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NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1114.)

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1923.
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The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. Great Britain has recently received a mandate over a small portion of the Cameroons (31,150 square miles) which, for purposes of administration, has been placed under the Nigerian Government. The remainder of the Cameroons is administered by the French under a mandate, so, for all practical purposes, all the land frontiers of Nigeria march with French territory.

2. The area of Nigeria 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. Further inland the forests become thinner and are succeeded by open ground covered with long grass and occasional clumps of trees. In the extreme north, where there is a very small rainfall and little vegetation, the desert is slowly but steadily encroaching. There are few mountains in the southern portion of Nigeria except along the eastern boundary, but north and east of the junction of the rivers Niger and Benue there is a large plateau from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers as far as Jebba and Yola respectively, there are a number of important rivers, of which the Cross River is the largest. Except for Lake Chad, on the extreme north-east frontier, there are no large lakes.

3. The population of Nigeria is approximately 18½ millions, larger than that of any British dependency except India. There
are about 4,000 Europeans temporarily resident in Nigeria, chiefly in the employ of the Government and of mercantile and mining companies. The country is not suited for European settlement. Of the native inhabitants the greater number are of pure negro race, but in the north there are Berber and negroid tribes. Of the former the Yorubas, Ibos and Benis are the most important, and of the latter the Fulani, the Kanuri and the Hausa-speaking tribes, generally called Hausa. The Yorubas occupy the south-west corner of Nigeria and from an early date possessed an organised government. The Benis are now a comparatively small tribe, but Benin was formerly a very powerful kingdom, and its influence extended over a considerable area. The Ibos are a large unorganised tribe who occupy most of the land east of the lower Niger. The Kanuri occupy Bornu, in the north-east of Nigeria, a kingdom which has survived for many centuries in spite of great vicissitudes. It was known to the Portuguese as early as the 15th century and to Arab geographers several centuries earlier. The Hausas occupy the greater portion of northern Nigeria, and from an early date had attained to a fairly high level of civilisation. At the beginning of the 19th century the Hausa States were conquered by the Fulani, a nomad people who had settled in the towns and country of Hausaland, and who, by their superior intelligence, had acquired great power and influence. The existing Hausa system of law and administration based on the Koran was retained, but Fulani dynasties were established in the various states.

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

5. By the exertions of Mungo Park (1796–1805), Captain Clapperton (1822–26), Richard Lander (1826–30), Doctor Barth (1850–55) and numerous other explorers, most of whom lost their
lives in the country, the course of the Niger and the existence of
the Fulani kingdoms in the interior had become known, and an
attempt was made by Mr. Macgregor Laird and others to open up
the interior to trade. In spite of the efforts of these pioneers, who
were supported to a certain extent by the British Government and
philanthropists eager to strangle the slave trade by legitimate
traffic, the early efforts were not successful, owing to the heavy
mortality among the European crews of vessels ascending the
river. A better knowledge of conditions, and the use of quinine
as a prophylactic against malaria, made later operations more
successful, and before 1860 trade was established along the banks
of the Rivers Niger and Benue. In 1879 the various British firms
trading on these rivers were amalgamated, and in 1887 a charter
was granted to the amalgamated companies, which became known
as the Royal Niger Company, Chartered & Limited. By this
charter the company became responsible for the government of
the river basins and the whole of Hausaland and Bornu, but, in
practice, their influence extended little beyond the banks of the
rivers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

II. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

13. The main political divisions of Nigeria are the Colony 
of Nigeria and two groups of Provinces known as the Northern 
and Southern Provinces which together form the Protectorate. 
The whole country is under the control of a Governor and 
Commander-in-Chief to whom the Lieutenant-Governors of the 
Northern and Southern Provinces and the Administrator of the 
Colony are responsible. The Governor is assisted by an Executive 
Council consisting of a few of the senior officials. 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.

14. An alteration in the constitution has been approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies which involves the abolition of the present Nigerian Council and the Legislative Council of the Colony and the substitution for them of a larger and more representative Legislative Council. This council will legislate only for the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate (laws affecting the Northern Provinces will continue to be enacted by the Governor), but all public expenditure will come within the scrutiny of the Council and any matter of public interest affecting any part of Nigeria may be discussed. A new departure, so far as Nigeria is concerned, is the decision to include, among the non-official members of the Council, three members elected by the ratepayers of Lagos and a member elected by the ratepayers of Calabar. Other interests will be represented by members selected by Chambers of Commerce and the Chamber of Mines and by members nominated by the Governor. There will be an official majority on the Council. It had been hoped that the new Council would be inaugurated early in 1923, but various reasons have delayed the issue of the Royal Letters Patent and the Order-in-Council setting up the new constitution. In the circumstances it is unlikely that the Council will meet before September.

15. The Protectorate (including the mandated territory of the Cameroons) is divided into twenty-four provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident. During the year the delimitation of the natural ethnographical boundaries between the Munshi and Ogoja Provinces was undertaken. 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.

16. In the Muhammadan Emirates of the north and, in the south, among the Yorubas and Benis, the general progress in orderly administration has been well maintained. Everywhere throughout these States are to be found a peaceful, diligent, prosperous and thriving peasantry, tilling their fields in complete confidence and security, governed by their own hereditary rulers, and living under forms of government which are the natural growth of their own political genius.
17. For the most part these hereditary rulers fully justify the confidence placed in them, but there are, of course, cases in which they do not fulfil expectations. In those cases steps are taken to provide the people with rulers who can be trusted.

18. Armed escorts for the protection of Political Officers in the country of the more remote and primitive pagan tribes are still required, though recourse to force is seldom necessary. This is due in a great measure to the very encouraging attitude of the chiefs, who are now realising the immense benefits of peaceful administration and who are willing and even anxious to accept the responsibilities of office.

19. The peaceful state of the country may be ascribed to the efficient control exercised by the Political Staff. The increase in the establishment in recent years has made it possible to station officers in outlying districts and, consequently, to bring certain of the less advanced tribes under closer control.

20. The slump in trade has had an injurious effect on the payment of direct taxation. Though the actual tax-payer can still pay his dues without any difficulty, he can no longer afford to give additional presents to headmen, who have, in consequence, been tempted in many cases to misappropriate the taxes passing through their hands. The assessment of the general tax payable under the Native Revenue Ordinance is a matter which is subject to the closest scrutiny, in order to check any tendency to over-taxation and to introduce uniformity in areas in which economic conditions are similar.

21. In Lagos the long drawn out dispute between the rival factions of the Muhammadans seems to be no nearer to a settlement. Certain prominent members of one of the factions are at present undergoing terms of imprisonment for participating in disturbances in connexion with this dispute.

22. A petition praying for the reconsideration of the case of Eshugbayi (the titular ex-king of Lagos), who has ceased to be recognised by the Government as the head of the house of Docemo, was presented to the Governor towards the end of the year. In his reply His Excellency stated that the petition contained "many statements which are inaccurate or untrue . . . . that many leading men in Lagos, who in the past have been keen critics of the Government, have refused to sign it or to be in any way associated with it." The Governor reminded the petitioners that a similar petition to His Majesty the King had been refused after full consideration, and informed them that any further communication asking for the reconsideration of Eshugbayi's case will receive neither acknowledgment nor reply. It is to be hoped that this plain-spoken reply will put a stop to the intrigues which centred round the person and the doubtful position of this misguided man.
23. Abubakr Garbai, C.B.E., Shehu of Bornu, died on the 20th January, 1922. He was recognised as Shehu when British rule was introduced into Bornu in 1902, and during the twenty years of his reign he never failed in his friendship and loyalty to the British, nor in his duty to his people. He was awarded the Companionship of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his services during the anxious months which followed the outbreak of war in 1914.

24. During the past year the infantry battalions of the Nigeria Regiment were honoured by the award of Colours in recognition of their distinguished services in the Cameroons and East African Campaigns. The new colours were presented to each unit by His Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief in person.

The Regimental Colours are of Muhammadan green and bear the motto, in Arabic, "Victory is from God alone," and the battle honours, Ashantee 1873-4, Ashanti 1900. It is hoped that these may be augmented shortly by some permanent record of the many engagements in which the regiment participated during the late war. There is no doubt that the significance of the Colours is appreciated fully by the rank and file, and that their possession has instilled in all ranks a splendid spirit which will further fighting efficiency, and prove an added incentive to surpass previous achievements when, and wherever, they are called upon to fight for the Empire in the future.

25. In the more backward communities cannibalism still occurs and is probably more common than is realised, and cases of slave dealing are still to be found amongst the tribes to the east of the Niger, where 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, but it must be some time before the spread of civilisation puts a definite stop to these evils.

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

27. Muhammadanism in Nigeria has little of the fanaticism that distinguishes it in other countries. The Fulani jihad, led by
Othman dan Fodio at the beginning of the 19th century, was largely political in its results (if not in its origin) and the ambitious leaders of this "holy war" did not scruple to attack the rival Muslim state of Bornu. The self-styled Mahdis who have arisen from time to time since the establishment of the British Protectorate have been quickly and severely dealt with by the Muhammadan chiefs, and the entry of the Turks into the War on the side of Germany evoked only spontaneous protestations of loyalty to the British cause from their co-religionists in Nigeria. Within the last couple of years Indian missionaries of the Ahmadian movement have gained some adherents.

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

29. The general health of the Colony and Protectorate has throughout the year been good. The gravest problem of the year was a recrudescence of cerebro-spinal meningitis in epidemic form. The outbreak declared itself in the north-eastern region of the Kontagora Province, i.e., immediately south of the eastern limit of the epidemic of the previous year; at first, its aspect was gravely menacing, but all available precautions were taken, and, in the end, the advent of the rains found it happily still localised within the region of recrudescence, wherein it finally subsided. In the autumn the Emir of Katsina reported its existence in the French territory across his northern boundary, but the end of the year left Nigeria free from the visitation.

30. A "Health Week" was organised in Lagos in November, and prizes were offered for the healthiest babies and the best-kept compounds. The people were much interested, and an immense quantity of accumulated refuse was disposed of during the week.

31. Nigeria is participating in the British Empire Exhibition in 1924, and an area of 19,000 superficial feet has been taken for the Nigerian section.
III. GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>£3,492,738</td>
<td>£3,219,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>£4,014,190</td>
<td>£3,459,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>£4,959,429</td>
<td>£4,529,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>£6,819,274</td>
<td>£6,493,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan.-March, 1921</td>
<td>£1,566,748</td>
<td>£1,674,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921-22</td>
<td>£4,876,246</td>
<td>£7,171,997</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Nigerian financial year, formerly identical with the calendar year, now begins in April. The latest available figures are for the six months April to September, 1922. The revenue and expenditure for these months were £2,675,565 and £3,521,224 respectively, and it will be observed that if the revenue for the remainder of the financial year is in proportion, the total for the financial year would exceed that of the previous year by some £474,000.

33. There was an excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1922, of £1,315,101. The public debt at the same date amounted to £13,609,209 and the sinking fund to £693,316. The latest loan, issued in October, 1921, at 97, was for £3,000,000 at 6 per cent. The stock is now quoted at 107 and the stock of an earlier (1919) 6 per cent. loan now stands at over 111.

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

35. In April the customs import tariff was revised, the ad valorem duty being raised from 12½ per cent. to 15 per cent., and many articles were added to the dutiable list; chief of these were provisions and corrugated iron, on which duties of 15 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively were imposed. Specific duties were also increased in many cases. The duty on spirits remained at 25s. a gallon of 50° Tralles.

36. In July the export duty on hides and skins was considerably reduced, and during the same month the "preferential" export duty on palm kernels exported to countries outside of the British Empire was abolished.

37. During the year, United Kingdom and British West Africa silver coin to the value of £1,748,500 was withdrawn from circulation and shipped to the United Kingdom. A large number of currency notes also was withdrawn from circulation.
IV. ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

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

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Import</td>
<td>£10,689,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export</td>
<td>£10,421,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£21,110,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

an increase of about one million sterling on the trade of the previous year.

The value of the transit trade (i.e. goods passing through the inland waters of Nigeria to and from Dahomey and other French Territory) amounted to £103,000, representing roughly a decrease of 30 per cent. compared with 1921.

39. The value of the import trade has remained practically stationary though the tonnage imported has increased considerably. Commercial imports accounted for £8,162,000 and specie £603,000, an increase of 4.2 and 14 per cent. respectively. As in 1921 the United Kingdom is responsible for 80 per cent. of the import trade; the United States of America shows a further decrease at 6 per cent. as opposed to 7.66 per cent. in 1921, and Germany with 3½ per cent. shows a slight increase. Goods from Germany in the early part of the year were distinctly undervalued when compared with prices of similar goods from countries with an undepreciated or but slightly depreciated currency, but there was a gradual improvement throughout the year, and to-day the prices of German goods compare favourably with those of other countries.

40. An attempt has been made to re-introduce Dutch gin of a quality superior to that of the old pre-war Trade Gin. It cannot be said to have met with much success, as the heavy duty of 25s. per gallon puts it beyond the reach of the average native, and the best English gins can be placed on the market at a price only a little higher. It is said that the firms which took up the first two consignments are selling to-day at 55s. to 56s. per case, or a loss of 10s. per case, at which price they find a ready sale.

41. The basis for duty introduced in June, 1921, viz., the current market value of the goods in the country of exportation, is still in force, and the period of its duration has been extended to the end of 1923 at the request of the chambers of commerce in the United Kingdom. This points to the fact that many of the firms still have large commitments in the staple lines of trade, chiefly cottons, and the result is being felt in the Nigerian market to-day, where cottons are being sold at less than to-day's replacement prices. Until these commitments are wiped off, trade cannot be expected to become stabilised, as firms cannot compete
with the prices at which the committed firms are prepared to sacrifice their goods. It is reported that many of the firms have endeavoured to cut their losses by paying lump sums for the cancellation of their forward contracts.

42. Produce prices on the whole have been fairly steady throughout the year. There have been slight improvements from time to time, but these were not maintained, though prices have shown signs of hardening in the last month or two of the year. The total value of the export trade amounted to £10,421,000, representing an increase of 8 per cent. over 1921. The tonnage of palm oil, kernels, and cocoa exported showed considerable increase, but groundnuts at 24,000 tons showed a decrease of 53 per cent. There was little improvement in the skin and hide trade, though the export duties were reduced in July in some instances by as much as 50 per cent. There has recently been a demand for the best quality raw goat skins. The United Kingdom took 78 per cent. of the total exports, the United States of America 74 per cent. and Germany 5 per cent.

43. The prices offering at home allowed no margin for profit to the exporter; in fact, losses on shipments were quite common with the exporter who had to place his produce on the open market. Such firms as Lever Brothers, The African and Eastern Trade Corporation and The Co-operative Wholesale Society were not at such disadvantage as, though their actual produce trading showed a loss, they were in a position to absorb their own produce in the manufacture of soap, etc., in the retail of which handsome profits were realised. The prices paid locally have not offered much inducement to the native to bring in produce, but no doubt the extremely low figure at which he has been able to purchase the staple lines in imports has enabled him to do so; another factor, of course, which he is experiencing in common with others, is lack of money. Many of the large middlemen are to-day carrying considerable stocks of cottons purchased locally at bed-rock prices.

44. The preferential duty on kernels shipped to countries other than the United Kingdom having been removed, palm kernels are being exported to Germany in gradually increasing quantities.

45. The competition in freights between the various shipping companies has been very keen, with the result that to-day export freights in many instances are being quoted at rates which are very little higher than those existing pre-war.

46. Agriculture.—The production of cocoa during 1922 has shown a great increase, partly the result of the steady increase in the cultivation of this crop, partly the result of a favourable season. The return to more normal prices has caused a marked decrease in the export of groundnuts and cotton.
47. In regard to cotton it should be noted that the decrease affected only the export of native cotton from the Southern Provinces. There is no reason to believe that there has been any decrease in the local hand spinning and weaving or in the overland export from the Northern Provinces.

48. The export of American cotton continues steadily to increase. In spite of a greatly reduced price, the production in the season 1921-22 was 10,000 bales as against 5,400 last year and 3,500 in the preceding year. The cultivation of this cotton was initiated by Government, and the maintenance of the quality of the cotton at a level at which it is suitable for export is due to the annual distribution of very large quantities of pure seed provided by Government, and to the inspection of all the cotton by Government examiners to prevent the export of mixed or inferior parcels. The regulations concerning this inspection have been slightly modified during the year by a slight change which it is hoped will reduce the interference with the trade in this product to the minimum consistent with efficient inspection.

49. Land.—Under an agreement executed between the Imperial Government and the Royal Niger Company at the date of the revocation of the Charter, the latter’s successors were allowed to retain certain sites then occupied as trading stations. (There are a few such sites in the Southern Provinces, too.) With the foregoing exceptions the whole of the land in the Northern Provinces is native land, controlled and administered by the Government. Proprietary rights in land have never been recognised by native law and custom, and legislation enacted since the establishment of the Protectorate provides for the maintenance of that policy. Building and agricultural leases are granted by Government with conditions as to improvements and revision of rent. In making such revision Government is debarred by statute from taking into consideration any improvements made upon a site by the lessee, and from charging more, as rent, for any sites than the amount which is obtainable, as rent, for sites similarly situated and of equal areas. If the rent is raised on revision the lessee may appeal to the Provincial Court or to the Governor, who will appoint an arbitrator. If the occupier is dissatisfied he may surrender his lease, and the Governor may award such compensation for unexhausted improvements as in his discretion he may think fit.

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

51. Forestry.—There has been no change in the system of exploiting timber. Selection fellings controlled by a minimum girth limit are still in vogue. The home market for mahogany and other furniture woods has on the whole been fair for good quality timbers, but, on the other hand, probably owing to the general slackness of trade in Nigeria during the period under review, the local response to favourable timber markets in Europe has not been very marked.

52. Irregular and late rains interfered to a considerable extent with planting operations and the results have not been as good as those achieved in normal years. Good progress has been made in the Northern Provinces in the constitution of forest reserves, the total area of which has been largely extended.

53. Samples of local timber suitable for the manufacture of boot lasts have been favourably reported on by the Imperial Institute, but owing to the sparsely scattered distribution of the species yielding such woods, it is unlikely that the latter will be able to compete with foreign timbers used for the same purpose.

54. There has been but little activity shown in the exploitation of minor forest products such as rubber, fibre, etc.

55. Mining.—During the year there were fifty mining companies operating on tin and forty-one individual workers; two companies and twelve individuals were also prospecting for or winning gold; the average number of persons employed throughout the year in the mining industry was 134 Europeans and 13,512 natives.

56. The output of tin ore from the mines was approximately 7,300 tons; 8,127 tons of ore were exported from Nigeria, the value of which is estimated to have been £932,610. The average price of the metal based on the quarterly quotation was £157 13s. 1½d., a decrease of over £14 on that of 1921. There was a recovery towards the end of the year to a figure which, it is hoped, will be maintained. In spite of the low price of the metal, the output showed a small increase over that of the previous year.

57. The concessions granted by Government to enable the tin-mining industry to tide over the slump continued in force throughout the year. There can be no doubt that the object in view has been attained, and everything points to a more successful year in 1923.

58. The output of gold was 748 ounces, as against 179·5 ounces in 1921. A considerable amount of work has been done by one company on a lode deposit, with encouraging results. Gold has been discovered in two new districts, but of the value of the discoveries little or nothing is known as yet.
59. The output of coal from the Udi coalfields for the year 1922 was 110,785 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.

60. The work of the Geological Survey was continued on the tinfields of the Northern Provinces and on the phosphatic deposits of Abeokuta Province. A preliminary survey of the eastern railway between Port Harcourt and Enugu was begun and more detailed investigations carried out in the neighbourhood of the Government colliery. Two bulletins were published during the year, one on the geology of the western railway between Iddo and Okuku, and the other on Eocene fossils from Ameki on the eastern railway. Copies of these bulletins can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

61. 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.

62. 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.

63. 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.

64. Banking interests are represented in Nigeria by the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., which was established in 1894 and now has fifteen branches and seven agencies, and by the Colonial Bank, which extended its operations to Nigeria in 1917 and now has eight branches. Both Banks undertake all kinds of banking business. The Colonial Bank opened extensive new offices in Lagos during the year 1922.

65. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office Department. Savings Bank business is also transacted by the Bank of British West Africa and by the Colonial Bank.
VII.—LEGISLATION.

66. The Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Ordinance, 1922 (No. 8 of 1922), provides for the enforcement in Nigeria of judgments obtained in a superior court in the United Kingdom and vice versa, and also for the enforcement of judgments obtained in a superior court in any part of His Majesty's Dominions (including Protectorates and Mandated Territory), the legislatures of which have made reciprocal provision for the enforcement of judgments obtained in the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

67. The Boy Scouts Association Ordinance, 1922 (No. 21 of 1922), was enacted at the request of the Chief Scout in order to put the Boy Scout movement in Nigeria on a proper footing.

68. The Palm Kernels (Export Duty) (No. 2) (Repeal) Ordinance, 1922 (No. 22 of 1922), abolished the differential duty on kernels exported to places outside the British Empire and Protectorates.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

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

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

71. The demand for schools is great throughout the country. Most of the existing schools in Lagos and other large towns are overcrowded, and the supply by no means meets the demand. As a rule parents in country districts are apathetic with regard to the education of their children, and decline to make any provision to enable them to attend school. This apathy, however, is slowly breaking down in the immediate neighbourhood of the more efficient schools.
72. Considerable progress has been made in recent years in the matter of female education. There are several girls' schools in Lagos and the Yoruba country, and in the Calabar and Onitsha districts, which are conducted by European principals. With one or two exceptions these schools are on the assisted list and under Government inspection. The majority provide accommodation for boarders, and are doing excellent work.

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

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

75. Progress has been made during the last few years in the matter of training teachers. The Training College for Native Muhammadan Teachers, which began its work at the end of 1921, was formally opened by the Governor on March 5th, and is expected to put out its first products in 1926. The Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar (United Free Church of Scotland Mission), the C.M.S. Training College, Oyo, the Wesleyan Training Institute, Ibadan, the C.M.S. Training College, Awka, and the Government schools at Warri and Bonny, afford facilities for training a certain number of residential students. They are under the direction of European principals and are conducted in accordance with the regulations laid down for the training of teachers in the education code. There are also two or three other training establishments belonging to missionary societies which are not connected with Government or in receipt of a grant from public funds. Evening continuation classes for teachers in the Lagos schools are regularly held at King's College. Vacation classes for teachers in elementary agriculture are held in July and December at Calabar and Onitsha. The instruction, both theoretical and practical, is given by officers of the Agricultural Department, and certificates are awarded to those who succeed in passing the examinations. In the majority of the Government and assisted schools such instruction as is possible is given in manual and agricultural training. The Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, has departments for carpentry, printing, and tailoring.

IX.—CLIMATE.

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

77. 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.

78. 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.

79. The average annual rainfall at Bonny, on the coast, is 163 inches. (In 1921, 245 inches were registered.) At Lokoja, situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue, it is 48 inches; and at Sokoto, in the north-west of Nigeria, it is only 25 inches. The average rainfall at Lagos is 72 inches. In the northern parts of Nigeria there is literally no rain whatever for the greater part of the dry season; for twelve years no rain has fallen at Sokoto during the four months November to February, and over 24 inches out of the average rainfall of 25 is recorded during the five months May to September. In the south the difference is not so marked, though the average fall at Forcados in the Niger Delta is 119 inches for the six months May to October out of an annual average of 150 inches.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS.

80. 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 feet 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.

81. 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.

82. 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.

83. 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.

84. It is estimated that the gross earnings during 1922 amounted to £1,345,000, and the working expenditure to £1,040,000, making the estimated net receipts £305,000. The total number of passengers carried was about 1,317,000, and about 520,000 tons of goods and minerals were handled.

85. There are now 129 stations open to the public, of which 111 are on the western and 18 on the eastern division. The permanent staff of the railway includes 417 Europeans. The African salaried staff numbers 1,839, and 10,692 artisans and labourers are employed.

86. Harbours, Rivers and Creeks.—All but maintenance work was closed down on the Lagos harbour entrance works in June, the moles and training banks having then reached a point when, in the opinion of the Consulting Engineers, it was deemed advisable to pause and watch developments. "The Lady Clifford" was employed throughout the year dredging on the Eastern Spit when weather conditions permitted, and this, combined with the scouring effect due to the flow of water past the moles, has resulted in considerably diminishing the area of this dangerous spit, and improving navigable conditions appreciably over those prevailing last year. The official bar draught for vessels entering and leaving the port was raised from 20 ft. to 21 ft. in July. The actual depth on the bar itself remains at about 25 ft.

87. Within the harbour the principal work undertaken has been the dredging of the customs swinging basin by the "Child," resulting in an official draught of 21 ft. being maintained alongside the wharf since July. The "Queen Mary," which had been fitted with side chutes for loading of reclamation barges, carried
out exceptionally good work on the Apapa crossing, in the Oyster Bank channel, and off the new coal wharf at Iddo; navigable conditions have in consequence much improved in these areas. The spoil from dredging operations within the harbour has been deposited ashore behind the new coal wharf under construction at Iddo. Dredging off the face of this wharf was commenced in November.

88. A survey of Forcados bar was carried out during the early part of the year. The survey report showed considerable extension of the bar since the survey in 1913, but the depth across the bar remains about the same.

89. The launch routes, Lagos to Sapele and Forcados to Opobo via Akassa, Brass, Degema, have been kept open, and the Niger River has been cleared of snags dangerous to navigation. The improvement of the channel through the rapids above Leaba has much facilitated canoe traffic, and the trade between western Sokoto and Jebba has been improved.

90. *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 Reunis Steamship Company, Holland West Africa Line, Société Navale de l'Ouest, Deutscher Afrika-Dienst (Woermann Line), John Holt & Co., Ltd., 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 399 steamships 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. In October the first German passenger steamer since 1914 arrived at Lagos.

91. *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, but along which, nevertheless, it is possible to ride bicycles or motor-bicycles.

92. *Post Office, Telegraphs and Telephones.*—The various Post Office services have been well maintained, and the revenue of the department has not been seriously affected by the general trade depression. The work of reconstruction of telegraph lines is within reasonable distance of completion. The laying of the underground cable for telephone traffic at Lagos has been completed, and new exchanges have been installed at Kano and Port Harcourt. The department is still seriously handicapped by the shortage of telegraph engineers.

93. *Public Works.*—The work on the first instalment (1,065 ft.) of the wharfage scheme for ocean steamers at Port Harcourt
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proceeded satisfactorily; it is hoped that berthage for one vessel will be ready about the middle of 1923, and that the whole of the first instalment, including sheds, etc., will be completed by March, 1924. The contract for 1,800 ft. of wharfage at Apapa, let to Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth & Company, provides for the completion of this work by May, 1924. The same firm is constructing new railway workshops at Ebute Metta which will be completed in 1923. The new electric power station at Iddo should be ready to begin work within a few months. Work on the coal wharf at Iddo is well in hand. A considerable amount of work has been done on the Zaria–Sokoto road and on the roads between Bukuru and Jemaa and Jos and Bauchi. Several new motor roads have been opened up in the Southern Provinces. It is unfortunate that, for financial reasons, the Kano waterworks scheme has had to be postponed. Water-boring operations have been begun at Potiskum in the Bornu Province.

A. C. BURNS,

Assistant Secretary.

Lagos,
16th January, 1923
**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.

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