

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 220.

GOLD COAST.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896,

(For Report for 1895, see No. 189.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1897.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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No. 220.

GOLD COAST.

(For Report for 1895, see No. 189 of this Series.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR GRIFFITH to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Accra,

15th October, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a report by Mr. Haddon Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book for 1896.

I have, &c.,

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.J.,
Deputy for Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE GOLD COAST
COLONY FOR 1896.

REVENUE.

1. The Gold Coast Colony has no Public Debt. On the 31st December 1896 the amount of surplus funds invested on account of the General Account of the Colony was valued by the Trustees at £30,908 5s. 1d.; the value on the same date in the previous year was £63,164 10s. 5d.; the difference of £32,256 5s. 4d. is caused by the sale during 1896 of securities which it became necessary to realize owing to the heavy charges caused by the Ashanti Expedition. The payments on account of the Expedition during the year under review amounted to £31,095 16s. 4d., and miscellaneous expenditure in connection with the occupation and administration of Ashanti caused a

GOLD COAST, 1896. further charge upon the Colony of £13,816 3s. 11d. It is interesting to note here that the annual increase in expenditure, which has been continuous since 1890, would have ceased in 1896, and that the expenditure of the latter year would have shown a decrease as compared with that of 1895 of £27,923 10s. 6d., but for the demands upon the Revenue owing to the occupation of Ashanti. From increase in trade in the territory now at last made accessible to merchants, the Colony may gradually expect to see an increase in Imports, and consequently in the Customs Revenue.

2. The subjoined statement shows the years in which the Revenue exceeded the Expenditure and the amount of such excesses :—

					£	s.	d.
1890	...	...	...	...	38,549	16	4
1891	...	...	...	...	52,614	16	0
1892	...	...	...	...	24,970	14	4
1893	...	...	...	...	22,848	5	9

3. The Expenditure was in excess of Revenue in the following :—

					£	s.	d.
1887	...	...	...	...	17,092	11	9
1888	...	...	...	...	35,660	17	6
1889	...	...	...	...	13,614	6	1
1894	...	...	...	...	8,670	13	9
1895	...	...	...	...	35,213	13	1
1896	...	...	...	...	44,817	9	1

4. The net Revenue collected during 1896 amounted to £237,460 6s. 7d., being £7,384 13s. 9d. in excess of that collected in the previous year.

5. The following table gives a comparison of the Revenue for the last two years, classified under the principal heads :—

Items of Revenue.	1895.			1896.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wines, Spirits, Tobacco, Guns, &c. (Specific duties).	157,163	0	11	162,849	11	7	5,686	10	8	—	—	—
General Merchandise (<i>ad valorem</i> duty).	40,579	17	4	42,126	1	0	1,546	3	8	—	—	—
Liquor Licenses ...	6,347	10	0	6,586	12	6	239	2	6	—	—	—
Stamps (Postal, Telegraph and Revenue).	9,952	14	3	11,448	18	5	1,496	4	2	—	—	—
Other items ...	16,032	10	4	14,449	3	1	—	—	—	583	7	3
Total Revenue	£ 230,075	12	10	237,460	6	7	7,384	13	9	583	7	3

STAMPS.

GOLD COAST,
1896.

6. 499 Documents were submitted during the year for assessment and stamping, and 1,076 Documents for stamping without the Commissioner's certificate. 5,028 Bills of Lading were also stamped. The Revenue so derived amounted to £1,224 14s. 11d., and a further sum of £80 was collected for penalties.

LOCAL REVENUE.

7. Independently of Customs Duties there is no direct taxation, neither are there, as yet, any municipal rates; some progress was, however, made in 1896 with the preliminaries necessary for the creation of a Town Council at Accra, which will necessitate the levying of rates at Accra and Christiansborg.

EXPENDITURE.

8. There was expended during the year 1896 a total sum of £282,277 15s. 8d., being £16,988 9s. 9d. more than the expenditure for the previous year. The following are the principal heads under which an increase appears:—

—	1895.			1896.			Causes.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Ashanti Special Expedition.	16,279	11	0	31,095	16	4	—
Public Works	49,994	6	9	52,459	13	5	Supply of Materials and Stores.
Constabulary	32,657	3	8	35,561	3	8	Arrears of pay due in 1895.
Educational	5,699	2	4	6,765	16	9	Grants to Schools and Supplies.
Pensions and Gratuities	3,734	4	10	4,770	2	4	Arrears for 1895 paid in 1896.
Supreme Court, &c. ...	16,209	0	9	16,802	13	0	Salaries for 1895 paid in 1896.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

9. The deposits show an increase of £2,701 as compared with those of the previous year; the deposits for the year are £7,249 13s. 9d., while the withdrawals are (including interest) £7,286 16s. 3d. Interest credited to Depositors amounts to £127 7s. 0d. The total amount credited (including interest) during the year was therefore £7,377 0s. 9d. and the withdrawals £7,286 16s. 3d. From this it is apparent that the business of this institution is almost stationary.

GOLD COAST.
1896.

10. The following is a comparative statement showing the number of Depositors, also the total amounts at each Savings Bank in the Colony during the years 1895-6 :—

District.	No. of Depositors.				Total amount deposited.							
	1895.	1896.	In-crease.	De-crease.	1895.		1896.		Increase.		Decrease.	
					£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Accra.. ..	121	141	20	—	2,024	3 11	4,020	0 3	1,995	16 4	—	—
Addah ..	77	80	—	17	143	9 1	278	19 4	135	10 3	—	—
Axim ..	15	19	4	—	33	5 4	203	18 5	170	11 1	—	—
Cape Coast ..	52	51	—	1	1,439	5 0	1,298	9 6	—	—	140	15 8
Ohama ..	6	8	—	—	51	10 7	139	4 11	87	14 4	—	—
Elmina ..	27	31	4	—	358	18 11	487	5 4	128	4 5	—	—
Kwitta ..	18	23	5	—	243	13 0	204	17 3	—	—	40	15 9
Saltpond ..	28	31	5	—	207	0 6	482	19 0	275	18 6	—	—
Tarkwa ..	42	44	2	—	184	14 2	169	2 1	4	7 11	—	—
Winneba ..	4	5	1	—	7	4 4	92	6 8	85	2 4	—	—
Totals ..	388	411	41	18	4,875	4 10	7,377	0 9	2,883	7 2	181	11 3

11. The Savings Bank system appeals to a small minority of the population, namely, the educated natives living at a few trading-centres on the coast. It hardly touches the mass of the illiterate population, who would far sooner bury their money or turn it into jewelry than trust it to the safe keeping of any one, even a Government Savings Bank. From the following analysis it will be seen that the classes which contribute the largest number of Depositors are Government officials and labourers (employed for the most part by Government), and that the traders have few representatives.

Occupation of Depositors.	No. of Accounts.
Auctioneers	1
Bakers	2
Barristers	5
Bootmakers	3
Blacksmiths	2
Bricklayers	—
Cabinet Makers... ..	1
Clerks	44
Editors	1
Engineers	3
Goldsmiths	4
Institutions, &c.	27
Labourers	51
Messengers	1
Miners	6
Ministers of Religion ..	4
Government Officials (Europeans) ..	30
" " (Natives)	74
Overseers	1
Photographers	2
Carried forward	262

Occupation of Depositors.	No. of Accounts.	GOLD COAST. 1896.
Brought forward	... 262	
Police ... ..	... 18	
Printers ... ..	... 1	
School Children	... 5	
„ Masters and Mistresses	... 10	
Servants... ..	... 18	
Tailors ... ..	... 1	
Traders ... ..	... 20	
Occupation not stated ... ..	... 76	
Total ... ..	... <u>411</u>	

12. The large number of withdrawals suggests the conclusion that a number of the Depositors simply use the Bank as a safe and convenient place in which to keep money for brief periods. It is to be feared that few Depositors really acquire, from the habit of resorting to the Savings Bank, a notion of the real importance of thrift and of gradually accumulating a sum which will be available in time of need.

13. The total amount at the credit of the Savings Bank in the books of the Colony is £5,668 17s. 6d. Of this amount £4,099 14s. 0d. has been invested and is in the hands of the Crown Agents.

TRADE.

Imports and Exports.

14. The total value of the Imports in 1896 was £910,210 and the value of the Exports £792,111, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year £1,702,321, a decrease of £107,018 on the year 1895 in which the Imports and Exports were valued at £1,809,340. The decrease shown in these statistics may perhaps be partly explained by the prohibition of the gunpowder trade for a time, and by the employment of a large number of people in Ashanti who were withdrawn from their ordinary pursuits in the Coast provinces.

15. The following table shows the state of the trade of the Colony for the last seven years, that is, since the present Customs Tariff has been in force :—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	Totals.
	Paying duty.	Admitted free.		
	£	£	£	£
1891	464,188	201,593	644,304	1,350,086
1892	422,026	175,068	665,064	1,262,158
1893	475,346	243,006	722,106	1,440,460
1894	607,109	205,721	850,343	1,663,173
1895	653,357	278,179	877,803	1,809,340
1896	647,682	262,528	792,111	1,702,321

GOLD COAST.
1896.

16. Notwithstanding the unfavourable result of the foregoing comparison of the trade statistics of 1895 and 1896, the value of the trade of the latter year was greater than that of any year prior to 1895; this may be taken as a healthy sign.

17. The principal articles of trade are :—

Imports.

Cotton, woollen and silk goods, spirits, hardware, rice flour, provisions, tobacco, building materials, and wearing-apparel.

Exports.

Palm oil, palm kernels, rubber, gold dust, timber and minor industries such as coffee, cocoa, monkey skins, and Kola nuts.

18. It is shown by the following comparative tables that the greater proportion of the trade is with the United Kingdom :—

Imports.

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891	483,392 18 3	5,085 6 10	177,302 17 11	665,781 3 0
1892	407,037 16 10	9,924 18 11	180,132 1 8	597,094 12 5
1893	524,036 16 1	8,719 5 10	185,597 2 4	718,353 4 3
1894	582,273 14 8	13,168 14 1	217,388 0 1	812,830 8 10
1895	630,000 7 6	91,164 18 7	210,371 15 6	931,537 1 7
1896	659,561 11 10	31,483 19 5	219,164 19 2	910,210 10 5

Exports.

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1891	545,492 16 6	2,035 5 0	136,776 18 2	684,304 19 8
1892	471,218 19 10	2,033 18 9	191,791 9 8	665,064 3 3
1893	530,300 1 5	27,016 16 7	164,790 1 1	722,106 19 1
1894	608,258 6 7	29,765 3 1	212,320 1 3	850,343 10 11
1895	586,415 1 5	38,211 6 2	253,177 4 8	877,803 12 3
1896	536,106 4 0	37,471 5 1	218,533 14 9	792,111 3 10

19. The Customs receipts during the year at the principal GOLD COAST. ports of the Colony were as follows :— 1896.

Port.	Imports, exclusive of Spirits, Gun-powder and Grns.	Spirits.	Gun-powder.	Guns.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£
Axim... ..	5,759	7,974	396	87	14,217
Cape Coast ...	16,643	20,735	2,193	546	40,119
Saltpond ...	6,929	17,470	2,037	258	26,695
Winneba ...	2,475	15,037	704	44	18,261
Acora ...	16,214	28,400	2,539	201	47,355
Adda ...	3,698	10,558	79	21	14,357
Kwitta ...	2,636	11,080	181	45	13,943
Other Stations	3,908	25,135	961	20	30,024
Totals £	58,265	136,391	9,093	1,224	204,975

20. The following statement shows the general classification of all Imports and Exports :—

Articles.	Value in Sterling.	
	Of Imports in detail, including expenses.	Total value, including expenses.
	£	£
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	—	240,840
II.—Raw materials :—		
(a) Textile	—	—
(b) Metal	3,483	—
(c) Other	33,665	37,149
III.—Manufactured articles:		
(a) Textile	265,956	—
(b) Metal	55,049	—
(c) Other	207,722	528,728
IV.—Coin and Bullion ...	—	103,492
Total ... £	—	910,210

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Articles.	Value in Sterling.		Totals.
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and other Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	34 0 0	1,459 17 3	1,493 17 3
II.—Raw materials:—			
(a) Textile	—	—	—
(b) Metal	86,273 6 5	—	86,273 6 5
(c) Other	631,768 12 8	—	631,768 12 8
III.—Manufactured articles:			
(a) Textile	—	2,635 6 9	2,635 6 9
(b) Metal	—	680 1 4	680 1 4
(c) Other	22 2 6	2,650 19 5	2,673 1 11
IV.—Coin and bullion ...	—	66,586 17 6	66,586 17 6
Totals	£ 718,098 1 7	74,013 2 3	792,111 3 10

21. The supply of the staple articles, such as palm kernels, palm oil, and rubber, has not been satisfactory, but whether this has been due to bad prices, or to the withdrawal of a large number of able-bodied men from their ordinary avocations to serve as carriers in the Ashanti Expedition, or to other causes, it is not easy to determine.

22. The following figures show the trade in three important Exports for the last three years:—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.		Rubber.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
1894	4,213,935	£ 237,623	17,136	£ 112,373	3,027,527	£ 232,550
1895	4,338,627	231,415	15,559	93,384	4,022,385	322,070
1896	2,394,563	126,857	13,046	85,349	3,735,439	313,817

23. The following statement shows the quantity and value of **GOLD COAST,** rubber exported from the Gold Coast to the undermentioned **1896.** countries during 1896 :—

Countries.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	£
United Kingdom	3,307,685	283,044
Germany ...	424,093	30,398
Belgium ...	3,661	375

In the previous year 3,597,052 lbs., valued at £294,325, were exported to the United Kingdom, while 424,197 lbs., valued at £27,610, were shipped to Germany.

24. It is hoped that native collectors of rubber have at length realised that the only economical method of drawing-off the sap from the tree is to tap it, and that to fell the tree is most wasteful and destructive. Those who travel in the forests can now see the trees scored with vertical and lateral incisions. Without the co-operation of the natives effective Government supervision for the protection of rubber trees is impossible, and forest laws would therefore be a dead letter.

25. The export of timber has largely increased during the year under review as compared to 1895; the timber country of the Colony is the Western District, the ports of shipment being Axim and Chama. The following statement will serve to show the trade of the industry for the last six years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Feet.	£
1891	1,350,226	22,096
1892	2,130,614	36,407
1893	3,412,486	50,428
1894	5,012,670	69,405
1895	3,587,337	28,244
1896	6,063,381	52,233

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26. It is stated that the native lumbermen damage the trade by cutting down trees irrespective of their defects and imperfections, and that consequently the market is flooded with defective timber. Defects may be of various descriptions, such as those enumerated under the following technical headings :—

“ Hollow portion,”

“ Shakes,”

“ Star Shakes,”

“ Knots ” (not greatly detrimental to the value of the log provided they are small),

“ Wormed.”

27. The dimensions of mahogany logs most in demand are 16 to 30 feet in length and 24 to 36 inches square.

28. The cultivation of coffee and cocoa is still in its infancy in the Colony ; plantations near the coast suffer from the scarcity of fresh water, while if situated far from the port of shipment transport becomes a varying item to the producer. Notwithstanding many disadvantages the export of coffee and cocoa shows a very fair increase as will be seen by the following table :—

Year.	Cocoa.		Coffee.		Copra.		Guinea-grains.		Kola-nuts.	
	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	lbs.	Value	lbs.	Value.	Packages.	Value.
1893	3,460	£ 93	21,437	£ 630	243,304	£ 831	183,224	£ 621	970	£ 25,710
1894	20,312	546	41,483	1,265	649,600	1,940	174,412	1,186	1,202	28,511
1895	28,908	470	51,755	1,753	482,608	1,712	154,693	530	2,852	30,365
1896	36,754	2,275	141,836	4,035	273,840	852	26,594	193	3,156	33,278

29. Monkey skins are scarcer than formerly, the increasing warfare carried on against the unfortunate animals which supply this article of commerce having resulted in the extermination of the species in the less distant provinces. In 1894, 168,405 skins, valued at £41,001 were exported, whereas in 1896 the number of skins fell to 67,660, valued at £8,662.

30. The Gold Mining industry is carried on chiefly in the Wassaw district, and much public attention was called to it, and to the difficulties (mainly that of transport) which retard its development, during the year. This was principally due to the prominent place given to this subject in an address which the Governor (Sir William Maxwell) delivered to the African section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce in July. The Colonial Government determined to improve communication between Tarkwa and the Ankobra River, and a vote was inserted in the Estimates for 1897 for this purpose.

31. The following table shows the weight and value of gold exported from the Colony during each of the last seven years :—

GOLD COAST.
1896.

Year.	Weight.	Value.		
		Oz.	£	s. d.
1890	25,460	91,657	0	0
1891	24,476	88,112	0	0
1892	27,446	98,805	17	0
1893	21,972	79,099	4	0
1894	21,332	76,795	17	5
1895	25,416	91,497	12	0
1896	23,941	86,186	7	2

32. Judging from trade statistics, the consumption of alcohol has undergone a considerable reduction in the year 1896. There appears to be no reason to think that a demand for spirituous liquors is spreading among the native population.

33. In the following table is given a comparison of the importations of wines and spirits in the Gold Coast Colony during the years 1895 and 1896, from which it will be seen that the fall in the quantity of rum has been very considerable ; gin and whisky have also been imported in decreased quantity.

Description of Liquor.	Quantity imported.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1895.	1896.		
	Old Wine. Gals.	Old Wine. Gals.	Old Wine. Gals.	Old Wine. Gals.
Rum	1,007,340	833,135	—	174,205
Gin and Geneva	333,219	330,804	—	2,415
Whisky	12,769	11,432	—	1,337
Brandy	677	822	145	—
Wines... ..	18,956	22,177	3,221	—
Ale and Porter	23,214	26,220	3,006	—
Liqueurs, &c.	2,426	2,189	—	237
Totals	1,398,601	1,226,779	6,872	178,194

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SHIPPING.

34. The number of vessels was practically the same as in 1895, but the tonnage was greater. The figures are as follows :—

Nationality of Vessels.	Sailing Vessels.				Steamers.			
	1895.		1896.		1895.		1896.	
	No.	Ton- nage.	No.	Ton- nage.	No.	Ton- nage.	No.	Ton- nage.
United Kingdom...	3	642	1	105	271	380,213	254	366,857
Germany	—	—	4	1,540	79	92,765	87	108,168
France	3	875	—	—	45	49,469	50	65,870
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United States ...	7	3,269	9	4,670	—	—	—	—
Other Nations ...	1	222	2	559	4	11,604	9	19,199
Totals ...	14	5,008	16	6,874	399	534,051	400	553,794

35. The mail service with England has improved as regards the time occupied by the outward voyage. Communication between Europe and the West African Colonies continues to be almost exclusively in the hands of the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company, the large majority of whose steamers are of less than 300 horse-power, and are admittedly built for a coasting trade. No contract exists between the Government and these Companies for the carriage of mails according to a time-table.

LEGISLATION.

36. During the year 1896 the Legislative Council passed 15 Ordinances, of which the following are the more important :—

37. Ordinances Nos. 1, 2 and 12 of 1896 provide for the detention during Her Majesty's pleasure of Prempeh, the late King of Kumasi, his father and mother, and certain of his chiefs.

38. Ordinance No. 3 of 1896, "The Village Sites Ordinance," empowers the Governor to set apart Government land as a village site, whereon houses can only be built on certain conditions. GOLD COAST.
1896.

39. Ordinance No. 6 of 1896, "The Telegraphs Amendment Ordinance, 1896," is a short but useful Ordinance empowering the Governor to place any section of a telegraph line under a native chief, whose duty it then becomes (1) to preserve such section from injury, and (2), in the event of injury to the line, to report the same forthwith to the Commissioner of the District. The further duty is imposed on any such chief, and on the inhabitants of his town or village, of rendering active assistance in arresting any person who maliciously damages the telegraph line. For a breach of this duty the chief and village may be fined by the Governor.

40. Ordinance No. 7 of 1896, "The Ferries Ordinance, 1896," empowering the Governor to declare any ferry (1) whose owner has been in the habit of levying tolls not sanctioned by native custom, or (2) which has been neglected or mismanaged, or (3) which is the subject of rival claims, or (4) whose owner has consented to its transfer to the Government on compensation being given, to be a Public Ferry. Provision is made for fixing the tolls of Public Ferries and for the letting out of such tolls to contractors, and power is given to the Governor in Council to make rules regulating the management of Public Ferries.

41. Ordinance No. 8 of 1896, "The Survey Ordinance, 1896," provides for the appointment of official and private surveyors, and contains sundry provisions facilitating survey by compelling owners to attend and point out boundaries and give information. The Ordinance also provides for the upkeep of boundary marks when once made.

42. Ordinance No. 9 of 1896, "The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1896," practically applies to this Colony the main provisions of the Imperial Weights and Measures Acts. The Imperial Standard Pound, Gallon and Yard are taken as the basis of the weights and measures to be used in the Colony, and the various parts and multiples of the pound, gallon and yard that may be lawfully used in trade dealings are set forth in schedules. Provision is made for obtaining Colonial standards and duplicates thereof for the purpose of verifying weights and measures in the Colony. Provision is also made for the inspection and marking of weights and measures and weighing machines. The Ordinance contains the usual provisions with respect to offences in relation to weights and measures, and the Governor in Council is empowered to make rules as to fees for marking, &c. of

**GOLD COAST, weights and measures, and generally for carrying the Ordinance
1896.** into effect.

43. Ordinance No. 10 of 1896 provides for the detention, in the Colony, of Nana, the Ex-Chief of Benin.

44. Ordinance No. 13 of 1896, "The Compulsory Labour Continuance Ordinance, 1896," continues for another year the Compulsory Labour Ordinance of 1895.

45. Ordinance No. 14 of 1896, "The Reprint of Statutes Ordinance, 1896," an Ordinance authorising the present Chief Justice to prepare a revised edition of the Local Ordinances.

POST OFFICE.

46. Postal business shows an increase. The falling off of inland money orders is very marked, but the value of foreign money orders has more than doubled itself as compared with 1895; the following comparative table will show the steady increase of work in the Department:—

Year.	No. of Offices open.	Estimated No. of Letters, &c., posted.	No. of Registered Articles dealt with.	Money Orders.			Inland Postal Orders.	Parcels Post.		Receipts.		
				No. of Offices open.	Value of Inland Orders.	Value of Foreign Orders.		No. of Offices open.	No. of Parcels.			
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1888	17	111,041	7,836	1,939	8	2	—	—	—	3	826	31 19 11
1889	26	146,905	9,739	1,209	19	1	—	—	—	3	1,407	35 14 6
1890	26	161,726	10,862	1,681	11	11	—	—	—	3	1,902	102 8 9
1891	30	205,053	11,227	1,985	1	4	—	—	—	3	2,368	146 8 9
1892	31	225,293	12,362	3,193	8	0	—	—	—	3	2,379	104 19 1
1893	31	335,112	15,956	3,787	11	2	1,231	3	6	7	2,762	216 6 0
1894	32	386,028	18,068	3,382	9	3	2,021	7	6	7	3,224	247 5 3
1895	32	390,502	17,474	1,679	5	11	2,150	13	6	7	3,518	273 1 9
1896	35	545,824	19,324	1,590	6	8	2,489	9	6	7	3,563	292 15 5

GOLD COAST,
1896.

GOLD COAST.
1896.

47. It must be recorded that during the year three new Post Offices were opened, including one at Kumasi, the Capital of Ashanti, with which there is weekly postal communication from Cape Coast and Accra, the journey taking 9 or 10 days.

48. The Postal Revenue for the year was £602 14s. 7½d. in excess of that of 1895. The Department obtained a special revenue of £771 15s. 1d., the proceeds of stamps sold to foreign stamp dealers in Europe and elsewhere during the year. 3,890 bags were brought to the Colony and 3,198 bags were despatched from the various Post Offices in the Colony, as against 3,115 received and 4,040 despatched during the year 1895.

TELEGRAPHS.

49. Telegraphic communication with Kumasi was effected by means of a military field wire during the Ashanti Expedition. During 1896 this was replaced by a permanent line, constructed by the Colonial Telegraph Department. On the 31st December, 1896, the telegraph line was completed to within a distance of 25 miles from Kumasi, and by March 1897 had reached Kumasi.

50. The following table will show the steady increase both in the number of messages sent and also in the receipts for the last six years :—

Year.	Number of Offices.	Miles of Wire.	Number of Telegrams dealt with.				Receipts.			Totals.
			Public.	Government.	Cable.	Total.	Inland Telegram.	For Cable Company.	£ s. d.	
1891	13	210	17,513	21,157	1,274	39,944	£ s. d. 1,015 10 9	£ s. d. 1,583 17 1	£ s. d. 2,602 7 10	
1892	16	265	19,773	25,365	1,516	46,554	£ s. d. 1,182 18 4	£ s. d. 1,822 7 0	£ s. d. 3,005 5 4	
1893	18	368	27,934	30,063	2,034	60,031	£ s. d. 1,822 7 0	£ s. d. 2,466 7 7	£ s. d. 4,288 14 7	
1894	20	375	38,129	31,717	3,920	73,766	£ s. d. 2,293 8 2	£ s. d. 2,377 1 3	£ s. d. 4,670 9 5	
1895	21	415	40,869	35,861	4,956	81,686	£ s. d. 2,509 2 9	£ s. d. 2,906 2 5	£ s. d. 3,415 5 2	
1896	24	512	41,303	38,551	4,876	84,730	£ s. d. 2,620 13 1	£ s. d. 3,182 11 3	£ s. d. 5,813 4 4	

GOLD COAST,
1896.

51. Interruptions are unfortunately frequent. This is attributable to many causes; for instance, the Kumasi line goes through a dense forest, with the result that falling trees and branches break the wire, and the line along the coast is affected by the action of the sea-spray, causing corrosion of the copper conductor, which gives way under the first strain experienced in the shape of a stiff breeze or tornado.

Considerable lengths of wire have been stolen from time to time, the copper wire being valued by the natives for making armlets; in one case, in the year 1896, 240 yards were stolen. Cases of this kind eventually led to restrictive legislation.

DEFENCES.

52. The Gold Coast Constabulary is recruited from the Hausa country within the territory of the Royal Niger Company, and also from the Mohammedan States in the bend of the Niger, due north of the Gold Coast Colony. The force is nominally 1,048 strong, but is much under strength, and the men are armed with the Martini-Metford carbine; it is also provided with Maxim guns and 7-pr. M.L.R. steel guns. 195 men were enlisted in 1896, 54 took their discharge, 17 died, and 28 deserted. The discipline of the Force is good.

VOLUNTEERS.

53. The strength of the Force is 280, and the sum expended by Government in maintaining it £1,147 19s. 1d., showing a cost to the Government in respect of each Volunteer of £4. The Force is recruited chiefly from the Government and mercantile clerks, with whom it is popular.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

54. The general health of the Colony during the year 1896 shows little or no improvement on that of the previous year. In 1896 there were amongst the European population, 11 deaths of officials, and 30 non-officials, as against 15 and 23 respectively during 1895. The number of Europeans invalided during 1896 was the same as in the previous year, viz., 58. An epidemic of a malignant type of fever was prevalent during the first four months of the year, the period in which the greater number of deaths occurred.

55. The health of the native population was also satisfactory.

56. The Government are taking all practicable measures to improve the conditions of life; at Accra, the seat of Government, the erection of bungalows at Victoriaborg has

removed the dwellings of the officials from the thickly populated part of the town. Bungalows are also being erected at out-stations for the use of officers, and the removal of the residences of white men from squalid surroundings and sources of contamination is being insisted upon as much as possible.

GOLD COAST.
1896.

57. One of the main improvements in the Medical Department has been the completion of the new wing at the Central Hospital, which contains on the upper floor three wards and a sitting-room, well built and airy, for the exclusive use of Europeans. This was practically completed in 1896.

RAINFALL.

58. The total rainfall for the year was 39·31 inches, as compared with 17·33 inches in 1895, the heaviest rainfall in one month being 13·62 inches in the month of May. There was no rain in February, and only ·03 in August, and ·09 in October.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

59. The following table shows the number of lunatic patients treated in the Government Lunatic Asylum since its establishment in 1887.

Public Lunatic Asylum, 1896.

Year.	Admitted.		Discharged.						Deaths.		Remaining.	
			Cured.		Relieved.		Not Improved.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
1887	14	14	5	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	11	5
1888	17	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	8	3	16	5
1889	10	3	5	2	—	—	—	—	4	1	17	5
1890	12	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	6	1	20	4
1891	10	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	24	6
1892	21	2	7	—	—	—	1	—	6	1	31	7
1893	8	4	—	—	—	5	2	—	2	—	32	9
1894	22	6	—	—	11	—	—	—	3	—	40	15
1895	11	4	—	—	12	1	—	—	6	2	33	14
1896	19	9	—	—	6	3	—	—	4	3	38	16

GOLD COAST. 60. The table given below will show the classification of the diseases of the patients treated in the lunatic asylum in 1896 :—

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Mania	23	8	31
Melancholia	7	2	9
General paralysis	2	—	2
Epilepsy	2	2	4
Dementia	—	1	1
Other diseases, idiotcy, &c.	1	—	1
Totals	35	13	48

PUBLIC WORKS.

61. Though none of the large public works contemplated, such as the Central Prison, Hausa Cantonment, New Public Offices and Court House, were undertaken in 1896, a number of useful works, such as new quarters for officers, new ward, general hospital, a club house, rest houses, &c., were commenced, and in many instances completed. The fort at Kumasi deserves separate mention. It was begun soon after the departure of the troops from Kumasi in January 1896, but was not complete at the end of the year. The residency is within the fort.

62. The total expenditure of the Public Works Department for 1896 amounted to £67,738 2s. 10d., classified as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Establishment	15,034	15	7

Recurrent Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Departmental and miscellaneous charges ...	4,784	7	3
Upkeep of town roads, streets, and bridges ...	1,426	4	2
Maintenance of trade roads	2,578	6	9
Repairs to buildings	3,359	1	9

*Extraordinary Expenditure.*GOLD COAST.
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	£	s.	d.
New works and buildings... ..	30,115	11	6
Alterations and additions to buildings	1,971	13	3
New roads and improvements of roads	3,769	9	1
Lands acquired	393	13	8
Miscellaneous	4,394	19	10

63. The main roads, the bridges, and the public buildings throughout the Colony have been maintained in good order, and many improvements have been effected.

64. The construction of all the roads is under the Public Works Department; but the maintenance of trade roads, that is to say, the duty of obliging the native chiefs and their men to clear and broaden their native paths, is under the different District Commissioners.

65. The construction of a main drain at Accra, which was in progress in 1896, should have a beneficial result on the health of the town; it occupies the place of an old watercourse in which the surface drainage of the greater and most populous part of Accra collected. The new drain, lined with cement and constructed with attention to levels, empties itself into the lagoon to the west of the town.

66. The principal new roads undertaken were the construction of the road from Accra to the Akim District, a distance of 16 miles, at a cost of £95 per mile, and the Danoe Dogplata road, which in the year had been completed for 15 miles.

EXPERIMENTAL WELL BORING.

67. Experiments in boring for water have been tried in the neighbourhood of Accra, the total depth bored being 206 feet; the result was not satisfactory, the water being found brackish and unsuitable for potable purposes. Water was struck at a depth of 148 feet. Further experiments are proceeding.

RAILWAYS.

68. Two railway surveys were commenced in 1896, one from Accra to Kumasi *via* Insuaim, and the other from Takoradi Bay to Tarkwa; the latter is supposed to go through the mining and timber district. In connection with possible railway projects attention is being paid to the selection of a suitable place for a boat harbour.

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1896.

POLICE.

69. The strength of the police force at the close of 1896 was 345; the number of men enlisted during the year was 164. Only seven per cent of the recruits speak English, and considering that the officers are unable to speak the language of the men the details of duty are too much in the hands of native non-commissioned officers, and the difficulty of working the department satisfactorily can be understood.

PRISONS.

70. The daily average number of prisoners in custody during the year was 138, against 146 in the previous year. There was, however, an increase in the number of convictions. The number of female prisoners has considerably increased, though juvenile offenders have decreased by 8 as compared with 1895.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
1892	1,475	48	11	1,534
1893	1,513	61	15	1,589
1894	1,550	74	20	1,644
1895	1,859	101	46	2,006
1896	2,044	273	38	2,355

71. Discipline has been well maintained in the prisons, and the mark system works satisfactorily.

72. The several prison buildings are reported as being in good order; the prisons at Accra and Elmina are Dutch Forts converted for the purpose but not suitable for carrying out modern prison discipline. It is contemplated to erect a central prison at Accra, and until this is done and the separate system introduced, little improvement is to be expected.

73. Seven executions took place in the prisons during the year 1896.

74. The health of the prisoners was good ; the following state-
ment contains health statistics for the prisons for the last five
years:—

GOLD COAST
1896.

Year.	Total number of Prisoners.	Treated in Hospital.	Total attendances or out Patients.	Deaths.
1892	1,534	240	12,338	16
1893	1,589	337	9,262	27
1894	1,644	339	5,773	17
1895	2,006	729	10,661	37
1896	2,355	340	3,473	26

75. The number of punishments inflicted on prisoners during the year was 773. 22 prisoners received corporal punishment.

76. There were five escapes during the year. In three cases the men were recaptured.

EDUCATION.

77. Elementary education in the Gold Coast Colony is steadily progressing. During the year 1896, fifteen new schools were added to the list of schools receiving a grant-in-aid, thus bringing the total number of inspected schools for the year to 115—an advance of 15 per cent. In addition to the 115 inspected schools, there are about 70 other schools belonging to the various Missions not yet under inspection, so that there may be said to be nearly two hundred elementary schools, in which the greater part of the instruction given is in English. During 1896 a Government school was opened at Insuaim, in Western Akim. In that year also the first examination was held for the Gold Coast Government Scholarships.

78. There is not yet much provision for higher education in the Colony, though the establishment of the above-named scholarships should give a stimulus to effort in this direction.

79. Industrial work in connection with the schools is steadily increasing, and includes now some 1,000 scholars, who are receiving systematic instruction in plantation work and other industries. Thirty-five schools are provided with coffee plantations, while classes for carpentry, smith's-work, brick-making, and book-binding exist in several other schools.

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80. Reading, writing, and arithmetic in English are taught in all the inspected schools; while in the large town schools, intelligent instruction is also given in geography, history, grammar, singing, book-keeping, shorthand, and in the case of girls, plain needlework.

81. The principal statistics which are necessary to illustrate the progress of Elementary education in the Gold Coast Colony will be found in the subjoined statements A and B.

A.—Totals for the year 1896.

Schools.	On Books.	Average attendance.	No. examined.	Teachers examined.	Grant earned.
115	11,205	8,558	9,675	79	£ s. d. 3,400 11 0

82. The 115 inspected schools comprise 40 belonging to the Basel Mission Society, 53 belonging to the Wesleyan Society, 16 belonging to the Roman Catholic Mission Society, and 6 Government schools. Of the 11,205 scholars in attendance at the inspected schools only 2,183 are girls.

B.—Classification of the Scholars.

Denomination.	St. VII.	St. VI.	St. V.	St. IV.	St. III.	St. II.	St. I.	SS. II.	SS. I.	Infants.
Basel Mission ...	25	42	59	68	109	151	209	372	381	1,100
Wesleyan do. ...	48	79	154	234	347	405	584	457	778	1,352
R. Catholic do. ...	5	10	30	79	109	142	208	216	285	703
Government ...	2	8	43	55	66	78	84	89	94	431
Totals ...	75	139	286	436	625	771	1,085	1,134	1,538	3,586

83. These numbers compare very favourably with those of previous years, there being an increase in all classes.

BOTANICAL.

84. Samples of the coffee and cocoa grown at the Government gardens were sent to England in 1896. The Liberian coffee fetched 70s. per cwt., and cocoa fetched 37s. per cwt.

85. The authorities of Kew kindly sent some Indian Jute seed to the Botanical Gardens; this seed was sown and germinated freely; the plants were allowed to remain for seed; this when ripe was harvested, the seed cleaned, and a large quantity has been distributed to the natives.

86. The gardens have been visited on three occasions by swarms of locusts which have done much damage; another source of destruction to the plants is the borer, which plays great havoc with the trees, especially the Arabian coffee; specimens of these borers have been obtained, and have been sent to Kew for investigation and report.

GENERAL REMARKS.

87. When the year 1896 began, the Ashanti Expedition was in progress. The political circumstances which led to this were described in paragraph 11 of the Annual Report for 1895. On Friday, 17th January, the troops entered Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti, without having fired a shot, the Governor arrived in the capital the next day, and, on Monday, the 20th January, 1896, Prempeh, the King of Ashanti, made his submission to the Governor. The sight was most impressive, and not likely to be forgotten by those who witnessed it. The action of the Governor received the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government. Prempeh was removed to the coast, and was detained at Elmina Castle until the end of 1896, when he and the other political prisoners were removed to Sierra Leone. The Governor made a tour through some of the Ashanti provinces, visiting Insuta, Aguna, Mampong and Bekwai before returning to the coast.

88. Captain D. Stewart was appointed to be Resident of Kumasi, but Colonel Pigott (21st Hussars) acted as Resident for a great part of 1896, and did much to improve trade roads. A force of 300 Hausas was placed at Kumasi, and the erection of a fort was commenced. Trade however revived very shortly during 1896.

89. The Expedition cost the Colony £120,000. Putting aside the possible gain to trade that the annexation of Ashanti may bring about, the gain to humanity alone should justify this outlay.

90. The Basel Mission established a mission station at Kumasi in 1896, and started a school, where there are already 15 Ashanti

GOLD COAST. children. The same mission has since established schools in
1896. the following Ashanti towns:—Mampong, Agona, Kamason,
Kwamang, Nsota, Kwaso and Dweso.

91. Merchants have also acquired sites at Kumasi for the erection of stores.

92. Native States in the bend of the Niger, lying directly north of Ashanti and within the British sphere of influence, were disturbed and in some cases invaded in force by the armed bands of Samory, the well-known Mohammedan slave-raider.

93. The assertion of our legitimate rights in the Hinterland of the Gold Coast Colony received special attention in the last two months of 1896, and missions were despatched to the north under Captain Stewart and Lieutenant Henderson, resulting in the occupation of Mamprusi in December 1896 and Dagarti in January 1897.

G. B. HADDON SMITH,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Accra, West Africa,

16th October, 1897.
