Recoveries in respect of Loan Expenditure (Eastern Railway).	True Expenditure.	Expenditure on Loan Works:
	£	£	£	£
1918	4,013,987	203	3,429,183	30,591
1919	4,911,470	47,959	4,352,937	176,239
1920	6,738,042	81,232	6,020,739	472,784
Jan.-Mar., 1921	1,563,748	—	1,431,271	243,082
1921-22	4,869,220	7,026	6,556,510	615,487
1922-23	5,505,465	700	6,410,983	1,098,261

The latest available figures are for the six months, April to September, 1923. The revenue and expenditure for these months were £2,994,873 and £2,614,280 respectively, and it will be observed that if the revenue for the remainder of the financial year is in proportion, the total for the year will exceed that of the previous year by some £484,000.

45. There was an excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1923, of £312,022. In addition there is a sum of £1,991,994, representing the amount advanced from revenue

up to 31st March, 1923, for various Loan Works, which, when recovered, will bring the surplus Assets up to £2,304,016. The Public Debt at 31st March, 1923, stood at £13,609,209 and the Sinking Fund amounted to £810,754. A new 4 per cent. loan was issued in London in October, 1923, for £5,700,000 at 88 per cent.

46. Separate accounts are kept by the Native Administrations, which receive a proportion, normally 50 per cent., of the sums collected by direct taxation. The various Native Administrations have manifested much keenness in devoting their surplus funds to permanent public works within their own areas.

47. During the year, silver coin to the value of £1,349,064 was withdrawn from circulation and £1,548,408 was shipped to the United Kingdom. The total amount of alloy coin in circulation is more than double the total of a year ago. A large number of currency notes were also withdrawn from circulation.

IV. ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

48. *Trade.*—The total value of the trade of Nigeria during the year was as follows :—

Imports	£	11,457,000
Exports		11,672,000
		<hr/>
Total		£23,129,000

an increase of nearly two million sterling on the trade of the previous year.

The value of the transit trade (*i.e.* goods passing through the inland waters of Nigeria to and from Dahomey and other French Territory) was £273,000, an increase of roughly 160 per cent.

49. Commercial imports show a very slight increase in value, but exports at £10,848,000 are nearly two million to the good. Specie imported amounted to approximately one and a half millions sterling, and exports to well over three quarters of a million, practically a reversion of the 1922 figures. The bulk of the trade was, as usual, with the United Kingdom, which accounted for 75 per cent. of the total, supplying 80 per cent. of the imports and taking 69 per cent. of the exports. The United States of America with 8 per cent. of the total shows a slight increase, and Germany with 8 per cent. shows an increase of over 100 per cent. Of the total value of trade, 79 per cent. was carried in British ships, the percentages for import and export being the same as for 1922, *viz.*, 87 per cent. and 72 per cent. respectively.

50. Palm produce prices showed considerable variation, opening fairly well in the beginning of the year and gradually improving up to April, when they started to fall away reaching their minimum in August, local prices then being palm oil £20, and palm kernels £10, the ton. Markets were very depressed during July, August, and September and little or no business was done during those months. From October to the end of the year markets showed steady improvement, palm oil finishing at the end of the year in the neighbourhood of £27 the ton and kernels at £14 to £15 the ton. The quantity of palm kernels shipped (223,000 tons) establishes a record, being 6,000 tons in excess of the previous best year, 1919. The quantity of palm oil shipped was slightly under 99,000 tons, and has been exceeded once only since 1900, *i.e.*, in 1919, when approximately 101,000 tons were shipped. The market for tanned hides and skins has been dull, but there has been a marked expansion in the untanned hide and skin trade and prices have remained very steady throughout the year. The market for cocoa has been unusually depressed, the price falling as low as £14 a ton in November, although in the last month of the year there were signs of improvement. Substantial reductions in the export duties on palm oil, palm kernels, and groundnuts became effective as from the 1st of November, but it is too early to be able to give any indication of their effect on trade generally.

51. *Legislation.*—A considerable amount of legislation affecting Customs procedure and practice is at present under consideration involving *inter alia* a revision of (a) the Tariff (b) the Regulations governing the importation of spirits, and (c) the basis of the assessment of *ad valorem* duty. As regards the last named, the basis is to be "purchase price," except in the case of goods consigned by the manufacturer to his agent, when "current domestic value" in the country of consignment will form the basis.

52. *Agriculture.*—The figures relating to all the important items in the exports in 1923 of Agricultural produce—palm products, cocoa, groundnuts, cotton—are high. Except in the case of cocoa, prices have improved, especially in the later part of the year. The increased export of palm products is to be ascribed in part to this fact, and also, it may reasonably be hoped, in part to the general readjustment of trade to "post-boom" conditions; the same factors have had an important influence on the exports of cotton and groundnuts, though in these cases the climatic conditions in the producing areas must affect the figures in some degree: the 1922-1923 cotton season and the 1923-24 groundnut seasons were undoubtedly favourable ones. The export of cocoa during the calendar year consists of parts of two successive crops, in almost equal proportion. So far as can be judged the crop of 1922-23 was a little above, and the crop of 1923-24 a little below, normal. The slight increase in the export, in spite of a falling price, is due to young areas coming into bearing.

53. In two particulars there is ground for satisfaction in regard to the quality of the produce. The export of American cotton from the Northern Provinces increased by about 1,000 bales, and the quality of the cotton is reported by the home buyers to show an all-round improvement, which can only in part be accounted for by the favourable season. In the Katsina Emirate alone there was an increased purchase of nearly 2,000 bales for export. The amount of seed-cotton actually brought for sale to the European firms in proportion to the seed distributed amongst the farmers is still remarkably low; much of the cotton produced, however, is not only consumed locally, but also finds its way into French territory where there is always a great demand for this commodity. Thus, although the European markets are not at present benefiting directly to any large extent from Nigerian cotton, we are at least contributing annually more and more to the supply of the world's demand. The prospects for the next season's crop are promising, and the amount of seed distributed in the Northern belt shows an increase of 50 per cent. over that supplied in any previous year. Again, the quality of cocoa in the "Ibadan area" is reported to be improving, and this is reflected in a distinct change in the relation between the Ibadan and Lagos prices. As these matters, and these areas, are those in which alone the Agricultural Department has as yet been able to attempt "extension work" on any important scale, the improvements noted represent a response to that work which, in view of all the circumstances, may fairly be regarded as satisfactory.

54. The native food crops in the North, which are susceptible in a considerable degree to the vagaries of the climate, have been good this year. In some of the Southern Districts the food crops are believed to be slightly below normal, but there the limits of the variation from year to year are comparatively small. On the whole, therefore, the year can be regarded as having been a prosperous one for the local farmers.

55. *Land.*—Under an agreement executed between the Imperial Government and the Royal Niger Company at the date of the revocation of the Charter, the latter's successors were allowed to retain certain sites then occupied as trading stations. There are a few such sites in the Southern Provinces, too. With the foregoing exceptions the whole of the land in the Northern Provinces is native land, controlled and administered by the Government. Proprietary rights in land have never been recognised by native law and custom, and legislation enacted since the establishment of the Protectorate provides for the maintenance of that policy. Building and agricultural leases are granted by Government with conditions as to improvements and revision of rent. In making such revision Government is debarred by statute from taking into consideration any improvements made upon a site by the lessee, and from charging more, as rent, for any sites than the amount which is obtainable, as rent, for sites

similarly situated and of equal areas. If the rent is raised on revision, the lessee may appeal to the Provincial Court or to the Governor, who will appoint an arbitrator. If the occupier is dissatisfied he may surrender his lease, and the Governor may award such compensation for unexhausted improvements as in his discretion he may think fit.

56. In the Southern Provinces native lands are not at the disposal and under the control of the Governor in the same way as in the Northern Provinces, but land may not be leased to a non-native except with the consent of the Governor. Large tracts suitable for agriculture are available, but it is essential that anyone who desires to cultivate rubber or any other permanent crop should first visit Nigeria and ascertain the actual conditions.

V.—INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

57. *Forestry*.—The system of exploiting timber is by selection fellings, subject to a minimum girth limit. The home market for mahogany and other furniture woods has improved slightly for good quality timbers. There has been a certain amount of exploitation of secondary timbers for local use, but up to the present the condition of the European timber market has not warranted their being exported from Nigeria. It is hoped, however, that the British Empire Exhibition may bring these lower grade timbers to the notice of merchants, and with this object in view logs and hand specimens of species which are considered suitable for building and other purposes have been shipped. It has also been arranged that in the Forestry Exhibit not only will hand specimens of the various woods be displayed, but a furnished board-room and bed-room constructed of local timbers will be shown and pamphlets relating to the uses of the timbers will be available for distribution.

58. The planting season on the whole was not a favourable one, deficient rains and a prolonged drought resulting in a good many failures in the various plantations; nevertheless the final percentage of successes to failures was fairly high.

59. Progress has been made in the constitution of Forest Reserves in both the Northern and Southern Provinces. At the present time a considerable number of proposed Reserves are awaiting settlement.

60. Samples of timber sent home for the manufacturing of boot lasts were favourably reported on so far as their suitability for that purpose was concerned, but, now that the usual sources of commercial supply have again become available, there is no demand for the Nigerian product.

61. Little or no interest has been shown in the exploitation of minor forest products such as rubber, fibre, etc. At one time it appeared that there might be a recrudescence of activity in rubber tapping, but these expectations were not fulfilled.

62. *Mining*.—During the year there were 54 mining companies and 45 individual workers operating on tin ; two companies and five individuals were also prospecting for, or winning, gold. The average number of persons employed throughout the year in the mining industry was 154 Europeans and 18,165 natives, a satisfactory increase of over 33 per cent. in the number of natives working on the field in 1922.

63. The output of tin ore from the mines was approximately 8,374 tons, and 8,475 tons of ore were exported from Nigeria during the year, the value of which is estimated to have been £1,190,313. The average price per ton of the metal based on the quarterly quotation was £195 4s. 4½d., an increase of over £37 on that of 1922. This increase is reflected in the output, which exceeds that of the previous year by 1,000 tons. Towards the end of the year the price of the metal rose to well over £200 a ton, and the outlook is more promising than it has been for the last three years.

64. Owing to the rise in price of tin, the concessions, granted by Government to enable the industry to tide over the slump, were removed as from the 1st of April. It is very satisfactory to record that, largely owing to those concessions, practically all the companies and individuals operating in Nigeria weathered a period of extreme difficulty. Owing to the recovery in price, and the extension of the known area of tin-bearing ground, the industry must be regarded as in a very healthy state.

65. The output of gold was 956 ounces, as against 745 ounces in 1922. But little work was done in two districts in which it is known that gold-bearing ground exists. One prospector won 574 ounces, of which 450 ounces came from tributaries of the Niger in Kontagora Province. It is hoped that greater activity in prospecting for the precious metal will be shown during 1924.

66. The output of coal from the Udi Coalfields for the year 1923 was 170,683 tons.

67. The main coal seam is worked by two separately ventilated mines, one situated at Enugu and the other in the Iva Valley. The average thickness of this seam has increased to four feet six inches and the coal is improving as the working faces advance from the outcrop. Each mine has its own railway sidings connecting with the main line which runs between Port Harcourt and the Benue River. Underground haulage is done by four main haulage gears and the ventilation is produced by mechanical fans. The coal is sub-bituminous in nature and of good quality. The volatile percentage is high. There is very little ash and the coal does not clinker. Specific gravity is 1.28.

68. The investigations of the Geological Survey were continued in both the Northern and the Southern Provinces. The field work on the Nassarawa and Ilorin tinfields, on the Enugu coalfield, and on the Oshosun phosphates was completed during the season and good progress was made with the survey of the

eastern railway between Port Harcourt and Enugu. The collection of material for the British Empire Exhibition entailed visits by officers of the Survey to various other parts of the country. A bulletin on the geology of the Northern Tinfields of Bauchi Province was published in the course of the year.

69. *Fisheries*.—The rivers and creeks teem with fish, and a large number of persons are employed in fishing, chiefly for local consumption. Small quantities of fish are crudely cured and traded with the towns distant from the river, where this form of food is highly prized. There is very little sea fishing. Before the War a steam trawler was working off Lagos, and a large quantity of fish of excellent quality was obtained.

70. *Water power* is little used in Nigeria. In the Southern parts of Nigeria there is little fall in the rivers, but on the Bauchi Plateau there is a considerable amount of power available.

71. *Manufactures*.—There are no manufactures in Nigeria on a commercial scale. Earthenware and brassware are made for local use and for sale as curios. Leather is worked, and a certain amount of cloth is woven from locally-grown cotton. The produce of the country is exported almost entirely in a raw state, such little preparation as is necessary being done by hand.

VI.—BANKS.

72. Banking interests are represented in Nigeria by the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., which was established in 1894 and now has sixteen branches and two agencies, and by the Colonial Bank, which extended its operations to Nigeria in 1917 and now has eight branches. Both Banks undertake all kinds of banking business.

73. *Savings Banks*.—A Government Savings Bank is worked and controlled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Savings Bank business is also transacted by the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank. The Government records show a small increase in the number of depositors and of the sum deposited.

VII.—LEGISLATION.

74. The Loan Ordinance, 1923 (No. 1 of 1923) provided for the raising of a loan of £10,528,730 for the purpose of carrying out various public works.

75. The Colonial Church Council (Incorporation) Ordinance, 1923 (No. 2 of 1923) incorporated the Colonial Church Council and vested the Colonial Church and other Church property in the Council.

76. The Trade Marks Ordinance, 1923 (No. 4 of 1923) made further provision for the registering of trade marks.

77. The Immigration Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance, 1923 (No. 6 of 1923) repealed those provisions of the Immigration Restriction Ordinance which related to alien missionaries and teachers.

78. The Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1923 (No. 7 of 1923) provided for the preparation and publication of a revised edition of the laws of Nigeria. The revised edition was duly prepared in accordance with the provision of the Ordinance and was brought into force on the 1st November, 1923.

79. The Lagos Diocesan Synod Ordinance, 1923 (No. 8 of 1923) incorporated the Diocesan Synod of Lagos and repealed the Diocesan Synod Ordinance which had incorporated the Diocesan Synod of Western Equatorial Africa.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

80. There is in Nigeria a number of primary schools which have been established and are conducted by Government. These have for the most part attained a very fair standard of efficiency. In addition a large number of schools belonging to the important missionary societies afford a similar education on lines laid down in the Government Education Code. These are known as "Assisted Schools," and are regularly inspected and examined by officers of the Education Department. Annual grants are made to them from the public funds, the amount being determined according to the reports of Inspectors on the efficiency of the school, and its average attendance.

81. There also exists a large number of schools which are not inspected or controlled in any way by Government. Most of them are connected with the several missionary bodies, and some are of a private venture character. Speaking generally, the education afforded by these schools is of little or no value, being carried on by teachers who have no real qualifications or competency to undertake such work. Many of the private schools which are of local growth and not connected with the well-known missionary societies, are not only valueless, but often detrimental to the work of education.

82. The demand for schools is great throughout the country. Most of the existing schools in Lagos and other large towns are overcrowded, and the supply by no means meets the demand. As a rule parents in country districts are apathetic with regard to the education of their children, and decline to make any provision to enable them to attend school. This however, is slowly breaking down in the immediate neighbourhood of the more efficient schools.

83. Considerable progress has been made in recent years in the matter of female education. There are several girls' schools in Lagos and the Yoruba country, and in the Calabar and Onitsha districts, which are conducted by European principals. With one or two exceptions these schools are on the assisted list and under Government inspection. The majority provide accommodation for boarders, and are doing excellent work.

84. Numerous Muhammadan schools exist in which the entire time of the pupils is given to writing and learning portions of the Koran. In a few of them the reading and writing of Hausa in Roman character, and arithmetic, are also taught.

85. King's College, Lagos, is the only Government establishment which is confined to secondary education. It has reached its limit of accommodation, and plans and estimates have been drawn up for additional class rooms, etc., and accommodation for boarders. It is hoped that the work will be commenced in 1924. There are also Mission schools in Lagos, Calabar, Ibadan and Abeokuta, which have a secondary department in addition to the primary.

86. In the southern provinces the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar (United Free Church of Scotland Mission), the C.M.S. Training College, Oyo, the Wesleyan Training Institute, Ibadan, the C.M.S. Training College, Awka, and the Government schools at Warri and Bonny, afford facilities for training a certain number of residential students. They are under the direction of European principals and are conducted in accordance with the regulations laid down for the training of teachers in the education code. There are also two or three other training establishments belonging to missionary societies which are not connected with Government or in receipt of a grant from public funds. Evening continuation classes for teachers in the Lagos schools are regularly held at King's College. Vacation classes in elementary agriculture for teachers are held in July and December at Calabar and Onitsha. The instruction, both theoretical and practical, is given by officers of the Agricultural Department, and certificates are awarded to those who succeed in passing the examinations. In the majority of the Government and assisted schools such instruction as is possible is given in manual and agricultural training. The Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, has departments for carpentry, printing and tailoring.

87. In May, a well attended conference was held at Port Harcourt, including the leading representatives of nearly all the Missionary bodies working in the Southern Provinces, to consider the best means of securing a uniform standard of education. It is too early yet to predict the outcome of this conference, and most of the Missionary bodies represented have referred the conclusions reached by it to their home authorities. It is, however, gratifying to be able to record that nearly all those present appear to have been convinced of the necessity of some measure of agreement as to a common standard of education, and that the meeting achieved a pleasing degree of unanimity.

88. An event of interest is the institution by the Alake of Abeokuta of a Scholarship for Egba boys at King's College.

89. Education in the Northern Provinces is steadily gaining ground and every encouragement is being given to the inauguration of small rural schools in all Emirates. The problem of keeping

up an adequate staff of native Teachers is being dealt with effectively in the Katsina Training College, which the Governor formally opened on the 5th of March, 1922, and again visited during March of the year under review. A fourth class has been started during the last few months, the number of pupils undergoing the course of training having now been increased to forty. A notable acquisition to the knowledge and study of the Hausa language will be the eventual publication of an official dictionary, the compilation of which has been entrusted to the Reverend G. P. Bargery (Superintendent of Education), who has been specially seconded for the purpose and has already begun his task at Kano.

IX.—CLIMATE.

90. The seasons in Nigeria depend rather on the rainfall than on temperature. They are as a rule well defined. The "dry season" with its attendant "Harmattan" commences in the north of the country in October, and ends in April. It is of shorter duration in the south, and at Lagos generally lasts from November to March with only intermittent "Harmattan." The "Harmattan" is a dry north-easterly wind which brings with it a thick haze composed of minute particles of dust and shell. During the "Harmattan" the nights and early mornings are cold, but the days are very hot, and it is during this period that the maximum diurnal variations occur.

91. Generally speaking, the lowest mean temperature is in the months of July and August, and the lowest minimum recorded temperature at the beginning and end of the year. The highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in March and April. In most cases the difference in range between the maximum and minimum temperature is greater in proportion to the distance of a station from the coast.

92. At the end of the "dry season" numerous tornados herald the approach of the "rainy season." Before a tornado the air is oppressively close and heavy; the tornado itself, which is scarcely more than a heavy squall, lasts but a short time and is accompanied and followed by a thunderstorm and rain. The "rainy season" lasts until October, with a slight break in August, and is followed by another short tornado season. In the south the prevailing wind during this season is from the south-west, and with it comes the rain, which is remarkably heavy along the coast and decreases rapidly as it travels inland.

93. The average annual rainfall at Bonny, on the coast, is 163 inches. (In 1921, 245 inches were registered.) At Lokoja, situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue, it is 48 inches; and at Sokoto, in the north-west of Nigeria, it is only 25 inches. The average rainfall at Lagos is 72 inches. In the northern parts of Nigeria there is literally no rain whatever for the greater part of the dry season; for twelve years no rain has fallen at

Sokoto during the four months November to February, and over 24 inches out of the average rainfall of 25 is recorded during the five months May to September. In the south the difference is not so marked, though the average fall at Forcados in the Niger Delta is 119 inches for the six months May to October out of an annual average of 150 inches.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

94. *Railways.*—The Railway is divided into two divisions, the Western Division with its terminus at Iddo and the Eastern Division terminating at Port Harcourt. The Western Division provides a direct rail route between the port of Lagos and Kano, 704½ miles from the coast and serves the important towns of Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ilorin, Minna, Kaduna and Zaria. A branch line of 2ft. 6 in. gauge connects Zaria with the Tin Fields of the Bauchi Plateau, terminating at Bukuru (143 miles). Baro on the Niger River is served by a line branching from the main line at Minna, forming an outlet for traffic at the former port (111 miles.)

95. A Motor Transport Service with headquarters at Ibadan connects the towns of Oyo, Ogbomosho, Oshogbo and Ilesha. From Bukuru on the Bauchi Plateau a connection is made with Ropp (10 miles) and Mongu (32 miles) in the one direction, and Jos (10 miles) in the other direction. A service is also maintained between Bukuru and the workings of the Ex-Lands Company, a distance of 27 miles.

96. The Eastern line, running from Port Harcourt on the Bonny Estuary, connects with Enugu (151 miles) and serves the important Udi Coal Fields. This line is being extended to join up with the Western Division at Kakuri at a distance of 426 miles from Enugu. The first section of this extension, Enugu to Makurdi on the Benue River (141 miles), will be opened for traffic on the 1st April, 1924.

97. It is proposed to construct a branch line approximately 51 miles in length from Kagoro, a point on the extension mentioned in the previous paragraph, to Jos on the Bauchi Light Railway. This branch, if constructed, will connect Jos with the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge and provide a direct route from the Tin Fields to Lagos and Port Harcourt.

98. It is estimated that the gross earnings during 1923 amounted to £1,507,335, and the working expenditure to £918,147, making the estimated net receipts £589,188 against Debt Charges amounting to some £769,750. The total number of passengers carried was approximately 1,786,814, and about 523,961 tons of goods and minerals were handled.

99. There are now 136 stations open for public traffic, 117 of which are on the Western Division and 19 on the Eastern Division. 7 new stations have been opened during the year 1923. The

permanent staff of the railway includes 408 Europeans. The African salaried staff numbers 1,579, and 11,941 artisans and labourers are employed.

100. *Harbours, Rivers and Creeks.*—Only maintenance work has been carried out on the moles and training bank at the entrance to Lagos Harbour. The dredger "The Lady Clifford" has been employed throughout the year dredging in the entrance when weather conditions permitted and on the shoal patches in the channels inside the harbour. The Eastern Spit has given no further trouble, although it has decreased little if anything in area. There is a tendency for shoal patches to form in the centre of the entrance channel between the West mole and the spit, but the dredger has no difficulty in keeping these under and the general depth in the entrance has been maintained at about 25 feet. The official draught for vessels entering and leaving the port was raised to 22 feet in October. Within the harbour the principal work has been the widening and deepening of the Apapa Crossing, on which the dredger "Child" has been employed practically the whole year. It has been found that the tidal streams, which it had been hoped would conform to the direction of this new channel, do not do so, but sweep across the shoals in the centre of the harbour and set diagonally across the channel. This makes it necessary to have a wider channel than would otherwise be the case and dredging in this area will consequently be necessary for some time to come. The bucket dredger "Queen Mary" during the year removed the shoals forbidding access to the new coal and kerosene wharf at Iddo, assisted in the Apapa Crossing on the patches of submerged forest that the "Child" could not handle, and in October was sent down to Port Harcourt for work there. All the spoil picked up by the "Child" and "Queen Mary" was pumped on shore by the "Romulus" at Iddo Island and behind the new coal and kerosene wharf, and very valuable areas have been reclaimed as the result.

101. A complete survey of Lagos Harbour was made during the year and the results sent to the Admiralty for publication.

102. As a result of reports as to the shoaling of Forcados Bar a rough survey of the bar was made in July. This showed that the channel had moved to the northward. The weather was bad for accurate survey work, but the rough results obtained show little or no actual shoaling. The buoys were relaid and the new channel opened. A detailed survey will be made when the bad weather season is over.

103. Waterway clearing was carried out during the year in the Sudd Region and the Niger, Ossiomo, and Ogba Rivers. The launch routes throughout the country have been kept clear and open to navigation.

104. The buoyage of the coast and navigable river entrances was taken over by the Government from Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company, Limited, on 1st May. A new vessel, the "Pathfinder,"

was purchased and arrived at Lagos on 9th May for this work, which has been successfully carried out. The first of the automatic gas light and whistling buoys ordered for use off the three principal river mouths arrived in November and was laid off the Bonny Entrance before the end of the year.

105. The Cross River transport services, which were formerly run by the Government, were taken over by Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company at the beginning of the year.

106. *Shipping*.—Messrs. Elder Dempster & Company, Limited, own the greater part of the shipping and maintain regular services between the United Kingdom and Nigeria for passengers, mails and cargo. The steamers of the Bull West Africa Line, Chargeurs Réunis, Deutscher Afrika-Dienst (Woermann Linie), Holland West Africa Lijn, John Holt & Co., Ltd., "Roma" Societa de Navigazione, and Société Navale de l'Ouest compete to a certain extent, and a number of vessels have been chartered by the principal firms. The total tonnage of cargo landed during the year was over 800,000 tons and the number of vessels entered and cleared was 809, the former figure representing an increase of 11 per cent. over 1922.

107. *Roads and Bridges*.—The Government has constructed a number of wide motor roads which can be used throughout the year by light cars and in the dry season by heavy lorries, and the whole country is covered with a network of "bush paths" which are seldom wide enough for two persons to walk abreast, but along which, nevertheless, it is possible to ride bicycles or motor-bicycles. The construction of new main roads was continued, notable progress being made with the Zaria-Sokoto, the Kano-Katsina, and Jos-Bauchi roads, the Bukuru-Jemaa road (which was completed), the Iperu-Shagamu road, and roads in Ilorin Province. Several new roads are in process of construction by native Administrations in the Southern Provinces. In the Abeokuta Province those from Ilaro to Ado and Awode to Ojada are being so constructed, and the same applies to the Iperu-Shagamu-Ikorodu road, which is approaching the Colony boundary, and will, it is hoped eventually link up with the main road from Lagos to Ibadan by the Isheri branch road. In the Oyo Province 34 miles of the Iseyin-Shaki road are being widened and strengthened, and several other branch roads are under construction. In the Ondo Province the Owo Native Administration has completed the bridges across the Osse and the Owesse Rivers. Benin Province is now linked up with the Northern Provinces road system by a motor road passing through Auchi and Ibillo, and another motor road from Auchi to Agenebode on the Niger has been completed. The Resident, Benin, comments on the remarkable keenness displayed by the Chiefs in the development of their country by means of roads. The Oyo and Abeokuta Native Administrations have now the benefit of the advice and assistance of Public Works Officers specially seconded for the purpose of supervising their public works and road construction.

108. Careful preliminary surveys of new roads by the Public Works Department have proved valuable. Estimated savings, amounting on three roads to no less than £42,000, have been effected by the reduction in the size and number of bridges and culverts rendered possible by adopting deviations from existing routes. The six Badeggi-Bida road bridges, including a bridge of five 75 feet timber spans over the Baku River and two 100 feet steel flood spans, were completed. Of the eight bridges on the Keffi-Akwanga-Mama road, the first four, totalling eleven 75 feet and three 30 feet timber spans were completed within eleven months. Three additional bridges of the same type, totalling six 100 feet spans, have since been constructed and the work will be completed by a bridge of two 100 feet steel spans over the Farin Rua in difficult country some 120 miles from the Railway. Bridges over the Oshin and Oyun Rivers, each of one 120 feet and two 31 feet steel spans, are in course of construction on the Ilorin-Share road. The five 31 feet spans bridge erected at Jemaa for the Native Administration has been completed. By the use of steel instead of timber more permanent bridges have become possible and larger spans have effected considerable economy. A single 145 feet clear span over the Imo River, 120 feet spans over the Oshin and Oyun Rivers and two 100 feet spans over the Farin Rua are indications of the advance in this direction. Reinforced concrete pile abutments have proved successful on the Kano-Katsina road and the possibilities of this class of structure will be carefully investigated.

109. *Posts and Telegraphs.*—The various Post Office services have been well maintained and the Revenue collected shows an appreciable increase over the figures for 1922. New Postal Telegraph Offices were opened at Makurdi in the Munshi Province and at Okigwi and Umuahia in the Owerri Province. Various improvements, including an underground cable at Ebute Metta, have been made in the telephone service. A Post Office Guide is now on sale at all Offices. Several vacancies, most of which, it is hoped, will be filled by the Engineer Probationers now in training in England, still exist in the Engineering section of the Department.

110. *Public Works.*—The first instalment of the Port Harcourt permanent wharfage scheme to accommodate ocean-going steamers was completed during the year. The two warehouses in conjunction therewith are now being constructed. The new Railway Locomotive Workshops at Ebute Metta, being built by Messrs. Sir William Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., will be completed by the 1st February, 1924, and will be occupied within a very short period after that date. The Railway Workshops at Enugu, constructed by Sir William Arrol & Co., Ltd., will also be completed early in 1924. The contract for 1,800 feet of wharfage at Apapa, let to Messrs. Sir William Armstrong, Whitworth & Company, provides for the completion of this work by September 25th, 1924.

111. The first part of the Ikoyi housing scheme was completed and additions were also made to the housing accommodation elsewhere. The Iddo Electric Power Station was completed, and adequate power is now available for the Railway and Public Works Department Workshops and for other purposes. The Lagos, Ikoyi, and Ebute Metta street and house lighting systems were transferred to the new supply, and the old station in Lagos has been shut down. A scheme for a water supply for the important and rapidly growing township of Enugu was approved and will be taken in hand in 1924. Extension of the Lagos Post Office, the erection of a Provincial school for the Native Administration at Ilorin, Agricultural buildings and a Rest House at Ibadan, the Veterinary Establishment buildings on the Bauchi Plateau at Vom, and hospital buildings at Kaduna, Kano, Minna, and Ilorin were amongst the works undertaken and completed by the Public Works Department.

H. O. S. WRIGHT,

Senior Assistant Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS. ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1168	Zanzibar	"
1164	St. Helena	"
1165	Sierra Leone	"
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1167	Bermuda	"
1168	Grenada	"
1169	St. Lucia	"
1170	Leeward Islands	1921-1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	"
1173	Gibraltar	"
1174	British Guiana	"
1175	Barbados	1922-1923
1176	Basutoland	"
1177	St. Vincent	"
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	"
1181	British Honduras	"
1182	Uganda	"
1183	Federated Malay States	"
1184	Unfederated Malay States	"
1185	State of Brunei	"
1186	Straits Settlements	"
1187	Falkland Islands	"
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	"
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922-1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	"
1192	Fahamas	1922-1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922-1923
1195	Leeward Islands	"
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments. etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page.

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, etc.	Year.
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920-1921
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	"
1125	Zanzibar	"
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1127	Gibraltar	"
1128	St. Vincent	"
1129	St. Helena	"
1130	Fiji	"
1131	Basutoland	1921-1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921-1922
1134	Barbados	"
1135	Trinidad and Tobago	1921
1136	British Honduras	"
1137	Ceylon	"
1138	Swaziland	"
1139	Hongkong	"
1140	Straits Settlements	"
1141	St. Lucia	"
1142	Ashanti	"
1143	Jamaica	"
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921-1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turke and Caicos Islands	"
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1921-1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	"
1151	Uganda	"
1152	Somaliland	"
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate (April-December)	"
1154	Gold Coast	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, etc.	Subject.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
86	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
88	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
86	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
87	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies - General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Fitcairn Island	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.