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No. 491.

G A M B I A .

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, see No. 452.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1906.



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No. 491.

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(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 452.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Bathurst, Gambia,

18th June, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1905, together with a report on it by the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. M. B. Griffith, C.M.G.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The total revenue for the year amounted to £51,868. Although £2,312 less than that collected for the previous year, the receipts may be considered as very fair when it is remembered that the largest revenue ever collected was £55,564. The actual revenue exceeded the estimated receipts by £2,073.

2. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1904 and 1905; also the several increases and decreases:—

Heads of Revenue.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs.. .. .	33,933 14 2	35,053 16 7	—	4,879 17 7
Port Dues	1,080 0 0	831 15 0	—	248 5 0
Licences, Excise, &c. .. .	1,210 1 8	1,588 0 8	377 10 0	—
Fees of Court, &c	1,020 1 1	1,057 10 1	37 9 0	—
Post Office	590 7 9	2,730 14 0	2,134 0 3	—
Government Vessels	533 17 9	135 17 4	—	398 0 5
Rents (Government Property) .. .	364 2 9	362 19 0	—	1 3 3
Interest	1,073 0 11	1,633 11 3	—	39 9 8
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,583 13 9	1,396 10 11	—	184 13 10
Protectorate	6,172 19 10	7,014 4 4	841 4 6	—
Land Sales	54,167 19 8	51,607 8 8	3,390 18 9	5,751 9 9
	12 0 0	61 0 0	49 0 0	—
	54,179 19 8	51,668 8 8	3,439 18 9	5,751 9 9

3. The increases were due—

Under licences, to the issue of more spirit licences in the Protectorate during the year;

Under Post Office, to the denominations of stamps being increased by the issue of 5*d.*, 7½*d.*, 10*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*s.* 6*d.* and 3*s.* stamps, and to the alteration in the watermark; and

Under Protectorate, to the issue of more traders' licences and to increased collections under farm rents.

4. The decreases under Customs were due to the falling off in the output of the ground-nut crop, which failed to reach the estimate by over 6,000 tons, thus making a difference of over £2,000 in Customs receipts, and a falling off in the import of

spirits and goods liable to *ad valorem* duties, following the bad trading season:—

Under port dues, the decrease was owing to fewer vessels entering the port, following the falling off in the ground-nut crop; and

Under Government vessels, to the Government steamer having to be laid up for a considerable time for repairs and finally condemned.

Although miscellaneous receipts show a decrease when compared with the receipts of 1904, which were unusually large in that year owing to the sale of a quantity of ammunition to the Governments of Sierra Leone and Nigeria, it may be mentioned that the receipts under this head for 1905 were well above the estimate.

5. The amount of revenue received under Customs was:— Import duty, £25,221; export duty, £9,833; making a total of £35,054.

6. The following return shows the amount collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1904 and 1905, with their respective increases and decreases:—

Comparative Statement of Customs Revenue for 1904 and 1905.

Heads of Receipts.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Imports.				
<i>Ad valorem</i>	£ 5,370 11 7	£ 4,593 5 11	—	£ 777 5 8
Wine	811 17 8	798 4 8	—	13 13 2
Spirits	4,113 6 0	3,877 12 0	—	235 14 0
Malt liquor	236 9 3	132 11 0	—	102 18 3
Tobacco	3,049 10 6	4,135 15 0	1,086 4 6	—
Oils, turps, &c.	664 10 2	718 8 3	53 12 1	—
Sugar	2,251 2 0	1,861 13 11	—	389 8 1
Kola nuts	6,808 15 10	6,820 4 9	11 8 11	—
Rice	1,343 7 8	1,345 12 9	2 5 1	—
Guns and Pistols	120 0 6	197 12 0	77 12 0	—
Powder	55 4 2	97 14 7	42 10 5	—
Salt	419 13 11	334 3 0	—	85 10 11
Kerosene	294 12 7	303 0 5	98 7 10	—
Coffee (raw)	6 7 4	4 19 9	—	1 7 7
	25,454 14 8	25,220 17 10	1,372 0 10	1,605 17 8
Export.				
Ground-nuts	14,478 10 6	9,832 18 9	—	4,646 0 9
Total	39,933 14 2	35,053 16 7	1,372 0 10	6,251 18 5

7. The expenditure for the year amounted to £72,297, and while showing a decrease of £3,742 on the estimated expenditure of £76,039, the actual expenditure exceeded the revenue of £51,868 by £20,429, and shows an increase of expenditure as compared with 1904 of £19,997. This heavy expenditure was due to payments for a dredger required in connection with the Kai Hai works; to the cost of material for the jetty extension; and to the purchase of a new steamer having to be made within the year.

8. The following return shows the heads of expenditure for 1904 and 1905, together with the various increases and decreases:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1904.			1905.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pensions.. .. .	1,002	14	9	1,014	10	9	41	18	0	—	—	—
The Governor.. .. .	3,466	4	10	3,922	14	3	456	9	6	—	—	—
The Colonial Secretary	1,191	6	6	1,202	1	5	10	14	11	—	—	—
The Protectorate	5,149	10	10	7,852	11	8	2,703	0	10	—	—	—
Printing Department	372	8	1	339	16	10	—	—	—	32	11	3
Treasury	1,109	6	4	1,163	12	9	54	6	5	—	—	—
Customs Department	2,060	12	0	2,076	17	0	10	5	0	—	—	—
Post Office	671	0	9	808	4	9	137	4	0	—	—	—
Audit Department	577	0	11	596	0	7	18	19	8	—	—	—
Judicial Department	1,252	12	6	1,242	15	11	—	—	—	9	16	7
Attorney-General	469	1	7	470	4	9	—	—	—	28	16	10
Education	1,123	0	11	1,325	12	7	202	11	8	—	—	—
Frontier Force	5,388	3	7	6,090	12	9	702	9	2	—	—	—
Police	4,195	18	2	4,079	3	3	—	—	—	26	14	11
Prisons	726	8	0	702	15	4	—	—	—	23	10	8
Medical Department	2,851	2	11	2,960	18	4	109	15	5	—	—	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	917	15	10	959	8	2	41	12	10	—	—	—
Government Vessels	2,355	4	1	1,960	8	9	—	—	—	394	15	4
Charitable Allowances	101	9	4	101	7	11	—	—	—	0	1	5
Transport	272	9	4	334	2	3	61	12	11	—	—	—
Miscellaneous Services	2,388	6	0	3,161	0	0	772	14	0	—	—	—
Drawback, &c.	309	14	3	79	9	7	—	—	—	230	4	11
Agriculture	738	16	10	391	12	11	—	—	—	347	3	11
Colonial Engineer's Department	1,651	5	6	1,700	3	2	48	17	8	—	—	—
Public Works—Recurrent	4,790	3	2	4,901	15	4	—	—	—	788	7	18
Public Works—Extraordinary	4,858	11	1	16,074	5	4	11,215	14	3	—	—	—
Special Services	2,364	6	6	7,654	18	3	5,290	11	10	—	—	—
Total	52,500	12	9	72,297	5	1	21,878	16	0	1,882	3	8

9. The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

Pensions.—To the pension of £230, which became payable to Mr. H. Reeve, C.M.G., late Colonial Engineer, during the year, which was unestimated for, less amounts undrawn owing to the death of other pensioners.

Governor.—To the extended tour of the Governor through the Protectorate from January to May, which was not taken into consideration when the estimates were under preparation, and to a special expenditure on account of furniture for Government House, which was sanctioned after the estimates were passed.

The Protectorate.—To the expenditure in connection with the replacing of the boundary pillars during 1904 not having been brought to account until 1905, and to additional presents to chiefs, &c., following on the Governor's extended tour.

Post Office.—To the expenditure incurred in connection with the dies for the new denominations of stamps, which was not estimated for.

Education.—To a building grant to the Roman Catholic Mission, which was not estimated for.

Frontier Force.—To the increased field allowance to the Company during the time it was on the march through the Protectorate, to provision having to be made for a reserve of clothing in England, and to the cost of the erection of a new range during the year.

Medical Department.—To the annual increments to the salaries of the Medical Staff.

Miscellaneous Services.—To special expenditure in connection with the printing of an official handbook of the Gambia, to interest on overdrafts, to increased commission to Crown Agents owing to large purchases of material, &c., and to fees paid under the Weights and Measures Ordinance.

Public Works, Extraordinary.—To purchase of dredging plant in connection with the deepening of Kai Hai Channel, to the repairs and extension of the Government Wharf, and to extensive repairs to Government House.

Special Services.—To the purchase of a new Government steamer.

10. The principal decreases were due under:—

Government Vessels.—To the "Mansah Kilah" having to be laid up for some months of the year and the crew placed on half-pay.

Drawbacks.—To fewer claims for refund of duty on goods imported and subsequently exported.

Agriculture.—To the services of the cotton expert being dispensed with and to a decrease in the purchase of agricultural implements, and

Public Works, Recurrent.—To all expenditure on public works, except where absolutely necessary, being kept down as much as possible.

(B.) TAXATION.

11. During the year the only alteration in taxation was under the Customs Tariff Ordinance, whereby the standard proof on all spirits, brandy, &c., was reduced to 12½ per cent. under proof by Sykes' hydrometer.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

12. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1905, was £28,704, or £20,723 less than at the close of 1904.

13. The surplus funds are invested in various Government securities, details of which are given hereunder:—

Statement of Investments on 31st December, 1905.

Description of Stock.	Amount of Stock.			Actual Price.			Market Value on 1st January, 1906.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
General—									
New Zealand Inscribed Stock	5,003	18	9	5,000	0	0	4,594	18	11
Jamaica	3,015	0	6	3,000	0	0	2,615	10	9
British Guiana	2,056	10	0	2,000	0	0	1,804	11	8
West Australia	6,254	4	0	5,992	9	0	5,316	1	3
Trinidad	5,032	19	9	4,800	5	8	4,516	17	2
Natal	4,428	9	9	4,500	0	0	4,122	8	1
Queensland	4,376	7	2	4,584	10	0	4,003	0	3
South Australia	7,242	8	3	7,007	11	0	6,210	7	5
Cape of Good Hope	3,567	4	0	3,500	0	0	3,023	4	1
Victoria	4,665	5	3	4,415	10	0	3,953	16	3
Gold Coast	3,000	0	0	2,688	6	11	2,602	19	0
Reading Corporation	4,000	0	0	3,807	14	7	—		
Steamer Depreciation Fund—									
Grenada Inscribed Stock	211	7	6	250	0	0	210	17	0
West Australia Inscribed Stock	1,200	0	0	1,134	2	2	922	12	1
Trinidad	500	0	0	478	15	9	Unknown		
South Australia	400	0	0	369	18	0	262	13	6
Transvaal	1,000	0	0	991	18	6	Unknown		
General	...	...	...	51,296	7	2			
Steamer Depreciation Fund	...	...	...	3,224	14	5			
	55,953	14	11	54,521	1	7	47,829	17	5

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

14. The Colony has no public debt.

(E.) CURRENCY.

Rate of Exchange.

15. The bank rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was one per cent.

Coin in Circulation.

16. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony is estimated at £150,025, made up as follows:—

Bank of England Notes	£
British Gold	500
British Silver	2,000
French Gold	45,000
French Five-franc Pieces... ..	25
	102,500
	<u>£150,025</u>

17. During the year specie to the value of £123,456 was imported, and £95,877 was exported. The details are given below:—

Description.	Imported.	Exported.
	£	£
British gold ...	2,800	4,123
„ silver ...	14,815	21,726
French gold ...	—	—
„ silver ...	105,841	70,028
Total ...	123,456	95,877

18. For 1904 the figures were as follows:—Imported, £108,719; exported, £61,994. The increase on imports may be attributed to the prospects of good trade during the season 1905-1906, and in exports to the fact that there was no need for much cash at the beginning of the year, when it was seen that the ground-nut crop for the season 1904-1905 was bad, both in quantity and quality.

(F.) MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL BOARDS, &c.

19. The only Boards of this nature are the Board of Health and the McCarthy Square Board of Management. The Board of Health, which meets fortnightly, is responsible for the sanitary condition of the town of Bathurst. It consists of the Senior Medical Officer and the Colonial Engineer, who are *ex officio* members, the Superintendent of Police, a Medical Officer, and two leading members of the native community. Its revenue is derived from (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property in the town of Bathurst at the rate of three per cent.:

(2) fees collected at the slaughter-house; and (3) a grant-in-aid from the Government. The following revenue was received under these heads during the year:—

Balance brought forward from last year ...	£24	4	6
Local Rates	611	8	0
Slaughter-house Fees	104	17	0
Government Grant-in-aid	400	0	0
Sale of Stores	1	15	0
	<hr/>		
	£1,142	4	6
	<hr/>		

The total expenditure for the same period was as follows:—

Salaries	£102	0	0
Cleaning Drains, &c.	401	4	9
Mosquito Sanitation and Miscellaneous Services	708	14	9
	<hr/>		
	£1,211	19	6
	<hr/>		

showing an excess of payments over receipts of £69 15s. to be carried forward to 1906.

20. Ordinarily, 20 labourers are continually employed in sweeping and scavenging the town, but for the four months of the rainy season an additional gang of ten men is employed in special connection with mosquito sanitation.

21. Three carts and horses are attached to the Board and are in constant use. During the year they removed 4,780 loads of refuse and 311 loads of tins, bottles, &c., which were utilized in filling in the swamp on the outskirts of the town.

22. During the year the Inspector of Nuisances served 91 abatement of nuisance notices, and paid 4,790 house-to-house visits, but no summonses were issued.

McCarthy Square Board.

23. During the year McCarthy Square, situated in the centre of the town and one of the features of Bathurst, was enclosed and vested by law in a Board of Management consisting of the Senior Medical Officer, the Colonial Engineer, the Superintendent of Police, and four members nominated by the Governor. The main work of the Board has so far been to level the square and to plant various shrubs, &c., round it. The square is open to the general public as a recreation ground, and games and sports of all kinds, such as polo, cricket, football, hockey, gym-khanas, races, &c., are held there. It is intended to lay down tennis and croquet courts later on. The police band also plays there once a week. So far, the Board has no revenue at its disposal and is dependent on the Government for a grant-in-aid,

but it is hoped that a certain amount of revenue will be received in the form of donations and subscriptions from the various clubs that use the ground.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS.

24. The total value of imports for the year amounted to £305,181, as against £306,149, showing a slight decrease of £968. If, however, the imports of specie, which amounted to £123,456 and is an increase of £14,737 over the imports of 1904, are deducted from the total value of the imports, it will be seen that the total of general imports, viz., £181,725, fell short of the imports of 1904 by £15,705, or a decrease of five per cent.

25. The total value of cotton goods imported during the year was £53,211, or £125 more than last year, of which £47,226 came from Great Britain, £4,343 from France, and £1,441 from Germany. As compared with 1904, the imports of this article show an increase in favour of Great Britain of £2,118 and in favour of Germany of £868, while there is a decrease of £2,630 against France.

26. There was an increase in the importation of tobacco owing to the stocks at the end of 1904 being very low, and the importations of rice show an increase in value of £452, while 65 tons less were imported.

27. The principal decrease is under kola nuts, which amounts to £4,786. The actual quantity imported, however, was 1,291 lbs. more than in the previous year. Other decreases were under sugar and salt, which may be attributed to the large stocks the merchants had on hand at the close of the 1904 season, and as regards sugar to the fact that the natives, who look upon it as a great luxury, had not the means of buying it on account of the failure of their crops. Owing to the manner in which it is made up and to cheaper freights, about 89 per cent. of the total imports of this article, which during the year was of the value of £3,965, comes from France.

28. There was also a falling off in the importation of spirits by 1,146 gallons, due partly no doubt to an increased duty of 12½ per cent. having been imposed during the year and to the fact that the number of Mohammedans is rapidly increasing in the Protectorate.

29. The value of the imports may be classified as under:—

Specific commercial imports	£75,488	0	0
<i>Ad valorem</i> commercial imports	99,865	0	0
Free commercial imports	126,568	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£301,921	0	0
Free Government imports	237	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£302,158	0	0
	<hr/>		

30. The following return gives the principal articles of import for the years 1904 and 1905, with their quantities and values:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton Goods ...	Pkgs. 2,895	Pkgs. 2,779	£ 53,086	£ 53,211	£ 125	£ —
Tobacco ...	lb. 244,334	lb. 317,965	5,619	6,382	763	—
Kola nuts...	817,093	818,384	35,034	30,248	—	4,786
Spirits ...	Galls. 20,551	Galls. 19,405	3,867	3,562	—	305
Wine ...	15,117	15,340	1,770	1,999	229	—
Sugar ...	Cwt. 4,822	Cwt. 4,009	4,663	3,965	—	698
Salts ...	Tons. 1,678	Tons. 1,337	1,215	897	—	318
Gunpowder ...	Brls. 133	Brls. 235	258	442	184	—
Rice ...	Cwt. 54,183	Cwt. 52,883	22,787	23,239	452	—

31. Of the total value of imports, exclusive of specie—

48	per cent.	came from	Great Britain,
17	"	"	British Colonies,
24	"	"	France,
$\frac{3}{4}$	"	"	French Colonies,
$7\frac{1}{4}$	"	"	Germany,
2	"	"	America, and
1	"	"	Other Countries.

(B.) EXPORTS.

32. The total value of exports for the year, inclusive of £95,876 on account of specie, amounted to £280,272, as compared with £311,283 in the previous year—a falling off of £31,011.

33. The total value of exports (exclusive of specie) for 1905 was £184,396, as compared with £249,289 in 1904, a decrease of £64,893 against 1905, of which £59,861 was due to the falling off in the ground-nut crop. There were other small decreases under rubber, wax, and raw cotton, while there were slight increases under palm kernels and hides.

34. The decrease in the ground-nut crop may be attributed to the drought and to the poor quality of nuts retained by the natives for seed purposes; the small quantity held by the natives was also insufficient to induce many strange farmers to remain in the Protectorate and take up land.

35. The decrease in rubber must, I am afraid, be a continuing one, as there is now scarcely any rubber in the Colony, and most of that which passes through the Gambia comes from French territory.

36. The decrease in wax is no doubt due to the recent establishment of wax kitchens at Casamance, in French territory, and to the fact that the natives who collect the wax, mostly in French ground, have to pay a tax before they are allowed to cross over into English ground.

37. The great falling off in the quantity of cotton exported was due to the fact that the natives gave up its cultivation, as the price offered for it by the merchants, viz., 1*d.* per lb., did not pay them.

38. There was a slight increase in the export of palm kernels, following an increase in 1904 on the exports of 1903, but this article cannot at present be said to take a very important place in our exports.

39. The number of hides exported was 11,723, as against 6,969 in 1904, an increase of 4,754. Their value was £2,637, as against £1,444 in the previous year, an increase of £1,193. Since 1892, when there was a severe epidemic amongst the cattle, this trade has been increasing year by year.

40. The following return shows the principal articles of export for the years 1904 and 1905:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground-nuts ...	Tons. 43,436	Tons. 29,499	£ 229,287	£ 169,426	£ —	£ 59,861
Rubber ...	lb. 30,934	lb. 9,071	2,446	915	—	1,531
Palm kernels ...	Tons. 179	Tons. 227	1,132	1,612	480	—
Wax ...	lb. 47,491	lb. 35,828	1,888	1,444	—	444
Hides ...	No. 6,969	No. 11,723	1,444	2,637	1,193	—
Cotton, raw ...	lb. 59,828	lb. 2,572	1,462	60	—	1,402

40A. The destination of the ground-nuts exported was as under:—

Country.	Tonnage.	Value.
Great Britain ...	623	£ 4,633
France ...	24,431	138,387
Germany ...	2,015	12,127
Holland...	2,415	14,200
Other places ...	15	79
Total ...	29,499	169,426

41. Of the total exports, exclusive of specie, for the year 1905, 5½ per cent. went to the United Kingdom, 1¼ " " British Colonies, 76 " " France, 2½ " " French Colonies, 7¼ " " Holland, 6½ " " Other Countries.

42. The value of the exports for 1904 and 1905 was as under:—

Articles.	1904.	1905.
Specie ...	£ 61,994	£ 95,876
Other articles	249,289	184,396
Total ...	311,283	282,272

(C.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

43. There are no mines in the Colony.

44. A few country cloths or pagns are still made, but the industry is nothing like what it used to be some years ago. These cloths, which are made from the native-grown cotton, are much appreciated by the people, and in their opinion are vastly superior to Manchester goods. A large quantity of English yarn is also imported and used by the native weavers.

45. A small amount of pottery is made in the Colony.

46. Of fish there is an abundance, and a number of Gambians as well as fishermen from French territory are engaged throughout the year in fishing. The commoner kind of fish is sun-dried, and eventually taken up the river and exchanged for corn, rice, &c. Except for the more delicate class of fish the price is very reasonable.

(D.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, &c.

47. The ground-nut is the main product of the Colony and Protectorate. During the year 29,499 tons, of the value of £169,426, were exported. The crop may be said to have been a poor one, owing partly to the failure in the rainfall, which was 38 inches as compared with the average rainfall of 51 inches, and to the poor quality and quantity of nuts which the natives kept for seed purposes. In addition to this, foodstuffs were somewhat scarce, so that "strange farmers" had little to induce them to come in and work the land. Owing to the inferior quality of the nuts, the prices obtained by the natives for them were low; many of the planters believed, however, that they could have obtained better prices but for the combine which has existed between four out of the five leading firms for some years past, under which the price to be paid for nuts is fixed at the beginning of the season. The complaints on this score are increasing every year. The perniciousness of the system is at once evident, and it is to be hoped that everything possible may be done to break it in the near future.

Cotton.

48. In 1902 the British Cotton Growing Association, strongly supported by the Government, endeavoured to push the cultivation of cotton among the natives. The experiment was continued until early in 1905, when it was decided to discontinue any further efforts in this direction, as it was found impossible to get the native to take it up if he was only to be guaranteed a penny a pound for it. Large quantities of it were planted in 1904, and but for the drought and for the plants being attacked by the bollworm a yield of about 250 lbs. to 300 lbs. the acre might have been expected, but the natives utterly refused to sell what they had to the merchants for 1*d.* a pound, as they can readily get 3*d.* a pound for it among themselves. For some years to come the yield per acre would not have been more than 300 lbs.; this at 1*d.* the pound would give the farmer £1 5*s.* On the other hand, ground-nuts would yield him on the average 60 bushels to the acre, which at 1*s.* 6*d.* the bushel—a fair average price—would give him £4 10*s.* The native is a very shrewd fellow, and naturally, as he cannot work both crops, he only gives his attention to that crop which he

knows will pay him best. The total expenditure in connection with this experiment has been £3,429. On the other side of the account, 189,492 lb. of cotton were purchased, and realised £1,579, so that the loss on the transaction has been £2,392, of which the Government share has been over £1,500.

Other Crops.

49. Many varieties of good rice are grown wherever small streams and swamp lands are to be found, but the supply is by no means equal to the demand. During the year 52,883 cwt of the value of £23,239, were imported.

50. Large crops of millet are grown, and a fair supply of sweet potatoes, tomatoes, ochros, pumpkins, shallots, and a vegetable gourd can generally be obtained. English vegetables, such as cabbages, carrots, turnips, radishes, lettuces, and French beans can, with much watering, be grown during the cool season of the year.

51. Fruit is scarce, except as regards oranges and mangoes. The former are excellent, while the latter are of poor quality. Bananas and pawpaws can also generally be obtained, but they are not plentiful.

Timber.

52. Mahogany and rosewood trees are to be found in nearly all the districts in the Protectorate, but the trees are too much scattered to allow of a profitable export trade being established. Both these woods are used locally in the building of cutters, boats, houses, bridges, &c. Rhun palms, of which there are any quantity throughout the Colony, are used as piles in the construction of bridges and wharves and in house building.

General Value of Land.

53. Land in Bathurst required for building purposes in a good part of the town may be valued at about £200 the acre. In the native portion of the town the value is about £15 the acre, and beyond the Island of Bathurst, but in close communication with it, at about £8 to £10 the acre.

54. To encourage the establishment of factories at the various trading stations on the river, the Government has recently granted leases of land for 99 years at a rental of 1s. per annum for every 100 square yards. The mercantile houses have readily taken up these grants.

(E.) SHIPPING.

55. The total tonnage for the year was 325,236 tons, made up as follows:—

Steam vessels	...	...	...	317,472 tons
Sailing vessels	...	...	...	7,763 „
Total			...	325,236 tons

56. As compared with the tonnage of 1904, viz., 367,560, the shipping for 1905 shows a falling off of 42,324 tons. This decrease is due to the partial failure of the ground-nut crop, which was nearly 14,000 tons less than in the previous year.

57. The following return gives in detail the total tonnage and nationality of the shipping for the years 1904 and 1905.

Nationality of Vessels.	1904.			1905.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	231,918	83	232,001	204,952	17	204,969
French	54,790	2,519	57,300	58,023	1,885	59,908
German	30,908	—	30,908	25,682	—	25,682
Russian	8,486	—	8,486	4,648	—	4,648
American	—	2,090	2,090	—	3,190	3,190
Norwegian	14,302	391	14,693	5,478	391	5,868
Italian	2,350	—	2,350	—	—	—
Dutch	—	—	—	6,260	—	6,260
Portuguese	—	2,018	2,018	—	2,280	2,280
Danish	17,614	—	17,614	10,440	—	10,440
Spanish	—	100	100	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	1,990	—	1,990
Total... ..	360,368	7,192	367,560	317,473	7,763	325,236

III.—LEGISLATION.

58. Sixteen ordinances were passed during the year. The more important were:—

No. 1—“ An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to Customs Tariff.” This Ordinance was framed for the purpose of facilitating trade and assisting merchants to dispose of their surplus stock, by allowing (under certain conditions) a drawback of 95 per cent. on all goods on exportation on which duties have been paid on first importation. Provision is also made for the re-exportation of goods free of duty on the payment of sundry small charges.

No. 5—“ An Ordinance to amend the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1905,” which provides for the reduction of the standard of proof of spirits, in respect of which duty is paid to 12½ per cent. below proof by Sykes' Hydrometer.

No. 6—“ An Ordinance to provide for the surrender of fugitive criminals.” This act provides for the surrender to foreign States and their Protectorates of persons accused or convicted of the commission of certain crimes within the jurisdiction of such States and their Protectorates who have come into the Gambia Protectorate, and for the trial of persons accused of the commission of crimes in the Gambia Protectorate who have been surrendered by foreign States or their Protectorates.

No. 10—“ An Ordinance to recognise Mohammedan law for certain purposes and make provision for the establishment of a Mohammedan Court at Bathurst.” This Ordinance provides, among other things, that marriages between Mohammedan natives, duly contracted in accordance with Mohammedan law, shall be valid and effectual for the purpose of establishing the status of legitimacy within the Colony in favour of the children of such marriages; that there shall be a Mohammedan Court at Bathurst; that the Court shall have jurisdiction in all causes and matters between or exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments, and guardianship; that the recognition of Mohammedan law should not extend to religious practices or disabilities, save so far as such may form an essential part of the law relating to matters before-mentioned, nor to the constitution of religious trusts, nor to civil contracts other than marriage, nor to any criminal matter. Appeal from decisions given by the Cadi of the Court lie to

the Supreme Court. For this purpose a person learned in the Mohammedan law sits with the Chief Magistrate for advisory purposes.

No. 12--“An Ordinance to alter the succession to real estate and to make further provision for the administration and distribution of the estates of intestates and for other purposes.” This Ordinance was framed to get rid of certain difficulties arising under a former Ordinance, which prevented to a considerable extent the effectual accomplishment of its purpose. There are several other amendments, and a particular procedure is introduced dealing with the estates of deceased European officers in the service of the Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

59. There are six primary schools in the Colony, five being at Bathurst and one at McCarthy Island. They are under the management of the several religious denominations as follows:—

Anglican	...	...	...	...	One.
Roman Catholic	...	...	...	...	Two.
Wesleyan	...	...	...	...	Three.

60. The total number of children on the school rolls in Bathurst was 1,001, as compared with 1,036 in 1904, a decrease of 35. Of this total 364 children were presented for examination in the standards, of which 232 passed, showing an increase of 16 in the number presented and a decrease of 14 in the number of passes as compared with last year. Out of 109 presented in the sub-standards, 60 were successful.

61. At McCarthy Island there were 35 children on the register, of whom 20 were presented for examination and 10 passed.

62. The income of the several schools in Bathurst was as under:—

Schools.	School Fees.		Amount contributed by owners.		Government Grant.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Roman Catholic ...	23	3 11	261	19 7	523	14 8	908	18 2
Wesleyan ...	61	6 0	76	14 11	162	2 2	300	3 0
Anglican ...	19	8 6	122	12 11	83	15 2	225	16 7
Total ...	103	18 5	561	7 5	769	12 0	1,434	17 9

63. The Government grant to the Roman Catholic schools includes an amount of £237 16s. in connection with the building of a new school and £106 for the salary of a European superintendent for a portion of the year; while the grant to the Anglican school includes a sum of £150 for a European superintendent and a grant of £15 7s. 4d. for repairs to buildings.

64. The expenditure of the schools for the year was as under:—

School	Buildings.	Repairs.	School Material.	Salaries.	Other Ex-penses.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Roman Catholic	237 16 0	13 6 6	40 4 2	309 13 6	7 18 0	608 18 2
Wesleyan ...	—	20 5 0	3 16 0	276 2 0	—	300 3 0
Anglican ...	—	5 9 4	74 11 7	144 13 0	1 2 8	275 16 7
	237 16 0	39 0 10	118 11 9	730 8 6	9 0 8	1,134 17 9

65. It was not found possible to inspect the McCarthy Island school during the year.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

66. The Wesleyan Missionary Society is the only body which has a secondary school for boys in the Colony. The number on the register is 17, while the average attendance is 14. The school fees amounted to £24 9s. 6d., and voluntary contributions to £23 17s., making a total revenue of £48 6s. 8d., the expenditure being the same.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

67. This school is under the management of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and is of an undenominational character. The school at present has 24 boys on its register, of whom 14 are receiving instruction in cabinetmaking and joinery, four are being taught bricklaying and masonry, four blacksmithery, and two painting. In addition to their practical teaching, the boys also receive instruction in mensuration, scale drawing, freehand drawing, and geometry. Those pupils who have not yet passed the fifth standard also receive instruction every day in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The school is under a European instructor, and receives a grant-in-aid from the Government of £300 a year. At the last annual exhibition the work done by the boys showed a great improvement on that turned out in previous years.

MOHAMMEDAN SCHOOL.

68. This school, which was established in 1903, continues to make satisfactory progress. The total number of children on its

register is 116, the average attendance being 78, both figures showing an increase on those of 1904. Arabic is taught on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays, while English and arithmetic are taught on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Many of the chiefs in the Protectorate have been induced to send their children to it, and, once being assured that no attempt will be made to convert them into the "trouser-man" or Christian, are anxious for them to come and learn English. One chief has no son, but, not to be outdone, sent his daughter to be taught at one of the Christian schools, but lately he has asked that she might be sent to the Mohammedan school. The children of the chiefs while in Bathurst are maintained and educated at the cost of the Government. The school is not under the Education Board, but is managed by a committee consisting of the Governor as chairman and several leading Mohammedans as members.

69. The expenditure incurred by the Government on account of education during the year, exclusive of the salary of the Inspector of Schools, amounted to £1,324, made up as follows:—

Contribution to Salaries of European Superintendents	...	...	...	£256	0	0
Contribution to Salaries of Teachers in Mohammedan schools	...	...	...	118	0	0
Grants-in-aid of Schools	...	...	...	398	0	0
Grant to Wesleyan Industrial School	...	...	...	300	0	0
Grant-in-aid to School Buildings, &c.	...	...	...	252	0	0
				<u>£1,324</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

70. The total number of children on the school rolls in Bathurst was as under:—

Roman Catholic Schools	...	...	...	...	395
Wesleyan Schools	...	...	...	...	453
Anglican School	...	...	...	...	153
Mohammedan School	...	...	...	..	116
Technical School	...	...	...	...	24
				Grand Total	<u>1,141</u>

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

71. There are two hospitals in the Colony, a general hospital consisting of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class wards for men and an operating room, with an adjoining bungalow for women, and an adjoining shed which was formerly the female ward but is now used for incurable cases, and a contagious diseases hospital—a large hut of two compartments built of thatch and bamboo.

72. During the past few years many alterations and improvements have been made in the general hospital, and both the men's and women's departments will compare favourably with other similar institutions in West Africa. The accommodation in these wards is as follows:—

First Class Ward—Men	...	...	4
Second Class Ward—Men	...	...	10
Third Class Ward—Men	...	...	24
Female Ward	...	...	12
			—
Total number of Beds	...	...	50
			—

73. The total number of patients admitted into the hospital during the year was 606, or 60 less than during 1904.

73A. There was one case of cancer admitted to the hospital. The patient only remained about a month and then left for Sierra Leone, where she died a month later. This is the only case of cancer to be found in the records of the Medical Department.

74. The following table shows the number of patients in the hospital during the year:—

Patients in Hospital.

	Remaining in hospital 31st Decem- ber, 1904.	Admitted during the year	Died.	Remaining in hospital 31st Decem- ber, 1905.
Europeans	—	17	2	—
Natives	16	436	27	18
Civil Police	1	45	2	2
Syrians	—	29	2	—
W.A.F.F.	7	79	1	4
Total	24	606	34	24

75. The 34 deaths in the hospital were due to the following diseases:—

Diseases.	Deaths.	Diseases.	Deaths.
Beriberi	1	Malignant fever with hyperpyrexia.	1
Blackwater fever...	1	Meningitis	2
Bronchial asthma ...	1	Marasmus... ..	1
Broncho-pneumonia ...	1	Phthisis	1
Burn	1	Phagedaena	1
Acute gastritis	1	Inanition	1
Chronic pyaemia	1	Pneumonia	1
Chronic peritonitis ...	1	Rheumatic fever ...	1
Cardiac disease	1	Sleeping sickness...	2
Chronic bronchitis ...	1	Senile decay	2
Cerebral congestion ...	1	Starvation	2
Dysentery... ..	1	Tetanus	2
Debility	2	Renal disease	1
Hospital gangrene ...	1	Acute bronchitis ...	1

76. The number of out-patients treated during the year was 10,140, made up as follows:—Old cases, 5,905; new cases, 4,235. This number shows an increase of 26 when compared with the figures of the previous year.

77. The following were the prevailing diseases:—

Intermittent fever	Febriacula
Remittent fever	Rheumatism
Conjunctivitis	Bronchitis
Catarrh	Pneumonia
Dyspepsia	Diarrhoea
Orchitis	Abscess
Oedema	Ulcers
Whitlow	Boils

78. Of the rarer diseases met with there were—

Guinea worm	Leprosy
Syphilis	Beriberi
Sleeping sickness	Tetanus
Gout	

79. Of a European population of 114, there were 43 cases treated. There were two deaths, and one case of invaliding for anaemia following fever. There were also 22 cases of malarial fever. The diseases suffered from were biliousness, cellulitis, pleurisy, febriacula, and remittent fever.

80. In taking the European population at 114, it must be borne in mind that during the rainy season—July to October—this number is reduced by quite half owing to officials, merchants and others proceeding to Europe.

81. There was no serious illness among the European officials, who numbered 35.

82. Among the native officials there were 43 cases of illness; of these three ended fatally, two being in the police and one in the West African Frontier Force. The prevailing diseases were intermittent fever, febricula, rheumatism, dyspepsia, and catarrh.

83. Vaccination was carried out throughout the year, and of 987 persons vaccinated 968 were successful. This satisfactory result is to be attributed to the vaccine lymph obtained from the Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology.

84. There are no asylums in the Colony. Lunatics are generally sent to the asylum at Sierra Leone to be cared for.

85. The agreement under which three nursing sisters from the Society of St. Joseph de Cluny, in Paris, were engaged terminated at the end of the year. The experiment of having European nurses in charge of the hospital has proved so very satisfactory that arrangements have been made with the society for retaining the services of the sisters for a further term of three years.

86. The receipts under the Medical Department were as follows:—

Maintenance of sick and sale of medicines	£82	0	0
The expenditure was as follows:—			
Salaries and allowances, &c.	£2,961	0	0
Maintenance of sick and purchase of medicines, &c.	959	0	0
Total	£3,920	0	0

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

87. There is only one savings bank in the Colony, which is under the management of the Treasurer. The total amount remaining on deposit at the close of the year was £4,815, as compared with £5,382 at the close of the previous year.

88. The amount deposited during the year was £1,198, while the sum withdrawn amounted to £1,557. The interest allowed on deposits at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum amounted to £119.

89. The number of depositors was 430, as compared with 378 in 1904.

90. There are 35 Friendly Societies registered in the Colony; these had a sum of £701 standing to their credit at the close of the year. The object of these societies is to render assistance to their members in time of sickness and death, and in their several ways they are of much benefit.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

91. The police force consists of a superintendent, assistant superintendent, both being Europeans, and 80 non-commissioned officers and men. Sixty-eight of these men are stationed at Bathurst, while the remainder are distributed about the Protectorate and are under the orders of the Commissioners of the districts.

92. In addition to their ordinary police duties they are instructed in company drill, including rifle and firing exercise weekly, and may be regarded as a semi-military force. The men also have charge of a 30-man Merryweather manual fire engine, with which they drill weekly.

93. The men are armed with Martini-Enfield carbines, and have three seven-pounder R.M.L. guns.

94. The force has a good band, which has been trained by a European bandmaster.

95. The value of property reported to the police during the year as stolen was £126, of which £70 was recovered.

96. The discipline of the force during the year was good.

97. The expenditure on account of the force during the year was as under:—

Salaries, &c.	£3,639	0	0
Clothing and equipment	224	0	0
Waterproof coats	31	0	0
Sundries	78	0	0
Forage allowance	52	0	0
Passages	56	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£4,080	0	0
	<hr/>		

(B.) PRISONS.

98. The only prison in the Colony is at Bathurst. It has accommodation for 31 male and five female prisoners.

99. The building is an old one, but is kept in excellent order and at present answers all requirements very satisfactorily. In the men's prison there are 15 separate cells and four associated wards, while on the women's side there are two associated wards and one separate cell. As far as it is possible, the prisoners are kept in separate cells.

100. The number of prisoners in gaol on the 1st January, 1905, was 14, the number admitted during the year was 77, making a total of 91. Of these 70 were discharged at the expiration of their sentence, two were discharged before the expiration of their sentence, six died, and 13 remained in gaol at the end of the year.

101. The six deaths were due to the following diseases:— Beriberi, 1; nephritis, 1; syncope, owing to chronic liver and spleen disease, 1; chronic bronchitis, 1; heart disease, 1; and dropsy, 1. A coroner's inquest was held on all the prisoners who died.

102. The daily average number of prisoners was 19.39, as compared with 21.35 in 1904.

103. The prisoners were employed during the year in breaking stones, clearing Government compounds, and cleaning, cementing, and white-washing the prison buildings. The value of the work was estimated at £147, while the expenditure on account of the staff and maintenance amounted to £703.

104. There were 15 offences committed in the prison, as compared with nine in the previous year. One was attempting to escape while working outside the gaol; the other offences were of a minor character.

105. No corporal punishment was inflicted during the year.

106. There is a chaplain attached to the prison, who in addition to holding divine service every Sunday visits the prisoners periodically. The clergy of the various denominations are also allowed to visit prisoners who may belong to their community.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

107. During the year the number of cases brought before the Police Court was 166, as against 193 in 1904. They were dealt with as follows:—

Acquitted	...	...	...	...	38
Dismissed on merits	...	...	...	...	20
Convicted	...	...	...	...	96
Committed to the Supreme Court	...	...	...	...	12
					—
					166
					—

108. Of the 12 cases tried in the Supreme Court one was for rape, two were for offences against the person, two were for larceny, and two were for other offences. Five cases were thrown out. One of these was a case of murder, and another was a case of attempted murder. Both accused were in bad health, and died while awaiting trial.

109. There were 193 cases disposed of by the Summary Courts in the Protectorate during the year, as against 156 cases in 1904.

The offences were as follows:—

Offences against the person	...	...	66
Larceny	...	...	18
Offences against property	...	...	1
Trading without licence	...	...	5
Special offences under the Protectorate			
Ordinance	...	...	79
Other offences	...	...	24
			—
	Total	...	193
			—

110. A good many of the cases were of a trivial nature, such as abusive language and petty assaults, which would be dealt with very leniently in police courts in England.

111. Out of the total number of cases 174 were dealt with by fines, 10 were dismissed or otherwise dealt with, eight were sentenced to imprisonment, and one was sent to the Supreme Court.

112. On the whole, the Head Chiefs and other members of the native tribunals may be said to do their work very conscientiously. There is rather a tendency to impose the maximum penalties, but this is gradually being corrected.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

113. The population, according to the census taken in 1901, was 90,404 for the Colony and Protectorate. A more recent estimate and in all probability a more correct one places the population of the Colony at 8,807 and of the Protectorate at 154,911, or a total of 163,718 persons.

114. The area of the Colony is estimated at four square miles and the Protectorate at about 3,700 square miles. This gives a population of a little over 44 to the square mile.

115. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 271, or 43 less than last year. Taking the population at 8,807, according to the last census, this gives a birth rate of 30·7 per 1,000.

116. The birth of one European in the Colony must be recorded.

117. The deaths registered in Bathurst were 299, or 32 less than reported last year. This represents a death rate of 33.9 per 1,000.

118. There were 14 marriages registered during the year.

119. At present no reliable returns are obtainable in regard to the births and deaths which take place in the Protectorate, as the chiefs and people view anything in the form of registration with great suspicion, looking upon it as regards themselves as the thin edge of the wedge for the introduction of a poll tax, and as regards their cattle as an intention on the part of the Government to levy a tax on them. It is hoped, however, that by constant and careful explanation the chiefs and headmen may be induced to keep such a record as will at least enable an approximate estimate to be formed as to the births and deaths in their districts.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

120. The general health of the Colony during the year was good. There was no epidemic disease, and the death rate was lower than last year.

121. The health in the Protectorate was also good. The people, although perhaps slowly, are gradually allowing their children to be vaccinated by the Commissioners and Protectorate Medical Officer, who experience less difficulty in getting the children to come to them.

122. There was a slight outbreak of yellow fever in the neighbouring French Colony of Senegal, but fortunately it did not extend to the Gambia.

(C.) SANITATION.

123. The town of Bathurst was kept in a good sanitary condition under the direction of the Board of Health. Several additional pumps of a French pattern have been erected about the town, and other sanitary improvements have been made.

124. In the Protectorate no opportunity is lost in opening up the streets and making the people build their houses in line. No town is now built without the site having been first marked out by the Commissioners. Rubbish and all insanitary matter is taken outside the towns and burnt, while the wells are so constructed as to prevent the dirty surface water from running into them. These and other improvements are being gradually brought about, so that the most thoughtful among the natives are beginning to realise that there is something after all that is good in the "white man's fashion."

(D.) CLIMATE.

125. For about seven months of the year—November to May—the climate of the Gambia may be said to be less unpleasant than other places on the West Coast of Africa; during the rainy season—July to October—it is quite as trying and depressing as other places.

126. In the dry season the thermometer sometimes registers as low as 56° in the morning, rising during the day to as high as 96° or 100°. These great variations cause it to be very trying. In the wet season, the temperature varies from about 70° to 92°.

127. The rainfall during the year amounted to 66 inches, which was 15 inches above the average. Of the total rainfall, the month of August was responsible for 25.71 inches.

128. The following is the meteorological return for the year:—

Months.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
January ..	158	—	91	57	34	73.8	—	—	N.W.		
February ..	160	—	93	58	35	74.9	.18	—	Do.		
March ..	164	—	98	59	39	75.5	.09	—	Do.		
April ..	162	—	93	59	34	73.5	—	—	Do.		
May ..	158	—	93	60	33	74.0	—	—	Do.		
June ..	158	—	91	67	24	78.0	4.29	—	Variable.		
July ..	155	—	90	66	24	78.7	16.38	—	Do.		Not observed.
August ..	159	—	92	69	23	79.1	25.71	—	Do.		
September ..	159	—	92	70	22	81.2	12.42	—	Do.		
October ..	162	—	93	72	21	81.6	6.32	—	Do.		
November	160	—	94	68	26	79.7	.08	—	E.		
December	162	—	95	63	32	78.2	—	—	E.		
	1,917	—	1,115	768	347	928.2	66.07	—	—		
Monthly average.	159.7	—	92.9	64	28.9	77.3	8.2	—	—		

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

129. There is a fortnightly service of mail steamers belonging to the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company between Bathurst and Liverpool. Communication is also held with other places on the West Coast by this means. Monthly steamers of these lines as well as of Messrs. Woermann, of Hamburg, call here when inducement offers.

130. It is gratifying to be able to record that of late years there has been a great improvement in the steamers which run from Liverpool, as regards the steamers themselves and the accommodation they offer; but the catering continues to be a cause of general complaint, and it is really time that some improvement was made in this direction.

131. On the inland waters, in addition to the Government yacht and several tugs belonging to the merchants, there is a fleet of cutters continually going from Bathurst to McCarthy Island and to Yarbuteada, which is 250 miles from Bathurst. In the ground-nut season steamers drawing 16 to 12 feet can easily load their cargoes at McCarthy Island, which is 150 miles up the river.

POST OFFICE.

132. The revenue of the Post Office for the year was £2,731, as compared with £596 in 1904. This extraordinary increase can only be attributed to the new denominations of stamps issued, and to the change in the water mark of many of the dies.

133. The expenditure for the same period amounted to £808, as compared with £671 in 1904, due to an increase of £20 a year which the Colony has to pay for sea and territorial services and to amounts on account of 1904 having been paid in 1905.

134. The value of the money orders issued during the year was £1,453, as compared with £1,491 in 1904, while the value of money orders paid was £1,078, as compared with £293 in 1904. Since the establishment of a branch of the Bank of British West Africa at Bathurst, the number of money orders issued has shown a considerable decrease. This is due to the fact that the kola nut dealers, who do a large business with Sierra Leone, prefer to transact it through the bank, which charges a smaller rate of commission than they would have to pay on money orders. The fact, that, should the first bill of exchange go astray, he has the second bill of exchange in his possession, is also probably not without its importance with the trader.

135. The increase of the maximum from £10 to £40, for which a post office order can be obtained, came into force during the year.

136. The postal order system between the United Kingdom and the Colonies, which came into force during 1904, has been much appreciated by the public. The amount of the orders issued during 1905 was £833, as compared with £141 in 1904, and the amount of orders paid during the same period was £219, as compared with £8.

137. The total number of letters, post cards, &c., dealt with during the year was 91,678, as compared with 94,358 in 1904, a falling off of 2,680. The number of parcels dealt with was 1,554, as compared with 1,677 in the previous year.

138. During the year a branch post office was opened at McCarthy Island, and has been a great convenience to the people there.

TELEGRAPHS.

139. There is no inland telegraph in the Colony, but Bathurst is in communication with Europe, via St. Vincent (Cape Verde); and with the other West African Colonies by the cable of the African Direct Telegraph Company, which has received a subsidy of £500 a year since 1886 from the Colonial Government. The agreement under which the subsidy is paid expires in 1906.

TELEPHONES.

140. A Government telephone system exists, and all the principal departments are connected with it.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

141. The only purely military force in the Colony is a company of the West African Frontier Force, and consists of one captain (commanding), two lieutenants, two European non-commissioned officers, and 126 native non-commissioned officers and men, composed partly of men from Sierra Leone and partly from tribes neighbouring to the Gambia.

142. The company, like the police force already alluded to, is armed with the Martini-Enfield, and also has two 6-pounder Hotchkiss guns and a Maxim gun.

143. During the early part of the year the company was on escort duty with the Governor on his tour through the Protectorate. For the four months they were on the march the behaviour of the men was very satisfactory.

144. When the company is at headquarters about half of the men are allowed to have houses in the town, while the other half are in barracks. It has, however, been decided to erect lines

for the men at a cost of £1,728. The work has been commenced, and is likely to be completed in the first half of 1906.

145. A new rifle range, with all the latest improvements, was erected at Cape St. Mary, which is eight miles from Bathurst, during the year, at a cost of £220. The men usually camp there for three or four months of the year for their musketry course, &c.

146. The cost of the force for the year under review was £6,091.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

147. Early in the year the Governor made a tour in the Protectorate, which lasted over four months. All large towns were visited, and at the town of each chief a general meeting, which was attended by all the neighbouring headmen, was held. On these occasions the questions of education, vaccination, sanitation, &c. were discussed, and any grievances were inquired into; the latter, however, generally proved to be of a very minor character. His Excellency was accompanied by an escort consisting of the company of the West African Frontier Force stationed in the Colony. During the whole of the time they were absent from headquarters, the conduct of the men was very satisfactory.

148. During the year the work commenced in 1904 of replacing by masonry pillars the boundary marks fixed by the Anglo-French Commissioners of 1891, 1895, and 1899 was completed. About 248 pillars were fixed, and the expenditure incurred by the Colony in connection with it amounted to £1,800.

149. The only important works undertaken and completed within the year by the Public Works Department were the alterations to Government House and the Senior Medical Officer's quarters. A fine rifle range was also erected at Cape St. Mary for the use of the company of the West African Frontier Force.

150. Owing to the dilapidated condition of the Government wharf, which was built in 1893, Messrs. Coole, Son, & Matthews were requested to report on it. That firm recommended that the old portion of the wharf should be strengthened and extended beyond the sand bank which had formed. The work, which was commenced towards the close of the year, is expected to be completed during 1906. The estimated cost of it is £13,000.

151. The question of deepening Kai Hai Channel was also decided during the year. This channel, which is about 120 yards wide, is 140 miles from Bathurst. Formerly vessels drawing from 15 feet to 16 feet of water could pass through it, but

within recent years it has silted up to such an extent that only vessels of 12 feet draught can cross it at the top of high water. Various proposals were made for creating a greater scour in the channel, but nothing was actually done until Messrs. Coode, Son, & Matthews sent out an expert to report on the matter. The result of his report was that the firm recommended the dredging of the channel. The necessary parts of the dredger were sent out during the year, and the work of putting it together is proceeding and will be completed in sufficient time for work to be commenced towards the end of 1906. The estimated cost of the dredging plant is placed at £6,050, while the cost of clearing the channel is estimated at £11,882. This work when completed will result in shippers saving quite half a crown a ton freight on produce shipped from ports situated above Kai Hai.

152. During the year the medical superintendent of Messrs. Elder, Dempster, & Co. reported that while handling a consignment of hides from Bathurst a man at the Liverpool docks was infected with anthrax, and stated that he suspected the disease existed in this Colony. It was suggested that a veterinary surgeon should be sent out to report on this subject, as well as on the many diseases from which the horses and cattle suffer in this country. The suggestion was approved, and at the time of writing an officer of the Army Veterinary Department is in the Colony making his investigations.

153. Owing to various complaints received from the agent of the shipping companies that steamers were unnecessarily delayed at this port, a commission was appointed to enquire into the matter, and reported that the delay complained of was not, in their opinion, caused by the arrangements made by the Customs authorities. It suggested that the area of the Customs shed might be enclosed, and arrangements made for the better lighting of the wharf at night. These proposals have been approved, and will be carried out as soon as the work on the wharf has been completed.

154. A couple of years ago mention was made in a similar report as to the nature of sport to be obtained here. In view of the fact that in June last a couple of young sportsmen arrived in the Colony with the intention of going up country on a shooting expedition, it seems necessary again to impress upon travellers that the best months for shooting are from February to May. After May, the rains commence and the time of year is unhealthy, and all European officials and traders are withdrawn to headquarters. The above sportsmen, although warned, insisted on going up river; they soon afterwards returned to Bathurst with malarial fever, the only result of their expedition. One of them was invalided to England, while his more unfortunate companion proceeded further down the coast to join a native regiment to which he had been seconded.

155. While a fair amount of sport can be obtained, the Gambia is no place for sportsmen in search of big game. Small game, such as bush fowl, guinea fowl, quail, black and green pigeon, and sand grouse, are fairly plentiful. As to larger game, there are several kinds of deer, and bush cow and wild boar are to be found. Lions are sometimes to be met with, and there are a good many leopards; there are also hippopotami in the Upper River, and a wily crocodile is never far off. As there are no hotels in the Colony, and as it is very difficult at times to secure any decent accommodation for love or money, intending visitors to the Gambia should take care to arm themselves with letters of introduction to some resident at Bathurst.

156. Owing to the failure of the crops and to the poor quality of the ground-nuts it became necessary for the Government and merchants to issue to the natives during the year 450 tons of nuts for seed purposes. The Government also issued a large quantity of rice to help the natives through the rainy season, a period when their own foodstuffs are very scarce. But for this timely assistance, not only would the ground-nut crop for the present season have been more or less a failure, but there would have been a great deal of suffering and starvation among the people. At the time of writing I am able to say that the amounts paid for the rice and seed were refunded as soon as the people had reaped and sold their produce.

157. During the year Mr. H. C. Goddard, owing to his retirement from the Colony, resigned his seat on the Legislative Council, of which he had been a member for many years, and Mr. A. L. Bennett was appointed in his place. There were various temporary changes in the establishments owing to officers proceeding on leave, but these it is unnecessary to record here.

158. Notwithstanding the short crops and the low prices received for their produce, the condition of the people for the year under review may be said to have been satisfactory. For the coming year the prospects of the Colony are very hopeful.

H. M. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia.
6th June, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports 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.	Year.
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	"
465	Gold Coast	"
466	Barbados	1904-1905
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468	Somaliland Protectorate... ..	"
469	Trinidad and Tobago	"
470	Lagos	1904
471	Babamas	1904-1905
472	British Central Africa	"
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904-1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904-1905
478	Leeward Islands	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
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486	St. Helena... ..	"
487	Weihaiwei... ..	"
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles... ..	"
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon... ..	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. Do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

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