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No. 80.

GAMBIA.

[For Report for 1891, see Colonial Report [Annual], No. 41.]

Administrator LLEWELYN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Bathurst,
May 19, 1893.
MY LORD,
I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1892 in duplicate, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.
The Most Hon.
The Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1892.

The taxes and other sources of revenue remained unchanged and the revenue of the Colony reached the total of 30,977*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, being 60 pounds less than in the previous year, which showed a larger revenue than in any previous year, so that the satisfactory position attained in 1891 was maintained though not improved upon.

The expenditure amounted to 28,739*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, being 1,042*l.* more than in 1891, but of this the sum of 1,000 pounds was paid for acquiring the powder magazine from a private company, and practically the revenue and expenditure in 1892 were both within a few pounds of what they were in 1891.

The surplus assets of the Colony amount to 19,427*l.*, which is invested in Government securities in England.

The finances of the Colony must thus be considered to be in a flourishing condition.

Public Works.

The most important work commenced during the year was the crection of an iron bridge over Jeshwang Creek, about 5½ miles from Bathurst, to replace a wooden bridge. This has been long wanted and applied for by the inhabitants, but more pressing

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demands on the finances compelled the postponement of the work. It is now completed and is a great improvement.

New drains were also commenced in Primet Street, Bathurst, and have now been completed. This work has also been under consideration for many years and I am glad that the finances of the Colony have enabled me to carry them out at last without trenching on the surplus funds.

A liberal expenditure on public works recurrent is gradually bringing all the public institutions into good repair, which is satisfactory, as many buildings required attention which want of revenue in the past had prevented.

Legislation.

The most important Ordinances were those passed as the outcome of the Brussels Conference Act, relating to the storage and disposal of firearms and ammunition in the Colony.

By one of the provisions of the Brussels Act the Government had to provide a magazine in which all powder should be stored, and as the magazine here belonged to a private company the Government had to acquire it by purchase and this was arranged by Ordinance No. 3.

Ordinance No. 4 embodied the provisions of the Brussels Act, and Ordinance No. 7 regulated the sale in the Colony of such arms and ammunition as may be sold, and I believe every effort has been made in this Colony to faithfully carry out the obligations of the Act.

Ordinance No. 6 restricts the loading and unloading of cargo on Sunday and is nearly a transcript of the Hong Kong Ordinance.

As far as I can see it has not worked any great hardship on any owners of vessels and it gives the Clerks a chance of a day of rest.

A Proclamation was issued in January, when active operations were being conducted against the marauding Chief, Fodey Kabba, prohibiting the sale of arms and ammunition anywhere within the Colony.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. R. B. Llewelyn, C.M.G., was absent on leave from the 20th of June to the 26th of November, during which time the duties of Administrator were performed by Mr. C. H. H. Moseley, the Treasurer.

The usual leave of absence was granted to Mr. Lee, Collector of Customs, Captain Hawtayne, Superintendent of Police, and the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Finucane, who four months after his return from leave was invalided home and remains absent.

The Colonial Surgeon went on leave on account of ill-health in August, and died in London on the 25th September.



Pensions.

Dr. Robertson, formerly Colonial Secretary and Treasurer of this Colony, died in England towards the end of the year, and also Dr. Percival Kirton. These deaths reduced the vote for pensions by 55*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Population and Vital Statistics.

These statistics are not satisfactory. They only pretend to deal with the town of Bathurst, British Combo, The Ceded Mile and M'Carthy Island, and no information is available about the population in the territory stretching on both banks of the river for 250 miles.

The population is a shifting one. Between November and June Bathurst is denuded of a large number of persons who go up the river to trade, and the figures given by a census taken in the month of April, when Bathurst is abnormally empty, do not represent what should fairly be considered as the real number of inhabitants of the town.

The number of births registered during the year was 391 and of deaths 638, including still births. These figures would signify that the population of the Colony is rapidly decreasing, but I do not believe that is the fact. Difficulties in the way of burial force the natives to record deaths, but the occasion of a birth is easily passed over and soon forgotten, and the natives do not understand the law.

Only one European died in the Colony from malarial fever during the year, and the following were the registered causes of deaths amongst the natives:—Alcoholism 3, apoplexy 1, asthma 4, Bright's disease of the kidneys 4, cardiac diseases 5, cerebral diseases 2, child birth 1, consumption 3, convulsions 14, cow pox 1, debility 3, diarrhoea 31, diseases of the respiratory organs 85, dropsy 19, drowning 3, dysentery 1, epilepsy 3, exhaustion 4, fevers 45, gun-shot wound 1, marasmus 1, measles 3, meningitis 1, mumps 10, paralysis 4, peritonitis 1, piles 1, pleurisy 5, pneumonia 22, poison 1, scrofula 3, starvation and exposure 2, senile decay 10, still births 35, teething 1, tetanus 1, tooth ache 1, ulcers 4, unascertained or ill defined 286.

There were 24 marriages solemnized in the three churches in Bathurst, as against 25 in the preceding year.

Alien Children.

Only 17 alien children were registered during the year, and the total number left on the rolls on the 31st December was 172 of whom 121 were professed Christians and 51 Mahommedans.

Education.

The report of the Inspector showed more favourable results, and the grants earned were 48*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* larger than in 1892.

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The following comparative tables show the exact position, and I regret to state there is very little active interest taken in this important subject by anyone in the Colony.

Year.	Number of Children on Books.			Amounts earned.		
	Roman Catholics.	Anglicans.	Wesleyans.	Roman Catholics.	Anglicans.	Wesleyans.
1888 . . . {	Boys, 200 Girls, 162	235	528	£ s. d. 111 0 4	£ s. d. 23 15 0	£ s. d. 50 17 7½
1889 . . . {	Boys, 200 Girls, 162	237	403	111 0 4	48 14 0	64 8 6
1890 . . . {	Boys, 127 Girls, 142	240	415	135 14 0	78 7 0	60 14 6
1891 . . . {	Boys, 127 Girls, 142	274	433	151 4 6	76 17 6	48 5 0
1892 . . . {	Boys, 180 Girls, 137	260	344	156 13 0	83 5 0	84 0 0

Imports and Exports.

The import duties yielded 260*l.* more than in 1892, and the export duty on ground nuts 560*l.*, giving an increase of 820*l.* in the total customs receipts.

The principal differences in detail being an increase in the import duties of 726*l.* for Kola nuts, against a decrease of 285*l.* in the *ad valorem* duties, and 225*l.* for gunpowder. The receipts for spirits duties were 20*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.*, and on guns and pistols 16*l.* 16*s.* more than in 1892.

The comparative tables given below show further details:—

Imports.

Heads of Receipts.	Amount, 1891.	Amount, 1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Ad valorem</i> duty	£ s. d. 3,469 19 1	£ s. d. 3,184 11 8	£ s. d. —	£ s. d. 285 7 5
Import duty on wine	910 10 8	916 10 2	—	2 11 0
Spirits	2,870 5 5	2,801 5 8	20 18 3	—
Malt liquor	250 0 0	312 0 0	53 0 0	—
Tobacco	4,138 3 0	4,027 8 5	—	110 14 7
Oil, turps, &c.	403 19 4	540 12 7	55 16 3	—
Sugar	841 10 1	905 15 10	64 5 9	—
Kola nuts	3,611 18 0	4,338 8 5	726 0 8	—
Rice	754 15 4	675 17 3	—	78 18 1
Guns and Pistols	678 8 0	695 4 0	16 16 0	—
Powder	350 8 1	120 8 6	—	220 19 7
Salt	450 11 2	847 13 10	—	102 17 4
Kerosine oil	92 7 3	124 14 8	32 7 5	—

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Exports.

Articles.	1891.	1890.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts	19,702 tons Value, 112,933 <i>l.</i>	21,231 tons Value, 150,206 <i>l.</i>	1,579 tons Value, 7,273 <i>l.</i>	—
Hides	1,042 <i>l.</i>	1,721 <i>l.</i>	70 <i>l.</i>	—
Rubber	246,690 lbs. Value, 15,451 <i>l.</i>	51,014 lbs. Value 2,920 <i>l.</i>	—	195,676 lbs., 12,531 <i>l.</i>
Palm kernels	1,203 cwts.	1,390 cwts.	184 cwts.	—
Wax	1,908 <i>l.</i>	2,267 <i>l.</i>	459 <i>l.</i>	—
Specie	8,835 <i>l.</i>	0,724 <i>l.</i>	—	2,161 <i>l.</i>

The total value of the imports amounted to 169,973*l.*, and of the exports to 172,197*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, which figures are a trifle lower than in the preceding year.

Nearly half the imports came from the United Kingdom, but only one-fifth of the exports went there.

The returns have been prepared in accordance with the suggestions, dated 23rd June 1891, of the committee appointed to inquire into the compilation of the import and export statistics.

Shipping.

Sixty British steamers and three British sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year, and forty-one foreign steamers and forty-two foreign sailing vessels, many of the last small vessels from Senegal, arrived and departed.

The number of steamers shows a decrease, but the tonnage increased.

Prisons.

Great improvement has been effected in the discipline of the prison since it has been placed under the supervision of an Inspector, and also since the visit of Mr. Western from the Imperial Convict Service, who instructed the gaoler and warders in their duties for six months.

The great difficulty here, as elsewhere, is in securing the services of reliable warders.

The following comparative table shows that the average number of prisoners confined is considerably lower than in the two previous years:—

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.
1890	59	—	13	44	31	20	2	6
1891	111	—	24	87	37	24	2	—
1892	140	3	30	107	26	77	2	2

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The question of building a new gaol is now under consideration.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences, apprehensions, and convictions was nearly the same as in the previous year, but there was a decrease from 40 to 24 in the number of convictions for offences against the person, and there was no serious crime of any sort.

Hospitals.

The hospital had left in it at the beginning of the year 12 patients, and the daily average number of inmates during the year was 12.

A new kitchen, detached from the building, but connected with it by a covered way, was built during the year and gives additional office and dispensing accommodation, with a room for the reception of outdoor patients, inside the main building where the old kitchen was.

In the early part of the year the natives especially suffered considerably from a species of influenza, but on the whole the year was a healthy one.

Meteorology.

I give below the meteorological returns for this year.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS, BATHURST, GAMBIA, 1892.

1892. Month.	Average for month at 7 a.m.			Maximum in shade at 3 p.m.			Minimum in shade at 7 a.m.			Total Rainfall in inches.
	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	
January . . .	68·9	62·1	56·0	93	78	85·	75	59	64·2	Nil.
February . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"
March . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"
April . . .	71·1	65·1	60·6	97	77	86·6	78	62	63·6	0·01
May . . .	71·5	68·4	66·1	94	76	85·9	75	66	70·2	1·38
June . . .	77·8	75·1	75·2	93	82	86·	78	69	74·8	3·05
July . . .	77·7	75·3	73·7	87	78	84·5	77	73	74·7	14·89
August . . .	77·1	75·2	73·9	88	79	84·1	77	70	73·7	22·65
September . . .	78·	76·5	75·4	90	77	85·	79	71	75·1	4·76
October . . .	78·	75·5	73·8	89	83	86·5	78	72	74·9	4·39
November . . .	74·2	68·	63·4	91	80	87·8	77	67	71·8	Nil.
December . . .	69·	64·3	60·6	90	77	83·8	73	62	66·7	"
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* Records imperfectly kept.

1st February, 1893.

The rainfall was a little above the average of the last few years, but 50 inches may be taken as a fair rainfall.

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Savings Bank.

The amount of deposits remaining at the end of the year was 1,013*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, being about 35*l.* less than was left at the end of 1891, but the number of depositors nearly doubled, having risen from 79 to 155.

There are between 25 and 30 Friendly Societies in the Colony one of which has 99*l.* 2*s.* 5½*d.* invested.

Government House.

The building is now in fair order, nearly all the rooms have been re-floored and re-painted and it may be considered to be in better condition than it has been for many years.

General Remarks.

On the 1st of January an expedition, consisting of a Naval Brigade formed from Her Majesty's ships on this station, with a detachment of the West India Regiment, attacked the notorious marauder, Fodey Kabba, and drove him across the Anglo-French boundary line. These operations were somewhat prolonged as his influence extended far wider than was generally supposed, and it was not until the destruction of the strongly fortified town of Toniataba on the 27th April that the operations were finally closed. Her Majesty subsequently graciously signified her pleasure that a medal should be granted for these operations to the officers of Her Majesty's Army and Navy and Colonial Forces that took part in them. The inclusion of the latter gave great satisfaction in the Colony, and about thirty medals were distributed here in March in this year.

It will take many many years to instil into the minds of the inhabitants, who are nearly all Mahommedans, that slavery in any form is a detestable practice, but every effort is now being made to check the introduction of slaves from the interior of Africa beyond the British Protectorate, and I think the inhabitants on the banks of the Gambia are beginning to realise that the English Government will not sanction the keeping of slaves under any condition, but with a large Protectorate, extending for 250 miles up the river, the work must necessarily be slow and difficult.

Slave hunting is, I hope, stopped within the Protectorate, but the introduction of slaves from elsewhere, with a frontier of 600 miles for the Government to watch, will continue as long as there are people ready to purchase them.

The presence of the Travelling Commissioners who arrived here in January is letting the slaves know they can be freed within our Protectorate, and as this is gradually understood and acted upon it will deter the inhabitants from running the risk of purchasing slaves who may be freed at any moment, and by this means it is

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to be hoped the practice will gradually, but I am sure very slowly, die out.

Early in the year a disease appeared amongst the cattle and destroyed all (thousands) for hundreds of miles round here. It will take years for the Colony to recover from this terrible epidemic, and beef is now very difficult to get in the market.

18th May 1893.

(Signed)

R. B. LEWELYN,
Administrator.