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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 321.

LAGOS.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, see No. 284.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
May 1901.



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1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, 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.
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	"
295	Malta	"
296	Fiji	"
297	Turks and Caicos Islands...	"
298	Bahamas	"
299	Sierra Leone	"
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues ...	"
303	Trinidad and Tobago	"
304	Straits Settlements...	"
305	Gibraltar	"
306	Gold Coast	"
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"
310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia	1899-1900
312	St. Vincent	1899
313	Basutoland	"
314	Hong Kong	1899-1900
315	Southern Nigeria	"
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899-1900
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.

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(For Report for 1898, see No. 284.)

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR G. C. DENTON to
MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Lagos.

18th August, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1899, together with a full report on it by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, Mr. F. B. Archer.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Lieutenant-Governor.

LAGOS,
1899.

BLUE BOOK REPORT, 18'9.

I.—GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The total revenue for 1899 was £192,792, as against an estimated revenue of £214,000, the revenue during 1898 being £206,441, which amount, however, it must be pointed out, includes the Parliamentary grant of £10,000 in aid of the telegraph construction in the Hinterland.

This deficit is due entirely to the falling off in the importation of spirits, which, no doubt, may be accounted for by the increase of the duty of 2s. to 3s. on the 13th of May.

2. The following table shows the heads of revenue for the year 1899 as compared with those for the preceding year.

Revenue.

Head.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	179,792	175,696	—	4,096
Harbour... ..	644	705	61	—
Licences	6,447	6,744	297	—
Fees, &c.	3,361	3,854	493	—
Postal Revenue	1,865	1,517	—	348
Rent of Government Property	424	463	39	—
Interest on Investments ...	2,125	2,177	52	—
Miscellaneous	485	1,229	744	—
Land Sales	296	402	106	—
Parliamentary Grant	10,000	—	—	10,000
&c., &c., &c.				
Totals	£206,444	£192,792	£1,792	£14,444

3. The revenue received during the past five years was :—

LAGOS.
1899.

Year.			Amount.
1895	...	...	£ 142,049
1896	...	...	179,745
1897	...	...	177,420
1898	...	...	206,444*
1899	...	...	192,792
Total			£898,450

* Which includes Parliamentary grant, £10,000.

4. The expenditure during 1899 was £223,289, or £19,487 more than that of the preceding year. The increased expenditure was in connection with the Hausa Force, Police Force, general transport, the Interior Department, interest on public debt, and the payment of no less than £4,824 as refund and rebate of Customs dues.

5. A comparative statement of the heads of expenditure during the years 1898 and 1899 is as follows :—

Department.	Expenditure in 1898 in Pounds Sterling.	Expenditure in 1899 in Pounds Sterling.	Increase in Pounds Sterling.	Decrease in Pounds Sterling.
Governor	£ 5,098 2 5	£ 5,094 12 8	£ 1 10 3	—
Colonial Secretariat	5,257 18 2	3,545 4 3	—	1,712 13 11
Queen's Advocate...	985 4 11	913 3 10	—	72 1 1
Treasury and Savings Bank	1,977 18 8	2,420 15 5	443 1 9	—
Customs	5,500 11 7	10,325 8 9	4,824 17 2	—
" Special	70 8 10	—	—	70 8 10
Audit Office	1,101 9 10	1,244 13 8	143 3 10	—
Post	1,808 15 0	1,763 17 9	—	42 17 3
" Special	138 18 2	—	—	138 18 2
Printing Office	992 1 4	897 4 3	—	94 17 1
" Special	327 11 1	—	—	327 11 1
Harbour Department	2,483 13 9	2,508 0 10	22 7 1	—
" Special	2,827 11 7	696 3 2	—	1,631 8 3

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Heads of Expenditure—cont.

Department.	Expenditure in 1898 in Pounds Sterling.	Expenditure in 1899 in Pounds Sterling.	Increase in Pounds Sterling.	Decrease in Pounds Sterling.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Government Vessels ...	8,281 2 1	8,276 14 10	45 12 9	—
" Special ...	8,246 18 7	2,554 17 8	—	872 1 4
Engineer's Department ...	5,476 11 7	4,181 12 4	—	1,294 19 8
" Special... ...	—	5 5 0	5 5 0	—
Supreme Court ...	6,849 9 9	7,431 14 9	582 5 0	—
Ecclesiastical ...	—	40 0 0	40 0 0	—
Charitable ...	229 6 5	290 17 9	61 11 4	—
Educational ...	2,878 19 10	3,361 9 6	987 9 8	—
Hausa Force ...	24,074 15 8	30,465 16 9	6,391 1 1	—
Police ...	10,862 11 7	14,639 7 11	3,776 16 4	—
" Special ...	111 16 5	1,034 5 4	922 8 11	—
Prisons ...	2,498 19 2	2,835 8 6	336 9 4	—
Medical ...	10,468 7 9	11,569 9 2	1,101 1 5	—
Botanical and Agricultural	831 9 5	599 18 10	—	231 10 7
Registrar General's Office	305 2 3	321 18 5	16 16 2	—
Transport ...	6,678 18 2	8,231 8 5	1,557 5 3	—
Interior Department ...	9,352 4 4	12,109 4 5	2,757 0 1	—
" " Special	—	655 17 10	655 17 10	—
Miscellaneous ...	5,273 13 2	5,437 13 1	163 19 11	—
Rent... ...	522 1 4	442 7 2	—	79 14 2
Pensions and Gratuities ...	3,171 12 11	3,425 11 11	253 19 0	—
Land and Survey Department.	1,433 18 4	997 6 7	—	441 11 9
Public Works Department	9,672 1 3	21,023 8 10	11,351 7 7	—
" " Recurrent	9,000 5 4	11,159 3 3	2,158 17 11	—
" " Expenditure.				
Public Works Extra-ordinary.	11,521 12 4	29,711 11 1	—	12,809 18 3
Works Chargeable to Surplus Balances.	595 10 3	5,103 13 10	4,508 3 7	—
Charge on Public Debt ...	5,964 15 7	13,567 16 8	7,603 1 1	—
Hinterland Telegraph ...	11,809 11 7	—	—	11,809 11 7
Woods and Forests ...	—	407 19 0	407 19 0	—
Total ...	203,802 15 5	223,289 1 0	51,119 8 4	31,633 2 9

TAXATION.

Lagos,
1899.

6. By Ordinance No. 3 of 1899 the duty on spirits, not being liqueurs or cordials, was increased from 2s. to 3s. the imperial gallon; but by Ordinance No. 8 of 1899, passed on the 26th December, all previous tariff Ordinances were repealed, and a duty of 3s. was imposed on all spirits and liqueurs, and also on all perfumes, medicated, miscellaneous spirits or strong waters, or any compound containing spirits mixed with any article which prevented the degree of strength being ascertained.

The duty on the following articles was also raised:—Tobacco (manufactured or unmanufactured), kerosine, sugar, salt, kola nuts, &c., &c.

Goods on which duty had been paid in Northern and Southern Nigeria were admitted without additional payment of customs dues provided that the duties that had been so paid were not at a less rate than the existing tariff of the Colony.

Dutiable goods from any part of the Colony or Protectorate for export to either Northern or Southern Nigeria were made liable to payment of the full duty, and no drawback was allowed in respect thereof.

7. The following statement of the duties received from the importation of kerosine into the Colony during the years 1898 and 1899 is here given as a matter of especial interest:—

Month.	1898.	1899.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January	17 16 5	47 14 1
February... ..	25 0 11	20 18 1
March	38 19 7	8 19 5
April	23 16 2	153 1 1
May	33 10 6	7 5 0
June	4 10 6	73 9 4
July	25 10 4	11 5 0
August	43 2 9	3 15 0
September	45 17 3	11 7 6
October	28 10 3	141 8 7
November	12 0 0	—
December	22 6 5	39 13 2
Total	£359 1 1	£518 16 3

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

8. At the close of the calendar year the assets exceeded the liabilities by £32,343. The financial year of the Colony has hitherto ended on the 31st December, but it has been decided to make it run in future concurrently with the financial year of Northern and Southern Nigeria, which ends on the 31st March.

PUBLIC DEBT.

9. Legislative authority has been provided to raise by loan the sum of £780,000 for the construction of the Railway and Bridges now approaching completion. The amount borrowed by the Colony before the end of the year, in the shape of advances in anticipation of the issue of this loan, amounted to £699,162, on which interest is being paid.

CURRENCY.

10. There has been no change in the currency. Cowries are still used in nearly all retail transactions in the native markets ; but ordinary silver coin is accepted in payment everywhere.

II.—TRADE.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

11. The trade of the Colony has shown a substantial increase during the year ; the value of all imported goods being estimated at £960,797, as against £892,863 in 1898. The bulk of the Colony's trade is with the United Kingdom and British Colonies, as the following comparative statement for the last five years will show :—

12. Statement showing total value of imports into the Colony of Lagos for last five years, exclusive of transit :—

Places.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	570,140	651,955	568,112	709,863	784,154
British Colonies	23,224	30,286	26,565	39,497	41,624
„ Possessions	970	1,567	3,096	5,435	6,363
Foreign Countries	177,510	197,889	160,743	138,069	128,656
Total... ..	771,844	881,697	758,516	892,864	960,797

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1899

13. The principal articles of import were :—

	1899.	1898.
	£	£
Beads	19,453	12,623
Bridge and railway materia ...	91,401	33,130
Building materials	25,232	22,621
Cotton goods	306,437	339,778
Habadashery	20,082	14,429
Hardware	17,872	18,314
Kola nuts	26,784	23,052
Provisions	8,983	10,539
Specie	160,325	148,820
Wines and spirits	75,976	80,078

14. The principal exports, which comprise palm oil, palm kernels, rubber and timber, were as follows :—

Year.	Palm oil.	Palm kernels.	Rubber.	Timber.
	£	£	£	£
1895	205,553	320,434	269,892	—
1896	159,150	343,206	347,721	275
1897	97,590	306,334	283,184	6,291
1898	97,337	362,539	285,409	12,944
1899	168,457	412,517	160,315	34,737

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1899.

15. The total exports for the past years were as follows :—

Year.					Amount.
1895	£ 985,595
1896	...	...	...	...	975,263
1897	...	...	...	...	810,974
1898	...	...	...	...	882,329
1899	...	...	...	...	915,934
Total...					4,570,095

16. The increase in the export of timber, from £275 in 1896 to £34,739 in 1899, is worthy of special notice.

The decrease in the export of rubber, from £347,721 in 1896 to £160,315 in 1899, is clearly due to the reckless and unskilful manner in which rubber was collected, which resulted in killing the majority of the trees.

The collecting of rubber has been prohibited for a period of two years, to give time to the trees that survived to recover themselves. Planting is also being encouraged.

It will be noticed that the export of palm oil varies largely in amount. The small exports of oil in 1897 and 1898 were probably to be attributed to the fact that large numbers of labourers were employed on the railway works. There are still districts in which the palm kernels are not collected, apparently for want of labour.

PUBLIC WORKS.

17. The principal works executed during 1899 were the erection of a new Public Works wharf, the heightening and filling of the Marina Embankment, enlarging of the kerosine magazine, and completion of a new mortuary.

A new grand stand at the racecourse was built, and the Lagos Club house was completed. A fine new European ward was added to the Colonial Hospital, and the extension of the telephone system on the Island was carried out.

During the year a light railway was constructed to the beach for the purpose of obtaining the necessary material for filling up the Kokomaiko Swamp.

The Glover Memorial Hall was thoroughly overhauled and remodelled. The new police barracks and the lunatic asylum were in course of construction.

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A prison at Epe was commenced.

A great feature during the last two years has been the establishment of the electric light. All principal streets throughout Lagos are now efficiently lighted by means of 250 candle-power glow lamps. The light is kept burning from sunset to sunrise. All the principal Government buildings are connected, and it is hoped before very long to make arrangements for installing it in the houses of the mercantile community and others.

The bridges connecting Lagos Island with the mainland at Ebute Metta will be completed early in 1900. When the length of the Carter Bridge is considered, and the difficulties in building it that have arisen, such as foundation and tideway, it will be seen that a great deal of work has been done.

The railway has been constructed as far as Abeokuta, and surveys to Ibadan, about 120 miles from Lagos Island, have been made. It is hoped that this town, the centre practically of all Yoruba Land, will in the near future be within easy access from head-quarters.

The streets of the Island during the year have received special attention; so have also matters sanitary. With regard to the streets, many were remodelled as to surface drainage; but there is still plenty to be done in this way, and it will be a matter of great expenditure.

The question of a tramway from the Carter Bridge along the Marina is being considered. Such a tramway would result in the re-formation of streets *en route*.

With regard to interior roads, that from the great Ejirin market, *viâ* Jebu Ode, to Ibadan, has been under construction. The road from Ikorodu to Shagamu is finished. The roadway from Otta to Ilaro is in course of formation on the Ilaro side, and assistance has been promised by the Alakè and Council of Abeokuta on the Abeokuta section. Many new roadways in the neighbourhood of Ibadan have already been formed, and many miles of road through the Ekiti country, eastward, are in course of construction.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

18. During the year 1898 little could be done in the direction of ascertaining whether minerals existed in the Hinterland of Lagos, owing to other important works that required attention, and to the fact that the Hinterland at this time was in an unsettled state. During 1899, however, some attention was given to prospecting, and various specimens were unearthed and transmitted to England for assays and report.

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Officers in the various outlying districts are now to be provided with geological instruments, and it is hoped that the prospects, which have hitherto been promising, may be more than realised.

19. The manufactures of the Colony are very limited and crude, and it will be some years before the country will, in the very smallest degree, be able to support itself from local resources. As to articles manufactured, full particulars can be gleaned from page 111 of the Blue Book of the current year.

20. As to fisheries, great quantities of fish are taken in the inland waters, and in fact the principal diet of the native community depends largely on the fish taken; but, oddly enough, the Lagos fishermen confine themselves entirely to the inland waters, and do not, as at other places on the West Coast, attempt sea fishing. The reason of this is no doubt to be found in the bad bar and the surf they would have to encounter. Large quantities of fish are dried and sent to the interior, and Lagos is noted for the exceedingly fine prawns to be obtained in the lagoon.

AGRICULTURE, &c.

21. Since 1887 a botanic station has existed at Ebute Metta, on the mainland to the north of Lagos Island, and this garden in the past has been useful in supplying plants (economic and otherwise) to the various districts of the Colony; a portion of the garden, however, has had to be handed over to the railway, and, beyond keeping the garden clear from weeds, and instructing four native lads that have been placed with him as pupils, the curator has little to do at present. It is hoped, however, at no distant date, to form a station up country, near the railway, and suitable land at a place called Oloke Meji has been well reported upon, and will be surveyed. This land has the railway running through it, and is bordered by a river. Should a botanic station there be decided upon, there is hope of giving full scope to the cultivation of economic plants, such as coffee, cocoa, etc. The plants can be distributed to the natives, who will also be able to receive instruction in their cultivation, and it is hoped that the encouragement thus given by the Government may be the means of the natives establishing numbers of small plantations on their own account.

The principal crops and staple foods throughout this country are maize, yams, cassava, plantain, groundnuts, fatima, and fruits, such as bananas, papayas, pineapples. To these must be added rice, cultivated in some districts. The cultivation of the rice is, however, much less extensive than the other crops, and quantities of land are now being reserved for the cultivation of these crops, and that of the rice.

22. A
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and Plantation Company, Limited, at Soto, in the Western District. In this neighbourhood coffee and cocoa thrive, but at present the marketable value is small. Attention, however, will in all probability be given in the future to the cultivation of rubber.

Another plantation some 20 miles up the railway at Otta is being worked by a Lagos firm, and there are great possibilities in the undertaking. In other parts of the Colony there are coffee and cocoa farms owned by natives, who not only understand planting, but are also becoming proficient in the preparation of the parchment.

23. An Agricultural and Forestry Department has been formed, with a suitable staff, and it is intended to establish model farms for the general cultivation of the country's products, where natives can receive instruction in planting. Forest reserves have also been proposed.

With regard to the Agricultural Department, six pupils are to be appointed, and they will receive instruction in agriculture, and a proper course of training in the cultivation of economic plants. By these means it is hoped to induce natives to turn their attention to other means of earning a livelihood than the gathering of kernels and rubber.

At the Roman Catholic Mission at Topo boys and girls receive an education in the usual subjects, as well as industrial instruction, comprising domestic economy for the girls, and agricultural tuition for the boys.

24. Concessions of timber lands are being granted to Europeans and natives, with exclusive timber-cutting rights, on the condition that certain payments are made to the native authorities, and young trees planted to take the place of those cut down.

In places where the native authorities are unwilling to protect the timber, trees continue to be felled recklessly, and no attempt is made at replanting. But it is hoped in time to overcome these difficulties and extend the protected areas.

LAND GRANTS. GENERAL LAND VALUATION.

25. The question of legislation with regard to these matters requires attention, and it is hoped that a proper basis will be arrived at at no distant date. The Government has alienated many plots of land on Lagos Island to applicants who were bound to reclaim and improve them properly, but in many cases this has been carried out very imperfectly, with great prejudice to the sanitary condition of Lagos Island.

MISCELLANEOUS.

26. During the year the roads entered at the port of Lagos numbered 300 with a mileage of 1,000, and the number of

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17,997; of this total 189 were foreign vessels, with a tonnage of 132,652, and crews numbering 5,884.

27. The number of steamers cleared from the port were 518, with a tonnage of 487,866, and crews of 18,574; of this number 203 only were foreign, with a tonnage of 138,211, and crews of 6,276. It will be seen that during the year 40 ships, of all nations, more than in 1898 have been cleared from the port.

28. The following is a comparative statement of shipping, both inwards and outwards, during the last five years:—

Inwards.

Year.	Number of vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1895	485	399,352	15,523
1896	406	403,574	15,087
1897	487	398,352	15,372
1898	479	410,104	15,631
1899	489	479,409	17,997

Outwards.

Year.	Number of vessels.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1895	499	396,337	15,596
1896	472	401,831	15,374
1897	493	402,176	15,301
1898	479	412,174	15,631
1899	518	487,866	18,574

29 It is worthy of note that the passenger service of recent years has gradually increased in efficiency, and the ships of the English line, the African Steam Ship Company and British and African Steam Ship Navigation Company, which formerly

did not average 2,000 tons, now range from 3,000 tons upwards, and are of a much better class than hitherto.

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There is a fast passenger service every 14 days, a weekly service by the intermediate boats carrying cargo and intermediate passengers, and a monthly service by a direct South Coast steamer.

The existing British tonnage of these ships alone exceeds 150,000.

30. The local branch service comprises 10 steamers, varying in tonnage from 450 to 1,000 tons.

They take cargo over the bar, and to and from Forcados river, where all the mail steamers discharge their cargoes in smooth water.

III.—LEGISLATION.

31. During the year nine ordinances were passed, in the following order:—(1) The Queen's Gardens and Glover Hall; (2) The Supplementary Appropriation; (3) Amendment of Customs Tariff, 1897; (4) The Quarantine; (5) Public Health; (6) Railway Amendment; (7) Alien Children; (8) Further Amendments to the Customs Tariff, and (9) The Supply Ordinance for necessary expenditure during the year 1900.

Nos. 2 and 9 were ordinary supply Ordinances; Nos. 3 and 8 Ordinances amending the Customs tariff and increasing the duties on spirits, firearms, tobacco, and other articles. The increase of duty on spirits had, in a measure, a prejudicial effect at first, owing to the lowness of the French tariff, but it is hoped that the duties in Dahomey will, at no distant date, be raised to the minimum contemplated by the Brussels Conference. Should this be done, there will be but little encouragement for illicit trade into Lagos from Dahomey. No. 4 was found necessary in view of cases of plague appearing on the coast, and to place the quarantine laws, which hitherto had been very lax, on a proper footing. No. 5 is an Ordinance which is much needed to meet the necessities of the advance of civilization in the Colony. No. 6 was passed to deal with crime on the railway area, and until the railway is handed over to the Government it takes the place of the usual railway byelaws. No. 7 is to provide for the proper care under mandate of alien children, of which there are numbers throughout the community.

In addition to these Ordinances six Orders in Council were passed; also three sets of rules under existing Ordinances and 11 proclamations, which are recorded on page 55 of the Blue Book.

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IV.—EDUCATION.

32. There is no marked improvement in education to report. The number of schools inspected was the same as in the preceding year, namely, 41. The number of infant, primary, secondary, and industrial departments is, however, 76; the distribution being 34 infant, 31 primary, 3 secondary, and 8 industrial.

33. The numbers on the registers of the schools are:—

Society.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Anglican	1,311	616	1,927
Wesleyan	485	212	697
Roman Catholic	472	358	830
United Native African	186	40	226
Government Moslem and Pagan	198	9	207
Hussey Charity	42	—	42
Totals	2,694	1,235	3,929

34. The numbers on an average in daily attendance are:—

Society.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Anglican	981·3	442·4	1,423·7
Wesleyan	385·4	159·1	544·5
Roman Catholic	330·9	294·4	625·3
United Native African	144·6	28·5	177·1
Government Moslem and Pagan	164·9	6·1	171
Hussey Charity	24	—	24
Totals	2,047·1	930·5	2,977·6

35. The total number on the registers for the preceding year is 3,943; there is thus a falling off of 14 children. With the exception of the Wesleyan schools, the assisted schools show a marked increase. It is in the case of the Moslem school in Lagos that there has been a considerable loss of numbers. The reason assigned is the distance of the new school from the homes of the children. This is unsatisfactory, as prior to the erection of the building every precaution was supposed to have been taken to ascertain from the leading Mohammedans their opinions as to the situation chosen. It is not easy to suggest a remedy for the difficulty, and yet the importance of providing for the Moslem section of the community a system of education on Western lines cannot be overrated.

36. The average attendance during the year has shown marked improvement. The proportion of the number of children on the registers present at school averages 75·7 per cent. This is the highest proportion on record. The improvement in the attendance is all on the part of the Christian section. The following is a tabulated return of attendance for the past years:—

—	1899.	1898.	1897.	1895.	1894.
Scholars on Register ...	3,929	3,943	3,543	3,276	3,308
Average attendance ...	2,974	2,910	2,589	2,427	2,458
Proportion (per cent.) of average attendance.	75·7	73·8	73·1	74	74·3

37. The total income and expenditure of the different societies are given below:—

Society.	Income.	Expenditure.	Excess.	
			Income over Expenditure.	Expenditure over Income
Anglican	£ 1,431 6 7½	£ 1,453 15 2½	—	£ 22 8 7½
Wesleyan	445 1 9½	721 5 9½	£ 273 16 0½	—
Roman Catholic	—	—	—	£ 200 17 9
United Native African	—	—	—	£ 34 4 8
Total	£ 1,876 7 7½	£ 2,174 19 2½	£ 297 11 2½	£ 254 19 0½

Lagos,
1893.

38. The above table does not include the expenditure of the Government Moslem and Pagan School, or the income and expenditure of the Hussey Charity Institute.

39. One special feature of the School results, for many years now, is their fluctuating character. There have always been ebbings and flowings, but it does not appear that this tidal motion on the whole is beneficial to progress. On the contrary, it only seems to reflect the uncertain quality of the work in the upper standards. In one year, with special effort and great energy, good work is done and good results are produced; in the next year the energy is spent, a reaction sets in, and the work is of indifferent quality. Only by the introduction of new forces into our educational machinery can we escape this non-progressive condition.

The secondary schools suffer like the primary schools from the lack of an adequate supply of suitable teachers, and their work has been much affected thereby.

40. The industrial instruction comprises domestic economy in the Roman Catholic girls' school, and agriculture at the boys' school of the same mission in Topo Station. The Hussey Charity Industrial Institution at Lagos also gives instruction to about 40 boys in carpentry, joinery, smithwork, and shoemaking, and to this institution the Government makes an annual grant of £500.

A Government technical school has been established in Lagos, at which five pupils now receive instruction in geometrical drawing, land surveying, and the art of building construction.

41. The total grants made to the infant, primary, secondary and industrial schools of the different societies are shown in the following table :—

Society.	Sub- Standards Departments.	Primary Standards Departments.	Industrial Subjects.	Secondary Subjects.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglican	206 15 0	402 4 6	—	84 16 0	642 15 6
Wesleyan	71 17 0	100 19 6	—	10 6 0	182 2 6
Roman Catholic ...	92 0 0	158 12 6	227 10 0	2 16 0	478 18 6
United Native African.	16 15 0	15 13 0	—	—	32 8 0
Total ...	386 7 0	675 9 6	227 10 0	47 18 0	1,337 4 6

The corresponding grants for the preceding year were £1,380 4s. 6d. There is thus a decrease of £43, which is in a large

measure due to a falling off in the quality of the work in many schools.

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42. Lagos is also a centre for the examinations for the degree of B.A. and LL.B. of the University of London, and for the certificate examination of the London College of Preceptors.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

43. During the year there have been rapid strides in the hospitals throughout the Colony. A large new ward for Europeans was added to the hospital, and I think it can be safely said that the Lagos Government Hospital is efficient in all details. A fine new hospital has been erected at Badagry, costing some £2,500, and a medical officer is specially stationed there to relieve sickness in the Western district. A new hospital building is to be erected at Ibadan; and at this station, as well as at Epe on the eastern portion of the Colony, medical officers are stationed.

There are also small hospitals at various places throughout the Hinterland, and a contagious disease hospital on Lagos Island.

44. The leper asylum north of Ebute Metta has now been opened, and the lunatic asylum situated on the mainland some few miles up the railway is nearing completion, and as soon as open will remove the difficulty at present existing in the Colony in dealing with insane persons.

No Poor House has yet been opened in the Colony. Neither is there a Reformatory, but destitute persons, properly recommended and brought to the notice of the Government, are maintained and cared for from public funds.

45. The Rebecca Hussey Charity, although not strictly a Government institution, receives a grant, mentioned under education. The institution maintains and educates alien children and instructs them in suitable trades, such as carpentry, smith-work &c.

In addition to the lads housed, there are numbers of day students.

SAVINGS BANK.

46. To show clearly the work done by the savings bank during the year I attach the following statement.

The number of deposits during the year has increased by 106, and the amount deposited by £545.

Name and situation of Bank.	No. of Depositors on 31st December 1898.	Amount of Deposits during the Year.	Amount of With-drawals during the Year.	Total Amount at credit of Depositors 31st December 1898.	Rate of interest allowed.	Amount of Invested Funds.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£
Treasury Savings Bank, Marina.	1,071	10,487 13 1½	9,842 8 11	16,553 13 1½	2½ per cent per annum.	14,350

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

THE LAGOS PRISON.

47. The Lagos prison of to-day is without doubt the finest in West Africa, and is built on the lines of a European jail. It has cell accommodation for 203 persons, and in addition there are two large rooms, which could, without inconvenience, hold about 40 more. These modern buildings date from 1885, and have been gradually improved until they have reached the satisfactory state in which they are at present.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

48. During the year 663 males, 34 females, and 1 juvenile were committed to prison.

The average daily number of prisoners was 164. The number of admissions to hospital was 125, with an average death-rate of

three per cent. The following is a statistical return of crime for the past four years:—

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Comparative Table of Convictions for Crime.

Year.	Male.	Female.	Juvenile.	Total.	Execution.
1895	503	4	Nil.	507	1
1896	470	25	7	502	—
1897	518	43	10	571	—
1898	481	14	11	506	1
1899	512	28	6	546	1

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

49. It is impossible to give even approximate figures regarding the population of the Colony, as there has been no census since 1891.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

50. During the last year or two the health of Europeans has been exceptionally good, but the native community have suffered greatly.

The number of cases treated at the Colonial Hospital during the year was 691, and the number of deaths from all causes in this institution 82. Of this number 10 were Europeans. The total deaths among Europeans during the year was 18.

The vaccination return for 1899 shows a great increase on the previous year. The natives, amongst whom small-pox is very prevalent, are beginning to understand the necessity of this preventive measure.

SANITATION.

51. The sanitary condition of the Island of Lagos has been considerably improved during the last few years. New latrines have been erected in several quarters of the town in the course of

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the year. There is, however, no underground drainage, and no water supply has yet been provided.

A medical officer of health, a sanitary engineer, and inspectors of nuisances are charged with sanitary matters affecting the town. Monthly reports are submitted by these officers to the Colonial Secretary.

CLIMATE.

52. The past year, though fairly healthy, has been unusually wet, the rainfall recorded at Lagos being 90·84 inches, nearly a score of inches above the average. The monthly fall was about the average, except that for August, during which no less than 22 inches of rain fell.

It is generally held that the climate of the hinterland is more healthy than that of the coast, but there are no meteorological records and no vital statistics from the inland stations. There is no doubt that the climate of Lagos, like that of most places on the West Coast of Africa, remains very unhealthy to Europeans in spite of all the advances that there have been in hygienic matters.

TEMPERATURE.

53. During the year the highest maximum temperature in the shade (at the town of Lagos) was 94°, against 90° in 1898; and the minimum 71·9°, as against 71·2°; the mean temperature for the year was 79·4°.

54. The prevailing wind is S.S.W.

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

55. There have been no important alterations during the year in the Postal Department of the Colony, but all the interior stations have now weekly mails to and fro.

56. The following comparative table will show the work done by the Postal Department during the year:—

Year.	No. of letters posted.	Total amount of money order transactions.	No. of parcels.
1898	58,178	£ 18,845 2 4	1,488
1899	68,669	22,558 1 1	1,812
Increase	10,491	£ 3,707 18 9	324

TELEGRAPHS.

57. The Government telegraph lines during the past year have worked well and with few interruptions. The rate for messages is a shilling for 24 words. During the year there have been no alterations in the cable rates to England, and few interruptions.

TELEPHONES.

58. The telephone system, which provides for communication between the various departments, has been during the year all that could be desired.

The Gower bell instruments have been superseded by the Hunningscone magneto type.

New offices in Broad Street have been erected, in which a telegraph and a branch post office are also now located.

The signal station at the beach has a direct line to the office of the Harbour Master, and is of great use for repeating communications to and from ships in the roads.

All district police stations in the different parts of the town are in direct telephonic communication with the central station in Tinubu Square by means of under-ground cables.

A new station at Lafaji has also been connected during the year.

IX.—MILITARY.

59. The strength of the force at the close of the year 1899 was 827; viz. :—

- 21 European Officers ;
- 5 Native Officers ;
- 790 N.C.O.'s and men ;
- 11 Non-Combatant Officers.

Detachments from the force are stationed in the principal towns throughout the Colony and Protectorate.

The force is armed with the Martini-Metford carbine.

60. A detachment of 350 Officers, N.C.O.'s and men took part in the expedition in South Borgu during the frontier trouble, and did good service.

61. The expenditure on the Hausa Force during the year increased from £24,074 in 1898 to £30,465 16s. 9d., due to the recruiting that took place during the year. It is understood that at no distant date the amalgamation of the Colonial Forces of West Africa under one head will take place.

POLICE FORCE.

62. The Lagos Police Force was created a separate department in January 1896, up to which time it formed one of the two divisions of the Lagos Constabulary. It is a semi-military force and

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efficiently armed. It has a trained detective branch. The men are principally Yorubas, and have in the course of the year done good work.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

63. The year 1899 was notable for steady progress throughout Lagos and the protected areas.

64. The cessation of the hinterland troubles, and the busy time then experienced, tended to give an air of quietude to the interior, which is generally settling down and accepting civilization peaceably.

65. During the first portion of the year Captain (now Sir George) Denton was Acting Governor, and one of the first undertakings which he carried to a successful issue was to set at rest the minds of the Egba people, who were much disturbed at the advancement of the railway works, as to the ultimate arrangements that would be arrived at between the Alake in Council and the Government of Lagos.

The railway was to pass through a portion of the Egba territory on its way to Ibadan, and it was necessary to acquire land for this purpose. After a little misunderstanding satisfactory arrangements were arrived at, by which the Egba authorities conceded to the Lagos Government the rights over the territory through which the railway would pass, to the extent of 100 yards on either side. It was necessary that this area should be definitely decided upon, owing to the large number of people that would be employed, and the valuable rolling stock that would be in transit.

The Egbas, it can be recorded with satisfaction, have adhered to their agreement, and give assistance in every way to the Railway Commissioner who has been stationed at Aro for the purpose of protecting British interests.

66. The railway has made rapid progress. It now reaches some miles beyond Abeokuta, and complete surveys and clearings have been made so far as Ibadan, where the terminus is to be situated.

67. Since the settlement of the Anglo-French complications on the Northern Frontier the country throughout has been quiet, and is now in a settled state. This in itself should have a satisfactory bearing on trade, which it is hoped will considerably increase as soon as the railway is opened to Ibadan.

68. Vigorous action is being taken to suppress the ruthless tapping of the rubber trees, and every assistance is being given to the people with regard to planting. By these means there are possibilities in the future of reviving this industry.

69. During the year several timber-cutting rights have been granted to merchants, and the export of timber has increased by leaps and bounds; but it is to be feared that this output of timber cannot continue for any great period.

70. As far as palm oil and kernels are concerned, there is no doubt that the labour available is inadequate to cope with the great natural supply; but, again, it is anticipated that the railway will here assist in saving the time of labourers, which hitherto has been utilized in bringing produce to head-quarters.

These exports, therefore, in the near future should gradually increase, as the native must grasp the fact that the greater the produce sent down for export the greater the profits must be, and time then will begin to be considered where it is at present ignored.

71. Whilst on the topic of produce it is well to record the check that has been given to adulteration of palm kernels, which had increased to an alarming extent. The Government by active measures and by the appointment of inspectors to supervise shipments have greatly benefited the trade, and adulteration of produce is now reduced to a minimum.

72. Early in the year the news arrived that the Governor, Sir Henry McCallum, owing to ill-health, would not return.

73. It had long been intended to reclaim that portion of swamp land which lies to the S.E. of Government House, and is known as the Kokomaiko Swamp. A commencement was made in the latter half of the year, using a small number of mules for the traction required. These animals were not a success. Human labour only was then used, but a locomotive with the necessary trucks was ordered from England with the intention of pushing on this important work vigorously.

74. The Public Works undertaken during the year were numerous, but these have been dealt with fully under a special heading. Among the most important of them were increasing the height of the Marina Embankment wall, and building a fine additional European ward to the hospital.

75. In February a new Government Moslem School was opened. The school was the outcome of representations made by the Government to the Mohammedans, and the acceptance of the school points to the removal, in a great measure, of the antipathy of this section of the community to education on Western lines and innovations of any sort, more

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though for a religious than any other reason. The school was opened with great éclat, but the attendance of children has not been as satisfactory as could have been desired.

76. Every encouragement and assistance has been given during the year to the native markets, which in many places are in a flourishing condition, and rules for their proper management have been framed.

77. A proposal had been made to establish in Lagos a quit-rent system of land tenure. The decision not to proceed with this was early in the year received by the natives with much satisfaction. The old system was then temporarily reverted to, under which an applicant undertakes to reclaim a specified block of land within a specified period, in consideration of receiving a Crown grant for the land when the reclamation has been satisfactorily completed.

78. In the educational branch lads are now receiving tuition in technical and survey subjects, the Government having appointed a special instructor.

79. During the year Lagos received a brief visit from a medical officer specially sent out by the School of Tropical Diseases, Liverpool, for the investigation of malaria, and the last few months have confirmed the belief that malarial fever is the outcome of infection introduced by the bite of a special class of mosquito. This in a measure is something towards the solution of the great question of the unhealthiness of the West Coast of Africa, which is anxiously awaited by a large section of the civilized world.

80. In the districts of the Colony, Badagry, Ikorodu, and Epe, everything has been satisfactory. Disagreements among the community have been few and far between. An additional Travelling Commissioner, stationed at Ilesha, in the Ekiti country, on the North Eastern frontier, has been appointed to settle all matters in the neighbourhood, and to be to Northern Nigeria what the Travelling Commissioner of Igbo-Bini is to Southern Nigeria, keeping the boundaries as far as possible free from strife.

81. During the year a Preventive Service has been inaugurated on the Western Frontier for the prevention of smuggling from Dahomey, with head-quarters at Meko. The Government is therefore fully represented on all sides of the Colony and Hinterland.

82. A boon to persons travelling to the various stations bordering on the Lagoon, and to Porto Novo, has been the introduction of a mail launch service at reasonable rates. Launches leave Lagos for the Western District and Porto Novo each Monday morning, returning the next day.

83. A Commission was appointed during the year to consider the feasibility of constructing a sea-pier on screw piles on the eastern side of the Lagos bar, for the shipping and landing of cargo. The estimated cost of the undertaking, including breakwaters, was a quarter of a million sterling. But this is by many considered a low figure. There is no doubt that, if such an undertaking could be carried out, it would be of great importance to Lagos. For instance, the bar during a portion of the year was very bad, and during July, the worst month of the year, the branch steamer "Kwawa" stranded, and her cargo had to be jettisoned.

84. The railway bridges are all but completed, and the question of the approach from the Lagos side is now receiving attention. This will be an expensive item, as there is a great quantity of property to be acquired.

85. Early in the month of May the new Governor of the Colony, Sir William MacGregor, arrived. The question of improved sanitation and a water supply at once occupied his attention. The original scheme for obtaining water from Ikoyi, unfortunately, has so far failed, and it is difficult to see what can be done in a place situated as Lagos is to ensure an adequate and continual supply of water without very great expenditure. A test well is, however, being sunk on that portion of the Race-course immediately behind the Government House, but it is feared that even this will not produce satisfactory results. Lagos itself is practically nothing more than a sandbank, and there appears to be little left to hope for except that before many years are past it may be found possible to remove the Government to an inland position, where proper sanitary conditions may be instituted.

86. The rates of labour during the year have shown little or no change, the daily wage in the town of Lagos for ordinary labour being 9d.; but carriers who are required to proceed into the interior, or men engaged as labourers at out-stations in the Colony, receive 1s., the additional 3d. being for subsistence. Headmen receive 1s. 8d.

To obtain carriers to go out of the Colony is most difficult. Recently, to quote an instance, as much as 2s. a day was offered, with head money of 5s., and yet very few carriers were prevailed upon to go to the Gold Coast.

A few labourers are, however, under proper agreement, now going for service on the Gold Coast Railway works, as they are no longer required in any great numbers on the Lagos Railway; but tact has to be used in persuading them. The fact is the Lagosian does not like foreign service. Of recent years skilled labour has been difficult to obtain, even for local purposes. Foreign recruiting to the Congo and Fernando Po has been stopped.

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The daily wages paid at the present time within the Colony for skilled labour are as follows :—

Coopers	...	...	...	5s. and upwards.
Painters	...	...	...	2s. "
Tailors	...	...	...	2s. "
Shoemakers	...	...	...	2s. "
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	2s. 6d. "
Printers	...	...	...	2s. "
Carpenters	...	...	...	1s. 6d. "
Masons	...	...	...	1s. 6d. "

87. The general expenses of living, from a European's point of view, have greatly increased of recent years. The average servant cannot be obtained under 30s. a month, and in many instances £3 and £4 is given. It will be understood, therefore, especially in cases in which officials have their wives with them, that the item "servants" is a big one. Cooks in 1894 received an average salary of 30s. ; to-day they command £2 10s. to £4.

With regard to the question whether there is an opening for European labour, at present there is none, but when the possibilities of the country with regard to mineral wealth, &c., &c., have been ascertained, there may then, no doubt, be some scope for it. At present Europeans should be strongly advised against coming out on the off-chance of employment, as they only become a burden to themselves and the Colony generally.

The future of Lagos, taking all things into consideration, is a bright one, and the close of the year 1900 should see a substantial increase in the revenue, and in trade generally.

F. BISSET ARCHER,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.