

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 306.

GOLD COAST.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, see No. 271.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1900.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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GOLD COAST.

(For Report for 1898, see No. 271.)

ACTING GOVERNOR LOW to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Accra,

6th October, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a report which has been prepared by Mr. C. H. Hunter, lately acting as Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book for the year 1899.

I have, &c.,

Wm. Low,

Acting Governor

GOLD
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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE GOLD COAST
FOR 1899.

FINANCIAL.

The following table shows the heads of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1899 as compared with those of the preceding year:—

REVENUE.

HEAD.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	225,776	280,192	54,426	—
Light dues	1,111	1,303	192	—
Licences and material revenue not otherwise classified.	12,496	16,079	3,583	—
Fees of court or office payments for specific services, and reimbursements in aid.	15,852	21,009	5,157	—
Post Office	460	482	22	—
Rents of Government property ...	24	290	266	—
Interest	1,017	141	—	876
Miscellaneous	2,096	3,300	1,205	—
Grant in aid of Northern Territories	45,000	100,000	55,000	—
Total	303,822	422,796	119,851	876

2. The General Revenue during the year, exclusive of the grants in aid, amounted to £322,796, and was £73,260 in excess of the amount estimated, and showed an increase of £63,974 as compared with the preceding year.

3. The increase occurred principally under the heads of "Customs," "Licences and Internal Revenue," and "Fees of Court," &c. The raising of the duty on spirits from 3s. to 4s. 6d. per gallon, and the general improvement in trade, will account for the very large increase under the head of "Customs."

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4. It will be observed that there is an increase in every item of Revenue with the exception of Interest, which shows a decrease of £875, due to the sale of Investments in 1898.

5. A Parliamentary Grant of £100,000 was made in aid of the expenditure in the Northern Territories of this Colony.

6. EXPENDITURE.

Head.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	5,198	5,610	412	—
Governor and Legislature	4,446	5,291	845	—
Colonial Secretary's Office	4,307	4,501	194	—
Ashanti... ..	4,304	2,608	—	1,696
Northern Territories	121,022	54,875	—	66,147
Native Affairs	2,799	2,036	—	763
Treasury Department	4,913	5,143	230	—
Customs	12,273	13,094	821	—
Volta River Preventive Service	6,304	5,682	—	622
Printing Office... ..	1,639	1,539	—	100
Audit Department	1,448	1,487	39	—
Lighthouse and Signal Stations	605	613	8	—
District Commissioners	9,074	8,831	—	243
Supreme Court	5,640	5,359	—	281
Law Offices	1,566	1,626	60	—
Ecclesiastical and Cemeteries	1,024	1,015	—	9
Constabulary Department	35,866	40,588	4,917	—
Carried forward	222,228	159,893	7,526	69,861

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6. EXPENDITURE—continued.

Head.	1898.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	222,228	159,893	7,526	69,861
Police Department	12,864	13,784	920	—
Volunteers	760	708	—	52
Prisons Department	6,186	6,723	537	—
Medical and Sanitary	20,939	21,208	269	—
Education Department	6,817	6,523	—	294
Botanical Stations	1,016	1,154	138	—
Transport	14,780	17,192	2,412	—
Rent	1,550	1,225	—	325
Miscellaneous Services	9,849	11,484	1,635	—
Post Office	4,787	4,940	153	—
Telegraphs	5,785	6,560	775	—
Public Works	12,144	10,778	—	1,366
Public Works, Recurrent	14,261	13,146	—	1,115
Public Works, Extraordinary	40,290	27,183	—	13,107
Preventive Service, Western Frontier	—	3,224	3,224	—
Special Services	2,916	3,911	995	—
Aslanti Special Expenditure	603	20	—	583
Land and Houses purchased... ..	200	—	—	200
Totals	377,975	309,656	18,584	86,903

7. The foregoing statement shows a net decrease in the expenditure of the Colony for the year £68,319 as compared with the preceding year.

8. The decrease was principally due to arrears of expenditure in the Northern Territories for 1897 being brought to account in 1898, and to the completion of certain public works in 1898.

9. The following comparative table shows the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

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Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1895	230,076	265,289
1896	237,460	282,278
1897	233,179	401,692
1898	303,822	377,976
1899	422,796	309,656

10. From the above table it will be noticed that the Expenditure exceeded the Revenue by very considerable sums during the years 1895 to 1898 inclusive. This was mainly due to the Ashanti Expedition of 1895-96, the cost of which was defrayed from the funds of the Colony, and to the general opening up and development of the Northern Territories. This continuous excess, however, was changed in 1899 into a substantial increase of Revenue over Expenditure, amounting to £113,138.

11. The Colony has no Public Debt, but there are various outstanding advances for which the Colony is responsible, amounting to £230,487. This includes advances made on account Sekundi Tarkwa Railway.

12. An Ordinance was passed in 1898 providing for the raising of a loan of £220,000 for railway construction. The loan has not yet been subscribed, but the construction of the railway from Sekundi to Tarkwa has been taken in hand, and the sum expended to 31st December amounted to £185,961.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

13. The total value of imports in 1899 was £1,152,478, and the value of exports £1,111,738, thus making the total value of the trade of the Colony for the year 1899 £2,264,216, an increase of £310,882 on the previous year.

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

Articles.	Value in Sterling.	
	Of imports in detail, excluding expenses.	Total Value, excluding expenses.
I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.	£ —	£ 210,673
II.—Raw materials:—		
(a) Metal	3,294	
(b) Other	1,897	
		5,191
III.—Manufactured articles:—		
(a) Textile	372,057	
(b) Metal	32,715	
(c) Other	233,422	
		688,194
IV.—Coin and bullion... ..	—	248,419
Total	—	£1,152,477

15. 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.	Gunpowder.	Guns.	Totals.
Accra ...	£ 16,504	£ 34,198	£ 1,746	£ 311	£ 52,759
Addah ...	5,145	18,123	146	32	18,446
Axim ...	9,042	15,302	452	117	24,913
Cape Coast ...	26,438	39,918	4,304	1,168	71,828
Quitta... ..	3,621	12,176	1,199	25	17,021
Secondi ...	2,202	8,948	139	34	11,323
Saltpond ...	8,554	25,762	3,183	493	37,992
Winneba ...	3,358	17,396	536	94	21,384
Other stations	3,215	19,920	241	15	23,391
Totals ...	78,079	186,743	11,946	2,289	279,057

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

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Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
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
1899 ...	858,721	54,079	239,678	1,152,478

17. The following table shows the general classification of all 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 ...	32	1,185	1,217
II. Raw materials:—			
(a) Textile ...	701	—	701
(b) Metal ...	51,870	—	51,870
(c) Other ...	1,021,543	—	1,021,543
III. Manufactured articles:—			
(a) Textile ...	—	3,938	3,938
(b) Metal ...	—	561	561
(c) Other ...	61	3,169	3,230
IV. Coin and bullion...	—	28,680	28,680
Totals ...	1,074,206	37,533	1,111,738

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18. The increase in the value of exports in 1899 over that of the preceding year amounted to £118,740.

19. 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.
1897 ...	2,021,716	£ 107,737	10,836	£ 69,818	4,957,016	£ 419,913
1898 ...	2,145,138	114,288	9,732	66,378	5,984,984	551,667
1899 ...	3,323,919	183,204	12,664	108,156	5,572,554	555,731

20. The following statement shows the trade of the timber industry for the last five years:—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
1895	Feet. 3,587,337	£ 28,245
1896	6,063,381	52,234
1897	15,236,216	90,569
1898	13,620,965	110,331
1899	11,990,832	87,076

21. The following comparative statement shows the quantity and value of rubber exported from the Colony to the under-mentioned countries during 1898 and 1899:—

Countries.	Quantity.		Value.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
United Kingdom ...	Lbs. 5,380,755	Lbs. 5,249,541	£ 495,502	£ 522,854
Germany	600,800	322,414	55,910	32,836
Other countries ...	3,429	599	255	41
Totals ...	5,984,984	5,572,554	551,667	555,731

22. The following comparative table shows that the greater proportion of the export trade is with the United Kingdom:— GOLD COAST, 1899.

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
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
1899	767,575	70,762	273,401	1,111,738

23. 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.		
	£	£	£	£
1895	563,290	231,691	877,803	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
1899	735,917	416,561	1,111,738	2,264,216

24. The condition of trade has been highly satisfactory throughout the year, the Customs net receipts showing an increase of £54,501.

25. The imports and exports both exceed £1,000,000 for the first time; the increases amounting to £192,142 and £118,740 respectively.

26. The most marked increases in Customs receipts appear under the following heads:—

General imports	£14,368
Spirits	37,253
Gunpowder	2,477

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The first may be attributed to the large amount of provisions imported for the Northern Territories and for the use of European miners, whilst the increase in the tariff on spirits from 3s. to 4s. 6d. per gallon, which came into effect on the 1st January, is accountable for the greater revenue derived from that source. The value of spirits imported west of the Volta was actually £8,000 less than in 1898, and east of the Volta £4,000 more.

The decreases are trifling.

27. In imports the rise has been steady, but only in the case of cottons does the increase in value exceed £1,000, the actual amount here being £4,443.

Here again the decreases are but of little account.

28. Exports have largely increased, the most important increases being as follow:—

Cocoa	...	...	...	£6,447
Copra	...	...	...	1,773
Palm oil	...	...	...	68,916
Palm kernals	...	...	...	39,777
Kola nuts	...	...	...	21,231
Monkey skins	...	...	...	5,807
Rubber	...	...	...	4,063

29. The considerable increase in palm oil and palm kernals is due to a good season, greater attention to the trade, and better prices. The suitability of soil and climate, the greater demand for cocoa, and the increased attention which is being given to this most valuable product account for the larger export. Various districts were visited during the year for the purpose of arranging with the native kings and chiefs to clear large areas of land on which to form plantations of cocoa, rubber, and kola trees, which would be under the supervision of an officer of the Botanical Department, and this is certain to be attended with good results. Most of the kola nuts exported go to Lagos, and the increased export of these nuts is probably due to the development of the trade in this article from Lagos with its hinterland, and the cheapness of transport by water at Lagos as compared with that by land. With regard to rubber, the increase is in value only, the actual amount exported being half a million pounds less than in 1898.

30. A decrease of £23,254 is shown in the exports of native timber, but the figures with regard to this industry cannot be accepted as accurate because the measurement of timber is not thoroughly understood, and in many cases logs of inferior quality are shipped. Gold exports also show a further decrease

of £12,538, which is difficult to account for. The value of coffee exported is £114 less. This is doubtless due to the low prices prevailing in the European markets.

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31. The increase of £4,000 in the value of spirits imported east of the Volta deserves attention. The duty charged on this import is only 9½*d.* per gallon.

SHIPPING.

32. During the year 1899 as compared with 1898 steam vessels entered and cleared show increases of 58,313 tons and 68,439 tons respectively, while there is an increase in the sailing vessels of 1,652 tons.

33. The following table shows the comparative statement of total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
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
1899	11	4,825	402	631,124

34. The mail service with England has been somewhat improved during the year by the establishment of a regular fortnightly service outwards and homewards, the voyages to and from Accra averaging about 18 days. These steamers sail from Liverpool on alternate Wednesdays and call at Plymouth on the homeward voyage.

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LEGISLATION.

35. During the year under review there were 14 Ordinances passed. Of these the only ones of any importance are Nos. 4, 7, 10, and 13.

36. The "Sierra Leone Political Prisoners Detention Ordinance" (No. 10, of 1899, authorised the transfer to and detention at Accra of the leaders of the insurrection in the hinterland of Sierra Leone during the year 1898.

ESTATES OF AFRICANS ADMINISTRATION.

37. Estates of Africans Administration (No. 4, of 1899), is a re-enactment with variations of former legislation. For many years past it has been the practice for Gold Coast tradesmen and labourers to seek employment in the various British and Foreign West African Colonies, especially in the Congo Free State. Such employment is usually regulated by the Master and Servant Ordinance (No. 8, 1893), which affords protection to persons engaging in foreign contracts of service.

38. The Fires and Occurrences Inquiries Ordinance (No. 7, of 1899) has been passed mainly with a view to the protection of fire insurance companies. It provides that where fires occur causing injury to persons or property, or where there is ground to suspect crime, the District Commissioner may make due inquiry.

39. The Corporal Punishment Ordinance (No. 13, of 1899) is a short enactment, limiting the number of strokes which may be given at any one flogging to 24. The enactment applies to all former Ordinances and to all rules and regulations thereunder.

EDUCATION.

PRIMARY.

40. Education in the Colony is principally conducted under the agency of the Basel, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic Missionary Societies. One hundred and twenty-two schools under these Missions were inspected and awarded grants for the year 1899. The Basal Mission operate in the Interior, their stations extending all over the eastern side of the Colony, with

a few in the Kumasi District. They have also schools at two or three towns on the Coast. The Roman Catholic Mission have 12 stations, all in the Coast towns. The management in the case of these Missions is European, about 60 Missionaries being employed in the former and 12 in the latter Society. The Wesleyan Mission has schools all along the Coast line, and has also recently opened a few in the Ashanti District. The management is mainly native, there being only three Europeans engaged in the work.

41. In addition to these assisted schools, there are three large Government schools at Accra, Cape Coast, and Insuaim; and also schools for the Hausa Constabulary and the Civil Police.

42. In addition to the foregoing, there are two or three Mahomedan schools, and the Bremen Mission has also established a few schools.

SECONDARY.

43. There are no Government secondary schools, nor is provision made for the training of teachers, if we except the Basel Mission Seminary at Akropong, which is attended for a time by most of the teachers employed by that Society. There are two small unassisted schools at Cape Coast, which attempt a higher grade curriculum, but the want of teachers has hitherto interfered with the success of their efforts.

INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL.

44. There are plantations attached to many of the schools in the interior, the most important being those at the larger stations of the Basel Mission, at Begoro and Abetifi. The difficulties of transport, however, prevent exportation from being remunerative, and as the natives rarely utilise any but the ordinary products of the country, which require little cultivation, the training received at these schools is not often put to practical purpose. Technical instruction in carpentry, smithwork, &c., is given at the Cape Coast Wesleyan School, and at some of the Roman Catholic schools. There is also attached to the Accra Government school, a technical department, under a European master, where the boys are taught carpentry on scientific principles.

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GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

45. There are Government hospitals at the following places in the Colony:—Accra, Cape Coast, Elmina, Axim, Saltpond, Kwitta, and Kumasi, although only at the two first-mentioned stations is there suitable accommodation for Europeans. The Government bungalow at Connor's Hill, Cape Coast, has been converted into a hospital, and the appointment of a nursing sister for this hospital has been sanctioned.

46. The number of in-patients treated during the year at the various hospitals was 628, as against 959 in 1898, thus showing a decrease of 331; of these 50 were Europeans.

ASYLUM.

47. There is only one lunatic asylum in the Colony, and that is the Castle at Christiansborg, the residence of former Governors of this Colony.

48. There are no poorhouses nor reformatories in the Colony, and poverty in the strict sense of the word is practically unknown.

SAVINGS BANK.

49. The deposits for the year amounted to £3,827, the withdrawals to £3,965, or an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £138. As high interest is easily obtainable on small loans the Savings Bank is only used as a place for temporary deposits, and not for the legitimate purpose of inculcating thrift. The interest accrued and credited to the several depositors accounts at 31st December amounted to £108. The interest on investments received during the year amounted to £141, the net profit on the working of the Bank being £33. As compared with the previous year there is a considerable falling off in the deposits and a slight decrease in the withdrawals.

50. The following tables show the amount of deposits and withdrawals at the principal stations in the Colony for the last two years.

I.

51. Comparative statement of deposits, 1898 and 1899 :—

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Station.	1898.			1899.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Accra	1,364	8	4	988	14	3	—	—	—	375	14	1
Adda	206	4	0	158	9	8	—	—	—	47	14	4
Axim	256	3	11	710	5	2	454	1	3	—	—	—
Cape Coast ...	2,072	15	8	1,010	19	4	—	—	—	1,061	16	4
Chama	22	7	3	118	3	8	95	16	5	—	—	—
Elmina	78	5	1	61	3	9	—	—	—	17	1	4
Kwitta	12	13	10	242	12	6	229	18	8	—	—	—
Saltpond	92	12	7	82	6	10	—	—	—	10	5	9
Tarkwa	75	5	0	223	7	7	148	2	7	—	—	—
Winneba	737	8	6	339	17	8	—	—	—	397	10	10
Total	4,918	4	2	3,936	0	5	927	18	11	1,910	2	8

II.

52. Comparative statement of withdrawals, 1898 and 1899 :—

Branch.	1898.			1899.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Accra	1,534	11	11	1,558	4	6	23	12	7	—	—	—
Adda	237	16	1	0	7	0	—	—	—	237	9	1
Axim	114	9	4	521	15	4	407	6	0	—	—	—
Cape Coast ...	976	6	0	1,206	18	9	230	12	9	—	—	—
Chama	16	1	0	103	0	0	86	19	0	—	—	—
Elmina	86	8	2	55	19	3	—	—	—	30	8	9
Kwitta	23	0	7	55	16	0	32	15	5	—	—	—
Saltpond	53	9	1	51	7	1	—	—	—	4	2	0
Tarkwa	60	14	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	14	8
Winneba	619	15	0	420	3	4	—	—	—	199	11	8
Total	8,722	11	10	3,973	11	3	781	5	9	532	6	2

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53. The following table shows the synopsis of deposits, from which it will be seen that the total number of depositors is less than it was in 1898:—

III.

Synopsis of Deposits.

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.
1897 ...	324	27	32	15	11	6	3	418
1898 ...	360	26	34	27	8	8	6	469
1899 ...	335	33	31	31	16	8	4	458

54. The Savings Bank was established in 1888 and has therefore been in existence for 12 years. Below is a comparative statement of the transactions of the Bank during that period.

V.

55. Comparative statement for 12 years of depositors and amounts at their credit at the end of each year 1888 to 1899:—

Year.	Balance.	Deposits.	Interest 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 12 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
1899	5,007 15 9	3,827 0 7	108 9 10	8,943 6 2	3,964 15 5	8 15 10	3,973 11 3	4,969 14 11

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POLICE.

56. The strength of the Police Force on the 31st December, 1899, was 416 of all ranks; 161 recruits were enlisted at Accra, but of these 40 were subsequently rejected as unsuitable.

57. The force is armed with Martini-Henri carbines, and the men at Accra are put through a modified course of musketry.

PRISONS.

58. There are 12 prisons in the Colony, including Kumasi and Attabubu. The majority of these buildings are unsuitable for prisons, but until the question of a central prison is definitely decided they have to serve as such.

59. Various trades, such as carpentering, tailoring, boot-making, coopering, &c., are carried on in the Accra and Elmina prisons, and very good results are obtained. The prisoners at the other stations are employed as labourers on the roads and as scavengers.

60. There were 22 escapes during the year, as against 17 in 1898. Six of these prisoners were recaptured.

61. The number of prisoners who received corporal punishment during the year was 18, as compared with 10 and 15 in 1898 and 1897 respectively. The number of executions was six.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

62. The criminal returns for 1899 show a decrease in general crime, the total number of crimes reported being 4,075, as against 4,713 in the previous year.

63. The following will show the total number of convictions for the last five years:—

Year.	Males.	Females.	Juveniles.	Totals.
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
1899	1,711	135	28	1,874

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

	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
I. Offences against the person	961	1187	986	1089		556	667	601	593	
II. Offences against property	782	730	744	846		427	411	416	492	
III. Other offences	4612	5263	4073	4165		3504	4274	3469	3136	
Totals	6355	7180	5803	6100		4487	5352	4486	4221	
I. Murder, including infanticide, man- slaughter, cutting and wounding, common assault.	34	78	47	38		25	45	21	21	
II. Burglary and housebreaking	70	56	11	46		34	21	6	22	
III. Arson	11	6	8	5		11	2	4	3	
Totals	115	140	66	89		70	68	31	46	

GOLD
COAST, 1899.

VITAL STATISTICS.

65. The general health of the Colony during the past year was comparatively good. Out of 166 European officials there were only nine deaths and 23 cases of invaliding, and out of an estimated number of 400 non-official Europeans there were 18 deaths and 52 cases of invaliding. The following table gives the death and invaliding rate per thousand among the Europeans:—

Class.	No.	Deaths.	Invalided.	Death rate per 1,000.	Invaliding rate per 1,000.
Official ...	166	9	23	54·2	138·9
Non-official ...	400	18	52	45·0	130·0
Total ...	566	27	75	47·7	132·5

66. No death rate can be calculated for natives, owing to the difficulties of obtaining reliable information. Every effort has been made to decrease the rate of mortality and sickness by providing hospitals, good food, and good nursing, and by improving the sanitary conditions of the towns. But the large majority still resort to the "Native Medicine Man."

67. The general health of the officers in the Northern Territories does not appear to have been so good during the past year.

68. The experiment of bringing out European nurses for the Gold Coast has been a great success, and an additional nurse has recently been obtained, so that one may be permanently stationed at Cape Coast.

69. A Pathological Laboratory has now been established at Accra, and it is hoped will be found a useful institution for original research into the cause and nature of the various fevers and diseases found in the Colony.

70. The sanitary condition of the various towns has been improved, but in most of them there is still considerable room for further improvement. The sanitary work of Accra is now in the hands of the Town Council, who have their own Medical Officer of Health.

71. The following table gives the rainfall month by month at Accra and Aburi for the years 1898 and 1899 respectively:—

GOLD
COAST, 1899

Month.	Accra.		Aburi.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
January	—	—	2·61	·50
February	—	·62	0·62	4·74
March	1·72	1·99	3·28	6·18
April	5·66	·64	6·85	3·08
May	2·53	4·16	4·83	3·98
June	4·88	4·03	7·78	5·94
July	2·74	·11	5·26	5·35
August	1·56	4·12	3·72	5·45
September	4·69	·56	6·16	1·15
October	3·41	2·47	8·52	6·16
November	—	—	6·16	5·54
December	1·33	·94	2·33	1·05
Totals... ..	28·52	19·64	58·12	49·12

From the above table it will be seen that the rainfall for the year 1899 at both places was considerably less than in the previous year.

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

72. Hitherto the two branches of the office have been separate departments, under the Postmaster-General and the Director of Telegraphs respectively, but from the 1st October, 1899, the whole administration has been in the hands of the Postmaster-General.

GOLD
COAST, 1899.

73. The following comparative table will show the working of the Postal Department during 1899 as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	No. of Letters, Cards, &c. Posted.	No. of Registered Articles Posted.	Total amount of Money Order Transactions.	Total amount of Postal Order Transactions.	No. of Parcels.
1898 ...	662,978	23,995	£ s. d. 12,843 17 9	£ s. d. 2,761 0 6	3,863
1899 ...	633,909	41,378	16,878 18 1	2,387 4 6	5,744
Increase	—	17,883	4,035 0 4	—	1,881
Decrease	29,669	—	—	373 16 0	—

74. The money orders show a considerable increase over the number issued in the previous year. This is partly accounted for by the development in the gold industry, but is mainly owing to the numerous remittances on the part of the natives for goods advertised in various papers. This is also borne out by the increased number of parcels received by parcels post.

TELEGRAPHS.

75. The returns for the year show a steady increase in the revenue collected, as well as in the total number of messages transmitted. No new sections have been constructed during 1899, but a new office was opened at Bole, which is the furthest point the telegraph extension to the Northern Territories has reached.

76. The total number of telegrams transmitted during the year was 128,026, as compared with 119,242 in the previous year, showing an increase of 8,784.

77. The number of messages sent through the Government offices for transmission by the African Direct Telegraph Company amounted to 2,268, as compared with 1,954 in 1898. There is an increase in the number of messages transmitted over our lines from Togoland to Europe and *vice versa*. The paid messages to and from Togoland show a slight falling off, probably due to the interruption of the Volta cable.

TELEPHONES.

78. There is a Telephone Exchange at Accra, connecting with all the Government offices.

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COAST, 1899

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

79. There are no Imperial or Militia troops in the Colony. There is, however, a Volunteer Force, which was raised in 1892, the strength of which on the 31st December, 1899, was as follows:—

Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Privates.	Signallers.	Band.	Total.
12	1	17	19	139	10	43	241

80. The force, which is put through an annual musketry course, is recruited principally from the Government and mercantile offices.

81. The authorised strength of the Constabulary or Hausa Force is 1,676 of all ranks. The re-organisation of the force has been undertaken, and the force will in future be known as the Gold Coast Battalion of the West African Frontier Force. The force is armed with Martini-Metford carbines and has a supply of Maxim, Nordenfeldt, and 7 pr. guns. The total expenditure in connection with the force amounted to £40,583 during the year under review.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

82. It was contemplated, for administrative purposes, to place the Northern Territories under an administrator, and the late Lieutenant-Colonel Northcott, C.B., was appointed to that post. Unfortunately for the Colony his death in South Africa prevented the scheme from being carried into effect.

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83. Affairs in Ashanti were on the whole satisfactory. The issue of licences to prospect for gold and other mineral products was introduced in the latter part of the year, and 25 licences were taken out. The gold-mining industry steadily increased during the year, although, as stated elsewhere, the exports of gold showed a considerable and at the same time unaccountable falling off.

84. The difficulty of transport is still a serious obstacle in the way of gold mining, and, indeed, to the general progress and development of the Colony, and this serious drawback must continue until railways are an accomplished fact and the heavy machinery and other necessary appliances for the successful working of the gold mines and other industries can be economically and expeditiously conveyed from place to place.

85. The work on the Sekundi Tarkwa Railway has not been so rapid as was anticipated, and no part of the line was opened for traffic during the year. The scarcity of labour has considerably retarded progress.

86. Emigration from the Colony is practically confined to labourers for the Congo railway, who are indentured for periods of one or more years.

87. Investigations for a water supply for Accra have been proceeding in the neighbourhood of Aburi and Cape Coast, and it is hoped a definite scheme may soon be formulated.

C. H. HUNTER,

Acting Colonial Secretary.