

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

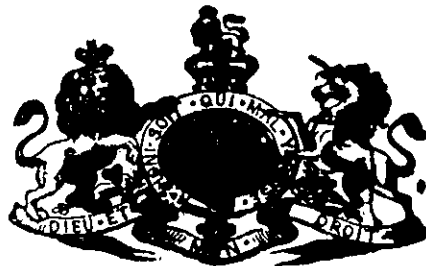
No. 106.

G A M B I A.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, see Colonial Report [Annual] No. 80.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
26 June 1894.



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1894.

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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.--

ANNUAL.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
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3	Sierra Leone - - - - -	Geology and Botany.

No. 106.

GAMBIA.
1893.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1892, see Colonial Report [Annual], No. 80.)

Administrator LLEWELYN to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia,

MY LORD,

April 16, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1893, together with my report on the same.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN,
Administrator.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1893.

The Revenue reached the largest total, I believe, on record of 31,898*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, and the expenditure amounted to 38,143*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, which includes the sum of 9,500*l.* on a new Wharf, so the ordinary expenditure of the Colony was about 28,000*l.*, the same as it has been for the last three years.

The surplus assets on the 31st December were 13,915*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*, invested in various Government securities in England.

Briefly there is no sign of any great elasticity in the financial prosperity of the Colony, but it is holding its own and should, if anything, advance, though but slowly.

Public Works.

The principal new work was the erection of a Powder Magazine, inside the walls of what was formerly the Coal Depôt at Half-Die.

The plan for this building was furnished by the War Department and it is therefore of excellent design.

Four new Iron Buoys with moorings complete, were purchased at a cost of 600*l.* and have replaced the old ones at the entrance of the river.

An expenditure of 3,232*l.* on ordinary current repairs, &c. has helped to keep the Public Buildings in good order.

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Legislation.

Eight Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important being one "To provide for the granting of Annual Trade Licences to persons intending to trade in certain territories and towns within the boundaries delimited by the Anglo-French Boundary Commission of 1891." Formerly the Chiefs and Alcaldes exacted from traders varying "Customs" as all such taxes were called, and many disputes arose in the collection of those Customs. Now all traders obtain a Licence at the Treasury in Bathurst, which they show to the Alcaldes in the towns, and these are accepted by them as a proof of payment of Customs.

The licence is paid for in cash at the Treasury and is considerably lower than the amount the traders formerly paid in goods. It is intended to award the Alcaldes a proportion, depending in some degree upon satisfactory performance of duties, not exceeding one-half of the amount derived from Licences taken out in their several Districts. The total sums realized from such Licences in the first season has amounted to over four hundred pounds.

Ordinances were passed abolishing all fees to the Collector of Customs and other officers in the Customs Department, and doing away with the payment of fees to the Postmaster and Clerks for Sunday work in the Post Office, the general principle being gradually adopted in all Departments of abolishing all fees and perquisites.

Proclamations were issued requiring all guns and firearms to be presented for the purpose of being marked, and appointing the new Government Powder Magazine at Half-Die as a place in which all powder imported shall be deposited. These steps were required in carrying out the provisions of the Brussels Act.

Civil Establishment.

The Honourable Harry Holme Lee, Collector of Customs, died on the 19th of August, and his office was not filled until after the end of the year.

Dr. Finucane, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, who was invalided from this Colony, was transferred to Fiji in May.

In the month of January, Commander R. Jukes Hughes (retired) arrived in the Colony as successor to Captain Hawtayne in the office of Superintendent of Police, but seven weeks after his arrival Captain Hughes was invalided and remained on leave until the middle of September.

Messes. J. H. Ozanne and C. F. Sitwell arrived in January and assumed the duties of Travelling Commissioners in the Colony.

Dr. W. T. Prout, transferred from the Gold Coast, arrived on the 1st of April and took up his appointment as Colonial Surgeon.

Mr. W. Cuddeford Esq. appointed Deputy Auditor in September, in conjunction with the taking of the Census.

The usual leave of absence was granted to the Treasurer, Mr. Moseley, and the Confidential Clerk, Mr. Gace, and the Administrator was invalided to England for seventy days from the 10th of July.

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Pensions.

Mr. T. W. Jackson, formerly Chief Magistrate, who was in receipt of a pension of 150*l.* per annum, died on the 3rd of July, and as there have been no additions to the Pension List for two years, the vote is now only 744*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* as against 1,380*l.* at the end of 1891.

Foreign Consuls.

Mr. Charles Julius Mann was recognised as Vice-Consul for Portugal on the 29th September.

Population and Vital Statistics.

The following is the Report of the Registrar on the Vital Statistics of the Colony:

Births.

The births registered in the Colony during the year 1893 numbered 332 as against 391 in the year 1892, and corresponded to an annual rate of 23·2 per 1,000 of the aggregate population.

In Bathurst	-	216	Births were recorded.
„ British Combo	-	35	„ „ „
„ Ceded Mile	-	58	„ „ „
„ Macarthy's Island	-	23	„ „ „
		332	

The sex-proportion of infants born shows an excess of males, there being 170 males to 162 females.

Other dependencies of the Colony, such as Bai and Kansala, furnished no returns.

Of the 332 births, 328 were black, and four hybrid. Thirty were legitimate, or 9·0 per cent. of the total births, not including the births registered by Mohammedans, who are validly married according to their tenets. There is no doubt that a not inconsiderable number of births escaped registration.

Deaths.

The mortality recorded during the period under review numbered 311 including still-births, and corresponded to an annual rate of 22·2 per 1,000 of the aggregate population.

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The deaths registered in the following districts corresponded to the following annual rates per 1,000 of their respective populations.

Bathurst	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45·4
Ceded Mile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38·9
British Combo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69·8
McCarthy's Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49·0

The computation makes no allowance for increase or decrease of population, but is based upon the figures of the recent decennial census. Infant mortality was exceptionally high, 190 infants having succumbed to various ailments during the year, convulsions, consequent upon dentition, and diseases of the respiratory organs being the most fatal.

The months of January, February, and August were markedly fatal to infant life.

Three Europeans died within the same period, one from malarial fever, another from pneumonia, and the third from heat stroke and syphilis.

The following are the registered causes of death:—

Abscess	-	-	-	1	Debility	-	-	-	3
Anasarca	-	-	-	2	Diarrhoea	-	-	-	3
Chronic alcoholism	-	-	-	1	Diseases of the lungs	-	-	-	26
Phthisis	-	-	-	2	Diseases of the heart	-	-	-	9
Anæmia	-	-	-	1	Dropsy	-	-	-	56
Asthma	-	-	-	1	Dysentery	-	-	-	5
Boils	-	-	-	1	Elephantiasis	-	-	-	1
Bowel complaints	-	-	-	59	Exhaustion	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis	-	-	-	2	Small-pox	-	-	-	16
Burns	-	-	-	2	Senile decay	-	-	-	8
Bursting of a blood vessel	-	-	-	1	Still birth	-	-	-	26
Cerebral apoplexy	-	-	-	1	Suicide	-	-	-	2
Chest affection	-	-	-	59	Syncope	-	-	-	1
Child birth	-	-	-	5	Syphilis	-	-	-	1
Fevers	-	-	-	48	Teething	-	-	-	3
Fistula	-	-	-	1	Murder	-	-	-	1
Killed by alligator	-	-	-	1	Piles	-	-	-	2
Leprosy	-	-	-	2	Pleurisy	-	-	-	1
Liver complaint	-	-	-	3	Pneumonia	-	-	-	4
Meningitis	-	-	-	1	Rheumatism	-	-	-	3
Mumps	-	-	-	39	Tetanus	-	-	-	2
Consumption	-	-	-	6	Ulcers	-	-	-	6
Convulsions	-	-	-	27	Unascertained or undefined	-	-	-	138

Marriage

There were 30 marriages solemnized during the year, as against 23 in the preceding year, viz. 11 in the English and 12 in the

Roman Catholic Church, and 18 by ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

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Alien Children

The number of aliens registered during the year was 17, of the following nationalities, Mandingoes 9 Bambaras 2, Jolofs 3, Tillibunka 1, Turanka 1, Foulah 1. Two aliens died and fifty-seven obtained their discharge. By permission of the Administrator six aliens were removed temporarily from the Colony, three of whom have returned, and three are still absent.

In April the Legislature passed the "Registration of Alien African Children further Amendment Ordinance, 1893," which, by Section 4, reduces the age limit for the determination of apprenticeship to 15 years in the case of girls, and 16 years in the case of boys. The Ordinance further makes it compulsory upon all guardians having the legitimate control of any registered alien child to send him or her to a school which is either supported by the Government, or is entitled to receive aid from the public funds of the Colony. By Section V. of the said Ordinance every schoolmaster is required to transmit to the Registrar monthly a certificate of the attendance of every alien child in his school upon pain of the penalty set forth in the same section. In consequence of these salutary provisions guardians are now more alive than hitherto to their responsibility towards their apprentices who, as never before, attend school more regularly, and the aliens who are under the custody of Mohammedan guardians are now attending one or the other of the denominational Christian schools in Bathurst, where they are taught the rudiments of an English education with most beneficial results.

The number of alien children on the roll at the beginning of the year was 172, and on the 31st December 132, 17 names having been added in the course of the year, and 57 deleted. The number of aliens introduced into the Colony for registration has markedly declined within the last few years, and since 1889 there has been a constant yearly decrease, as the subjoined comparative summary will show.

Year.	No. of Aliens on the Roll.	Introduced into the Colony.	Struck off the roll.
1889	551	21	121
1890	409	7	94
1891	378	5	110
1892	360	22	100
1893	343	17	86

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The probable explanation of this gradual decrease is the stringent restrictions with regard to the removal of aliens from Bathurst. Another reason may be that aliens of Jolah nationality, who make the best apprentices, are no longer obtainable to the same extent as formerly.

The above figures do not take into account the adult aliens brought into the Colony through the agencies of the Travelling Commissioners in 1893, the number of which was 100.

Education.

Owing to the prevalence of cholera in Senegal during the last half of the year the schools in the Gambia could not be examined by the Inspector, who resides in Sierra Leone, as it was feared by the Government of that Colony that cholera might appear here and that the Inspector would not then be able to get back, so he was not allowed to leave, a rather unnecessary precaution, and as it turns out, entirely so.

The schools were therefore awarded the same grants as in the previous year and I am not able to refer to any examination report.

Imports and Exports.

The most noticeable difference in the subjoined comparative returns of Import Duties is the decline in the importation of guns and powder owing to the efforts made to carry out the obligations of the Brussels Conference Act.

Prior to 1892 the average quantity of gunpowder imported was between 800 and 900 barrels annually. Last year less than 200 barrels were consumed in the Colony, but 324 barrels were transhipped for ports in Senegal. The import duty on guns and pistols fell from 695*l.* in 1892 to 52*l.* in 1893, which is, I think, a significant fact that the Brussels Act is not treated as a dead letter in this Colony.

There was a large decrease in the duty on Kola nuts, I believe attributable to some scarceness of the article and rise in price in Sierra Leone owing to the ravages of the locusts. These insects also visited the Gambia and destroyed large quantities of rice and corn here, which accounts for the increase of the amount of import duty collected on rice and food supplies.

The ground nuts exported produced 1,071*l.* more than was estimated and the crop was one of the largest on record.

The total value of the imports amounted to 166,509*l.*, which includes 20,393*l.* in specie, but 6,676*l.* in specie was exported, and the total value of the exports was 239,720*l.*

The comparative tables show the variations in the quantities and value of the principal articles imported and exported during the years 1892 and 1893.

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Imports.

Heads of Receipts.	Amount, 1892.	Amount, 1893.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Ad valorem duty</i> - - -	£ s. d. 3,184 11 8	£ s. d. 3,444 9 9	£ s. d. 250 18 1	£ s. d. —
Import duty on wine - -	916 19 2	923 18 3	6 19 1	—
Spirits - - - - -	2,891 3 8	5,402 3 4	511 2 8	—
Malt liquor - - - -	312 0 0	244 19 10	—	67 0 2
Tobacco - - - - -	4,027 8 5	3,658 3 11	—	160 4 6
Oil, turps, &c. - - -	549 12 7	658 6 4	108 13 9	—
Sugar - - - - -	905 15 10	1,180 6 5	274 10 7	—
Kola nuts - - - - -	4,338 8 5	3,576 9 5	—	761 19 0
Rice - - - - -	675 17 3	1,012 6 10	336 9 7	—
Guns and Pistols - - -	695 4 0	52 0 0	—	643 4 0
Powder - - - - -	120 8 6	98 9 9	—	21 18 9
Salt - - - - -	247 13 10	298 11 9	—	54 2 1
Kerosine oil - - - -	124 14 8	130 9 11	5 15 3	—

Exports.

Articles.	1892.	1893.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts - - - {	21,282 tons. Value, 150,207 <i>l.</i>	25,218 tons. Value, 172,765 <i>l.</i>	3,936 tons 22,550 <i>l.</i>	—
Hides - - - - - {	18,158 lbs. Value 1,721 <i>l.</i>	18,298 lbs. Value 1,515 <i>l.</i>	140 <i>l.</i>	206 <i>l.</i>
Rubber - - - - - {	51,614 lbs. Value, 2,920 <i>l.</i>	45,298 lbs. Value 2,619 <i>l.</i>	—	6,316 lbs. 301 <i>l.</i>
Palm kernels - - - {	1,390 cwts. Value, 1,176 <i>l.</i>	4,868 cwts. Value 1,722 <i>l.</i>	5,478 cwts. 546 <i>l.</i>	—
Wax - - - - - {	73,580 lbs. Value, 2,267 <i>l.</i>	57,452 lbs. Value 2,142 <i>l.</i>	—	16,128 lbs. 125 <i>l.</i>
Specie - - - - -	8,85 <i>l.</i>	6,67 <i>l.</i>	—	2,180 <i>l.</i>

A cargo of mahogany, cut about 25 miles up the river, was sent to England in November, but I am informed that, although the logs were large and good, the price realized was not encouraging.

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Shipping.

There was only one large English sailing vessel in the Colony during the year, but 104 steamers entered and cleared, of which 67 were English, 32 French, 4 German and 1 Dutch.

Prison.

The number of prisoners was considerably below the average of the past years, and at present the separate cells, numbering 19, are sufficient to provide separate accommodation for the average number of prisoners.

The prison in general meets the requirements of the Colony and on the whole it is well conducted for a small prison in a small Colony.

The comparative table given below supplies further details:—

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.
1891 . .	111	—	24	87	37	24	2	—
1892 . .	140	3	30	107	26	77	2	2
1893 . .	85	1	12	72	20	55	2	4

Criminal Statistics.

The number of convictions in 1893 was 154, a decrease of 47 on the previous year, and in examining the details of these convictions it appears that drunkenness decreased last year, and that the other offences were all of the ordinary type.

Three cases of slave-dealing were tried but all failed in getting convictions. Offences against the Public Health Ordinance, and for committing nuisance in the town of Bathurst, show increased vigilance on the part of the Inspector of Nuisances and Police in Bathurst, which cannot have failed to do good.

Hospitals.

The daily average number of patients in the Hospital was within a fraction the same as last year, viz., eight males and four females.

The number of cases treated was 267 against 354 in the previous year, and the deaths were 20 in 1893 and 27 in 1892.

There were fewer cases of malarial fever and no deaths, and on the whole I should say the year was a healthier one.

The Hospital is in good order in every way and is about to be improved by the erection of a building as a store with cells for the temporary confinement of lunatics pending their removal to Sierra Leone.

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Meteorological.

The meteorological and weather conditions in general were phenomenal during the year 1893.

A total eclipse of the sun, visible in the Gambia for nearly three minutes, occurred on the 16th of April. Heavier rains fell earlier in May than usual, and the rainfall of the whole season was 52 per cent. more than the average of the last five years.

A very heavy fall of ten inches on the 17th August flooded all the low lying parts of Bathurst, and phenomenal rains, especially in the upper river in December, damaged seriously the crops of ground nuts which had just been pulled.

The total rainfall at Bathurst was 77·89 and at McCarthy's Island 55·39 inches.

COMPARATIVE RAINFALL, COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

—	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
January - - -	—	—	·01	—	·02
February - - -	—	—	·16	—	—
March - - -	—	—	—	—	—
April - - -	—	—	—	·01	·40
May - - -	—	·04	·53	1·38	2·16
June - - -	1·16	2·40	4·67	3·05	3·29
July - - -	3·23	16·42	7·42	14·89	20·57
August - - -	5·57	19·90	18·81	22·65	30·57
September - - -	10·65	16·58	19·81	4·76	13·00
October - - -	1·45	4·97	1·97	1·39	7·33
November - - -	—	—	—	—	·15
December - - -	—	—	—	—	·40
	32·06	60·31	53·41	51·13	77·89

Average, 54·96.

W. T. PROBY, Colonial Surgeon.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, 1893.

Average for month at 7 a.m.			Maximum in shade at 3 p.m.			Minimum in shade at 7 a.m.			Rainfall in inches.		
Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Dew point.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Total.	Maximum.	Date.
69·8	64·5	60·07	96·	75·	83·1	73·	61·	67·9	·02	·02	5-1-93
67·5	58·8	51·84	92·	75·	86·5	69·	63·	64·8	—	—	—
68·8	64·8	61·68	94·	75·	80·8	69·	61·	65·8	—	—	—
69·7	65·6	62·4	88·	76·	76·2	70·5	63·	66·7	0·40	0·40	23-1-93
75·6	70·5	66·8	94·	77·5	84·4	75·5	68·	71·2	2·16	1·80	28-5-93
81·2	5·3	71·2	98·5	83·5	87·5	78·	71·	74·9	3·29	1·36	11-6-93
78·3	72·7	72·2	89·	79·	84·4	78·	72·	74·4	20·57	2·34	8-7-93
77·7	73·3	73·6	89·5	79·	84·4	77·5	70·	73·9	30·57	10·15	17-8-93
77·5	73·6	74·2	89·	78·	85·2	78·	72·	74·6	13·00	2·91	2-9-93
77·	75·4	74·28	88·5	80·5	84·9	79·	71·5	74·1	7·33	4·66	3-10-93
74·9	70·1	66·5	94·	83·5	87·5	77·	62·	72·3	·15	·15	1-11-93
67·7	61·6	56·72	92·	68·	83·1	69·5	53·	62·4	·40	·36	21-12-93

Total rainfall for 1893—77·89 inches.

W. T. PROUT, M.B.—Colonial Surgeon.

*Savings Bank.*GAMBIA,
1893.

The number of accounts remaining open at the end of the year increased from 89 at the beginning of the year to 103 at the end, and the balance due to depositors rose from 989*l.* to 1,594*l.*, which is a substantial improvement. Twenty-seven Friendly Societies have over 600*l.* to the credit of sundry members, but very little of this is deposited in the savings bank, and I do not know if much of it is invested anywhere.

General Remarks.

The year 1893 was a prosperous one as far as the public revenues were concerned, but I fear many of the inhabitants in the Colony and Protectorate suffered considerably from the loss of their food crops owing to the continued presence, in different degrees, of locusts.

These insects first appeared in large quantities in the beginning of February and have hovered more or less in and about the Colony ever since. I am informed that locusts have never remained so long on any previous visitation, and if they continue to stop here some steps will have to be taken systematically to destroy them.

From June until the end of the year cholera was prevalent in Senegal, within 100 miles of Bathurst, but, most fortunately, the Colony escaped. The strict Quarantine Regulations imposed could not but fail to disturb trade, but I hope they helped to keep the Colony free of this scourge.

In December a phenomenal rain occurred which damaged the ground nuts that had been just gathered and were stacked in heaps in the fields without any covering.

It is somewhat remarkable that the loss of all the cattle by disease in 1892, the destruction of the food by locusts early in 1893, the phenomenal rain at the end of 1893, and the fear of an epidemic of cholera hanging over their heads for six months, does not seem to have disturbed the happiness of the people at all and they go on as placidly as if everything was proceeding most flourishingly and regularly.

I made a lengthy tour in the Protectorate in January and February and installed the newly appointed Travelling Commissioners in their offices.

Much valuable information has been gained about the geography of the country and the manners of the people by these officers, who live amongst them for eight months in the year, and I hope shortly to see, from the experience so gained, some system of jurisdiction established in the Protectorate which will be the first step towards the civilization of the country.

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Peace amongst the natives existed everywhere on the banks of the River up as far as McCarthy's Island, beyond which the Commissioners have not travelled, and it is not proposed to attempt to press any active jurisdiction further until the country nearer the coast is thoroughly got under control.

16th April 1894.

(Signed) R. B. LLEWELYN.
