

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 344.

GOLD COAST.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, see No. 306.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1901.



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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodriguez	"
336	British New Guinea	1899-1900
337	Leeward Islands	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"
339	British Honduras	"
340	Hong Kong	"
341	Ceylon	"
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900-1901

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada... ..	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla... ..	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.

No. 344.

GOLD
COAST, 1900

GOLD COAST.

GOVERNOR MAJOR NATHAN TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Accra,

5th November, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a Report by Mr. C. H. Hunter, Acting Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Gold Coast for the year 1900.

2. I regret the delay which has occurred in the preparation of this document, due to the great amount of work that has been in the Secretariat this year, and to the staff of that office having been unavoidably below strength.

I have, &c.,

M. NATHAN,

Governor.

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE GOLD
COAST FOR 1900.

FINANCIAL.

1. The table below shows the Revenue for the year 1900 compared with that of the preceding year:—

HEAD.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	280,192	282,652	2,460	—
Light dues	1,303	1,495	192	—
Licences and internal revenue not otherwise classified.	16,079	13,476	—	2,603
Fees of court or office, payments for specific services and reimbursements in aid.	21,009	19,618	—	1,391
Post Office	482	584	102	—
Rents of Government property ...	290	42	—	248
Interest	141	450	309	—
Miscellaneous	3,300	3,824	524	—
Ashanti	—	3,406	3,406	—
Northern Territories	—	7,736	7,736	—
Grant in aid of expenditure in the Northern Territories.	100,000	50,000	—	50,000
Total	422,796	383,283	14,729	54,242

2. The General Revenue for the year, exclusive of grants in aid, amounted to £333,283, being £24,397 less than the amount estimated, but £10,487 more than that collected in the preceding year. It was the highest Revenue ever raised in the Colony.

3. The increase was entirely due to the fact that Revenue was derived from Ashanti and the Northern Territories for the first time.

4. A Parliamentary Grant of £50,000 was made in aid of the Expenditure in the Northern Territories.

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

5. The table below shows the Expenditure for the year 1900 compared with that of the preceding year:—

Head.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	5,610	6,293	683	—
Governor and Legislature	5,291	5,303	12	—
Colonial Secretary's Office	4,501	4,249	—	252
Ashanti... ..	2,608	2,578	—	30
Northern Territories	54,875	37,441	—	17,434
Native Affairs	2,036	1,382	—	654
Treasury	5,143	4,758	—	385
Customs	13,094	14,719	1,625	—
Preventive Services	8,906	14,438	5,532	—
Printing Office... ..	1,539	1,502	—	37
Audit	1,487	1,375	—	112
Lighthouses and Signal Stations	613	566	—	47
District Commissioners	8,831	8,896	65	—
Supreme Court	5,359	5,994	635	—
Law Officers	1,626	1,608	—	18
Ecclesiastical and Cemeteries	1,015	973	—	42
Constabulary	40,583	19,634	—	20,949
Police	13,734	12,514	—	1,270
Volunteers	708	516	—	192
Prisons	6,723	7,471	748	—
Medical and Sanitary	21,208	17,754	—	3,454
Education	6,523	7,038	515	—
Botanical Stations	1,154	1,650	496	—
Carried forward	213,217	178,652	10,311	44,876

GOLD
COAST, 1900.5. EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

Head.				1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
				£	£	£	£
Brought forward	...	...	...	213,217	178,652	10,311	44,876
Transport	...	...	...	17,192	17,038	—	154
Rent	...	...	...	1,225	1,190	—	35
Miscellaneous Services	...	...	...	11,484	18,974	7,490	—
Post Office	...	...	...	4,940	} 11,916	416	—
Telegraphs	...	...	...	6,560			
Public Works Department	...	...	...	10,778	10,457	—	321
Public Works, Recurrent	...	...	...	13,146	14,162	1,016	—
Public Works, Extraordinary	...	...	...	27,183	19,814	—	7,369
Special Services	...	...	...	3,911	—	—	3,911
Ashanti Special Expedition	...	...	...	20	—	—	20
Totals	...	...	...	309,656	272,203	19,233	56,686

6. The foregoing statement shows a net decrease of £37,453 as compared with the Expenditure of the preceding year. This decrease was due to a general saving in nearly all the Departments, while £43,451 less than estimated was expended in the Northern Territories.

7. The table does not take into account a Grant-in-aid of £202,300 in respect of the Ashanti disturbances.

8. The table below shows a comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	237,460	282,272
1897	233,179	401,692
1898	303,822	377,976
1899	422,796	309,656
1900	383,283	272,203

9. It will be observed that during the years 1896 to 1898 the Expenditure very considerably exceeded the Revenue. This was mainly due to the cost of the Ashanti expedition of 1895-96, which was defrayed from the funds of the Colony, and to the opening up and development of the Northern Territories. For the past two years the General Revenue has largely exceeded the Expenditure.

10. The Colony has no Public Debt, but is responsible for advances to the extent of £435,448. This includes advances made on account of the Secondee-Tarquah Railway.

11. An Ordinance was passed in 1900 providing for the raising of a loan of £676,000 for railway construction, &c., in addition to the £220,000 authorised in 1898 by the Railway Ordinance of that year. Neither loan has yet been subscribed, but the sum expended on railways up to the end of 1900 amounted to £389,869.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

12. The total value of Imports in 1900 was £1,294,963, and the value of Exports £885,445, giving a total value for the trade of the Colony for the year of £2,180,408, a decrease of £83,808 on the previous year.

13. The table below shows the value of the trade of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	Total.
	Paying duty.	Admitted free.		
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
1900	849,022	445,941	885,446	2,180,409

**GOLD
COAST, 1900.**

14. The table below gives a 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.	£ —	£ 811,258
II.—Raw materials:—		
(a) Metal	1,209	
(b) Other	17,131	
		18,341
III.—Manufactured articles:—		
(a) Textile	370,752	
(b) Metal	93,255	
(c) Other	305,435	
		769,442
IV.—Coin and bullion... ..	—	195,922
Total	—	£1,294,963

15. The following is a comparative table of the value of Imports, showing that the greater portion of the Import trade is with the United Kingdom, and that while the Imports from the United Kingdom and British Colonies together increased 67 per cent. in the last five years, those from Foreign Countries increased 60 per cent. in the same period:—

Year.	From the United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
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
1900 ...	920,279	73,042	296,642	1,294,963

16. The table below gives a general classification of all Exports:—

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

Articles.	Value in Sterling.		
	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British and Foreign and Colonial Produce and Manufacture.	Totals.
	£	£	£
I. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics	—	849	849
II. Raw materials:—			
(a) Metal	38,208	68	38,276
(b) Other	813,472	14	813,486
III. Manufactured articles:—			
(a) Textile	—	6,650	6,650
(b) Metal	—	413	413
(c) Other	737	3,913	4,650
IV. Coin and bullion... ..	—	21,121	21,121
Totals	842,417	33,028	885,445

17. The following is a comparative table of the value of Exports, showing that the greater portion of the Export trade is with the United Kingdom. Comparing it with the table in paragraph 15, it will be seen that the proportion of the total Exports going to Foreign Countries is far higher than that of the total Imports coming from them:—

Year.	To the United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
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
1900	509,779	49,988	325,678	885,445

**GOLD
COAST, 1900**

18. There was a decrease in the value of Exports for the year 1900 compared with that of 1899 amounting to £226,393, which is attributed to the Ashanti rebellion and consequent stagnation of trade, and also to the fact that rubber no longer goes to the Gold Coast ports from the neighbouring French Colony, as was formerly the case.

The following are the most important items of decrease:—

Rubber	...	...	...	...	£227,575
Lumber	...	...	...	...	19,329
Kola Nuts	...	...	...	...	13,888
Gold and gold dust	...	...	...	...	13,293

The increases are trifling, except in the following articles:—

Palm oil	...	...	...	...	£55,608
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	11,216

19. The following table shows the quantity and value of kola nuts and cocoa exported during the last five years:—

Year.	Kola Nuts.			Cocoa.				
	Packages.	Value.		Lbs.	Value.			
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1896	3,156	33,278	0	4	86,854	2,275	13	3
1897	4,278	37,869	16	4	156,672	3,195	14	7
1898	3,092	35,789	3	7	414,201	9,616	4	0
1899	2,671	57,020	16	11	714,929	16,063	19	5
1900	1,907	43,132	13	7	1,200,794	27,280	9	7

20. The following table gives quantities and values of palm oil and palm kernels exported in the last three years, and shows the trade in these to have been maintained:—

Year.	Palm Oil.		Palm Kernels.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£
1898	2,145,138	114,288	9,732	66,378
1899	3,323,919	183,204	12,664	106,156
1900	4,238,685	238,812	12,811	96,936

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

21. The following table gives quantities and values of timber exported in the last five years, and shows a decline in this trade since 1897.—

Year.			Quantity.	Value.
			Feet.	£
1896	...	...	6,036,381	52,234
1897	...	...	15,236,216	90,569
1898	...	...	13,620,965	110,331
1899	...	...	11,990,832	87,076
1900	...	...	7,443,987	67,747

22. The comparative table below shows the quantities and values of rubber exported from the Colony to the countries mentioned during the last three years, and shows a large falling off in 1900, partly due to the disturbances in Ashanti:—

Countries.	Quantity.			Value.		
	1898.	1899.	1900.	1898.	1899.	1900.
United Kingdom.	Lbs. 5,380,755	Lbs. 5,249,541	Lbs. 3,063,657	£ 495,502	£ 572,854	£ 292,257
Germany ...	600,000	322,414	322,009	55,910	32,838	32,445
Other Countries.	3,429	599	56,774	255	41	3,454
Totals...	5,984,984	5,572,554	3,452,440	551,667	555,731	328,156

23. The following table gives quantities and values of gold exported in the last five years, and shows a steady decline,

**GOLD
COAST, 1900.**

due, it is believed, to new systems of development being introduced and old mines being closed down:—

Years.	Gold and Gold Dust.			
	Ozs.	Ack.*	Tek.*	Value.
1896	23,940	10	2½	£ 86,186 7 2
1897	23,554	13	3½	84,797 9 1
1898	17,732	11	—	63,837 13 6
1899	14,249	14	2¾	51,299 13 0
1900	10,557	6	1¾	38,096 12 3

* Colonial Office Note. In weighing gold dust the natives of the Gold Coast employ only two denominations, viz., the Teku and the Ackie. The Teku is 1/16th of an Ackie, and is equal to 9d. in value. The Ackie is 1/16th part of an ounce (Troy), and is equivalent to 4s. 6d. in value. The ounce (Troy) of gold dust is fixed by Ordinance No. 2 of 1880 at £8 12s. 0d. in value.

CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

24. The following were the Customs receipts during the year at the principal ports of the Colony:—

Port.	Imports, exclusive of Spirits, Gun- powder and Guns.	Spirits.	Gun- powder.	Guns.	Totals.
Accra ...	£ 16,665	£ 39,423	£ 709	£ 109	£ 56,906
Adda ...	6,125	15,572	103	42	21,842
Axim ...	7,460	17,538	544	122	25,664
Cape Coast ...	23,217	40,513	721	417	64,868
Kwitta ...	4,048	8,741	806	50	13,645
Saltpond ...	7,290	24,756	231	76	32,353
Sekondi ...	2,821	11,789	47	22	14,679
Winneba ...	3,308	20,984	312	11	24,515
Other stations	3,876	22,796	169	31	26,872
Totals ...	74,810	202,012	3,642	880	281,344

The Customs receipts show a net increase of £2,460 over those of the preceding year.

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

25. The principal increase in Customs receipts is that on spirits, which, compared with the receipts of last year, show an increase of £15,269. This is entirely due to the large importation of American rum to the detriment of the trade in gin; the duties on rum showing an increase of £18,065, whilst the gin duties show a decrease of £2,920. The most marked decreases are those under the following heads:—

General Imports	...	...	...	£3,270
Gunpowder	...	...	...	8,305
Guns	...	...	...	1,408

The decreases in receipts from General Imports can only be attributed to the Ashanti disturbances, and from Gunpowder and Guns to the Proclamation of April 12th, 1900, prohibiting dealing in these articles.

SHIPPING.

26. The following table is a comparative statement of the total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1896	16	6,784	400	553,794
1897	16	6,582	415	580,277
1898	9	3,173	390	572,811
1899	11	4,825	402	631,124
1900	12	4,858	433	708,742

27. The increase in tonnage of steamers entered and cleared over those of 1899 amounts to 77,618 tons. This is due to larger steamers being placed on the West African service.

28. There is a regular fortnightly English mail service between the ports of Axim, Sekondi, Cape Coast, and Accra, and the United Kingdom, performing the voyage in 16 to 18 days, and a regular monthly German mail service from Accra and Cape Coast to Plymouth. These latter boats now call at Southampton on their outward passage.

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

LEGISLATION.

29. During the year 1900 21 Ordinances were passed. Of these Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, and 14 are of importance.

30. "The Patents Ordinance" (No. 1 of 1900) provides for the protection of inventions by Letters Patent.

31. "The Trade Marks Ordinance" (No. 2 of 1900) provides for the registration of trade marks, giving to the proprietors of registered trade marks the right of exclusive use of such trade marks.

32. "The Shipping Casualties, Wrecks, and Salvage Ordinance" (No. 6 of 1900) gives authority for inquiry to be made respecting shipping casualties, and in the case of salvage directs that Receivers and Assessors shall be appointed by the Governor.

33. "The Imperial Loans Ordinance" (No. 7 of 1900) makes provision for the borrowing of the sum of £676,000 for certain public works from the Imperial Treasury and for the due repayment of the same.

34. "The Kwitta Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance" (No. 12 of 1900) provides a new customs tariff for goods imported at Kwitta, and repeals Ordinance No. 8 of 1900.

35. "The Concessions Ordinance" (No. 14 of 1900) was passed to regulate the concession of rights with respect to lands by natives, and provides for enquiries into concessions, issue of certificates of validity, issue of licences to prospect, payment of duties on profits, and for other matters affecting the mining interests in the Colony.

EDUCATION.

PRIMARY.

36. The schools in the Colony are divided into two classes—Government and Assisted. The former, seven in number, have been established and are exclusively maintained by Government funds. The latter, of which there are 131, are schools established by the different Mission Societies and receiving annual Grants-in-aid from the State towards their support. There are, in addition, a number of schools connected with the Missions which not being sufficiently large (*i.e.*, not having an average daily attendance of 20) do not receive any support from the Government. The principal Missions at present represented in the Colony are the Wesleyan Methodist, the Basel (German Protestant), and the Roman Catholic (French).

37. There is no system of local management as that term is generally understood; indeed, in the majority of villages where schools have been established the only person in any way capable of taking a share in the management of the schools is the master himself. The sphere of each Mission is divided into districts, and an ordained member, either European or native, of the Society represented is appointed to overlook all the schools in his particular district. These managers appoint and dismiss teachers, fix salaries, &c., without any reference to the central authority. That this system is far from satisfactory is at once evident from the fact that a journey of two to three weeks is in some cases necessary to enable a manager to make one short visit to each of the schools for which he is responsible; but, unsatisfactory as the arrangement is, it is under present circumstances, and will be for some considerable time, the only one possible.

38. The total number of children returned as attending school in 1900 was 11,996, about 14 per cent. of whom were girls. The average daily attendance was 8,911, and the number actually presented for examination was 10,329. There are in addition about 2,000 children in attendance at the smaller or unassisted schools. The number of children attending school is thus barely one per cent. of the estimated population of the Colony.

In 1886 the number of children on the rolls was 3,513, and the average daily attendance 2,629.

39. The following table gives the returns for the past ten years:—

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

Year.	Government.	Assisted.	Total.	No. on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Grant-in-aid.
1890-1	5	49	54	5,076	3,541	£ s. d. 1,761 5 0
1891-2	5	69	74	6,666	—	1,678 4 0
1892-3	6	66	72	7,350	5,195	2,170 17 6
1893-4	5	70	75	8,174	6,684	2,394 14 0
1894-5	7	93	100	9,954	7,570	3,179 6 0
1895-6	6	109	115	11,205	8,558	3,400 11 0
1897	7	111	118	—	8,478	3,646 13 8
1898	7	112	119	11,181	8,369	3,432 13 1
1899	7	123	130	12,240	9,239	4,129 11 5
1900	7	131	138	11,996	8,911	3,679 11 1

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

40. In the two principal Government schools at Accra and Cape Coast a fee of sixpence per month is charged for scholars in the standards, and children in the infant classes are charged threepence per month. In the majority of "Assisted" schools instruction is free, but in a few cases a fee, varying from one shilling to ten shillings per quarter is paid.

The following table shows the amount of fees paid during 1899 and 1900:—

Year.	Government Schools.	Assisted Schools.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1899	207 14 0	627 9 5	835 3 5
1900	210 12 3	536 10 8	747 2 11

The average annual payment of each child attending school during 1900 was thus one shilling and twopence.

41. In 1900 the Government expenditure on education was approximately £7,000. Of this amount £3,679 11s. 1d. was awarded as Grants-in-aid to the Mission Societies, the remainder representing the cost of maintaining the purely Government schools and the executive branch of the Department. The cost to the Missions of maintaining the aided schools was, as returned by them, about 75 per cent. of the amount expended by the Government.

Voluntary subscriptions, amounting to a little over £200, were received by the various missionary bodies.

SECONDARY.

42. Of higher or secondary education there is none. The training seminaries of the Basel Mission at Akropong and Abetifi may be said to be the only attempts at an education other than merely elementary. The standard from which the candidates for training are taken is not at present sufficiently high to enable the work done at these institutions to be of a very advanced order.

TECHNICAL.

43. In 1899 a school for instruction in carpentry was opened by a qualified European master in connection with the Government School, Accra. Attendance at these classes is not confined to scholars from the Government school, children from the higher standards in the local mission school having the privilege of entry. A School on similar lines is shortly to be opened at Cape Coast, where, in connection with the Wesleyan Mission,

classes for instruction in smith-work have for some time been held.

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

Most of the schools in the interior have small plantations attached where the scholars receive useful instruction in the cultivation of cocoa, coffee, sisal hemp, cassada, &c.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

44. There are Government hospitals at the following places in the Colony:—Accra, Cape Coast, Elmina, Axim, Saltpond, Kwitta, and Kumasi. Of these, there is accommodation for Europeans at the two first named stations. A nursing sister has now been appointed to the hospital at Cape Coast.

45. The number of in-patients treated during the year at the various hospitals was 1,185 compared with 628 in 1899.

ASYLUM.

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

47. There are no poor-houses nor reformatories in the Colony, and poverty, in the strict sense of the word, is practically unknown.

SAVINGS BANK.

48. The deposits for the year amounted to £3,553, and the withdrawals to £4,067, making an excess of withdrawals over deposits of £514. The number of depositors fell to nearly half that of the previous year. The reason that the transactions have decreased is stated to be mainly due to the establishment of branches of the Bank of British West Africa at Accra and Cape Coast. These branches, by giving 5 per cent. instead of 2½ per cent. interest, have taken away from the Savings Bank the larger and more permanent of the deposits. The small depositors, mainly subordinate officials and traders' clerks, still continue to make use of the Savings Bank chiefly as a means for safely keeping their money. They deposit their monthly pay as soon as received and draw it out again in instalments as they require it for use. The vast bulk of the natives who have money make no use of any Bank, preferring to obtain usurious rates of interest for its loan, though this is, of course, attended by risk. The Savings Bank on the Gold Coast with its 271 depositors cannot on the whole be looked upon as a thriving institution, though I am informed that it is appreciated by the small number of people that make use of it.

Gold
Coast, 1900.

49. Comparative table showing deposits for 1899 and 1900:—

Station.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Accra	988 14 3	985 17 1	—	2 17 2
Adda	158 9 8	160 15 0	2 5 4	—
Axim	710 5 2	313 1 1	—	397 4 1
Cape Coast ...	1,010 19 4	904 10 9	—	106 8 7
Elmina	61 3 9	77 5 2	16 1 5	—
Kwitta	242 12 6	562 12 0	319 19 6	—
Saltpond	82 6 10	152 3 2	69 16 4	—
Sekondi	118 3 8	0 6 6	—	117 17 2
Tarkwa	223 7 7	42 13 0	—	180 14 7
Winneba	339 17 8	354 1 6	14 3 10	—
Total	3,936 0 5	3,553 5 3	422 6 5	805 1 7

50. Comparative table showing withdrawals for 1899 and 1900:—

Station.	1899.	1900.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Accra	1,558 4 6	1,268 6 8	—	289 17 10
Adda	0 7 0	213 12 3	213 5 3	—
Axim	521 15 4	487 8 3	—	34 7 1
Cape Coast ...	1,206 18 9	1,327 13 7	120 14 10	—
Elmina	55 19 3	63 0 1	7 0 10	—
Kwitta	55 16 0	74 2 4	18 6 4	—
Saltpond	51 7 1	206 14 5	155 7 4	—
Sekondi	103 0 0	4 4 0	—	98 16 0
Tarkwa	—	44 8 9	44 8 9	—
Winneba	420 3 4	377 1 6	—	43 1 10
Total	3,973 11 3	4,066 11 10	559 3 4	465 2 9

51. The table below shows the synopsis of deposits, from GOLD
 which it will be seen that the number of depositors is con- COAST, 1900
 siderably less than it was in 1899:—

Synopsis of Deposits.

Year.	No. of Accounts under £5.	Between £5 and £10.	Between £10 and £20.	Between £20 and £50.	Between £50 and £100.	Between £100 and £200.	Over £200.	Total.
1898 ...	360	26	34	27	8	8	6	469
1899 ...	335	33	31	31	16	8	4	458
1900 ...	172	26	24	29	8	8	4	271

52. Below is a comparative statement showing the transactions of the Savings Bank since it was established in 1888:—

52. Comparative statement for 13 years of depositors and amounts at their credit at the end of each year 1888 to 1900:—

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
1900	4,969 14 11	3,447 3 3	106 2 0	8,523 0 2	4,048 2 3	18 9 7	4,066 11 10	4,456 8 4

POLICE.

53. The strength of the Police Force on the 31st December, 1900, was 410 of all ranks; 149 recruits were enlisted at Accra, but of these 10 were afterwards rejected as unsuitable. Police duties among their people are very distasteful to the natives of the Gold Coast, and for that reason it is with great difficulty recruits can be induced to enlist in the Police Force.

PRISONS.

54. There are 15 prisons in the Colony, including Coomassie and Attabubu.

55. Carpentering, tailoring, boot-making, and other trades are carried on at the Accra and Elmina prisons. The prisoners at other stations are employed as labourers and scavengers.

56. During the year there were 13 escapes as compared with 22 in 1899. Of these, 3 were recaptured. Corporal punishment was administered to 3 prisoners, as compared with 18 and 10 in 1899 and 1898 respectively. The number of executions was 7.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

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

	Apprehensions.					Convictions.				
	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
I. Offences against the person	1,187	986	1,089	891	967	667	601	593	496	475
II. Offences against property	730	744	846	788	831	411	416	492	416	441
III. Other offences	5,263	4,073	4,165	2,362	1,563	4,274	3,469	3,136	1,481	1,188
Totals	7,180	5,803	6,100	4,041	3,361	5,352	4,486	4,221	2,393	2,102

From this table it will be seen that both the number of apprehensions and convictions have considerably decreased during the past five years.

VITAL STATISTICS.

58. The general health of the Colony during the year 1900 was good. Both the official and non-official European population increased very largely since 1899. The number of officials has increased from 166 to 468 and that of non-officials from 400 to 1,512. The very large increase in the latter is due to the great number of miners and others who are continually coming out in connection with the mining industry. Both the death and invalid rates per 1,000 are less than the corresponding rates for the preceding year.

59. The following table shows the death and invaliding rate per 1,000 among the Europeans:—

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

Class.	No.	Deaths.	Invalided.	Death rate per 1,000.	Invaliding rate per 1,000.
Official ...	488	10	29	21·36	61·96
Non-official ...	1,512	34	99	22·48	65·47
Total ...	1,980	44	128	22·22	64·64

60. No death-rate can be calculated for the natives owing to the impossibility of obtaining reliable information. It is, however, satisfactory to note that advantage is being taken of the hospitals provided, the number of in-patients treated during the year being nearly double of that for 1899.

61. The Pathological Laboratory which was established at Accra in the preceding year made little or no progress in 1900, owing to the absence at Coomassie of the Medical Officer in charge of it.

62. Each year shows some improvement in the sanitary condition of Accra, as well as most of the coast towns, but the habits of the people are dirty, and much of the sickness in the Colony, especially at Cape Coast, is attributable to this.

63. The following table shows the monthly rainfall at Accra and Aburi for the years 1899 and 1900:—

Month.	Accra.		Aburi.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
January ...	—	·62	·50	1·51
February ...	·62	·8	4·74	2·30
March ...	1·99	1·27	6·18	2·72
April ...	·64	4·89	3·08	4·88
May ...	4·16	3·98	3·98	3·14
June ...	4·03	3·55	5·94	5·72
July ...	·11	·90	5·35	2·48
August ...	4·12	·30	5·45	1·49
September...	·56	·20	1·15	2·29
October ...	2·47	5·35	6·16	5·90
November...	—	2·20	5·54	2·53
December...	·94	—	1·05	2·69
Totals...	19·64	23·84	49·12	37·65

From this table it will be seen that the rainfall at Aburi is considerably less, and at Accra rather more, than in the previous year.

**GOLD
COAST, 1900.**

POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

64. From the 1st of October, 1899, the two branches of the office were put under the administration of the Postmaster-General.

Post.

65. The table below shows some part of the business of the Postal Department during 1900 as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	No. of Registered Articles Posted.	Total amount of Money Order Transactions.			Total amount of Postal Order Transactions.			No. of Parcels.
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1899	41,878	16,878	4	6	2,387	4	6	5,744
1900	48,760	21,821	17	9	2,324	9	6	7,995
Increase	6,882	4,942	19	8	—	—	—	2,251
Decrease	—	—	—	—	62	15	0	—

The money orders show a large increase on those of the previous year.

TELEGRAPHS.

66. The increase in telegrams sent in 1899 was steadily maintained during the year, the total number of telegrams transmitted during the year being 140,315, as compared with 128,026 in the previous year; and the Revenue collected being about £400 in excess of that of 1899. Temporary offices were opened at a number of places during the Ashanti disturbances. The telegraph line for the greater part of the distance between Prahsu and Coomassie, and for many miles north of Coomassie, was destroyed by the Ashantis, but the greater part of it was restored before the end of the year.

67. The number of messages sent through the Government Offices for transmission by the African Direct Telegraph Company, amounted to 2,563, as compared with 2,268 in 1899.

TELEPHONES.

68. There is a telephone exchange at Accra connected with all the Government Offices. It was intended to establish an exchange at Cape Coast during the year but the disturbances in Ashanti prevented it being completed. Communication was established between Cape Coast Castle, the Base Commandant's Office, and the Hospital.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

69. There are no Imperial or militia forces in the Colony.

70. The establishment of the Gold Coast Constabulary in 1900 was 1,521 of all ranks. The strength of the force on 31st December was much below this establishment, owing to a large number having been killed during the disturbances in Ashanti and the cessation of all recruiting for the force for the time being. The total expenditure during the year in connection with the force amounted to £19,634. A complete reorganization of the force is proposed.

71. The Gold Coast Rifle Volunteers, which was raised in 1892, have gradually increased, the nominal strength of the force on the 31st December, 1900, being 283, or 42 in excess of the strength at the end of the previous year:—

Officers.	Warrant Officers.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Privates.	Signallers.	Band.	Total
9	1	19	31	198	—	25	283

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

72. At the commencement of April the Coomassie chiefs and their followers in Ashanti, together with the Offinsus, Atohimas, and Egisus, rose against the Government, and were afterwards joined by part of the Kokofus, the Adansis, Ahafus, Wankis, Bechims, and Inkwantas. The Governor was besieged at Coomassie till the 23rd June, when he made his way to the coast, leaving a small garrison in the Residency. A force of West and Central African troops under Colonel Sir James Willcocks relieved the Residency on the 15th July, and inflicted several defeats on the Ashantis, the operations lasting till the end of the year.

73. Trade with the interior, except with the eastern part of the Colony, ceased during the rising and military operations.

74. Towards the end of the year, a large number of Europeans arrived on the Gold Coast with a view to the prospecting and development of mining properties.

75. The difficulties of transport which have always been an obstacle to the general progress of the Colony were greatly

GOLD
COAST, 1900.

increased by the necessity of providing for the movement of a large number of troops with their stores and ammunition to and from Ashanti.

76. Scarcity of labour again showed itself to be a very serious impediment to the opening up of the Colony generally; the price of labour is high and the supply most uncertain.

77. Railhead on the Secondee-Tarquah Railway was at 25½ miles from Secondee, or 14 miles short of Tarquah, at the end of the year, the formation level being complete for four miles beyond. The scarcity of labour had very seriously retarded the progress of the work.

78. The investigations for a water supply for Accra progressed, but no definite scheme has yet been determined on.

79. His Excellency, Major Nathan, C.M.G., R.E., was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony in succession to Sir F. M. Hodgson, K.C.M.G., and arrived at Accra on the 17th December.

C. H. HUNTER,

Acting Colonial Secretary.