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NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1926.

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NIGERIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926.

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 367,837 square miles (Southern Provinces and Colony 88,825 square miles; Northern Provinces 279,012 square miles, the increase of area of the Northern Provinces over last year's figures being caused by the transfer of Kentu District, an area of 3,210 square miles, from the Southern to the Northern Provinces), 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 18,502,322* (Southern Provinces and Colony, 8,461,671; Northern Provinces, 10,040,651)†, 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 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 Nigeri 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

* Includes population of the mandated area of the Cameroons.

† Includes the transfer of 7,000 from the Southern to Northern Provinces on account of the transfer of Kentu District to the Northern Provinces.

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 Bath (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-two provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident.

16. In the Northern Provinces the efficiency and co-operation of the leading Emirs—which were noted in the report for 1925—have been well maintained, and the past twelve months have everywhere shown evidence of an increasing desire on their part for administrative progress and economic development. The activities of the Native Administrations have hitherto been chiefly confined to road construction and improvement and to the encouragement of motor transport, but they are now rapidly learning to appreciate the need for more education and better sanitary conditions.

17. The number of the *Northern Provinces* (including a portion of the mandated territory of the Cameroons) has now been

reduced from twelve to eleven as the outcome of a rearrangement, in the light of modern experience, of the boundaries of most of the previous provinces ; a rearrangement which was foreshadowed in the 1925 Report* and which was carried out during the year. The main changes are that the former Nasarawa and Muri Provinces have been absorbed and a new Province (Plateau) has been formed. Two provinces which consist mainly of the former Munshi and Yola Provinces have been named the Benue and Adamawa Provinces respectively. The latter also absorbs the Kentu district from the Southern Provinces. Each province is 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. One of the outstanding events of the year under review was the journey undertaken by the Governor from Lagos to Lake Chad in March and April, this being the first occasion on which the entire distance had been traversed by motor transport. The route followed was *via* Ibadan, Ilorin, Bida, Zungeru, Kaduna, Jos, Bauchi, Darazo, Potiskum and Maiduguri. This visit followed that of Mr. Ormsby-Gore, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, and his party in February and March. The Governor also toured the Benue region in July, visiting Makurdi, Ibi, Yola, Lokoja, and Idah. On this occasion he opened the Eastern Railway at Kafanchan on July 12th.

19. Beyond the rearrangement of provinces referred to above, there have been no changes in the political administration of the Northern Provinces during the course of the year. A conference of residents was held at Kaduna in September at which many important questions of administration were discussed. It is proposed to hold a similar conference every year.

20. Serious disturbances in the Northern Provinces have been few. The assistance of military patrols has been required in the Mubi and Uba districts of the Adamawa Province. In the Mubi district a patrol was sent out against the Jilvu pagans in March in order to bring them under effective administrative control. During September the Tuku pagans of the Uba district treacherously attacked an Assistant District Officer, who had a narrow escape. A military patrol was sent out and, after a few weeks, the pagans were brought to submission. There was no loss of life in either case. Collective punishment fines were imposed on the villages of East Tangale (Bauchi Province) and Jibbem (Plateau Province) for crimes involving communal responsibility. Two ringleaders of the 1925 Bajeddi rising in the Kabba Province, which was mentioned in the 1925 report, were arrested and convicted in February.

* No. 1315 in the Colonial Annual Reports Series.

21. In the Plateau Province, the North Mada district has been declared to be no longer an "unsettled" area; it is still, however, closed to prospecting. The Mama, South Mada and Shendam districts remained "unsettled" and closed to prospecting, but the Shendam district was opened on the 1st of February, 1927. Owing to the prevalence of trypanosomiasis in the Jemaa, Ayu, and Ninzam districts, these areas have been declared closed to further prospecting, but work therein held under exclusive prospecting licences, mining rights or mining leases has not been affected by this declaration.

22. A boundary dispute between the Ngbos of Abakaliki Division of the Ogoja Province and Ajala of Idoma Division of the Benue Province has been satisfactorily dealt with. The Ilorin-Oyo-Ondo boundaries were finally settled on June 30th, and the fresh delimitation of the whole boundary between the Northern and Southern Provinces was completed with the exception of two small portions.

23. Compared with the improvement shown last year, trade has been disappointing during 1926. There was a decrease in the amount of groundnuts railed. In Sokoto the amount of cotton seed purchased was nearly three times as much as last year. Owing, however, to the abnormally early cessation of the rains it is feared that the prospects of the current cotton season are precarious and that the crop will not come up to expectations. The heavy fall in the prices of cotton makes the position more serious. The new ginnery at Gusau has been completed and others are being erected by the British Cotton Growing Association at Karadua and Funtua. The Empire Cotton Growing Corporation has opened a seed farm at Daudawa which has made good progress. Groundnut prospects were fair, but the grain crops generally were below the average.

24. The experiments in the Zaria Province with the Guy-Roadless and Burford-Kegresse types of flexible motor tractors, referred to in the 1925 report, have proved fairly successful, and it is intended to test them during the coming season with trailers. The results of the trials have so far shown that, while there are still faults of design and construction which will have to be remedied before this new type of mechanical transport is finally proved, there is every reason to believe that they will eventually be of value in helping to solve the transport problem.

25. The strong financial position of the Native Treasuries, as previously reported, was maintained in 1925-26. The balances carried forward on the 31st March, 1926, including sums invested in securities (£465,558) amounted to £1,275,881. The revenue was increased by £60,549. While this represents in part the normal increase due to revision of standing assessments and to the assessment of new areas it also includes £26,267 which accrued to the Native Administrations as profits on the sale and re-investment

of securities. An increase on the expenditure side is accounted for mainly by appropriations for works of public utility and by the more adequate remuneration of the personnel.

26. During his visit to the Sokoto Province in February, Mr. Ormsby-Gore opened the Shalla Irrigation Canal. The Agricultural Department started an experimental farm in January in connection with this scheme, and now, with their help, as much land as possible is being prepared at the urgent request of the people. The proposed water supply scheme for Kano is under reference to the home experts with a view to the adoption of a scheme to utilise the Challawa river which, of the two alternatives hitherto explored, is the less expensive.

27. There have been no serious outbreaks of epidemic disease during the year. Cerebro-spinal meningitis, which caused heavy mortality in 1925, has occurred only in small outbreaks. Relapsing fever has also subsided to a great extent, though there was a heavy outbreak at Keana in the Lafia Emirate of the Benue Province. This has now been subdued. There was also a small-pox epidemic in the Zaria Province during the dry season 1925-26. The tsetse-fly investigation work at Sherifuri continues. Mr. Oldrieve, Secretary of the Empire Leprosy Relief Association, visited the Northern Provinces during January and February, and inspected the leper settlements at Kano, Sokoto and Maiduguri.

28. Rinderpest and pleuro-pneumonia have continued to take a serious toll among cattle, especially in the Bauchi and Zaria Provinces. The laboratory at Vom has, however, been actively engaged in the manufacture of anti-rinderpest serum, and the immunisation campaign against rinderpest, inaugurated during the latter part of 1925 at Maidontoro in the Plateau Province, has been continued with marked success. Fulani cattle owners are most anxious to have their cattle immunised and travel from distant places to Maidontoro for that purpose. Anti-rinderpest work on a large scale has been considered, and next year it is expected to enlarge the laboratory at Vom and to establish two immunisation camps in the Bauchi Province. Research work at the laboratory has also produced a vaccine for conferring immunity against pleuro-pneumonia, and tests of this vaccine give indications that it is likely to be efficacious.

29. The Police Force continues to maintain a high standard of efficiency. As a result of the regrouping of the Northern Provinces considerable changes were made in the dispositions of the provincial police detachments, and the re-arrangement has caused a more economical distribution of the Force. Escorts and guards have been furnished to political officers touring in the more backward and inaccessible parts of the country.

30. Interesting events have been the visit of representatives of the British Instructional Film Company, from January to May, to make a film story of Nigerian life, and the flight of two French

seaplanes to the river Niger at Lokoja and along the Benue Valley in November *en route* to Madagascar. One machine came down near Lokoja, damaged the engine and was unable to continue the journey. The other arrived safely at Madagascar.

31. The following important chiefs have died during the year :—

Usuman, Emir of Kano.
 Bello, Emir of Bida.
 Mohammadu, Emir of Nasarawa.
 Abdulahi, Emir of Lafia.
 Abubakr, Emir of Agaie.
 Atabo, Attah of Idah.

Alhaj Muhammadu, Emir of Misau, has retired on account of ill-health after holding office for twenty-three years during which he proved himself a most loyal chief. Abdulahi, Emir of Jemaa, resigned his appointment in November.

32. The Governor, during his tour in the Benue region in July, installed the following Chiefs :—

Muhaman Bello, Emir of Yola, now known as the Lamido of Adamawa.
 Muhamadu, Emir of Lafia.
 Obanje Ocheje, Attah of Idah.

33. The Emir of Biu has been awarded the King's Medal for Chiefs, which was presented to him by the Lieutenant-Governor.

34. Immigration from French territory into the Adamawa Province has increased. Relations with the French authorities have been excellent.

35. In the *Southern Provinces* there have been no serious political disturbances during the year under review.

36. The Governor visited each one of the Southern Provinces during the year. During the year the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Ormsby-Gore, and party made an extended tour of the Southern Provinces, and in so far as the time available allowed, met representatives of all classes of the community.

37. In the Colony the political atmosphere in Lagos has quieted down considerably. On Empire Day an organised attack was made on the Eleko as he was returning from the Race Course. A number of arrests were made and eleven persons were convicted. Since then by his patience and tact the Eleko has consolidated his position considerably and has gained many adherents from among those who were formerly his most bitter opponents.

38. The long outstanding Apapa land case was settled during the year, and compensation was distributed as ordered by the Court. A land dispute in the Epe District, which has long been a source of contention between the Ijebus and the people of Ejinrin, has also been settled by the Supreme Court.

39. The Council of the Egba Division in Abeokuta Province has been enlarged to permit of wider representation of town wards.

40. A revision of the Egba-Ibadan boundary has been approved, and both races seem satisfied with the adjustment made.

41. Local administration has been inaugurated in the Asaba Division of Benin Province, hitherto administered by direct rule.

42. It was found necessary to depose Adam Ephraim Duke from his position as Obon of Calabar and to relieve him of his appointment as a Native Authority as a result of his persistent attitude of obstruction to Government authority and policy.

43. Adenuga, the new Awujale of Ijebu Ode, who succeeded Ademolu last year, was installed by the Governor in June.

44. A serious recrudescence of plague broke out in the Ijebu Province in March. The outbreak reached its height at the beginning of September, and, thanks to the energetic methods taken to combat it, from that time gradually decreased.

45. A purely local disturbance was caused in Owo in the Ondo Province on the election of Amaka as Ojomo of Owo. Faleyimu, a relative of the late Ojomo, seized the insignia of office and rioting broke out, which was speedily quelled by the Police.

46. The Igbeagu area in Ogoja Province, which was declared a Proclaimed Area in 1925, reverted to its ordinary status in March last.

47. A short-lived strike took place at Enugu in July, when the tub boys at the colliery came out on strike for higher wages; all returned to work within three days of the commencement of the strike.

48. The Headquarters of the Owerri Province were moved from Owerri to Port Harcourt in June.

49. An extension to the Native Hospital, more extensive Rest House accommodation, and permanent Police Barracks are among the buildings completed by the Public Works Department at Port Harcourt during the year.

50. A further section of the boundary between Ilorin and Oyo has been reviewed, and a readjustment agreed to by the Emir of Ilorin and the Alafin of Oyo has been approved by the Governor and provisionally demarcated. The Ibadan-Ijebu boundary has been submitted to arbitration.

51. Two cases of yellow fever occurred in the European community at Ibadan and Oshogbo, both of which unfortunately proved fatal.

52. In the Cameroons Province the Native Authorities have made good progress in local administration, and the administration of justice has been satisfactory.

53. In January and February certain recalcitrant villages of the Ngi and Ngonu tribal areas of the Bamenda Division were visited by a strong police escort. The escort met with some opposition, but succeeded without loss of life in arresting and bringing to trial a number of criminals. Of these, fourteen were convicted of slave dealing, three of serious assault, one of murder and one of attempted murder.

54. A very considerable increase in the quantities of rubber and dried bananas exported from the Cameroons plantations is reported.

55. *Public Health.* There has been a notable absence of epidemics of relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis and smallpox such as occurred during previous years. The only exception being Ondo Province and Keana in Benin Province, where moderate outbreaks of relapsing fever occurred during the year.

56. During the year cases of yellow fever were reported from Warri, Oshogbo, and Lagos in the Southern Provinces. The Rockefeller Yellow Fever Commission, now instituted at Yaba, Lagos, provided Noguchi protective vaccine, and all Europeans who desired were vaccinated. A special effort has been made to organise anti-mosquito measures. In Lagos the numerous small craft plying in the harbour and creeks have been subjected to special attention, as they have been found to provide ready breeding places for *stegomyia*.

57. Throughout the year plague continued epidemic in the town of Lagos and in the Province of Ijebu-Ode. In Ijebu on the mainland, the chief centre for plague is the town of Ijebu-Ode, but cases have been reported from numerous other towns in that province. In Lagos the number of cases of plague showed a short rise in March, and from the beginning of July there was a gradual rise which became more pronounced during October. From the latter part of October to the end of the year there was a very decided fall in the numbers. This rise and fall was accompanied by a similar rise and fall in the percentage of rats found to be suffering from plague. The majority of the cases were of the bubonic or septicaemic type, but a few patches of primary pneumonic cases occurred. In one of these the Medical Department lost a European surgeon and two African nurses, all infected from the same patient.

58. In May the party of medical men organised by the League of Nations to take part in a tour of the West African colonies arrived in Lagos. Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Guatemala, South Africa, and Britain appointed medical men to take part in this study tour. Sir Edward Thornton, K.B.E., who was appointed by the South African Government to take part in the study tour, at the request of the Nigerian Government and with the permission of the Secretary of State and the South African

Government, revisited Nigeria after the completion of the study tour in June and July, to examine the plague situation and to report on the most effective methods of dealing with it.

As a result of his report, a special plague staff has been appointed to work under the control of Dr. W. Allan, Senior Sanitary Officer of the Sanitary Branch of the Medical Department. A special R.A.M.C. staff consisting of two majors and two captains have been brought out to Nigeria and the European sanitary inspector staff has been increased by thirty-two R.A.M.C. non-commissioned officers and privates. These are all employed in the anti-plague measures now being carried out in Lagos and Ijebu Province.

59. Vaccination continues to be actively pushed as a preventive against smallpox. The percentage of successful vaccinations is about sixty-four.

60. Quinine as a prophylactic against malaria has been distributed, particularly in the Central Province.

61. The work on the investigation of the tsetse-fly and trypanosomiasis has continued throughout the year in the Northern Provinces. The centre of operations is at Sherifuri, in Kano Province. In addition to clearing of bush and thickets near pools and along the banks of rivers, experiments in late burning of the bush were carried out. As the effect of the first experiment in late bush burning on the prevalence of the fly was inconclusive, further experiments will be carried out next dry season.

III.—Government Finances.

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

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Expenditure on Loan Works.</i>
	£	£	£
1921-22 ..	4,869,220	6,553,553	1,676,786
1922-23 ..	5,505,465	5,410,982	2,157,650
1923-24 ..	6,260,561	5,501,242	1,900,170
1924-25 ..	6,944,220	5,768,715	1,375,210
1925-26 ..	8,268,928	6,583,167	1,183,728

63. The revenue and expenditure for the six months April to September, 1926, amounted to £3,545,864 and £4,106,895 respectively. Included in the expenditure is £556,380 advanced for loan works, to be subsequently recovered from loan funds. From figures recently estimated it is anticipated that the revenue for the current year will fall short of the 1925-26 figures by approximately £800,000, while the anticipated expenditure figures show an increase of approximately £1,000,000 over the figures of the last financial year.

64. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st March, 1926, was £4,379,441. To this should be added £1,545,159 advanced from revenue for loan works and recoverable from the second instalment of the 1923 loan to be raised shortly, making a true surplus of £5,924,600 on 31st March, 1926. The public debt at 31st March, 1926, was £19,309,209 and the accumulated sinking fund amounted to £1,236,350.

65. The various Native Administrations have their own estimates of revenue and expenditure, deriving their revenue mainly from their share (usually 50 per cent.) of the native direct taxes.

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 to a large extent invested through the Crown Agents. These investments no longer appear in the Colony's balance sheet. Silver coin to the value of £331,000 was withdrawn from circulation during the year ended 31st March, 1926, and £352,000 was shipped to the United Kingdom to be melted down. The alloy coin in circulation on the same date was about £5,517,000, and the total currency in circulation at 31st March, 1926, was estimated at £6,929,000.

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

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

Import	£	13,287,000
Export		17,286,000
					<u>£30,573,000</u>

a decrease of approximately two and a-half 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 French territory) was slightly over £20,000, a decrease of over £56,000.

67. Commercial imports, excluding specie, were valued at £12,456,000, a decrease of over 7 per cent., compared with the previous year; while commercial exports at £16,888,000 showed a slight increase. Imports of specie amounted to £830,000, compared with nearly one and a-half million in the previous year, whereas exports were approximately the same at £397,000.

68. The United Kingdom accounted for 53·7 per cent. of the total trade compared with 65 per cent. for the previous year, imports at 60 per cent. showing a decline of 14 per cent., and exports of 47 per cent., a decline of 9 per cent. The United States of America with 6·5 per cent. of the trade showed a slight decrease, but Germany with 14 per cent. showed a gain of over 3 per cent.

69. Exports of palm oil, at approximately 113,000 tons, are below the figures for 1925 and 1924. Prices were fairly steady throughout the year, and ranged from £22 to £28 per ton, but the average throughout the year was low and seldom rose higher than £23 10s. per ton.

70. Shipments of palm kernels during 1926 amounted to over 248,000 tons. There were no great fluctuation in prices, which varied between £13 and £15 per ton. The cocoa shipments were greater than any year except 1925, being over 39,000 tons. The year opened with prices at £30 per ton, and in December they had risen to £52 per ton.

71. Exports of ground-nuts amounted to over 115,000 tons, almost double the quantity exported in the best year prior to 1925. Prices were uniformly low, and, except for a rise in June to £14 10s. per ton, the average for the year was £11 per ton. It is interesting to note that for the first time in the history of Nigeria the exports of ground-nuts have exceeded the exports of palm oil.

72. Shipments of cotton lint amounted to over 179,000 cwt. or over 46,000 cwt. more than the quantity exported in the record year of 1925. The British cotton growing interests are to be congratulated on the steady expansion recorded in the face of bumper crops all over the world, and the consequent fall in price.

73. The quantity of tin ore exported during the year reached the record figure of 10,558 tons, or more than a thousand tons in excess of the best previous record.

74. The output from the Government-owned Udi coalfields for the year 1926 is estimated to reach 323,827 tons. The main coal seam (No. 3) is worked by two separately ventilated mines, one at Enugu, the other at Iva Valley. The average thickness of the seam is about 4 ft. 8 in. Each mine has its own sidings connecting with the main line of the Eastern Railway, which runs from Port Harcourt to Kaduna. The coal is drawn out of the mines by four main haulage gears, three steam-driven and one electrically-driven, and ventilation is maintained by steam-driven fans. At Udi mine there are two large auxiliary underground electric haulages, and one small one; small electric pumps are also installed. It is hoped that electric power will be available at Iva mine in the course of a few months. The coal is semi-bituminous in nature and of good quality. The volatile percentage is high and the coal does not clinker. Its specific gravity is 1.28.

75. *Agriculture.*—As mentioned above, the prices for palm oil and kernels have been on the whole rather lower than last year. The exports are a little smaller than last year, but the differences are not great, and are not believed to be of any great significance.

76. The production of cocoa for the season 1925-26 amounted to over 39,000 tons, as against 36,600 in 1924-25. It is evident that the crop in the current season 1926-27 will be considerably larger than last year, and estimates vary from 42,000 tons to 45,000 tons. There is little doubt that there is a general average increase of something like 1,500 or 2,000 tons per annum occurring at present. Apart from this, the considerable increase this year is mainly due to a more favourable season than last year. An important feature of the last two seasons has been the progress in the Ondo province and some parts of the Benin province. In those parts cocoa trees were planted long ago, but, owing to lack of transport facilities and a competitive market, the produce was either unsaleable or saleable at a very low price. During the last year or two the Agricultural Department, by organising the disposal of the produce so as to enable motor transport to be used, have been able to obtain fair prices for the cocoa. The quantities exported in these provinces are not great as yet, but the result of the changes is that cocoa planting is now extending rapidly, whereas it is stated that in the past the tendency was to cut out rather than to plant. The price has risen during the season from £30-£52 per ton as against £28 10s. in the season 1925-26. These high prices are stimulating planting of cocoa throughout the "cocoa areas."

77. The inspection of produce was taken over on April 1st by the Agricultural Department, under arrangements which provide for more European supervision, and under slightly changed regulations. Before the end of the year the arrangements were working satisfactorily, and all reports agree as to the satisfactory nature of the results. It is especially fortunate that the scheme was started this year, for past experience has shown that a high price for cocoa would always be accompanied by an exceptionally low level of quality.

78. It is unfortunately impossible to obtain any complete figures of the trade in locally produced kola-nuts; but there is no doubt that this production has increased from quite insignificant proportions five years ago to a volume which is now certainly very considerable, and which is tentatively estimated at not less than 1,500 tons, worth about £150,000. The annual import is generally between 6,000 and 8,000 tons, and there is no evidence that it is decreasing, for the lower prices of recent years have caused increased consumption. A considerable increase in the local production of kola-nuts must be anticipated during the next ten years.

79. The climatic conditions in the Northern Provinces this season have been unfavourable, especially for the cotton and guinea-corn crops, which are particularly dependent on the late rains. The total rainfall at most places was not greatly below normal, and in some places was even normal. But everywhere the rains ceased unusually early and, indeed, in many places,

earlier than in any year since records were started at the beginning of the century. The guinea-corn crop was very variable, and, as a result of variations in the date of the last rain, there were great differences between the crops in places only a few miles apart. Fortunately the early crop of "spike millet" was satisfactory. On the whole the deficiency is not more than can be made up by depleting the annual "carry over." There seems to be no fear of anything approaching famine conditions this year, but another bad season next year, if such should occur, may cause a serious situation to arise.

80. The export of ground-nuts in the season 1925-26 amounted to 115,000 tons, as against 132,000 in 1924-25. During the current season, 1926-27, some 60,000 tons has been purchased by the end of the calendar year. But the trade has fallen off unusually quickly and a much smaller export than last year must be anticipated, unless there is a considerable rise in the export price during the next few weeks. Of that there seems little hope. The smaller export anticipated this current season is not so much due to a smaller crop as to a lower price. The ground-nut crop is a comparatively early one, and the yield this year seems to be only a little below normal. The differences in the price greatly affect the quantity of ground-nuts brought in from distant places.

81. The export of American cotton from the Northern Provinces for the season 1925-26 amounted to 37,000 bales, which with the Southern Nigerian crop of indigenous cotton, brought the total export up to 48,000 bales. The corresponding figures in the previous year, 1924-25, were 28,000 bales of American cotton and 39,000 total. In the current season, an export of American cotton in the Northern Provinces of some 25,000 bales, and a greatly reduced quantity of indigenous cotton, are all that can be anticipated. The reason for this reduction in the export is primarily the unfavourable season in the north, and secondarily the low prices, which, in spite of the remission of the railway freight on lint, amounts to only $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ for first-grade American seed-cotton and $\frac{7}{8}d.$ for first-grade "Indigenous" at railway stations.

82. Although the American cotton is less dependent on the late rains than the native cottons in the Northern Provinces, yet it is always realised that the yield is very dependent on them. In the parts of the Zaria province where the American cotton has been produced for a number of years, many good crops are to be seen this year wherever the land is good and the planting early enough. But in the more distant places, where the people have only taken to cotton growing for export during the last year or two, the crops are generally very poor. In these areas, moreover, the price is so much reduced on account of the cost of transport that only $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ or $1\frac{1}{4}d.$ can be offered. A considerable proportion of the small production is thus being absorbed by the demand for cotton for local weaving and by the export by road to French territory.

V.—Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

83. *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. A new Lands Department for Nigeria is being formed in order to deal with land questions.

84. *Forestry*.—The system of exploiting timber is by selection fellings subject to a minimum girth limit. During the year, good quality mahogany logs have been in demand and prices were firm, lower and inferior grades, of which large quantities were shipped, realised poor prices and there was little demand for them.

85. In the Northern and Eastern Provinces no additions have been made to the total areas of reserved forests, but an increase of 386 square miles is reported from the Western Provinces, bringing the total reserved areas for the whole of Nigeria up to slightly over 7,037 square miles. In addition to this, further proposed reserves await settlement in the Northern Provinces, whilst proposals covering over 3,000 square miles in the Eastern Provinces have been put forward and are being dealt with as rapidly as possible.

86. Planting operations in connection with the establishment of timber and fuel plantations were continued and have given some very encouraging results, especially in the Eastern Provinces, where, at Enugu and Udi, exotics such as various species of *Eucalyptus* and *Albizzia Mollucana* have shown phenomenal growth, attaining in some cases a height of 20 ft. in eighteen months. *Casuarina* and *Cedrela Hexicana* are also doing well in this respect, whilst interesting information is to hand that both Abura and Iroko, which are included amongst our most valuable timber trees, have been successfully grown from cuttings, and that the upland variety of the Opepe (*Sarcocephalus Sp.*) is doing well in a small plantation at Nsukka. The Iroko plantations at Enugu are still free of attacks from the Iroko gall insects. Approximately 100 acres of plantations, consisting chiefly of *Dalbergia*, *Cassia* and Wattle, have been added to those in the Northern Provinces.

The older plantations at Olokemeji and Mamu, in the Western Provinces charge, having attained the age when they should be heavily thinned, arrangements are being made to undertake the necessary operations this dry season. Incidentally it may be remarked that many of the teak poles have reached sufficient dimensions to yield scantlings free of sap wood of the following

sizes, 12 ft. × 4 in. × 4 in. ; 12 ft. × 4 in. × 3 in. and 12 ft. × 4 in. × 2 in. The question of procuring a portable sawmill plant for the purpose of converting the poles into scantlings is at present under consideration.

87. The export trade in good quality mahogany, cedar and "walnut" woods is as brisk as ever; sixty licences for timber areas being held in the Western Provinces alone, whilst several others are in course of preparation. There has been a 20 per cent. increase in the number of trees felled for local use in the Onitsha Province.

88. An officer of this Department has lately been seconded for work on tsetse fly control with a view to learning the best methods of dealing with the problem in the case of those forest reserves which happen to be situated in the vicinity of populated centres.

89. Early in the year, no doubt stimulated by the rise in price, a considerable number of permits to tap rubber were taken out. In the past there has been a small trade in gum arabic in the Northern Provinces, and latterly enquiries have been received regarding this product. There appears to be no reason why, in view of improving transport facilities and if the merchants pay more attention to grading, a flourishing trade in this product should not be built up in the Northern Provinces. The gum, so far as can be ascertained at present, is precisely the same as that shipped from the Soudan and is obtained from the same *Acacia*. It is hoped that it may be possible to secure for a time the services of an officer with a knowledge of the gum trade in the Soudan, so that he can inspect, advise and report on the situation and prospects.

90. *Mining.*—During the year there were about seventy-five companies and sixty-nine individual workers operating on tin; there was also one company winning galena, while another company and two individuals have been engaged in prospecting for this mineral. In addition, there were two individuals and one company operating on gold. The gold won only amounted to some 140 ounces, which denotes that, unless new deposits are discovered, this form of mining is practically at a standstill. As a set-off against this, however, it is satisfactory to record that about 240 tons of silver-bearing galena were won from the Ameka mine in the Southern Provinces, and, as several promising deposits in the Northern Provinces have been prospected, there are indications that lead mining may develop into an important industry, provided that transport facilities are sufficiently extended.

91. The output of tin ore was approximately 10,600 tons, while the amount exported was 10,558 tons, having a value estimated at £2,217,046. The quarterly price of tin, on which royalty is calculated, varied from £273 18s. 9d. to £315 15s. per

ton, the latter being the figure for October, and as the price shows signs of remaining at a high level, in view of the increasing demand for the metal, the prospects of the industry are very encouraging.

92. Partly as the result of these favourable conditions and partly owing to the reduction in the price of Udi coal following the completion of the Eastern Railway, the use of machinery on the tin mines is largely on the increase. Thus a large suction-cutter dredge was brought into service by one company, while several high-capacity steam shovels and a drag-line excavator are on order to two other companies and will soon be in process of erection ; in addition, more gravel-pumps and other forms of machinery are being rapidly brought into use.

93. The success attending the installation of the Kwall Falls Power Scheme has led to an application for the control of the Kurra Falls, which are also situated on the western margin of the Bauchi Plateau and about twenty-five miles to the south of those at Kwall.

94. The number of natives employed on the tin mines amounted to approximately 29,200, but in spite of the increased use of machinery the demand for labour still continues to be in excess of the supply, which serves to show how the industry has expanded.

95. As the mining operations extend, however, so do the opportunities for accidents, and increased supervision will be required accordingly. The great majority of the accidents that have so far occurred have, fortunately, been on a small scale, but that there is always the possibility of the more serious type happening is shown by the fact that during the year a fall of earth took place in one of the mines involving the loss of no less than twenty-eight lives.

96. The Geological Survey continued its investigations in both the Northern and Southern Provinces. In the north work was carried on in Zaria and Kano Provinces, together with a general revision of the Plateau Tinfields and the adjoining portions of Bauchi and Zaria Provinces. This brings to a conclusion the preliminary examination of the tinfields ; and it is not proposed to carry out any further work there till more accurate topographical maps are available. A preliminary examination was made of the new coalfield near Dekina, and enough has been done to show that it is of considerable importance. In the south work was continued on the extension of the coalfield westwards towards the Niger, attention being mainly directed towards the younger and more southerly beds. A bulletin on the geology of the Southern Plateau Tinfields was published in the course of the year, as well as an Occasional Paper on " Stone Implements of Palæolithic and Neolithic Age from Nigeria." A bulletin on " Eocene Fish Teeth from Southern Nigeria " was handed to the publishers before the end of the year, and a bulletin on the

geology of the Zaria and Kano Tinfields was prepared for the press. Arrangements were made for the publication of an Occasional Paper on "Fish Spines from Ameki" during 1927, when it is proposed to publish also a geological map of the whole tinfield on the scale of 1 : 250,000.

97. *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.

98. *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.

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

100. 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 (now Barclays) Bank.

VII.—Legislation.

101. The Carriage of Goods by Sea Ordinance, 1926 (No. 1 of 1926) gives effect to the draft Convention on bills of lading agreed to at the International Maritime Conference and committees of the Conference in 1922 and 1923, and it follows *mutatis mutandis* the form of the Imperial Statute 14 and 15, Geo. V, Cap. 22.

102. The Profiteering (Rent) (Repeal) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 2 of 1926) repeals Chapter 92 of the Laws of Nigeria which was enacted as emergency legislation during the war.

103. The Agriculture Ordinance, 1926 (No. 4 of 1926) repeals Chapter 96 of the Laws of Nigeria and substitutes other provisions giving wider powers in respect of the control of the preparation and export of agricultural produce.

104. The Registration of Business Names Ordinance, 1926 (No. 5 of 1926) provides for the registration of firms and persons carrying on business under business names and aims at preventing the use of fictitious trading names by insolvent and irresponsible persons with the object of obtaining credit.

105. The Trading with the Enemy (Repeal) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 8 of 1926) repeals Chapter 160 of the Laws in order to conform with the provisions of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Germany signed in London on the 2nd December, 1924, to which Nigeria is to adhere.

106. The Education (Northern Provinces) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926) repeals the Education Ordinance (Chapter 65 of the Laws) in so far as the provisions thereof relate to the Northern Provinces and re-enacts it in such forms that it relates to the Northern Provinces only (including those portions of the British Cameroons included in the Northern Provinces).

107. The Education (Colony and Southern Provinces) Ordinance, 1926 (No. 15 of 1926) repeals the Education Ordinance (Cap. 65) in so far as the provisions thereof relate to the Colony and the Southern Provinces, and makes better provision in regard to education therein.

108. The Quarantine Ordinance, 1926 (No. 18 of 1926) repeals Chapter 54 of the Laws and re-enacts it giving clearer provisions in regard to the imposition of quarantine and other steps to combat dangerous infectious diseases.

109. The Harbour Dues Ordinance, 1926 (No. 20 of 1926) repeals Chapter 101 of the Laws and substitutes similar provisions applying both to Lagos and Port Harcourt.

VIII.—Education.

110. Education in the Northern Provinces is gaining ground steadily, and every encouragement is being given to the inauguration of small elementary schools in all Emirates. The full demand cannot be met owing to shortage of European staff, as Government continues to follow the policy of refusing to open schools to which adequate supervision by European officers of the Department cannot be given. Twelve new schools have been opened. The European staff is six under strength, two officers having been permanently invalided from the service and a third having been promoted to the Education Department of the Southern Provinces. The appointment of one Superintendent of Arts and Crafts has been terminated and four new appointments have been made.

111. The problem of supplying an adequate staff of native teachers is being dealt with effectively, if slowly, at Katsina. At the Training College for Mohammedan teachers there, fifty-seven students are in residence. In March last the first batch of fourteen left after completing the course; these men have returned as

teachers in primary schools in the Provinces which paid for their training, and all are favourably reported on. It may be confidently anticipated that the general level of attainment of students leaving the College will improve yearly for some time to come.

112. The Director of Education was absent for the first three months of the year, having been appointed to investigate the state of native education in Basutoland.

113. In October a meeting was convened by the Governor at Lagos of the heads of the Marine, Posts and Telegraphs, Public Works, Railway and Education Departments, to consider the most suitable lines of training and employing Northern Provinces men as artisans. It did not appear probable that there would be any great demand by the big departments for artisans trained in the Northern Provinces.

114. In May the Education (Colony and Southern Provinces) Ordinance (No. 15 of 1926) was passed by the Legislative Council. The Ordinance provided for the establishment of a Board of Education with wide advisory functions and made all schools liable to Government inspection. It also provided for the closing of unsatisfactory schools, and for the registration of all teachers.

115. The Board of Education, of which the members were appointed by the Governor, have prepared regulations under the Ordinance which have been submitted for the consideration of the Governor-in-Council.

116. Plans are being prepared for the building of two Government training institutions, at which it is intended to train teachers for Government schools and also for assisting the missions in the training of their teachers. These institutions will be for residential students, and will also provide facilities for men who have had experience of teaching to take special courses.

117. Teachers are being trained at three Government and thirteen mission schools and institutions, two of the latter being for women. The mission training institutions are for residential students and are under the direction of European principals.

118. In the southern Provinces elementary education is given in forty-eight Government schools and twelve Native Administration schools, all of which are in the Cameroons Province, but the vast majority of elementary schools have been established by the missions. Of the latter 216 have attained a standard which entitles them to financial assistance from Government funds. The remaining schools, over 3,000 in number, are not assisted and until the enactment of the Ordinance (No. 15 of 1926) they were not subject to Government inspection. In a large number of these schools, the standard of education is so low that it is practically valueless.

119. In Government schools little has yet been done to develop any form of vocational training, except that in a number

of schools some instruction in carpentry and in school-gardening is given. Of the non-Government schools, the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, under the management of the United Free Church Mission, has departments in which carpentry, printing, and tailoring are taught. There are also several mission girls' schools where vocational training is given.

120. Although progress has been made in recent years in the matter of female education, there is still a great shortage of girls' schools. The chief difficulty which has to be faced in developing female education is the lack of women who offer to be trained as teachers. Of those who enter the teaching profession the great majority leave it when they marry.

121. King's College, Lagos, is the only Government school which is confined to secondary education. Entrance to the school is by examination. During the year a boarding house and well-equipped laboratories have been opened, and the European teaching staff has been strengthened.

IX.—Climate.

122. 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.

123. 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.

124. 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.

125. In the Southern Provinces, the rainfall was on the whole normal, though April, with nearly thirteen inches of rain in Lagos, was the wettest April yet recorded. The total rainfall for the year was slightly above the average, namely 75·97 in., compared to the average of 71·95 in. During the year, rainfall at Debunsha on the Cameroons sea-coast has been included in the returns published. The mean annual rainfall at this place is about 370 in., and in the wet months of the year as much as 60 in. of rain falls in a single month.

126. The average annual rainfall at Forcados, on the Niger Delta, is 149 in. ; at Lokoja, situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue, it is 47 in. ; and at Sokoto, in the north-west of Nigeria, it is only 25 in.

X.—Communications.

127. *Railways.*—The railway is divided into two systems, the Western system, with its terminus at Iddo and Apapa, and the Eastern system, terminating at Port Harcourt. The Western system 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 2 ft. 6 in. gauge connects Zaria with the tinfields 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. 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 has been extended up to join the Western system at Kaduna Junction at a distance of 566 miles from Port Harcourt.

128. The construction of the new section between Makurdi, on the Benue River, and the branch line from Kafanchan, on this section, to Bukuru and Jos, on the Bauchi branch, is now nearing completion, and it is proposed to open the two new sections for public traffic on 1st April, 1927. The two railheads between Makurdi and Kaduna were joined on 12th July, 1926. The 3 ft. 6 in. gauge railhead reached Bukuru on 25th September, and the ten miles of 2 ft. 6 in. gauge track between there and Jos will be converted to 3 ft. 6 in. gauge before the end of March, 1927. These new sections will give a direct broad gauge connection from the coalfields at Enugu to the Bauchi tinfields and a number of points on the Western division. Equal rates from all stations north of Kaduna to either port have been sanctioned, the tinfields have been given a much shorter route to the coast, and passengers will now be able to travel direct to Jos without changing trains. The present distance from Iddo to Jos is 750½ miles, and from Iddo to Bukuru 760½ miles via the Western system and the Bauchi Branch. The new route via the Eastern system to Port Harcourt will be 521 miles from Jos and 511 miles from Bukuru.

129. A broad gauge branch line from Zaria (Western system) is being constructed to Gusau, approximately 110 miles in the direction of Sokoto, and the railhead should reach Funtua, some forty miles from Zaria, by the middle of January, 1927. The northerly portion of this line traverses a well populated area which has great possibilities of development and which is largely devoted to the growing of cotton; and investigations are now proceeding to determine the financial prospects of still further extending the branch towards Kaura-na-Moda. A location survey for an extension of the Ifo branch (Western system) to Ilaro, forty-six miles from Iddo, and Idogo a further eight and a-half miles, has been completed to Ilaro. The traffic survey reports on this extension are favourable, and there is every prospect of tapping trade over a considerable area of a country rich in tropical produce. The possibilities of the country between Port Harcourt, Owerri and Lake Oguta are now under consideration; a traffic survey has been completed, and an engineering reconnaissance is now being undertaken.

130. The gross earnings during the financial year ended 31st March, 1926, were £2,353,464, the highest figure recorded in the history of the railway, and the gross working expenditure £1,141,628, making the net receipts £1,211,836. The total number of passengers carried was 2,413,113, an increase of 490,533 over the number carried the previous year, and the tonnage of goods and minerals hauled was 797,279 tons, an increase of 111,172 tons over the previous year's tonnage.

131. The estimated revenue for the calendar year is placed at £2,325,000 and the approximate expenditure at £1,362,980, excluding interest charges and the cost of departmental services, pensions, etc.

132. There are now 151 stations opened for traffic, 120 on the Western system, and 31 on the Eastern system. A further 28 stations will be opened as from 1st April, 1927. The permanent staff of the railway includes 404 Europeans. The African salaried staff, in which is included 49 West Indians, number 1,810, and 11,762 artisans and labourers are employed.

133. The organisation of the railway was altered from 1st February, 1926, when the traffic and locomotive running branches were merged into the Transportation Department, with a Superintendent of the Line at the head, the line being divided into Eastern, Western and Northern divisions, with a Divisional Superintendent in charge of each, under the control of the Superintendent of the Line.

134. A motor transport service is run from Bukuru to various mines in the tinfields, but this service is being closed down as from 31st March next in favour of private enterprise. A service is running in the Zaria and Sokoto Provinces, mainly between Zaria and Gusau. This service comprises modern lorries, and is augmented by roadless track vehicles which are being worked

experimentally on behalf of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, to whom they belong. The motor service will move further afield as the branch railway line opens operations between Zaria and Gusau.

135. *Harbours, Rivers, and Creeks.*—Navigable conditions at the entrance to Lagos harbour continue satisfactory, and have changed little since last year. A draught of 25 ft. is now permissible, and recent surveys indicate an ample depth of water for vessels up to that draught. Replenishment and maintenance work on the moles has been carried out as usual by the Harbour Works Department; further extensions to the training bank were commenced during the year. The dredger "The Lady Clifford" has been employed in dredging on the Eastern Spit, and in the Commodore Channel. The contour of the Eastern Spit shows no appreciable change, but a certain amount of constant dredging is required in order to maintain the *status quo*. Occasional shoal patches have formed in the crossing from the training bank to the signal station, but these have been easily dealt with as soon as discovered. The bar draught was raised from 23 ft. for vessels entering and 24 ft. for vessels leaving to 24 ft. both ways in February, and on 15th November it was again raised to 25 ft. both ways. The governing factor in the draught of the port was not the bar, however, but the channels and berthing accommodation inside the harbour. Inside the harbour dredging has been carried out by the "Child" and "Sandgrouse," in the Pool, the Apapa crossing, the floating dock site at Apapa, and in the channel from East Mole signal station to Five Cowrie Creek, and by the "Queen Mary" in the approach channel to Iddo coal wharf. The total spoil dredged by the "Child" and a percentage of that raised by the "Queen Mary" and "Sandgrouse" was pumped ashore by the "Romulus" at Iddo Island and into the Ijora swamps in connection with the Apapa railway track. That of "The Lady Clifford" was dumped at sea. In addition to the above, some 280,000 tons of spoil was dredged from the area in front of the new Apapa wharves by the contractors.

136. At Port Harcourt the second instalment of ocean wharfage has made considerable progress, and should be completed in the middle of next year. The construction of the second coaling berth is also well under way, which will increase the facilities of the port greatly. Owing to the extraordinary demands for Nigerian coal due to the strike in England, considerable delays have occurred at time to vessels bunkering.

137. Surveys have been made of the Qua Ibo River, from the entrance to Eket; the Warri River from Goshawk Point to Warri; and the Chanomi Creek from Goshawk Point to the Rawson Creek. Quarterly surveys of Lagos bar and entrance channel have been carried out, and a comprehensive survey, embracing the whole of Lagos harbour from Carter Bridge seawards, was completed during November.

138. Waterway clearing was carried out during the year in the Sudd Region ; and in the Imo and Qua Ibo Rivers ; the Niger and its tributaries, the Anambra and Orashie Rivers and N'doni and Omerun Creeks ; also in the Mungo and Meme Rivers in the Cameroons Province. The launch routes throughout the delta have been kept clear and open to navigation.

139. The buoyage on the coast, at the river entrances, and in the navigable rivers, has been well maintained during the year. Altogether there are fifty-nine buoys and fourteen beacons maintained as aids to ocean navigation, in addition to three long range light buoys.

140. The lights on the coast, including the British Cameroons, have been well maintained. Cape Nachtigal light is being fitted with a new automatic burner, and was extinguished on the 1st November for this purpose.

141. Mail and transport services were maintained regularly by the Government between the following ports :—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 has been maintained on the River Niger as far as Lokoja. This service has been threatened with extinction for some time past, and was closed down at the end of the year. The low water service on the Cross River, between Itu and Ikoni, in conjunction with Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company, has run satisfactorily. A ferry service from Lagos to Apapa was commenced late in 1925, a specially built steamer being procured for the purpose. The ferry is well patronised, some 488,000 persons having been transported during the year, but it does not yet cover all working expenses. The transport of Nigerian coal for Government departments from Port Harcourt to Lagos and to the outstations Forcados, Calabar and Victoria has been maintained throughout the year. The contract by which part of this coal was carried by private enterprise was terminated in May. A new collier of 3,000 tons capacity to replace one of the old ones was purchased by Government during the year, and commenced running in September.

142. *Railway Ports. Port Harcourt.*—A further extension of the riverside wharf is now under construction, and will provide two berths for the accommodation of the largest ships using this port. New coaling plant and storage bins, with mechanical loading, are under construction. This will greatly increase the capacity of the port, and will enable quicker loading of cargo coal. *Apapa* : The port is nearing completion, and two berths for the largest ships in the African trade, fitted with modern warehouses, electrical cranes, etc., specially designed to accelerate the handling of cargo, are now in use. Two further berths and sheds are nearing completion.

143. *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 American 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, French Steamship Line, Fraissinet—Fabre Line, Roma Società di Navigazione, and Italian West Africa (Congo) Line—Navigazione Libera Triestina. The total tonnage of cargo landed and shipped during 1926 was over 1,187,000 tons, as compared with 1,000,000 tons last year. The number of vessels which entered and cleared was 1,282, as against 670 in 1925.

144. *Roads and Bridges*.—Approximately 3,000 miles of motor road are now maintained by the Public Works Department. In addition to the foregoing the Native Administrations have constructed, in some cases 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 during the dry season.

145. The volume of motor traffic using certain of the trunk roads in the Southern Provinces has now reached a point where the existing gravel surfaces are no longer adequate, and the work of widening and strengthening such roads is being undertaken.

146. Reconstruction is already in hand on the Lagos-Abeokuta-Ibadan road, the Ibadan-Ijebu-Ode road and the Ibadan-Ife road, and provision has been made for the continuance of this very necessary work. The construction by the Public Works Department of permanent bridges and culverts has been completed on the Iseyin-Eruwa road, the Oko-Ede road and the Ibadan-Ijebu-Ode road. The Shasha river bridge on the Ede-Ife road has been reconstructed, the old timber spans being replaced by steel, and a 100 ft. span steel bridge has been constructed over the Osse River on the Owo-Ikari road. Construction of the Abeokuta-Asha road has been completed, also the strengthening of the bridges on the Bukuru-Ropp road.

147. Works under construction comprise the Funtua-Yashi road, which will serve as a feeder to the Zaria-Gusau Railway, the bridging and culverting of the Kaduna-Zaria, the Riga-chikun-Jos, and the Ondo-Ag'bu roads, while work has been commenced from Abakaliki on a system of roads in Ogoja Province, which will ultimately extend into the Cameroons. At Wudyl, in Kano Province, a steel bridge approximately 900 ft. in length is being constructed over the Challowa River, and bridges are also being built at the Osara River, on the Lokoja-Okeni road, and over the Amu and Amberi Rivers in Benue

Province. Further works in hand include the re-bridging of the Abeokuta-Ijebu-Ode road, the Enugu-Abakaliki road, and the Eket-Oion road.

148. Surveys are in hand for various contemplated roads, which will form feeders to the railway system of the country. These include the Zaria-Kidandan and Gusau-Anka roads in Zaria Province and the Oturkpo-Katsina Ala road in Benue Province. A survey party is also investigating the possibility of bridging the Cross River near Ikom, and will subsequently proceed with road location through the difficult country between Ikom and Bamenda.

149. The Central Road Board, inaugurated during the year, has proved of considerable value in examining and co-ordinating the various proposals for road and bridge construction laid before Government.

150. *Posts and Telegraphs.*—In spite of the effects of the coal strike in the United Kingdom, which has seriously affected the general trade of the Colony, the services of this Department continue to increase. The policy of using motor transport for mails has been pursued wherever possible, and carrier transport is now only resorted to for minor mail services. Recent developments in wireless telegraphy have been the subject of much consideration: receiving stations of (Rugby) British Wireless News, and for experimental purposes are in process of installation. Telegraph construction on the Eastern Railway has been completed; and a start has been made on the Zaria-Gusau Railway extension. A new telegraph line from Akure to Ondo will be completed early in 1927, and should prove a useful channel of communication to a rich and rapidly developing district.

151. *Surveys.*—The activities of the Department throughout the year covered a large field.

The principal items are:—

- (a) The extension of the trigonometrical framework which will eventually cover the whole of Nigeria as a foundation for the production of maps over existing and potential development areas as required.
- (b) The production of field sheets and standard sheets for the use of the Geological Survey Department in their investigations of the coal and lignite areas in the Onitsha Province and the gold-bearing areas around Minna in the Northern Provinces.
- (c) The demarcation and investigation of claims over the area acquired at Yaba.
- (d) The re-survey and revision of Lagos Island on a large scale.
- (e) The survey of many townships, trading sites and boundaries in the Northern and Southern Provinces.

- (f) The strengthening of the Minesfield section by the engagement of a special Royal Engineers party, consisting of three officers and fifteen N.C.Os. who arrived in November.

The large amount of arrears in survey on the minesfield will thus be shortly dealt with, and development will be unhampered.

- (g) All lithographic work such as the production of maps for the Department and general work for other departments is now undertaken locally, saving much expense and delay.
- (h) Wireless experiments have been carried out in different parts of the country for the reception of time signals, with excellent results, and an apparatus for the rating of chronometers, etc., is now installed at Lagos.

152. *Public Works.*—The output of work by the Department has shown a very substantial increase during the year despite disabilities consequent upon a continued shortage of staff and delays in the supply of materials and plant due to the industrial unrest in England.

153. Progress in water supply schemes throughout the country has been retarded by non-delivery of imported material. The Port Harcourt supply is in hand and work is proceeding on well sinking. A revised scheme has been prepared for the Onitsha Water Supply which will be derived from wells sunk near the Nkissi River: work is now in hand. The investigations for a water supply at Ijebu-Ode have been completed, and it is proposed to utilise the resources of some natural springs situated approximately two miles from the town; here, again, work has been commenced. At Aba work is in hand on a water supply to be derived from wells, while at Ibadan a preliminary supply is under consideration whereby water from the Ogunpa stream will be made available for the European population, pending investigation of a major scheme for the supply of Ibadan town. At Kaduna construction has been commenced on a scheme which utilises the waters of the Kaduna River as a source of supply. The results of the tests carried out during the past year at the Challowa River with a view to ascertaining the existence of underground water capable at all seasons of meeting the demands of a supply to serve Kano town have been forwarded to the consulting engineers, who consider that the facts disclosed are such as to justify further investigation of this possible source of supply.

154. The electric light scheme for Port Harcourt has been passed to, and approved by, the consulting engineers, and orders have been placed for the supply of the necessary plant. A scheme for electric power and light at Kaduna has been prepared and referred to the consulting engineers for advice on certain points.

At Ibadan investigations are being made with regard to the provision of a minor scheme to provide electric lighting pending the preparation of the major scheme contemplated. A very appreciable increase in consumption of current has been recorded in connection with the Lagos electricity supply during the past year, resulting in a proportionate increase in earnings. A further increase may be anticipated with the opening of the new wharfage at Apapa. The demand is, however, still too small for profitable working of the station.

155. The Department has been faced with an abnormal building programme. The following works providing increased medical facilities have been completed during the year: Massey Street dispensary, Lagos; Out-patients' block, Enugu; African hospitals at Jos and Port Harcourt; and extensions to the African hospital, Kaduna. Work is in hand in connection with new European hospitals at Enugu, Jos, Kano and Ibadan, and new African hospitals at Lagos, Oshogbo, Ijebu-Ode and Aba. Extensions have been undertaken to various hospitals and a new central medical store is in course of erection at Lagos.

156. The provision of officers' quarters has continued. The 1925-26 programme, comprising quarters for 64 European and 168 African staff, has been completed, and work is well in hand on the 1926-27 programme, which embraces staff quarters of various types for 134 Europeans and 303 Africans.

157. Of other works undertaken the following have been completed: King's College Laboratory, Lagos; new Customs office, Lagos; magistrate's court, Enugu; post office and court house, Zaria; and public offices, Jos. Work is in hand on new post offices at Oshogbo, Ede, Ife, and Imo River, new Public Works Department offices, Lagos, and new laboratories for the Agricultural Department at Ibadan.

158. Contracts have been entered into with local firms for the execution of works to the approximate value of £82,000; and the Crown Agents have been instructed to offer to tender in England other works of magnitude.

K. L. HALL,

Acting Senior Assistant Secretary.

Lagos,

22nd February, 1927.

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