



This document was created by the
Digital Content Creation Unit
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2010

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 400.

LAGOS.

REPORT FOR 1902.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1903.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C.4.
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1903.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
377	Northern Nigeria	1901
378	British Guiana	1901-1902
379	Mauritius	1901
380	Basutoland	1901-1902
381	Southern Nigeria	1901
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901-1902
383	Bermuda	1902
384	St. Lucia	1901
385	St. Vincent	"
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar	"
388	Weihaiwei	"
389	Sierra Leone	"
390	British Honduras	"
391	Gambia	"
392	St. Helena	"
393	Hong Kong	"
394	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
395	Seychelles	"
396	Ceylon	"
397	Gold Coast	"
398	Barbados	1902-1903
399	Fiji	1902

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.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.

No. 400.

LAGOS.

GOVERNOR SIR W. MACGREGOR to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Lagos,

28th July, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of Lagos for the year 1902, prepared by the Honourable C. H. Harley Moseley, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

W. MACGREGOR,

Governor.

REPORT ON THE LAGOS BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1902.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The statements of revenue and expenditure cover the financial year from the 1st April, 1901, to the 31st March, 1902, while the rest of the returns are compiled for the calendar year 1902. The revenue for 1901-2 amounted to £257,124, exclusive of railway £17,898 for seven months, or a total of £275,022; and the expenditure was £213,855, exclusive of railway £21,640, or a total of £235,495.

The general revenue, exclusive of railway, has exceeded the estimate by £25,264. This satisfactory result is largely due to the opening up of interior roads, and to the development and increase of trade throughout the whole Protectorate due to the railway, which has materially assisted commerce. The year has been a most favourable one for business interests, the volume of trade having exceeded that of any previous year.

Of the total amount of revenue collected, £275,022, the receipts under Customs are £233,049, the balance being made up as follows:—

Receipts.	Amount.
	£
Harbour and Lighthouse Dues	789
Licences &c.	7,199
Fees of Court &c.	4,862
Postal Revenue	1,991
Rent of Government Property	448
Interest on Investments	2,198
Miscellaneous	6,379
Land Sales	209
Railway	17,898

The general advance of the revenue of the Colony will be seen from the following table, the revenue having reached its highest point in 1901-2:—

1897.	1898.	1899.	1900-01.	1901-02.
£	£	£	£	£
177,421	206,414	192,791	211,467	257,124

A Parliamentary grant of £10,000 was made to Lagos in 1898, which is included in the revenue for that year.

In 1899 the duty on spirits was raised from 2s. to 3s. a gallon, and in the same year on other articles as shown below:—

Salt	from 5s. to 20s. a ton.
Tobacco, manufactured,	from 3d. to 8d. a lb.
„ unmanufactured,	from 3d. to 4d. a lb.
Cigars,	from 5s. to 10s. a thousand.
Cigarettes,	„ 3d. a lb. to 1s. a thousand.
Guns,	„ 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. each.
Gunpowder,	„ 2d. to 6d. a lb.
Kerosene,	„ 5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> to 2d. a gallon.
Cartridges,	„ „ „ „ 2s. a hundred.
Kola Nuts,	„ „ „ „ 2s. a lb.
Lead,	„ „ „ „ 1d. „
Sugar,	„ „ „ „ 1s. a cwt.
Tea,	„ „ „ „ 1d. a lb.
Wine, Sparkling,	from 2s. a gallon to 3s. a gallon.

In March, 1901, the *ad valorem* duty on imported goods generally was increased from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the years 1900-1 and 1901-2 under each head:—

STATEMENT of REVENUE and EXPENDITURE for the YEARS

	Revenue 1900-1.			Revenue 1901-2.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs	193,924	0	0	233,049	1	6
Harbour Wharf and Lighthouse Dues	784	6	0	789	7	0
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise Classified.	6,695	17	6	7,199	3	3
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Re-imbursements in aid.	4,730	17	0	4,862	2	6
Postal Revenue	1,574	6	8	1,990	10	2
Rent of Government Property	405	3	5	448	0	10
Interest on Investments	2,210	12	5	2,197	19	9
Miscellaneous	956	19	6	6,379	3	0
Total	211,282	2	6	256,915	8	0
Land Sales... ..	185	0	9	208	11	4
Railway Revenue... ..	—			17,897	12	1
Total Revenue . . .	211,467	3	3	275,021	11	5

ended 31st MARCH, 1900-1, and 31st MARCH, 1901-2.

	Expenditure 1900-1.			Expenditure 1901-2.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Charge on Account of Public Debt ...	18,169	12	1	50,309	13	6
Pensions and Gratuities	3,380	19	8	3,772	12	1
Governor	5,245	10	11	5,701	19	0
Colonial Secretariat	3,688	16	9	3,070	5	0
Interior	10,480	11	7	9,137	10	8
Attorney-General	827	1	7	928	16	10
Treasury	2,537	3	2	2,168	10	2
Customs	7,108	10	2	6,239	17	0
" Special	17	0	0	—		
Audit Office	1,218	17	11	1,291	1	9
Harbour Office	2,757	6	4	2,491	1	8
" " Special... ..	463	8	8	—		
Government Vessels	4,224	9	4	4,332	10	8
Engineers	3,592	12	7	4,313	15	4
Judicial Establishment	7,110	16	6	7,605	18	7
Naval Force	24,978	15	8	23,308	7	10
Police	14,117	9	6	14,507	6	4
Prisons	3,022	12	1	3,132	4	10
Medical	11,535	10	9	14,057	4	6
Educational	3,056	12	6	3,903	13	0
Miscellaneous	4,103	10	6	4,268	13	8
Post Office	1,843	15	10	1,455	13	9
Printing Office	1,078	13	4	1,099	5	11
Registry Office	329	4	2	—		
Transport	6,405	13	1	—		
Agricultural and Forests	1,834	5	6	2,327	7	1
Botanical Station	588	15	9	936	18	4
Laboratory	643	4	5	705	4	11
Land and Survey Department	1,900	14	9	2,728	3	7
Rent	624	18	6	766	10	7
Charitable	324	15	5	261	19	11
Sanitary—Board of Health	2,699	5	4	2,729	16	2
Public Works Department	11,212	6	5	12,339	19	0
Public Works Recurrent	9,073	12	0	9,332	10	4
Total	170,196	13	3	199,224	11	11
Public Works Extraordinary... ..	16,928	2	9	14,630	11	1
Railway Department	—			21,640	0	0
Total Expenditure	187,124	16	0	235,495	3	0

PUBLIC DEBT.

Ordinance No. 13 of 1902 was passed by the Legislative Council to enable £207,300 to be borrowed, raising the total borrowing powers to £1,261,000. The whole of this sum has not yet been spent, but on the 31st December, 1902, £792,500 had been borrowed from the Imperial Treasury and £278,976 through the Crown Agents, and advances from revenue account in the Colony amounted to £116,199, making a total expenditure on account of the railway, of £1,187,675.

The whole of the debt of the Colony has been incurred on account of the railway, the tramway, and the bridges connecting Lagos and the tramway with the railway terminus on Iddo Island, save £5,036 expended on the railway survey from Ibadan to the Niger.

In connection with the railway it is estimated that an additional £50,000 will be required to build a wharf at the Iddo terminus sufficiently large to accommodate two steamers. This additional sum will raise the indebtedness of the Colony in round numbers to £1,300,000.

The payments made from the revenue of the Colony on account of the public debt from 1898 to 31st December, 1902 (including interest and repayment of capital) have been £1,17,202.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

—	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900-1.	1901-2.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	177,421	206,444	192,791	211,467	275,022
Expenditure ...	182,668	203,802	223,289	187,124	235,495

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The statement of assets and liabilities on the 31st March, 1902, shows a surplus of £79,437 17s. 7d., the excess of assets twelve months previously having been £39,911 9s. 2d.

TAXES.

The only tax imposed during the year was a capitation tax on labourers engaged for service outside the Colony. The amount received from this tax during nine months of the year, which formed part of the general revenue, was £4,222, although it was expected to yield £2,000 only. The tax cannot, however, be

counted on as a permanent source of revenue, as it is hoped and expected that all surplus labour will be given employment in our own Colony and Protectorate.

Permission to engage labourers was granted only to the Gold Coast Government, the men engaged being employed on railway construction work in that Colony.

IMPORTS.

1902 was a large importing year for many articles, particularly for Manchester, Birmingham, and Sheffield goods. Although towards the end of the year stocks accumulated, an increased business was done by most of the merchants as compared with the previous year. Heavy imports naturally follow upon large exports where the latter consist of forest and farm products; and 1902 was no exception to the rule.

Success and security in business in Lagos depends largely upon the agent employed. Under the peculiar system of unlimited credit the local merchant orders large quantities of goods, and realizes on them as quickly as possible and often below cost. This fact should not be lost sight of, as the system leads to heavy losses and is most detrimental to trade.

The total value of imports was £895,223, which shows an increase over the previous year of £170,385, exclusive of specie, the increase of which during 1902 amounted to £23,075.

The actual improvement, however, was more in the business done and profits earned, the year having been a most favourable one for the commercial interests of Lagos, the volume of trade exceeding that of many years.

Many letters of enquiry on matters relating to trade have been received at the Secretariat from manufacturers and others interested in extending their business relations with the Colony. Every effort is made to supply information asked for. It must be borne in mind that the Colonial Secretary's Department cannot undertake any responsibility as to the financial status of persons whose names are furnished as likely or willing to act as agents in the Colony for business houses abroad, but the Department will at all times be happy to receive communications from any firms or individuals interested in trade with the Colony, and willing to give such information as may be obtainable.

The following comparative statement shows the imports to Lagos during 1901 and 1902 :—

Articles.	1901.		1902.		1902.			
					Increase.		Decrease.	
Cotton goods	—	£ 327,117 6 9	--	£ 486,296 18 1	—	£ 109,179 11 4	—	£ —
Tobacco lbs.	873,889	18,933 15 10	1,117,183	23,179 6 1	248,244	4,245 9 8	—	—
Spirits galls.	955,244	60,838 18 2	1,260,895	77,827 11 4	307,141	16,938 18 2	—	—
Salt tons	6,886 16 0 11	9,019 2 4	6,028 3 0 17	7,366 1 2	—	—	358 12 8 22	1,668 1 2
Other articles	—	808,879 4 8	—	850,563 7 11	--	41,684 3 8	—	—
	—	721,838 2 9	—	895,223 3 7	—	172,048 2 0	—	1,668 1 2
Specie	—	12,446 16 10	—	85,522 1 3	—	23,076 4 10	—	—
Total	—	737,284 19 7	—	930,745 6 3	—	196,123 6 10	—	1,668 1 2

Particulars are also given showing the increases under Other Articles :—

Articles.	1901.			1902.			Increase, 1902.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Shooks and hoop-iron ...	14,941	13	3	31,840	5	1	16,898	11	5
Silk goods ...	6,058	5	4	11,119	16	1	5,061	10	9.
Beads ...	13,599	16	6	18,559	1	0	4,959	4	6
Gunny bags ...	7,211	3	10	12,042	8	3	4,831	4	5
Haberdashery ...	15,120	7	4	19,518	12	2	3,398	4	10.
Soap ...	3,949	13	8	6,237	17	11	2,288	4	3
Earthenware ...	3,870	5	7	6,030	0	11	2,159	15	4
Enamelware ...	896	8	9	2,983	17	6	2,087	8	9

EXPORTS.

The exports in 1902 amounted to £1,259,683, being an increase over the previous year of £461,652 exclusive of specie. The export of palm kernels was exceptionally large, the European market price being considerably above the average, and the business done by the exporting houses was generally good. The appointment by the Government of a European Produce Inspector improved the quality of the kernels shipped, and, taken all round, the year's trade in this article was most satisfactory, the prices realized being better and profits larger than for many years. The loss in weight in kernels has decreased from about 10 per cent. to 6 per cent., and the amount of shell and other impurities from 10 per cent. to about 7½ per cent., the result being that the merchant was in a position to pay considerably higher prices than during previous years.

Shipments of palm oil were also well above the average and prices throughout the year ruled high. The European market in palm oil, however, was not nearly so steady as in palm kernels, and as this product is more speculative, returns of individual merchants vary considerably. On the whole exporters had a fair year, and the well known quality of Lagos palm oil was fully maintained.

The average prices of kernels and oil during the year 1902 as compared with the previous year were as follows :—

Month.	Palm Kernels.		Palm Oil.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January ...	7 17 6	9 15 0	18 7 6	17 15 0
February ...	7 15 0	10 5 0	18 0 0	18 7 6
March ...	7 10 0	10 7 3	17 5 0	18 0 0

Month.	Palm Kernels.		Palm Oil.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.	Per ton.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
April	7 9 6	10 0 0	15 7 6	16 10 0
May	7 10 6	10 5 0	15 5 0	16 17 6
June	7 9 3	10 6 3	15 2 6	17 15 0
July	7 9 3	10 0 0	15 10 0	17 10 0
August	8 4 3	10 1 3	15 12 6	17 2 6
September	8 7 6	10 2 6	16 15 0	17 10 0
October	8 11 6	9 5 6	17 0 0	18 0 0
November	8 5 0	8 10 0	16 2 6	18 0 0
December	8 16 3	8 12 6	16 0 0	16 17 6

In mahogany a very satisfactory year may be reported, the most satisfactory in fact in the history of the mahogany trade of the Colony. Large quantities were exported and record prices were obtained at the auctions held throughout the year. Owing to short supplies of Cuban and American mahogany, African wood was in great demand both in England and America, and Lagos timber in particular was largely bought. Although high prices and keen competition ruled in Lagos, the exporters made fair profits, the gradual rise of market in England all the year helping them considerably. Many logs, which in previous years it would not have paid to ship, were exported during the year 1902 and found keen buyers in Europe. The prices per superficial foot during 1901 and 1902 are shown in the following return:—

Month.	1901.	1902.
January	1d.	1d.
February	1d.	½d.
March	1d.	1d.
April	1d.	1d.
May	1d.	1½d.
June	1d.	1½d.
July	1½d.	1½d.
August	1½d.	1½d.
September	1½d.	1½d.
October	1½d. to 1½d.	1½d.
November	1½d. to 1½d.	1½d. to 1½d.
December	1½d. to 1½d.	1½d. to 1½d.

The European market for cocoa was very disappointing during the year, and, although a fair quantity was exported, most of it was ungraded and badly prepared. Business done in this line on the whole was very unsatisfactory, the home price

falling towards the end of the season when the principal portion of the year's crop was on the way to Europe. Lagos cocoa is of very good quality, but planters do not pay proper attention to curing, and consequently its standard in the home market is not as high as it otherwise would be.

Generally, prices realized on nearly all exports were better and profits larger than they have been for many years. There is abundant evidence of increasing prosperity in the trade of the Colony, which is now in a flourishing condition with great possibilities for the future.

Some of the principal business houses have established branches at Abeokuta and Ibadan, and there is no doubt that the railway will prove an important factor in the future trade of the Colony.

Of trade generally the Collector of Customs reports "the year was one of the best the Colony has ever experienced both as regards imports and exports."

AGRICULTURE.

The Government, recognizing the need of encouraging agriculture of every kind, has started a model farm at Oloke Meji with the object of promoting the cultivation of the many tropical products which can be grown in the Colony and Protectorate.

The re-establishment of cotton growing has been received everywhere with a good deal of interest, and planters seem to realise the importance of this industry, especially in the Egba country, where the people have availed themselves of the assistance of the Forest and Agricultural Department. Several thousand acres have been planted in cotton at Abeokuta. That the present is an opportune time for embarking in cotton cultivation does not admit of question; that it is a suitable industry is incontestable. To assist in establishing it a grant has been made by the Government of £1,000. In addition to Government assistance, the British Cotton Growing Association, having for its principal object the extension of the growth and cultivation of cotton in British colonial dependencies and protectorates, has expressed its intention to place ginning and pressing machines at the disposal of cotton growers. The Association has also undertaken to buy any cotton which may be grown. These facts to those who are disposed to take up cotton growing are full of promise.

Cotton was an established industry in years past, but owing to low prices the natives ceased to plant for export, but have continued to grow sufficient for home use. In 1869, the cotton

exported amounted in value to £76,957. The exports for ten years from 1870 to 1879 were as under :—

Year.				Amount.
				£
1870	...	...	...	53,778
1871	...	...	...	26,157
1872	...	...	...	16,249
1873	...	...	...	51,618
1874	...	...	...	31,580
1875	...	...	...	19,841
1876	...	...	...	13,974
1877	...	...	...	12,437
1878	...	...	...	2,755
1879	...	...	...	526

The principal supply came from the Egba country. The Egbas, the most progressive people in Yoruba-land, are perfectly willing to grow cotton, but they want to be certain that the demand will be permanent. They have been greatly discouraged by their past experience in coffee growing, for which they went in largely, prices having gone down after they had succeeded in obtaining excellent crops. It has been explained to them that cotton, if cultivated carefully, will always realize a price that will pay them. They have agreed to plant largely, and in the Egba country alone four thousand acres will be shortly planted out.

Professor Hoffman writes :

“The very finest grade of cotton could be grown here that would be superior to any American cotton.

“From Oyo to Ogbomosho the lands are similar. I found the Alafin of Oyo very anxious to introduce cotton growing among his people. These people are thrifty and anxious for me to help them to improve their lands. What impressed me most was to see what progress these people have made in farming with such a rude piece of farming implement as their primitive hoe. I have convinced them that with the introduction of improved modern agricultural implements, one man with a bullock and plough could do more work on the farm than ten men working with their primitive hoe. This information appealed to them at once.

“The Yoruba country is the greatest agricultural centre in West Africa, and is capable of producing diversified crops, cocoa, sugar cane, English vegetables, &c. From Oyo to the Northern Nigeria boundary is a most excellent country for stock raising, including poultry culture.

“While in Oyo I made some butter from the milk of native cows, equal in flavour to the best American butter. I hope to

see the time soon come when the wonderful agricultural resources of the country will be developed on scientific agricultural lines."

On a suggestion made by the Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, and approved by the Secretary of State, Mr. Foster, the Curator of this Colony, proceeded to the West Indies to visit the principal Botanical Stations for the purpose of enlarging his knowledge of the cultivation of valuable tropical economic plants, and of observing the system and arrangements pursued at the Botanical Stations in those Colonies. Mr. Foster procured such plants as he thought were suitable for cultivation in this Colony; and these have been planted in the Botanical Garden at Oloke Meji, and are doing well.

Professor Hoffman has travelled extensively in the Yoruba country since his arrival in the Colony. He has succeeded in gaining the confidence of the chiefs and farmers, and interested them in agricultural work. He reports that the natives of the country visited by him are keen farmers, enthusiastic over the idea of cotton growing and agricultural work generally, very intelligent, and anxious to get all the latest views on farming.

It is admitted that the prosperity of the people of this Colony depends largely on the produce of the soil, yet agriculture has for years been in a backward state, planters of the present day being no more skilled in this science than their fathers before them. Ignorance has hitherto created a dislike for occupation as a farmer, and it is hoped that as this interesting science becomes better known, the people will become educated to the fact that agriculture is one of the most dignified occupations which can possibly be taken up in life.

It is hoped that the Agricultural Show to be held in 1903 will enable me to report more favourably on this subject in my report for next year.

LANDS.

Efforts have during the past year been largely directed towards improvement in the instruments of land tenure.

The first step was the carrying out of a skeleton survey, and the complete co-ordination of the town of Lagos. It is now possible to refer any point on the island to the origin of the Observatory by means of co-ordinates.

Twenty-two grants have been issued on the new system; the majority of them being for land successfully reclaimed, the rest cancelling and revoking original grants which were found to be inaccurate.

Considerable improvement in the filling up of swamp allotments is reported--the result of closer supervision of the work, and probably of the example of the successful reclamations

carried out by the Public Works Department. Further sales of swamp land were, therefore, made by public auction. Prices realised shew the extraordinary demand for land in Lagos.

The number of encroachments on public streets in Lagos town was considerable; but it is satisfactory to be able to state that the cases were, with few exceptions, not of recent standing, and that the public are becoming aware of the necessity for maintaining a uniform building line in streets. Many applications are received for the definition of the proper alignment.

The removal of the Ebute Metta people from the expropriated railway area was effected during the early part of the year. Blocks were allotted as compensation in the New Town Site, which was laid out on model lines.

Most of the country field work effected was undertaken for geodetic and topographic reasons. The survey made for the Railway from Lagos to Ibadan is most valuable as furnishing a backbone for the extension of geodetic surveys and triangulation throughout the Colony and Protectorate.

Traverses of the coast line east from Lagos for about eighty miles and westward to the French boundary were carried out, the former with a view to ascertaining the feasibility of erecting a telegraph line to Forcados.

MINERALS.

One prospecting licence was issued during the year as compared with six the previous year. No mineral worth working has as yet been discovered.

SHIPPING.

The Collector of Customs reports as follows:—

“Whilst the number of the British steamers has fallen off, the number of foreign ones has very materially increased. This is accounted for by the unprecedented activity of the Woermann Line during the past year (223 German steamers during 1902 as against 124 in 1901), whilst the British steamers numbered only 321 in 1902 as against 331 during 1901.

“We have now no less than seven German branch steamers belonging to this harbour, and a new one shortly expected. There are nine English ones.”

The following table gives the number of vessels entered and cleared during the past five years:—

VESSELS ENTERED.

Nationality.	1898.			1899.			1900.			1901.			1902.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British	298	299,771	10,352	300	346,757	12,113	358	411,281	13,774	331	379,762	13,292	324	364,400	13,882
Foreign	181	110,333	5,279	191	133,710	5,904	168	120,590	4,586	127	105,966	4,651	324	216,539	9,176
Total	479	410,104	15,631	491	480,467	18,017	526	531,871	18,360	458	485,728	17,943	548	580,939	23,059

VESSELS CLEARED.

Nationality.	1898.			1899.			1900.			1901.			1902.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
British	296	297,158	10,257	315	349,655	12,298	356	411,920	13,700	326	367,867	12,811	319	356,251	13,858
Foreign	183	115,116	5,389	204	138,706	6,286	169	119,801	4,498	141	122,203	5,306	216	207,267	9,023
Total	479	412,274	15,646	519	488,361	18,584	525	531,721	18,198	467	490,070	18,117	535	563,518	22,881

LEGISLATION.

During the year 25 ordinances were passed in the following order :—

(1.) The Foreign Jurisdiction Ordinance, to obviate certain legal difficulties which might arise in connexion with the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Crown in the adjacent territories.

(2.) The Patents Ordinance correcting a small error in the original Ordinance of 1900.

(3.) The Native Labour Ordinance, to restrict and regulate the recruiting of labourers for service outside the Colony.

(4.) The Pensions Ordinance, defining the scale of pensions to be granted to officers in the colonial service.

(5.) The annual Supply and Appropriation Ordinance.

(6.) The West African Frontier Force Ordinance, making certain amendments in the original Ordinance of 1901 in connexion with the command of the Lagos Battalion.

(7.) The Corporal Punishments Limitation Ordinance.

(8.) The Sale of Drugs and Poisons Ordinance, re-enacting with amendments the Ordinance of 1900, repealed in 1901.

(9.) The Protection of Trees Ordinance, to prevent the destruction of trees on Crown lands and public open spaces.

(10.) The Trustee Investment Ordinance, to comply with the conditions imposed by the Imperial Treasury with regard to the Investment of trust funds in Lagos Government Securities.

(11.) The Foreign Employment (Administration) Ordinance, making a verbal amendment in the original Ordinance of 1898.

(12.) The Imprisonment Definition Ordinance, providing that a sentence of imprisonment shall be deemed to be imprisonment with or without hard labour at the discretion of the Court.

(13.) The Railway Loan Ordinance, referred to above.

(14.) The Forests Ordinance, making regulations for the protection of the forests of the Colony.

(15.) The West African Frontier Force Ordinance, making verbal amendments of the original Ordinance.

(16.) The Sale of Drugs Ordinance, making a verbal amendment of No. 8.

(17.) The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.

(18.) The Real Estate Administration Ordinance, putting real estate on the same footing as personalty in certain cases.

(18.) The Small Estates Administration Ordinance, rendering unnecessary the taking out of letters of administration in certain cases.

(20.) The Forests Ordinance No. 2, amending the original Ordinance No. 14.

(21.) The Patents Ordinance, amending the original Ordinance of 1900.

(22.) The Trade Marks Ordinance, making provision for international protection arrangements.

(23.) The Designs Ordinance, providing for registration of designs.

(24.) The Supreme Court Ordinance, making certain changes in the constitution of the Full Court.

(25.) The Vaccination Ordinance, amending the original Ordinance of 1873.

EDUCATION.

Both primary and secondary education are given principally in schools connected with the different Christian missionary societies, namely, the Church Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and the Roman Catholic missions. To these societies the Government make grants-in-aid on the principle of payment by results. The Government have also recently established elementary schools for the Mohammedan and pagan sections of the community at Lagos, and in the Eastern and Western Districts.

The administration of public education is vested in the Board of Education, consisting of the Governor, the members of the Legislative Council, the Inspector of Schools, and four school managers nominated in that behalf by the Governor.

The number of schools inspected in 1902 is 34, comprising 66 distinct departments, that is, 27 infant, 28 primary, 3 secondary and 8 industrial.

The numbers on the registers are :—

Society.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Anglican	1,408	515	1,923
Wesleyan	648	219	867
Roman Catholic	454	431	885
United Native African	189	76	265
Government Moslem and Pagan	185	7	192
Hussey Charity	41	—	41
Total	2,925	1,248	4,173

The total number on the registers for the preceding year was 4,310 ; there is thus a slight falling-off of 137 scholars.

The average attendance during the year is 3,275, that is, 76·06 per cent. of the enrolment, in comparison with 78·5 per cent. in the preceding year.

The total income and expenditure of the schools are, respectively, £5,108 7s. 0½d. and £4,845 19s. 1d. Although there is an excess of income over expenditure, yet, speaking generally, the schools lead a hand-to-mouth existence. The receipts in school fees and Government grants do not cover the expenditure, and the balance has to be met from the funds of the different churches and missionary societies with which the schools are connected.

The Government grants paid to the schools in 1902 compare with the payments of the preceding year as hereunder :—

Society.	Grants earned with respect to the Year 1901.			Grants earned with respect to the Year 1902.			Increase on Grants for 1901.	Decrease on Grants for 1901.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Anglican	713	3	0	646	13	0	—	66 10 0
Wesleyan	222	14	0	186	16	6	—	53 17 6
Roman Catholic ...	567	2	6	578	10	6	11 8 0	—
United Native African	50	16	0	65	6	0	14 10 0	—
Total	1,553	15	6	1,459	6	0	—	94 9 6

The total number of boys receiving secondary instruction is about 170, and the instruction includes the three highest standards of the primary schools together with a few specific subjects in addition. The Church Missionary Society has established a secondary school for girls, on much the same line as the secondary schools for boys.

Technical instruction is given in the Hussey Charity Institution, which is supported by a grant-in-aid of £500 from the Government and by private property left in trust by the late Rebecca Hussey of London for the maintenance and education of alien boys who have found an asylum in Lagos. Instruction is given in smithy work, carpentry, and joinery, and the workshops are open to boys who have been educated in the other schools of the Colony.

Industrial instruction in farming and agriculture is given to the boys in the boys' school of the Roman Catholic settlement at Topo, and domestic economy is taught in the three girls' schools at Lagos and Topo, in connexion with this society.

There has recently been founded at Lagos an institute for the encouragement of the study of literature, science, and art. Every person of the age of 14 years is eligible for membership—the object being to provide for the youth of the Colony a meeting place for mutual improvement and rational amusements, and to bring together all classes of society with a view to promoting among them kindly understanding and intelligent sympathy. The present number of members is about 110, and the organisation comprises a reading-room and a lecture hall, offers facilities for the holding of meetings at which papers are read, lectures delivered, and discussions held on topics of general interest, and it also promises to contain a valuable collection of books and other appliances for study.

The general results of the educational efforts now put forth are not altogether satisfactory. There is much demand for a better educated class of native youths in Government offices and mercantile stores. The Inspector of Schools has pointed out that this demand cannot be supplied unless the teachers employed in the schools are better educated and receive special training for their work. There is no doubt that the Government and the people will before long have to face the problem of the re-construction of public education. The present system, unsatisfactory as it is in other respects, appears to be doing most serious harm in its producing in the youth a disinclination for manual and industrial work. As soon as a lad has attended school for a few years he begins to look with disdain on manual work, and, being unfit for any other occupation, he eventually subsides to the condition of a mere parasite on society. Private efforts are being made to remedy this deplorable state of things, but they are powerless to cope with the evil. The Colony would no doubt derive a great advantage from a system of public education in which practical training played a considerable, though of course not the only, part.

The scheme for the teaching of sanitation in schools which was passed by the Board of Education on the 21st of February, 1902, was put into operation during the year. No less than 388 scholars from six schools were presented for examination, and the results were most encouraging for a first beginning. At the last annual competitive exhibition of school work, 44 pupils from the primary and secondary schools competed in this subject, and the jurors of the competition reported that “the majority of them showed sound knowledge of the elementary laws of health.”

HOSPITALS.

There are three, one in Lagos, one at Badagry, and one at Epe. During 1902, 10,091 persons were treated at these hospitals (6,399 in Lagos, and 3,692 at the other hospitals).

Dispensaries exist in Lagos (2), Ebute Metta (1), and Ibadan (1), of the benefits of which natives are availing themselves in gradually increasing numbers.

ASYLUMS.

An asylum for lunatics has been built at Yaba, but is not yet complete. Pending its completion, the buildings have been utilized, for the past two years, as quarters for railway officials, but it is expected that in a short time it will be available for the safekeeping and treatment of the mentally afflicted.

There is a leper asylum at Yaba, with eleven inmates.

POOR HOUSES.

There is a small home for paupers supported by a Government grant.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The diseases most affecting the death-rate are :—

1. Malarial fever ;
2. Lung complaints in the rainy season ; and
3. Bowel complaints.

The first and third causes are being combated with encouraging success. The second depends to a great extent on the neglect of the native to protect the body against rain and cold.

The lectures on elementary sanitation, which are constantly being delivered, are doing much to enlighten the natives on matters relating to preservation of health, and have excited great interest. The subject is also taught in schools.

The town of Lagos, with its suburbs Ebute Metta, and Iddo (the railway terminus), is divided for sanitary purposes into five districts, each in charge of a Sanitary Inspector. The Inspectors are under the charge of three Health Officers, two for Lagos and one for Ebute Metta.

During the past five or six years there has been marked improvement in the sanitary condition of the town, though there is a very great deal yet to be accomplished in the direction of sanitary improvement—notably the institution of an adequate method of sewage disposal, and of surface drainage.

The water supply has been markedly improved during the past three years by the construction of wells of a new type, and the careful storage of water in mosquito-proof iron tanks.

Efforts to combat malaria have met with encouraging success ; while small-pox—endemic in this country—has almost vanished from Lagos town. There is, however, a constant influx of infected persons from outlying districts, and so cases must be expected, every now and then, to occur in the town of Lagos itself.

The construction of the town, where some 40,000 persons are collected mainly in native huts, the over-crowding of these latter, the absence of any proper method of disposing of household slop water, of surface drainage, and of sewage disposal—all constitute obstacles to the attainment of even a moderately high standard of sanitation ; but that improvement under new and scientific methods has, as before remarked, been markedly in evidence during the past six years, is a fact beyond dispute.

Infant mortality is very high, but has sunk during the past six years from 45 to 37 per cent. (during the first year of life), since the attention of the natives has been directed to the taking of precautions against malaria, and to the proper feeding and care of infants—for it is chiefly to malaria and improper feeding that the fearful mortality among infants and children is due.

A comparative statement of monthly rainfall in inches is appended :—

Month.		1901.	1902.
January	1.40	.75	Nil
February	3.80	.00	1.82
March	2.65	6.10	2.17
April	10.92	2.65	5.09
May	11.85	13.05	4.62
June	10.68	17.46	14.33
July	17.05	29.92	5.90
August	1.10	7.65	0.53
September	2.90	15.94	8.02
October	6.87	14.97	3.30
November	3.60	4.10	0.16
December ... ..	.00	.00	Nil
Total	72.82	112.59	45.94

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN.—OBSERVATIONS at LAGOS HOSPITAL, 1902.

	Mean Barometer.	Mean Shade Temperature.	Absolute Maximum.	Absolute Minimum.	Percentage of Humidity.	Rain in Inches.
January	29-850	80-4	91 on 2nd, 10th, and 16th	68 on 22nd	73-8	Nil
February	29-909	83-0	92 on 15th	70 on 23rd	86-3	1-82
March	29-829	83-2	92 on 25th	73 on 17th	80-7	2-17
April	29-871	84-1	95 on 13th	72 on 17th	73-9	5-09
May	29-920	81-5	92 on 31st	70 on 26th and 29th	74-9	4-62
June	29-945	80-4	91 on 7th	70 on 22nd	75-5	14-33
July	30-013	78-4	88 on 13th	70 on 7th, 29th, and 29th	83-0	5-90
August	29-928	78-8	85 on 9th	70 on 9th	77-6	0-53
September	30-008	78-5	85 on various days	70 on 17th	79-2	8-02
October	29-985	80-0	88 on 12th	70 on various days	80-0	3-30
November	29-966	82-0	90 on 18th, 20th, and 21st	75 on various days	77-4	0-16
December	29-944	82-5	91 on 14th and 21st	66 on 29th and 30th	79-6	Nil
Year	29-938	81-1	95 on 13th April	66 on 29th and 30th Dec.	78-6	45-94 Total

BANKS.

Under the management of the Colonial Treasurer a Government Savings Bank was established in 1887.

Sums deposited in the Bank during the year 1902 amounted to £12,491, as against £10,469 in 1901—an increase of £2,022—and withdrawals to £9,970, as against £9,923.

The Bank held a total of £19,183 for 1,465 depositors on 31st December, as against £16,663 which stood to the credit of 1,323 depositors in 1901, an increase of £2,520 compared with the previous year. A sum of £14,350 has been invested by the Crown Agents on behalf of the Bank.

The interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum computed on sums deposited during the year amounted to £398 10s. 11d., from which £14 4s. 2d. was paid to depositors during the same period, the difference, £384 6s. 8d., being added to principal in favour of sundry depositors.

The total amount of interest received from investments to the credit of the Bank amounted to £691 11s. 11d., from which must be deducted the sum of £398 10s. 11d., the balance £293 1s. being in favour of the Bank.

The number of depositors was increased by 142 during the year.

The subjoined table shows the transactions of the Savings Bank during the last five years. In 1887—the year the Bank started—there were 59 depositors, the amount of deposits during the year being £1,094 6s. 5d.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Deposits.			Withdrawals.			Net amount of Deposits.			Amount of Investments.	Interest on Investments.			Interest paid to Depositors.			Profit.			
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1898	965	8,317	8	4	5,639	11	4	2,677	17	0	2,000	391	5	10	341	1	2½	50	4	7½
1899	1,071	10,487	13	1½	9,842	8	11	645	4	2½	—	472	12	9	365	0	7½	107	12	1½
1900	1,173	9,419	4	6½	9,855	14	9½	Decrease— 436	10	3	—	453	11	8	379	12	2½	73	19	5½
1901	1,323	10,469	17	6½	9,923	17	5	546	0	1½	—	472	13	2	376	17	7	95	15	7
1902	1,465	12,491	0	0½	9,970	9	5	2,520	10	7½	3,000	691	11	11	398	10	11	293	1	0

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

In 1891 a branch of the African Banking Corporation was established in the Colony, now the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, which has an authorised capital of £250,000, subscribed capital £116,800, called-up capital £46,720, reserve capital £70,080, and a reserve of £15,000. The London office is at 17, Leadenhall Street, the branches in West Africa being at Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Axim, Sekondi, Cape Coast and Accra. The head office is at 14, Castle Street, Liverpool.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

In the Lagos district 1,367 persons were brought before the Police Magistrate, of whom 131 were discharged for want of prosecution, 158 discharged after hearing, 1,032 summarily convicted, and 46 committed for trial at the assizes.

The total number of persons committed to prison was 165, of which 117 men and 13 women were committed for larceny, seven men for cattle stealing, four men for assault, four men for wounding, five men for escape, and 15 men committed in default of payment of fines for minor offences.

There were 22 persons arrested for drunkenness, of whom 15 men and four women were convicted, and three men discharged.

Three juveniles were ordered to be birched for larceny.

Before the Chief Justice 46 persons were convicted (two for murder, two for manslaughter, 11 for assault and wounding, 25 for offences against property, and eight for other offences), 11 person were discharged after hearing, and four were discharged for want of evidence.

The following table shows the number of offences, apprehensions, convictions, and acquittals for the last three years.

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
The number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate	1,720	1,764	2,016
The number of summary convictions—			
1. For offences against the person...	174	148	205
2. For cattle stealing and arson ...	58	21	10
3. For offences against property other than cattle stealing and arson	204	152	186
4. For other offences	466	551	834

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
The number of convictions in the Superior Court—			
1. For offences against the person...	9	7	11
2. For cattle stealing and arson ...	14	2	—
3. For offences against property other than cattle stealing and arson	9	18	25
4. For other offences	6	1	12
The number of persons acquitted—			
1. In the Inferior Courts	409	308	301
2. In the Superior Courts	33	29	11

POLICE.

The police of the Colony is a semi-military force officered by a Commissioner and two Assistants (European), a Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent (native), and 438 non-commissioned officers and men distributed throughout the districts, some 250 men being stationed in Lagos alone. In addition to their ordinary duties the police, in the absence of troops, furnish all special escorts and also guards.

The force was increased by 50 men during 1902.

There is a detective branch consisting of one native Superintendent, four non-commissioned officers, and 10 detectives.

A steam and manual fire engine is maintained by the police, this sub-department comprising a superintendent, one engineer, and 20 firemen.

- The discipline and conduct of the men have been satisfactory.

The total expenditure of the force was £14,507 6s. 4d., compared with £14,117 9s. 6d. the previous year.

PRISONS.

The daily average of prisoners in the prison of the Colony was 134 during the year 1902.

The number of prisoners admitted during the year 1902 was 316, against 361 in 1901.

The following tables give the numbers of prisoners serving two years and upwards, and those serving under this period.

• *Two Years and Upwards.*

Year.				Males.	Females.	Total.
1901	...	...	...	66	Nil	66
1902	...	...	...	57	Nil	57

Under two Years.

Year.				Males.	Females.	Total.
1901	...	...	...	85	9	94
1902	...	...	...	85	5	90

The prisoners are employed in book-binding, rope and basket making, and in out-door labour, in filling up swamp land.

The total expenditure of the prison for 1902 was £1,733, as against £1,792 the previous year. The average daily cost of food for prisoners is 5½d. per head. The health of prisoners was good. The number of deaths during 1902 was 10, and in the previous year five.

POPULATION.

The census of the island and harbour of Lagos was taken in 1901, the total population of the two places as returned by the Registrar-General being as follows :—

District.				Population.	
Lagos harbour and island	...	...	...	39,354	39,354 ✓ 2,493
As compared with in 1891	...	...	...	32,508	
Increase	...	...	...	6,846	
Ebute Metta	...	...	...	—
Total	...	...	...	—	41,847

A census of the district was not taken as this would have entailed a large expenditure of money.

The estimates for the various districts were as follows :—

District.	Population.
Western district	60,000
Eastern district	132,000
Central district	30,000
Ikorodu and Shagamu districts	65,000
Province of Ibadan and Oyo	150,000
Province of Ilesha	300,000
	1,347,000
Town and harbour of Lagos and Ebute Metta	41,847
Total	1,388,847

There is an increase shown of 63 per cent. in the European population in Lagos harbour and island, namely, 233 as against 143 in 1891.

The estimate of Europeans at our districts was 75, which gives a total European population of 308 as compared with 150 in 1891.

3,479 persons were returned as being able to read and write, 637 as being able to read, and 5,058 as English-speaking. In 1891 the returns show 3,303 persons able to read and write, 1,064 able to read, English-speaking, 4,901.

The following gives particulars as to colour, religion, acquaintance with the English language and elementary education in Lagos Island and Ebute Metta in 1901, as compared with 1891.

1891.

Locality.	Blacks.	Whites.	Total.	Christians.	Mohammedans.	Pagans.	English Speaking - Males and Females.	Can Read— Males and Females.	Can Read and Write—Males and Females.
Lagos District A ...	10,860	55	10,915	3,364	4,782	2,769	1,926	340	1,371
" B ...	5,875	39	5,914	2,351	2,521	1,242	1,481	374	345
" C ...	7,375	2	7,377	699	2,544	3,134	332	156	322
" D ...	7,998	28	8,026	2,605	3,648	1,873	689	193	630
Ships ...	257	19	276	77	—	199	273	—	—
Total ...	32,365	143	32,508	8,996	14,295	9,217	4,901	1,064	3,303

1901.

Locality.	Blacks.	Whites.	Total.	Christians.	Mohammedans.	Pagans.	English Speaking - Males and Females.	Can Read— Males and Females.	Can Read and Write—Males and Females.
Lagos District A ...	13,394	97	13,491	3,850	7,065	2,556	1,679	234	1,314
" B ...	7,101	42	7,143	2,486	3,337	1,300	1,495	180	935
" C ...	7,345	1	7,346	620	4,371	1,995	168	26	137
" D ...	10,925	29	10,954	2,817	6,045	2,092	1,137	205	918
Ships ...	389	31	420	108	3	309	416	—	67
Total ...	39,154	200	39,354	9,881	21,221	8,252	4,895	645	3,371

This return shows a large increase of Mohammedans at the expense of Christians and pagans.

POSTAL SERVICE.

The total postal revenue for the financial year was £1,990 10s. 2d., and the total expenditure of the department was £1,455 13s. 9d.

Details of postal articles sent and received from abroad from 1898 to 1902 are given in the following statement :—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
<i>Sent from Lagos to United Kingdom.</i>					
Letters and postcards ...	35,019	40,848	43,358	46,855	51,864
Newspapers, bookpackets, &c.	9,003	7,912	8,957	8,860	8,832
<i>Sent from Lagos to other places.</i>					
Letters and postcards ...	27,928	31,143	31,254	38,445	40,272
Newspapers, bookpackets, &c.	9,718	8,742	9,000	7,885	7,572
<i>Received from the United Kingdom.</i>					
Letters and postcards ...	42,711	24,410	47,845	45,302	61,439
Newspapers, bookpackets, &c.	64,099	32,495	76,842	49,808	98,696
<i>Received from other places.</i>					
Letters and postcards ...	27,665	30,733	34,556	22,325	23,937
Newspapers, bookpackets, &c.	6,685	5,144	5,375	6,941	—

The number of inland letters, book packets, &c., dealt with during 1898–1902 is shown as under :—

—	Letters and Postcards.	Bookpackets, &c.
1898	33,154	12,571
1899	47,090	14,839
1900	61,956	19,020
1901	22,565	5,050
1902	41,292	3,792

The transactions of the parcel post with the United Kingdom and West African Colonies in both directions were as follows :—

—	Received from		Sent to	
	United Kingdom.	Other Places.	United Kingdom.	Other Places.
1898	2,022	526	489	944
1899	2,327	497	514	1,298
1900	2,952	520	632	1,367
1901	3,522	864	852	1,968
1902	4,715	765	717	2,483

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1898 to 1902 were as under :—

—	Total amount of orders issued in Lagos on		
	United Kingdom.	Other Places.	Districts Inland.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1898... ..	5,834 5 10	2,821 0 7	126 13 1
1899... ..	5,321 19 3	4,058 6 5	49 7 0
1900... ..	5,873 15 9	2,630 7 8	14 2 0
1901... ..	7,506 19 9	1,841 6 3	43 11 0
1902... ..	7,794 8 3	1,425 6 9	38 5 5

—	Total amount of orders paid in Lagos from		
	United Kingdom.	Other Places.	Districts Inland.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1898... ..	315 14 6	8,760 6 4	787 2 1
1899... ..	287 4 2	12,180 4 0	456 0 3
1900... ..	569 0 3	11,367 8 5	494 0 8
1901... ..	703 13 0	11,263 13 11	238 4 9
1902... ..	582 9 9	9,541 4 4	143 15 6

Since the introduction of Imperial penny postage the number of letters posted has materially increased.

MAIL SERVICE.

A mail service is provided weekly by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co.s' steamers sailing from Liverpool to Lagos, calling at Sierra Leone and principal ports on the Gold Coast. The Woermann Line also runs a fortnightly service from Hamburg, touching at Southampton for mails and passengers. The passage to Lagos averages 19 days. The service performed by both lines is a good one, better in fact, taken altogether, than any the Colony has hitherto had.

Cargo steamers are frequently despatched from Liverpool and Hamburg to Lagos by the above lines.

There is a weekly mail service of Government steam launches from Lagos to Porto Novo, and from Lagos to Atijere.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

(1.) *Inland.*

The revenue derived from this source during 1902 was £261 as compared with £257 for 1901. In addition to telegrams paid for, a number of Government telegrams were despatched over the line by Northern Nigeria from which no revenue was derived. The principal districts are in telegraphic communication with headquarters. Proposals have been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State for the establishment of telegraphic communication between Forcados and Lagos. The connecting of these two ports will be a great commercial benefit.

The rate charged on the Government line to any distance is 6*d.* for twelve words.

(2.) *Foreign.*

An annual subsidy of £1,000 is paid to the African Direct Telegraph Company by the Lagos Government. The rate to Great Britain is 6*s.* 5*d.* per word, Government messages being charged half rate.

PUBLIC WORKS.

A large annual expenditure necessarily takes place on streets. This work is greatly handicapped by the absence of good road-making material in the immediate vicinity, Aro (about 60 miles distant) being the nearest point on the railway from which suitable material can be obtained. A large amount of street drainage was carried out in 1902.

In order to supply the inhabitants with water, several additions to the number of wells already sunk were made in various parts of the town.

A new cemetery has been provided on Ikoyi Plains, which it is hoped will meet the necessities of the community for some time.

A sum of £1,874 15s 0d. was spent on the making of interior roads and the keeping in repair of existing roads. A new road was made from Joffin on the western boundary which should eventually reach Meko.

A dejection jetty was placed on the Marina for the disposal of sewage.

The work in connection with the reclamation of Kokomaiko swamp was continued during the year. It will, when finished, vastly improve the eastern portion of the island and form an asset of great value to the Colony. This work is closely allied with the new iron bridge over Five Cowrie Creek, for the building of which arrangements have been made. The new structure will be in substitution for the old wooden bridge over the creek.

A new dispensary was built in Lagos in a thickly populated part of the island.

The progress of electric lighting has been steady since the original installation of the Davey-Paxman engines and E. E. C. alternators in 1897. In 1901, a third unit of equal capacity to one of the first units, was put down. The work of installing private lights has increased to such an extent that a fourth unit, of double the capacity of any one of the others, is about to be ordered to meet the demand for lighting and power purposes.

During the year a detartarizer has been added to the station to eliminate the heavy silicate deposit in the boilers. Three Korting ejector condensers have also been fixed to the three existing units, together with the necessary pipe-work, tanks, circulating pump, &c. This latter work was carried out under considerable difficulties, as only one European was in charge of the Electric Light Department during its erection, and the service of the electric light had to be uninterrupted. Great credit is due to the department for the few service breakdowns, taking into consideration the type of drivers and mechanics employed to run the machinery, and the impossibility of obtaining immediately any spare part in the event of the occurrence of a fault or break.

Two underground service cables are at present in use, one rubber-insulated, lead-covered, and laid in a conduit, and the other paper-insulated, lead-covered, and double-steel-armoured, and laid direct in the ground.

Considerable trouble was experienced in keeping the branch joints watertight, as many parts of the cable are only a few inches above water-level; but this difficulty has now been overcome.

Thirteen transformer chambers have been erected in various parts of the town, where the high tension is reduced to 100 volts and distributed to the various houses, &c., by lead-covered twin-paper-insulated cable and lead in culverts (manufactured in Lagos).

As no electric lighting contractors exist in Lagos the Government undertake the work of installation under the superintendence of the Electric Light Department.

Government House, the hospital, and the principal houses, churches and public halls have had electric light installed in them, the number of 16 c.-p. lamps amounting to nearly 1,000 (48 buildings), and installations are in hand for 200 lights more.

The electric light is a great boon to residents in Lagos when strong winds prevail, making kerosine oil lamps not only dangerous, but difficult to keep lighted.

A large number of table fans have been introduced to take the place of punkahs.

TELEPHONES.

An exchange service of 50 subscribers is installed in the most central part of the town, to which most of the European merchants' offices, Government offices, and police and fire stations are connected by overhead wires. So much damage has been done by falling trees and atmospheric disturbances that it has been decided to lay the wires underground. The material for this work has arrived, and the re-organizing of the service will commence as soon as the dry season sets in.

FORCE.

Military.

An Ordinance was passed in 1902 to convert the Hausa Force into a Battalion of the West African Frontier Force, and under this law the officers and men are available for service in any portion of British West Africa.

The Force consists of a Major Commanding, three Captains, an Adjutant, twelve Subalterns, Pay and Quartermaster, three Native Officers and 520 non-commissioned officers and men, with

headquarters at Lagos; a detachment of 100 men being stationed at Ibadan, and small detachments at Saki, Jebu Ode, and Ilesha.

A contingent comprising the Major Commanding, Major J. G. O. Aplin, C.M.G., Captains L. E. H. Humfrey, J. C. Ralph, A. W. Butterworth, G. Anderson, W. R. H. Iles, B. M. Read, G. A. Sabine, Dr. Graham, two Native Officers, one British non-commissioned officer, and 250 non-commissioned officers and men with two Maxims and 150 carriers left Lagos on November 21st, 1901, for Southern Nigeria to join the Aro Field Force.

The casualties during the operations were :—

Severely wounded, Captains Iles and Sabine.

Killed or died of disease, 4 non-commissioned officers and men.

Wounded, 20 non-commissioned officers and men.

Invalided back to Lagos, 1 Native Officer and 6 men.

The following officers were mentioned in despatches, Captains L. E. H. Humfrey and G. Anderson, and Native Officer Mama Nakaru, who was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

The contingent returned to Lagos on the 12th of April, 1902.

RAILWAYS.

The Lagos Government Railway has been opened for traffic now two years, and covers a distance of 124 miles from Lagos to Ibadan, including a branch line, two miles long, from Aro to the important town of Abeokuta situated about midway.

The railway accounts for the financial year show that a total revenue of £17,897 12s. 1d. was earned during that year. The gross receipts were shown to cover working expenses.

From the commencement the people of the country have taken kindly to the railway. The total number of passengers carried during the year 1902 was 81,256. Of this number 97 per cent. travelled in the 3rd or lowest class. The 3rd class fare is based upon the low average of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per mile, a passenger being carried 124 miles to Ibadan for the sum of 5s. only. This rate is considerably below the corresponding fares charged on the French Dahomey Railway adjoining this Colony.

Of the traffic in public merchandise the natural products of the country, which form the staple export, constituted 64 per cent.; 13,143 tons of palm kernel were thus handled, and 650 tons of palm oil. Of the foreign imports carried by the railway

into the interior, the principal items were spirits, corrugated iron, and cotton goods. These articles contributed 13 per cent. only of the tonnage dealt with.

Great difficulty was at first experienced in regard to locomotive power during the earlier months of 1902. Since then, however, six new engines have been erected and the train service brought into better working order.

Towards the close of May, 1902, the steam tramway was formally opened to public traffic. The closure of the Carter bridge, owing to important necessary repairs, prevented access to the railway terminus at Iddo, and detracted from the full value of the tramway service, which had, in consequence, to be confined to Lagos town. The tramcars are, however, being increasingly used in Lagos itself, and ought hereafter to prove a great public convenience.

To increase the facilities for the shipping trade, it is in contemplation to build a new wharf in connection with the railway terminus at Iddo, at a probable cost of £50,000. Borings have been taken for this important improvement, and it is hoped that the work will shortly be put in hand and carried to an early completion. Another improvement which has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of £3,000, and is to be charged to capital account of the railway, is the installation of the electric staff system of train working.

The total number of European officers of all grades employed on the railway during the year was 70. A noteworthy improvement in the general health of the railway staff has been recorded during 1902 and since this department came under the care of the medical staff of the Colony. This must be attributed to the greater attention that has been given to matters of sanitation to which so much importance is to be attached.

The quantitative value of the work done on the railway may be gathered from the figures in the subjoined summary :—

Period, Half Year ending.	Gross Earnings.	No. of Passengers Carried.	Unit Mileage.	Tonnage Hauled.	Ton Mileage.
June, 1902 ...	£ 20,104	38,359	1,977,098	14,319	1,174,657
December, 1902	23,207	42,896	2,153,720	21,610	1,499,896
Total ...	43,311	81,255	4,130,818	35,959	2,674,553

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year 1902 was a prosperous one for the Colony. The summary of the returns of the trade of Lagos and the hinterland shows a marked improvement in commerce, with a large increase in both imports and exports over those of the previous year—an increase which is likely to be maintained.

The cost of living has continued to advance, and the price of land, labour, and house property has risen enormously.

The opening up of roads by the Alake in the Egba Country (which will afford communication with several towns) will be of great benefit to the Colony, giving increased facilities to farmers to send their products to Aro, and from there to Lagos by the railway.

I have every reason to believe that a considerable quantity of cotton will be shipped to Liverpool next year, as the farmers have taken up this industry with vigour. The weather has been most favourable for palm trees, and the principal articles of export, palm kernels and palm oil, should, therefore, give a good return during the year 1903.

The following extract from the Governor's Message to the Legislative Council accompanying the Estimates for 1903-4, explains the financial condition of the Colony at the end of the Financial year 1902-1903 :—

“ Perhaps enough has been said to demonstrate to the Council that during the last two financial years, at a time when there was unprecedented strain on the revenue of the country, the public receipts have shown surprising elasticity ; and that the Colony has, so far as ordinary revenue and expenditure are concerned, been living within its means with a very handsome margin to spare. To recapitulate briefly, the difference in favour of the Colony between the revenue and the expenditure of the last two years, exclusive of Railway, amounted to the unprecedented sum of £67,612, a result on which this Council and the whole country may well congratulate themselves. Including railway Open Lines, the loss on which was £3,743, the difference was £63,869.”

I am pleased to be able to report that the general health of the Colony was good, and that the death-rate was lower than that of the previous year.

During his leave Sir William MacGregor visited Amsterdam with the object of continuing there the study of malarial fever, chiefly from the prophylactic point of view, and with special reference to the effect of salt water in the canals of that city in

reducing the prevalence of the disease. The Governor proposes to extend and complete his investigation when on leave next year. Full and most interesting reports in connection with those visits have been published in the Government Gazette of the Colony. Egypt was also visited, and during his stay there the Governor endeavoured to obtain as much information as possible about the cultivation of cotton in that country, hoping that the information gained would be of interest in connection with the cultivation of cotton in West Africa.

The Chief Justice, Sir Thomas Crossley Rayner, proceeded on leave of absence on the 5th of February, and severed his connection with the Colony on the 5th of August, on which date he was appointed Attorney-General of British Guiana. Mr. W. Nicoll, a Puisne Judge of the Gold Coast, and formerly Queen's Advocate of this Colony, was appointed to succeed Sir Thomas Rayner, and assumed the duties of his office on the 9th October.

Mr. F. C. Fuller, Resident at Ibadan, was during his leave of absence appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary of Malta.

The life of King Edward the Seventh during His Majesty's most serious illness on the very eve of the day fixed for the Coronation was the object of tender, affectionate, and serious regard by his subjects throughout the Colony and Protectorate, who lost no opportunity of declaring their heartiest sympathy for the King and his gracious Consort in the days of their anxiety. All hearts were aroused at this anxious period; there were heartfelt congratulations for his recovery, and wishes that His Majesty may long be spared to reign over a loyal, great, and united Empire.

The Coronation of His Most Gracious Majesty was celebrated throughout the Colony with the enthusiastic loyalty befitting such an event. Addresses expressive of loyal and patriotic feeling were received from many Chiefs of the Protectorate by the Officer Administering the Government, on behalf of His Majesty, a feeling held in common by the people of this country of all ranks and classes.

The following telegram was sent by the Members of the Legislative Council to His Majesty through the Secretary of State for the Colonies :—

“ That this Council humbly tenders to His Majesty King Edward the Seventh and to his august Consort its sincere congratulations upon the occasion of their Coronation, and humbly prays that Their Majesties may long be spared to rule over a happy and contented people, and that the Council desires upon this auspicious occasion to renew to His Most Gracious Majesty the humble expression of its devotion to His Throne and Person.”

LAGOS, 1902.

41

The forces of this Colony were represented by Captain B. Montray Read and 25 non-commissioned officers and men of the Lagos Battalion of the West African Frontier Force who took a prominent part in the ceremonies. Before returning to Lagos, the detachment was reviewed by the Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, who expressed great satisfaction at the soldierly bearing and good behaviour of the contingent.

C. H. HARLEY MOSELEY,

Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Lagos, 30th June, 1903.
