

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 271.

GOLD COAST.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 249.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1899.



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ANNUAL.

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5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
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GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.
1898.

(For Report for 1897, see No. 249.)

ACTING GOVERNOR LOW to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Accra,

1st July 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a Report by Mr. Haddon Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, upon the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

WM. LOW,

Acting Governor.

GOLD COAST,
1898.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE
GOLD COAST FOR 1898.

FINANCIAL.

The following table shows the heads of revenue and expenditure for the year 1898 as compared with those of the preceding year:—

Revenue.

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	200,988	225,766	24,778	—
Light dues... ..	1,129	1,111	—	18
Licences and material Revenue not otherwise classified } Fees of court or office payments for specific services, and Reimbursements in aid... .. } Post Office	10,499	12,496	1,997	—
	16,221	15,852	—	369
Rents of Government property...	11	24	13	—
Interest	1,081	1,017	—	64
Miscellaneous	7,502	2,096	—	5,406
Grant in aid of Northern Territories.	—	45,000	45,000	—
Total	237,855	303,822	71,824	5,857

2. The total revenue during the year, exclusive of the grant in aid of £45,000, amounted to £258,822 as compared with £233,179 the preceding year, showing an increase of £25,643.

3. The increase under the head of Customs is owing to the improvement in trade, and the reasons of this are dealt with more fully under the heading of Imports and Exports of this report.

4. The cost of licences for the sale of liquors having been doubled during the year on the coast towns, and the system of requiring rum shops in all parts of the Colony to be licensed, will account for the increase under the head of "Licences."

5. The parliamentary grant of £45,000 was made in aid of GOLD COAST, expenses of operations in the Northern Territories of this Colony. 1898.

(6.) *Expenditure.*

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions and gratuities ...	4,607	5,198	591	—
Governor and Legislature ...	5,143	4,446	—	697
Colonial Secretary's office ...	4,822	4,306	—	516
Ashanti ...	13,723	4,304	—	9,419
Native affairs ...	3,612	2,799	—	813
Treasury department ...	5,116	4,913	—	203
Customs ...	12,799	12,273	—	526
Volta river preventive service ...	3,400	6,303	2,903	—
Printing office ...	1,585	1,639	54	—
Audit department ...	1,298	1,448	150	—
Lighthouse and signal stations ...	445	605	160	—
District commissioners ...	10,021	9,074	—	947
Supreme court ...	5,885	5,640	—	245
Law officers ...	1,490	1,566	76	—
Ecclesiastical and cemeteries ...	1,034	1,024	—	10
Constabulary department ...	31,932	35,665	3,733	—
Police department ...	11,545	12,864	1,319	—
Volunteers ...	682	760	78	—
Prisons department ...	6,684	6,186	—	498
Medical and sanitary ...	20,074	20,939	865	—
Education department ...	6,555	6,817	262	—
Botanical stations ...	857	1,016	159	—
Transport ...	13,080	14,780	1,700	—
Military expenditure ...	4,026	—	—	4,026
Carried forward ...	170,415	164,565	12,050	17,900

GOLD COAST,
1898.

Head.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	170,415	164,565	12,050	17,900
Rent, and purchases of land and houses.	3,131	1,750	—	1,381
Miscellaneous services	12,728	9,849	—	2,879
Special services	2,023	2,916	893	—
Post and telegraph offices ...	10,326	10,572	246	—
Public works	60,162	66,695	6,533	—
Ashanti special expenditure ...	147,588	603	—	146,985
Northern Territories	—	121,022	121,022	—
Totals	406,373	377,972	140,744	169,145

7. This gives a decrease in the expenditure of the Colony in the year of £28,401 as compared with the preceding year.

8. The increase in the cost of the Volta preventive service was caused by an increase in the European staff, which had been found necessary in order to keep down smuggling on this river.

9. The increase under constabulary is owing to salaries for 1897 due to officers and men who were serving in the Northern Territories being paid in 1898.

10. Under the heading Ashanti special expenditure in 1897 is included an amount of £97,769, the expenditure incurred by the Imperial Government in connection with the expedition to Kumasi in 1895 and 1896.

11. The cost of the operations in the Northern Territories in 1897, amounting to £24,034, does not appear in these accounts, as it was treated temporarily as an advance.

12. The following comparative table shows the revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894 ...	218,261	226,932
1895 ...	230,076	265,289
1896 ...	237,460	282,278
1897 ...	233,179	401,692
1898 ...	303,822	377,976

13. Although the Colony has no public debt, it is under an obligation to refund to Army funds an amount of £98,075, expended for the Ashanti expedition, and it has also to repay to the Imperial Treasury an amount of £24,870 which has been advanced to cover the cost of the extension of the telegraph line in the Northern Territories, in addition to the advances, amounting to £109,067, obtained for railway works.

GOLD COAST,
1898.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

14. The total value of imports in 1898 was £960,336, and the value of exports £992,998, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £1,953,334, an increase of £311,353 on the year 1897.

15. The following table shows the general classification of all imports :—

Articles.	Value in Sterling	
	Of imports in detail, excluding expenses.	Value, excluding expenses.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	£ —	£ 200,519
II.—Raw materials :—		
(a) Metal	2,550	
(b) Other	6,257	
		8,807
III.—Manufactured articles :—		
(a) Textile	291,646	
(b) Metal	51,111	
(c) Other	169,569	
		512,326
IV.—Coin and bullion... ..	—	238,684
	Total ... £	960,336

GOLD COAST, 1898. 16. The customs receipts during the year at the principal ports of the Colony were as follows:—

Port.	Imports, exclusive of Spirits, Gunpowder, and Guns.	Spirits.	Gun- powder.	Guns.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Accra	14,934	29,906	1,512	186	46,538
Addah	3,798	9,034	154	26	13,012
Axim	6,925	11,094	644	85	18,748
Cape Coast	20,335	28,171	2,537	905	51,948
Quitta	3,025	8,424	1,572	75	13,096
Saltpond	7,169	20,534	1,703	568	29,974
Winneba	2,880	16,174	793	157	20,004
Other stations	4,646	26,152	554	46	31,398
Totals	£ 63,712	149,489	9,469	2,048	224,718

17. The following comparative table shows that the greater proportion of the import trade is with the United Kingdom:—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1894	504,255	12,068	172,143	688,466
1895	539,718	81,897	173,366	794,981
1896	569,828	28,520	179,661	768,009
1897	526,411	60,787	196,990	784,188
1898	726,197	43,101	191,038	960,336

18. The increase in the value of exports in 1898 over that of GOLD COAST, the preceding year amounts to £135,205. 1898.

19. From returns received from Ashanti it is shown that from 70,000 to 90,000 lbs. of rubber pass weekly, during the season, through Kumasi to the coast. There are other roads to the coast by which rubber is carried in large quantities from west and east; the main supply, however, from the west and north of the Colony now goes through Kumasi, as being the safest road to travel. Given improved transport, the output of rubber from this Colony could be trebled, considering that the whole of this rubber is at present brought down to the coast on the heads of carriers, that the cost of each carrier from Kumasi to Cape Coast is at the minimum 10s., and that it takes 1,400 carriers to bring down 70,000 lbs. of rubber, bringing the total cost to £700 for transport alone for an eight days' journey, to say nothing of the employment of human beings who could be far more profitably employed for the benefit of trade were they not made to perform the duties of beasts of burthen, owing to the want of railways throughout the Colony. Rubber is one of the chief sources of wealth in this Colony; the trees and vines which produce it are found in the many swampy regions of the Colony, and as no cultivation is needed, very little skill, and not much work, there is no difficulty in getting the natives to collect it. Moreover it is known that if the output of rubber could be doubled in one year, so many new applications of the material would arise that the supply would not be sufficient, and, consequently, rubber would still retain its price.

20. Timber, another of the most important products of this Colony, is handicapped as regards export owing to want of proper transport. It abounds in the forests of Ashanti, but cannot be used for trade purposes until a railway is run through the country.

21. Where there is water transport the timber trade is largely on the increase. Formerly, the port of Axim, in the Western District, was practically the only port of shipment, the logs being floated down the river Ancobra; but, during the year 1898, timber has been brought down the river Volta and shipped at Ada, a port in the Eastern District.

22. The different kinds of woods suitable for building purposes are stated to be odum, mahogany, and cedar.

Odum is a magnificent wood which withstands the ravages of that pest the white ant.

Palm oil still holds its own as one of the chief exports of this Colony.

GOLD COAST, 23. The following table shows the general classification of all 1898. exports :—

Articles.	Value in Sterling.		
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Totals.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	£ 181	£ 698	£ 879
II.—Raw materials :—			
(a) Metal	63,838	—	63,838
(b) Other	895,701	—	895,701
III.—Manufactured articles :—			
(a) Textile	48	2,667	2,715
(b) Metal	—	388	388
(c) Other	66	2,224	2,290
IV.—Coin and bullion... ..	—	27,187	27,187
Total £	959,834	33,164	992,998

24. The following table shows the trade in three important exports for the last three years :—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.
1896	2,394,563	£ 126,857	13,046	£ 85,849	3,735,439	£ 313,817
1897	2,017,716	107,737	10,836	69,818	4,957,016	419,913
1898	2,145,128	114,288	9,732	66,378	5,984,984	551,667

25. The following statement will serve to show the trade of GOLD COAST the timber industry for the last five years :—

1898.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Feet.	£
1894	5,012,670	69,345
1895	3,587,337	28,245
1896	6,063,381	52,234
1897	15,236,216	90,569
1898	13,620,965	110,331

26. The following comparative statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Colony to the under-mentioned countries during 1898 :—

Countries.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
	lbs.	lbs.	£	£
United Kingdom	4,595,696	5,980,755	391,106	495,502
Germany	361,031	600,800	28,691	55,910

27. The following comparative table shows that the greater proportion of the export trade is with the United Kingdom :—

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1894	608,258	29,765	212,320	850,343
1895	586,415	38,211	253,177	877,803
1896	536,106	37,471	218,534	792,111
1897	581,904	35,667	240,222	857,793
1898	713,335	41,667	237,996	992,998

**GOLD COAST,
1898.**

28. The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

Year.	IMPORTS.		EXPORTS.	Total.
	Paying duty.	Admitted free.		
	£	£	£	£
1894	518,163	170,303	850,343	1,538,809
1895	563,290	231,691	877,808	1,672,784
1896	552,968	225,041	792,111	1,570,120
1897	562,418	221,770	857,793	1,641,981
1898	599,508	360,828	992,998	1,953,334

29. It is gratifying to be able to report that articles of British manufacture hold their own in the markets of this Colony, the only foreign article which is imported in greater quantities than from England being what is known as "trade gin," and this spirit is solely obtained from Hamburg.

30. The mining industry in this Colony is very largely on the increase, and, although the year under review has been employed chiefly in the development of the mines, at the same time some work resulting in more immediate profit has been done. Several companies have been started during the year with the intention of commencing mining operations in this Colony, and it is some satisfaction to know that the promoters of these companies are not only experienced men with scientific knowledge, but are also possessed of the necessary capital to undertake the work with success. The gold industry of this Colony is likely to prove one of its most solid and valuable assets. Experts who have gained experience in the Transvaal gold fields assert that the banket reefs in this Colony are not only similar to but of higher grade than those in the Transvaal. In the Western Province of this Colony it is estimated that there are about 20 miles of banket formation, and if this land were treated in the same way as similar land is in Johannesburg, it is estimated that it would contain 13 million tons of banket reef from which about £40,000,000 worth of gold could be extracted by ten years

operations with 1,350 stamps and the cyanide process, yielding an annual profit of fully one and a quarter millions sterling per annum. This would necessitate an initial investment of £2,000,000, and the area of land would allow 40 companies to work, each returning a profit of £3,000 a month, provided the necessary capital was put in.

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31. It will be impossible for any of the mines to be worked at the profit above mentioned until the railway in course of construction is completed, and this is felt by most of the companies, who are simply waiting for the completion of the railway to commence operations on a large scale. At present the cost of transport ranges from £18 to £50 per ton, and the impossibility of getting up suitable stamps and other machinery prevents the proper working of the mines; this serious obstacle would disappear with the opening of the railway.

32. Notwithstanding the great difficulties which have to be contended with at the present time in consequence of the inadequacy of the machinery, it will be of interest to know that one mine in the Wassaw District had an output in 1897 of 6,880 ozs. 14 dwts. which realized £27,757 19s. 7d., and in 1898 the same company had an output of 4,433 ozs. realizing £17,588 16s. 3d.; another company in the same district in 1897 had an output of 2,479 ozs. valued at £9,307, and in 1898 an output of 4,368 ozs. realizing £16,480. In addition to this, one company has given an average during the latter half of the year under review of 1½ ozs. to the ton, another 1 oz. to the ton, while one company is stated to have produced gold so pure that 84s. per oz. was offered for it.

33. In consequence of the low market price for coffee the natives of the eastern or agricultural province of the Colony have devoted their attention more to the cultivation of cocoa, which during the year under review increased £6,420 per export as compared with 1897. An impetus has been given to this industry through the adoption of a scheme introduced by the Governor of the Colony (Sir F. M. Hodgson), whereby planters bring their coffee or cocoa to the Government Botanical Station which is situated in this district, and the Government pay upon the produce brought half its supposed market value, less a small sum to cover freight and other charges; the coffee or cocoa is then sent by the Government to England for sale, and upon receipt of the sale returns from England, the balance of the money is paid to the producers. In this way they not only receive full value for their coffee and cocoa, but by the Government paying them the estimated half value on delivery, the planters are enabled to continue their work instead of having to either sell to shippers on the coast at a low price, or to await the return of their money from the bankers in England.

34. The Government Curator has during the year visited the plantations in the district, and instructed the different planters as

GOLD COAST, 1898.
 — to the best methods of cultivating cocoa and coffee, and also as to the picking and preparing the pods and seeds so as to procure the best market price, and the efforts of the Government have met with hearty response and grateful appreciation.

35. The encouragement now given to the natives by Government will, no doubt, be the means of establishing a greater number of small plantations, but the Curator reports that "to make much headway with crops, expensive machinery is necessary to prepare them for the market." At present the preparation is done in the most primitive fashion.

36. The Government Botanical Station at Aburi is doing good work, in not only affording practical instruction in agriculture to the people but also in distributing useful and economic plants. During the year the following specimens of fruit trees have fruited for the first time in the garden, viz. : Star apple (*choyso-phyllum cainito*), sapodillo plum (*achras saponta*), and cherinoyer (*anona cherinolia*); the two first are natives of the West Indies and the third is Peruvian.

37. One hundred plants of a new variety of banana raised from seeds received from the Botanical Gardens, Trinidad, have been planted out, and are growing most successfully, and are preferred by the natives to the tasteless kind usually grown by them.

38. The following species of coffee have been grown at the Gardens and have proved a success:—*Coffea stenophylla* (Sierra Leone coffee), *liberica*; of this last kind there are 3,750 plants, covering about 12½ acres of ground.

39. Fibres as well as rubber plants are receiving a trial at the Gardens, and the Curator expects satisfactory results from them.

40. At the Botanical Station there is a system of apprenticeship, where boys receive daily instruction from the Curator in the theory and practice of gardening. After serving one year in the Botanical Gardens, they are sent at Government expense to Jamaica to undergo a further course of instruction for three years in the Botanical Gardens of that Island, and after that course they go through a final course of one year at Kew Gardens prior to their return to this Colony.

SHIPPING.

41. During the year 1898, as compared with 1897, there was a decrease of sailing vessels entered of 3,409 tons, and of those cleared a decrease of 1,144 tons.

There was also a decrease during the year 1898 of 7,466 tons of vessels entered, and 23,992 tons of those cleared, as compared with the preceding year.

42. The following table shows the comparative statement of GOLD COAST, total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :— 1898.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1894	24	9,025	395	511,967
1895	14	5,008	399	534,051
1896	16	6,874	400	553,794
1897	16	6,582	415	580,277
1898	9	3,173	390	572,811

43. The mail service with England remains the same, the voyage from Liverpool to Accra, a distance of 3,920 miles, taking, on an average, 21 days. Although the service has not been accelerated during the year, there has been a decided improvement in the class of boat. With regard to the English lines, the mail service from the Colony to England is not as regular as it might be, and the homeward voyage even occupies more time than the voyage from England. The German line, by strict adherence to the time table and by completing the voyage to England in 16 days, is proving a serious competitor to the English Shipping Companies.

LEGISLATION.

44. During the year 19 Ordinances were passed. Whilst none of the Ordinances were of first rate importance, those with respect to loans and railways point to a new factor in the development of the Colony. The following are the most important Ordinances passed during the year :—

Criminal Procedure—(No. 2 of 1898).

45. By the Criminal Procedure Amendment Ordinance, 1898, the number of jurors required to sit in criminal trials was reduced from 12 to seven. It had been a long standing complaint with the business part of the community at assize towns that their frequent attendance as jurors interfered with their trade, and in these circumstances they pressed for remuneration for their services as jurors. The Government, holding that in the gratuitous performance of jury service lay the germ of public

GOLD COAST. spirit in the Colony, declined to grant remuneration. At the same time it was recognised that merchants and others had a real grievance, and whilst in a previous Ordinance the assizes were made less frequent, by the present Ordinance it was enacted that juries should consist of seven jurors instead of 12 as heretofore. By these means jurors are summoned less frequently than formerly, whilst a smaller panel is required.

1898.

Advantage was taken to amend the law as to criminal procedure in other minor respects, the most important amendment being with regard to the procedure in cases where a person accused of crime was suspected of being a lunatic, the English procedure being adopted.

Travelling Commissioners—(No. 3 of 1898).

46. The Travelling Commissioners Ordinance in 1898 in five short sections gives definite judicial powers to officers appointed by the Governor as Travelling Commissioners. For some years officers styled Travelling Commissioners have travelled about the interiors of the Colony settling disputes between tribes, obtaining information for the Government, supervising the working of native courts, at times acting as officers of the Supreme Court; and in the outlying parts of the Colony they were in the habit of exercising jurisdiction on the ground that they were commissioners of the Colony. To remove any doubt as to the exercise of these last mentioned powers the Travelling Commissioners Ordinance enacts that any officer appointed by the Governor to be a Travelling Commissioner shall in any district, without further appointment, have the powers and jurisdiction of the District Commissioner of such district, but practically limits the exercise of these powers to cases in which such District Commissioner is, for one reason or another, unable to act. This empowers a Travelling Commissioner in criminal cases to impose a fine of £50 and to inflict imprisonment up to 10 months, and gives him civil jurisdiction up to £25; at the same time it subjects all his criminal decisions to summary review by the Chief Justice.

47. The Railway Loan Ordinance, 1898 (No. 6 of 1898), empowers the Governor to borrow £220,000 by the sale of inscribed stock for the construction and equipment of the Secondee-Tarquah railway. The sinking fund begins three years from the first issue of stock.

Railways—(Nos. 7 & 17 of 1898).

48. The Railway Ordinance, 1898 (No. 7 of 1898), is a short enactment providing for the establishment and maintenance of Government railways in the Colony. Provision is made for the acquisition of lands, and the usual powers of entry on land are given. Power is vested in the Governor and Legislative Council to make regulations for carrying out the purposes of the Ordinance, and various offences relating to railways are created.

The provisions of the above mentioned Ordinance as to the entry on and the acquisition of land were amended and simplified by the Railway Amendment Ordinance, 1898 (No. 17 of 1898).

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Customs Tariff—(Nos. 12 & 19 of 1898).

49. Under Ordinance No. 5 of 1887, the only dutiable articles were wine, beer and spirits, tobacco, and firearms with their adjuncts. Two years later, by Ordinance No. 25 of 1889, a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty was placed on 22 of the chief articles of import and on all unenumerated articles; but there was an exemption list of 97 articles, most of them of small value from a fiscal point of view.

These two Ordinances applied to the whole of the Colony originally, but, subsequently, in 1892 and again in 1894, the application of the above-mentioned enactments was limited to those parts of the Colony west of the Volta river, those parts of the Colony east of the Volta being made subject to a special and much lower tariff.

In 1896 was passed the Weights and Measures Ordinance, introducing into the Colony the imperial gallon as the standard measure of capacity; but, under the first-mentioned Tariff Ordinance, No. 5 of 1887, the duty on liquors was to be computed on the old wine gallon. To avoid the inconsistency of using the old wine gallon as the basis of computation of the liquor duty, and to allow traders to bargain on the basis of a measure which could be lawfully used in sales and contracts, it was necessary to amend the law. The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1898 (No. 12 of 1898), was accordingly passed, substituting the imperial gallon as the measure by which spirits &c. were to be measured for the purposes of duty. At the same time the opportunity was seized to reduce the free list, and the articles exempted from the port duty were reduced from 97 to 33. The present Ordinance now supersedes the Ordinances of 1887 and 1889, but only applies to those parts of the Colony to the west of the Volta.

On the last day of the year the tariff underwent another change. By the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1898 (No. 19 of 1898), the duty of 3s. per gallon on spirits was raised to 4s. 6d. per gallon. This increase of duty on the principal article of importation was necessary in order to meet the cost of the railway, the Accra breakwater, and other large public works on hand or in contemplation.

Adulteration of Palm Kernels—(No. 18 of 1898).

50. For years the question of legislation to prevent the adulteration of native produce has been before the Local Government, but, mercantile opinion being almost equally divided on the point, no action was taken. One section of the leading community quoted the example of the neighbouring Colony of Lagos, where an Adulteration Ordinance has been in force since 1889. To

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this it was replied that the conditions of trade on the Gold Coast differed from those at Lagos, and that governmental action would tend to divert trade to one of the adjoining Colonies. Finally, the question was taken up by the merchants at home, principally in connection with rubber, and the Government thereupon appointed a committee of the Legislative Council to take evidence and report. After obtaining a large amount of evidence, the committee reported that there were practically only three articles which were subject to adulteration, viz. :—rubber, palm oil, and palm kernels. The committee further reported, that, as to rubber, merchants were able to and did safeguard themselves to a considerable extent against adulteration, and, further, that it would be unwise in any way to interfere with the rubber trade; that, as to palm oil, there was no sufficient case for legislation, whilst legislative interference would probably result in injury to the Kwitta palm oil trade; that, as to palm kernels, there was ample evidence to show that adulteration was systematically practised and that preventive legislation was likely to benefit the trade. In these circumstances, the Adulteration Ordinance, 1898, was passed, prohibiting under a penalty the purchase or sale of palm kernels soaked or otherwise adulterated. Up to the present date there have been very few prosecutions under the Ordinance, but its effect has been to produce a cleaner article at the chief palm kernel centres. There have been three or four prosecutions at Prampram—none elsewhere—and I understand from the District Commissioner at Prampram that the kernels are now much cleaner.

EDUCATION.

Primary.

51. Under the agency of the three missionary societies, viz. :—The Basel, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic, elementary education has been rapidly spreading. In 1898, 112 schools of these societies were inspected and received grants. The efforts of the Basel Mission are chiefly directed to the interior, and their schools are to be found all over the eastern half of the Colony, from the coast to the verge of the Hinterland. The Roman Catholic Mission stations are not numerous, and are confined to the larger towns on the coast. The school management in the case of these two missions is European. The Wesleyan Mission extends along the entire coast line, and has only a few stations in the interior. The management is chiefly native.

52. There are also Government schools at Accra, Cape Coast, and Insuaim, and the total number of schools, assisted and not assisted, at the end of the year was 208. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught at all these schools; in the advanced classes, history, geography, grammar, and, in a few cases, book-keeping and drawing are part of the curriculum.

*Secondary.*GOLD COAST,
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53. With the exception of the small Wesleyan High School and one private school at Cape Coast, and the Teachers' Training College, under the Basel Mission, at Akropong, nothing is done to forward higher education. The Government scholarship, for natives who passed the Cambridge senior local examination, has been abolished by the Governor, as there was no likelihood of any candidate being successful.

The want of trained teachers is generally felt, and Government has not yet followed the example of the Basel Mission in establishing a training institution. Instruction is supposed to be given to Government teachers by the headmasters, but the frequent absence of these officers on other employment, has prevented the spasmodic effort in this direction from being of service.

Industrial, Technical, and Agricultural.

54. Plantations are attached to all the larger Basel Mission schools, to most of the Roman Catholic and to a few Wesleyan stations. Owing to the difficulties of transport, agriculture does not pay, except near the coast, and without such encouragement, lasting results cannot be expected. Technical instruction in handicraft, such as carpentry, smithwork, &c. is rare. It is to be regretted that industrial training is not made the principal aim of the educational system, especially in the Government and Wesleyan schools, which, by their position, have more facilities for this object. A small school in carpentry has recently been attached to the Government school, Accra, under a European master, and a similar arrangement may be made at Cape Coast. The Accra school is showing very good results.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

55. There are Government Hospitals at the following places in the Colony:—Accra, Cape Coast, Elmina, Axim, and Kwitta, although only at Accra and Cape Coast is there suitable accommodation for Europeans. The hospital arrangements at Accra, the capital of the Colony, are as complete as possible, and during the year the demand that has been made for better hospital accommodation at Cape Coast has received attention. The Secretary of State has approved of the Government bungalow which had been erected on Connor's Hill for the use of the Governor being converted into a hospital. The building affords ample accommodation for both native and European wards, and the site is an admirable one. Cape Coast is now in possession of a hospital which should meet the requirements of the large European mercantile community residing there.

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56. The following return will show the number of admittances to the hospitals during the year under review :—

Town.	Number admitted.	Native.	European.
Accra	903	862	41
Cape Coast...	279	271	8
Elmina	117	116	1
Quitta	121	121	—
Axim	52	52	—
Total	1,472	1,422	50

Asylum.

57. There is only one Lunatic Asylum in the Colony and that is at Accra. The following return shows the number of inmates for the last three years :—

	1896.	1897.	1898.
Entered	21	18	27
Released	9	7	16

58. Poor Houses do not exist in the Colony, and I am pleased to say that there is no need for their establishment; poverty in the proper meaning of the word is unknown, and it is an exception to see a beggar.

59. There are no Reformatories, at present, in the Colony; but in view of the number of juveniles in the Prison it is a question whether their introduction has not now become a necessity.

Savings Bank.

60. The deposits for the year amounted to £4,914, the withdrawals including interest £3,722, leaving an excess of deposits on withdrawals of £1,192. The interest taken out of the general revenue of the Colony and credited to depositors amounts to £105. As compared with the previous year there is an increase of deposits, including interest credited, of £1,137. This cannot, however, be taken as indicating any rapid growth, as the deposits including interest credited in the year 1896 amounted to £7,377. There is no doubt that the establishment of the Bank of British West Africa at Accra has been the cause of the decrease in the amounts of the deposits. The following table shows the amount

of deposits at the principal stations in the Colony for the last two GOLD COAST, years :— 1898.

Station.	1897.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Accra	1,781	1,364	—	417
Addah	222	206	—	16
Axim	99	256	157	—
Cape Coast... ..	580	2,072	1,492	—
Chama	8	22	14	—
Elmina	163	78	—	85
Quitta	350	12	—	338
Saltpond	385	92	—	293
Tarkwa	21	75	54	—
Winneba	165	737	572	—
Total	3,774	4,914	2,289	1,149

There was a decrease of withdrawals in the year under review of £1,914.

61. The following table shows the synopsis of deposits, from which will be seen that deposits under £5 continue to increase, which is a healthy sign, and shows the reliance placed in the Bank by the poorer classes :—

Year.	No. of accounts under £5.	From £5 and under £10.	From £10 and under £20.	From £20 and under £50.	From £50 and under £100.	From £100 and under £200.	Over £200.	Total.
1896 ...	307	24	24	28	13	8	7	411
1897 ...	324	27	32	15	11	6	3	418
1898 ...	360	26	34	27	8	8	6	469

62. In 1897 the amount deposited by the natives of the Colony amounted to £1,748, while the amount deposited during the year under review was £3,478 ; this increase is an indication that the native of the Gold Coast is beginning to realize the value of a Government Savings Bank.

63. The Savings Bank of this Colony was established in 1888 ; it has, therefore, in the year under review completed ten years of its existence ; consequently the following comparative statement of the transactions for the eleven years 1888 to 1898 should be interesting :—

Year.	Balance.	Deposits.	Interests due on Deposits.	Total.	Amounts Withdrawn.	Interest paid on Withdrawals.	Total.	Balance.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1888 ...	—	993 19 0	7 4 4	1,001 3 4	51 13 0	—	51 13 0	949 10 4
1889 ...	949 10 4	2,663 10 0	40 14 2	3,653 14 6	439 9 0	1 2 7	440 11 7	3,213 2 11
1890 ...	3,213 2 11	1,665 6 8	45 19 11	4,924 9 6	2,705 6 6	3 13 3	2,708 19 9	2,215 9 9
1891 ...	2,215 9 9	3,212 11 2	64 1 7	5,492 2 6	2,331 7 8	9 2 3	2,340 9 11	3,151 12 7
1892 ...	3,151 17 7	3,144 2 8	88 3 0	6,383 18 3	2,865 4 2	9 6 0	2,874 10 2	3,509 8 1
1893 ...	3,509 8 1	3,112 5 6	83 10 9	6,705 4 4	2,776 11 0	4 5 10	2,780 16 10	3,924 7 6
1894 ...	3,924 7 6	5,999 19 7	104 6 11	10,028 14 0	4,860 5 4	6 6 10	4,866 12 2	5,162 1 10
1895 ...	5,162 1 10	4,564 11 9	110 13 1	9,837 6 8	4,251 18 11	6 14 9	4,258 13 8	5,578 13 0
1896 ...	5,578 13 0	7,249 13 9	127 7 0	12,955 13 9	7,277 3 0	9 13 3	7,286 16 3	5,668 17 6
1897 ...	5,668 17 6	3,674 1 1	106 8 9	9,449 7 4	5,613 4 10	23 19 1	5,637 3 11	3,812 3 5
1898 ...	3,812 3 5	4,812 5 4	105 18 10	8,730 7 7	3,716 11 1	5 19 9	3,722 11 10	5,007 15 9

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

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64. The sanctioned strength of the Police Force is 394, at the end of the year under review the strength of the force was 377. The number of recruits enlisted during the year was 164, an increase of 18 on the year 1897. The men enlisted are natives of the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Lagos, and West Indies.

65. The force is armed with the Martini Henry carbine, and is put through an annual course of musketry.

66. The efficiency of the force is retarded by the want of proper barrack accommodation. As long as the men are compelled to live among the inhabitants of a town the force will never attain to a high standard of efficiency.

67. The criminal returns show a decrease in 1898 of 145 crimes for the whole Colony as compared with 1897.

Prisons.

68. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during the year was 312, as compared with 309 the previous year.

69. The following table shows the number of convictions for the last five years :—

—	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
1894	1,550	74	20	1,644
1895	1,859	101	46	2,006
1896	2,044	273	38	2,355
1897	1,879	220	51	2,150
1898	1,850	189	34	2,073

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70. There are 14 prisons in the Colony, and the buildings used for the accommodation of prisoners are the forts erected by the Dutch and which are found at almost all the coast towns. They are unsuitable for prisons, and it is difficult to maintain the necessary discipline, since there is no system of solitary confinement. It is contemplated to erect a central prison.

71. In the prisons at Accra and Elmina the prisoners are employed as carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, and coopers. These trades have been carried on in the prison during the year with success. At the prisons in the other stations of the Colony the prisoners are employed exclusively on Government work as labourers and scavengers.

72. There were 17 escapes during the year, as compared with 15 in 1897, not one of the 17 being recaptured.

73. Ten prisoners received corporal punishment, as compared with 15 in 1897 and 22 in 1896.

74. New dietary rules were introduced during the year, the scale being on comparatively modern lines and extending in the classification of prisoners as regards diet.

75. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during each of the past three years was respectively as follows :—

Year.	Daily Average Number in Custody.
1896	330
1897	309
1898	312

76. The following are statistics of crime for the last five years :—

	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
I. Offences against the person	1,067	961	1,187	986	1,089	552	556	667	601	593
II. Offences against property	784	782	730	744	846	383	427	411	416	492
III. Other offences	4,762	4,612	5,263	4,073	4,165	4,035	3,504	4,274	3,469	3,136
Totals	6,613	6,355	7,180	5,803	6,100	4,970	4,487	5,352	4,486	4,221
I. Murder, including infanticide, man- slaughter, cutting and wounding, common assault.	46	34	78	47	38	18	25	45	21	21
II. Burglary and housebreaking	63	70	56	11	46	30	34	21	6	22
III. Arson	—	11	6	8	5	—	11	2	4	3
Totals	109	115	140	66	89	48	70	68	31	46

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VITAL STATISTICS.

77. It is impossible to give any accurate figures regarding the population, as there is no proper system in force of registering births and deaths.

78. The general health of the Colony has shown an improvement during the year under review as compared with that of previous years; this is especially marked amongst the Europeans. The chief reason of this is no doubt the improvement which has taken place in the dwelling-houses of the Europeans, both officials and non-officials, the houses now being erected away from the crowded and native quarter of the towns. Facilities for hospital treatment have very much improved of late years, and at Accra the advantage of European nurses has been much felt and appreciated.

79. Although the health generally has improved the death-rate still remains high, especially so when it is remembered that the European inhabitants are men who are in the prime of life, and who have been selected as physically fit for service in the Colony. At the same time, given improved dwelling-houses and better sanitation, there is no reason why the mortality should not diminish in this Colony as in many other Colonies which a few years ago had an equally bad reputation for unhealthiness.

80. There can be no doubt that the health in the Hinterland or away from the coast is better than that enjoyed in the coast towns and, as an instance of this, a number of officers have been actively employed during the year in the Hinterland and, notwithstanding the hard life which many of them have had to lead, there has only been one death.

81. The following table shows the death-rate among Europeans for the year under review, also the number who have been invalided from the Colony :—

	Population.	Died.	Invalided.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Invalided, per 1,000.
Government officials ...	122	8	19	65.57	155.73
Non-officials	230	17	24	73.91	104.34

In the year 1897 there were 40 deaths among the Europeans and 78 were invalided. In a constantly changing population it is out of the question to keep accurate statistics. The above figures do not include European officials employed in the Northern Territories, who number at least 25, neither does it include prospectors who are constantly moving about the Colony and adjoining territories.

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82. The health report of this Colony would be incomplete if reference was not made to the establishment of a School of Tropical Medicine in London. Considering how common malarial fever of a most malignant type is in this Colony, and the number of lives that are lost annually by the disease, it is worth all the expense and trouble involved that every medical man before being appointed to this Colony should have received a practical training in the microscopic diagnosis and the intelligent treatment of this fever. The need of this has been greatly felt for some years, and speaking personally as a resident of over 12 years, I have often noticed the want of reliance on the part of patients when being attended by newly appointed Medical Officers with no previous experience of tropical diseases, and the remark has often been heard that patients are far better able to attend themselves in cases of tropical fevers than the newly appointed Medical Officer, who lacks experience in these particular cases. The scheme is of such vital importance that the Legislature of this Colony unanimously voted a sum of money to support it.

83. Improvement has been made in the various towns in the Colony as regards sanitation, and the Government have had drains made, wells constructed, and public latrines built, and where swamps exist the land is being drained. There are two great difficulties to contend with in carrying out any efficient system of sanitation, viz. (a) the inadequate water supply, (b) the filthy and lazy habits of the very large majority of the native population. The people, who are too lazy and naturally dirty, will not use the public latrines supplied for them, but make every yard and street in the native quarter of the town into a virtual cesspool. The law is put into force, but I am afraid it will take some years before the native of this Colony becomes impressed with the necessity of cleanly habits as a safeguard to health.

84. The following table shows the rainfall for the different months of the year at the most important towns of the Colony :—

Month.	Stations.					
	Accra.	Aburi.	Axim.	Ada.	Cape Coast.	Quitta.
January	—	2·61	0·60	—	0·22	0·03
February	—	0·62	0·52	—	0·36	0·25
March	1·72	3·28	3·85	2·40	0·83	0·73
April	5·66	6·85	2·75	7·34	6·07	7·35
May	2·53	4·83	9·05	5·91	7·90	2·72
June	4·88	7·78	34·01	6·89	10·47	7·37
July	2·74	5·26	15·33	1·47	2·95	1·28
Carried forward	17·53	81·23	66·11	24·01	28·80	19·73

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Month.	Stations.					
	Acora.	Aburi.	Axim.	Ada.	Cape Coast.	Quitta.
Brought forward	17.53	31.23	66.11	24.01	28.80	19.73
August ...	1.56	3.72	0.90	2.09	0.57	1.27
September ...	4.69	6.16	3.00	3.35	2.12	2.93
October ...	3.41	8.52	7.98	5.65	1.41	8.23
November ...	—	6.16	2.12	0.17	0.22	—
December ...	1.33	2.33	2.03	0.06	0.95	0.02
Totals ...	28.52	58.12	82.14	35.33	34.07	32.18

85. Referring to the temperature, the Chief Medical Officer in his report under meteorological conditions states, "The first quarter of the year was very dry and cool; the Harmattan wind began to blow very early and continued until nearly the beginning of the rainy season."

"The second and third quarters were also exceptionally cool, the sea breeze was strong and steady, the rains began earlier than usual, were more prolonged, and the rainfall was considerably above the average."

"The fourth quarter was warm and dry."

During the months of January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, October, and November the prevailing wind was N.W., in September it was W., and the month of December it was N.E. by E.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

86. The following comparative table will show the working of the Postal Department during the year 1897 and the year under review :—

Year.	No. of Letters posted.	No. of Registered Articles dealt with.	Total amount of Money Order transactions.	Total amount of Postal Order transactions.	No. of Parcels.
1897 ...	584,216	23,942	£ 12,974 7 3	£ 2,549 15 6	2,928
1898 ...	756,973	23,995	12,843 17 9	2,761 0 6	2,909
Increase...	172,757	53	—	211 5 0	—
Decrease	—	—	130 9 6	—	19

87. The continued decrease in the Money Order transactions as compared with the previous year is traceable to the establishment of a bank at Accra, which has become in a large measure the remitting medium between the Colony and other places with which the inhabitants have business relations.

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88. It may interest stamp collectors to know that the amount received for philatelic purposes has decreased during the year under review to £154 14s. 6d., as compared with £368 14s. 2d. for the year 1897.

Telegraphs.

89. During the year 60 miles of telegraph line was erected north of Kintampo, in the Northern Territories of the Colony. For a year's work this may not seem much, but, considering the difficulties and obstacles which have to be encountered in the way of food and labour, the progress cannot be considered unsatisfactory. At date of writing the telegraph line has reached Bolé, a town 160 miles from Kumasi. On this line trees are used as much as possible in place of poles.

90. The work of construction of the line from Nkoranza to Attabubu was commenced, but owing to sickness among the European staff work was delayed.

91. At the commencement of the year 1898 the rate on telegrams was reduced to $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per word with a minimum charge of 6d. inclusive of address, whereas it had formerly been $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per word with a minimum charge of 1s. This change has not only brought an increase in the number of telegrams but also in the revenue. The total number of telegrams dealt with during the year was 119,242, being an increase of 34,662 over the previous year. The revenue derived was £2,585 15s. 2d., an increase of £253 6s. 5d. on the year 1897.

92. The number of messages handed in at Government offices for transmission by the African Direct Telegraph Company (Cable) amounted to 1,954, as compared with 1,357 in the previous year; the number received from the African Direct Telegraph Company for transmission over the inland line was 1,265, as compared with 991 in the previous year. The increase is a clear indication of the growing interest which is being taken in the development of the Colony. The number of cablegrams sent from and received at Accra are not known, as they are handed in direct to the Cable Co.

93. During the year there has been a decided decrease in the number of telegrams passing between the German Colony of Togoland and Europe. In 1897 the number of telegrams despatched from Togoland to Europe was 70, and the number received for the German Colony 60, whereas in the year under

GOLD COAST, review the numbers were 12 and 36 respectively. This falling off
1898. may be attributed to the utilisation of the alternative French land
 — lines in Dahomey.

94. Interruptions in the telegraph line continue to be frequent. This is specially the case on the line between Cape Coast and Kumasi, but considering the dense forest country this line passes through, damage to the wire can hardly be unexpected.

95. There has been a steady increase in the mileage of the telegraph line during the last five years. In 1893 there were 368 miles of telegraph line in the Colony, whereas at the close of the year under review the mileage amounted to 700, and, considering that the transport of material increases considerably the further the line gets from the coast, the result must be considered satisfactory.

Telephones.

96. Telephones are chiefly used between the Government Offices, and that only at Accra. Three mercantile firms are also connected.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

97. There are no Imperial troops stationed in the Colony, although, owing to the employment of the local Constabulary in the Northern Territories, it was necessary to obtain a portion of the 2nd Battalion West India Regiment for garrison duty at Cape Coast and Kumasi for a few months of the year.

98. There is no Militia Force in the Colony.

99. The following table shows the strength of the Volunteer Force on 31st December 1898 :—

Officers.	Warrant Officer.	Ser-geants.	Cor-porals.	Privates.	Sig-nallers.	Band.	Total.
12	1	16	20	141	11	37	238

The force is recruited chiefly from the Government and mercantile clerks. The men enlisted are of a good class and the force with a little trouble and encouragement should be a valuable addition to the defence of this Colony. The whole force is put through an annual musketry course and the performance of the members is decidedly fair.

The expenditure of the force is estimated at £811.

100. The authorized strength of the constabulary or semi-military colonial force, commonly known as the Hausas, is 1,500. GOLD COAST,
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The force is armed with the Martini Metford carbine and has Maxim guns as well as 7-pr. M.L.R.

The estimated cost of the force for the current year is £51,639.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

101. The most important event which has occurred to this Colony in the year under review is the occupation of the country north of Kumasi, which is officially designated as the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast.

102. The operations in the Northern Territories have been conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel H. P. Northcott C.B., who held the position of Commissioner and Commandant. Large tracts of the territory have been surveyed, and a permanent trunk road has been constructed for about 50 miles. The tribes whose country had been devastated by the Sofas are rebuilding their towns and villages and trade has revived; and a small revenue, encouraging as a beginning and cheerfully contributed to by those concerned, is being raised. The establishment of Government stores in the Northern Territories, in order to give the people a taste for articles of merchandise, and also to accustom them to the use of money as the medium of exchange and to pave the way for the establishment of trading houses by mercantile firms, has been a successful experiment. It should be stated that spirits are excluded from these stores and from the Northern Territories generally.

103. The state of Ashanti is satisfactory. The Resident in his report states "Most of the kings have done their work willingly and I have had no great trouble in getting the orders of the Government obeyed. Taking Ashanti as a whole, the country seems contented and prosperous, a pauper being unknown." Considering the state of anarchy that existed in this country previous to the expedition of 1896, this report is most encouraging, if only to prove that the gain to humanity has justified the annexation of the country by Her Majesty's Government.

104. The work on the first railway in this Colony, viz. the line from the coast to the mining district of Tarquah was commenced during the year under review. The work during the year has been largely of a preliminary character, and apart from survey has been principally confined to the neighbourhood of Secondee, which is the starting point of the line, and where the works are relatively heavier than at any other point on the line.

105. The first members of the railway staff arrived at Secondee on the 17th February and began the survey of the line and the erection of quarters for the officials.

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106. Until the end of August work was considerably delayed by the uncertainty regarding the final adoption of Secondee as the starting point of the railway, and by the phenomenally heavy rainfall in June and July. In the month of August the number of the railway staff was largely increased, and from that date the survey and construction work has been pushed on as fast as circumstances in this part of the world will allow.

107. The Engineer-in-Chief furnishes the following information as regards the work done up to the end of December 1898 :—

“ 10 miles of the railway were permanently staked and the route was located for a further distance of 20 miles. The road to Tarquah had also been accurately surveyed. Clearing—the line was cleared ready for earthwork for a distance of 5 miles. 38,000 cubic yards of earthwork were completed, extending over the first two miles of the line. Rail-laying was commenced. Permanent culverts in masonry had been completed along the first mile of the line. The buildings erected include 9 wooden bungalows for offices and quarters, and an iron workshop and running shed. The passenger station building at Secondee was well advanced and the erection of a hospital had been begun. Materials and stores to the amount of 2,500 tons were landed. A temporary timber jetty was built, furnished with cranes, and connected with the station yard by rail. The largest surf boats are able to unload at this jetty at low water.”

The Governor laid the first rail on 18th December.

108. In addition to the line of railway which is at present under construction, the Government have had surveys for lines of railways made between Accra and Insuaim, between Accra and Appam, between Appam and Insuaim, between Insuaim and Kumasi, between Tarquah and Kumasi, and between Accra and Kpong. The first five will tap the mining districts, and that from Accra to Kpong will tap the rich oil producing and cocoa districts of Akwapim and the Krobos and gather up the trade which comes down the Volta from the interior.

109. The one thing absolutely necessary to develop the country is railways ; and, as stated above, until railway communication is established it will be impossible for the different mines to open up their works in a satisfactory manner. There are a large number of mines awaiting the opening of the Secondee-Tarquah railway so as to enable them to transport their necessary machinery for the successful working of the mines. At present, as materials can only be transported in loads on the heads of carriers, it is impossible to carry weights greater than 50 lbs. The impossibility of getting up sufficiently heavy machinery is a serious obstacle to the successful working of any mine, but this would disappear with the opening of the proposed railway lines. When it is considered that with the present cost of transport, ranging from £18 to £50 per ton, an average of 5,000 people cross the River

Prah weekly and that out of that number quite 4,000 carry loads, some idea may be formed as to whether a railway from the coast to Kumasi should be a success or not.

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110. The opening up of the country by means of roads has received the special attention of the Government during the year under review. The main roads and bridges in the Colony have been maintained in good order.

111. There is no system of immigration in the Colony and if the labour question continues to remain in the same satisfactory state as it has been during the year 1898, there is no reason why the opening up of this important Colony should not be successfully undertaken by its own people and without the introduction of inhabitants from other parts of the globe.

112. Emigration from the Colony is very small. A few continue to leave for work under the Congo Government and railway, but even this number is on the decrease, and, as the demand for labour increases, it will be found that the Gold Coast native will not leave his country.

113. The New Hausa Cantonment, which is situated about three miles from the town of Accra was completed during the year so far as the officer's quarters, magazines, armoury, and offices were concerned, the quarters for the men now only remaining in order to complete the work.

114. On account of the expenditure which the Colony has had to incur in connection with the acquisition of Ashanti and the Northern Territories, some of the public works which it was contemplated to undertake in 1898 had to be postponed. A number of minor works have been undertaken, and the public buildings throughout the Colony have been maintained in good order.

115. There has been no change in the constitution of the Colony.

116. The principal changes in the public service of the Colony were :—

Mr. F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, succeeded the late Sir William Maxwell, K.C.M.G., as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony.

Mr. W. Low, late Commissioner of the Island of Tobago, succeeded Mr. F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G., as Colonial Secretary of the Colony.

Mr. W. Clark, late Police Magistrate of Sierra Leone, succeeded Sir William Geary, Bart., as Attorney General of the Colony.

The Inspector General of the Constabulary, Major General Sir Francis Scott, K.C.B. K.C.M.G., was transferred to Trinidad as Commandant of the local forces of that Island.

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Captain G. Aplin, Inspector of the Constabulary, was transferred to Lagos on promotion to be Inspector General of the Constabulary of that Colony, and,

Mr. J. R. Holmes, a District Commissioner, was transferred to Cyprus on promotion to a Judgeship in that Island.

117. Now that the Colony is in a tranquil state the prospects of trade are most hopeful. As will be seen from returns in another part of this report the export of both oil and rubber has considerably increased, shipments of cocoa are also increasing, the disturbing influences which were prevalent in 1897, namely, Samory's hordes and the unrest in Ashanti, do not now exist, and the inhabitants of the interior have been able to continue their work in the rubber and palm forests. The consequence is that, during the year, there has been an increase in the amount of produce brought down to the coast, and there is a good prospect of an augmentation of trade.

The most important consideration in this question of increasing the trade zone is the provision at the earliest possible date of railways. Much of the good result of occupying the interior depends upon the rapidity with which internal transport can be carried out. An opportunity now occurs of founding a considerable market for British goods, but, unless the present means of transport be greatly improved, this opportunity will be lost, and it will be impossible to obtain the full benefit of the richness of the land.

118. The climate of the West Coast of Africa is not generally recognised as suitable for Europeans, but, given good physique and constitution, there is no reason why many Europeans should not preserve their health as well as they do in many other Colonies which are supposed to possess a healthier climate; but moderation in all things, especially as regards spirituous liquors, is absolutely essential.

119. The openings for white labour are few. The mines require miners and the mercantile firms need assistants, but all these men are sent out by appointment from England, and it is useless as well as hopeless for Europeans to come to this Colony on the prospect of obtaining employment.

120. The wages given to the labouring class are exceptionally high, when it is considered that the Government have to pay a carrier 1s. 3d. a day for transporting material weighing 40 lbs., and that that carrier can live well on 2d. a day or at most 3d. Two things are clearly shown, first, the carrier makes a large profit, and secondly, the Government are put to an enormous expense annually in connexion with transport, especially when it is considered that each ton of goods sent to Gambaga, the headquarters of the Northern Territories, costs £135 and the transport of each officer costs £108 annually.

121. During recent years the financial condition of the Colony GOLD COAST,
has been disturbed by two events, both of which were unavoidable 1898.
and both of which cost large sums of money. The first of these
was the expedition to Kumasi and the occupation of Ashanti in
1896, and the second, the operations in the Northern Territories,
rendered necessary by the raids committed upon tribes under
our protection by Samory and his Sofas. Now that these two
disturbing influences have been dealt with, the people are regain-
ing confidence, towns and villages which had been destroyed are
being rebuilt, and farms are being replanted. There is a demand
for markets, and the importation of goods is steadily on the
increase, and trade will push on to Ashanti and the Northern
Territories.

122. The mining industry, which has been referred to elsewhere
in this report, has considerably developed during the past year
and has attracted an increased amount of capital to the Colony.
There is every prospect of the trade of the Gold Coast increasing,
and, as soon as the railways are constructed, the general condition
of the Colony will improve. The possibilities of the Gold Coast
as a market are not yet realised, nor its great produce capabilities.
In addition to its great mineral wealth, there are forests of timber,
all of which are capable of development if the necessary capital
is forthcoming, and as soon as the country is opened up by
railways and good roads.

G. B. HADDON SMITH,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.

Accra,

16th June 1899.