

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 424.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, see No. 391.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1904.



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No. 424.

G A M B I A.

(For Report for 1902, see No. 391.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR
1903.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The total revenue for the year amounted to £55,564. This is the largest revenue ever collected in the Colony, and is an increase of £4,548 on that of 1902.

2. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1902 and 1903, as also the several increases and decreases.

Hheads of Revenue.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	39,444	41,629	2,185	—
Port dues	932	1,014	82	—
Licenses, Excise, &c.	623	1,108	485	—
Fees of court or office, &c.	634	740	106	—
Post Office	1,453	553	—	900
Government vessels	401	434	33	—
Rents, Government property	539	382	—	157
Interest	1,883	1,794	—	89
Miscellaneous receipts	580	1,541	961	—
Protectorate	4,526	6,349	1,823	—
Land sales	—	20	20	—
Total	51,015	55,564	5,695	1,146

3. The increases were principally due, under Customs, to increased importations of *ad valorem* goods in anticipation of a good trading season following the ground nut crop, and to the additional duties received on exported ground nuts; under Licenses, to the revision and extension of the Spirit License Laws; under Protectorate, to increases in all the items of revenue; and under Miscellaneous, to the sale of ammunition to the Sierra Leone and Nigerian Governments, and to the sale of

presents, in the shape of cattle, &c., received from the chiefs of the several districts.

4. The decreases were due, under Post Office, to a smaller sale of stamps to dealers, and under rents of Government property, to the receipts hitherto brought to account under that head being transferred to "Protectorate."

5. The amount of revenue received under Customs was, Import Duty £26,471 and Export Duty £15,158, making a total of £41,629.

6. The expenditure for the year amounted to £67,504, being an increase of £15,969 on that of the previous year. It may be mentioned that this large increase was mainly due to this Government having to pay the War Office during the year the sum of £11,445 on account of the expenses incurred by that Department in connection with the 1901 Expedition.

7. The following return shows the items of expenditure for the years 1902 and 1903 together with the various increases and decreases.

Heads of Expenditure.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions	1,118	749	—	369
The Governor	2,537	2,896	359	—
The Colonial Secretary	1,035	1,167	132	—
The Protectorate	4,834	5,779	945	—
Printing Department	293	622	329	—
Treasury	442	1,011	569	—
Customs Department	1,913	1,927	14	—
Post Office	530	620	90	—
Audit Department	425	505	80	—
Judicial	1,246	1,225	—	21
Attorney-General	399	512	113	—
Education... ..	501	849	348	—
Frontier Force	4,801	5,744	943	—
Police	3,879	4,324	445	—
Prisons	711	706	—	5
Medical Department	1,868	2,201	333	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	883	818	—	65
Manager of Kombo	55	—	—	55
Government vessels	1,998	2,272	274	—
Charitable allowances	89	91	2	—
Transport... ..	564	897	333	—
Miscellaneous services	3,110	2,501	—	609
Drawback, &c.	71	33	—	38
Agriculture	137	587	450	—
Colonial Engineer's Department	1,288	1,532	244	—
Public works recurrent	4,047	5,224	1,177	—
" extraordinary	8,288	11,710	3,422	—
Special services	4,473	11,002	6,529	—
Total	51,535	67,504	17,131	1,162

8. The increases were mainly due under :—

Governor—To the office of Private Secretary having been vacant for the greater part of 1902, and to the item for the upkeep of furniture being transferred to this head from that of Public Works.

Protectorate—To increased allowances and presents to chiefs, and to prizes given for the upkeep of roads in the five districts.

Printing—To the purchase of new printing presses and type.

Treasury—To the salary of the Treasurer for the previous year being charged to the vote for the Colonial Secretary, whose duties he was performing.

Education—To an increase in the grants to European Superintendents and to the provision for Teachers in the Mohammedan School; and to a portion of the grant to the Industrial School for 1902 being paid in 1903.

Frontier Force—To the purchase of clothing, to a grant for the purchase of furniture, &c., to start an officers' mess, and to a vote for transport having to be provided in 1903.

Police—To the purchase of clothing under the new regulations.

Medical—To the increase of salaries provided under the West African Medical Staff scheme, and to provision for an additional medical officer.

Government Vessels—To provision having to be made for the crew of the steam launch "Thistle," and to the increased purchase of fuel.

Transport—To the increased travelling of officers, and to the transport to Senegal of prisoners of war received from Moussa Molloh.

Agriculture—To the engagement of a cotton expert, and purchase of agricultural implements.

Colonial Engineer—To the employment of an additional Clerk of Works.

Public Works Recurrent—To repairs to roads and upkeep of bridges, and to the unadjusted account for stores and materials.

Public Works Extraordinary—To the erection of two bungalows, extensive repairs to the military barracks, and the special purchase of furniture for officers' quarters.

Special Services—To the payment of the claim of the War Office for special expenditure incurred during the Expedition of 1901.

9. The decreases were under :—

Pensions—To special gratuities being made in 1902.

Miscellaneous—To a decreased purchase of stationery, and to smaller grant (£600) to the Board of Health.

10. The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the last five years.

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1899	...	...	46,840	30,405
1900	...	...	49,081	29,818
1901	...	...	43,726	48,518
1902	...	...	51,016	51,537
1903	...	...	55,564	67,504
Total ...			246,227	227,782

(B.) TAXATION.

11. During the year the Customs Tariff Ordinance was amended, whereby the duty on sweetened spirits was raised from 2s. to 4s. the gallon, the duty on unsweetened spirits from 3s. to 4s. the proof gallon, and on brandy from 3s. to 4s. the gallon.

12. The Spirit License Ordinance was also repealed and a new law enacted, which was extended to the Protectorate. Under it a yearly license for the sale of spirits in Bathurst, not to be consumed on the premises, was raised from £10 to £15; a license for the sale of spirits in Bathurst, to be consumed on the premises, was raised from £30 to £50; and the £10 wholesale or retail licenses which formerly only applied to the trading stations at Barra, Albreda and McCarthy Islands were extended to the whole of the Protectorate.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

13. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st of December, 1903, was £47,677, which is invested in various Colonial Government securities. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony at the close of the previous year was £59,602.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

14. The Colony has no public debt.

(E.) CURRENCY.

Rate of Exchange.

15. The bank rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was 1 per cent.

Coin in Circulation.

16. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony is estimated at £137,000, made up as follows :—Bank of England notes, £250 ; British gold, £12,500 ; British silver, £35,000 ; French gold, £150 ; French five-franc pieces, locally known as “dollars,” £90,000.

17. During the year specie to the value of £126,273 was imported, and £43,277 was exported. These totals were made up as under :—

—	Imported.	Exported.
	£	£
British gold ...	8,072	1,200
„ silver ...	26,647	9,519
French gold ...	—	—
„ silver ...	91,554	32,558
Total ...	126,273	43,277

(F.) MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL BOARDS, &C.

18. 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 Senior Medical Officer, the Colonial Engineer, the Superintendent of Police, a Medical Officer, and three of the leading inhabitants of the town. Its revenue is derived from (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property, 3 per cent. ; (2) slaughter house fees ; and (3) a grant-in-aid from the Government. The following revenue was received under these heads during the year :—

	£	s.	d.
Local rates	543	0	0
Slaughter house fees	96	0	0
Grant-in-aid	400	0	0
	£1,039	0	0

To this amount must be added a balance of £336 brought forward from the previous year.

19. The total expenditure for the same period, accounted for under the following heads, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	99	0	0
Cleaning drains, &c.	628	0	0
Mosquito sanitation and miscellaneous services	535	0	0
	<hr/>		
Amounted to	1,262	0	0
	<hr/>		
Leaving a balance to be carried forward to the year 1904, of	113	0	0
	<hr/>		

20. The following figures show the revenue and expenditure of the Board for the past five years.

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1899	...	...	1,055	948
1900	...	...	938	958
1901	...	...	870	870
1902	...	...	1,045	1,304
1903	...	...	1,375	1,262

21. Previous to 1902 the Board received an annual grant-in-aid of £200 ; in that year, however, this amount was raised to £1,000 in order to enable the Board to carry out special work in connection with what may be termed mosquito sanitation work, and in order to continue it, a grant of £400 was made in 1903.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A.—IMPORTS.

22. The total value of imports for the year amounted to £341,063, being an increase of £37,448 on the imports of 1902, which were valued at £303,615, due principally to increases under specie of £10,897, under rice of £6,692, and under kola nuts of £4,243, and under sugar of £976. Although the total decrease in the value of cotton goods imported amounted to £1,182, there was an increased importation of this item from France of £1,243 as compared with the previous year. The increase in the value of kola nuts is attributed to the fluctuations of the market, as, although the value shows an increase of £4,243,

the revenue collected under this head shows a decrease of £74 as compared with 1902.

23. The increase in rice is due to the planters having to a certain extent neglected everything for ground nuts in the hope that they would obtain as good prices for that article as they did in the previous year.

24. The importations of spirits show a slight decrease as compared with 1902, which is no doubt owing to the duties having been raised in the last quarter of the year.

25. The value of the imports may be classified as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Specific commercial imports ...	70,899	0	0
Ad valorem, „ „ ...	126,061	0	0
Free „ „ ...	136,875	0	0
	333,775	0	0
Free Government imports ...	7,287	0	0
Total value of imports ...	341,062	0	0

26. The following return gives the principal articles of import for the years 1902 and 1903 :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cotton goods	Pkgs. 3,113	Pkgs. 2,889	£ 66,052	£ 64,870	£ —	£ 1,182
Tobacco ...	Lbs. 237,795	Lbs. 259,027	£ 6,137	£ 6,501	£ 364	£ —
Kola nuts ...	915,954	759,270	28,577	32,820	4,243	—
Spirits ...	Gals. 27,567	Gals. 27,067	£ 4,481	£ 4,140	£ —	£ 341
Wine ...	18,658	16,606	2,021	2,372	351	—
Sugar ...	Cwt. 4,533	Cwt. 5,619	£ 3,691	£ 4,667	£ 976	£ —
Salt ...	Tons. 1,648	Tons. 1,240	£ 1,158	£ 1,041	£ —	£ 117
Gunpowder...	Brls. 175	Brls. 282	£ 236	£ 506	£ 270	£ —
Rice ...	Cwt. 39,610	Cwt. 49,995	£ 15,847	£ 22,539	£ 6,692	£ —

27. The value of the imports for the last five years was as under :—

Articles.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	69,355	83,251	67,552	115,376	126,273
Other articles ...	171,572	194,408	185,095	188,239	214,790
Total	240,907	277,659	252,647	303,615	341,063

28. The following return may be interesting as showing the total value of imports, exclusive of specie, for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with their averages :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1899	88,781	35,256	28,202	979	18,353	171,572
1900	102,121	41,103	35,932	3,009	12,241	194,408
1901	91,289	23,196	46,620	832	23,158	185,095
1902	103,706	30,241	33,932	1,891	18,418	188,239
1903	105,629	34,658	37,906	6,338	30,259	214,790
Total	491,526	164,454	182,642	13,049	102,428	954,104
Average	98,305	32,851	36,524	2,610	20,486	190,821

(B.) EXPORTS.

29. The total value of exports for the year amounted to £334,017 as compared with £248,140 in the previous year; an increase of £86,877.

30. The total value of exports, exclusive of specie, for 1903 was £290,740, and for 1902, £210,350, an increase in favour of 1903 of £80,390.

31. The whole of this increase can be attributed to ground nuts, which show an increased value of £81,909 over the quantity exported in 1902. The tonnage of the nuts exported in 1902 was 31,612 tons, of the value of £193,485, while in 1903 the tonnage was 45,777 tons of the value of £275,394. This is the largest quantity ever exported from the Colony.

32. The destination of these nuts was as follows :—

Country.	Tonnage.	Value.
	Tons.	£
Great Britain ...	613	5,013
France	41,701	252,372
Holland... ..	1,905	9,979
Denmark	1,250	8,000
Other countries	7	30
Total ...	45,476	275,394

33. The only other item under exports showing an increase is hides. During the year 4,308 hides, of the value of £1,014, were exported, as compared with 2,215, of the value of £520, in 1902, which was an increase on the previous year. In this connection it may be mentioned that previous to the years 1892 and 1893, when nearly all the cattle in the country died, large quantities of hides were annually exported from the Colony. The trade for several years past has been gradually reviving.

34. There was a decrease in the export of rubber to the amount of £2,694. This may be attributed to the tappers having to go farther afield to collect it, and to their taking it to the nearer French port of Cassamance.

35. There were other slight decreases in palm kernels and bees' wax.

36. The following return shows the principal articles of export for the years 1902 and 1903 :—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
Ground nuts	Tons. 31,612	Tons. 45,477	£ 193,485	£ 275,394	£ 81,909	£ —
Rubber ...	Lbs. 65,283	Lbs. 19,551	4,238	1,544	—	2,694
Palm kernels	Tons. 137	Tons. 109	945	793	—	152
Wax	Lbs. 43,544	Lbs. 38,640	1,843	1,589	—	254
Hides	2,215	4,308	520	1,014	494	—

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1901.

who go round daily, making house to house collections of refuse and rubbish which are carted outside the town, and burnt. Many of the streets and drains are in a far from perfect condition. The matter, however, is receiving attention, and, so soon as a scheme of drainage has been formulated and sanctioned, it is hoped that there will be a marked improvement in this direction.

60. During the year, Dr. Everett Dutton, from the Liverpool Tropical School, arrived in the Colony with a view to making a survey of the town and discovering the breeding places of the mosquitoes. Although he arrived rather too late in the season to find the mosquitoes in perfection, innumerable larvæ (*anopheles* and *culex*) were discovered in the many old boats and canoes lying along the beach in front of the main street, also in the shallow uncemented brick drains and in the ordinary grass-grown ditches or drains which are still found in the town. Perhaps one of the worst of the latter begins in Government House grounds, and runs along at the back of the hospital into some low-lying land. Collections of old pots, pans, etc., were also found to be favourable breeding places of the *anopheles*, and, in this respect, the compounds of the European and native merchants were by far the worst; but, on the matter being represented to them, they readily assisted the Board of Health in getting rid of all rubbish which, in its turn, was used for filling up some of the drains pointed out by Dr. Dutton as a source of danger. In this way, about 250 cart-loads of rubbish were utilised. The compounds of the poorer class natives were on the whole clean and tidy.

D.—CLIMATE.

61. The climate of the Gambia differs in many respects from that of the other West African colonies. For eight consecutive months in the year, viz., from November to May, inclusive, practically no rain falls. During these months the weather is often pleasantly cool, the thermometer sometimes registering as low as 57 degrees at 7 a.m. The variations in temperature are somewhat trying, however, often ranging from 30 to 40 degrees between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

62. The rainfall for the year was 45·31 inches, which was about 5 inches below the average.

63. The average maximum temperature in the shade was 94·5 degrees, the average minimum being 63·10 degrees.

64. No record is kept of the direction and force of the wind.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES. GAMBIA,
1901.

65. There is a fortnightly service of mail steamers to and from England, which also carry mails to and from other places on the leeward coast. There is an inland weekly postal service, for which mails are made up for McCarthy Island and intermediate stations, the former being 150 miles from Bathurst. These mails are carried by the Government steamer "Mansah Kilah," or "King's Messenger."

TELEGRAPHS.

66. No inland telegraph service exists in the Colony. There is direct telegraphic communication with Europe *via* St. Vincent, and also with the other West African colonies.

TELEPHONES.

67. During the year telephones have been introduced into Bathurst on a small scale—Government House, the Colonial Secretary's office, and the Treasury being placed in communication. The distance covered is about one mile. It is proposed to extend the system to other Government offices at an early date.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

68. During the year a detachment of the 3rd West India Regiment was stationed at Bathurst, but in view of its early withdrawal to Sierra Leone it was decided to raise a Gambia company of the West African Frontier Force. With this object in view, three European officers of the Imperial Forces, accompanied by two non-commissioned officers and a medical officer, arrived in the Colony in December and commenced the work of recruiting. The necessary number of men was easily obtained, and, notwithstanding the short time they have been under drill, already show promise of becoming a smart, soldier-like force. The force is composed of 120 men, 40 taken from tribes in the Gambia, and 80 men taken from the tribes around Sierra Leone.

69. The expenditure incurred on account of the force during the year amounted to £1,064.

SEMI-MILITARY FORCE.

70. The Police Force, which is a semi-military force, has already been referred to in paragraph 48 of this Report

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1901.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

71. The most important event that occurred during the year was the arrival of the Expeditionary Force in January to punish the towns implicated in the murder of the two Travelling Commissioners and six constables in the previous year, and to stamp out the spirit of rebellion which had spread throughout the Protectorate consequent on the people immediately connected with the murders being allowed to go unpunished for so long, the ringleaders declaring that the country had been given back to them and that native rule would replace English law. The expedition was most successful in its object. Three of the men actually guilty of the murders were captured, and after a careful trial paid the full penalty of the law, and five of the leaders in the movement of opposition to the Government were deported to Sierra Leone. The Force marched throughout the length and breadth of the Protectorate without the least opposition except at Dumbutu, which was the first rebel town visited and destroyed.

72. The presence of so large a body of men has had a most wholesome effect, the Protectorate resuming its normal peaceful condition in a very short time. When now spoken to on the subject the chiefs smile, and ask themselves how they and their people could ever have been so foolish as to take up the stand they did against the Government.

73. Another event of much importance was the agreement signed in June last by King Moussa Molloh and Sir George Denton, in which the former agreed (1) that that portion of his kingdom lying within the British sphere of influence should form part of the Protectorate of the Gambia, (2) that a British officer should be placed in charge thereof, (3) that no buying, selling, nor trafficking in slaves should be permitted, (4) to discontinue and put a stop to all practices and punishments repugnant to the laws of humanity and civilization, and (5) to authorise the Governor to impose and collect a hut tax in that part of the Protectorate. In consideration of these conditions, the Government agreed to pay Moussa Molloh the sum of £500 per annum. The event is important as completing the boundary of the Protectorate as well as from the fact that hitherto it had been considered that such an agreement could not be brought about during Moussa Molloh's lifetime.

74. The work of filling up the Half Die swamp was continued during the year. No other public works of importance were undertaken, the whole attention of the Colonial Engineer's department being given to the present Government buildings which were in a very bad state of repair.

75. His Excellency Sir George Denton, K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor of Lagos, who had been appointed in October, 1900,

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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1901.

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.

GAMBIA,
1901.Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia,

APPENDIX.

10th February, 1902.

(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 Wheatercroft. 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 Jimbèrmang; 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 Jimbèrmang, 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 Alcaide, 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 Mahommedan 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 by 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 Mahommedanism 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 (*pteroeles 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.
