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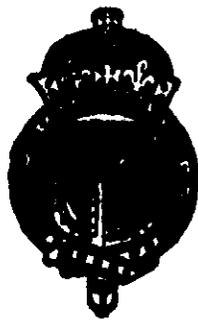
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Annual Report on the Social and Economic  
Progress of the People of

THE GAMBIA, 1936

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# Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1936.

## CHAPTER 1. 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, affected 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 Albreda), Geregia (sc. Portuguese "egreja") near Kansala in Foni, Bintang and Tankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuko 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 barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallics of the Portugals".

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 European 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

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in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed twenty years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moor's "Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa." Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda 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 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on 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 call 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 1765 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 operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Ansley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Ansleys to Major Houghton (1791), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1795 James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association, to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars the British were in 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 Corps 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, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The island was renamed 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 1866 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 Albréda, 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 Gambian 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 Fuladu. In 1894 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 Kuntau-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, Mandinkos, Fulas, and Jolas. Nearly all of these are Mohammedans, except the last named tribe who are pagan; the Mohammedan religion is, however, 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 45,718. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis 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, Niuni, Nianija, 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 40,222. 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-Karemai, 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 61,062. 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 57,970. The districts of the Province are Lower Niuni, Upper Niuni, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors (Mohammedan Fulas) while the two Niunis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinka districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

#### *Climate.*

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy, though, with better 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, 1936.*  
CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.	Mean Air Temperature.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches).
January	76.3	44	—
February	72.6	49	—
March	74.4	55	—
April	75.2	63	—
May	76.5	63	0.07
June	81.9	64	4.08
July	74.6	89	11.70
August	79.0	75	25.39
September	82.8	80	12.37
October	84.7	77	2.71
November	79.1	56	0.67
December	76.9	56	—
		Total ...	56.99

Other Records of Rainfall were:—

Bathurst	...	...	66.90 inches
Yoroberi-kunda, MacCarthy Island Province			45.49 ..
Wuli, Upper River Province	...		58.75 ..

## 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) 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 authorised 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 (Headman) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than did 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 which governed these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913. Other sections also reproduce the law which existed under the Protectorate Ordinance 1913, until April 1935. At that time this Ordinance was, in view of the frequent amendments necessitated by the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, 1933, re-enacted in a consolidated form.

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 most commands 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 ground-nuts 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 ground-nuts 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 1935 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health, formed in 1931 for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst, gave place to the Bathurst Advisory Town Council.

The constitution of the new Council is the same as that of the old, and is made up 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.

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 these Councils both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves 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
Fulu	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,150</b>

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.)
1932 ...	339	2·3	355	2·4	242
1933 ...	331	2·3	368	2·5	290
1934 ...	351	2·4	422	3·07	265
1935 ...	386	2·7	452	3·18	310·8
1936* ...	357	2·5	431	3·05	369

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burials 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.

\*1936 figures based on estimated population of 14,141.

With regard to the infantile mortality rate the figure given for 1936 is for the whole of Bathurst; of the 357 births 101 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 101 infants 11 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 128·7 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the infantile mortality rate of 369 for the whole of Bathurst.

*Emigration and immigration.*

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the beginning 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:—817 in 1933, 530 in 1934, 518 in 1935, and 855 in 1936; 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.

Much work must be done before the Colony can be styled healthy. Infantile mortality figures remain high and there are far too many cases of preventable disease.

The problem is largely one of proper and efficient sanitation and to this the Government continues to pay strict attention.

Steady progress has been made in improving the sanitation of the town of Bathurst.

The disposal of rubbish is now very satisfactory; large public dustbins are cleared daily by an efficient lorry service, and the rubbish removed to an incinerator site. Incombustible refuse is used for swamp reclamation.

New and satisfactory public latrines have been erected throughout the town.

Inspection of most compounds is done weekly, and the larval index is practically zero.

With the postponement of the reclamation scheme, arrangements have been made for extra temporary pumping plant to alleviate the condition of Bathurst in the rains.

As formerly, diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems are the most prevalent in Bathurst with totals for the former of 6,151 and for the latter 4,438. The incidence of malaria rises towards the middle of the rains; there is also a smaller rise in February following the very low temperatures of the preceding month. The number of patients treated for trypanosomiasis still increases totalling 1,972 for the year. There is also a marked increase in the incidence of yaws (4,046 cases). This disease is rare in Bathurst but the incidence increases with distance from the sea.

This year has seen the opening of a small hospital of twelve beds at Bwiam and a dispensary at Kaiaff. A Child Welfare Clinic in the Protectorate has also been started.

There are in Bathurst 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, while the service in the Protectorate consists (in addition to the hospital at Bwiam and Kaiaff Dispensaries) of a general hospital at Georgetown and two dispensaries at Basse and Kau-ur.

## CHAPTER V. HOUSING.

The very important question of Housing still engrosses the attention of Government. New Building Regulations were passed in 1936.

With these enforced and a competent Building Inspector one may hope for improvement. Up to the present little change has taken place, and many of the dwellings form ideal resting places for rats.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. In many places there is distinct improvement both in type and construction — but in nearly all cases there is inadequate provision for ventilation.

There is little sign of an organised lay-out in the villages and huts are crowded together—a condition of affairs only too suitable for the spread of disease.

An organised attempt is being made to improve sanitary conditions in the villages, particularly in relation to protection of water supplies and hygienic night soil disposal and there are definite signs of improvement in those towns where sanitary inspectors have been stationed.

*Statistics.*

Province,	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province ... ..	35,970	22,437
South Bank Province ... ..	61,062	27,519
MacCarthy Island Province ...	40,222	25,045
Upper River Province ... ..	43,718	24,810
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* ...	14,370	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".

Attention is being directed to improvement in the preparation of hides and some success has been attained. Efforts are also to be directed towards creating a wider interest in the Oil Palm. Up to the present, propaganda to clean beeswax before sale has met with little success. Other exportable crops are under trial by the Agricultural Department.

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of food stuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guinea corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Owing to the danger of frequent locust invasions of recent years there have been risks of food shortage as the major crops grown are grains which the locusts attack. Efforts to increase areas under cassava and pigeon pea, (crops not attacked by locusts) are proving successful, particularly in the former case. The food of the people is most important from the agricultural point of view at present, and apart from the distribution of improved types of the local foods others are under trial which will vary the diet.

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, and so far results have been fairly satisfactory. Improvements in the primitive cultivation practised are desirable and trials by the Agricultural Department with local cattle trained to the plough are promising. A few interested Chiefs have sent cattle in for training.

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

Year.	Tons.	Value. £
1932 ... ..	37,315	391,659
1933 ... ..	67,370	500,766
1934 ... ..	71,919	387,345
1935 ... ..	45,110	368,887
1936 ... ..	49,654	427,317

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1936 the exports of these commodities were:—

Palm Kernels	626 tons value	£4,858
Hides & Skins	116,300 lbs. "	1,839
Wax	32,573 " "	909

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 1935 some 1,667 head of cattle were 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 £6,448 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 begun 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.

In both November 1935 and November 1936, the Veterinary Pathologist was seconded from Nigeria and continued to inoculate cattle in MacCarthy Island Province and Upper River Province.

That the cattle owners appreciate the value of immunization has been shown by the many requests for inoculation from the adjoining districts where inoculations have not yet been undertaken.

There is no doubt but that with each succeeding season these demands will increase 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.

No minerals of commercial value are known to exist in the Colony and there are no 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 :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	292,700	435,902	327,185	483,287	582,267
Specie ...	5,141	13,966	4,326	30,000	200
Total ...	297,841	449,868	331,511	513,287	582,467

The following table shows the principal items of imports from the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1936.

ARTICLES.	United Kingdom	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries	TOTAL.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£		£
Apparel ...	6,111	873	2,994	—	9,978
Bags and Sacks ...	553	2,389	177	132,728 no.	3,119
(a) Boots, Shoes and Slippers ...	389	285	2,721	38,395 prs.	3,395
Coal ...	3,294	—	72	1,953 tons.	3,366
Cotton Piece Goods	166,609	2,633	15,085	8,783,880 sq.yds.	184,327
Cotton Manufactures (other) ...	4,900	—	9,522	—	14,422
Cotton Yarn ...	13,823	—	1,225	197,419 lbs.	15,048
Flour Wheaten ...	3,427	2,762	2,773	13,877 cwts.	8,962
(b) Hats and Caps	1,011	278	5,260	—	6,549
Kola-Nuts ...	—	46,155	33	29,192 cwts.	46,188
Metals (all kinds)	2,044	9	20,280	—	32,333
Motor Vehicles ...	3,072	4,221	1,335	65 no.	8,628
Oils, edible ...	7,134	4	2,636	70,795 galls.	9,774
(c) Oils, not edible	708	436	9,534	246,781 „	10,678
Rice ...	—	58,836	98	149,563 cwts.	58,934
Soap ...	7,423	—	458	7,488 „	7,881
(d) Sugar ...	7,993	—	5,467	19,331 „	13,460
Tobacco ...	6,977	3,054	2,108	180,711 lbs.	12,139

- (a). Including £1,807 from Czechoslovakia.  
850 „ Morocco.  
(b). Including 2,407 „ France.  
1,823 „ Germany.  
(c). Including 6,791 „ U. S. America.  
(d). „ 7,993 „ United Kingdom.

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

Country.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	51.02	50.34	42.43	46.32	53.60
British Possessions ...	15.07	16.66	22.32	27.31	23.15
Foreign Countries ...	33.91	33.00	35.25	26.37	23.25
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

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

Article.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement per ton	3 10. 10½	2 11. 9¾	2 6. 0	2 2. 8	2 2. 5½
Coal per ton	2 8. 11¾	2 12. 5	1 14. 8	1 17. 6	1 14. 5¾
Cotton Piece Goods sq. yd.	0 0. 4	0 0. 4½	0 0. 4½	0 0. 5	0 0. 5
Cotton Yarn per lb.	0 1. 1½	0 1. 4¾	0 1. 4¾	0 1. 5½	0 1. 6½
Flour Wheaten per cwt.	0 12. 6½	0 10. 1	0 8. 10	0 11. 1	0 12. 11
Kola Nuts per cwt.	1 10. 0	1 15. 3½	1 7. 6½	1 15. 6	1 11. 3¾
Oils Edible per gall.	0 2. 5½	0 1. 11¾	0 2. 3½	0 2. 7½	0 2. 9
Rice per cwt.	0 9. 7½	0 7. 1¾	0 6. 11½	0 7. 9¾	0 7. 10½
Salt per ton.	1 13. 4¾	1 11. 7½	1 12. 5	1 10. 8¾	1 8. 10
Sugar per cwt.	0 17. 2	0 17. 0½	0 16. 0½	0 14. 8½	0 13. 10¾
Tea per lb.	0 1. 9	0 1. 9	0 1. 8½	0 1. 7½	0 1. 5

#### Exports.

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

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	406,894	515,208	401,849	392,724	445,404
Specie ...	199,620	—	53,900	103,980	55,834
Total ...	606,514	515,208	455,749	496,704	501,238

The following table shows the principal items of export to the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1936.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides and Skins.		Palm Kernels.		Beeswax.	
	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.
United Kingdom ...	9,029	£ 79,582	51,199	£ 731	415	£ 3,171	32,573	£ 909
British Possessions	12	127	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium ...	10,338	89,683	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark ...	11,174	104,887	—	—	—	—	—	—
France ...	—	—	65,017	1,108	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	6,210	49,680	—	—	211	1,687	—	—
Holland ...	12,652	101,229	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Countries ...	239	2,129	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	49,654	427,317	116,306	1,839	626	4,858	32,573	909

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

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	20.66	34.06	11.26	23.67	19.50
British Possessions ...	00.89	01.23	01.14	00.54	00.35
Total British Empire ...	21.55	35.29	12.40	24.21	19.85
Belgium ...	06.51	00.04	05.75	21.24	20.14
Denmark ...	—	03.02	06.33	19.51	23.54
Germany ...	00.92	05.94	50.09	10.27	12.20
Holland ...	10.73	15.59	24.34	21.25	22.72
Other Countries ...	60.29	40.12	01.09	03.52	01.55
Total Foreign Countries ...	78.45	64.71	87.60	75.79	80.15

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

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	10. 9.11	7. 8. 8	5. 7. 9	8. 3. 7	8. 12. 1½
Hides & Skins per lb.	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 3	0. 0. 3	0. 0. 3½
Palm Kernels per ton	7. 13. 8½	6. 16. 6	4. 18. 1	6. 11. 4	7. 15. 2½
Beeswax per lb.	0. 0. 7½	0. 0. 5½	0. 0. 5½	0. 0. 5½	0. 0. 6½

*Shipping.*

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

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	%	%	%	%	%
British ... ..	57.2	56.7	53.31	55.74	72.05
French ... ..	21.8	20.3	12.57	9.63	9.63
Dutch ... ..	2.7	2.5	1.71	1.55	2.22
German ... ..	4.6	8.0	20.54*	22.39*	6.58*
Norwegian... ..	3.0	4.6	3.96	3.68	4.32
American ... ..	5.7	1.9	3.93	3.48	1.55
Italian ... ..	—	1.0	0.37	—	—
Swedish .. ...	4.9	3.3	2.34	2.07	0.82
Danish ... ..	—	0.3	0.37	0.43	1.25
Other Countries ... ..	0.1	1.4	0.90	1.03	1.58

\* Includes catapult vessels of Deutsche Luft Hansa, A.G.

## 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 crops 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.
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	...	...	<u>7d.</u>

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

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 average prices of foodstuffs in 1936 as compared with those obtaining before the war are shown in the following table, which gives a few examples:—

	1936 (average)	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	25/-	33/-
Salt do. 66 lbs.	2/1	1/6
Flour do. 98 lbs.	17/6	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	3/8	4/-
Sugar per lb.	3d.	5½d.

*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
Total ... ..	<u>£335</u>

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

## CHAPTER IX. EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In November, 1935, a new Education Ordinance came into force. It was drafted with a view to placing the method of assessing Grants-in-Aid on a more regularised basis, making provision, on the lines of legislation in other Colonies, for the more efficient supervision of the work done in schools, and making the Board of Education an advisory body with a wider and freer scope for criticism and discussion. The new Board of Education, presided over by the Superintendent of Education, consists of one representative from each mission or educational body working in the Colony or Protectorate appointed by the Governor, together with not less than three other members of whom one must be an African, and one a woman. It is the duty of the Board to consider the reports on schools laid before it by the Superintendent of Education and to advise Government thereon; to recommend to the Governor any changes in regulations, and to make any reports which it may consider necessary on matters of importance affecting education.

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 a Committee of leading Mohammedans runs the Mohammedan School, an elementary school. These schools are all aided by grants from Government which maintains also a Manual Training Centre at the Public Works Department. There is no university education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which in 1936 had a total of 1,856 pupils on the registers (1,256 boys and 600 girls) and an average attendance of 1,037. 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 1936 were 52 boys and 118 girls with average attendances of 39 and 80 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government. There is also a secondary class with 5 boys maintained by the Anglican Mission.

In 1930 a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst, and in 1936 there were 13 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 38 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 following examinations were held during the year: Cambridge Senior, Junior and Preliminary Examinations; Clerical Services Examination; Elementary Schools Standard VII. Examination.

*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.

*Recreations, 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 a week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public, and during the dry weather in MacCarthy Square. The 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 continued the agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and Europe. This company operates a service weekly throughout the year.

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

The ports of call are Frankfurt—Marseille—Lisbon—Las Palmas—Bathurst—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, a catapult ship, four flying-boats and two airplanes.

The mail service to Natal commenced with the Graf Zeppelin and air planes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only.

The airships Graf Zeppelin and Hindenburg during October and November made four visits to the Jeshwang aerodrome, while the catapult ship and airplanes were undergoing repair.

The outward mail leaves London on Wednesday evening, Frankfurt on Thursday at 6 a.m. and arrives in Bathurst on Friday at 1 a.m.; formerly the mail was transferred to the catapult ship, which proceeded to sea and after 36 hours' steaming catapulted off a flying boat. Now the trans-Atlantic crossing is effected direct from Bathurst, and the mail reaches South America on Friday at 8 p.m.

The homeward mail plane leaves Natal on Friday, arriving in Bathurst on Saturday morning. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which leaves Bathurst on Saturday morning, arrives in Frankfurt on Sunday afternoon and in London on Monday afternoon.

### *Bathurst Harbour.*

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 off shore 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.