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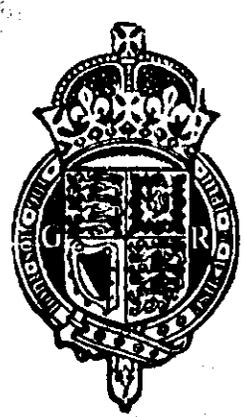
No. 1315.

# NIGERIA.

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## REPORT FOR 1925.

*For Reports for 1923 and 1924, see Nos. 1197 and 1245 respectively  
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1926.

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No. 1315.

# NIGERIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1925.

## I. Geographical and Historical Note.

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. Great Britain has 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 that, for practical purposes, all the land frontiers of Nigeria march with French territory.

2. The area of Nigeria, including the mandated area of the Cameroons, is approximately 367,928 square miles (Southern Provinces and Colony 91,894 square miles; Northern Provinces 276,034 square miles), and it is thus larger than any British Dependency other than India and the self-Governing Dominions. It is more than three times the size of the United Kingdom. Along the entire coast-line runs a belt, from 10 to 60 miles in width, of dense mangrove forest and swamp, intersected by the branches of the Niger delta and other rivers, which are connected one with another by innumerable creeks, the whole constituting a continuous inland waterway from beyond the western boundary of Nigeria almost to the Cameroons. Behind this belt lie 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 ft. in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers as far as Jebba and Yola respectively, there are a number of important rivers of which the Cross River is the largest. Except for Lake Chad, on the extreme north-east frontier, there are no large lakes.

3. The population of Nigeria according to the latest returns is 18,504,489\* (Southern Provinces and Colony, 8,206,980; Northern Provinces, 10,297,509), larger than that of any British

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\* Includes population of the mandated area of the Cameroons.

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

(1850–1855) 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 became 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 and 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, its 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 of the sphere of the Chartered Company was made into a separate administration under Foreign Office control and became known as the Oil Rivers Protectorate 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 was added to the Niger Coast Protectorate and the whole was renamed the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. Both the Northern and Southern Protectorates were 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 Mohammedan rulers of the Hausa states and Bornu, who had persistently ignored the British requests for the cessation of slave-raiding and whose attitude was one of open hostility to an

administration of whose power they had had no proof. As each in turn was conquered a new ruler was appointed who undertook to govern his country according to local law and tradition, but without slave-raiding and the extortion and inhuman cruelties which had marked the former regime. British Residents were stationed throughout the country and exercised a wholesome check on any tendency to relapse.

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

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

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

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

## II.—General Observations.

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

former bodies, known as the Nigerian Council and the Legislative Council, were abolished and a larger and more representative Legislative Council was substituted for them. This new Legislative Council consists of :—The Governor, as President ; twenty-six Official Members ; three elected Unofficial Members representing the municipal area of Lagos and one representing the municipal area of Calabar ; and not more than fifteen nominated Unofficial Members. These fifteen are selected to include nominees of the chambers of commerce of Lagos, Port Harcourt, Calabar, and Kano, of the local chamber of mines, and of the banking and shipping interests, together with members representing African interests in parts of the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate which do not return elected representatives to the Legislative Council. This Council legislates only for the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate, and the Governor continues to legislate for the Northern Provinces of the Protectorate. The power of taxation in the Northern Provinces is left with the Governor and the scope of the Legislative Council in financial affairs is confined to the Colony and Southern Provinces, except that the sanction of the Council is required for all expenditure out of the funds and revenues of the Central Government which is incurred in the Northern Provinces. There is thus a measure of direct representation of the people by members elected by themselves to the Legislative Council.

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

15. The Protectorate (including the mandated territory of the Cameroons) is divided into twenty-three provinces, each under the immediate control of a resident.

16. In the Northern Provinces and the western portions of the Southern Provinces, where there are chiefs of sufficient influence and ability, native administrations are recognised and supported by Government, the details of administration being left largely in the hands of the paramount chief and his officials, under the guidance and supervision of the Resident and his staff. In other parts, however, where there is no strong native authority capable of governing, the rule of the political officers is a more direct one, but even in such districts a native judiciary with powers limited in proportion to its ability and integrity is made use of with results that are increasingly satisfactory. In the Mohammedan Emirates of the north and, in the south, among the Yorubas and Binis, the general progress in orderly administration has been well maintained. Everywhere throughout these states are to be found a peaceful, diligent, prosperous and thriving peasantry, tilling their fields in complete confidence and security, governed by their own hereditary rulers, and living under forms

of government which are the natural growth of their own political genius. For the most part these hereditary rulers fully justify the confidence placed in them, but there are, of course, cases in which they do not fulfil expectations. In those cases, steps are taken to provide the people with rulers who can be trusted. No retrospect of the work of the Mohammedan Emirates of the north would be complete without paying a tribute to the personal efforts of the leading Emirs whose efficiency and increased interest in all that tends towards administrative progress have been amply demonstrated.

17. The *Northern Provinces* (including a portion of the mandated territory of the Cameroons) are divided into twelve provinces, each under the immediate control of a resident and the whole under the general administrative control of a Lieutenant-Governor. The proportion of the number of political officers on duty to the number of the native population is about one to one hundred thousand.

18. The most momentous event of the year in the Northern Provinces was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in April. A Durbar was held at Kano which was attended by practically all the chiefs of the Northern Provinces. Not only were the chiefs impressed by the magnificence of the spectacle, but they met peoples and tribes many of whom were but names to them or in some cases traditional enemies, and found they were all at one in their allegiance to the King, whose son's personality so vividly impressed their imagination.

19. During the course of the year there have been no actual changes in the political administration of the Northern Provinces, but the question of rearranging, in the light of modern experience, the boundaries of many of the present provinces is under consideration.

20. Serious disturbances in the Northern Provinces have been few. A military escort which had remained with the political officer after the termination of the patrol in the hill districts of the Dikwa Emirate was in February replaced by a detachment of police and no untoward incidents have since occurred. The unruly Mama tribe, which occupies a portion of the hilly country in Nassarawa province, has been visited by a political officer with a police escort; operations which were entirely successful lasted for four months in the rainy season, and it is not anticipated that further incidents will occur. A police escort operated in Bangede in the Kabba province in May. At the time of writing a military patrol near Jilvu in the Yola province is about to operate.

21. The Mama and Mada districts of the Nassarawa province are now the only "closed areas."

22. There have been affrays between the peoples dwelling on the borders of the Munshi-Ogoja and of the Ilorin-Ondo provinces which have been punished under the collective punishments ordinance.

23. Trade again shows improvement. The export of cotton and ground-nuts especially continues to grow, and will be still further increased when the present ginning and transport facilities are extended. A new ginnery is to be erected at Gusau, and experiments with Guy and Burford motor tractors are proceeding in the Zaria province.

24. The financial position of the native administration treasuries is even stronger than in 1923-24. Inclusive of approximately £440,000 invested in securities, the balances carried forward on 1st April, 1925, totalled £1,179,066. This position is not the result of hoarding of revenue. Throughout the country large sums have been spent by the native administrations on roads, buildings, and works of public utility and development.

25. As noted in the 1924 report, the Sokoto and Kano native administrations have had the benefit of the services of an expert irrigation engineer, and it is hoped that as a result of his enquiries extensive irrigation works will be undertaken in Sokoto. The proposed water-supply scheme for Kano is still under investigation by the Public Works Department, with the advice of the consulting engineers.

26. Epidemic disease in the form of cerebro-spinal meningitis and relapsing fever was the cause of a large number of deaths in the early part of the year. This matter is dealt with in greater detail in a later paragraph. A conference of residents and of the heads of all departments concerned was held at Kaduna to consider the question of trypanosomiasis and the best means of combating it. Experimental work is being carried out at Sherifuri, in the Kano province, where a large area is being cleared of fly-breeding bush.

27. Among cattle, rinderpest and pleuro-pneumonia have taken a serious toll. It is, however, encouraging to know that as a result of the research work in the laboratory at Vom a reliable anti-rinderpest serum has been produced with most satisfactory results. Fulani cattle-owners realise the advantage of the immunity conferred by this serum, and more applicants for inoculation of their herds are found than can be dealt with at present by the staff at the disposal of the Veterinary Department. The possibility of undertaking anti-rinderpest work on a larger scale is under consideration.

28. The police force continues to maintain a high standard of efficiency. The police have been called upon to furnish escorts and guards to political officers touring in the more backward and inaccessible parts of the country. During the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Kano, despite the vast numbers of strangers collected there from all parts of the country, the policing arrangements were peculiarly satisfactory and efficient. A small special force was sent there for the occasion. The Director

of Education is encouraging literate boys from the rural schools to enter the police when they leave, a project to which the Inspector-General of Police lends ready support.

29. In November, a flight of Royal Air Force service aircraft visited Nigeria from Cairo. Maiduguri, Kano and Kaduna were the landing places, and the political effects of this flight are regarded as important. This was the first occasion on which aircraft had entered Nigeria, and the visit left a deep impression on the minds of the people.

30. In June the Officer Administering the Government installed Ibrahimu as Emir of Zaria in succession to the Emir Dalhatu, who died in 1924.

31. The following were awarded the King's Medal for Chiefs :—

The Emir of Ilorin,  
The Emir of Abuja,  
Audu dan Afoda Sarkin Makurdi.

32. In the Gwandu division of Sokoto province, the Native Administration has suffered a severe loss in the death of Biyo, Chief of Illo, who held office for twenty years, during which time he proved himself loyal to Government.

33. Generally speaking peaceful relations have been maintained in the mandated areas, and it is a satisfactory feature that slave dealing is certainly decreasing. A certain amount of immigration from the French Cameroons into Yola continues to take place. Relations with the French continue to be amicable, and a visit was paid to Garua by the resident of Yola during September to make the acquaintance of the French authorities. In the North Cameroons area the pagans of Jilvu (near Mubi) have become increasingly truculent and it has been necessary to ask for a patrol of eighty men to deal with them early in 1926. Otherwise all is peaceful.

34. The *Southern Provinces* (including a portion of the mandated territory of the Cameroons) are divided into twelve provinces, each under the immediate charge of a resident and the whole under the general administrative control of a Lieutenant-Governor. The authorised duty strength of the administrative staff provides roughly one political officer to every 70,000 of the population. Throughout the Southern Provinces a steady development has been generally noticeable. The chiefs show an increasing sense of responsibility in the exercise of their duties and the atmosphere throughout has been generally peaceful.

35. The outstanding event of the year was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, though this important event only directly concerned Lagos and the Oyo Province and, in a lesser degree, the provinces of Abeokuta, Ondo and Ijebu. A meeting of chiefs was held at Ibadan in honour of His Royal

Highness, which was attended by the Alafin of Oyo, the Oni of Ife, the Owa of Ilesha, the Alake of Abeokuta and other chiefs from the Oyo, Abeokuta, Ondo and Ijebu Provinces. Apart from the reason that prompted it the gathering was most notable. No such meeting of chiefs has ever before taken place in the Southern Provinces. Indeed, it is scarcely possible to conceive that such a meeting could have been brought about for any purpose less momentous than that of welcoming the Heir to the Throne.

36. Apart from the above, the event of chief political importance in the Colony has been the deportation of Eshugbayi, the Eleko, and the installation of Ibikunle Akitoye as Eleko in his place. Since the 1st December, 1920, the Nigerian Government had ceased to recognise Eshugbayi as the Head of the House of Docemo. His removal caused a certain amount of party feeling in Lagos, but the new Eleko is gradually consolidating his position and opposition to him is slowly dying down.

37. The disputes between the Moslem parties have subsided. The result of litigation, now ended, has been to cause complete separation between the disputing factions, and each party is now settling down as a separate and self-contained unit with its own Lemonu and its own mosque.

38. Ademoiu, the Awujale of Ijebu-Ode, who was a very old man, died on the 15th of October, 1925. He served the Government loyally, and Adenuga, of the Tuwashe House, has been appointed in his place.

39. In addition to the presence of bubonic plague in Lagos an outbreak has occurred in the Remo country of the Ijebu province, resulting in 400 reported deaths between the 17th of August and the middle of November. Two cases were also reported at Abeokuta. In each case the outbreaks were traced to Lagos.

40. There have been cases of yellow fever in Lagos and, to a lesser degree, at Ibadan and Warri. More will, however, be said on this subject in a later paragraph.

41. The Egba-Ibadan boundary is being revised and it is hoped, by a new boundary, to ensure that the bulk of the Egbas are ruled by the Alake of Abeokuta, and the Ibadans by the Alafin of Oyo.

42. The King's Medal for Native Chiefs was awarded to Chief Dore of Warri.

43. The township of Port Harcourt is expanding rapidly, and the great increase in motor traffic has resulted in the opening up of outlying places such as Azumini and Owerrinta, where considerable trade is now done. Bonny has now been definitely closed as an administrative station.

44. Two small affrays in the Ogoja province, resulting in local fighting, necessitated the visit of military escorts composed

of two platoons of the Nigeria Regiment. In three other cases police patrols had to be called out. A boundary has been demarcated between the towns of Befun and Ndem as the inhabitants had become extremely hostile and were encroaching on each other's land. The presence of a police escort in this instance prevented any trouble which might otherwise have arisen.

45. Riots broke out in the Calabar township on the 1st April as a result of the imposition of market stall fees. The Riot Act was read by the Commissioner of Police but the mob had to be charged before it would disperse. No shots were fired. The Obong was charged with and found guilty of an offence under the Markets Ordinance. By the end of May, after a visit of the Officer Administering the Government and the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, the people had returned to the market and paid their fees.

46. *The mandated territory of the Cameroons* is administered as though it were an integral part of Nigeria. The southern portion, known as the Cameroons province, is grouped with the Southern Provinces of Nigeria under the general administrative control of the Lieutenant-Governor. The outstanding event of the year was the disposal of the plantations in Victoria and Kumba divisions. These estates, which had previously been vested in the public custodian of ex-enemy property, were sold by public auction in December, 1924, and in March, 1925, were finally handed over to the purchasers, the great majority of whom were Germans. Throughout the province administrative progress has been well maintained. The native administration has so far established twelve fully-equipped infant schools which are regularly inspected by an officer of the Education Department. A motor road is being made by the native administration to connect the Victoria--Buea road with Kumba, and the native administration has also completed a motor road between Bamenda and Bali, a distance of fifteen miles.

47. The health of the inhabitants of Nigeria cannot be said to have been good during 1925. The violence of the epidemics of relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis in the Northern Provinces was devastating in its effects in several areas, and the death roll has been enormous. Relapsing fever had been severe in the north in 1924 and fears were then expressed that, owing to its method of propagation, extension would take place; these fears were fully justified. Cerebro-spinal meningitis has also taken a heavy toll. The prophylaxis against these two diseases is simple, and propaganda might do much to mitigate the severity of the outbreaks. In addition the remedy for relapsing fever is almost a specific, and, where opportunity occurred to apply it, the death-rate among cases treated was reduced to 1 per cent. Unfortunately the aversion of the greater part of the population to European medicine is a heavy handicap.

48. Plague, though not assuming the alarming proportions of the outbreak in 1924, continued intermittently, and will probably not be eliminated from Lagos until the town has been replanned and to a large extent rebuilt. A more serious feature was the extension of the disease to the mainland. The possibility of this occurrence had always been foreseen owing to the difficulty of controlling the canoe traffic with the mainland. A small outbreak occurred at Agege in March, ten cases being diagnosed, while in August a considerable outbreak occurred in Ijebu-Ode district, there being over 500 cases, with 73 per cent. mortality. A smaller outbreak in November at Abeokuta, 100 per cent. fatal, was directly traced to a child who was brought to Lagos, infected there, and returned by train.

Four medical officers were lent to augment the sanitary staff and all these outbreaks were got under control quickly, that at Ijebu-Ode being practically stamped out by November.

49. For the first time since 1917, yellow fever made a demonstration in force, and a serious number of deaths of Europeans resulted. It is probable that the concentration of sanitary effort on the combating of plague was partly responsible for the conditions leading to this outbreak. An intensive anti-mosquito campaign has since reduced the stegomyia index to the lowest yet recorded in Lagos. The Rockefeller Yellow Fever Commission is now established at Yaba, and is conducting researches at all the stations at which yellow fever occurred.

50. Smallpox frequently occurs in small outbreaks in all parts of Nigeria, but the extent of such outbreaks is becoming noticeably less year by year.

51. Vaccination continues to be actively pushed, and in two instances native administrations have adopted compulsory vaccination of infants. Owing to improved methods of transport, the proportion of successful vaccinations has shown a striking improvement.

52. The Sanitary Department has been strengthened by the addition of five medical officers of health, and the education of the inhabitants in hygienic rules and practice is proceeding with increasing vigour. Preparations for a child welfare campaign have been made, and will be vigorously carried out. Two lady medical officers are making a commencement with instruction in obstetrics and the training of midwives, one at Massey Street, Lagos, and the other at Abeokuta.

53. A conference of the Directors and Deputy Directors of Medical, Sanitary and Research branches of all the British West African Colonies was held at Accra in December; unanimity of policy and co-ordination of effort in improving the health services to the population will undoubtedly be achieved by such conferences as this.

54. Nigeria again participated with success in the British Empire Exhibition. The Nigerian section was sited in the West African Walled City and consisted of the Nigerian Pavilion, Cinema, Tea-Chalet and Native Village. Space within the Pavilion was allocated for the display of agricultural raw products, native industries and curios, palm-oil extracting machinery and exhibits connected with the Survey, Mines, Colliery, Forestry, Marine, Railway, Prisons, Printing and Public Works Departments and various Missions. The Native Village was laid out in the form of Hausa and Yoruba compounds with round and rectangular thatched mud huts, accommodating some fourteen craftsmen and their families.

### III.—Government Finances.

55. The revenue and expenditure for the past five years are as follows :—

	<i>True revenue.</i>	<i>Credits to loan works (Eastern Railway).</i>	<i>True expenditure.</i>	<i>Expenditure on loan works.</i>
	£	£	£	£
1920	6,738,042	81,232	6,080,990	412,533
Jan.—Mar., 1921	1,566,748	..	1,431,271	243,082
1921—22	4,869,220	7,026	6,553,553	618,444
1922—23	5,505,465	700	5,410,983	1,098,261
1923—24	6,260,561	..	5,501,242	..
1924—25	6,944,220	..	5,768,715	367,772

56. The revenue and expenditure for the six months April to September, 1925, amounted to £3,817,838 and £3,389,569, respectively. Included in the expenditure is £462,367, advanced for loan works, to be subsequently recovered from loan funds. If the same rate is maintained during the second six months of the year, the revenue of 1925—26 will exceed that of the previous year by about £690,000.

57. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st March, 1925, was £3,871,068. To this should be added £367,772 advanced from revenue for loan works and recoverable from the 2nd instalment of the 1923 loan when it is raised—making a true surplus of £4,238,840 on 31st March, 1925.

The public debt at 31st March, 1925, was £19,309,209 and the accumulated sinking fund amounted to £1,057,756.

58. The various native administrations have their own separate estimates of revenue and expenditure, deriving their revenue mainly from their share (normally 50 per cent.) of the native direct taxes, the remainder being paid over to the Government. The surplus funds of the native administrations are no longer deposited with the Government at interest. The native administrations of the Southern Provinces have their surplus

funds invested locally with the banks, but those of the Northern Provinces are mostly invested through the Crown Agents. These investments no longer appear as a liability in the Colony's balance sheet.

59. Silver coin to the value of £426,000 was withdrawn from circulation during the year ended 31st March, 1925, and £379,631 was shipped to the United Kingdom to be melted down. The alloy coin in circulation on the same date was about £5,359,000 and the total currency in circulation at 31st March, 1925, was estimated at £7,076,000.

#### IV. Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

60. *Trade*.—The total value of the trade of Nigeria (including specie) during the year was as follows:—

Imports	..	..	£ 15,790,000
Exports	..	..	17,245,000
			£33,035,000

an increase of approximately five millions sterling on the trade of the previous year.

The value of transit trade (i.e. goods passing through the inland waters of Nigeria to and from French territory) was £76,749, a decrease of over £140,000.

61. Commercial imports, excluding specie, were valued at £13,430,000, an increase of over 30 per cent. compared with the previous year, while commercial exports at £16,791,000 showed an increase of over 16 per cent. Imports of specie amounted to nearly 1½ million sterling, a decrease of half a million as compared with 1924, and exports of specie were slightly lower at £400,000.

62. The United Kingdom accounted for 65 per cent. of the total trade compared with 67 per cent. for the previous year. Imports from the United Kingdom showed a slight increase at 74 per cent., but the exports at 56 per cent. showed a slight decrease. The United States of America, with just under 8 per cent. of the total, and Germany, with 14 per cent., both showed slight gains.

63. Fresh export records were created in all the staple products. The increase in palm oil was slight, but palm kernels were nearly 20,000 tons in excess of 1924. The price of the former varied from £19 to £29 per ton and of the latter from £9 5s. to £16 10s. per ton. Cocoa showed an increase of nearly 4,000 tons over 1924, prices varying considerably, from £18 to £32 per ton being obtained for new crop. Ground-nut shipments at over 127,000 tons were 62 per cent. in excess of those for 1924, prices being steady at £12 to £14 per ton. Cotton lint achieved

a record being 18,000 cwt. in excess of the previous best year, 1921, when 114,426 cwt. were shipped. The export of hides and skins showed an increase of nearly a million lb., and tin at 9,204 tons was 350 tons in excess of the previous year.

64. *Agriculture.*—The values of export commodities have been slightly lower on the whole than last year, and in the older industries the volume of the exports has changed but very little. Since the opening of the first section of the railway from Port Harcourt, there has been no important change in transport facilities in the area tapped for the export of palm oil. The wider belt from which kernels are exported has, on the other hand, been steadily increased by the growth of motor transport, and it is this factor that has caused a rise in the export of kernels, in spite of the slight fall in their market price.

65. In the newer industries of cocoa, ground-nuts and cotton production, more important progress can be recorded. The cocoa export for the season 1924–25 totalled 35,900 tons as against 31,200 in the previous season. The crop of the current season is believed to be a good one in point both of quantity and quality, and a further increase is anticipated. During November and December the market was in an unsettled condition and there have been times when the exporters have been afraid to buy at any price; but the lost ground will be recovered if the market becomes steadier. The work of the Agricultural Department in organising the co-operative production of superfine fermented cocoa continues very successfully. Of the 1924–25 crop 680 tons were produced under this scheme and the results in the current season so far promise further progress.

66. The ground-nut crop of the season 1924–25 reached the remarkable figure of 125,000 tons, as against about half that amount in the previous season. In the current season the planted acreage appears to have been further increased, and the yield per acre to be normal. The price, however, in the opening weeks of the season has been some £4 lower than last year, and the purchases have therefore been correspondingly restricted. The difference between £25 and £21 per ton at Liverpool may not appear very serious, but a drop from £14 per ton to £10 at Kano makes a great difference.

67. The export of cotton last season (1924–25) totalled 39,000 bales as against about 26,000 in the previous season and 30,000 in 1920–21. The export of improved American cotton (included in the above figure) amounted to 28,000 bales in 1924–25 as against 16,000 in 1923–24. The conditions for the growing crop of the season of 1925 have been generally favourable, but the local prices of seed cotton have fallen by over one half-penny per pound in accordance with the drop in the price of lint in England. In the case of the American cotton the drop from 3d. per pound

of seed cotton to  $2\frac{3}{4}d.$  is not very serious, and an increased export is still anticipated for the season 1925–26. The fall in the price of the indigenous cotton of Southern Nigeria from  $2d.$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  is, however, very important, and unless the market changes a decreased export is anticipated.

68. Food crops during the year have been normal in both Northern and Southern Provinces, and prices in the Southern Provinces, which had risen slightly in 1924, have dropped again. There is a slight tendency towards a gradual rise in the price of food in several parts of the country, but the extent of this steady change in any one year is barely noticeable.

69. *Land.*—In the Southern Provinces all land is not under the control of the Governor in the same way as is the case 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 which obtain.

#### V.—Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

70. *Forestry.*—The system of exploiting timber is by selection fellings, subject to a minimum girth limit. During the year there has been continued activity in the timber concessions and there has been a considerable increase in the number of trees cut for export. Prices in the home markets for timber of good quality have remained firm, but there has been little demand for inferior wood.

71. The Forestry Department again exhibited at the British Empire Exhibition specimens of all timbers which it is hoped may in the future have a sale in the home and foreign timber markets for furniture making and cabinet work. The demand, however, has been small and has not increased as much as was hoped in spite of the remission by Government, in the case of so-called African Walnut, of the felling fees.

The demarcation of reserves has not been proceeded with as rapidly as was desired, owing to the impossibility of securing surveyors for the work, but progress has been made in the constitution of forest reserves both in the Northern and the Southern Provinces.

72. The planting season has, on the whole, been a good one. Natural regeneration of the more valuable timber species, assisted by the clearing of undergrowth in selected areas, is proving successful, but it has yet to be proved conclusively whether this method is as cheap or cheaper than the establishment of plantations.

73. The natural regeneration of Abura (*Mitragyne macrophylla*), a valuable timber tree, is reported from Sapoba in the Western Provinces, where it has sprung up in abundance on areas cleared of high forest that contained mother trees of that species. This is very gratifying, as attempts at the artificial regeneration of this tree have hitherto resulted in failure. Apart from this the natural regeneration in quite noticeable quantities of the following species was observed during the year—in the Oyo circle that of Sterculias and species of *Terminalia* and of *Triplochiton Nigericum*, in the Ondo circle of *Lophira Procera*, a useful hardwood tree, and in the Benin circle of various species of mahoganies.

74. Little or no interest has been shown by the trades concerned in the exploitation of minor forest products such as rubber, fibre, etc. At one time it was thought that there might be a demand for locally-prepared rubber, but this has not materialised.

75. *Mining*.—During the year there were fifty-eight mining companies and forty-nine individual workers operating on tin; three individuals were also prospecting for, or mining gold. The average number of persons employed throughout the year in the mining industry was 232 Europeans, and 23,400 natives, an increase of 1,000 on the number of natives working on the field in 1924.

76. The output of tin ore from the mines was approximately 8,560 tons, and 9,204 tons of ore were exported from Nigeria, the value of which is estimated to have been £1,738,035. The quarterly price of tin, on which the royalty payable is calculated, varied from £240 7s. to £274 12s. 6d., but during the last quarter of the year the price rose to over £280 a ton, and is likely to remain at a high figure; for the world's output, although increasing, does not keep pace with the consumption.

77. The production from Nigeria was some 300 tons below that of the previous year. This disappointing output is probably due to a short and scanty rainy season. Three companies are producing over 100 tons a month each; they are enabled to do this by the extensive use of machinery. The Kwalle Falls hydro-electrical installation has been completed and brought into use by the Northern Nigeria (Bauchi) Tin Mines, as has also the Bucyrus steam shovel by the Keffi Consolidated Tin Company.

78. Much activity has been shown in prospecting during the year; the unsettled Kaleri district on the southern borders of Bauchi province, was opened on February 1st, and a large area was quickly covered by applications for mining ground. The mineral galena deposits of which were known to exist, formed the subject of three applications for exclusive prospecting licences; the high price of lead has doubtless drawn attention to the possibility of the successful exploitation of this mineral.

79. An application has been made covering a limestone deposit, with the intention of examining the possibility of the manufacture of cement to supply the local demand.

Approximately 950 ounces of gold were won, a decrease of some 450 ounces on the amount won in 1924, and there seems to be no prospect of an extension in operations connected with this precious metal.

80. The Geological Survey continued its investigations mainly in the Northern Provinces. In the Northern Provinces the mapping of the Kaleri, Baron and Sura districts of Bauchi province was completed, the geology of Bauchi town and the surrounding districts was investigated, and portions of Nassarawa, Zaria and Kano provinces were also traversed and geologically surveyed. In the Southern Provinces the further investigation of the coalfield was delayed by the absence of maps. Some geological exploration, however, was carried out on the upper Cross River in the neighbourhood of Afikpo and Mamfe. A bulletin on the geology of the southern section of the Eastern Railway was published in the course of the year, as well as three occasional papers dealing respectively with "Brown Coal in Nigeria," "Reptilian Remains from the Eocene of Sokoto," and "Cretaceous Echinoids from the Gongola valley." A bulletin on the geology of the southern plateau tinfields was prepared for the press and arrangements were made for the publication of a short paper on certain stone implements from the tinfields and other parts of Nigeria.

81. *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.

82. *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 and there is at last some promise that use will be made of it for the production of electricity.

83. *Manufactures.*—With the exception of a soap factory at Apapa 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.

84. Banking interests are represented in Nigeria by the Bank of British West Africa Limited, which was established in 1894, and by the Colonial Bank, which extended its operations to Nigeria in 1917. Both banks undertake all kinds of banking business.

85. *Savings Banks*.—A Government Savings Bank is worked and controlled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, but very little advantage is taken of the facilities for the purposes of thrift. Savings bank business is also transacted by the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank.

#### VII.—Legislation.

86. The British Cameroons Administration Ordinance, 1925 (No. 1 of 1925), which repealed Ordinance No. 3 of 1924, practically re-enacted that ordinance, with the omission of the provision that all Nigerian ordinances enacted subsequently to 28th February, 1924, shall apply to the British Cameroons. It is therefore now necessary in each ordinance and in subsidiary legislation to state definitely whether the enactment is in force in the British Cameroons or not.

87. The Registration of United Kingdom Patents Ordinance, 1925 (No. 6 of 1925), repeals Chapter 141 of the Laws of Nigeria and provides for the registration in Nigeria of all patents granted in the United Kingdom provided that application for registration is made within three years from the date of issue of the patent. The rights conferred in Nigeria date from the date of the patent in the United Kingdom and continue in force so long as the patent remains in force in the United Kingdom.

88. The Revised Edition of the Laws (Annual Supplement) Ordinance, 1925 (No. 8 of 1925), provides that the Attorney-General shall prepare an annual supplement to the Laws in the preparation of which he shall have the powers conferred on the Commissioner by section 4 of the Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1923.

89. The Deposed Chiefs Removal (Amendment) Ordinance, 1925 (No. 9 of 1925), authorises the Governor to order that any deposed chief shall within a specified time leave the area over which he exercised jurisdiction or influence and other specified parts of Nigeria adjacent thereto. Disobedience to such an order may entail a term of imprisonment and the deportation of the chief to such part of Nigeria as the Governor may direct.

90. The German Missions Ordinance, 1925 (No. 10 of 1925), repeals Ordinance No. 29 of 1924 and gives effect to Article 438 of the Treaty of Versailles as to the property of Christian religious missions formerly maintained by Germans in the British Cameroons.

91. The Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 1925 (No. 17 of 1925), gives a superior police officer the power to suspend an assistant superintendent or an inspector charged with a criminal offence, and enlarges the power to grant bail by conferring it on police officers not below the rank of corporal.

92. The Liquor (Amendment) Ordinance, 1925 (No. 18 of 1925), provides for a quarterly sessions of a licensing board.

**VIII.—Education.**

93. There are in Nigeria a number of primary schools which have been established and are maintained either by the Government or by native administrations. The former have for the most part attained a very fair standard of efficiency, while the latter, few in number and found only in the Cameroons province, are making good progress.

94. 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.

95. 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. To these general statements there are exceptions: some of the schools are making efforts to improve their staff and equipment, and to qualify for admission to the Assisted List.

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

97. 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.

98. Numerous Mohammedan 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.

Many Moslem children, however, attend at Christian schools where they are as a rule the equal of their fellow-pupils in general efficiency.

99. King's College, Lagos, is the only Government establishment which is confined to secondary education. It was established by the Government in 1909, to provide a secondary education for those desiring to continue their studies beyond the primary school stage. Entrance to the College is by examination. Scholarships and exhibitions, entitling holders to free education at the College and tenable for four years, are awarded annually to candidates who obtain the highest marks at an examination held for the purpose. Additional buildings are in course of erection and will be ready for use early in 1926. They comprise laboratories for physics and chemistry, additional class-rooms, and accommodation for boarders. Provision is also being made for lecture rooms which will be available for day and evening classes for technical students and apprentices in the Government Technical Departments.

100. Provision is made for the training of teachers at two Government and eleven mission schools and institutes, two of the latter being for women. These training institutions are for residential students, under the direction of European principals and are conducted in accordance with the regulations laid down 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 held regularly at King's College. Vacation classes in elementary agriculture for teachers are held in July and December at Calabar and Onitsha. The instruction, both theoretical and practical, is given by officers of the Agricultural Department, and certificates are awarded to those who succeed in passing the examinations. In the majority of the Government and assisted schools such instruction as is possible is given in manual agricultural training. The Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, has departments for carpentry, printing and tailoring.

101. Education in the Northern Provinces is steadily gaining ground and every encouragement is being given to the inauguration of small rural schools in all emirates. Permission has been given for six such schools to be opened in the emirates of Sokoto province, and of these, two have been opened and four are being built. Uncertainty of European supervision has held up expansion in other provinces. Unfortunately, once again the European staff is under strength. During 1925 one superintendent resigned (April 20th) and the appointment of another was terminated (August 8th); these vacancies have not yet been filled, while the staff has been still further depleted by four invalidings.

102. The problem of keeping up an adequate staff of native teachers is being dealt with effectively in the Katsina Training

College, which the Governor formally opened on the 5th of March, 1922, and where there are now fifty-six pupils undergoing the course of training. In March, 1926, the first batch of pupils will leave and be drafted to various provincial schools. These may not realise hopes, but they certainly mark a new chapter in the history of education in the Northern provinces. One pupil died at the end of the year—the first death at the College, despite prevailing epidemics of relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis.

103. Five new superintendents of arts and crafts were sanctioned as from April 1st, but no appointments have yet been made. Three arts and crafts schools will shortly be without European supervision.

### IX.—Climate.

104. The seasons in Nigeria depend rather on the rainfall than on the temperature, and they are as a rule well defined. The "dry season" with its attendant "Harmattan" begins 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.

105. Generally speaking, the lowest mean temperature is in the months of July and August, and the lowest minimum recorded 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 temperatures is greater in proportion to the distance of a station from the coast.

106. 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.

107. The most notable feature of the climate of Lagos for 1925 was the amount of rain which fell during the four months April to July, namely, 54·78 inches, as compared with 19·01 inches for the corresponding period in 1924. The total rainfall for the year was about seventy-seven inches as against a mean of seventy-one inches.

Another unusual feature in Lagos was the amount of "Harmattan" experienced in January. For nearly a fortnight the humidity fell to about forty-eight per cent. as against a mean of about ninety per cent. ; and at Ebute-Metta a minimum shade temperature of 55° was recorded between the 19th and the 24th of January. This is phenomenally low for Lagos.

108. The average annual rainfall at Forcados, on the Niger Delta, is 149 inches ; at Lokoja, situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue, it is forty-seven inches, and at Sokota in the north-west of Nigeria it is only twenty-five inches.

### X.—Communications.

(INCLUDES REFERENCES TO MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.)

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

110. A motor transport service, with headquarters at Ibadan, connected the latter place with the towns of Oyo, 33 miles, and Iseyin, 60 miles ; and from Oyo a connecting service with Ogbomosho, a distance of 33 miles, was in operation. These services have since been discontinued in favour of private enterprise which now exists. In the Northern Provinces services run between Bukuru, on the Bauchi Plateau, and the following places :—Ropp Mines, 22 miles, Mongu Mines, 32 miles, Exlands Mines, 27 miles, and Jos, a distance of 10 miles. A new service of light vans is now in operation between Zaria and Gusau, a distance of 114 miles, on which service experiments are being made with tractor vehicles, and with the abandonment of the services in the south the headquarters of the motor transport has been moved to Zaria.

111. The Eastern line, running from Port Harcourt on the Bonny Estuary, connects with Makurdi (291 miles) and serves the important Udi Coalfields at Enugu at 151 miles. This line is being extended to join up with the Western Division at Kaduna, at a distance of 566 miles from Port Harcourt. The break between railheads on December 31st, 1925, was 12 miles.

112. Sanction has been obtained to construct a branch line, approximately 51 miles in length, from a point near Kagoro on the extension mentioned in the previous paragraph, to Jos on the Bauchi Light Railway. This branch, when completed, will connect Jos with the 3ft. 6in. gauge and provide a direct route from the tin-fields to Lagos and Port Harcourt. Traffic and

reconnaissance surveys of promising areas for the construction of new branches of the Western line have been carried out and a feeder line, Zaria-Gusau, 114 miles long, has been decided upon as the result of these surveys.

113. The gross earnings during the financial year ending 31st March, 1925, amounted to £2,076,591 and the working expenditure to £970,446, making the net receipts £1,106,145. The total number of passengers carried was 1,922,580 and 680,107 tons of goods and minerals were handled.

114. The estimated revenue for the calendar year is placed at £2,294,737 and the approximate expenditure at £1,008,440.

115. There are now 151 stations opened for public traffic, 121 of which are on the Western Division and 30 on the Eastern Division. The permanent staff of the railway includes 422 Europeans. The African salaried staff, in which is included 52 West Indians, numbers 1,705, and 13,442 artisans and labourers are employed.

116. The organisation of the railway has been under examination by a special commissioner, whose report was published in August, 1924. The various recommendations contained therein have received or are receiving consideration.

Approval was obtained to introduce a divisional system of organisation whereby the traffic staff and locomotive staff are amalgamated under a superintendent of the line. The system is to be split up into three Divisions, Northern, Southern and Eastern, each under a divisional superintendent.

117. *Harbours, Rivers and Creeks.*—Navigable conditions at the entrance to Lagos harbour continue satisfactory and recent surveys shew no indication of shoaling or of the bar extending. Replenishment and maintenance work on the moles and training bank have been carried out as usual by the Harbour Works Department. The dredger "The Lady Clifford" has been employed dredging on the Eastern Spit or in the Commodore Channel according to weather conditions. The Eastern Spit has a continuous tendency to extend into the navigable channel but "The Lady Clifford" has no difficulty in keeping it within bounds. The shoal patches between the West Mole and Eastern Spit have reappeared but are easily kept under by dredging as opportunity offers. The bar draught remained at 23ft. until the 11th December, when it was raised to 24ft. for vessels leaving. No. 1 berth of the new Apapa wharf was temporarily opened for exports on December 11th. Inside the harbour, dredging has been carried out by the "Child" and "Queen Mary" in the Apapa crossing, by the "Queen Mary" off Iddo coal wharf, Pool and Apapa crossing, and by "The Lady Clifford" and "Sandgrouse" in the Commodore Channel and Pool. The spoil dredged by the "Child" and "Queen Mary" was pumped ashore by the "Romulus" at Iddo Island and Ujora; that of "The Lady Clifford" and "Sandgrouse" was dumped at sea.

118. The dredger "Sandgrouse" was employed up to April deepening and improving the approach channel to Burutu assisted by the grab dredger "Mole."

119. A survey of Opobo bar was made in March, the Burutu channel was re-surveyed in July, and a survey of Warri port was finished in August. A survey of Lagos lagoon from Carter Bridge to Palaver Island was finished in October.

120. Work on the second instalment of ocean wharfage was commenced at Port Harcourt during the year. This will provide two additional berths for the largest vessels visiting the port. Work was also commenced towards the end of the year on a new coaling berth, which will increase the coaling facilities of the port very considerably.

121. Waterway clearing was carried out during the year in the sudd region, the River Niger, the Imo River, Saka Creek, and the Mungo River in the Cameroons.

122. The launch routes through the Delta have been kept clear and open to navigation.

123. The buoyage of the coast, the river entrances, and the navigable rivers, has been well maintained during the year. A third automatic gas light buoy has been laid at the entrance to Calabar River.

124. The lights of the coast, including the coast of the British Cameroons, have been well maintained.

125. Mail and transport services were maintained regularly by Government between the following places:—Lagos to Sapele and Forcados; Baro, on the Niger, to Lokoja and Onitsha; Port Harcourt to Opobo, and Port Harcourt to Degema and Brass. An intermittent cargo service was also maintained from Burutu to Warri and Niger stations as far as Lokoja. The low-water service on the Cross River between Itu and Ikom, in conjunction with Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company, Limited, has also been maintained.

126. *Shipping*.—Regular mail, passenger and cargo services have been maintained throughout the year between the United Kingdom and Nigerian ports, and also between Continental and American ports and Nigeria. Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company, Limited, hold the bulk of the shipping, but many other firms run regular services, amongst them being the Bull West Africa Line, John Holt and Company, Limited, African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Limited, Holland West Africa Line, Woermann Line and allied companies, and Chargeurs Réunis, the French Steamship Line. The total tonnage of cargo loaded and shipped during 1925 was over 1,000,000 tons as compared with 900,000 tons last year. The number of vessels which entered and cleared was 670, as against 554 in 1924.

127. *Roads and Bridges.*—About 2,800 miles of motor road are maintained by the Public Works Department. These roads being of the gravelled type and having permanent bridges can, with a few exceptions, be used throughout the year by cars and light lorries. The native administrations have constructed, either directly or with the assistance of the Public Works Department, many roads of a similar type, and maintain in addition a considerable mileage of roads which are serviceable for light motor traffic, at any rate during the dry season. The value of motorable roads is fully appreciated and, with increasing traffic, the improvement of certain roads has become essential.

128. A start has been made with the work of providing a metalled and tarred surface on the Lagos-Abeokuta road, and improvement of the bridges and embankments on another main route—the Oshogbo-Benin road—was only delayed by lack of staff. Three 60 feet spans have been added to the Lafenwa Bridge at Abeokuta, a long-deferred improvement that should prevent the periodical interruption of traffic on the Lagos-Ibadan road caused by breaching of the bridge approach during floods.

129. The work of bridging and culverting on the Ilorin-Share, Oke-Ode-Lafiagi and Ilorin-Awtun roads, undertaken by the Public Works Department for the Ilorin Native Administration, has been completed, and with the completion of the Igbara-Oke-Ado-Awtun road a through route from Ilorin to the Benin road has been opened. Work on the extension of the Akure-Ondo road to the waterside at Agbabu is in progress, and the Kajola-Asha road in Abeokuta province approaches completion.

130. On the Ibadan-Ijebu Ode road steel bridges of 100 feet, 75 feet and two of 50 feet spans, together with minor bridge improvements are under construction. On the Bukuru-Ropp road, which serves the mining districts, five new heavy bridges are being provided and existing bridges are being strengthened to take  $6\frac{1}{2}$  tons axle-loads.

131. Work on the Iseyin-Eruwa road undertaken by the Oyo Native Administration on behalf of the Government is making good progress, and in Calabar province a bridge over the Kwaibo at Utu-Etim-Ekpo has been completed and one over the Uyo-Oron creek is in progress.

132. *Posts and Telegraphs.*—There has been a very marked increase in all Post Office services, which have been carried out expeditiously and satisfactorily. The motor mail services have been increased and the department relies less than ever upon head transport. The telegraph construction on the Eastern Railway extension was continued and only a few miles remain to be completed. For the first time for many years the European establishment has been up to full strength.

133. *Surveys.*—Owing to the increase in mining activity there has been an abnormal increase in the number of applications for mining surveys, and it was necessary to concentrate all

available field staff on these surveys. In spite of this there was still at the end of the year a large increase in the number of unsurveyed mining areas awaiting survey. Revision surveys were made at Sapele, Forcados, Warri, Benin, and of a considerable area at Lagos. Approximately 3,000 plots were laid out in the Yaba Settlement. Cadastral surveys were carried out in most of the principal townships throughout the country. A contour survey of 7,000 acres in the Sokoto Valley was carried out in preparation for the proposed irrigation works. Main triangulation was continued, but unfortunately, owing to the shortage of staff, an area of only 2,600 square miles was triangulated. The topographical surveys in Owerri and Onitsha provinces were closed down from May to October owing to the necessity for diverting the staff to more urgent work on the minesfield. Topographical work was begun again in October and by the end of the year three field sheets, each covering about 300 square miles, were completed. Lithographic machines have been erected at the Kano Survey School and plans in different colours, which in the past were always prepared in England, can now be printed at Kano.

134. *Public Works.*—The new stores on Iddo Island were completed and occupied and the adjacent workshops approach completion. Concentration of stores, saw-mill and workshops should add materially to the efficiency of the department.

135. The net increase in the extraordinary works estimates over the previous year amounted to £345,000, but shortage of staff must prevent completion of the entire programme. In most branches the shortage was sufficiently serious, but in the electrical branch the situation became critical and at one time it was questionable whether light and power services could be effectively maintained.

136. The public ferry wharf on the Marina, the St. Anna's magistrate's court and the students' boarding house at King's College in Lagos have now been completed.

137. Native hospitals at Jos and Kano and extensions to the hospitals at Kaduna and Zaria and to the European hospital in Lagos were completed. Considerable progress was made with the large extensions to the Port Harcourt hospital (estimated cost £23,000) and with the Massey Street dispensary at Lagos. Work on the European hospital at Enugu was commenced.

138. Throughout the country generally the provision of officers' quarters was continued and the programme was largely augmented during the year. For African officers the programme included quarters at Port Harcourt (49), Enugu (21), Jos (13) and at Zaria, Ilorin, Ibadan, Calabar and other stations.

139. The water supply scheme at Enugu was satisfactorily completed early in the year but, owing to lack of staff, house services are still unfinished. Proposals for the Kano water

supply were submitted to the Consulting Engineers, who have recommended certain further investigations. Although more delay is unavoidable, the difficult nature of the problem and the heavy expenditure involved justify exploration of all possible sources and methods. A scheme for providing water for the native town at Port Harcourt is under construction and investigation of schemes for Kaduna, Onitsha, Aba and Ijebu Ode is being undertaken.

140. The number of consumers served by the Lagos electric light and power undertaking shows a gratifying increase and the Electrical Department can hardly cope with demands for connections. Up to the end of November the additions were:— Government, lighting—22, power—2, Non-Government, metered lighting supplies—138, non-metered lighting—107, metered power supplies—5. The introduction of the non-metered flat rate scale has successfully attracted many small consumers. The total consumption is still too small for profitable work and it must be some years before economical capacity of the plant is attained.

Proposals for an electric light and power scheme at Port Harcourt have been submitted for the consideration of the Consulting Engineers and, in conjunction with water supply, preliminary investigation of a scheme for Kaduna is in progress.

H. M.-M. MOORE,

*Principal Assistant Secretary.*

Lagos,

*22nd February, 1926.*

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