

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1114.

NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1098.)



LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE, at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.2, and
28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W.1 ;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER ;
1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF ;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH ;
or from EASON & SON, LTD., 40-41, LOWER SACKVILLE STREET, DUBLIN.

1922.

Price 9d. Net.

No. 1114.

NIGERIA.**ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1921.****1. GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.**

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. A small portion of the Cameroons (31,150 square miles) has, for purposes of administration, been placed under the Nigerian Government. It is proposed that it shall be administered by Nigeria under a mandate which will be granted to Great Britain.

2. The area of Nigeria is approximately 335,700 square miles and it is thus larger than any British Dependency other than Tanganyika, India and the self-Governing Dominions. It is nearly three times the size of the United Kingdom. Along the entire coast-line runs a belt, from 10 to 60 miles in width, of dense mangrove forest and swamp, intersected by the branches of the Niger delta, and other rivers, which are connected one with another by innumerable creeks, the whole constituting a continuous inland waterway from beyond the western boundary of Nigeria almost to the Cameroons. Behind this belt lie dense tropical forests, rich in oil-palm trees and valuable mahoganies. Farther inland the forests become thinner and are succeeded by open ground covered with long grass and occasional clumps of trees. In the extreme north, where there is a very small rainfall and little vegetation, the desert is steadily encroaching. There are few mountains in the southern portion of Nigeria except along the eastern boundary, but north and east of the junction of the rivers Niger and Benue there is a large plateau from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers, as far as Jebba and Yola respectively, there are a number of important rivers of which the Cross River is the largest. Except for Lake Chad, on the extreme north-east frontier, there are no large lakes.

3. The population of Nigeria is approximately 16½ millions, which is larger than that of any British Dependency except India. There are about 3,000 Europeans temporarily resident in Nigeria, chiefly in the employ of the Government, and of mercantile and mining companies. The country is not suited for European settlement. Of the native inhabitants the greater number are of pure negro race, but in the north there are Berber and negroid

tribes. Of the former the Yorubas, Ibos and Benis are the most important, and of the latter the Fulani, the Kanuri and the Hausa-speaking tribes, generally called Hausas. The Yoruba occupy the south-west corner of Nigeria and from an early date possessed an organised government. The Benis are now a comparatively small tribe, but Benin was formerly a very powerful kingdom and its influence extended over a considerable area. The Ibos are a large unorganised tribe who occupy most of the land east of the lower Niger. The Kanuri occupy Bornu, in the north-east of Nigeria, a kingdom which has survived for many centuries in spite of great vicissitudes. It was known to the Portuguese as early as the 15th century. The Hausas occupy the greater portion of northern Nigeria and from an early date had attained to a fairly high level of civilisation. At the beginning of the 19th century the Hausa States were conquered by the Fulani, a nomad people who had settled in the towns and country of Hausaland and who, by their superior intelligence, had acquired great power and influence. The existing Hausa system of law and administration based on the Koran was retained, but Fulani dynasties were established in the various states.

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

5. By the exertions of Mungo Park (1796-1805), Captain Clapperton (1822-26), Richard Lander (1826-30), Doctor Barth (1850-55) and numerous other explorers, most of whom lost their lives in the country, the course of the Niger and the existence of the Fulani kingdoms in the interior had become known, and, after many failures, a successful trade was established along the banks of the Rivers Niger and Benue. In 1879 the various British firms trading on these rivers were amalgamated, and in 1887 a Charter was granted to the amalgamated companies, which became known as the Royal Niger Company, Chartered & Limited. By this Charter the Company became responsible for the government of the river basins and the whole of Hausaland and Bornu, but, in practice, their influence extended little beyond the banks of the rivers.

6. The Berlin Conference of 1885 had recognised the British claim to a protectorate over Nigeria, and the remainder of the country was made into a separate administration under Foreign Office control and became known as the Oil Rivers and later as the Niger Coast Protectorate,

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

8. In 1898 an Imperial Force, recruited locally but with British officers, was raised by Sir Frederick Lugard, and was later taken over by the Colonial Government. This force was named the West African Frontier Force and the armed constabularies of the other West African Colonies and Protectorates were modelled on it. Soon after the establishment of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate, these troops were used to subdue the Muhammadan rulers of the Hausa states and Bornu who had persistently ignored the British requests for the cessation of slave-raiding and whose attitude was one of open hostility to an administration of whose power they had had no proof. As each in turn was conquered a new ruler was appointed who undertook to govern his country according to local law and tradition, but without slave-raiding and the extortion and inhuman cruelties which had marked the former régime. British Residents were stationed throughout the country and exercised a wholesome check on any tendency to relapse.

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

10. While the remainder of the country was being opened up the hinterland of Lagos was being added by cession to the territories originally ceded by the King of Lagos in 1861. In 1866 Lagos had

been included in the West African Settlements and in 1874 it was united with the Gold Coast Colony. It became the separate Colony and Protectorate of Lagos in 1886.

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

12. On the outbreak of war in 1914 the Nigeria Regiment (of the West African Frontier Force) took part in the campaign which resulted in the conquest of the neighbouring German Colony of the Cameroons, and a strong contingent of the Regiment also fought in the East African campaign. The loyalty of the chiefs and people of Nigeria throughout the War was very marked, and even the entry of Turkey into the War did not affect the loyalty of the Muhammadan rulers. There was, however, a somewhat serious rising in Egbaland in 1918 which was quickly subdued.

II. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

13. The main political divisions of Nigeria are the Colony of Nigeria, and two groups of Provinces, known as the Northern and Southern Provinces, which together form the Protectorate. The whole country is under the control of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Lieutenant-Governors of the Northern and Southern Provinces and the Administrator of the Colony are responsible. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of a few of the senior officials. There is also a larger advisory and deliberative Nigerian Council composed of official and unofficial members, all of whom, with the exception of three representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Mines, are nominated by the Governor. There is a Legislative Council, the powers of which are confined to the Colony, laws affecting the Protectorate being enacted by the Governor. The members of the Legislative Council are nominated by the Governor and there is an official majority. The reorganisation of this Council is now under consideration, and it is probable that, in its new form, it will include a certain number of elected members.

14. The Protectorate is divided into 23 provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident. In the Northern Provinces and the western portions of the Southern Provinces, where there are chiefs of sufficient influence and ability, native administrations have been recognised and supported by Government, the details of administration being left almost entirely in the hands of the paramount chief and his officials. In other parts, however, where there is no strong native authority capable of governing, the rule of the political officers is a more direct one, but even in such districts a native judiciary with powers limited in proportion to its ability and integrity is made use of with results that are increasingly satisfactory.

15. In the Muhammadan States the year under review has been marked by appreciable progress towards administrative ideals. The increase in the Political Staff, so welcome after the lean years of the War, cannot be expected to have its full effect until the newly appointed officers have emerged from the stage of political infancy, a period which may be said to correspond to at least the first three years of a Political Officer's service. True political insight is not acquired in a day and sometimes not at all, but it is a truism that without it no officer is able to cope successfully with the delicate problems inseparable from the proper administration of Native States.

16. The Native Courts under the close supervision of the Political Staff continue to deal with the great mass of litigation with an ever increasing efficiency. Unshackled by cumbersome procedure and technicalities the Provincial Courts have acquired a reputation for getting at the truth in criminal cases.

17. In the Yoruba Provinces and that of Benin the principle of rule through Native Administrations has been strengthened and extended. It has been found that the system has led in the Yoruba countries to an increase in the interest taken by the Chiefs and the people as a whole in the advancement of their country. By the provision of adequate salaries for the principal Chiefs it has also done something towards checking extortion. The worst feature of the system is the unseemly scramble which occurs from time to time amongst all possible and many impossible aspirants to office whenever a vacancy occurs amongst the better-paid posts.

18. With a few exceptions, generally to be found amongst the head Chiefs of existing Native Administrations, the main political difficulty throughout the Southern Provinces lies in the weakness of the authority of the Native Chiefs. To the East of the Niger, and in other districts where there are no Native Administrations, the Native Courts are not only judicial bodies but serve also as a medium through which the executive orders of the Government are issued.

19. Most of the reports from the Provinces mention the increased efficiency in administration due to the fact that the Political Staff is now up to strength. The effect is particularly noticeable in connection with the Native Courts, where increased supervision has done much to remedy the complaints as to the ideas of justice obtaining amongst the native judges. Appeals are, however, still numerous, but often they are without foundation, and are made in the hope that the higher authority may take a different view of the facts. An increasing number of people spend their time in litigation and in carrying the most trivial complaints to the District Officer and Resident, and failing them to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor, with the assistance of the ubiquitous letter-writer.

20. In connection with the Pagan or non-Muslim communities of the Northern Provinces it is satisfactory to record a decided

change in their attitude towards the Administration. This can reasonably be ascribed to the proper appreciation by Political Officers of the supreme importance of something more than a superficial knowledge of the customs language, organisation and affinities of the various peoples with whom they come in contact. It is the ideas at the back of their shibboleths such as Ju-ju, Fetish, human sacrifice and sasswood poisoning which are important, and a study of them, however revolting in origin they may be, will often provide the clue to the successful administration of a tribe. The paramount authority is often, in its essence, religious, and it is the aim of Political Officers to study this authority and deal with pagans only through the man or men whom they recognise as influential. By these methods the young men become accustomed to responsibility, their interest is extended in support of the Administration, and development of a civic sense is initiated. It has been the policy to discover the existing machinery of administration and to utilise it.

21. In Lagos the dispute between the rival factions of the Muhammadans has not yet reached a settlement, but attempts to effect a reconciliation have not been abandoned. A considerable amount of political capital was made out of the arrival of the White Cap Chief Oluwa on the conclusion of his successful appeal to the Privy Council. Towards the end of the year, however, it was becoming evident that less credence was being attached to the misleading promises made by those whose position and prestige are based on misrepresentations of the Government's motives in this and other questions.

22. The census was taken throughout Nigeria during the year, and with the exception of a few sporadic outbursts of discontent with a measure which was generally disliked there was very little trouble. The complete figures are not yet available.

23. The visit of the Emir of Katsina, one of the most progressive and enlightened Muhammadan Emirs, to England, *en route* to Mecca, can have nothing but a beneficial effect politically. Besides being accorded the honour of an audience with His Majesty the King, who personally bestowed on him the King's Medal for Native Chiefs, opportunity was found to give the Emir an insight into the social, public and commercial life of England. It is understood that what impressed the Emir more than anything was the contrast between the order and regularity of Western ways as compared with the more picturesque but less efficient methods of the East with which he became acquainted later.

24. The Sultan of Sokoto has been made an Honorary Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and nine other chiefs have received the King's Medal.

25. The proportion of crimes of violence which are detected is greater than it was. Cannibalism still occurs and is probably more common than is realised, and during the year at Awka a case

of human sacrifice was brought to the notice of the police. The culprits, who were caught almost *flagrante delicto*, were brought to justice, and the "juju" tree which was the scene of the murders connected with the fetish in question was destroyed. Most Residents note a considerable increase in stealing. Cases of slave dealing are still to be found amongst the tribes to the east of the Niger, and the status of slavery is yet recognised and bears a stigma. Every effort has been made to stamp out the traffic in slaves which breaks out sporadically between Nigeria and the Cameroons; statistics show that the steps taken are meeting with success, and the final settlement of the boundary between the British and French spheres of occupation will go very far to facilitate these efforts.

26. Native marriage customs are, it is generally agreed, being rapidly undermined. Chastity in marriage is little regarded. As a rule, if a woman bears a child, the man who has paid dowry for her cares little who the father may be, and he does not wish to divorce a woman who may still bear children. Women are often attracted away by younger men and to an increasing degree by the fine clothes and idle life which they can enjoy in the larger centres.

27. The supply of labour for public services is generally adequate so far as numbers go, but is inefficient and expensive. Labourers as a rule dislike going far from their homes or leaving them for more than a limited period. It is only fair to add, however, that the construction of the Eastern railway has been made possible only by the generous and regular supply of labour supplied by the chiefs of the Ogoja and Onitsha Provinces.

28. On the recommendation of the Director of Agriculture drawings of various water-lifting appliances have been obtained from Egypt, from which it is proposed to have full-sized models made in the industrial schools. Experiments will then be carried out in Bornu and if successful there these appliances will be generally used for irrigation purposes.

29. As a result of a report by the Imperial Institute on samples of salt and potash from Bornu Province experimental soap-making has been started in several Provinces as a prison industry with any oils obtainable locally. In the Muri Province the experiment has proved most successful, the best soap being made from a mixture of four parts ash water obtained from a common grass, two parts potash water, and two parts of oil made from palm kernels.

30. The general health of the Colony and Protectorate has, throughout the year, been good, with the exception of an outbreak of cerebro-spinal meningitis in the Sokoto and Kontagora Provinces. This outbreak, starting towards the end of 1920, reached its maximum about April and gradually died down as the rains set in. The extent of country affected was in area about

equal to that of Scotland, and the case mortality was high. The customary sporadic outbreaks of small-pox were reported from time to time but the disease did not attain epidemic proportions.

III. GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

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

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1916	2,943,184	3,609,638
1917	3,492,738	3,219,958
1918	4,014,190	3,459,774
1919	4,959,429	4,529,176
1920	6,819,274	6,493,523

The revenue and expenditure for the period January to March, 1921, amounted respectively to £1,566,748 and £1,674,353. The Nigerian financial year will no longer be identical with the calendar year, and the next annual accounts will be issued in respect of the year April, 1921, to March, 1922. The latest available figures are for the seven months April to October, 1921. The revenue and expenditure for these months were £2,548,390 and £4,790,502 respectively, and it will be observed that if the revenue for the next five months is in proportion, the total for the financial year will be nearly two and a half million sterling less than the revenue for 1920. The expenditure for 1916 and following years includes large sums advanced to finance Loan Works pending the issue of a loan.

32. Separate accounts are kept by the Native Administrations, which receive a proportion, normally 50 per cent., of the sums collected by direct taxation. The total revenue of these Administrations in 1920 exceeded £700,000, and large sums were invested during 1921 in the Nigerian loan and otherwise.

33. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of the year 1920 of £3,296,789, but the most of this surplus will have disappeared by the end of the current financial year. The Public Debt at the same date amounted to £10,245,593 and the Sinking Fund to £557,381. In October, 1921, the Public Debt was increased by £3,000,000, a 6 per cent. loan being issued at 97 for this amount. The stock (inscribed) is redeemable in 25 years, but the Government has the option of redeeming in or after 15 years.

34. In August the Customs Import Tariff was revised and the duties on spirits, tobacco, and a few other articles were raised. In the case of spirits the increase amounted to 10s. a gallon, the duty now being 25s. a gallon of 50° Tralles.

35. During the year, United Kingdom and British West Africa silver coin to the value of £1,763,700 was withdrawn from circulation and shipped to the United Kingdom. A large number of currency notes was also withdrawn from circulation.

IV. ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

36. *Trade*.—The value of the trade of Nigeria during the year 1921 was as follows:—

Imports	£ 10,550,287
Exports	9,655,915
	<hr/>
	£20,206,202

The value of the transit trade (i.e., goods passing through the inland waters of Nigeria to and from Dahomey and the Cameroons) was £149,297.

37. As compared with 1920, the value of the import trade has decreased by £14,666,221. Commercial imports, excluding parcels by post, show a decrease of £10,428,398. Imports of Specie decreased by £3,924,430. These figures point to a severe depression, but the comparison is with an exceptionally good year, when abnormally high prices were obtained for goods subject to *ad valorem* duty. The bulk of the trade is with the United Kingdom, which in 1920 supplied 81 per cent. of the imports; in 1921 this was 80 per cent. Imports from the United States of America fell from 11 per cent. in 1920 to 7·66 per cent., due to the adverse rate of exchange. The imports from Germany increased from £39,296 to £134,573, or 1·27 per cent. of the commercial imports and consist chiefly of hardware, cutlery, beads, cement and copper manufactures.

38. Prices ruling for produce during 1921 were low, in consequence of which there was little inducement for the natives to gather the crops. Nevertheless, export duties yielded £606,000 and compare favourably with the previous year's revenue from this source. The revenue derived from imports fell to the comparatively small sum of £1,037,642, the decrease being due to the slump in goods subject to *ad valorem* duty.

39. *Agriculture*.—The quantity of cocoa exported during 1921 was very little less than that during 1920. This was partly due to the fact that the exports in the calendar year include parts of two buying seasons, but still it does not appear that the present season will compare very badly with the last. The quality of the cocoa brought in to the buying centres, which was very low in the previous season, improved distinctly in 1921. There has been a

considerable quantity of fully fermented cocoa offered for sale, and very large quantities which have been partially fermented. In fact, in the present season the inferior samples appear to have been damaged more through being bagged and transported while still far from dry than through lack of fermentation.

40. For several years the Agricultural Department has made great efforts to induce growers properly to ferment and thoroughly to dry their cocoa. Only a partial success has been attained, owing partly to the difficulty which the individual small producer has in carrying out the instructions, but more to the difficulty of obtaining for him an adequate premium for a superior sample. This year superior cocoa has fetched a premium of some 10 per cent. But there is no doubt that many growers have received nothing in return for the trouble of producing a superior sample. It appears that possibilities of improvements on individualistic lines have been fairly thoroughly exploited with little success hitherto. Further progress appears to depend on an improvement in the conditions under which the cocoa is purchased; or possibly by organised fermenting, drying, and sale, through small central fermentaries managed on co-operative, or partially co-operative, lines with official assistance. There might appear to be an opening for commercial enterprise in the same way; but no such attempt has ever been made.

41. The amount of cotton purchased and exported in the season of 1920-1921 constituted a record: the total amount was 29,000 bales (of 400 lb.), of which amount 5,500 bales consisted of the exotic American cotton. For the export season of 1922 there is every prospect of a record export of this exotic cotton from the Northern area; but the prospects for the Native cotton crop of the Southern Provinces are very poor. To some extent these facts are no doubt connected with transient conditions, the heavy exotic crop in Northern Nigeria being due to the high prices paid during the last season, and the poor crop in the Southern parts to adverse climatic conditions. But, none the less, these facts probably indicate the future course of events in regard to cotton production in Nigeria. The improved cotton of the Northern area is of very good quality, distinctly superior to the bulk of the American crop; and the price of a superior cotton like this is never likely to depreciate to such a relatively great extent as that of the low grade Native cotton of the Southern area. The low yield per acre is undoubtedly heavily against the progress of cotton in any part of Nigeria; but the American cotton has found a definite place in the agriculture of considerable areas of Northern Nigeria, and it is safe now to predict steady progress proportional to the increase of transport facilities, the spread of the activities of the Agricultural Department, and general progress of the country on modern economic lines. In Southern Nigeria, however, the trade has a distinctly less sure foundation. The climatic conditions ordinarily cannot be regarded as favourable to the production of a

high grade of cotton in Southern Nigeria, whilst the recurrence of such seasons as that of 1921 is very detrimental to the progress of this crop. Attempts to introduce an exotic cotton in the Southern Provinces have not yet met with any substantial success.

42. In the case of groundnuts, the quantities exported in 1920 and 1921 are approximately the same, but a considerable portion belonging to the 1920 crop was brought over to 1921. The fall in the price offered for groundnuts for export during 1921 no doubt affected the quantity brought in for sale, but a large proportion of the crop is used for consumption in the country, and it is quite incorrect to suppose that the producer relies entirely on the export market for the sale of this crop.

43. Excepting for the small production of Para rubber on the few estates owned by the European firms, rubber has ceased to be a staple product in this country. The bulk of the rubber previously exported from Nigeria was extracted from planted "Funtumia" trees, or from wild trees of this and similar species. The low prices of 1921 quite prohibited the production of rubber at a profit except by well-organized concerns tapping Para rubber trees.

44. The attempt by the Agricultural Department to introduce and foster the growth of Virginian tobacco suitable for export continues to meet with an encouraging success. In 1921 about 5,000 lb. of such tobacco grown and cured by small farmers were sold at very satisfactory prices at the sale organized by the Department; and after being graded and fermented by the Department were duly exported by the buyer. The prospects for the season 1921-22 are encouraging; but this industry must still be regarded as in the first experimental stage.

45. The minor products introduced or fostered by the Agricultural Department such as kolas, improved wheat and rice, fruits, trees, and English poultry have all continued to make steady progress.

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

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

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

V INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

48. *Forestry.*—The selection system of exploiting the Forests is still in vogue; the control of the fellings being exercised by fixing a minimum girth limit. The mahogany timber industry has been quite brisk and shows no signs of dying out. Applications for timber licences have been as numerous as ever, and there is also a certain amount of keenness shown towards exploiting secondary woods. There has been no great increase in the area planted during the year. The Teak, Casuarina and Opepe Plantations have done well, and demands for poles of the two former species for house building purposes are still greater than the supply. The area of Forest Reserves in the Northern Provinces has been increased substantially, but, on the other hand, little progress can be reported under the same heading from the Southern Provinces. Samples of various species of the commoner grasses from Nigeria were forwarded to the Imperial Institute for report on their suitability for the manufacture of paper pulp. The reports in most cases were satisfactory and several samples of good strong paper made from these grasses have been received. Further investigation is proceeding.

49. *Mining.*—During the year there were 62 mining companies operating on tin and 36 individual workers; six companies and 21 individuals were also prospecting for or winning gold; the average number of persons employed in the mining industry was 181 Europeans and 14,918 Natives.

50. The output of tin ore from the mines was approximately 7,179 tons, the average price of metallic tin having been £171 16s. 3d. per ton; 7,181 tons of tin ore were exported from Nigeria the value of which is estimated to have been £914,789. In spite of tin averaging such a low price throughout the year the output was very little affected, as the above figures show. There was no wolfram won or exported. The output of gold was 179.5 oz.

During the year there have been some most interesting finds, in three separate localities; these are as yet only in the stage of being prospected, but the finds and indications are distinctly encouraging and worthy of careful investigation.

51. Very considerable concessions were granted to the companies and individuals operating tin in view of the very low price of the metal: these include a reduction of rents to 50 per cent. where ground is being worked and to 2½ per cent. where ground is not being worked; further, all labour obligations are waived and the periods during which titles have not been worked are not being reckoned in the term of the title. A new and more favourable scale of royalty has been adopted.

52. The output of coal from the Udi coalfields for the year 1921 was 212,846 tons, most of which was consumed by the Railway and other Government Departments. The main coal seam, which averages 4 ft. 2 in. in thickness, consists of an outcrop and is worked by adits from different points. Rail facilities have been provided for the quick loading of the coal. A scheme of electrification in connection with the Colliery has been sanctioned and is now being proceeded with. The coal is of a good quality, highly volatile, and free from ash or clinker. It burns very quickly and has a specific gravity of 1.28.

53. The work of the Geological Survey was continued on the tinfields in the Northern Provinces and along the western railway in the Southern Provinces, and the results of the surveys are incorporated in bulletins published during the year. Copies of these bulletins can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The Director reports the discovery of rock phosphates at a point on the railway 30 miles from Lagos, and further investigation is proceeding.

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

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

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

VI. BANKS.

57. Banking interests are represented in Nigeria by the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., which was established in 1894 and now has 15 Branches and 7 Agencies, and by the Colonial Bank, which extended its operations to Nigeria in 1917 and now has 8 Branches. Both Banks undertake all kinds of Banking business. The Bank of British West Africa opened one new Branch at Enugu in 1921. The Colonial Bank is erecting extensive new offices in Lagos which are expected to be completed within the year 1922. Owing to a continued depression in trade there was a falling-off locally in the business of the Banks. Towards the end of the year, however, there were signs of improvement.

58. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office Authorities, and Savings Bank business is also conducted by both the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., and the Colonial Bank.

VII. LEGISLATION.

59. *Maintenance Orders*.—The Maintenance Orders Ordinance, 1921 (No. 8 of 1921) facilitates the enforcement in Nigeria of Maintenance Orders made in England or Ireland and *vice versa*.

VIII. EDUCATION.

60. A number of Primary Schools in Nigeria are conducted by Government and these have attained a very fair standard of efficiency. There are also very many other schools affording a similar education, on the lines laid down in the Government Education Code, which belong to the important Missionary Societies. These "Assisted" Schools are regularly inspected and examined by officials of the Education Department and receive annual grants-in-aid from the public funds, the amounts of which are determined by their average attendance, efficiency, etc. In addition, a very large number of elementary schools exists, which are in no way connected with Government or under official inspection, and there is a rapidly increasing number of these schools in the districts opened up by the construction of the Eastern Railway. The majority belong to the various missionary bodies, and others are of a private venture character. For the most part the education given in these schools is indifferent and in many instances valueless, being conducted by youths who possess no real qualifications or competency for such work.

61. There is an increasing demand for schools. Most of the existing schools, especially in Lagos and other large towns, are overcrowded and quite unable to cope with the demand for accommodation. On the other hand, parents in country districts take but little interest in the education of their children. Away from the larger centres, parents rather grudge sending to school

boys who otherwise might be unpaid workers on the farms, and do not encourage them to remain at school long enough to obtain more than a very superficial knowledge.

62. Progress has been made in recent years with regard to the education of girls, and there are several Girls' Schools under European principals in Lagos and in the Yoruba Country, also in the Calabar and the Onitsha districts. With one or two exceptions these schools are "Assisted" and under Government inspection, and have accommodation for boarders.

63. There are numerous Muhammadan schools in the Northern Provinces in which the entire time of the pupils is devoted to writing and learning portions of the Koran. At a few of such schools, however, reading and writing of Hausa, in Roman characters, and arithmetic, are also taught.

64. There are several Mission Schools on the assisted list, which provide secondary education, in which a distinct advance has been made during the last three years. King's College, Lagos, is the only Government establishment in which the work is entirely of a secondary character, and it has reached its limit of accommodation. It is intended, as soon as circumstances will permit, to erect buildings for extra class-rooms and accommodation for boarders. Plans have already been drawn up.

65. The great difficulty experienced in the work and progress of education is the insufficient supply of qualified or competent native teachers. A Training College for Muhammadan native teachers was opened during the year at Katsina and has attracted a promising number of candidates for admission.

66. Provision is also made for training teachers at the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, of the United Free Church of Scotland, the C.M.S. Training College, Oyo, the Wesleyan Training Institute, Ibadan, and the Government Schools at Bonny and Warri. These are all under the inspection and control of the Education Department. There are also two or three other training institutions belonging to the missionary societies which are not connected with Government. Evening continuation classes are held at King's College for Teachers in the Lagos Schools. Teachers' vacation classes in agriculture are held each year in July and December at Calabar and Onitsha; the courses of instruction, theoretical and practical, are given by officers of the Agricultural Department, and certificates are awarded to those who succeed in passing the examinations.

67. Instruction in manual or agricultural training is given in the majority of the Government and Assisted Schools. The Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, has a carpentry, printing, and tailoring department.

IX. CLIMATE.

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

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

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

71. The average annual rainfall at Akassa, in the Niger Delta, is 160 in.; at Lokoja, situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue it is 48 in.; and at Sokoto, in the north-west of Nigeria, it is only 24 in. The average rainfall at Lagos is 72 in. In the northern parts of Nigeria there is literally no rain whatever for the greater part of the dry season; for twelve years no rain has fallen at Sokoto during the four months November to February, and over 23 in. out of the average rainfall of 24 in. is recorded during the five months May to September. In the south the difference is not so marked, though the average fall at Forcados in the Niger Delta is 119 in. for the six months May to October out of an annual average of 151 in.

X. COMMUNICATIONS.

72. *Railways.*—The Western Division of the Nigerian Railway connects the Port of Lagos with the important towns of Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ilorin, Minna, Kaduna, Zaria, and Kano (705 miles), while the branch line to Bukuru (143 miles) serves the tin fields of

the Bauchi Plateau. An outlet at Baro on the Niger River is provided by the branch line from Minna (111 miles) and ships of 12 ft. draught can be safely navigated from Forcados and Burutu to the former port during the high river season between the months of July and October. During the remainder of the year the Niger River is navigable only by "stern wheelers" and barges. A service of motor lorries connects the towns of Ibadan, Oyo, Ogbomosho and Oshogbo and there are also similar services between Oshogbo and Ilesha as well as between Bukuru and Ropp.

73. The Eastern Division, terminating at Port Harcourt on the Bonny estuary, serves the important coal fields at Enugu (151 miles) as well as running through a very rich palm belt supporting an immense population. An extension, 417 miles in length, of this portion of the system is now being constructed, and when completed will join up with the western division at Kaduna, crossing the Benue River close to Abinsi.

74. All the lines are of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge except the Zaria-Bukuru branch line which is of a 2 ft. 6 in. gauge. A branch line 42 miles in length will be constructed from a point on the extension mentioned in the preceding paragraph to Bukuru—the terminus of the 2 ft. 6 in. gauge line from Zaria.

75. It is estimated that the gross earnings during 1921 amounted to £1,398,000, and the working expenditure to £1,154,000, making the estimated Net Receipt £244,000. The total number of passengers carried was about 1,105,000 and about 266,000 tons of goods and minerals were handled. There are now 127 stations open to the public, of which 110 are on the Western and 17 on the Eastern Division. The permanent staff of the Railway includes 444 Europeans. The African salaried staff numbers 1,956 and 11,768 artisans and labourers are employed.

76. *Harbours, Rivers and Creeks.*—The Entrance Works in Lagos Harbour consist of two main moles to the East and West of the Harbour Entrance, with a training bank for guidance of the currents. During the year the extension of the West mole by 121 ft. to its relative position in regard to the East mole, and the extension of the training bank by 411 ft., combined with the work of the Marine Department dredgers, has resulted in improving navigable conditions considerably. Over 101,000 tons of stone were employed during the year on the extension of the West mole and the training bank. Vessels drawing 20 ft. have been able to enter the harbour throughout the year. The bar itself has maintained a depth of 25 ft., the same as in 1920.

77. A spit which had formed in the entrance between the moles, known as the Eastern spit, which had caused some uneasiness in 1919 and 1920, has been scoured away to a large extent.

78. Within the harbour considerable shoaling has taken place in the channel to the Customs wharf, and constant dredging has been necessary to maintain the draughts of 18 ft. and 19 ft. 6 in.

allowed to vessels at the respective berths at this wharf. The mail steamers have, however, been able to go alongside throughout the year. The new channel across the Apapa shoals which leads to the site of the new wharf on the mainland, and also to the present Railway wharf on Iddo Island, has been maintained at a navigable depth of 19 ft. throughout the year.

79. During the year a new and powerful suction dredger, "The Lady Clifford," arrived at Lagos for work on the bar. Her hopper capacity is 1,800 tons, which she is capable of loading in forty minutes.

80. The survey of Bonny River bar was completed during the year, resulting in the establishment of a new channel carrying 2 ft. more water than the previous one used. This channel has since been buoyed and sailing directions issued for its use, and the Admiralty are issuing a new chart.

81. The launch routes between Lagos and the Benin River were closed to navigation during the year by extensive movements of sudd in that portion of the creeks known as the sudd region. Excessively heavy rains at the end of July and beginning of August caused a phenomenal rise in the rivers and creeks, with the result that enormous masses of sudd were carried down the Siluko River, completely closing it, and incidentally imprisoning two Government launches that were in the vicinity. Efforts to re-open navigation were immediately undertaken by the Marine Department and by September 15th traffic was resumed. By the end of November all the blocks had been dealt with and channels through the sudd had been cut sufficient for all requirements. This work is, however, of a recurrent nature as the sudd grows very rapidly, and it requires attention every year. Clearing work was also carried out in the low water season in the River Niger and the N'doni Creek and a large number of snags dangerous to navigation were removed.

82. *Shipping*.—Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co., Ltd., own the greater part of the shipping and maintain regular services between the United Kingdom and Nigeria for passengers, mails and cargo. The steamers of the Bromport Steamship Co., Ltd., Bull West African Line, Chargeurs Réunis Steamship Company, Holland West Africa Line, Société Navale de l'Ouest, and Swedish West Africa Line compete to a certain extent, and a number of vessels have been chartered by the principal firms. During the year 373 steamships and four sailing vessels entered the port of Lagos. The distance from Liverpool to Lagos is 4,200 miles and the time occupied on the voyage about 16 days. The arrival of the R.M.S. "Aba" in Lagos on December 2nd was noteworthy, it being the first occasion on which an internal combustion motor driven liner had visited the port.

83. *Roads*.—The Government has constructed a number of wide motor roads which can be used throughout the year by light

cars and in the dry season by heavy lorries, and the whole country is covered with a network of "bush paths" which are seldom wide enough for two persons to walk abreast.

84. *Post Office Telegraphs and Telephones.*—The general trade depression did not affect the Post Office services to the degree expected. Despite the shortage of European supervising staff, a great improvement was noticed in the telegraph services owing to the reconstruction work being steadily persevered with. A cable 48,000 yards long to connect Bonny and Port Harcourt was laid at a cost of £10,000. High speed automatic telegraphy was introduced between Lagos and Onitsha and a working speed of 200–250 words a minute obtained. The expansion of the telephone services was again delayed by lack of materials. The renewing and modernizing of the Lagos system was commenced.

85. *Public Works.*—Work was proceeded with on the first instalment (1,065 ft.) of the wharfage scheme for ocean steamers at Port Harcourt, and piling over a length of 300 ft. was completed. Work was commenced on the Lagos wharfage scheme for which a contract was let to Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth and Company. The contract provides for the construction of 1,800 ft. of wharfage for ocean steamers, and a contract has been let to the same firm for large railway workshops at Ebute Metta, the headquarters of the Western Division. A coal and petroleum wharf is also being constructed, and the Ebute Metta station is being remodelled to meet the changes involved by the construction of the Apapa wharf. A large power station is being erected at Iddo. The construction of a motor road between Zaria and Sokoto was continued, and the road from Lagos to Abeokuta was completed. Serious strikes among the Railway and Public Works artisans affected the construction work in hand, but these strikes have now come to an end.

A. C. BURNS,
Assistant Secretary.

Lagos,
30th January, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

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

ANNUAL.	
No.	Colony, etc.
1077	Bermuda 1920
1078	Grenada 1919-1920
1079	Uganda 1920
1080	Fiji 1919
1081	Gibraltar 1920-1921
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast.. .. . 1920
1083	Bechuanaland 1920-1921
1084	St. Helena 1920
1085	Basutoland.. .. . 1920
1086	Ceylon 1920-1921
1087	Barbados 1919-1920
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands 1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate 1918-1919
1090	Sierra Leone 1920
1091	Zanzibar 1920
1092	Cayman Islands 1920-1921
1093	Cyprus 1920
1094	St. Vincent 1920
1095	Bahamas 1920-1921
1096	Nyasaland 1920
1097	Weihaiwei "
1098	Nigeria "
1099	New Hebrides "
1100	Somaliland.. .. . "
1101	Straits Settlements "
1102	Swaziland 1920-1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago 1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands "
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast "
1106	Seychelles "
1107	Ashanti "
1108	Hong Kong "
1109	British Guiana "
1110	British Honduras "
1111	Malta 1920-1921
1112	Uganda 1920
1113	Leeward Islands 1920-1921

MISCELLANEOUS.

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