

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 355.

G A M B I A .

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, see No. 325.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1902.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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No. 355.

GAMBIA,
1901.

G A M B I A.

(For Report for 1900, see No. 325.)

GOVERNOR SIR G. C. DENTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

SIR,

Bathurst, 18th May, 1902.

I HAVE the honour to forward under separate cover a copy (in manuscript) of the Blue Book for 1901.

2. I also transmit an interesting report on the Blue Book by Mr. H. M. B. Griffith, the officer in charge of the secretariat.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Governor.

GAMBIA,
1901.

REPORT ON THE GAMBIA BLUE BOOK FOR THE
YEAR 1901.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The total revenue for the year amounted to £43,726, being a decrease of £5,435 on that of the previous year.

2. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1900 and 1901, with the several increases or decreases:—

Head of Revenue.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	39,235	33,127	—	6,108
Port dues	805	746	—	59
Licences, excise, &c.	558	785	227	—
Fees of court, &c.	704	836	—	132
Post office... ..	460	770	304	—
Sale of Government property ...	445	463	18	—
Government vessels	1,136	521	—	614
Interest	1,498	1,991	493	—
Protectorate	3,288	3,679	391	—
Miscellaneous receipts	951	808	—	143
Land sales... ..	80	—	—	80
Total	49,160	43,726	1,433	7,136

3. The increases were due to (1) fines imposed on native chiefs connected with the disturbances in the early part of the year; (2) to increased sales of stamps to dealers and collectors who anticipated a new issue; and (3) to the extension of the Hut Tax Ordinance to new districts in the Protectorate.

4. The decreases were due under (1) Customs, to decreased importations following a reduction in the ground-nut crop output owing to light rains in the season; and (2) to the Government steamer being required for duty with the Expeditionary Force which arrived in the Colony early in the year, and, therefore, unavailable for the carriage of passengers and freight up and down the river.

5. The expenditure for the year amounted to £48,518, being an increase of £18,700 on that of the previous year.

6. The following return shows the items of expenditure for the two years:—

GAMBIA,
1901.

Head of Expenditure.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	1,031	1,034	4	—
Governor	2,455	3,258	803	—
Protectorate	2,300	3,116	816	—
Printing department	188	202	14	—
Treasury	1,034	978	—	57
Customs... ..	1,923	1,882	—	41
Post Office	370	450	80	—
Audit department	345	413	38	—
Legal	1,406	1,393	—	13
Educational	417	504	87	—
Police	4,031	4,585	553	—
Prisons	680	803	122	—
Medical	1,071	1,214	143	—
Hospitals, &c.	592	809	217	—
Manager of Kombo	151	150	—	1
Government vessels	1,580	1,777	197	—
Charitable	89	87	—	2
Transport	575	1,034	458	—
Miscellaneous	1,658	1,752	94	—
Drawbacks	29	118	89	—
Colonial engineer's department	983	1,117	134	—
Agriculture	238	146	—	94
Public works recurrent	2,528	3,065	537	—
" extraordinary	2,910	4,806	1,895	—
Special services... ..	1,094	13,826	12,733	—
Native affairs	139	—	—	139
Total	29,818	48,518	19,045	345

GAMBIA,
1901.

7. The increases which are mainly under Special Services are due (1) to the cost of the expedition in the first part of the year; (2) to the purchase of a house as a Police Station; and (3) to the cost of raising in the Colony a company of the West African Frontier Force.

8. The following return shows the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1897	...	...	39,415	27,059
1898	...	...	46,718	29,035
1899	...	...	46,840	30,405
1900	...	...	49,161	29,818
1901	...	...	43,726	48,518

B.—TAXATION.

9. There was no increase of taxation during the year.

C.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

10. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1901, was £58,115. Of this, the sum of £43,857 was invested in various Colonial Government securities.

D.—PUBLIC DEBT.

11. The Colony has no public debt.

E.—MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL BOARDS, &C.

12. The only board of this nature in the Colony is the Board of Health, which is responsible for the sanitary condition of the town of Bathurst. It consists of the Colonial surgeon, who is president, the Colonial engineer, and four other members appointed by the Governor. Its revenue is derived from (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property, 3 per cent; (2) slaughter-house fees; and (3) by an annual grant from the Government. The following revenue was received under these three heads during the year:—

			£
Local rates...	...	...	527
Slaughter-house fees	...	...	96
Grant-in-Aid	...	...	200
		Total	823

The total expenditure for the same period amounted to £870, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of £47, which will be defrayed from the receipts for the current year.

GAMBIA,
1901.

13. The following figures show the receipts and expenditure of the Board for the last five years:—

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1897	...	...	670	622
1898	...	...	687	678
*1899	...	...	939	948
*1900	...	...	933	938
1901	...	...	823	870

* In these years additional grants of £132 and £137 were made to the Board by the Government.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

14. The total value of the imports for the year amounted to £252,646, as compared with £277,659 in 1900, a decrease of £25,013, which was mainly under cotton goods, and due (1) to smaller importations, owing to the mercantile houses having large stocks on hand from the previous year; and (2) to the failure of the ground crop, which considerably reduced the purchasing power of the natives. Kola nuts shared with cotton goods the cause of the falling off in the value of the imports, for whereas the value of kola nuts imported in 1900 amounted to £39,937, the quantity imported in 1901 exceeded that imported during 1900 by 19,423 lbs., but was only valued at £21,008, a decrease on the value of 1900 of £18,929.

15. There was a considerable increase in the importations of rice owing to the destruction of the local crops by locusts. The following figures show the difference between 1900 and 1901:—

Year.			Quantity.	Value.
			Cwt.	£
1900	...	...	73,642	25,191
1901	...	...	86,986	33,359

GAMBIA, 1901. 16. The following return gives the principal articles of import in 1900 and 1901:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods	Pkgs. 3,286	Pkgs. 2,034	£ 61,263	£ 44,262	£ —	£ 17,001
Tobacco ...	Lbs. 206,279	Lbs. 255,285	4,768	6,505	1,737	—
Kola nuts ...	824,399	843,822	39,937	21,008	—	18,929
Spirits ...	Gals. 21,670	Gals. 34,967	3,386	4,531	1,145	—
Wine ...	13,129	17,689	1,779	2,314	535	—
Sugar ...	Cwt. 4,914	Cwt. 3,313	3,997	2,903	—	1,094
Salt ...	Tons. 1,388	Tons. 1,818	1,186	1,529	343	—
Gunpowder...	Brls. 126	Brls. 219	339	360	21	—
Rice ...	Cwt. 53,642	Cwt. 86,986	25,191	38,539	13,348	—

17. The values of the imports for the last five years were as under:—

Year.					Specie.	Other Articles.	Total.
					£	£	£
1897	...	...	...	...	36,515	139,812	176,327
1898	...	...	...	...	59,030	187,062	246,092
1899	...	...	...	...	69,335	171,572	240,907
1900	...	...	...	...	83,251	194,408	277,659
1901	...	...	...	...	67,552	185,095	252,647

Exports.

18. The total value of the exports for the year amounted to £233,667, as compared with £281,976 in the previous year. This decrease was almost entirely brought about by the failure of the ground-nut crop due to the failure of the rains. The crop yielded about 10,000 tons, of the value of about £50,000, less than it did in the preceding year.

GAMBIA,
1901.

19. The following return shows the principal articles of export for the years 1900 and 1901:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground-nuts	Tons. 35,805	Tons. 25,750	£ 221,841	£ 172,405	£ —	£ 49,436
Rubber ...	Lbs. 125,446	Lbs. 146,573	10,217	8,963	—	1,254
Palm kernels	Tons. 159	Tons. 153	1,021	971	—	50
Wax ...	Lbs. 21,996	Lbs. 63,898	923	2,806	1,883	—
Hides ...	1,651	2,148	3£9	475	106	—

20. The values of the exports for the last five years were as under:—

Year.				Specie.	Other Articles.	Total.
1897	...	...	...	£ 2,272	£ 163,622	£ 165,894
1898	...	...	...	2,722	245,110	247,832
1899	...	...	...	7,439	234,497	241,936
1900	...	...	...	41,271	240,705	281,976
1901	...	...	...	39,212	194,455	233,667

GAMBIA,
1901.

B.—MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

21. There are no mines in the Colony. In view of the recent development of the gold mining industry on the Gold Coast, it may be worth recording that a few years ago an individual in Government employ took samples of rock from one of the districts in this Colony to England. He afterwards reported that on examination the samples in question showed a richness of gold equal to the best mines in South Africa, and immediately endeavoured to float a company.

22. With a view to ascertaining what truth there was in the statement, the Government sent home samples of rock from the same district, with the result that the assay showed them to contain 2 dwts. of gold to the ton. It is hardly necessary to add that the Gambia Goldfields Corporation has not yet come before the public.

23. The only manufactures in the Colony are a small quantity of native pottery and narrow strips of cloth called "Bandy-cloths," which, when sewed together, are called "pagns," and make handsome cloths much prized by the natives.

24. A considerable number of people at Bathurst and on the sea coast both northwards and to the south are engaged in fishing. Large quantities are caught, and what is not immediately consumed is dried and taken up the river in the dry season and exchanged for corn, rice, etc.

C.—AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

25. The cultivation of ground-nuts is the principal industry throughout the Colony. Large crops of cassada, maize, and rice are also grown, but not in sufficient quantities to supply the wants of the people all the year round. The local-grown rice is much preferred by the natives, and if put on the market it is believed that it would command a much higher price than the Rangoon rice, large quantities of which are annually imported, but, as in many other respects in this Colony, the question of labour is the great difficulty. The following figures give the importations of rice for the last five years:—

1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Cwt. 29,426	Cwt. 80,956	Cwt. 35,900	Cwt. 53,642	Cwt. 86,986

Sweet potatoes are grown to a limited extent, and when in season large quantities of oranges and limes can be obtained. The former, grown in the Komombo district, about 8 miles from Bathurst, are well known for their excellence.

26. A point not without interest in a place like the Gambia is that there is hardly a European resident who, if he has a garden attached to his house, does not grow English vegetables sufficient to supply himself and his less fortunate friends for at least six months in the year, viz., from November to April. With ordinary care, cabbages, carrots, turnips, kohl rabi, lettuces, beetroot, French beans, cress, and radishes can be grown most successfully; indeed, some of the French residents, who have the best gardens, are sufficiently enterprising to grow cauliflowers and celery.

27. A botanic station was established in 1894, but it cannot be said to have been successful in the development of minor industries. It is extremely doubtful whether the site selected was a suitable one, and it is in contemplation to remove it at an early date to a more favourable locality. The present station has, however, assisted in the distribution of many orange and lime trees, and suckers of the Canary banana; but without a supervising eye it has been difficult to get the natives to give the necessary attention to the young orange and lime trees, so that the majority of them have died during their first dry season.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

28. A Public Lands Ordinance was passed during the year, but no grants of land were made under it.

29. It has been difficult to obtain reliable information, but the value of land in the Colony is low.

E.—SHIPPING.

30. The total tonnage for the year was 285,071 tons, being an increase on that of last year of 23,802 tons.

31. As in 1900, the decrease was due to an outbreak of yellow fever in the Colony which prevented steamers from calling here, so the increase in 1901 is due to Bathurst having been a clean port throughout the year.

32. The following return gives the total shipping for the last two years:—

Nationality of Vessels.	1900.			1901.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
British	197,935	164	198,099	220,016	82	220,098
French	27,155	3,251	30,406	29,433	3,374	32,807
German	5,471	—	5,471	5,867	—	5,867

GAMBIA,
1901.*E.—Shipping—cont.*

Nationality of Vessels.	1900.			1901.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
Belgian	1,000	—	1,000	—	—	—
Russian	1,548	—	1,548	3,868	—	3,868
American	—	2,200	2,200	—	4,459	4,459
Norwegian	3,952	—	3,952	3,880	—	3,880
Italian	3,792	—	3,792	—	—	—
Austrian	—	—	—	5,408	1,602	7,010
Greek	8,682	—	8,682	—	—	—
Swedish	1,622	—	1,622	—	—	—
Dutch	—	—	—	2,306	—	2,306
Danish	—	—	—	1,883	—	1,883
Spanish	2,396	—	2,396	—	—	—
Portuguese	—	2,101	2,101	—	2,893	2,893
Total... ..	253,553	7,716	261,269	272,661	12,410	285,071

33. The total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years was as under:—

Years.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1897... ..	164,939	93,459	258,398
1898... ..	225,385	102,760	328,145
1899... ..	210,690	73,945	284,635
1900... ..	198,099	63,170	261,269
1901... ..	220,098	64,973	285,071
Total	1,019,211	398,307	1,417,518

III.—LEGISLATION.

GAMBIA.

1901.

34. Nineteen ordinances were passed during the year, the more important being No. 3, "The Political Prisoners (Detention and Deportation) Ordinance, 1901," which conferred on the Governor power to detain and deport sundry persons who had been privy to the murders of the two Travelling Commissioners in the previous year, and had subsequently been guilty of various acts of an insurrectionary nature. Ordinance No. 9, entitled "The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance, 1901," which re-imposes the requirement that jurors must be able to read and write English, it having been found by experience that former jurors, although understanding "Pigeon English," were quite incapable of following the evidence of educated witnesses or the addresses of counsel, or the summing up of the judge. It further introduces a property qualification, but at a greatly reduced rate, ownership being reduced from £30 to £7, and that of occupation from £40 to £10. Ordinance No. 10, "The Public Lands (Acquisition) Ordinance, 1901," vesting in the Governor the power of granting lands or of acquiring the same for public purposes. Ordinance No. 11, "The Sales by Auction Ordinance," which brings the law more into conformity with modern requirements, experience having shown the old law of 1865 to be seriously defective in its control over the proceedings of auctioneers. Ordinance No. 13, "The Hospitals and Dispensaries Ordinance, 1901," which was found necessary in view of the fact that the Gambia was without any ordinance governing hospitals, etc. Ordinance No. 14, "The Prevention of Contagious Diseases Ordinance, 1901," which brought into force regulations more in accordance with the principles laid down at the Venice Conference.

IV.—EDUCATION.

35. There are five primary schools in Bathurst, and one at McCarthy Island, all of which may be classed as "Assisted Schools." They are established by and are under the management of various religious denominations (Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan), receiving grants-in-aid from the Government in proportion to educational results. The number of children on the school rolls is 879, the average attendance being 705. The amount of grant-in-aid earned during the year was £458.

36. Hitherto the Gambia has shared with Sierra Leone the services of an Inspector of Schools, but owing to the arrangement working unsatisfactorily, and for other reasons, the services of the Inspector, so far as Gambia was concerned, were terminated at the close of the year, other arrangements being made for the future examination of the schools.

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1901.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

37. During the year a secondary school was established by the Wesleyan Missionary Society, which has an average attendance of about 12 scholars.

C.—INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

38. There are no schools of this nature in the Colony. During the year, however, the Wesleyan Missionary Society submitted a scheme for the establishment of an Industrial School at Bathurst. The proposals were, that, in consideration of a Government grant to the society of £300 per annum, the society would provide a workshop with suitable tools for giving practical instruction in carpentry, masonry, and blacksmithing, and additional trades if necessary, to pupils, irrespective of religious denominations. The society also undertook to provide the necessary staff with a European instructor, who would have charge of the school. The scheme was accepted by the Government and efforts were made to open the school during the year, but the difficulty was to secure the services of a suitable instructor. It is hoped, however, that before the close of 1902 this difficulty will have been overcome and the school established. There is no doubt that such a school is much required and will prove of inestimable value to the Colony which possesses few competent workmen, although the rate of wage paid should entitle employers to skilled mechanics.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

A.—HOSPITALS.

39. There are two Government hospitals in the Colony, a general hospital and a contagious diseases hospital. The former has accommodation for 34 patients, and the latter accommodation for 10 patients.

40. The general hospital is an old building, but a large sum has been voted towards enlarging it and putting it into a thorough state of repair, which work, it is hoped, will be completed during 1902.

41. A new bungalow for the female patients is being erected near to the main building, and it is hoped, will be ready for occupation in 1902.

42. The total number of in-patients at the hospital during the year were 598, and of out-patients, 4,010; an increase of 377 and 2,270 on the numbers for the previous year. The women

and children, about 250 in number, belonging to the Central African Regiment, who were quartered here during the early part of the year, and the detachment of the West India Regiment, stationed here from April to the close of the year, are largely responsible for this increase.

GAMBIA,
1901.

43. Owing to the appointment of a Protectorate Medical Officer it was found possible towards the close of the year to establish a dispensary at McCarthy Island, a station 150 miles up the river. As soon as the natives realise its benefits there is no doubt that they will gladly avail themselves of it.

B. C. AND D.

44. There are no asylums, poor houses or reformatories in the Colony. Any lunatics are sent to the Kissy Asylum at Sierra Leone.

E. SAVINGS BANKS.

45. There is only one savings bank in the Colony. The total amount on deposit on the 31st December, 1901, was £5,019 for 238 depositors. The amount deposited during the year was £2,639, and the amount withdrawn £1,912.

46. The savings bank is, I am afraid, made use of by the depositors more as a place for the safe keeping of their money than with any idea of thrift, it being quite a common practice for clerks to deposit their salaries at the end of the month and to draw the money out the following month in small sums as they require it to meet their housekeeping expenses. The advantages of the bank have been frequently explained to the chiefs in the Protectorate, but only one man could be induced to open an account. This he did by depositing ten shillings, but at the end of six weeks he asked for the money to be returned for him to see, as he was afraid the Treasury officers might have "chopped" it. He did not continue his account.

47. There are thirty-three Friendly Societies registered in the Colony, having a total sum of £539 standing to their credit. The majority of them give relief and assistance to members in case of sickness or death, and in their way are of much good.

GAMBIA,
1901.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

A.—POLICE.

48. The Police Force consists of a superintendent, an assistant-superintendent, both Europeans, and 100 of other ranks. The men are trained to the use of arms, and may be regarded as a semi-military force. They are armed with Martini-Enfield carbines and have 3 seven-pounder R.M.L. guns. A portion of the force is stationed at McCarthy Island and other places in the Protectorate, leaving about 75 men available for duty in Bathurst. The expenditure of the Force for 1900 was £4,584.

B.—PRISONS.

49. There is only one prison in the Colony and that is at Pathurst, the capital. It has accommodation for 38 prisoners, 31 male and 7 female. The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 14. There were no escapes or deaths in the prison during the year, nor were there any floggings.

50. The present buildings are very old, but are kept in an excellent state of repair. It has long been in contemplation to build a new gaol but the work has not yet been begun, nor would it for the moment appear to be necessary, looking to the large expenditure which would be involved. The present prison with its small number of inmates answers its purpose very well.

51. The total cost of the prison during the year was £803, as compared with £680 in 1900.

C.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

52. There was apparently a considerable increase in crime during the year judging by the fact that there were 361 persons charged with offences in 1901, as compared with 140 in 1900. The increase may, however, be attributed to greater activity on the part of the police.

53. The principal event in the criminal proceedings of the year was undoubtedly the trial of three men for the murder of the two Travelling Commissioners at Sankandi, in the previous year. The charge was fully proved against the accused, who paid the full penalty demanded by law.

54. In the Supreme Court 9 cases were tried, convictions being obtained in 7 of the cases. In the Police Court the number of convictions was 260 and acquittals 88. The convictions were mainly for "committing nuisance in public."

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1901.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

55. A Census was taken in the Colony on the 1st of April, with the following results:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
	7,383	6,073	13,456

a total decrease of 810 as compared with the Census taken in 1891.

56. A Census of the Protectorate was also taken this year for the first time, with the following result:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
	36,552	40,396	76,948

This return can only be regarded as approximate, as many of the natives, being under the impression that the numbering of the people meant the imposing of a poll tax, ran across the boundary to French territory. Allowing for these absentees, I think that the population of the Protectorate may fairly be estimated at 90,000.

57. The actual returns show a total population of 99,404 for the Colony and Protectorate. There were 348 births and 380 deaths; of the latter, 4 were Europeans—2 official and 2 non-official. The death rate for the year was very favourable compared with 1900, when the total number of deaths was 431, of which 9 were Europeans.

B.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

58. The general health of the Colony was good during the year.

C.—SANITATION.

59. Only in Bathurst are any sanitary measures attempted. In the cleanliness of the streets, drains, and compounds, this town compares most favourably with others on the West Coast of Africa. The work is carried out, under the Board of Health, by an Inspector of Nuisances and several gangs of scavengers

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1898.

credit at the end of the year. The rules for the management of these Friendly Societies have to be first approved of by the Legislative Council, and, generally speaking, they are practical; but I have been amused sometimes at the grandiose titles of the office bearers, which include a "mistress of the robes," who is to see that persons attending funerals are properly attired according to minute regulations. Yet, for all this, the main idea is charity! and I believe these clubs do good in their way.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS, PRISONS, &C.

The Criminal Statistics of the Colony shew that there is very little crime.

The Native Courts in the Protectorate are steadily improving, and are doing useful work in maintaining order. Crimes of a serious nature are dealt with by the travelling Commissioners in the Protectorate or by the Supreme Court in Bathurst. There are now about six prisoners from the Protectorate in the gaol in Bathurst.

VITAL STATISTICS, CLIMATE, &C.

I regret to say that the death-rate in Bathurst last year rose from 365 in 1897, to 439 in 1898, being an average of 29·26 per thousand. One-sixth of the total number of deaths occurred amongst young children, who here, as elsewhere in tropical countries, seem to die in large numbers, probably from ignorance and neglect on the part of their parents. It does not appear that there were any special causes for the larger mortality amongst the adults.

The deaths amongst the Europeans numbered four, including two cases of Blackwater fever. The rainy and unhealthy season for Europeans lasts for four months, July to October, but as business is then at a standstill, nearly all the Europeans leave the Colony for Europe, and this sensible arrangement reduces the mortality rate considerably. The natives suffer also from fever in the rainy season, and in addition, contract consumption and chest affections during the months of December and January when the winds are sometimes very cold.

There are great variations in the climate here. The thermometer in Bathurst sometimes varies 30 degrees in a day—68° to 98°—and it is always 20 degrees, or more, warmer up the river than near the sea coast. I believe the climate in Bathurst between July and October is as bad as the worst season on any part of the West Coast, but, fortunately, few Europeans are then

here. During the remainder of the year it is fairly healthy, but it is necessary always to be careful and remember you are on the West Coast of Africa.

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The average rainfall is about 50 inches, which falls entirely between July and October, and for the rest of the year, except a few showers in May and June, there is a perfect drought. In December and the following months up to March the hot Harmattan wind blows from the East. In the interior this is very trying, coming as it does in hot blasts over miles of dry land or sand. In Bathurst it is fresher, as it blows across the water at the entrance of the river.

In April, the pleasantest month of the year in Bathurst, the sea breeze blows. In May the calm weather commences, being the precursor of the rainy season, when the days and nights, except during tornadoes, are perfectly airless.

Bathurst is a clean town, barely above high-water mark, but with wide streets and careful sanitary supervision, I believe it is as healthy as the natural surroundings will allow.

POLICE.

(Armed Force.)

There are no troops now stationed in Bathurst, but the police force consists of two European Officers and 100 men who are armed and drilled.

The force has also three seven-pound field-pieces, and is considered to be sufficiently trained and equipped to suppress any small disturbance that might occur.

The police force is kept entirely in Bathurst, with the exception of a few men at M'Carthy Island and other places in the Colony. The Protectorate is policed by the natives, and the men are designated "messengers."

They are vested with the authority and protection of a police-constable when wearing their badges, and are employed for summoning or arresting persons who may be wanted. The headmen and headchiefs give them their orders and badges, and the system is working satisfactorily.

A case occurred when one of these native messengers was assaulted in the execution of his duty, and the trial and imprisonment of the offender has had a salutary effect. An occasion presented itself for showing a little force in the Jolah country, and

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fifty of the police who were sent on this mission acquitted themselves creditably. Otherwise peace and order prevailed everywhere, and the police force was only wanted for ordinary civil duties in the town of Bathurst.

GENERAL.

The trade of the Colony was unprecedented, and although with a single staple trade is naturally liable to great fluctuations, yet I consider that the improvement that has been effected in the administration of the Protectorate during the past few years diminishes the chances of any serious sudden decrease in the trade such as formerly often occurred owing to the little native wars that constantly, almost permanently, were going on.

The river Gambia, the best waterway in this part of Africa, must always attract trade to its banks; and the encouragement of traffic on the river is the object to be aimed at.

The little steamer, "Mansah Kilah," started four years ago to run up and down to M'Carthy Island every week, has fully justified this scheme. It is hoped that by next year a steamer will be running in connection with it right up to Yarbutenda; and this should lead to further traffic from the interior.

A depot and lodging house at Yarbutenda will be established, and I think will draw traders.

Factories or "depots" with wharves are increasing up the river. At Ballangar, 100 miles up, there are now three short wharves, at each of which quite recently three large steamers, over a thousand tons each, were lying at the same time taking in ground nuts. This cheapens freight. Steamers go up the river to load for an additional 2s. 6d. per ton, whereas it used to cost 20s. a ton to bring nuts to Bathurst in cutters. I think at last this magnificent waterway is being put to some use.

The social condition of the natives is, I hope, advancing.

Mahomedanism is increasing, and with it temperance and decency. It is pleasing to note that the women are sometimes averse to marrying drinking men, and more than one case has come to my knowledge where would-be suitors have become Mahomedans so as to gain a wife.

There have also been two or three cases where a woman has applied for a separation from a drunken husband and succeeded in her case. Judicial separations and divorces are more easily and cheaply managed amongst the natives in the Protectorate—but they are quite as effective—than they can be in civilized countries.

Christianity is not making any advance in the interior, and I fancy is remaining stationary in Bathurst, where fully half of the population are Mahomedans.

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1898.

Several English men-of-war have lately visited and remained at Bathurst for some time. The facilities for landing and drilling, and the drier climate during the winter months are, I believe, considered to be beneficial to the crews.

The year 1898 was a record one for trade, and I am sure all the old-established merchants had prosperous seasons, which prosperity filtered through to all classes and gave general contentment.

I can close this report by happily being able to state that this year so far promises even to be better than the two last years which have been record ones.

I have, &c.,

R. B. LEWELYN,

Administrator.

26th April 1899.

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1899.

to succeed Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., as Administrator, arrived in the Colony with the expedition on the 10th of January and assumed the administration of the Government. In March, the Colony was raised to the rank of a Governorship, Sir George Denton being appointed the first Governor.

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76. During the year two pensioners, Mr. J. R. Maxwell, formerly chief magistrate, and Mr. Syrett, formerly postmaster, died. The Colony has also to regret the deaths of Mr. Percy E. Wainwright, and Mr. B. Marshall, Travelling Commissioners. The former had been in the service of the Colony for five years, and had done valuable work in the Protectorate. The latter was on his first visit to West Africa, and had only been in the Colony four months. The death of Mr. Cates, Registrar and Clerk of Courts, has also to be recorded.

77. The climate of the Gambia, like that of other West African colonies, is unhealthy for Europeans, although perhaps in a less degree. It is impossible to employ white labour in the Colony.

78. The cost of living in the Gambia is much higher for both Europeans and Africans than in any of the other West Coast colonies. For example, as pointed out last year, a case of Sauerbrunnen, which could be bought at Lagos for 15s., costs 25s. in Bathurst. However, the price has now been brought down to 21s., and it is hoped that a reference to it this year will result in a further reduction, and cause merchants to consider whether it would not be to their interest to lower the prices of articles of every-day consumption so as to induce consumers to obtain their stores locally, instead of importing direct from Europe.

79. The rates of wages are high, an ordinary labourer being paid at the rate of 1s. 3d. a day, which, in the ground-nut season, when steamers have to be loaded and labour is scarce, is raised to as much as 2s. a day. The wages of mechanics are proportionately high, while their work is of a very poor quality. Owing to the high cost of living, it is difficult to induce good workmen from the other colonies to come to the Gambia.

80. Owing to the failure of the ground-nut crop from want of sufficient rain and the destruction of their food crops by locusts, the natives in the Protectorate began to feel the pinch of famine early in the year. Their position was made worse from the fact that the merchants, who in former years had given out credits of rice, etc., to tide the people over the rains, at the close of which the first corn is ripe for gathering, decided to discontinue the practice. Already the people had begun to hunt in the forests for roots and berries, and to pawn and sell their clothing, many being reduced to wearing rice-bags as their sole covering. It was seen that something must be done and that quickly, otherwise their condition would become serious. The Government was, therefore, compelled to come to the rescue, and at

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once purchased and issued nearly four thousand bags of rice, which, it is satisfactory to record, at the time of writing, have, with the exception of 29 bags, all been repaid without any trouble, the natives on all sides expressing their gratitude for the help rendered to them by the Government at a critical time, and asserting with truth that, but for the timely assistance, many of them must have died from starvation during the rains.

81. It may not be without interest to note that for the first time since the Island of St. Mary was made a settlement by British merchants in 1816, an Anglican church has been erected in Bathurst. For over half a century the Anglican community had no better place of worship than an old disused officers' mess-room, and more recently the services had been held in a ground-nut store. The present building is a fine, handsome structure, capable of seating a congregation of 400. The church was completed in sufficient time to allow of its being consecrated on the 24th of December by the Right Reverend John Taylor Smith, Bishop of Sierra Leone, which was his last act in his episcopal See before taking over his duties as Chaplain-General to His Majesty's Forces. On Christmas Day the church was opened for public worship.

82. I cannot close this report without referring to the great grief shared by this Colony with the rest of the British Empire on the occasion of the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, which sad event took place on the 22nd January. A memorial service was held in McCarthy Square by the Bishop of the diocese, which was largely attended by all sections of the community.

H. M. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH.

17th May, 1902.

APPENDIX.

Governor Sir G. C. DENTON to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Bathurst, Gambia,

10th February, 1902.

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1901.

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(Extract.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that I left Bathurst on the morning of the 7th January and proceeded to Tendaba, where, unfortunately, I arrived too late to go over to Quinella that evening.

2. The next morning at daybreak I started for Quinella to inspect the Camp which is being established there as a temporary measure for the West African Frontier Force. I found that good progress had been made with it, and that it will be finished within a very few days. It is very well situated, and will make an excellent training ground for the recruits, some 30 in number, who have been enrolled in the Gambia. These men I saw, and am glad to report that they promise well. They were fitted with their clothing but had not yet been given their arms and accoutrements. The officers at Quinella are Lieutenant Morley, Dr. Hopkinson, and Colour-sergeant Wheatcroft. Captain Graham, Lieutenant Hoskyns, and Sergeant Noble having proceeded to Sierra Leone to bring back with them the 90 men of the West African Frontier Force from that Colony who are required to complete the Gambia Company.

3. I left Tendaba at 10 a.m. on the 8th, and reached Elephant Island about 10 p.m. that evening, when the "Mansah Kilah" anchored.

4. We went off as soon as it was light enough to see, reaching McCarthy Island at 8.30, where we stopped for about a quarter of an hour, and proceeded to Misera Wharf, arriving there at 3.

Here Mr. Stanley met me, and at about 4 I landed and went up to Misera, the principal town of Sandu, where Jimbermang lives, the "Mansah Kilah" returning to Bathurst.

5. Jimbermang welcomed me very warmly, and told me everything was going on well, that the people were contented and happy, and things had been very quiet whilst I was away. It was just the end of the big Mahommedan Fast, and as it had been rigidly kept by this Chief and his people, who are strict followers of the prophet, there was a general appearance of hard times which will vanish very rapidly when the feasting which follows the fasting commences.

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6. On the 11th, about 4 p.m., I held a palaver of all the Chiefs of Sandu. They had nothing to say to me on education and the cultivation of their lands, agreeing with what I told them, and promising to bring more land under ground-cultivation next season. But when I came to vaccination things were different. I mentioned that Dr. Maxwell Adams would shortly visit their country, and I explained to them the object of it (vaccination), and this they understood readily, having been in the habit of inoculating their children for many years as a prevention against small-pox. They, however, told me they hoped I would not insist on it. They could give no reasons for objecting to it except that it was new. I assured them I would not force it on them, but took care to impress on them the great protection it would afford them and their children from small-pox, and I also assured them that it was attended with no danger, that it would give them little or no pain at the time it was done, and that the trifling inconvenience it would occasion them would all pass off in a fortnight.

7. Great attention was paid to what I said, and, I believe, if Dr. Maxwell Adams is careful not to arouse their prejudices, and is conciliatory in his methods, he will soon obtain the confidence of the Chiefs, and will at any rate be permitted to vaccinate the children, which is the principal point.

8. I may here mention that Dr. Hopkinson is commencing vaccination in Quinella and its neighbourhood, and I have great hopes that he will be successful in his endeavours.

9. In the evening of this day (11th ultimo), the new moon which terminates the fast was seen, and I at once went down and called on Jimbermang; although I was with him within five minutes of the firing of the gun announcing that the fast was over he had already commenced his feast.

10. One incident occurred whilst I was at Misera which to me personally was of great interest. About 4 p.m. on the day preceding my departure a messenger came to me from Jimbermang, saying that if I would allow it the Alimamy and Elders of the town wished to call upon me and pray for me. I, of course, gave my consent, and in about half-an-hour they appeared, and after the customary compliments had passed between us, the Aleaide, or Headman, offered up a prayer, partly in Arabic and partly in Mandingo, of which the following is the best translation I could arrive at:—"To our Father who art in Heaven. We, followers of the Prophet Mahommed, ask God's blessing on you, and hope God will give you long life. May God make your time here a pleasant and a peaceful time. May God give you and your family long life. Whenever you go to Europe and return here, may you find peace and blessing."

11. I must admit that I was much flattered by this attention, which was entirely novel to me, though I have lived amongst Mahomedan peoples for the greater part of the last

28 years, and have for the most part been on intimate and friendly terms with them.

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12. I left Misera at 6.30 a.m. on the 13th, reaching Yoruba Wul after a march of about three hours. Yoruba Wul is a Foulah village containing some 400 inhabitants, who, looking to the amount of cultivation which surrounds it, must be very industrious in their habits. They are also good herdsmen, and have about 200 head of cattle. Here I stayed the night; going on the morning of the 14th to Bantoding, where I was very cordially received by Chief N'Yakudu.

13. I stayed at Bantoding until the morning of the 17th, and had several interviews with N'Yakudu. This Chief has some 30 villages under him, and is much liked by his people, whom he treats liberally and with justice. Absolutely no complaints were made to me, and it is clear that both Sandu and Wuli are now quiet and at rest. The arrangement with regard to the boundary between the two places, which was arrived at in April last, is working satisfactorily. N'Yakudu is quite contented with it, and if Jimbermang has not enlarged Sandu as much as he intended at the expense of Wuli he is wise enough to keep quiet on the subject; his attitude in the matter being, I believe, a good deal due to the fact that he knows the people are for N'Yakudu.

14. I left Bantoding at 6.30 a.m. on the 17th, arriving at Koina Wharf at 10.30 a.m. The towns passed through were Marsuto, Sutuko, Berif, and Fulahkunda. As I had seen the Chiefs and Elders of these places at Bantoding on the previous day, I only made a very short stay in them, the longest stop being at Berif for 45 minutes.

15. The river at Koina Wharf, which is about two miles from the Anglo-French boundary, is about 200 yards wide, and runs between banks quite 20 feet in height. It is between two and three fathoms deep here, and is a magnificent waterway; it might easily be made navigable for vessels drawing 10 to 12 feet to this point. The distance from Koina Wharf to Bathurst is about 270 miles.

Fortunately a cutter loading ground-nuts was lying at the wharf, and I was able to borrow her boat, and in this got across my party very speedily. Had the river transport been confined to the only canoe to be found at this place, crossing would have been a very tedious and lengthy affair.

16. From Koina Wharf I proceeded to Koina Village, which is distant two miles from the river, on the south bank, and stayed there the night. It is in Kantora, and has about 450 inhabitants, who are almost entirely Mandingoes and Mahomedans. Koina itself is a poor place, but the surrounding country is well cultivated, and I am told that the ground-nuts from this part of the Protectorate are of very good quality.

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17. About 8.30 a.m. on the 18th I reached Sunkunda, the distance from Koina being only about seven miles. This town is the capital of Kantora, and at it the head Chief, Manjang by name, lives. It has a population of about 800, and it is fairly prosperous for this part of the world.

18. In my despatch of the 14th April, 1901, I mentioned that I had, under the power given to the Administrator by section 40 of the Protectorate Ordinance, directed an old and troublesome Chief named Sunto Koma Sanyan and his grandson to reside at Bantoding. When with N'Yakudu I saw both these men, and they begged to be allowed to return to their village, Farintunba. As the reports I received of their conduct were excellent, and as they promised to behave themselves and be guided by what Manjang told them in every way, I consider they have been sufficiently punished, and I have therefore permitted them to go back to their home, and I do not anticipate any trouble from them in the future.

19. The villages which lie on the road between Koina and Sunkunda are called Keneba, Jowokunda, Farintunba, and Kasirikunda, and are all small and of very little importance.

20. On the 19th I held a palaver at Sunkunda, to which Manjang had called the heads of the different Kantora villages. Everything passed off very satisfactorily, the only question raised being that of the boundary between Kantora and Fulladu. The Simotu Creek has been generally recognised as the western limit of Kantora, but Manjang said he had not sufficient land for his people, and asked that he might be allowed to make farms beyond it. I told him this could not be permitted, as that would be encroaching on Musa Molloh's country, and he did not press the point, in which from the first he seemed only to take a very half-hearted interest.

21. We left Sunkunda at 6.30, and went on to Tuba Kouta, a distance of about 10 miles, where I was met by N'Farli Cora, the stipend Chief for the eastern portion of Fulladu. The country through which we passed was well cultivated, and I was glad to learn that a good crop of food-stuffs had been collected, and that the ground-nut crop was expected to be fully up to the average in both quality and quantity.

22. The village of Tuba Kouta is only about three-quarters of a mile to the west of the boundary, so that my remarks as to crops, etc., apply almost entirely to Kantora. I may say that I was very agreeably surprised with what I saw in this district. I was told that the people were to a great extent Soninkes, and given over to drunkenness, but, as far as I was able to judge, the contrary is the case. Nearly all I saw were Mahomedans, intelligent and alert in appearance, and the quantity of land under cultivation bears testimony to their energy and industry. It is commonly said by the European merchants in Bathurst that as soon as a Soninke becomes a Marabout he gives up all

active pursuits, and is lazy and idle, but this does not appear to be true in this case, as I consider the people of Kantora, who have only recently embraced Mahommedanism, are decidedly improved in every way by their change in faith, and are now quite amongst the best class of natives we have in the Protectorate.

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23. The march from Tuba Kouta to Tambasansan was rather a trying one, though the road was good. Again the country through which we passed shewed signs of industry and energy on the part of its inhabitants, and I was glad to see a certain amount of cotton planted and well tended. At present the quantity produced is only sufficient to supply home wants, but this could easily be increased, and I am in hopes that with encouragement the industry may in time assume fair dimensions, and make a material addition to the exports from the Colony.

24. On the 23rd, I met the Headmen of the principal villages in Eastern Fulladu, and explained to them the position which the British Government now occupied in their country. One and all expressed their satisfaction with the changes which were brought about in June last by the Agreement with Musa Molloh, and they were evidently very pleased that in future they would be free from the exactions this Chief used to impose on them. The inhabitants of this part of the Protectorate are Mandingoes and Fulahs, and appear to me to be a quiet, peaceable lot. I have great hopes that with a settled form of government, under which justice is readily obtainable, Fulladu will progress and very rapidly become prosperous.

25. Tambasansan, where N'Farli Cora lives, is a town with about 550 inhabitants. It is well kept, as native towns go, and N'Farli himself is one of the richest men outside Bathurst. He is essentially a worker, and manages his different farms himself. I am told that he is very popular with his people, and—a wonderful thing in a rich native—never oppresses them, being very liberal in all his dealings with them. Altogether I regard him as the best type of native Chief I have met on the Gambia. Although not so great a man as Musa Molloh 'y birth and position, he is equal in intelligence, and superior to him in a sense of justice and honesty.

26. I left Tambasansan on the morning of the 27th, and reached Basse, a large Fulah town, whose Headman is named Mansah Jang, a little after 8 a.m. Again the country through which we passed had been cultivated far more than is the case generally, and the people had a prosperous and well-to-do appearance. Mansah Jang is a rich man, and owns large herds of cattle. He did not strike me as particularly intelligent, and I believe his health is not good. For these reasons his influence is not so great as it might be. He, however, accepts N'Farli Cora as his head Chief without question, and is glad to come under the British Government, so will give no trouble.

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27. I reached Gambisara on the morning of the 28th, and was very well received by the Headman and his Elders. This town is situated immediately on the boundary line between the British and French spheres of influence; in fact, at the time of the agreement with Musa Molloh was concluded a large portion of it was situated on the French side, but now the whole town, with the exception of four huts, has been removed to the English side. Gambisara has a population of between 1,500 and 2,000, and has, within about a mile of it, another large Serahouli town called Numuyelle. It may perhaps be well to explain that Serahouli is a term applied to a people who come from a country called Tilibo, lying to the east of the Gambia Protectorate, who are a distinct tribe from either Mandingoes, Jollofs, or Fulahs, and speak a different language. They are good Mahomedans, and there are amongst them many craftsmen, such as workers in leather, goldsmiths, makers of wooden bowls and canoes, blacksmiths, and weavers of native cloths. They are said to pay large dowries for their wives, and are supposed to have a higher sense of morality in their domestic relations than is generally found amongst the natives of West Africa. They are industrious and peaceable, and do much for the places in which they live.

28. It was my desire to have had a meeting with Musa Molloh at Gambisara, but the French authorities did not see their way to allow him to come to me just now, so I was obliged to transact the business I had with him by letter, and this I have dealt with separately. I may, however, mention that I held a palaver at this place which was very fully attended, and at which both Dembo Danso and N'Farli Cora were present. In deference to the wishes of the Serahoulis, I sanctioned these towns (*i.e.*, Gambisara and Numuyelle) being under the Headman of the former place, though, strictly speaking, they are within N'Farli Cora's district, but his jurisdiction is limited to the towns themselves and the land immediately adjoining them.

29. At the palaver there were general expressions of satisfaction that the rule of Musa Molloh had been replaced by that of the British Government, and everyone appeared pleased with the new arrangements. There were, of course, some who wanted more than they got, but on the whole they were well contented, and even those whose demands were not satisfied in full felt that they had obtained more than they would ever have received under the old régime, and I do not think there is the least chance of their leaving the British sphere of influence for the French.

30. Gambisara and Numuyelle have a great local reputation for their country cloths, but I cannot say I was much impressed with them. They use both English and native yarn in their manufacture, and certainly produce a strong, soft cloth, but the strips in which they are woven are very narrow, and they compare

very unfavourably with those made in the Yoruba country, both in design and texture.

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31. Early in the morning of the 31st, before we left Gambisara, I regret to say, Mr. Tracy, who was in command of the escort of the West Indian Regiment which accompanied me, developed blackwater fever, and, unfortunately, there was no doctor near to attend to him. Under the circumstances, the best thing to be done with him was to send him at once to Bathurst, and, as the "Mansah Kilah" met me at Kossema, I was, by a great stroke of good fortune, able to put him into hospital within 48 hours of the disease first showing itself. Though very seriously ill, and at one time in a very critical condition, after he reached Bathurst, Mr. Tracy has, I am glad to say, recovered, and proceeds to England by the next steamer. The type of fever from which he suffered has, I regret to say, been very prevalent since my return to the Colony, no less than five cases having occurred since the 10th November last. At the present moment Mr. Ozanne is in hospital with it, but is, I am glad to say, doing well.

32. From Kossema I proceeded by the steamer to McCarthy Island, disembarking there at 9.30 p.m. on the 31st. The 1st of February I spent in McCarthy Island, going into several matters with the Commissioner of this part of the Protectorate, Mr. McCallum, whose district I hope to go through before long.

33. On the 2nd February I went to Boraba, the largest town in Western Fulladu, and the place where Dembo Danso resides. Here I remained until the 4th February, and on the 3rd I held a large meeting of the people, and explained to them the conditions under which the Government of British Fulladu would in future be administered.

34. At first, one or two of the Fulah towns evinced a strong opposition to being placed under Dembo Danso, no doubt due to the fact that in the past he had been Musa Molloh's principal agent; but when I explained to them that under the existing condition of affairs he was directly subordinate to the Commissioner, who again was responsible to me, and would report everything that occurred to me, they gave way and accepted him with a very good grace, and I have no doubt myself that he will make an excellent Headman, as he is a very careful, capable, and intelligent man.

35. This completed the arrangements I had to make for Fulladu, and I am glad to say they have, I consider, been brought to a very successful conclusion. Under the more liberal conditions of Government which now exist, Fulladu will, I feel sure, develop very considerably, and, as the soil is fertile and well-suited to both cotton and ground-nuts, as well as foodstuffs, I hope before long to see the exports from this part of the Protectorate increase very considerably.

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36. The difficult question will be that of labour, as is always the case in newly-acquired territories in West Africa, but I trust that many people will be tempted to come when they find out that under British protection they are not required to pay exorbitant taxes, are subject only to humane and just punishments for any offences they may commit, and are allowed to reap the full benefit of their labours.

37. From Boraba I proceeded to Kai Hai, and inspected the work there, which is progressing satisfactorily, as far as I am able to judge, but I propose, when I have had time to discuss the matter with the Colonial Engineer, to address you separately on this subject.

38. On my way down the river, I stopped at Tendaba, and again visited Quinella in order that I might see the West African Frontier Force established in its camp. The Chief of Quinella, Fodi by name, whom I have mentioned to you in other despatches, has done excellent work, and, though the stationing of soldiers was at first by no means agreeable to him, has given the Government every assistance in his power. Under cover of another despatch I have forwarded a report on the West African Frontier Force, by Captain Graham, with my remarks, and I need say no more on this subject here.

39. Generally, I beg to say I am pleased with the state of affairs in the upper river. The crops of foodstuffs have, with very few exceptions, been good, and the ground-nuts are heavy and fairly abundant. Judging by what is told me, I think we may well expect as good a crop of this product this year as was obtained last year, perhaps better, and this means that the revenue from all sources will be much about the same.

40. One thing that I noticed on this visit was the progress which Mahommenadism is making in this part of the world. But a very little time ago the Soninkes were very numerous, as also were the Pagan Fulahs; now every day the Marabouts are increasing, and before long they will number three-quarters at least of the population. This, I think, will on the whole be of decided advantage to the Colony, though the revenue from the spirit trade, never a large amount on the Gambia, will fall off, no doubt, but it will, I believe, be possible to make up the sum lost from other sources.

41. Another matter which particularly struck me was the difficulty in obtaining efficient interpretation. I have already touched on this in paragraph 11 of my despatch, No. 124, of the 27th June last, and I am pleased to say two at least of the Commissioners will, I hope, pass the proposed examination in Mandingo before they go on leave. But the main trouble is that so few of those of the class from which interpreters should be obtained know Mandingo really well, and when they are thoroughly acquainted with it and the different dialects their English is frequently very defective.

42. This is a very great drawback, and makes the political work very difficult. The only remedy I can think of is to offer special inducements to the schools to prepare boys for the position of interpreter, and on this I hope to address you more fully at an early date.

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43. I consider that Mr. Stanley deserves great credit for the work he has done, and is doing, in his district. He is evidently on very good terms with the people, and has brought in many reforms with very little friction. He has also nearly completed the details of an excellent map of both north and south banks, and has made himself well acquainted with all parts of his district.

44. The roads over which I passed compare favourably with the native construction in Yoruba land, and within the next few months, that is before the rainy season, the different creeks will have strong native bridges across them. I only used a hammock for about two miles, riding on horseback for the rest of the way, and, with the exception of two creeks which were too deep to ford, I had only to dismount at the regular halting places. Some of the horses are excellent, and are bigger than those I have hitherto seen in West Africa. For instance, two I rode in Fulladu were nearly 15 hands in height, and capital hacks, but the price paid for them is much larger than what I have been accustomed to, £40 being the cost of one of them and £60 of the other. These were, of course, exceptionally good beasts, and very different from the ordinary six to ten pound horse which one sees in Bathurst.

We managed to get a little shooting at times, the bag consisting of 254 bush fowl or partridge (*francolinus piliatus*), 65 sand grouse or Barbary quail (*pteroctes arenarius*), 3 small bustard, 2 hares, 13 Guinea birds, 2 button quail, 6 pigeon, 2 painted snipe, and 1 antelope. As far as large game is concerned, a hippo. was shot by Mr. Stanley at Misera two days before our arrival there, and last September a lion was shot by a native hunter at Tambasansan. Had one the time to give to it, I believe excellent sport could be obtained at certain seasons of the year on the Gambia river, as in the marshes adjacent to it several kinds of antelope are to be found. In the adjoining French Protectorate elephants and giraffes are by no means rare, and, judging by the skins that are brought down by traders, lions are fairly plentiful.

46. I forward a tracing of Mr. Stanley's map,* showing the route I took during my tour. The distance traversed is only a little over 100 miles, and I wish that I could have gone from Gambisara to Boroba, which is about one-and-a-half miles from the river, on the south bank, opposite McCarthy Island, by road. The distance is only between 40 and 50 miles, but there are no villages of any size on the road, though the country is fertile and well cultivated, I am told, and it would have been impossible

* Not reproduced.

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to obtain carriers under the system in vogue here of taking them from town to town. This is an economical way of travelling, and really works wonderfully well on the whole, though it has the disadvantage of making your progress very slow when compared with what you could do with men hired by the day for the whole trip, as is the practice in Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Lagos. Still the saving is very great, carriers, who would have received at least £150 in the colonies I have named, only costing me on this occasion about £20. And with this before me I cannot see my way to recommend any change at present.

47. In conclusion, I beg to say that everywhere I went I was received with great courtesy and attention, and I have every reason to think that both the Chiefs and people generally are contented and satisfied with their lot.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Governor.
