

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

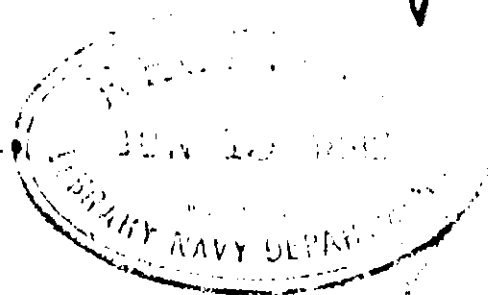
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No. 28.

G A M B I A.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 99, Old Series.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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## COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
101	St. Kitts-Nevis - - - - -	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's visit) - - - - -	1890
103	British New Guinea - - - - -	1888-9
104	Natal - - - - -	1889
105	Malta - - - - -	"
106	British Guiana - - - - -	"
107	Barbados - - - - -	"
108	Trinidad and Tobago - - - - -	"
109	Western Australia - - - - -	"
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture) - - - - -	1890
111	Labuan - - - - -	1889
112	Jamaica - - - - -	"
113	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
114	Basutoland - - - - -	1889-90
115	Sierra Leone - - - - -	1889
116	Fiji - - - - -	"
117	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
118	St. Helena - - - - -	"

### NEW SERIES OF COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

1	British Honduras - - - - -	1889
2	Mauritius - - - - -	"
3	British Bechuanaland - - - - -	1889-90
4	Victoria - - - - -	1889
5	Newfoundland - - - - -	"
6	British New Guiana - - - - -	1889-90
7	St. Vincent - - - - -	1890
8	Bermuda - - - - -	"
9	Leeward Islands - - - - -	1889-90
10	St. Lucia - - - - -	1890
11	Bahamas - - - - -	"
12	Turk's and Caicos Islands - - - - -	"
13	Gibraltar - - - - -	"
14	Zululand - - - - -	"
15	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
16	Barbados - - - - -	"
17	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
18	Labuan - - - - -	"
19	British Honduras - - - - -	"
20	Basutoland - - - - -	1889-90
21	Trinidad and Tobago - - - - -	1890
22	Leeward Islands - - - - -	"
23	Grenada - - - - -	"
24	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
25	British Guiana - - - - -	"
26	St. Helena - - - - -	"
27	Mauritius - - - - -	"

## No. 28.

GAMBIA.

## GAMBIA.

[In continuation of Colonial Report No. 98, Old Series.]

Administrator LEWELYN to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Bathurst,  
September 25, 1891.

MY LORD,  
I HAVE the honour to forward, in duplicate, the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1890, together with my report thereon.

2. I regret the late date at which this is forwarded to your Lordship, but on my arrival here, at the end of April, the preparation of the returns had not been commenced.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) R. B. LEWELYN,  
Administrator.

The Right Hon.  
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

## BLUE BOOK REPORT, 1890.

*Taxes.*

There has been no alteration in the tariff during the year, but the additional duty of a farthing a lb. on kola nuts, first imposed in 1888 for one year, and continued then for another year, was made permanent by Ordinance No. 5 of 1890.

A dog license of 5s. was imposed for the first time by Ordinance No. 4 of 1890.

*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The total revenue for the year amounted to 30,573*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, and the expenditure to 22,758*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, showing an excess of the former over expenditure of nearly 8,000*l.*

This gratifying result is due to the continuation of the improved trade in ground nuts, the export of which was about the same as in 1889, but double that of 1888.

The expenditure amounted to 22,758*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, about 1,200*l.* more than in the previous year, but it includes the cost (1,600*l.*)

## GAMBIA.

of a steam launch, so that the ordinary expenditure was not more than in 1889, whilst the revenue shows an increase of 4,000*l.*

The Colony is free from any public debt, and, what is still more gratifying, had on the 31st December the sum of 13,891*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* invested in various Government securities in England, bearing interest.

*Public Works.*

No public works of an exceptional or new character were undertaken, and the expenditure was confined to general repairs to buildings and roads throughout the Colony.

*Legislation.*

Six Ordinances were passed during the year, of which two were the Annual Appropriation and Supplementary Appropriation Ordinances.

One imposed a license on dogs; another made permanent the additional import duty of  $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* per lb. on kola nuts.

The only Ordinances not dealing with fiscal arrangements were the "Ticket of Leave" Ordinance, and the "Intestates Estates" Ordinance.

*Executive and Legislative Councils.*

The only change in the Councils was the appointment of the Honourable James Topp to be an unofficial member of the Executive Council.

*Civil Establishment.*

In the Civil Service, the following were the principal changes:—

Dr. A. Woodburn Heron was appointed Colonial Surgeon, vice Dr. Spilsbury, deceased, and Dr. Morgan Ignatius Finucane succeeded as Assistant Colonial Surgeon Dr. P. J. Rendall who resigned his appointment in August.

Mr. C. H. Hingeston, who was appointed Colonial Engineer at the end of June, died on the 1st of October, and was succeeded in December by Mr. James Collie.

Colonel J. F. Tighe was appointed Superintendent of Police in May but retired in October.

*Pensions.*

An addition of 15*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* was made to the list by the grant of that amount from Gambia Funds to Edwin Adolphus, formerly Chief Magistrate in the Colony.

The total amount of pensions payable annually is now 1,380*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*

*Population.*

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The Registrar makes the following report on the births, deaths, and marriages for the year :—

*Births.*

“ The births registered during the year under review amounted to 348, showing a decrease on the births of 1889 of 21. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population, computing on the basis of the figures of the last decennial census, was 24·59.

“ Of the births 169 were males, and 179 were females.

“ Of the 348 births, 340 were blacks and 8 hybrids.

*Deaths.*

“ The deaths in 1890 numbered 719 inclusive of still-births, which is equivalent to 50·81 per 1,000 of the population, or nearly twice as many as in 1889.

“ This abnormal increase on the death-rate was owing to an outbreak of influenza epidemic which raged in the Colony and in the adjacent territories in the earlier months of the year. The following tabular statements show the births and deaths in the Colony from the year 1885 to 1890 inclusive :—

*Comparative Summary of Births from 1885 to 1890.*

Year.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
1885	20	10	15	7	16	16	16	32	24	28	32	16	232
1886	22	19	18	14	15	18	20	15	19	23	33	14	220
1887	18	9	15	26	20	18	20	31	27	41	41	20	293
1888	19	30	18	25	26	26	32	42	42	46	32	42	380
1889	36	36	27	26	27	32	27	20	38	33	35	32	369
1890	30	24	20	18	35	33	29	33	35	33	19	25	345

*Comparative Summary of Deaths from 1885 to 1890.*

Year.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
1885	30	23	33		30	39	41	41	64	68	53	55	512
1886	67	41	32	22	33	42	35	51	56	71	54	62	569
1887	16	28	41	50	60	92	91	104	101	95	84	69	871
1888	16	70	39	22	40	33	55	60	66	66	42	48	584
1889	52	51	42	47	32	36	40	43	66	42	44	43	532
1890	68	60	114	33	58	43	34	56	67	48	54	56	719

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“As the writer has often pointed out, the numbers given in the returns of births cannot be relied upon for the purpose of statistical information, many births within the area of registration not being recorded for the reasons suggested in his last report.

“The number of deaths during the year was, as already stated, 719, as against 532 in the preceding year. The number includes four Europeans and eight hybrids. The causes of European deaths were acute pneumonia, sunstroke, remittent fever, and disease of the respiratory organs.

“Of the deaths 391 were males, and 328 were females.

“Infant mortality is an extremely regrettable feature in the death roll, 194 infants, including children up to five years, having died during the year, equivalent to 26·98 per cent. of the total deaths.

“The number of deaths medically certified was 35, of which 20 were by the Colonial Hospital Returns and 15 by the coroner’s inquisitions.

“The following were the registered causes of death :—

Abscess, 1; asthma, 1; beri-beri or sleeping sickness, 1; boils, 2; bowel complaints, 31; bronchitis, 10; cerebral disease, 1; chest affections, 96; childbirth, 10; consumption, 3; convulsions, 15; cystitic, 1; debility, 6; diarrhoea, 7; dropsy, 58; drowning, 4; dysentery, 4; epilepsy, 1; execution, 2; fevers, 102; gout, 1; heart disease, 5; insanity, 3; kidney disease, 1; leprosy, 4; liver complaints, 2; nephritis, 2; paralysis, 1; pericarditis, 1; phthisis, 1; pleurisy and pleuro-pneumonia, 11; rheumatism, 1; rupture, 2; scrofula, 5; senile decay, 11; sore throat, 1; sunstroke, 1; still-births, 35; teething, 2; traumatic tetanus, 5; ulcers, 14; venereal diseases, 3; wounds, 2; causes not defined, 249.

“The occupations and status of the people who died during the year under report were as follows:—alien African children, 3; Arabic teachers, 6; blacksmiths, 2; butcher, 1; carpenters, 3; canoe-men, 2; civil officers, 2; convict prisoners, 6; cooks, 5; cowmen, 3; domestic servants, 3; farmers, 269; ferryman, 1; fishermen, 6; gardener, 1; goldsmith, 1; grooms, 2; infants, 194; labourers, 31; laundresses, 7; masons, 2; paupers, 6; pedlar, 1; pensioner, 1; police constables, 6; sailors, 18; seamstresses, 4; shipwrights, 4; shoemaker, 1; tailor, 1; traders, 37; weavers, 3; writing clerks, 3; unspecified or of no occupation, 49.

*Marriages.*

“The number of marriages solemnised in 1890 amounted to 18, an increase of 2 on the figures of 1889. Ten of the marriages were solemnised in the Church of England, six in the Roman Catholic Church, and two by ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.”

*Aliens.*

The number of aliens on the register on the 31st day of December 1890 was 378.

There were five aliens registered, viz.:—two Jolahs, one Mandingo, one Joloff, and one Bambara.

Three aliens died during the year, 15 were discharged on attaining the age limit prescribed by the Alien Registration Ordinance, and 32 were temporarily removed from the Colony, of whom 18 have returned.

*Education.*

The Inspector of Schools in his report for the year winds up as follows:—“As the sum of my review I can only say that if numerically there is decrease, efficiency has gained in every way.”

		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
The Roman Catholic schools with European masters and mistresses still hold their position as head of the denominations and earned	-	135	14	0
The Anglicans	-	78	7	0
The Wesleyans	-	60	14	6

an increase in each case on the previous year, but not so marked in the Wesleyans as in the others.

*Imports and Exports.*

I submit a comparative table for the years 1889 and 1890, showing the difference in each year between the principal articles of import and export:—

*Imports.*

Articles.	1890.	1889.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods	37,225 <i>l.</i>	35,857 <i>l.</i>	1,368 <i>l.</i>	—
Tobacco	215,030 lbs.	206,078 lbs.	—	81,030 lbs.
Kola nuts	601,310 lbs.	682,432 lbs.	—	81,113 lbs.
Spirits of all kinds	43,323 galls.	40,108 galls.	3,215 galls.	—
Wines	16,317 galls.	16,912 galls.	—	595 galls.
Sugar	121,677 lbs.	122,300 lbs.	—	713 lbs.
Salt	936 tons	691 tons	245 tons.	—
Fire-arms	3,849	1,735	2,114	—
Gunpowder	858 brls.	508 brls.	350 brls.	—
Rice	823 tons.	906 tons	—	83 tons

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*Exports.*

Articles.	1890.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts -	{ 18,262 tons Value, 129,817 <i>l</i> ..	{ 19,636 tons Value, 140,653 <i>l</i> ..	—	{ 1,374 tons. Value 10,269 }
Hides . . .	1,093 <i>l</i> ..	2,075 <i>l</i> ..	—	982 <i>l</i> ..
Rubber . . .	{ 154,737 lbs. Value, 10,144 <i>l</i> ..	{ 55,548 lbs Value, 3,473 <i>l</i> ..	{ 99,189 <i>l</i> .. Value 6,672 }	—
Palm kernels . .	3,131 tons	246 tons	2,885 tons	—
Wax . . .	1,744 <i>l</i> ..	3,202 <i>l</i> ..	—	548 <i>l</i> ..

*Shipping.*

The number of sailing vessels entered was 63 compared with 50 in the previous year, but the total tonnage was a trifle less.

The total number of steamers that arrived was 107, (74 British and 33 foreign) compared with 102, and the tonnage, amounted to 105,700 tons, or about 12,000 tons more than in the previous year.

*Prisons.*

The following table shows a comparison of the number of committals in the years 1889 and 1890:—

Year.	Total Number of Prisoners committed.	For Debt.	For safe Custody or want of Bail.	Penal Punishment.	Daily Average in Prison.	Number of Admissions to Hospital.	Daily Average on Sick List.	Number of Deaths.
1889 . . .	94	1	18	75	50	22	2	3
1890 . . .	59	2	13	44	31	20	2	6

These figures show a marked decrease in the number of committals, and in the daily average number in prison, but the number of deaths was six as against three in the previous year. I believe no special cause can be assigned for this, and the verdict in each case was "natural causes." The number of escapes increased from one to three, and only two of these were recaptured.

*Criminal Statistics.*

The comparative returns submitted show an apparent marked decrease in the crime of the Colony, but I am afraid I must agree with the Chief Magistrate, who in his report on the statistics writes as follows:—

"I regret my inability to express as my opinion that the statistics are an infallible touchstone of the increase or diminution of crime in the Colony, for there can be no doubt that the practice of compounding offences and of stifling prosecutions prevails in this Colony. There is also no such institution here as a public



prosecutor, nor can it be said that the police force is very effective. Taking as an example, such a simple offence as that of committing nuisance, there were only 10 cases reported in Bathurst during the year 1890, but no one who knows anything of the place and of the influx of Jolals and other savages into it, can believe that that number correctly represents the number of nuisances actually committed in the course of that year. From the evidence of my own senses I would be more inclined to believe that it would have more correctly represented the number of nuisances committed in a week."

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Year.	Total Number of Offences committed.	Offences against the Person.	Larceny.	Offences to Property other than Fraudulent Larceny.	Other Offences.
1889 - - -	253	82	48	16	110
1890 - - -	201	49	30	9	107

*Apprehensions and Summonses, and Disposition of foregoing Cases.*

Year.	Number discharged for want of Prosecution or Evidence.	Number of Cases dismissed on Merits.	Number of Persons summarily convicted.	Number of Persons committed for Trial in the Superior Courts.
1889 - - -	52	33	127	44
1890 - - -	50	38	95	18

Year.	Assaults and other Offences against the Person.	Malicious Injuries to Property.	Larceny.	Other Offences to Property.	Offences relating to Social Economy of Gambia.	Offences against Master and Servants Act.	Other Offences.	Total.
1889	32	—	21	5	—	6	63	127
1890	15	—	15	—	—	4	61	95

*Punishments in connexion with foregoing.*

Year.	Fine.	Imprisonment in lieu of Fine or Surety.	Peremptory Imprisonment.	Whipping.	Bond over with or without Sureties or other minor Punishments.	Total.
1889 - - -	84	15	28	—	—	127
1890 - - -	74	1	20	—	—	95

## GAMBIA.

*Hospitals.*

Five patients remained in the hospital at the end of 1889, and 172, against 176 in the previous year, were admitted for treatment. The out-patients increased from 4,973 in 1889 to 5,374, which, I hope, tends to show that the people are gradually getting to appreciate the efforts made by the Government to alleviate their sufferings. 23 deaths occurred in the hospital, including one European, but there was no epidemic, and no deaths from fever, the principal cause being 9 from respiratory diseases.

*Meteorology.*

The rainfall for the year amounted to 60·31 inches, nearly double the quantity of the years 1888 and 1889, which were both very dry years. Out of the total fall, 53 inches fell in July, August, and September, which with October, when the water begins to dry up, are four very trying months to pass in the Gambia.

*Savings Bank.*

The business of the savings bank I am glad to report continues to increase steadily.

On the 31st December 1889, the amount of deposits was 61*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*, increased at the end of 1890 to 879*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*, owned by 84 depositors.

There are 26 friendly societies in the Colony with amounts invested ranging from 83*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* to 2*l.* 6*s.*, and I believe they all do some good.

*General Remarks.*

From all I can learn, for I was not in the Colony during any part of the year, the year was a fairly prosperous one, and no incident of particular note occurred except the arrival in December of the officers of the Anglo-French Boundary Commission, who most successfully brought their work to a close in the month of June last.

(Signed) R. B. LEWELYN.

Gambia,  
17th September 1891.