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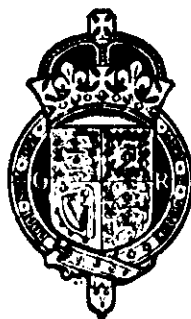
No. 1715

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of

THE GAMBIA, 1934

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{ Continued on page 3 of cover

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

| Chapter | | | | | PAGE. |
|---------|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| | I. History, Geography and Climate | ... | ... | ... | 1. |
| do. | II. Government | ... | ... | ... | 9. |
| do. | III. Population | ... | ... | ... | 12. |
| do. | IV. Health | ... | ... | ... | 14. |
| do. | V. Housing | ... | ... | ... | 15. |
| do. | VI. Production | ... | ... | ... | 16. |
| do. | VII. Commerce | ... | ... | ... | 18. |
| do. | VIII. Wages and Cost of Living | ... | ... | ... | 22. |
| do. | IX. Education and Welfare Institutions | ... | ... | ... | 24. |
| do. | X. Communications and Transport | ... | ... | ... | 26. |
| do. | XI. Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures | ... | ... | ... | 31. |
| do. | XII. Public Works | ... | ... | ... | 32. |
| do. | XIII. Justice and Police | ... | ... | ... | 36. |
| do. | XIV. Legislation | ... | ... | ... | 42. |
| do. | XV. Public Finance and Taxation | ... | ... | ... | 43. |
| do. | XVI. Land and Survey | ... | ... | ... | 45. |
| do. | XVII. Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | 47. |
| | Appendix I | ... | ... | ... | 48. |
| | Appendix II | ... | ... | ... | 49. |

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1934.

CHAPTER I. HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE.

History.

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded further up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of a fever, was buried; and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races, except for the facts that they styled themselves Portuguese, adopted European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Abrodo), Gerogia (see Portuguese "egreja") near Kausala in Foni, Biatang and Cankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Scauko near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Philip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia, and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants, the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barke, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals".

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618, and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbuctu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Nerico. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who also made his way up to the Nerico. Notwithstanding the fact that Jobson in his "The Golden Trade" gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia, the patentees, who had been involved by these trading ventures in considerable losses, did not further prosecute the exploration of the Gambia but confined their attentions to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barracunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime James, Duke of Courland, who was the nephew and godson of James I of England, had in about 1651 obtained from various native chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Cape St. Mary), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Cape St. Mary. During the next eight years a very flourishing trade was carried on between the Gambia and Courland. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company, whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the Duke should be in a position to resume possession thereof. In 1660 St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information, which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of

the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18, 1661, he sailed up to St Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1672 the Royal Adventurers sold their forts and factories to the Royal African Company, which was incorporated in that year by royal charter.

In 1678 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1686 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1856.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1703, and 1709, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1720 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort by stratagem and held it to a ransom of two thousand pounds. An even more serious

disaster occurred in the following year, when the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Major John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's ships themselves turned pirate. Finally in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed many years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed record of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's "Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa." Factories were established as far up the river as Fatta-cum and at other places, and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1719 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on a trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves—the consequence of which was, that they were obliged to sell in their out-factors on the continent, . . . By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort "was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight; and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an Act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1763 the fort and settlements in the Gambia were by another Act of Parliament taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next eighteen years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government headquarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Superintendent of Trade was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was therefore once more entrusted to the care of the African Company.

In 1787 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was purchased by the British government with a view to the establishment of a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operation of a number of individual trading settlements were established by these traders along the river bank. The most important of these was at Bissah (Banjul) in 1777 and in 1780, which was already in existence in 1770, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Ayscough. Some valuable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Ayscoughs to Major Houghton (1777), Mungo Park (1780) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1790 James Willis was appointed Consul-General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to that country to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Senegal and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed, but it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association, to make his way from Karamoja to the upper reaches of the Niger.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars the British returned possession of St. Louis and Goree, but it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that these places should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the very extensive traffic in slaves, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels in the River Gambia, the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Company was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On April 23, 1813, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the Island of Banjul to the British Government. The island was named St. Mary's Island and the settlement which was established there was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the Government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1853 when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In the following year the King of Kombo made a similar cession of territory on the south bank. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement

for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. Further cessions of other tracts of land near the mouth of the river and also further upstream were obtained in subsequent years. In 1856 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain who in exchange renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance, but these boundaries were not actually surveyed until 1905-06 when a Boundary Commission carried out the work.

In the meantime despite a number of petty wars the Gambia government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fulladu. In 1891 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts, which had not been ceded to but merely placed under the protection of the British government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of government. Consequently in 1895 and the following years ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902 the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

Geography.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly three hundred miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntou-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Maudiukos,

Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mohammedans except the last named tribe who are pagan, though the Mohammedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

Upper River Province, comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 42,523. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarakulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river-ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

MacCarthy Island Province consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianiya, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Niamina Dankunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square miles and the population 37,542. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolof and Mandinko.

South Bank Province includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 67,447. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

North Bank Province has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 28,000. The districts of the Province are Lower Niimi, Upper Niimi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominately Mandinko in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Fulas (Mohammedan Fulas) while the two Niimis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinka districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

Climate.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy though, with modern methods of sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.

Meteorological Statistics, 1954.
CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

| Month. | Mean Air Temperature. | Relative Humidity. | Rainfall (inches.) |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| January | 68.7 | 45 | — |
| February | 68.5 | 51 | — |
| March | 69.2 | 55 | — |
| April | 70.6 | 62 | — |
| May | 71.1 | 79 | — |
| June | 75.4 | 71 | 1.01 |
| July | 77.7 | 72 | 6.37 |
| August | 77.2 | 80 | 25.22 |
| September | 74.9 | 75 | 8.39 |
| October | 77.0 | 68 | 1.19 |
| November | 74.5 | 56 | — |
| December | 72.0 | 54 | — |
| | | | Total ... 42.21 inches. |

Other records of rainfall were —

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Bathurst | 44.91 inches. |
| McCullochy Island Province (Yoro Biri Kunda) | 51.03 " |
| Upper River Province (Wuli) | 49.97 " |

CHAPTER II. GOVERNMENT.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated) and also Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo all of which are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (*ex-officio* Member) and several other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (*ex-officio* Member), some official Members, including the Members of the Executive Council, and also several Unofficial Members.

Protectorate System.—This system was introduced in 1894 by an “Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected Territories of certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities and by Commissioners”, (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that “All native laws and customs in force in the Protected Territories which are not repugnant to natural justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance of the Colony which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have the same effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance”. The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms:—

“31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—

(a) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace, and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description,

(b) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate;

(c) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner’s Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder, robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences.”

The protection of persons executing Chiefs’ orders was provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads “Every person employed

“by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into effect any order lawfully made, shall have the like protection for that purpose as a “person authorized to execute Process of the Supreme Court.”

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933). The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail, are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu (Head Chiefs) and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu (Headmen) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than does the Protectorate Ordinance 1913 the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both criminal and civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules governing these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913. Other sections also reproduce the law existing under the Protectorate Ordinance 1913.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali) the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers, is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.

The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Seyfu one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Seyfu's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or commands most the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a chief. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner.

The former system of advances of seed groundnuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a Rule under which every cultivator of groundnuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seednuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, has worked very well and has resulted in an adequate supply of seed.

Ample supplies of home-grown food-stuffs are now being produced, and from the scheme there has resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities.

Local Government. In 1931 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health was constituted in place of the former Board of Health for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst.

The Council, of which the Colonial Secretary is Chairman, is composed of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst, of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst, and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

An election for Ward Representatives is held every December, and meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the members of this Council both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serve as a valuable link between Government and the public.

CHAPTER III. POPULATION.

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows:—

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Mandinko | 85,640 |
| Jolof | 25,864 |
| Fula | 22,273 |
| Jola | 19,410 |
| Sarambè | 12,343 |
| Tukulor | 11,653 |
| Bambara | 5,261 |
| Aka | 786 |
| Others | 3,947 |
| Total | 185,150 |

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only, as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows:—

| Year. | Births. | Birth Rate per 100. | Deaths. | Death Rate per 100. | Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered). |
|-----------|---------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|--|
| 1930 ... | 366 | 3·8 | 411 | 4·3 | 283 |
| 1931* ... | 422 | 2·9 | 369 | 2·5 | 227 |
| 1932 ... | 339 | 2·3 | 355 | 2·4 | 242 |
| 1933 ... | 331 | 2·3 | 368 | 2·5 | 290 |
| 1934 ... | 354 | 2·4 | 422 | 3·07 | 265 |

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burial permits being required in all cases), in some instances births of infants, in particular to illiterate parents, are not reported.

It is likely, however, that registration of births will soon become more accurate as time goes on since parents, including illiterate parents, are beginning to realise the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years.

* 1931 Census year showed a large increase of population.

With regard to the infantile mortality rate the figure given for 1934 is for the whole of Bathurst : of the 351 births 92 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 93 infants 12 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 129 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the general mortality rate of 265 for the whole of Bathurst.

Emigration and immigration.

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the commencement of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers', labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past four years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows :—851 in 1931, 634 in 1932, 817 in 1933 and 530 in 1934 ; but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned, or will return to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who :—

- (a) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,
- (b) is an idiot or insane,
- (c) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,
- (d) is a prostitute, or
- (e) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount.

At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor, not having become destitute or unable to support himself, departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.

CHAPTER IV. HEALTH.

The health of the inhabitants of the Gambia was fairly satisfactory ; but trypanosomiasis appears to be increasing judging by the numbers of patients presenting themselves for treatment.

Diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems remain the most prevalent in Bathurst, there having been 3,925 cases of the former with 15 deaths and 3,525 cases of the latter with 31 deaths.

It is once more noticeable that respiratory complaints occur mostly during the relatively cold season, January to April, and the digestive system complaints during the rains, June to October.

Malaria fever remains the most usual tropical complaint under treatment : in 1931 there were 931 cases with 3 deaths in Bathurst.

There are in the Protectorate one hospital and two dispensaries in charge of a Medical Officer and three Dispensers. From these centres prophylactic work is undertaken against all kinds of sickness including vaccination against small-pox.

In Bathurst there is a European and African general hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Infants Welfare Clinics and a Home for Infirm. These are all in charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and in the Clinics. In addition there is a Public Health Service which attends to drainage and sanitary organisation.

There was an outbreak of yellow fever in Bathurst during the months of October-December. Complete details cannot be given until the results of various investigations at present being carried out at the Wellcome Research Institute are known, but 4 European and one native deaths took place, and one native recovered. Undoubtedly other native cases were not diagnosed as yellow fever.

There were no outbreaks of plague or small-pox in 1931.

Drainage and sand filling of depressions were continued during the year and the reclamation of shallow, low-lying, tidal areas by sand and refuse is proceeding.

The Health Department continued operations against mosquito breeding. This work is both difficult and expensive owing to the existence of large numbers of land-crab holes which provide ideal hatching-out places for mosquitoes.

CHAPTER V. HOUSING.

There are no slums in Bathurst and the houses and compounds are well kept. There is some overcrowding at times during the "trade season" but not of a serious nature. All houses and compounds are periodically inspected by the Health Authorities and the sanitary and building laws are enforced.

Houses are constructed of different kinds of material: for instance some are of wattle and daub, others of brick, others again of concrete bricks, and the most usual roofing is of corrugated iron.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. These houses are well suited to local conditions.

There is no overcrowding since ample space is available for expansion.

The houses and villages generally are well kept and sanitation is satisfactory. Periodical inspection of villages is made by Commissioners and officers of the Medical Staff.

In the Protectorate the houses are almost invariably built and owned by the occupants and the same applies though to a less extent in Bathurst.

Statistics.

| Province. | Population. | No. of Houses or Huts. |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| North Bank Province | 48,000 | 22,861 |
| South Bank Province | 67,417 | 28,048 |
| MacCarthy Island Province | 37,542 | 25,101 |
| Upper River Province | 42,523 | 26,283 |
| St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* | 14,379 | 3,177 |

* Census figures 1931.

CHAPTER VI, PRODUCTION.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of foodstuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guinea-corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Cotton is grown to some extent particularly in the North Bank, and the lint is used locally for the manufacture of long narrow strips of cloth. Experiments are being conducted in connection with the cultivation of crops under irrigation during the dry season.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows :—

| Year. | Tons. | £ Value. |
|-------|--------|----------|
| 1930 | 74,761 | 897,634 |
| 1931 | 66,811 | 596,125 |
| 1932 | 37,315 | 391,659 |
| 1933 | 67,370 | 500,736 |
| 1934 | 71,919 | 387,345 |

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1934 the exports of these commodities were :—

| | | £ |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Palm Kernels | 553 tons | value 2,712 |
| Hides | 141,511 lbs. | „ 1,978 |
| Wax | 59,826 lbs. | „ 1,404 |

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1934 some 4,299 head of cattle are reported to have died of

rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

During April and May of 1933 the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria and the Veterinary Pathologist visited the country to investigate the situation and outline a scheme to deal with rinderpest. At the conclusion of their visit and as a result of their investigations an immunization scheme, extending over a period of five years at an estimated cost of £6,418 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost are being made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was commenced in November 1933 when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December 1933 to assist in the preliminary work.

In October 1934, a Veterinary Officer was seconded again from Nigeria and inoculations were carried out in the South Bank and MacCarthy Island Provinces.

Although the scheme is still in its infancy it is apparent that the cattle owners readily appreciate the value of immunization and are quick to take advantage of it, and the success of the scheme is assured.

Rinderpest has been in the past the great obstacle to the development of the cattle breeding industry, but effective control of this disease is in sight and it is anticipated with confidence that in the near future the industry will be restored to its former prosperity.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

There are no minerals of commercial value in the Colony nor are there any important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.

CHAPTER VII. COMMERCE.

*Imports and Exports.**Imports.*

The imports for the last five years were as follows :—

| | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Merchandise ... | 529,985 | 250,311 | 292,700 | 435,902 | 326,175 |
| Specie ... | 12,775 | 2,302 | 5,141 | 13,966 | 4,326 |
| Total ... | 542,760 | 252,613 | 297,841 | 449,868 | 330,501 |

The following table shows the principal items of imports from the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1934.

| ARTICLES. | United Kingdom | British Possessions. | Foreign Countries | TOTAL. | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| | Value. | Value. | Value. | Quantity. | Value. |
| | £ | £ | £ | | £ |
| Apparel ... | 4,760 | 15 | 5,090 <i>a</i> | — | 9,865 |
| Bags and Sack ... | 1,137 | 5,000 | 346 | 239,930 no. | 6,483 |
| Boots, Shoes and Slippers ... | 323 | 17 | 2,231 | 29,153 pps. | 2,571 |
| Coal ... | 2,714 | — | 286 | 1,732 tons. | 3,000 |
| Cotton Piece Goods | 37,312 | — | 20,269 <i>b</i> | 3,207,321 sq.yds. | 57,581 |
| Cotton Manufac- tures (other) ... | 8,956 | 158 | 3,621 | — | 12,735 |
| Cotton Yarn ... | 7,153 | 4 | 1,491 | 123,792 lbs. | 8,648 |
| Flour Wheaten ... | 2,753 | 1,418 | 2,107 | 14,218 cwts. | 6,278 |
| Hats and Caps ... | 650 | 41 | 3,394 | — | 4,085 |
| Kola-Nuts ... | — | 28,432 | 15 | 20,659 cwts. | 28,447 |
| Metal (all kinds) | 11,686 | — | 3,545 | — | 15,231 |
| Motor Vehicles ... | 1,858 | 1,038 | 1,566 | 44 no. | 4,462 |
| Oils, edible ... | 4,137 | — | 68 | 50,172 galls. | 5,705 |
| Oils, not edible ... | 1,579 | — | 10,045 <i>c</i> | 261,872 „ | 11,624 |
| Rice ... | — | 28,983 | 414 | 84,646 cwts. | 29,397 |
| Soap ... | 1,939 | — | 1,694 | 4,516 „ | 2,633 |
| Sugar ... | 429 | — | 7,385 <i>d</i> | 9,746 „ | 7,814 |
| Tobacco ... | 5,172 | 610 | 2,258 | 98,398 lbs. | 8,040 |

(*c*). Including £3,660 from Japan.

(*b*). „ 8,319 „ „

„ 6,642 „ Russia.

(*c*). „ 7,907 „ U. S. America.

(*d*). „ 6,542 „ France.

The percentages of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, were as follows :—

| Count. % | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | <i>of</i> | <i>of</i> | <i>of</i> | <i>of</i> | <i>of</i> |
| | <i>10</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>10</i> |
| United Kingdom ... | 34.39 | 37.73 | 51.02 | 50.34 | 42.43 |
| British Possessions ... | 11.11 | 11.45 | 15.97 | 15.66 | 22.32 |
| Total—British Empire | 45.50 | 52.18 | 66.99 | 67.00 | 64.75 |
| France ... | 29.75 | 21.52 | 14.75 | 11.63 | 9.06 |
| Other Countries ... | 24.75 | 23.30 | 19.13 | 21.37 | 26.19 |
| Total Foreign Countries | 54.50 | 47.82 | 33.01 | 33.00 | 35.25 |

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of imports for the last five years :—

| Article. | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Cement per ton | 2 14. 7½ | 2 12. 9 | 3 10. 10½ | 2 11. 9½ | 2 6. 0 |
| Coal per ton | 2 9. 7 | 2 9. 1½ | 2 8. 11½ | 1 12. 5 | 1 11. 8 |
| Cotton Piece Goods | | | | | |
| sq. yd. | 0 0. 6½ | 0 0. 5 | 0 0. 1 | 0 0. 1½ | 0 0. 1½ |
| Cotton Yarn per lb. | 0 1. 6½ | 0 1. 4½ | 0 1. 1½ | 0 1. 4½ | 0 1. 4½ |
| Flour Wheaten | | | | | |
| per cwt. | 0 11. 11½ | 0 11. 11 | 0 12. 6 | 0 10. 4 | 0 8. 10 |
| Kola Nuts per cwt. | 3 11. 6 | 1 11. 8 | 1 10. 9 | 1 5. 3½ | 1 7. 6½ |
| Oils Edible per gall. | 0 2. 10½ | 0 2. 5 | 0 2. 5 | 0 1. 11½ | 0 2. 3½ |
| Rice per cwt. | 0 12. 8 | 0 9. 3½ | 0 9. 7 | 0 7. 1½ | 0 6. 11½ |
| Salt per ton | 1 9. 2 | 2 6. 6 | 1 13. 4½ | 1 11. 7 | 1 12. 5 |
| Sugar per cwt. | 0 17. 4½ | 0 17. 0 | 0 17. 2 | 0 15. 0 | 0 16. 6½ |
| Tea per lb. | 0 2. 4 | 0 1. 6½ | 0 1. 9 | 0 1. 2 | 0 1. 8½ |

Exports.

The exports for the last five years including specie were as follows :—

| | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Merchandise ... | 898,807 | 527,111 | 406,894 | 515,298 | 401,819 |
| Specie ... | 7,836 | 2,761 | 199,620 | — | 53,900 |
| Total ... | 906,643 | 529,872 | 606,514 | 515,298 | 455,719 |

The following table shows the principal items of exports to the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1934.

| Country. | Groundnuts. | | Hides. | | Palm Kernels. | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Tons. | Value. £ | lbs. | Value. £ | Tons. | Value. £ |
| United Kingdom ... | 8,185 | 39,776 | 33,636 | 449 | 191 | 1,033 |
| British Possessions ... | 327 | 1,721 | — | — | — | — |
| Belgium ... | 4,133 | 23,120 | — | — | — | — |
| Denmark ... | 4,324 | 25,377 | — | — | — | — |
| France ... | — | — | 86,257 | 1,172 | — | — |
| Germany ... | 37,696 | 199,190 | 21,618 | 357 | 296 | 1,337 |
| Holland ... | 17,085 | 97,410 | — | — | 63 | 312 |
| Other Countries ... | 169 | 761 | — | — | — | — |
| Totals ... | 71,919 | 387,315 | 141,511 | 1,978 | 553 | 2,712 |

The percentages of British and foreign exports, exclusive of specie, were as follows:—

| | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| United Kingdom ... | 19.35 | 03.83 | 20.66 | 34.06 | 11.26 |
| British Possessions ... | 01.96 | 00.82 | 00.89 | 01.23 | 01.14 |
| Total British Empire ... | 21.31 | 04.65 | 21.55 | 35.29 | 12.40 |
| France ... | 39.95 | 56.90 | 59.80 | 37.97 | 00.00 |
| Germany ... | 17.82 | 19.91 | 00.92 | 05.94 | 50.09 |
| Holland ... | 16.17 | 15.21 | 10.73 | 15.59 | 24.34 |
| Other Countries ... | 04.75 | 03.33 | 07.00 | 5.21 | 13.17 |
| Total Foreign Countries ... | 78.69 | 95.35 | 78.45 | 64.71 | 87.60 |

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of export for the last five years:—

| | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| Groundnuts per ton | 11. 12. 1 | 7. 11. 6 | 10. 9. 11 | 7. 8. 8 | 5. 7. 9 |
| Hides per lb. | 0. 0. 4½ | 0. 0. 2¾ | 0. 0. 2 | 0. 0. 2 | 0. 0. 3 |
| Palm Kernels per ton | 10. 17. 3 | 8. 19. 9½ | 7. 13. 8¾ | 6. 16. 6 | 4. 18. 1 |

Shipping.

The percentages of shipping of various nationalities for the last five years were as follows :—

| | 1930. | 1931. | 1932. | 1933. | 1934. |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| British | 62.0 | 55.4 | 57.2 | 56.7 | 53.31 |
| French | 12.1 | 19.0 | 21.8 | 20.3 | 12.57 |
| Dutch | 3.0 | 4.3 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 1.71 |
| German | 5.7 | 3.3 | 4.6 | 8.0 | 20.54 |
| Norwegian... .. | 5.6 | — | 3.0 | 4.6 | 3.96 |
| American | 5.5 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 1.9 | 3.93 |
| Italian | — | 1.8 | — | 1.0 | 0.37 |
| Swedish | 3.0 | 7.2 | 4.9 | 3.3 | 2.34 |
| Danish | — | 2.9 | — | 0.3 | 0.37 |
| Other Countries | 2.8 | 1.3 | 0.1 | 1.4 | 0.90 |

CHAPTER VIII. WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Generally speaking, labour is plentiful, in fact during the slack season there is unemployment in Bathurst. In the trading season a considerable number of natives from French territory enter Bathurst to obtain employment, whilst in the Protectorate numbers of French natives are employed by the local farmers in sowing and harvesting the groundnut crop. In both cases the majority of these immigrants return to their homes when the season is over.

Rates of pay.

The rates of pay for artisans such as carpenters, blacksmiths, fitters, masons, and painters range from 2/6 to 6/- a day (8 hours).

Unskilled labourers may be classified as follows:—

- (a) those on a monthly wage,
- (b) those on a daily wage, and
- (c) farm labourers.

(a) Labourers employed by mercantile firms, on monthly rates of pay, receive from 30/- to 36/- a month and, in most cases, a monthly issue of 45 lbs. of rice in addition.

Semi-skilled labourers (e.g. sanitary workers) permanently employed by Government receive from 1/9 to 2/6 a day. Unskilled labourers employed by Government receive from 1/3 to 1/6 a day. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

(b) Daily wage labourers receive from 1/- to 1/3 a day, depending on the type of work. Piecework rates are sometimes paid when, e.g., ships are being loaded or discharged.

(c) Farm labourers from French territories are fed and housed by their employers and when the season's crop is sold they receive a proportion of the proceeds before returning to their homes. As regards the local natives, each family as a rule tends its own farm but where outside labour is employed the conditions of employment are similar to those obtaining in the case of the French subjects referred to above.

Cost of living.

In the Protectorate, rice and guinea-corn form the staple diet of the people, whilst a considerable amount of bread, sugar, salt and fish is consumed. More rice is consumed in Bathurst especially by the foreign labourer. The daily cost of a labourer's food in Bathurst may be reckoned as follows:—

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Rice or corn | ... | ... | ... | 3d. |
| Bread | ... | ... | ... | 1d. |
| Fish | ... | ... | ... | 1d. |
| Oil | ... | ... | ... | 1d. |
| Sugar | ... | ... | ... | ½d. |
| Condiments | ... | ... | ... | ½d. |
| TOTAL | ... | ... | ... | <u>7d.</u> |

Meat and groundnuts are sometimes substituted for fish and rice and the daily expenditure is then increased by about 1*d.*

The average labourer spends very little on house-rent and clothing—probably not more than 3/- a month on an average.

The cost of living in the Protectorate for a labourer who provides for himself is rather less than in Bathurst.

The prices of foodstuffs are generally lower than those obtaining before the war. The following table gives some examples :—

| | 1934 (average) | 1913 |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Rice per bag of 216 lbs. | 21/- | 33/- |
| Salt do. 66 lbs. | 2/2 | 1/6 |
| Flour do. 98 lbs. | 14/6 | 16/6 |
| Edible oil per Imp. Gallon | 3/- | 4/- |
| Sugar per lb. | 7/3 | 5½ <i>d</i> |

Cost of living. European Government Officials.

The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst :

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| | | | £ |
| Servants | ... | ... | 70 |
| Washing | ... | ... | 12 |
| Firewood | ... | ... | 9 |
| Electric Light | ... | ... | 10 |
| Market (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc.) | ... | ... | 40 |
| Provisions and Wines | ... | ... | 125 |
| Tobacco | ... | ... | 10 |
| Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme contribution | ... | ... | 24 |
| Miscellaneous expenditure including equipment | ... | ... | 35 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| Total | ... | ... | £335 |
| | | | <hr/> |

* This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.

CHAPTER IX. EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education in the Gambia is controlled by the Board of Education of which the Governor is the President. The Members of the Board include the members of the Legislative Council, the Superintendent of Education and such other members, not exceeding six in number, as may be appointed by the Governor. The nominated members hold office for a period of not more than three years and they include representatives of the three Missions, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist, which operate in the Gambia. The powers of the Board are defined in the Education Ordinance (No. 14 of 1903). Briefly, the Board is empowered to dispose annually of such sums as the Legislative Council has granted for the promotion of education and to make regulations respecting grants-in-aid to assisted schools, the conduct of schools generally, the award of scholarships and other matters connected with the Education Ordinance. Such Regulations, after approval by the Governor-in-Council, come into operation as from the date on which they appear in the *Gazette*.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst, and the department is administered by the Superintendent of Education, a duty post held by an Administrative Officer. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

Elementary and secondary education are provided by the Missions with the aid of Government grants, and Government also maintains a Mohammedan School in Bathurst and a Manual Training Centre under the Public Works Department. There is no university education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which, in 1934, had a total of 1,609 pupils on the registers (1071 boys and 538 girls) and an average attendance of 952. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst, two for boys and two for girls, which are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Methodist Missions. The total numbers on the registers in 1934 were 50 boys and 84 girls with average attendances of 42 and 67 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government.

In 1930 a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst, and in 1934 there were 9 students on the register.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with 43 on the register. It is felt that more can be done to improve conditions among the Protectorate people by training the sons of the rulers and leaders of the people than by opening several small schools which would have only a local effect. The Methodist Mission maintains a small day school in Georgetown, and the Anglican Mission two day schools (unassisted) in the Protectorate.

A committee was appointed in 1932 to draw up a revised syllabus for use in the Bathurst elementary schools. The new syllabus, after approval by the Board of Education, came into use on the 1st January, 1934, and has it is hoped considerably assisted educational progress in the Gambia.

The Education Rules, 1917, were amended during 1933 in respect of the award of attendance and proficiency grants and of grants for the training of teachers, (Rule No. 13 of 1933). Other amendments were also made in consequence of the introduction of the new syllabus, (Rule No. 22 of 1933).

The following examinations were held during the year: London Intermediate; Cambridge School Certificate, Junior and Preliminary Examinations; Clerical Services Examination; Elementary Schools Annual Examination; African Service Language Examinations (Jolof and Mandinka).

Welfare Institutions, etc.

Free medical treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

Recreation, etc.

In Bathurst Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground is to be constructed in Half Die, Bathurst. Organised games are conducted by the schools, which are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once every week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public. These concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.

CHAPTER X. COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

External.

For mail services the Colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines Ltd. There is a regular monthly service but otherwise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

The Government during the latter part of the year entered into an agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and the United Kingdom. This company operates a service weekly during the period September to March and fortnightly during the other months.

The company commenced operating their regular trans-Atlantic mail service between Berlin and Port Natal on the 1st February, 1934.

The ports of call are Stuttgart—Marseille—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Port Natal for Buenos Aires.

The South American ports are served by the Condor Syndicate and Pan American Airways.

The Luft Hansa Bathurst establishment consists of a landing ground at Jeshwang, the catapult ship "Schwabenland", four flying-boats and two airplanes.

The mail service to Port Natal commenced with the Graf Zeppelin and airplanes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only. The Graf Zeppelin did not call at the intermediate ports.

The outward mail closes in Berlin on Saturday evening and arrives in Bathurst on Monday; the mail is then transferred to the catapult ship "Schwabenland", which proceeds to sea for 36 hours and on Wednesday morning catapults the flying boat which arrives at Port Natal on Wednesday evening.

The homeward mail plane leaves Port Natal Thursday noon on board the catapult ship "Westfalen" which proceeds to sea and catapults the plane on Saturday morning. The latter arrives in Bathurst on Saturday afternoon. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which starts from Bathurst on Saturday night and arrives in Berlin on Monday afternoon.

Harbour of Bathurst.

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary's Island and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep water harbour. Anchorages offshore vary from 9 to 14 fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except

during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. There is sufficient water at the entrance for vessels of 27 feet draft to enter the harbour.

Government Wharf is under re-construction; the wooden decking is being replaced by ferro-concrete, underwater piles are being refitted, and an up-to-date system of rails installed with two 2½ ton petrol electric cranes. The "T" head of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 16 feet alongside. There are eleven other wharves which are from 100 to 200 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about 1½ hours after high and low water by the shore; their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream considerable swirls sometimes occur at springs during, and immediately after, the rainy season.

The harbour and approaches are well lighted by a light vessel, buoys, and lighthouse structures.

Internal.

River Transport.

The River Garabia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than 12 feet draft, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kuntau-ur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draft of 20 feet. Vessels not exceeding 6 feet 6 inches in draft can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

Marine Department.

A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons). Two government lighters "Vampire" (170 tons) and "Jean Maurel" (174 tons) are also available for additional cargoes; the latter will be self-propelled in 1935.

The steamers call at 26 ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles), and 31 ports when calling at Fattoto (288 miles). This ensures communication with all ports in the Protectorate twice weekly during the trade season from November to May. A fortnightly or monthly service is maintained for the remainder of the year.