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No. 936.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 896.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1917.



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No. 936.

GAMBIA.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 890.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Bathurst, Gambia.

31st August, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony and Protectorate of the Gambia for the year 1916, together with a Report upon it by the Acting-Colonial Secretary, Mr. E. St. J. Jackson.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD J. CAMERON.

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Bathurst, Gambia,

29th August, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1916, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

E. ST. J. JACKSON

Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency
Sir Edward J. Cameron, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
The Gambia.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1916.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. *Revenue.*—The total revenue collected in 1916 amounted to £103,075, and exceeded that for 1915 by £10,822. Only in one previous year, 1913, has this total been surpassed.

The principal heads under which the revenue falls are :—

	£
(1) Customs duties	75,417
(2) Licences, &c.,	2,095
(3) Fees of Court, &c.,	4,118
(4) Rent of Government property, excluding rent of land in the Protectorate	577
(5) Interest on Investments	3,593
(6) Protectorate	12,178

It will be seen that the Customs revenue provided nearly three-quarters of the total revenue for the year.

The amount received from this source exceeded that collected in 1915 by £9,824, so that the difference between the total revenue for the last two years is to be accounted for chiefly in this way.

It is to be remarked that the increase in Customs revenue was obtained notwithstanding that the export duty on groundnuts, which is the only export duty payable and was expected to produce nearly one-third of the total Customs Revenue, fell below the estimate by nearly £9,000, and below the amount received in 1915 by £17,000.

This difference is due to the fact that the total quantity of nuts exported in 1916, which included the whole crop, was less than half the export of the previous year, in which the crop was the largest recorded.

The only other source from which the revenue fell below that of the previous year to any important extent was the sixth of the principal sources mentioned above, the Protectorate. The decrease of £2,375 under this head is intimately connected with the size of the groundnut crop, since it is to be attributed entirely to the smaller number of immigrant planters who came over the borders from French territory to plant nuts in the Protectorate during the year, and to the consequent decrease in the taxes paid by them or by their landlords on their account.

There was also a slight decline in receipts from Port Dues, £343, as fewer ships were required than in the previous year to export the smaller groundnut crop.

The decrease of £19,778 under these three heads, Export, Protectorate, and Port Dues, is outweighed by an increase of £26,806 in the amount of import duties, and by smaller gains from each of the principal sources of revenue, making up the total excess over the revenue for 1915 of £10,822.

The increase of import duties was derived chiefly from goods upon which an ad valorem duty is paid. The figures for 1915 and 1916 were respectively £6,273 and £19,290, representing an increase of £13,017. This gain is due partly to the general rise of prices consequent

upon the War, and partly to the provisions of the Customs Tariff (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1915, which came into operation on the last day of that year and raised the *ad valorem* duty from 5 per cent. to 7½ per cent. on all goods, with the exception of foodstuffs, jewellery, and perfumery, which had previously paid duty on that basis. On foodstuffs the duty remains at 5 per cent. and on jewellery and perfumery it was raised to 10 per cent.

Other articles which contributed to an important extent to the general rise of the revenue from Import duties were kola nuts, on which £18,010 was paid in 1916, and £12,219 in 1915, tobacco, on which £9,829 was paid in 1916, and £5,982 in the previous year, and spirits, on which £5,826 was paid, as compared with £3,806 in 1915.

The duty on tobacco was raised by 50 per cent. by the Ordinance mentioned above, but the duty on kola nuts and spirits was left unchanged.

2. *Expenditure.*—The expenditure for the year was £83,217, being less than the revenue by £19,857, less than the estimated expenditure by £2,179, and about £6,000 less than the expenditure for the previous year.

A sum of £8,900 was expended upon the Gambia Company, West African Frontier Force, being an excess of about £2,000 above the estimated expenditure based on peace requirements. This increase in outlay was caused by the employment of the Company on Active Service with the Cameroons Expeditionary Force, and will in part be repaid to the Colony from Imperial Funds.

The principal savings resulted from the unavoidable postponement of certain public works of an estimated cost of £1,854, from vacancies in staff, and from the delay caused by the War in the supply of materials ordered in the United Kingdom.

In general the expenditure for the year followed the normal lines and calls for no special explanation.

3. *Financial position.*—The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 31st December, 1915, was £105,959, and on the 31st December, 1916, £125,816, the increase of £19,857 being the surplus revenue for the year. There is no public debt.

The following is a comparative statement of the total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years.—

				Revenue.	Expenditure.
				£	£
1912	..	..	..	96,221	81,340
1913	..	..	..	124,990	95,209
1914	..	..	..	86,071	120,921
1915	..	..	..	92,253	89,028
1916	..	..	..	103,075	83,217

4. *Currency.*—The currency of the Colony consists of British coins, West African silver coin, and certain foreign coins of which the French five franc piece is the only one of importance.

British gold is never found in circulation, and was not even before the war. The little that passes out of European hands is used by natives for ornaments in its ordinary form or made by native goldsmiths into articles of various kind. The French five franc piece is legal tender in the Colony and Protectorate at 3s. 10½*d.*, but is current

in trade at 4s. It is very largely used in native trade because of the facility of exchange with the inhabitants of adjoining French territory, and because a considerable proportion of the planters of the ground-nut crop come annually from across the French border, returning to their homes when their nuts have been sold.

The status of the coin was first legalised by an Order of the Queen's Council dated 10th June, 1843, and its use has become so established by custom that probably from 50 to 70 per cent. of payments in trade with natives of the Protectorate is made in the five franc piece.

II. TRADE AND AGRICULTURE.

1. *General Trade.* The total value of the Colony's trade in 1916, both import and export, but excluding specie, was £1,021,640, an increase of £288,533 as compared with the previous year. The increase in volume was, however, less than the increase in value, as the cost price of goods had risen considerably since 1915.

2. *Imports.*—The total value of imports was £884,554, including specie to the value of £405,749 and goods for the use of the Colonial Government of the value of £6,137. Thus the total value of goods imported for the purpose of trade was £472,668, an increase of £180,574, as compared with the figures for 1915.

The total value of exports, excluding specie, was £542,843.

With the exception of rice, the import of all the principal articles was greater, both in value and in quantity, than in 1915. In particular, Cotton piece-goods showed an increase in value of £84,452; Cotton hosiery, £4,000; Hardware, £7,000; Provisions, £6,000; Sugar, £8,000; kola nuts, £15,000; Spirits, £3,745; and Tobacco, £1,580.

The increase in quantity, however, in the case of every article, except kola nuts, cannot be measured by the increase in value, in consequence of the advance of prices since the previous year.

The quantity of kola nuts imported is the highest recorded, but the value has been exceeded.

The import of spirits has decreased considerably since the outbreak of war, falling from 114,471 gallons in 1913 to 25,893 gallons in the year under review. The greater part of this import consisted formerly of trade gin from Holland and the decrease is to be attributed to the restriction of communication with that country (see Appendix I).

The import of rice fell from 2,163 tons in 1915 to 1,065 tons in 1916, following the rapid course of decline which has been evident since the outbreak of war. The natives of the Protectorate, in order to guard against a shortage of imported foodstuffs, have grown far larger crops, and rely on imported rice very much less than in former years.

The sources from which the principal articles of import came, remained generally the same as last year, with a slight increase in the proportion derived from the United Kingdom and from France and a slight decrease in that which came from British Colonies. The United Kingdom continues to benefit by the exclusion of Germany, its imports being 54 per cent. as against 41 per cent. in 1914—Germany's share being *nil.* as compared with 12 per cent.

3. *Specie.*—The total value of specie imported was £405,947, of which £180,430 consisted of British coins and £225,319 of French five franc pieces.

The export of specie during the year amounted to £162,704, being composed of British coins to the value of £94,030, and French five franc pieces to the value of £68,674. The value of the coins taken over the French border cannot be calculated.

4. *Exports.* The principal exports during the year were 46,366 tons of groundnuts, valued at £500,098; 669 tons of palm kernels, valued at £14,671, and 26,496 hides, valued at £10,019.

It has already been mentioned that ground-nuts are the only article upon which an export duty is imposed.

The quantity shipped was less than half the export of the previous year, but, in consequence of higher prices, the value was greater by £105,663. The change, also, which has been apparent in the direction of this trade since the beginning of the War continued in 1916, with the result that, for the first time in the last fifty years, the United Kingdom received a larger portion of the crop than was shipped to France. The export to the United Kingdom amounted to 22,374 tons, and to France 19,313 tons. In 1913, out of a total crop of 67,404 tons, the corresponding figures were 984 tons to the United Kingdom and 42,420 tons to France.

The price obtained by native planters was more than double that paid in 1915, in which the average local value of a ton was £4 3s. 0d. In 1914 it was £10, and at no other time in the last ten years has it been less than £6 5s. 0d. In 1916 it was £10. 18s. 0d. It is probable that planters were discouraged by the fall in price in 1915 and by the prospect of a shortage of imported foodstuffs, and increased the local crops of foodstuffs, rice, corn, and millet, at the expense of the groundnut. Indeed in 1916 corn appeared among exports to the value of £1,412.

The same circumstances no doubt contributed to diminish the influx of the itinerant planters from adjoining French territory to whom allusion has already been made, and by whose numbers the size of the groundnut crop is considerably influenced. In 1915 the number of these men was 32,220, but fell in 1916 to 9,315. They are attracted by the higher prices which the cheapness of river transport enables buyers to pay in this Protectorate than in adjoining portions of the interior, where they are obliged to rely on carriage by other means, and this advantage has recently been increased by the imposition in Senegal of a higher export duty on groundnuts than is collected in this Colony.

When it is considered that the number of persons employed in agriculture in the Protectorate is estimated, according to the Census of 1911, to be about 56,000, it is evident that the addition of the labour of a number of itinerant planters, averaging 12,500 in the last five years, must have a considerable influence on the size of the crop.

Hides. There was a decrease, as compared with the previous year, both in the number of hides exported and in their value. The lower value was probably responsible for the decrease in the quantity shipped.

There are very large herds of cattle in most parts of the Protectorate, but their owners show a strange reluctance to turn them to commercial use or even to count them.

Their milk is used and butter is made from it, and a few are killed for meat at the trading centres. But in general they are the accompaniment of wealth rather than its source, and the evidence of their owners' importance. They pass as marriage portions and as the price of wives and descend in families as heir-looms.

Palm Kernels.—In 1916 the export of palm kernels was the largest recorded both in value and quantity, and was rather more than double that of the previous year. The increase is partly due to the higher price that was offered, and partly to the larger influx from neighbouring territory of the particular tribe, Jolas, by whom this industry is principally carried on. In 1916 the local value of a ton of palm kernels was £21 18s. 0d., and £16 14s. 0d. in the previous year.

Ivory and Rubber.—The long continued decline of the export of ivory and rubber has reached the point at which the trade in these articles ceases to be of importance. The value of ivory shipped in 1916 was £40, and of rubber £23.

Direction of Exports.—The chief change in the direction of the export trade has already been mentioned with reference to groundnuts. The United Kingdom took 53 per cent., as against 39 per cent. in the previous year, and France 35 per cent., as compared with 47 per cent.

In consequence of the character and composition of the export trade, its direction was not appreciably affected up to the end of 1916 by the restrictions which it had become necessary to impose for reasons connected with the war.

The following table shows the total value of Imports and Exports during the last five years, excluding specie.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1912	471,630	538,593
1913	619,294	662,406
1914	388,339	693,658
1915	302,495	430,617
1916	478,805	542,843

5. *Shipping.*—Though the number of steam ships entered in 1916 was less by 55, and the tonnage less by 130,693 tons than in 1915, as much tonnage was available as was required for the export of the smaller groundnut crop. The proportion of foreign as compared with British ships was slightly higher than in the previous year, in consequence of the increased demands made on British shipping by the war. The number of sailing vessels entered was 93, with a total tonnage of 3,670, as compared with 54, with a tonnage of 2,049, in 1915.

6. *Land Grants.*—Grants of land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants and Dispositions) Ordinance, No. 5 of 1902. In general no Crown grants are made either in the Colony or Protectorate for a longer term than 21 years.

The value of land in Bathurst with access to the river front in the business quarter of the town is very high, and is rising. Probably at the present time it is not less than £5 per square foot in the best situations. All land in the town suitable for business purposes is already in occupation and could only be acquired by negotiation with its present owners.

Grants of land for periods not exceeding 21 years are made at the trading centres in the Protectorate where groundnuts are collected for export. The area granted is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards, and the rent varies between £4 to £1 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The growth of these centres has been remarkable in recent years, and is indicated by the rise in the rent received by the Government from this source from £501 in 1912 to £1,175 in 1916.

Agriculture.

7. The groundnut crop continues to be the outstanding agricultural product of the Colony and the source of its prosperity. The nuts are planted in June and July, at the beginning of the rainy season, gathered in November, and exported during the succeeding six or eight months. The size of the crop shipped in 1916 has already been the subject of comment, as well as certain circumstances which have a constantly recurring effect upon the cultivation of this product.

In other respects the crop was unaffected by any exceptional incident. Unless the native planters are unable to dispose of the whole of the crop, they never retain any portion of it as seed for the following season, and in order to provide them with nuts to sow, and at the same time to maintain the quality of the harvest by a change of seed, the Government has for a number of years been accustomed to purchase a certain quantity of the best of the most recent crop and to distribute it on credit to planters in the various districts who pay for it through their chiefs when the next harvest has been sold.

The increase in the cultivation of local foodstuffs since the outbreak of the War has already been mentioned. The chief product consists of several varieties of corn, planted, like all crops, at the beginning of the rainy season and gathered towards the end of the year. In certain districts where the swampy nature of the ground admits, considerable areas are sown with rice, the arduous process of the cultivation of this grain being carried on entirely by women.

A form of industry which had been in abeyance for a number of years made its reappearance in 1915, when the cutting and the preparation of piassava was begun by a British firm, but operations had not advanced sufficiently by the end of 1916 to enable an export to be made. The plant is found in abundance along the river banks in one district for a distance of about thirty miles.

Palm kernels are gathered chiefly in the province of Kombo and Foni by natives of the Jolah tribe. But a very large majority of natives are engaged in the cultivation of groundnuts, and the collection of palm kernels appears to attract comparatively few, notwithstanding the difference in value, weight for weight, of the two products. It has already been remarked that in 1916 the price of a ton of palm kernels was £21 18s. 0d. and of groundnuts, £10 18s. 0d.

III.—LEGISLATION.

41 Ordinances were passed during the year. Of these, 18 were enacted with the object of preparing for the publication of a revised edition of the laws of the Colony by amending existing Ordinances which in certain details were unsuitable or out of date.

There were seven important consolidating Ordinances dealing with the following subjects :—

- (1) The Gambia Company, W.A.F.F.
- (2) Customs.
- (3) Navigation and Pilotage.
- (4) The Police Force.
- (5) The Bathurst Police Court.
- (6) Firearms, Ammunition, and Gunpowder.
- (7) Trade Marks.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are eight Elementary schools in the Colony, six in Bathurst and two at MacCarthy Island. Of these one is owned and managed by the Anglican Mission, three by the Roman Catholic Mission, three by the Wesleyan Mission, and one by the Mohammedan community in Bathurst.

The number of pupils at the Anglican School, in 1916, was 243 ; at the three Roman Catholic Schools, 509 ; at the three Wesleyan Schools, 641 ; and at the Mohammedan School, 124.

There are no Government Schools.

One of the Roman Catholic Schools, the Convent school, is for girls only, and another school for boys only. The other schools are attended by boys and girls together. Attendance is voluntary.

All these Elementary schools, with the exception of the Mohammedan school, are affiliated under the Education Ordinance, No. 14, of 1903, and receive aid from the funds of the Colony in accordance with rules made under that Ordinance. This aid takes the form of contributions towards the salaries of European Superintendents, grants based on the average attendance and on the results of an annual examination conducted by the Government Inspector of Schools, and prizes for success in this examination.

An examination of native teachers is also held by the Inspector, in accordance with the rules above mentioned, and Certificates are given, as well as small monetary awards.

The curriculum of the schools is prescribed by the owners, but, as a considerable part of their income is derived from grants based on the results of the annual Government examination, the subjects taught are in fact chiefly determined by the rules above mentioned under which this examination is held.

In addition to Government grants the income of the schools is derived from school fees, which may not exceed 6*d.* per week for each pupil, and from contributions by the owners.

The total expenditure of the affiliated schools in 1916 was £1,362, and of this £1,003 was contributed by the Government.

The Mohammedan school was attended in 1916 by 124 pupils. This school presents candidates for the same annual examination as the other schools, but the financial aid which it receives from the Government is not determined by the results of this examination. The salaries of the teachers are paid by the Government, prizes are given, and a sum is voted annually in the Estimates for the upkeep of the buildings and furniture of the school.

In 1916 the vote for the payment of salaries and prizes was £240, and for the upkeep and buildings and furniture £25. The rest of the revenue of the school consists of school fees, amounting in 1916 to £5 3s. 9d., and an annual contribution of £20 from the Mohammedan community.

In addition to the English subjects offered by candidates from this school at the annual general examination, pupils are instructed in Arabic and in the Koran, and are examined annually by the Cadi of the Mohammedan Court.

A Technical and Industrial School is maintained by the Wesleyan Mission and instruction is given by a European Instructor in such subjects as carpentry, masonry, joinery, and blacksmiths' work. There were 15 pupils in 1916. The school receives Government aid in the form of an annual contribution, formerly £300, but now £350, towards the salary of the European Instructor, and prizes given according to the results of an annual examination held by an examiner whom the Government appoints.

The school also derives a considerable revenue from payment for work done for members of the public. In 1916 this sum amounted to £747, the highest in the history of the school.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society also maintains the only Secondary school in the Colony which is managed by the Society independently of Government aid or control, and derives its revenue entirely from contributions from members of the Wesleyan community and from school fees. In 1916 there were 28 pupils at this school, and its expenditure was £145.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

I. HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

(1) The Colonial Hospital, Bathurst.—The total number of persons admitted to the Hospital during 1916 was 494, and the daily average number of patients 14. There were 50 deaths.

Out-patients were attended 7,564 times, and 59 operations were performed.

No structural alterations were made in the hospital during the year, and the number of Medical Officers and of European Nursing Sisters at work in the Colony was continuously less than normal, in consequence of the absence of Members of the Staff on active service at one or other of the seats of war.

(2). At the Infectious Diseases Hospital, situated about two miles out of Bathurst, there were five inmates, two of whom suffered from small-pox and three from chicken-pox. There were no deaths.

(3) At the Home for Destitutes in Bathurst, 6 inmates remained at the end of 1915, 20 were admitted in 1916, 10 were discharged and 7 died, leaving 9 at the end of the year.

Both this institution and the Infectious Diseases Hospital are served by permanent native officials and attended by the Government Medical Officers.

(4) At the MacCarthy Island Hospital, 40 persons were admitted during the year, and out-patients were attended on 1,120 occasions. There were 2 deaths.

This hospital is in charge of a native Dispenser sent from Bathurst and relieved from time to time. Visits are paid to the hospital by a Medical Officer whenever possible.

(5) These four institutions were maintained during the year, with the whole of the Medical Staff, at a total cost of £8,624.

2. GOVERNMENT SAVING BANK.

A Government Savings Bank is managed by the Treasury both at Bathurst and at MacCarthy Island, but the latter branch was temporarily closed in May, 1916, and was not re-opened during the year. Interest on deposits is paid at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The number of depositors at the end of the year was 630, and the total amount deposited £5,207, the smallest credit in the last five years.

3. MACCARTHY SQUARE BOARD.

A Board consisting of four ex-officio members and four unofficial members appointed for one year by the Governor, was created by the MacCarthy Square Ordinance of 1905, for the control of the public recreation ground known as MacCarthy Square.

The salaries of the employees of the Board were paid by the Government as well as some of its expenses, amounting in all to £106.

VI.—JUDICIAL AND CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

1. SUPREME COURT.

There were thirty-nine persons prosecuted in the Supreme Court, some of them being charged with several distinct offences. Forty-one convictions for separate offences were recorded, 11 of which were for larceny and sheep stealing, 23 for other offences against property, 2 for murder, 2 for manslaughter, 2 for other offences against the person, and one for an offence classed as Miscellaneous.

The number of persons tried is abnormally high, the rise being due to the detection and punishment of several gangs of thieves of unusual activity. In the case of one of the prisoners convicted of murder, the death sentence was carried out, and in the case of the other, it was commuted to one of imprisonment with hard labour for ten years.

2. BATHURST POLICE COURT.

The number of summary convictions was 448, a decrease of 126 below the total in 1915. Of these about 50 per cent. were for offences against laws dealing with sanitation, particularly those aimed at the extermination of mosquitoes. But a decrease of about 45 per cent. in this Class of offence since 1915 shows the growing appreciation by the inhabitants of the town of the importance of sanitary measures.

3. PROTECTORATE COURTS (NATIVE TRIBUNALS).

The number of cases which came before the five summary Courts in the Protectorate was 451, an increase of 115 over the number in the previous year. Seduction, disobedience of the orders of chiefs,

and offences against the person, though not of a serious kind, are the most prevalent cases. There is a remarkable absence of grave crime both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

4. PRISONS.

30 prisoners remained in the gaol at the beginning of 1915, and 180 were admitted during the year. At the end of 1916, 50 remained. The daily average was 46·23. The number of admissions was greater by 25 than in 1915, and the daily average by 12·43. The increase was entirely due to the successful prosecution of certain gangs of thieves of whom mention has already been made.

The health of the prisoners was good. Sentence of death was carried out in one case, and one death occurred from natural causes.

Prison labour was employed on public works and on works within the prison of an estimated value of £405. The total cost of the maintenance of the prison, without deducting the estimated value of prison labour, was £1,429. The larger number of prisoners and the rise in the price of food made the cost higher than usual.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS.

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

No figures or reliable estimates are available with regard to the total native population since the Census of 1911. In that year the total population of Bathurst was given as 7,700 and that of the Protectorate as 138,401.

Nor is any accurate information obtainable in regard to births and deaths in the Protectorate. In the few areas outside the Island of St. Mary, to which a system of registration has been applied, it has not been found to be productive of any useful result, and in 1916 an Ordinance was passed, No. 9 of that year, with the object of confining the compulsory system to places sufficiently advanced to follow it. It is therefore only possible to comment with any degree of accuracy upon the population of Bathurst itself.

The total number of European residents was 147, of whom 133 were males and 14 females. There were no deaths among Europeans and no births. Five were invalided, three being officials and two non-officials.

The native population of Bathurst was estimated to be 7,700, or about 230 above the native population in 1911. The number of births was 314, exceeding the number of deaths, 272, by 42. The birth-rate was 40·7 per 1,000, and the death-rate, 25·3.

Infantile mortality did not drop appreciably below the high figure at which it normally stands. Out of a total number of 314 births there were 22 still births and 74 deaths of infants of less than one year in age.

Thirty-one Christian marriages were solemnised in Bathurst and at MacCarthy Island.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH.

Malarial fever was the most prevalent disease. 83 of 494 cases treated in the hospital in Bathurst were cases of this illness, and out of 7,564 occasions on which out-patients were attended, malarial fever was treated 978 times. These figures are about the same as those for 1915. Yellow fever was diagnosed in the case of one native and proved fatal. One European official contracted blackwater fever, but made a satisfactory recovery. There was a small outbreak of small-pox at McCarthy Island of 15 cases, 4 of which were fatal. Two cases were notified in Bathurst.

Five patients were treated in Bathurst for trypanosomiasis of whom two died. No deaths from this cause were reported from the Protectorate, and of the few chronic cases known to exist there, some appear to have recovered.

Pneumonia, a common disease in the Colony at certain seasons, was less prevalent than in the previous year and generally the health of the population was good. The sanitation of Bathurst is in the care of the Board of Health, a body consisting of four ex-officio members, and not more than six others nominated by the Governor.

A sum of £3,736 was spent by the Board in 1916 on its work and on the emoluments of its staff.

Great improvement has been made in the sanitation of the town by the destruction of the breeding places of mosquitoes by the use of oil, the cleaning of bush, filling in low-lying areas, and stocking wells, drains, and permanent collections of water with larvae-eating fish. This improvement is indicated by a comparison of the number of specimens of mosquito larvae found in the town in 1916, namely 265, with the number found in previous years. In 1915, 622 specimens were found, in 1914, 1,036 and in 1913, 957. The comparative rarity of mosquitoes in Bathurst has led to the conclusion that by far the greater number of cases of malaria found in the town are imported from the Protectorate.

3. METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS.

There are two Meteorological Stations in the Colony, one in Bathurst, and one at MacCarthy Island, distant from Bathurst about 150 miles. Rain fell in Bathurst on 53 days between the 28th June and the 19th October and on one day in February.

The total rainfall for the year was 38.02 inches, being 9.62 inches less than the rainfall in 1915.

The highest recorded temperature was 98 degrees on the 15th April, and the lowest 56 degrees on the 15th December.

The highest mean temperature in any month was reached in October, being 87 degrees, and the lowest in December, being 59.5 degrees.

At MacCarthy Island rain fell between the 2nd June and the 5th October, the total being 37.75 inches, or 8 inches greater than in 1915. The highest recorded temperature was 114 degrees in May, and the lowest 55 degrees in January. The highest mean temperature was 91 degrees in May, and the lowest 76.5 degrees in January.

VIII.—POSTAL, CABLE, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL SERVICE.

The usual mail service between the Colony and the United Kingdom is by Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's steamers at intervals of about two weeks in normal times. Towards this service the Colony pays an annual contribution of £95. War conditions have very considerably increased the intervals between mails and have made regularity impossible. During periods of the year when the export of groundnuts is in progress, communication with Dakar is frequent, and from thence both to France and to the United Kingdom by the groundnut steamers, as well as by a number of others which do not call at this Colony.

There are two Post Offices in the Colony, one in Bathurst and one at MacCarthy Island, 150 miles up the river, for the distribution of mails in the Protectorate. The latter office was temporarily closed during the last half of 1916.

The total revenue of the Post Office in the year under review was £1,048, being £166 above that of the previous year.

The Parcel Post business, and, in connection with it, the Money and Postal Order business, increased considerably both in volume and value, chiefly by the increasing use of the Cash-on-Delivery system. The number of parcels handled was greater by 1,816 than in the previous year and the increase in the value of the Money and Postal Order business was £1,974.

CABLE SERVICE.

There was no change during the year in the cable service, which is maintained by the African Direct Telegraph Company, Limited, in conjunction with the West African Telegraph Company, Limited.

There is no inland telegraph.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The Government maintains a telephone service between Government Offices and certain outlying stations, but the system has not yet been extended for public use.

IX. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The various activities of the Colony progressed satisfactorily during the year and the uncertainty which was felt in the early days of the War as to the prospects of trade has gradually disappeared.

The supply of foodstuffs from outside the Colony was maintained, and, though the cost rose considerably, it had not become necessary by the end of the year to institute Government control of prices or to find new sources of supply. The necessity for both these measures has arisen since the close of 1916.

The most important public work carried out in the Colony in recent times, the pipe-borne water supply for Bathurst, was practically completed during the year and an intermittent supply was given. By this means water is brought to the town through a distance of

about 17 miles of pipe, replacing the supply which the public have drawn in the past from wells. The water from these was often brackish and they formed a prolific breeding place for mosquitoes. The total cost of the new system was about £41,000. A water rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the rateable value of premises in the town has been imposed but has not yet been collected.

The town has also been greatly improved by the entire re-alignment of streets, the removal of all encroachments under special legislative powers and the adjustment to their proper limits of the street fronts of privately-owned premises.

The population continued to exhibit their loyalty and interest in the War by generous contribution to all war funds which were brought to their notice, notwithstanding that the increased cost of living left the majority with little to spare. The total sum contributed by the Colony to such funds up to the end of 1916 was £12,868.

E. St. J. JACKSON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Bathurst, Gambia.

29th August, 1917.

APPENDIX I.

Comparative Statement showing total quantity imported, and value and revenue collected on Spirits during the Years 1912-1916.

Year.	Quan- tity in gallons.	Re- duced to 100° Tralles	De- clared value.	Re- venue de- rived from duties.	Rate of duty chargeable.	Remarks.
			£	£		
1912	72,158	—	10,960	11,887	From 24th April, 1908, 4s. 2d. the imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits except perfumes of or under standard strength. Of greater strength 1d. per degree. Provided in the case of spirits other than whisky and brandy under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1d. for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 30 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 1.44 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1913	114,279	—	17,064	18,131	As above	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 1.56 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1914	26,780	11,471	4,991	4,823	As above	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0.72 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1915	16,547	7,443	4,104	3,814	From 1st August, 1915, 5s. 6d. per imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits except perfumes of or under standard strength; of strength greater than standard strength for every degree or part thereof an additional 1½d. Provided that in the case of spirits other than brandy or whisky under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1d. for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 26 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0.79 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.
1916	25,893	9,788	7,849	5,833	From 1st January, 1916, 5s. 6d. per imperial gallon or part thereof upon spirits other than perfumes, non-potable spirits and drugs and medicine containing spirits of or under standard strength; of strength greater than standard strength for each degree or part of a degree above standard strength an additional 1½d. Provided that in the case of spirits other than brandy and whisky under standard strength an abatement shall be allowed at the rate of 1d. for every degree of strength below 50 degrees down to a minimum of 26 degrees, after which no further abatement shall be allowed.	Value of spirits Imports amounted to 0.89 per cent. of whole inward trade including specie.

GAMBIA, 1916.

APPENDIX II.

WORK CONDUCTED BY THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR
1916 FOR THE COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

Economic Investigations.

No samples of economic products from the Gambia were received for investigation at the Imperial Institute in 1916.

Economic Enquiries.

Several enquiries relating to products derived from, or imported into the Gambia, were dealt with by the Technical Information Bureau during the year.

The British representatives of a native trader in the Colony, who was stated to be able to supply large quantities of groundnuts, were placed in communication with firms in England who are now crushing the nuts. The names of makers of machinery for the preparation of palm oil were supplied to an enquirer in the Colony. Other subjects relating to the Gambia regarding which information was furnished, included timber and forest products, oilseeds, rice, and cotton goods.

General information relating to the conditions in the Colony and to its trade was also given to enquirers.

Publications.

The following articles dealing with products of the Gambia, or relating to subjects of special interest to the Colony, were published in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute" for 1916 (Vol. XIV):—

“Feeding value of palm kernel cake and meal.”

“Some present needs of the British Rubber Industry.”

Gambia Court.

Gambia is represented in the Public Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute by a Court containing exhibits illustrating the resources and industries of the country.

The wall case has been re-arranged, and new labels added.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :

A N N U A L.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
903	Cyprus	1915-1916
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915-1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915-1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915-1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915-1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915-1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Waihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915-1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	"
933	St. Helena	"
934	Ceylon	1916
935	Malta	1916-1917

M I S C E L L A N E O U S.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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