

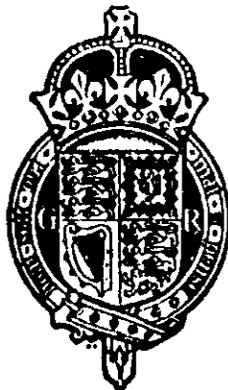
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NIGERIA

Report for 1927

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NIGERIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1927.

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NIGERIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1927.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. Great Britain has recently received a mandate over a small portion of the Cameroons (31,150 square miles) which, for purposes of administration, has been placed under the Nigerian Government. The remainder of the Cameroons is administered by the French under a mandate, so 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 373,078 square miles (Southern Provinces and Colony 91,139 square miles; Northern Provinces 281,939 square miles) and it is thus larger than any British Dependency other than Tanganyika, 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 dense tropical forests, rich in oil-palm trees and valuable mahoganies. Further inland the forests become thinner and are succeeded by open ground covered with long grass and occasional clumps of trees. In the extreme north, where there is a very small rainfall and little vegetation, the desert is slowly but steadily encroaching. There are few mountains in the southern portion of Nigeria except along the eastern boundary, but north and east of the junction of the rivers Niger and Benue there is a large plateau from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers as far as Jehba 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 18,765,790* Southern Provinces and Colony, 8,532,856; Northern Provinces, 10,232,834, larger than that of any British

* 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 (1850-55) and numerous other explorers, most of whom lost their lives in the country, the course of the Niger and the existence of the Fulani kingdoms in the interior 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 Muhammadan rulers of the Hausa states and Bornu who had persistently ignored the British requests for the cessation of slave-raiding and whose attitude was one of open hostility to an administration of whose power they had had no proof. As each in turn was conquered a new ruler was appointed who undertook to govern his country according to local law and tradition, but without slave-raiding and the extortion and inhuman cruelties which had marked the former régime. British Residents were stationed throughout the country and exercised a wholesome check on any tendency to relapse.

9. In the south there were fewer large states and the people on the whole were of a much lower standard of intelligence and development. On the lower reaches of the Benin River, a Tskri 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.

13. The principal languages spoken are, in the Northern Provinces, Hausa, Fulani, and Arabic; and in the Southern Provinces, Yoruba, Efik, Ibo, and Ibibio.

14. The currency is controlled by the West African Currency Board which was constituted in November, 1912, to provide for the currency of the British West African Colonies and Protectorates. The coins current are:—United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze; West African silver and alloy coins of the values of two shillings, one shilling, sixpence and threepence; and Nigerian nickel-bronze coins of the values of one penny, one halfpenny and one-tenth of a penny. United Kingdom notes are legal tender; and West African notes of one pound and ten shillings are also current. The United Kingdom coins are being gradually superseded by the West African and Nigerian coinage.

15. The weights and measures used in Nigeria are the same as those used in Great Britain.

1.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. The Protectorate (including the mandated territory of the Cameroons) is divided into twenty-two provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident.

19. In the Northern Provinces the efficiency and co-operation of the leading Emirs—which have been noted in the reports for recent years—have been well maintained. The desire on their part for administrative progress and economic development continues; keenness to learn of things outside their own provinces is evinced. This is instanced by a visit, proposed by the Emir himself, of the Emir of Kano to Lagos in March. The Emir of Kazaure was of the party. The visit was successful and greatly appreciated by the interested visitors.

20. The re-organisation of provinces and re-distribution of administrative areas—mentioned in the 1926 report—have been found successful.

21. His Excellency toured in the Northern Provinces in February and March of the year, visiting Kano, where, at a brilliant ceremony, he installed Abdullahi as Emir of Kano. Zaria and Kaduna also were visited. While in the Zaria Province His Excellency inspected the British Cotton Growing Association Seed Farms and Ginnery. A tour of the Northern Provinces was made by the Officer Administering the Government in June when the Kano, Plateau, Bauchi, Bornu and Zaria Provinces were visited.

22. There have been no changes in the Political administration of the Northern Provinces throughout the year under review. In pursuance of the policy that a Conference of Residents should be held yearly, a successful conference was held in Kaduna in September; many important questions of administration were discussed.

23. Serious disturbances in the Northern Provinces have been few. A patrol was necessary in the Yangedde district in the Idoma Division of Benue Province. The operations of the patrol lasted for approximately one month and were carried out without any loss of life or firing.

24. During the year re-organisation of the procedure in regard to mining applications has taken place. Much of the routine previously done in the Northern Provinces Secretariat is now carried out in a separate office in Jos. The result is successful and the mining community now obtain their various mining titles with the least possible delay. The present tendency among substantial mining companies is to instal machinery on a large scale which has increased the demand for coal from Udi. Hydro-electric power schemes are also being experimented with by sundry companies.

25. In Sokoto in 1926 it was found that more cotton seed than was required was distributed; there has, therefore, been a considerable reduction in the amount distributed this year. The prospects of the season are, however, very good and it is probable that farmers will receive an enhanced price. The export for the year 1926-27 was disappointing. A new pioneer ginnery is being erected at Moriki in the Sokoto Province to tap the cotton-growing areas north of Gusau and a modern type one at Talata Mafara in the same province.

26. Famine conditions in the provinces of Kano, Zaria, Adamawa and Benue caused some distress in the early part of the year and food prices became greatly inflated. Credit is due to the Native Administrations concerned that they were able to alleviate matters with their own staff, arrangements and funds.

27. The strong financial position of the Native Treasuries as previously reported, was maintained in 1926-27. The balances carried forward on the 1st April, 1927, including sums invested in securities (£501,458) amounted to £1,324,744. The aggregate revenue exceeded that of the previous year by £19,303. In making this comparison, however, it is necessary to take cognisance of the fact of the adventitious receipt in 1925-26 of £26,267 as profits on the sale and re-investment of securities. An increase in expenditure is accounted for by appropriations for road and transport developments which were specially marked during the year.

28. The Shalla Irrigation Scheme in the Sokoto Province has led to the re-claiming of about 300 acres. This can be extended up to a total of 800 to 1,000 acres if required.

29. There have been no serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases during the year. Smallpox occurred in the provinces of Sokoto, Adamawa and Plateau during the spring and while for a short time fatal cases were numerous, the severity of the disease soon abated. The tsetse fly investigation work at Sherifuri continues.

30. Rinderpest has taken its usual toll among cattle, the most notable outbreak occurring in the Sokoto Province. The laboratory at Vom continues to maintain its successful anti-rinderpest campaign, and the amount of serum cultured and issued during the year exceeds that of last year. Fulani cattle owners evince the greatest keenness to have their cattle treated and travel long distances to this end. A new immunization

camp established at Dindima in the Bauchi Province has met with great success and others are being opened in the same Province.

31. An outstanding event of interest during the year was the aeroplane flight conducted by the Royal Air Force from Cairo to Northern Nigeria. In the course of this flight Maiduguri, Kano, Sokoto, Kaduna, Jos and Bauchi were visited. Emirs and local chiefs were given opportunities of inspecting the machines.

32. The following important chiefs have died during the year:—Achamanu, the Aku of Wukari; Abubakr, the Emir of Wushishi.

33. The following chiefs have been installed: Abudullahi, the Emir of Kano, by His Excellency the Governor; the Emir of Agaie, by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Northern Provinces, and Mohamadu, the Emir of Jemaa.

34. Relations with the French have been excellent. An incident on the frontier emphasised these good relations and strengthened the spirit of co-operation. This incident was a raid on the French post of Tessawa by natives mainly resident on the Katsina border. Unhappily the raiders killed French officials including one European. The leader of the raiders and some of his accomplices were killed; as to those who escaped, prompt search by the Native Administration Authorities resulted in the capture in Bornu of one of the chief offenders, and made it difficult for other offenders to find sanctuary in Northern Nigeria. A route march in conjunction with the French authorities took place in October from Katsina along the French border to Gumel and back. During the march, visits were exchanged with French officers and native chiefs on the frontier.

35. A final agreement has been come to with the French Administrator of Garua, fixing the last remaining details of the frontier in that section, and leaving little to be settled elsewhere.

36. In the Southern Provinces preparations have been made for the introduction of taxation into the hitherto-untaxed provinces. In October the revenue from Native Courts was released by Government to form the nucleus of a Native Administration Fund in each Division of those provinces.

37. The office of the Administrator of the Colony was separated from that of Lieutenant-Governor, Southern Provinces, as from the 20th October.

38. Direct taxation was introduced into the Asaba Division of the Benin Province on the 1st April, 1927.

39. A serious outbreak of disease among the cattle of the Benin Province broke out in August and was stamped out by the end of September.

40. In November a successful Exhibition was held in Calabar. The Exhibition was open for one week, exhibits from fifteen provinces were displayed and a representative display of Native Arts and Crafts was exhibited.

41. The Preventive Service of the Eastern Frontier in the Cameroons Province was taken over in January by a special force of police and three new Customs revenue offices have been opened.

42. Semi-permanent native hospitals are in course of construction at Bamenda, Mamfe and Kumba.

43. In March the Arbitrators award in the matter of the Ijebu-Ibadan boundary was announced.

44. In May the Full Court refused leave to appeal from the judgment of the court below which was in favour of the Bale of Ejinrin and which denied the claim of the Awujale of Ijebu Ode to certain rights over the Ejinrin Market.

45. Marked success has attended the measures taken to combat plague in the Ijebu Province.

46. Mining operations have been continued in the neighbourhood of Ameka in the Abakaliki Division of the Ogoja Province. Approximately 200 tons of silver-bearing galena and 100 tons of zinc ore have been won during the year.

47. A telegraph line from Akure to Ondo was opened during the year.

48. At Enugu in the Onitsha Province a new European hospital has been completed and work has been commenced on the buildings required in connection with the transfer of the Headquarters of the Southern Provinces to that town.

49. The local chiefs accepted the offer of compensation and rent for the Diobit land at Port Harcourt and signed a deed leasing the land to Government.

50. Work on the Port Harcourt water supply was completed in May.

51. A motor road with concrete bridges and culverts from Shaki to Eruwa Road in the Oyo Province has been completed.

52. An African hospital with modern appliances and fittings, built by the Native Administration, was opened at Ibadan in December.

53. In August an anti-tax agitation sprang up in the Warri Province. Overt acts of lawlessness occurred in the Warri and Kwale Divisions. On the 30th September a turbulent demonstration against the Officer Administering the Government ended in a riot in which the police were forced to fire on the crowd. The Warri Province was declared a Proclaimed District under the Peace Preservation Ordinance by a Proclamation dated the 30th November. By the end of the year the ringleaders of the agitation had been brought to trial, conditions in the province became normal and the Proclamation of the 30th November was cancelled on the 29th December.

II.—FINANCE.

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

	True Revenue.	True Expenditure.	Expenditure on Loan Works.
	£	£	£
1922-23 ...	5,505,435	5,410,983	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
1926-27 ...	7,784,429	7,584,692	1,016,162

55. The revenue and expenditure for the six months April to September, 1927, amounted to £2,896,960, and £3,242,892 respectively. Included in the expenditure is £14,704 advanced for Loan Works (New Programme) 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 1926-27 figures by approximately £1,850,000 while the anticipated expenditure figure shows a decrease of approximately £1,200,000 on the figure of the last financial year. These reductions are due in a large measure to the procedure adopted for the first time in 1927-28 in dealing with the Railway revenue and expenditure, the gross figures of which are now excluded from the Revenue and Expenditure Estimates and the net deficit, or profit, only being shown.

56. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st March, 1927, was £6,068,228. To this should be added £11,110 advanced from revenue for Loan Works (New Programme) and recoverable from a future Loan, making a true surplus of £6,074,338 on 31st March, 1927. The Public Debt at 31st March, 1927, was £23,559,209 and the accumulated Sinking Fund amounted to £1,410,272.

57. The various Native Administrations have their own Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, deriving their revenue principally from a proportion of Direct Taxes (varying from fifty per cent. to seventy per cent.)

58. The Surplus Funds of the Native Administrations are no longer deposited with the Government at interest. Most of 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.

59. Silver coin to the value of £241,339 was withdrawn from circulation during the year ending March 31st, 1927, and £283,484 was shipped to the United Kingdom to be melted down. The alloy coin in circulation on the same date was about £5,713,000 and the total currency exclusive of notes in circulation at 31st March, 1927, was estimated at £6,724,000.

III.—PRODUCTION.

60. *Agriculture.*—As a result of the extraordinarily big cotton crop in the United States of America last year the world's prices for cotton, palm oil, palm kernels and groundnuts continued to fall during the first half of 1927. But as soon as a small American cotton and cotton seed production in the current year began to be anticipated, the price of all export products steadied, and in August they began definitely to rise, and are now again at a fairly satisfactory level. The price of cocoa, although tending to fall during the year, is still very high.

61. The annual variations in the quantity of palm oil and palm kernels exported from Nigeria seem to depend almost entirely on the price offered by the local buyers. And apart from occasional changes in sea freights, the local price follows the world price very consistently. Following the course of prices, exports in

the early part of the year were relatively less than those in corresponding periods in recent years; but immediately the price began to rise the export trade responded very promptly; and so far as can be estimated at present there is every reason to expect that the exports for the year will nearly equal those of last year.

62. The proper statistical year for cocoa exports is from October 1st to September 30th. The export of cocoa in 1926-27 from Nigeria, excluding the Cameroons, amounts to 42,300 tons as compared with 38,300 tons in 1925-26, 36,700 tons in 1924-25 and 32,300 in each of the two seasons before that. So far as can be judged the underlying annual rate of increase in production, due to young trees coming into bearing, is at present about 1,500 tons per annum.

But in any given year this increase may be exceeded or negated by annual fluctuations. In view of the relatively very dry weather experienced in the Southern Provinces in the current season, a crop rather smaller than that of last year is anticipated.

63. In the present main cocoa belt in the western part of the Southern Provinces, cocoa planting continues steadily, but does not seem to have been accelerated by the recent high price. The high price has, however, greatly helped the efforts of the Agricultural Department to stimulate cocoa planting in other parts of the Southern Provinces. In the Ondo Province there has been a continuation of the increased planting that was mentioned in the last annual general report (paragraph 76). It would be misleading to say that there has been much planting in any other province, but there is at least a distinctly different frame of mind noticeable among the farmers in regard to cocoa in several districts, which will probably lead to visible results before very long.

64. The efforts of the Department of Agriculture to improve the quality of Nigerian cocoa, through a dual programme of produce inspection and co-operative demonstrations of fermenting, have been described in previous reports. This work continues to give good results. The current season has only just opened; but all buyers agree that the quality this year is a marked advance on anything that has ever been seen before in Nigeria. The weather has been favourable for quality, but in the past, whatever the weather might be like, whenever the price was high, the quality was bad. The high price of the last two years, on the contrary, has been accompanied by a steady improvement in quality. Estimates of the average relative increase in the value of Nigerian cocoa that has occurred in the last three years vary from the Department of Agriculture's conservative estimate of £1 10s. per ton, to figures as high as £3 or £3 10s. per ton, that have been put forward by some of the merchants who trade in this commodity. There is still room for yet further improvement; and there is every reason to expect it. The special grade cocoa produced at the co-operative demonstrational fermentaries continues to command a high premium. Indeed it even seems to tend gradually to increase; for, whereas £5 per ton premium was regarded as quite satisfactory a year or two ago, now a premium of £7 per ton over the highest local price for "F.A." is quite common.

65. The export of groundnuts in the season 1926-27 (October 1st to September 30th) amounted to only 90,000 tons as against 115,000 tons in 1925-26 and 132,000 in 1924-25. As indicated in last year's report the reason for this was mainly the low price offered. The average prices during recent buying seasons (October to March inclusive) have been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1924-25	13	7	6
1925-26	10	15	0
1926-27	11	19	0

But the price in the earlier and more important part of the 1926-27 season was barely £10. Undoubtedly the small export last season must be partly ascribed to the nuts having been eaten locally because of the shortage of other foods. A tentative estimate of the export in the current season (1927-8) is 90,000 or 100,000 tons. There seems to have been an expansion of planting in the area in the east of the Sokoto Province, where the effect of the road is beginning to show itself, in opening up trade. That is the area that the new branch railway will tap. This increase is however believed to be offset by less intensive planting in the older parts of the groundnut belt, as a result of an increased planting of grain crops for food. The yield per acre of groundnuts this year seems to be satisfactory. Given normal weather in 1928, there seems every reason to anticipate an increased production in 1928-29.

66. The situation of American cotton production in the Northern Provinces is very similar. The export in 1926-27 amounted only to a little over 16,000 bales as against nearly 37,000 in the preceding season. This is partly ascribable to the weather, and partly to the fact that there was an increase of local consumption and also of export by land, owing to the low price that the exporters to Europe could offer. Plantings in the current season have been restricted by the exceptionally heavy planting of grain crops, so that although the yield per acre promises to be normal, the export in the current season is tentatively estimated at only 28,000 bales. However the farmers do not seem to have lost confidence in cotton growing. The building of the new railway has had an important effect, even although it was only partly opened last year and that only to Funtua. The remission of railway freight, and the reductions of sea freight and ginning charges that were thereby secured, all helped. These measures increased the local price of seed cotton by a farthing per lb.; which was a very important amount at distant places where, out of the price of 1½d. which was actually offered at the railway stations, ½d. was absorbed by transport: in such places, a farthing per lb. meant a great deal. This, however, was not all, for there is no doubt but that these measures being given a wide publicity among the farmers through the medium of a speech delivered by His Excellency at Funtua, had a not inconsiderable moral effect.

67. These recent experiences provide an exceptionally good opportunity for judging the prospects for the new railway, and there is nothing in them to cast doubt on the increased production of groundnuts and cotton which it was predicted that the railway would cause, whenever it should be constructed and opened.

68. The production of native cotton for export in the "middle" and Southern Provinces amounted approximately to the same quantity of 11,000 bales, at which it has stood for the last three years. Any increase in this production awaits an improvement in quality. Such an improvement is now in sight. Last year (1926-27) the work of the Agriculture Department in this subject had reached the stage that certain strains of improved indigenous cotton had been brought to a state approaching purity, through several years of continuous self-fertilisation and scientific selection by modern methods. Two "sister" strains had been found, in two years' tests, to be reliably good yielders, and rather more resistant to some diseases than the ordinary native cotton. Both of these were multiplied to the extent of five acres in 1926-27. The lint from those ten acres was valued, in a considerable series of examinations by different brokers etc., at 2½d., to 3d., per lb., over either middling American or the ordinary native cotton; and the valuations have been confirmed by scientific examinations at two English Cotton Research Institutes. The high price at which its lint is valued, together with its high ginning percentage, causes the seed cotton of these strains to be worth ½d. or 1d. per lb. more than the native cotton. (Last year ordinary native seed cotton fetched 1d. per lb., only). It was therefore decided that this year these two strains should be multiplied as much as possible. The seed sufficed to sow, by a special method, some 1,330 acres on native farmers' fields; to obtain this area 1,310 fields belonging to 814 different individuals were used. The crops have proved quite satisfactory in spite of the fact that the season has been so exceptionally dry. The growers seem entirely satisfied that the cotton promises to yield rather better than their ordinary native cotton. This area should now produce enough seed to permit the supply of seed to anyone in the Oyo and Abeokuta Provinces who wants it; it is hoped that there will be a quite considerable production of this cotton in 1928-9.

69. It was stated in the last Annual General Report that the food crops in the Northern Provinces promised to be distinctly below average; and it was indicated that, though an actual famine was not anticipated, yet some shortage must be expected for several months. This forecast proved to be accurate: the conditions were certainly not such as is conveyed by the word "famine", but there was a definite shortage which caused the price of grain to soar to three or four times the normal price. It would have risen higher in the town but for the sale of imported rice in some quantity by the Native Administrations at cost price. A trade in native foodstuffs sprang up between the Southern and Northern Provinces, which also helped. Fortunately the current season has been as favourable as the last one was unfavourable; and food in the Northern Provinces is now exceptionally plentiful and cheap.

70. In the Southern Provinces an exceptionally light rainfall this year has caused exceptionally light food crops; but in the Southern Provinces "an exceptionally light food crop" means only that the gross production is a little less than in a good year: it does not mean any serious shortage.

71. *Forestry*.—The area of Forest Reserves has been increased by 903 square miles, making a total of 7,940 square miles. In addition there are areas aggregating 5,497 square miles which have been selected for reservation and are awaiting either settlement, preliminary, or final proclamation.

72. The work of surveying these areas proceeds slowly on account of the unfilled vacancies in the staff. Two of the recently-appointed officers have taken a special course in survey at the Imperial Forestry Institute and it is anticipated that better progress will result in 1928.

73. Planting for the supply of timber and pit props continues; the total area now planted exceeds 3,200 acres. At Akilla, the existing plantations have been increased during 1927 by 108 acres, the species planted being all indigenous, viz., mahogany, opepe, sida and abura. The results shown at this plantation are very gratifying and a very valuable estate is being built up.

74. The export trade in mahogany has been dull. A considerable number of defective logs have been shipped for which there is a poor demand, whilst good quality logs have found a steady market.

75. There is an increasing demand for secondary timbers, the chief among which is opepe which is being used in the plywood trade.

76. The licences for timber concessions now amount to 101 whilst applications for new concessions are also being dealt with.

77. Owing to the low price of rubber, few applications have been received for permits to tap indigenous species but there has been an increase in the output of the plantation product.

78. The planting of fuel plantations adjacent to a large towns is attracting interest and those already in existence are beginning to justify the expenditure incurred on them, and supply a much-needed want. Twenty acres of the Ibadan plantations were cut over during the year and the crop was all sold for house poles and fuel at good prices. In addition 77 acres of this plantation were re-stocked.

79. Good reports have been received from the Northern and Eastern Provinces on the results of the planting of wattle and eucalyptus.

80. Seeds of *H. Inocarpus Wightiana* were planted in various nurseries and satisfactory results are reported in respect to their growth. The most promising appear to be at Sapoba where 2½ acres have been planted out and are flourishing.

81. The great importance of this tree is that it produces a valuable oil which has been used successfully in the cure of leprosy.

82. Many enquiries have been received concerning the supply of gum—large quantities of which are to be found in the Northern Provinces, but chiefly in the Bornu Province. An officer of the Forestry Department is proceeding to the Soudan, which has been the principal source of the supply of gum arabic, with a view to ascertaining the methods used in collecting, grading and marketing the produce. It is hoped that the knowledge so obtained, together with improvement in transport facilities in the provinces concerned, will enable a very considerable industry to be built up in Nigeria.

83. During the year two officers of the department completed a special course of study in silviculture, which included a tour in India, and returned to Nigeria in September. In addition, appointments have been sanctioned for three other specialist officers in the subjects of Forest Engineering, Forest Utilisation and Wood Seasoning and Preservation. The services of such officers should prove to be of great value in developing the forest resources of the country many of which have hardly been touched up to the present by either the local or the export trades in such products.

84. During the year two European officers have been appointed to the charge of the Botanic Gardens at Victoria and great improvements have already taken place in their management. The reports that it is proposed to issue from time to time on the various exotic and indigenous economic plants that are being cultivated there should prove of great interest to the planters and others concerned with such matters.

85. *Mining.*—There has been great activity in tin mining during the year, the output of concentrate (containing seventy per cent. metal) amounting to over 11,000 tons, being a substantial increase over that for 1926. This is all the more satisfactory, in that it shows that the recent setback in the price of tin has had no appreciable effect on the production.

86. The reduction in the price of Udi coal following the completion of the Eastern Railway has resulted, as anticipated, not only in a marked increase in the use of labour-saving machinery, but also in the conversion of several plants from oil to coal, as for example the electric generating station at Ropp.

87. The enterprising lead given by the Keffi Consolidated Tin Company, Limited, who were responsible for the introduction of the first steam-shovel into Nigeria, has been followed by others, and it is of interest to note that one such shovel erected by the Nigerian Base Metals Corporation, Limited is the largest of its kind and is capable of removing overburden at a remarkable rate. Drag line excavators are also being utilised on ground suitable for their purpose.

88. Satisfactory progress is being made with the construction of the dam and canal in connection with the Kura Falls Power Scheme, which will be a valuable asset to the minesfield on its completion. A large dam has also been erected during the year by the Northern Nigeria (Bauchi) Tin Mines, Limited, on a tributary of the N'Gell River, in order to augment the supply of water for the Kwall Falls Power Scheme, thus lengthening the period wherein cheap electric power is available for mining purposes on the property of that company.

89. As an indication of the expansion of the tin mining industry, it may be noted that in spite of the continued introduction of machinery, the coloured labour employed is over 5,000 more than that recorded for the previous year, and even so the demand would appear to be in excess of the supply.

90. With regard to minerals other than cassiterite there is little to record, for the output of gold is at present negligible, and there is little likelihood of an increase unless new deposits are discovered.

91. Lead mining is also in a somewhat stagnant condition, the output of galena for the year being only about 300 tons,

two-thirds of which was obtained from the Ameka Mine near Abakaliki in the Southern Provinces, while the balance was won at Zurak in Adamawa Province. Other deposits of galena are known to occur at various places on the Benue, such as Arafu and Akwana, but in view of the serious fall in the price of lead, their exploitation on a large scale is hardly likely to be attempted until the transport facilities have been greatly improved.

92. Early in the year, the Mines office was removed from Naraguta to Jos, where it is now incorporated in one building with those of the Administrative, Survey and Treasury Departments. As a result, a change in procedure has been made in respect to applications for mining titles; those for areas within the Plateau Province being now made direct to the Resident, instead of to the Chief Inspector of Mines, while the priority plan, which used to be kept up to date by the Mines Department, has now been taken over by the Survey Department.

93. The decentralisation of the Mines Department, which had been under consideration for some time, was sanctioned towards the end of the year. This step, which had become imperative owing to the rapid expansion of the mining industry, involves an increase in the staff of the Department from seven to ten and the dividing of the minesfield into four main divisions for purposes of inspection and administration.

94. The death rate as the result of mining accidents amounts to 0.6 per thousand, thus showing a gratifying decrease as compared with that for 1926, though the latter, it should be mentioned, was above the normal. It is hoped that when the more effective supervision resulting from the decentralisation of the Mines Department has had time to make itself felt, there will be a still further reduction in fatal mining accidents.

95. *Annual Exports.*—The export trade relies mainly upon certain staple articles all of which are of great value, and represent the main sources of the wealth of the country. They are shown in the return hereunder in which the quantity and value exported during the last five years are compared:—

	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.	
	Quantity Tons.	Value £	Quantity. Tons	Value. £
1923	99,439	2,982,488	223,171	3,740,852
1924	127,083	3,914,340	252,847	4,461,482
1925	128,118	4,166,096	272,926	4,937,450
1926	113,267	3,616,159	249,100	4,440,452
1927	113,305	3,617,332	256,967	4,574,191

	Ground Nuts.		Cocoa.	
	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1923	22,887	403,059	32,821	922,298
1924	78,266	1,461,448	37,204	980,402
1925	127,226	2,394,251	44,705	1,483,754
1926	126,799	2,342,739	39,099	1,366,016
1927	90,772	1,638,896	39,152	1,968,612

	Cotton Lint.		Tin.	
	Quantity. Owts.	Value. £	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1923	62,701	396,549	8,475	1,190,313
1924	92,770	762,427	8,852	1,548,040
1925	132,724	797,463	9,293	1,737,578
1926	179,315	1,182,050	10,562	2,217,046
1927	101,854	611,124	10,926	2,403,720

96. It will be seen that both palm oil and palm kernels reached a high point in tonnage and value and although not quite as satisfactory as in 1924 and 1926 the quantities were substantially above the average for the last six or seven years. The market was generally speaking not favourable, prices offered for the former article ranging between £20 and £22 per ton, while those for the latter were in the neighbourhood of £14. Cocoa showed very little increase on the previous year in spite of uniformly good prices. Groundnuts showed a falling off of over 36,000 tons as compared with last year. For this there are two reasons the first being that prices were so low that the producer beyond a certain distance from the markets found it an unprofitable proposition owing to the heavy cost of animal transport, and the second that owing to a general shortage of local foodstuffs a fairly large proportion of the crop passed into local consumption. Cotton lint showed a somewhat disappointing fall, which can be attributed to much the same causes, but in the figures for tin ore there is a record which gives an indication of the flourishing state of this industry. In the trade in hides and skins, improved methods of preparation have resulted in greatly increased prices and the extent of the trade can be gathered from the following comparative table:—

	1925.	1926.	1927.
Cattle hides lb.	7,294,903	6,257,089	8,326,075
Sheep Skins	260,422	605,426	637,818
Goat Skins	3,043,392	3,628,248	3,206,836

IV.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

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

Import	...	...	...	...	...	£ 15,341,000
Export	...	...	...	...	...	16,312,000
						<u>£31,653,000</u>

an increase of seven hundred and sixteen thousand pounds 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 £19,000 a decrease of over £600.

98. Commercial imports, excluding specie, were valued at £12,352,000 an increase of over five *per cent.* compared with the previous year, while commercial exports at £15,647,000

showed a slight decrease. Imports of specie amounted to £1,195,000 compared with £836,000 in the previous year, whereas exports at £657,000, were approximately the same as in 1926.

99. The United Kingdom accounted for 53.5 *per cent.* of the total trade compared with 53.7 *per cent.* for the previous year, imports at sixty-two *per cent.* showing a decline of 1.1 *per cent.* and exports at 45.6 *per cent.* a decline of 22.2 *per cent.* The United States of America with ten *per cent.* of the trade showed an increase of 28.2 *per cent.* but Germany with 15.5 *per cent.* showed a decrease of .03 *per cent.* With the exception of the colonies in British West Africa there is no trade with any part of the British Empire except through the United Kingdom and to a small extent with Canada through the United States of America.

100. From the figures given in the following return it will be seen that the import trade was maintained at a high level, and fell short only by a comparatively small sum of the value for 1925 which at that time was considered more than usually large. On the other hand, the value of the export trade though not by any means unsatisfactory did not reach the point touched in the two previous years, but as a whole the figures can, however, be taken to indicate steady progress and a genuine return after various disappointments to settled commerce.

Commercial and Government.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
Imports (exclusive of Specie) ...	10,303,688	10,271,066	10,948,309	14,783,209	12,761,129	14,146,489
Exports (exclusive of Specie) ...	8,936,302	10,885,136	14,460,930	16,962,995	16,681,310	15,654,656
Totals ...	19,239,990	21,156,202	25,409,239	31,746,204	29,442,439	29,801,145
Imports of Specie ...	603,647	1,490,766	1,973,028	1,495,140	836,851	1,194,685
Exports of Specie ...	1,514,209	819,876	577,147	407,166	658,308	657,717
Totals ...	2,117,856	2,310,662	2,550,175	1,902,306	1,494,659	1,852,275
Gross Totals ...	21,357,846	23,466,864	27,959,414	33,648,510	30,937,098	31,653,420

1927. Parcels by Parcel Post not included.

101. The principal articles of the import trade are cigarettes, cotton piece goods, kerosene, kola nuts, petrol, provisions, salt, spirits (gin), tobacco unmanufactured, and the statistics for the last five years shows steady expansion. The consumption of cigarettes has now reached a point which it might almost be thought cannot be exceeded and yet there is no doubt that it will increase by twenty-five *per cent.* within the next few years. It would not have been unreasonable to assume that the cigarette habit would have affected adversely the trade in leaf tobacco, but the quantity of the latter article imported last year was well above the average and cannot but be considered to point to a state of general prosperity. The same may be said of another luxury article, gin, which in spite of the almost prohibitive rate of duty shows importations above the average. Of the other main articles of imports, it will cause no surprise to find that petrol supplies exceeded three million gallons—by far the highest quantity yet imported in a year—and there is little doubt but that this figure will be considered more or less insignificant in ten years time. Imported provisions remained about the same as in the two previous years, but cotton piece goods almost reached the 1925 level, while the importation of salt showed substantial increase and the trade in kola nuts improved. With regard to the sources of these supplies cigarettes, cotton piece goods and salt come from the United Kingdom. Provisions also come chiefly from the United Kingdom but practically all of the salt fish comes from Germany and Norway and the trade in this commodity is a large and growing one. Kerosene, petrol and tobacco unmanufactured come from the United States of America, kola nuts from the Gold Coast Colony and spirits (gin) from Holland chiefly. There seems to be no reason why British Empire fish should not compete with the countries mentioned above for the local market in dried and salted fish, and there should be an opening for more trade in British motor cars, etc., but in this respect British companies have improved their position considerably during the last few years.

102. Approximately fifty *per cent.* of the palm oil exported went to the United Kingdom, twenty-five *per cent.* to the United States of America, ten *per cent.* to Italy and the remainder divided between Germany, France, Holland and Belgium. With regard to palm kernels almost all went to the United Kingdom and Germany, each taking about fifty *per cent.* and forty-five *per cent.* respectively. In pre-war years Germany took something like seventy-five *per cent.* of the kernels exported and each year since 1920 she has taken a larger percentage. All of the tin ore and over ninety-five *per cent.* of the cotton went to the United Kingdom. The hides and skins were taken by the United Kingdom and France in about equal proportions and roughly twenty *per cent.* of the total was distributed between Germany, United States of America, Belgium, Italy and Holland. The cocoa was divided between the United Kingdom, United States of America, Holland and Germany, about thirty *per cent.* going to United States of America, and sixty *per cent.* almost evenly divided between the others. About sixty *per cent.* of the groundnuts went to Germany, twenty *per cent.* to France, ten *per cent.* to the

United Kingdom and the balance to Holland, Belgium, Italy and Spain.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

103. *Harbours, Creeks and Rivers.*—Navigable conditions on Lagos Bar and in the entrance channels remained satisfactory and showed little change during the year under review. The official draught of twenty-five feet was maintained throughout but no instance occurred of any vessel taking advantage of this draught. The usual maintenance work on the moles was carried out by the Harbour Works Department and the West Training Bank was extended by ninety feet. *The Lady Clifford* has been employed dredging on the Eastern Spit, and in the Commodore, Bruce and Pool Channels as circumstances required, though her efforts were concentrated on the Spit when weather conditions were favourable. Only very slight changes have taken place in the contour of the Eastern Spit, the seawards end of which remains practically unchanged. Inside the harbour, dredging operations were carried out by the *Sandgrouse*, *Child*, *Queen Mary*, *Mole* and *Whitworth*, the latter being a pontoon grab dredger acquired during the year from Messrs. Armstrong Whitworth and Company. As a result of these operations, the draught at the Customs Wharf and at Nos. 1, 2 and 3 buoy berths was increased to twenty-four feet and the depth at the downstream berths at the Ijora or Iddo coal wharf, where considerable silting had occurred, was increased to eighteen feet, *i.e.*, the authorised draught. The resultant spoil has been utilised in connection with the various reclamation schemes in progress during the year, *i.e.*, the Ebute Metta-Apapa railway track, the Alakoro embayment, at Apapa dockyard behind Nos. 2 and 3 berths, and on the site of the Harbour Engineer's new Depot between Apapa and Ebute Metta. The spoil *ex The Lady Clifford* was dumped at sea with the exception of a small proportion discharged into barges and pumped ashore *ex Romulus*. Part of the spoil *ex Queen Mary* was dumped up Badagry Creek as it was unsuitable for reclamation purposes. This is an unsatisfactory procedure but unavoidable under the conditions prevailing.

104. At Port Harcourt, the second instalment of ocean wharfage was completed and handed over on August 1st. The new wharf is 870 feet long with an upstream extension of 105 feet suitable for small craft. It is anticipated that the first portion of the new coaling berth will be ready by about March of 1928, but the electric power required for this installation will not be available before the end of the year.

105. The usual quarterly surveys of Lagos Bar and Entrance have been carried out and plotted in conjunction with those made by the Harbour Engineer's Department, soundings for the latter being taken between the moles only. A survey of the ocean steamer route from Rawson Creek near Forcados to Sapele was made during the year, thus completing the surveys of steamer routes between Forcados and Burutu, Warri, Koko and Sapele. The Admiralty are producing a new chart of this area

from the information supplied to them. A minor survey of Onya Crossing on the Niger was carried out in the interests of inland water shipping. This crossing is near the junction of the Forcados and Nun branches of the River.

106. An exceptionally large waterway programme has been dealt with during the year. The launch routes from Lagos to Sapele and throughout the Delta have been cleared and kept open to navigation. Clearing parties have also been employed at various periods of the year on the following waterways:—

Creeks in the Sudd Region.

The Niger River and its tributaries.

The Omerun, Anambra, N'doni and Kiagbodo Creeks.

The Warri-Koko Creek route and the Koko Canal.

The Ogba Creek.

Bubara Rapids on the middle Niger.

Imo and Azumini Rivers.

Qua Ibo, Enyong, Bansara and Cross Rivers.

Mungo and Meme Rivers in the Cameroons Province.

Inspections have also been carried out of the Oshun, Yemoji and Ibu Rivers in order to estimate the possibilities of clearing these rivers at a later date.

107. The coastal buoys and those marking navigable channels in the harbours and estuaries were efficiently maintained throughout the year, no instance having occurred of any buoy being reported as out of position. The Calabar Light Buoy was extinguished for a few days owing to a mechanical defect, and the Bonny Light Buoy was fouled and damaged by the Spanish steamer *Teresa Taya* on October 7th. It was temporarily re-lighted by the *Pathfinder* two days later and replaced by a new buoy on October 15th. There are now sixty-seven buoys and fourteen beacons maintained by the Marine Department as aids to navigation besides the three long-range light buoys.

108. The lights on the coast including those in the British Cameroons were well maintained and the lighthouses kept in good repair. The new automatic light installed at Cape Nachtigal during the year has proved of great assistance to mariners. A similar installation for Cape Debundscha is shortly expected from England and should be operating early next year.

109. Mail and transport services were maintained regularly by Government craft on the following routes:—

Lagos to Sapele and Forcados.

Port Harcourt to Opobo.

Port Harcourt to Degema and Brass.

The Baro-Lokoja-Onitsha service was taken over by the Niger Company during the year. The low water service on the Cross River between Itu and Ikom run in connection with Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's service has run satisfactorily. A second ferry steamer for the Lagos-Apapa ferry service arrived out in June and has proved of great value as a relief vessel. The transport of coal for Government Departments from Port Harcourt to Lagos and to the outstations, Forcados, Calabar and Victoria was maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.

110. *Shipping*.—Regular mail, passenger and cargo services were maintained throughout the year between the United King-

dom 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 Linie and allied Companies, Chargeurs Reunis French Steamship Line, Frassiniet Fabre Line, Roma Societa di Navigazione, and Italian West Africa (Congo) Line—Navigazione Libera Triestina. The total tonnage of cargo landed and shipped was 1,215,000 as compared with 1,189,000 last year. The number of vessels which entered and cleared was 1,473 as against 1,240 in 1926.

111. *Railways.*—The railway is divided into two routes. The western, with its terminus at Apapa and Iddo, comprises a main line from Lagos (Apapa and Iddo Stations) to Kano, a distance of 705 miles from the coast, through the important towns of Abeokuta (served by Lafenwa station on the main line), Ibadan, Ilorin, Oshogbo, Minna, Kaduna, Zaria; a branch line connects Zaria with Jos which is the junction for the line from Port Harcourt. The gauge of the Zaria-Jos branch is two feet six inches, that of the remainder of the line three feet six inches. 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 route, running from Port Harcourt on the Bonny Estuary, effects a junction with the western line at Kaduna a distance of 566 miles from Port Harcourt. From Kafanchan a connecting line runs to Jos, an important centre in connection with the Tin Mining Industry. Jos, the centre of the industry, is now brought within 521 miles of the coast at Port Harcourt as compared with a distance of 751 miles *via* Zaria to Lagos. The immediate result of the opening of this route has been to reduce the price of coal delivered at Bukuru from Enugu to forty shillings and five pence per ton against eighty-nine shillings *via* Zaria and the Bauchi light railway and also to effect large reductions in the rail freight on tin, machinery, provisions, etc. The Up Boat Express now works through to Jos *via* Kaduna and Kafanchan, a distance of 740 miles as compared with the old route of 751 miles, the time occupied being reduced by two and a half hours. Enugu station, which serves the coal fields, is situated 151 miles from Port Harcourt.

112. A broad gauge branch line from Zaria to Kaura-Namoda is now under construction, approximately 145 miles in the direction of Sokoto; rail head had reached eighty-one miles from Zaria in December. This line will traverse a well-populated area with great possibilities for development, and it is anticipated it will be open for traffic about October, 1928. An extension is also under construction from Kano towards Hadeija, 100 miles, and a branch line is being built from Ifo-Idogo (twenty-four miles); it is expected that the latter should be open for traffic about June, 1928, and about fifty miles of the former in October, 1928.

113. The gross earnings during the financial year ended 31st March, 1927, were £2,306,011, the highest figure recorded in the history of the railway, and the gross working expenditure

£1,418,625, making the net receipt £977,386. The total number of passengers carried was 2,621,432, an increase of 208,319 over the number carried the previous year, and the tonnage of goods and minerals hauled was 948,304 tons, an increase of 151,025 tons over the previous year's tonnage.

114. The estimated revenue for the calendar year is placed at £2,332,155 and the approximate expenditure at £2,373,543, which includes contribution to Renewals Fund, interest charges and the cost of departmental services, pensions, etc.

115. There are now 178 stations open for traffic:—

Western Division	...	...	...	...	70
Northern Division	...	...	...	...	47
Eastern Division	...	...	...	...	61
					178

116. The Transportation Department is under the control of the Superintendent of the Line, with headquarters at Ebute Metta (a suburb of Lagos). He is assisted by two Assistant Superintendents of the Line, one for traffic operation and commercial matters, and one for locomotive working. The line is divided into three divisions, each in charge of a Divisional Superintendent, assisted by Assistant Divisional Superintendents as under:—

Western Division.—Iddo, Apapa to Zungeru.

Northern Division.—North of Zungeru to Kano (including Baro Branch and also the Bauchi Light Railway).

Eastern Division.—Port Harcourt to Jos and Kaduna Junction.

117. A motor transport 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.

118. *Roads and Bridges.*—Approximately 3,000 miles of motor road are maintained by the Public Works Department. These roads are surfaced with laterite or similar gravel except in the Delta Provinces where they are mainly "earth" roads. To cope with the increasing motor traffic the Lagos-Ibadan, Ibadan-Ilesha and a few other roads have been widened. About thirty miles of stone metalled and tarred surfacing has already been laid on the Lagos-Abeokuta road and it is proposed to extend this method of construction. Localities where suitable stone is available are however limited, and as transport will in many cases prove prohibitive the problem of satisfactorily maintaining the more important roads in Nigeria is likely to be one of some difficulty. The existing roads will withstand reasonable traffic throughout the year but beyond certain traffic limits deterioration is rapid and maintenance practically impossible. Limitation of axle loads and speeds and the use of pneumatic tyres may mitigate the trouble, and the development of multi-wheeled vehicles or of "road-trains" may provide a solution.

119. In addition to the Public Works Department roads, the Native Administration have constructed and maintained a very considerable mileage of roads which are serviceable for motor traffic in the dry season.

120. New bridges are designed to withstand heavy traffic, and the older bridges on all important routes have been or are being reconstructed.

121. The special road programme inaugurated on the instructions of His Excellency has been well advanced. The work already in hand involves about 580 miles of road of which about 290 miles have been completed during the year. In addition about 740 miles of road survey has been completed.

122. Road works under construction include the Rigachikun-Jos road (163 miles), Funtua-Yashi road (76 miles), Bida-Zungeru road (56 miles), Abakaliki-Ogoja road (60 miles), Oturkpo-Katsina Ala road (91 miles), Share-Jebba road (30 miles), Ara-Ijero road (9 miles) and Ilugun-Olokemeji road (16 miles). The Jemaa-Jagindi road (16 miles) and the Ondo-Agbabu road (40 miles) have been completed. All these road works involve numerous bridges of considerable size.

123. Work on the Wudyl Bridge over the Challowa River in Kano Province is well advanced. The two abutments and four piers are completed and the steel work for the one-155 foot and seven-100 foot spans is now being delivered and assembled. Work has been commenced on the long embankment and two reinforced concrete pile bridges (with spans totalling 643 feet) over the Misau River in Bauchi Province. Arrangements have been made for bridging the Imo River in Owerri Province with a reinforced concrete pile bridge of 426 feet total span. This bridge with its new approach roads will establish direct road communication between Port Harcourt and Aba and the Calabar Province.

124. Bridges on the Kaduna-Zaria road (52 miles) will shortly be completed, when this recently-made road will be thrown open to general traffic. The work includes three 100-foot span bridges.

125. Replacement of the old bridges on the Abeokuta-Ijebu-Ode road, on the Ibadan-Ife road and on portions of the Oshogbo-Benin road and of minor bridges on other roads is being undertaken.

126. The services of the Posts and Telegraphs Department continue to expand in all directions. Increases ranging from seven *per cent.* to as much as fifteen *per cent.* are shown in the net revenue, telegrams, postal orders, and sale of stamps. The raising of the limit of weight for parcels to 22lb. has evidently been appreciated, judging by the mail increases shown in the numbers of parcels received over the former 11lb. limit of weight. The Money Order business has received a very much needed fillip by the reduction of commission rates; it is however too soon to express an opinion as to the effect of this reduction on the volume of orders issued. New postal telegraph offices have been opened at Ede, Ife, Ondo, Imo River, and Damaturu, a departmental post office has been opened at Ashaka whilst postal agencies have been established at Gudi, Lafia, Kafanchan, Ikirun, Okrika, Abak and Ohafia. Increasing use is being made of motor transport, the principal contracts entered

into during the year being for the conveyance of mails between Enugu and Abakaliki, Oron and Eket and Jos and Maiduguri. During 1927 a contract was entered into with the Niger Company for transport of mails on the Niger River between Burutu and Baro. Telegraph construction has continued, in spite of staff difficulties, throughout the year on the Zaria-Gusau Railway; other construction works completed during the year were Ede-Ife-Oshogbo and Akure-Onda lines. The wireless receiving sets working at Kaduna and Lagos have been used exclusively for "Rugby" news and for the greater part of the year have given satisfactory results, the failures in almost every case being due to atmospherical conditions.

127. A Government Savings Bank is worked and controlled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department and it is pleasing to find that during 1927 the number of new accounts has steadily increased. At the same time the number and amount of withdrawals have also increased. Fewer accounts were closed during the year than for some years past. An additional savings bank office was opened at Umuahia bringing the total number of offices up to thirty.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

128. *Legislation.*—The West African Frontier Force Reserve Ordinance (No. 5 of 1927) repeals Chapter 38 of the Laws and re-enacts it substituting similar provisions with certain modifications.

129. The Motor Traffic Ordinance (No. 10 of 1927) repeals Chapter 109 of the Laws and re-enacts it giving wider and clearer provisions in regard to motor traffic in Nigeria.

130. The Poisons and Pharmacy Ordinance (No. 15 of 1927) repeals Chapter 50 of the Laws and replaces Parts I and II thereof by other provisions.

131. The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (No. 16 of 1927) re-enacts Part II of Chapter 50 of the Laws and substitutes other provisions in regard to dangerous drugs in order to comply with International Convention.

132. The Roads and Rivers (Repeal) Ordinance (No. 18 of 1927) repeals Chapter 107 of the Laws with effect from the 1st April, 1928, the date upon which it is proposed that direct taxation shall become general throughout Nigeria.

133. The German Missions (Repeal) Ordinance (No. 21 of 1927) repeals Ordinance No. 10. of 1925 to enable German Missions who have returned to the scene of their former activities to recover possession of their property.

134. The Income Tax Ordinance (No. 23 of 1927) provides for the levy and collection of a tax assessed upon the estimated chargeable income payable annually by every adult (male) person resident in the Colony, with effect from the 1st April, 1928.

135. *Police.*—In the Northern Provinces with the exception of the patrols mentioned below, the Force has been occupied mostly in the more purely police duties of prevention and detection of crime, the provision of escorts where necessary, and,

especially in the Townships, the many other duties of police. Patrols in which police have been engaged are as follows:—

Adamawa Province	...	...	2
Benue Province	...	...	1

136. The establishment of European Officers of the Force has now two vacancies. The rank and file is up to strength; and the improvement and expansion of a Central Recruits' Training Depot is making a noticeable effect in the increased efficiency of the Force. Permanent barracks for the Kano Police Detachment have been completed during the year.

137. The Railway Police Detachment has been increased in strength during the year on account of the additional duties imposed upon them by the completion and opening to ordinary traffic of the line Makurdi-Jos-Kaduna Junction.

138. Crime in those areas of the Northern Provinces in which police are occupied, is normal. The amount of serious crime is small, although it should here be observed that signs are not lacking of a tendency on the part of those engaged in the making or uttering of counterfeit coin, to extend their activities into the southern portions of the Northern Provinces.

139. In the Southern Provinces the state of crime has been normal during the year and nothing of outstanding importance in this respect has occurred.

140. In January last, the duties of Preventive Service on the Eastern Frontier were taken over by the police from the Customs Department which had hitherto undertaken this work. The Force consists of one Assistant Commissioner of Police and sixty-seven rank and file and operates along the border from Tiko up as far as Fontem. A series of small Preventive posts have been established at intervals between these points. The distance requiring supervision on this Frontier is much larger than that on the Western Frontier and the difficulties experienced in dealing with smuggling are greater, owing to the hilly nature of the ground, the large expanse of water in the Mungo River and the numerous creeks near the coast line, all of which features afford considerable facilities to smugglers and render the work of the police correspondingly arduous. Considerable progress has been made during the year and the police have carried out their duties very satisfactorily in the circumstances.

141. In April the two new offices of Senior Commissioner of Police were created in order to relieve the Inspector-General of a certain amount of routine work and responsibility which could reasonably be delegated to a senior officer. Consequently the Southern Police Force has been divided into two areas, each in charge of a Senior Commissioner of Police. One Senior Commissioner has charge of all police in the provinces west of the Niger, and the other has charge of all in the provinces east of the Niger.

142. In view of the approaching institution of taxation in the Southern Provinces, an increase of 500 rank and file was granted during the year, as a temporary measure, and these have been distributed throughout the provinces so that a mobile body of men should be in readiness should any emergency arise. This additional force will gradually be absorbed into the authorised establishment or reduced in number periodically.

according as they can be dispensed with. Thus the Special Police, as such, will eventually disappear. About one half of the total number granted has already been enlisted and is in training.

143. During the month of September the political situation in Warri became very unsatisfactory owing to a variety of causes. A patrol was sanctioned and operated there for a period of nearly three months. The patrol, which consisted of four officers and about 200 men, succeeded in bringing the province back to a state of normality at the close of the year.

144. Two escorts operated during the year in the Ogoja Province. The first of these was sanctioned owing to a long-standing dispute between the people of Ogada and Apiampum over the respective boundaries of their lands. The dispute resulted in litigation which was finally settled, when the full Court dismissed an appeal brought by the people of Ogada against Apiampum. It remained to demarcate the boundary according to the decision of the Court, and for this purpose an escort accompanied the District Officer on the 22nd March. No serious opposition was encountered and the escort withdrew on the 12th April, when the demarcation of the boundary was completed. The second escort in the Ogoja Province was also due to a land dispute, this time between the towns of Igbo-Emabar and Assigo. No resistance was offered.

145. *Prisons.*—The daily average prison population in the Northern Provinces remains much as it was during 1926, namely 775 that year and 762 for this year to date. Prisoners are employed principally on station labour as required by the Magistrate and the health authorities.

146. Of improvements and extensions to prison accommodation completed during 1927 the most noteworthy are the construction and furnishing of an Infirmary Ward for Jos Prison, and the completion at Kaduna Prison of two blocks of permanent buildings containing respectively six cells for males and four for females. Other minor improvements have been carried out both at Kaduna and Maiduguri Prisons.

147. Prison industries have naturally their principal centre at Kaduna Prison, which is the largest of the convict gaols in the Northern Provinces, where the chief industries are tailoring, boot repairing and the manufacture of cane furniture. A certain amount of work for the general public is also undertaken by the Kaduna Prison Printing Press.

148. In the Southern Provinces good progress has been made in the re-building of the Port Harcourt and Enugu convict prisons. In addition to the manufacture of the bricks used in the new buildings, the entire construction is being carried out by convict labour.

149. The stone-breaking industry, commenced in the Lagos prison in a small way during 1926, has developed considerably and in addition to supplying a useful form of hard labour is most profitable.

150. From the 1st November, 1927, the complete output of wood furniture made in the Lagos prison carpenter shop has been handed over to the Public Works Department for issue to the new houses.

151. It is satisfactory to note that though great difficulty is experienced in recruiting a suitable type of warder there has been a marked improvement in the discipline of the prisoners.

152. The daily average number of prisoners in the Southern Provinces for the period 1st January, 1927, to 30th November, 1927, was 7,498 which is the highest daily average on record. It is expected that when the figures are available for the full year, the daily average will exceed 7,500.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

153. *Public Works*—It is estimated that the total expenditure by the Department for the year ending March 31st 1928 will be about £1,910,000 as compared with an expenditure of £1,230,000 for the year ended March 31st 1927. The expenditure shows a notable increase for the second year in succession and is well distributed over roads, building works and special works—water, electric light etc.

154. *Water Supplies*.—The Port Harcourt supply scheme has been completed. Work on the Ijebu-Ode scheme has made good progress; the collecting galleries and service reservoir (capacity 530,000 gallons) have been completed and work on the pumping plant, mains and street fountains is well in hand.

155. At Kaduna the intake tower in the Kaduna River is completed. Work on the intake tunnel and clear water reservoir is well in hand and work on the sedimentation basin and pump well has been commenced. Work on the scheme for supplying a part of the town of Ibadan has made good progress, the pumping plant has been installed and the pumping main laid. At Aba the well has been completed and the pumping plant installed. Work on the steel storage tank, mains and steel fountains is in hand.

156. Construction of the Kano scheme is still in abeyance the Consulting Engineers having decided to send out one of their partners to make an investigation of local conditions at the Challawa River during the dry season.

157. *Electric Light and Power*.—Consumption in Lagos, both of power and light, shows a gratifying increase and the estimate for the financial year will certainly be exceeded. The plant for the Port Harcourt scheme is now ready for shipment and work on the buildings and distribution has been started. The proposals for the Kaduna scheme met with the general approval of the Consulting Engineers and orders for the plant will shortly be given.

158. *Building Work. Hospitals*.—The European Hospital and Sisters' Quarters at Enugu, the Medical Store at Lagos, the Quarantine Station at Apapa and the European Hospital at Jos were completed. Good progress has been made on three blocks of the African Hospital, Lagos, and work on the following is well in hand:—

159. Additions to European and African Hospitals Kaduna, African Hospital, Aba, Kano Native Hospital, Infectious Diseases Hospital, Enugu and the extension of the African Hospital, Calabar.

160. *Government Quarters.* The housing programme for 1926-27 comprised 135 quarters for Europeans and 303 for Africans. There was some delay in the final selection of certain sites but the work is approaching completion. The 1927-28 programme of sixty-one European and ninety-five African quarters is well advanced.

161. *Police Barracks.*—Work on the following has been completed.—Iddo, Oke Suna (Lagos), Calabar and Enugu Barracks.

162. *Miscellaneous Buildings.* The following office buildings were completed.—Public Works Office, Lagos; Provincial Headquarters Office, Police Office and Public Works Office and Store at Makurdi. Post Offices, Oturkpo and Abeokuta. Work on the following is in hand. Lands Office, Lagos; Ilaro Court House; Divisional Office, Oturkpo; Provincial Office, Nassarawa, Kano. Two Rest Houses at Kaduna and a Rest House at Abeokuta were completed. Work on the Governor's Residence at Kaduna, two Rest Houses at Kano, W.A.F.F. Mess and Buildings, Kaduna, and a further extension to the Veterinary Establishment at Vom is in hand.

163. *Contract Work.*—The policy of letting contracts for building work has been further extended, such work including the Medical Store, the Oke Suna Police Barracks and the new Lands Office in Lagos and Government Quarters in Lagos and elsewhere.

164. *Harbours, Rivers, Creeks, Lagos Harbour.*—Navigable conditions, both inside and outside the harbour, continue to show improvement and the navigable draught of twenty-five feet has been well maintained throughout the entrance to the Harbour. The extension of the training bank has been continued with satisfactory results. The necessary replenishment and maintenance of the moles has been carried out. A portion of the eastern shore of the lagoon along the Marina is being repaired and revetted on lines which should improve the flow of water in the navigable channels.

165. The new wharf with four berths and sheds at Apapa has been completed and is in full working under the administration of the Railway. Coaling and refitting berths for the Marine Department at Apapa are nearing completion.

166. The preliminary investigations in connection with the new Carter Bridge were completed and the design is in progress of preparation. The reclamation of the Alakoro embayment has been commenced so as to be completed by the time the erection of the new bridge is commenced.

167. The Aro Quarry has continued to supply the stone necessary for Harbour Works, Railway and Public Works Department's requirements.

168. *Railway Ports, Port Harcourt.*—The second instalment of riverside wharfage has been completed during the year. This gives a total deep water berthage of 1,920 feet exclusive of two boat landing stages one at either end of berthage. The construction of a third single-storey transit shed to serve the above berthage, 620 feet long by 90 feet wide, has been commenced during the year and good progress made.

169. The erection of new coaling berth comprising 2,500 tons storage bunker and electrically-driven conveyor belt loading

machinery is nearing completion. A beginning has also been made with the retaining bank in connection with dredging of the southern extremity and reclamation in connection with traders' waterside plots at the northern or upstream extremity of the Port.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

170. There has again this year been a noticeable absence of any serious outbreak of epidemic relapsing fever and cerebro-spinal meningitis. Mild outbreaks of relapsing fever were reported in the Ondo Province early in the year and a limited number of cases occurred in the Plateau Province in August and September. There was a slight increase in the number of cases in the Plateau Province in October and a further outbreak has been reported from Abinsi in the Benue Province. The outbreaks have been mild in type.

171. Small outbreaks of cerebro-spinal meningitis were reported from Yola, Munshi and Kano Provinces in the Northern Provinces. Smallpox has been prevalent all the year in the Northern Provinces, outbreaks being reported from Kano, Zaria, Plateau, Bauchi, Yola and Kabba Provinces. Vaccination continues to be actively pushed as a preventative against smallpox and a special vaccination campaign under a medical officer has been started in the Plateau Province.

172. During the year cases of yellow fever were reported from Lagos, Badagry and Yaba. The Rockefeller Yellow Fever Commission are still vigorously pursuing their investigations on this disease. Plague continued in epidemic form in Lagos. In the Ijebu Province the disease appears to be gradually being eradicated. In Lagos the number of cases slowly decreased till July, when there was a slight increase up to October, when the cases again showed a decrease. This rise and fall corresponded with the percentage of infected rats caught. Most of the cases were of the bubonic type but a few pneumonic cases occurred. The Special Plague Staff has been vigorously carrying out the recommendations of Sir Edward Thornton throughout the year and in Lagos the deratting of the less congested parts of the town has been completed, only the small congested area having still to be dealt with. On the mainland the deratting of Ijebu Ode Town has been completed and the larger outlying towns in Ijebu Province are now being dealt with.

173. The work on the investigation of the tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis has been continued and good progress is being made in clearing heavy undergrowth of the river banks. The staff has been augmented by the addition of three travelling Sleeping Sickness Medical Officers whose duties are to visit the infected areas and treat the patients in their homes and it is hoped by this means to get in touch with many who would not Ijebu Province are now being dealt with.

IX.—EDUCATION.

174. In the Northern Provinces the demand for education is growing steadily. Not all the requests for elementary schools made by various Native Administrations can be met, but whenever it has been possible to provide adequate native teachers

new schools have been opened. The policy of refusing to open schools, unless sufficient supervision by European officers of the Department can be given, is continued. Twenty-four new schools including two crafts schools have been started. European staff has been slightly under strength throughout the year, and on December 31st there were two vacancies for Superintendents of Education and two for Superintendents of Arts and Crafts. During the year four new Superintendents of Education have been appointed, and seven new Superintendents of Arts and Crafts. One Superintendent of Education was permanently invalided. Another temporarily invalided, is attached to the office of the Secretary to the Advisory Committee on Native Education in Tropical Africa.

175. The opening of seven Mission schools has been approved.

176. Twelve men trained at the Katsina College entered on their duties in six different provinces. One of these, by arrangement with the Sokoto Native Administration, has been appointed as a teacher on the Training College staff.

177. A special class was opened at Katsina in July for the preliminary training of candidates for the subordinate Medical and Sanitary Staff in the Northern Provinces. The class is attached to the Training College.

178. A conference of the more senior officers of the Department was held at Kaduna in March.

179. The Rev. A. G. Fraser of Achimota visited the Northern and Southern Provinces in April and May.

180. A new syllabus of work for Crafts schools has been submitted to Government for approval.

181. The question of the amalgamation of the two Departments of Education in the Northern and Southern Provinces has been under consideration during the year.

182. On September the 1st, the regulations under the Education (Colony and Southern Provinces) Ordinance (No. 15 of 1926) came into effect. The registration of those engaged in teaching began from that date but had not been completed by the close of the year.

183. The result of the Ordinance and of the regulations is already noticeable. So far it has only been found necessary for the Director and the Board to advise the compulsory closing of one school, but in several cases preliminary warnings have been sent with the result that the schools concerned were reorganised and made more efficient.

184. Quarterly meetings of the Board have been held throughout the year. At the meeting held in December the Board considered a position which was arising owing to the difficulty of defining what should or should not be regarded as religious instruction. The Board recommended that the Education Ordinance should be amended by the deletion of any reference to religious instruction and that exemption from certain provisions of the Ordinance should be granted by regulation to certain schools and classes of school which are concerned with religious instruction.

185. School committees are beginning to function throughout the Southern Provinces, and should prove of considerable assistance to the Board by bringing to the notice of members local problems and suggestions.

186. Arrangements have been made for building two Government Training Institutions for teachers which it is proposed to open in 1929. At the same time the Missions are taking steps in several cases to increase their facilities for the training of teachers.

187. 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. A Native Administration school has been built and will shortly be opened at Oyo. The number of Mission schools which have attained a standard that justifies Government assistance has increased to 244 and special reference must be made to the excellent work which is being done in the girls' schools which have been established by the Missions. It is significant that though only eight assisted schools in the Southern Provinces have reached a sufficiently high standard to be graded as "A" schools no less than five of these "A" schools are girls' schools.

188. At King's College arrangements have been made to admit a number of scholars who will be trained as Assistants to the Medical Department.

189. In September a Government Secondary School for Girls was opened at Lagos and twenty girls were accepted. Arrangements have now been made to add a Domestic Science side to the school and the number of pupils is being increased.

190. During the year the European personnel of the Department has been strengthened by the appointment of two Assistant Directors and fifteen Superintendents as well as of a Principal of the Girls' School and a Domestic Science Mistress. One Superintendent has been promoted, one has left on transfer to the West Indies and a third has retired.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

191. *Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.*—In the Northern Provinces all land is under the control and subject to the disposition of the Governor to be administered for the use and common benefit of the natives. In the Southern Provinces all land is not at the disposal of the Governor in the same way, but land may not be leased to a non-native without the Governor's approval. The general policy is to encourage cultivation of the soil by the native inhabitants themselves, but many leases up to ninety-nine years have been granted for commercial and other purposes and there are large tracts suitable for agriculture. It is essential that anyone who desires to cultivate rubber or other permanent crops should first visit Nigeria and ascertain the actual conditions. A new Land Department for Nigeria is being formed in order to deal with land questions.

192. *Surveys.*—A large programme of work was carried out by the Survey Department during the year, the principal items being:—

- (a) the extension of the main triangulation from Minna in the district of Ibadan;

- (b) the continuation of the topographical work in the area north of Minna and north of Enugu;
- (c) the large scale survey of the Urban Area of Lagos, the large scale survey of the town and township of Ibadan and the survey of Abeokuta town;
- (d) the survey of 900 areas on the minesfield; this was possible owing to the engagement of a Special Party of R.E. officers and men;
- (e) the removal of the Lithographic Plant from Kano to Lagos to enable work to be dealt with more expeditiously;
- (f) the fixing of numerous points by observed latitude and wireless longitude for the purpose of control.

193. Rainfall throughout Nigeria showed considerable variation for the average throughout the year, Lagos being nearly seventeen inches below the average for the last thirty-three years while Lokoja on the confluence of the Niger and Benue was nearly twenty-five inches above the average of the last twenty years.

Total rainfall at Forcados during 1927	145.83 inches.
Average rainfall at Forcados during 1927	12.15 ..
Wettest month in the year, June.	
Total rainfall at Lagos during 1927	55.20 ..
Average rainfall at Lagos during 1927	4.60 ..
Wettest month in the year, October.	
Total rainfall January-November at Lokoja during 1927	73.67 ..
Average rainfall January-November at Lokoja during 1927	6.70 ..
Wettest month in the year, August.	
Total rainfall at Sokoto during 1927	30.07 ..
Average rainfall at Sokoto during 1927	2.51 ..
Wettest month in the year, August.	

194. The Geological Survey continued its investigations in both the Northern and Southern Provinces. In the south work was carried on in Onitsha and Owerri Provinces attention being mainly directed to tracing out and mapping the westward extension of the southern end of the Enugu coalfield and the younger tertiary group containing lignites and clays. The former has been located as far west as the Mamu valley where a seam measuring three feet nine inches of fair quality coal has been found while the latter has been proved to be continuous from the Eastern Railway to Oba, near Onitsha. In view of Government's decision to open the lignite fields to prospecting this result is of considerable importance. In the north investigations have been commenced in Sokoto for water supply and while it is considered that conditions are generally unfavourable for obtaining artesian supplies it is thought probable that supplies, sufficient for domestic purposes, will be obtained by sinking wells up to depths of 200 feet and these will make considerable areas available for agricultural purposes. On the conclusion of the Tinfields survey it was decided to undertake the investigation of the mineralised belt extending from Minna to Birnin Gwari and the examination of that portion near Minna of which topographical maps are available is now in progress.

195. A Bulletin and an occasional paper dealing with fossil fish remains from Ameki and a Bulletin describing the geology and the occurrence of tinstone in Zaria and Kano Provinces and in the Calabar district were published during the year. A coloured geological map of the tinfields of Nigeria was compiled and issued in two sheets. A further Bulletin on the Nigerian Coalfield was also prepared for the press and arrangements made for its publication early in 1928.

196. Dr. Falconer, who had been Director of the Geological Survey since 1919, retired on pension in April last and has been succeeded by Dr. Wilson.

XI.—LABOUR.

197. Throughout Nigeria and the mandated territory of the Cameroons all permanent labour, as distinct from the temporary labour used by native communities when necessary and beneficial to themselves, and approved by ancient native customary law, is voluntary. Permanent labour includes most labourers paid by the month; the artisans employed by Government Departments, Native Administrations, and trading firms; standing gangs of labourers employed on road-making and other public works, etc. No labour for private employers is recruited or engaged by Government or by the Native Administrations.

198. With the exception of some 8,000 labourers on the Cameroons Plantations, who have emigrated from the French Cameroons, there is no immigrant labour in Nigeria. The supply of labour for the Cameroons Plantations has continued satisfactory throughout the year.

199. The Roads and Rivers (Repeal) Ordinance (No. 18 of 1927) repeals Chapter 107 of the Laws of Nigeria with effect from the 1st April, 1928.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

200. The Government Analyst's Department, which was formerly part of the Medical Research Institute, and as such was under the Medical Authorities, was constituted a separate Department during the year.

201. The Harbour Department was formed on the 1st April as a separate department under a Port Engineer who is generally responsible for the wharves, under-water structures, bridges, revetments, etc., in Lagos Harbour and who will also advise on matters concerning ports, other than Lagos Harbour, as required.

E. V. ROCHFORD RAE,
Acting Senior Assistant Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Lagos, Nigeria,
30th January, 1928.

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS

- Notes on the work of the Board and the results of its research grants approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1st May, 1927. Cmd. 2222.
- Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.)
- Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.)
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- Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.)
- The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.)
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