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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 536.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 491.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1907.



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No. 536.

G A M B I A.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 491.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Bathurst, Gambia.

24th July, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Blue Book of the Gambia for the year 1906.

2. The following is my Report on it.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

3. The revenue for the year was £65,430. The figures given below shew that it exceeded that of any other year by £9,866.

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£
1895	20,560	1901	43,725
1896	26,171	1902	51,015
1897	39,414	1903	55,564
1898	46,717	1904	54,179
1899	46,839	1905	51,868
1900	49,160	1906	65,430

4. The increase may be ascribed to various reasons, but the principal factor was, undoubtedly, the high price paid for the groundnuts exported during the year. Though the quantity was not so large as in 1903 and 1904, the amount received by the producer was fully 50 per cent. more than in those years. Another cause is to be found in the fact that there was a very considerable distribution of groundnut seed in 1906, amounting to 701 tons, and that, in anticipation of a very large export of nuts in 1907, the merchants imported an unusually large supply of goods.

5. The following table shews the heads of revenue under which the principal increases will be found, and gives the increase in each case, and there is also a table shewing the amounts collected under each head for the past four years:—

—	1905.	1906.	Increase.
Customs.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ad Valorem	4,593 5 11	6,755 17 3	2,162 11 4
Import duty on Wine ...	798 4 6	1,076 5 5	278 4 6
Import duty on Spirits ...	3,877 12 0	9,842 8 0	5,964 16 0
Import duty on Sugar ...	1,861 13 11	2,844 19 11	983 6 0
Import duty on Kola Nuts ...	6,820 4 9	9,812 6 10	2,992 2 1
Import duty on Rice ...	1,345 12 0	3,041 7 0	1,695 15 0
Export duty on Goundnuts ...	9,832 18 9	12,016 14 1	2,183 15 4
Licences, Excise, etc.			
Spirit Licences	1,276 0 0	1,484 0 0	208 0 0

Amounts Collected for the past Four Years.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Customs.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ad Valorem	5,317 10 9	5,370 11 7	4,593 5 11	6,755 17 3
Import duty on Wine ...	921 9 1	811 17 8	798 4 6	1,076 5 5
Import duty on Spirits ...	4,339 19 8	4,113 6 0	3,877 12 0	9,842 8 0
Import duty on Sugar ...	2,586 11 4	2,251 2 0	1,861 13 11	2,844 19 11
Import duty on Kola Nuts ..	6,746 11 4	6,808 15 10	6,820 4 9	9,812 6 10
Import duty on Rice ...	1,259 16 8	1,343 7 8	1,345 12 0	3,041 7 0
Export duty on Groundnuts	15,158 4 2	14,478 19 6	9,832 18 9	12,016 14 1
Licenses, Excise, etc.				
Spirit Licences	824 0 0	1,046 0 0	1,276 0 0	1,484 0 0

Expenditure.

6. The expenditure for the year was £56,899, as against an estimate of £57,502, and was £8,531 below the revenue.

7. The following table gives the expenditure for the past twelve years:—

Year.	Amount.	Year.	Amount.
	£		£
1895	28,867	1901	48,518
1896	25,300	1902	51,534
1897	27,058	1903	67,504
1898	29,035	1904	52,300
1899	30,404	1905	72,297
1900	29,817	1906	56,988

8. In explanation of the heavy expenditure in 1903 and 1905, I may mention that in the first-named year a charge from the War Office of £10,153 in connection with the expedition of 1901 was brought to account, whilst in the latter the purchase of dredging plant is responsible for £4,483, and the strengthening and extension of the jetty for £6,459. Again, in 1905, under "Other Charges," the cost of a new steamer—amounting to £7,271—will be found.

9. The following table gives the amount expended under the different votes for the past four years:—

Vote.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pensions	730 11 4	1,002 14 9	1,044 10 9	917 0 11
The Governor	2,895 14 9	3,466 4 10	3,922 14 3	3,446 18 0
The Colonial Secretary	1,167 5 5	1,191 6 6	1,202 1 5	1,155 19 0
The Protectorate	5,779 3 8	5,149 10 10	7,852 11 8	5,885 4 0
Printing Department	621 10 7	372 8 1	294 18 8	297 3 4
Treasury	1,010 16 2	1,109 6 4	1,163 12 9	1,043 5 10
Customs Department	1,927 1 3	2,066 12 0	2,076 17 0	2,159 8 5
Post Office	620 5 10	671 0 9	808 4 9	712 15 10
Audit Department	504 12 9	577 0 11	596 0 7	478 18 1
Judicial Department	1,224 18 9	1,252 12 6	1,242 15 11	1,341 14 0
Attorney-General	512 6 9	499 1 7	470 4 9	456 8 6
Frontier Force	5,744 9 0	5,388 3 7	6,090 12 9	5,543 7 7
Police	4,323 13 2	4,105 18 2	4,079 3 3	3,927 0 0
Prisons	766 7 1	726 6 0	702 15 4	693 8 5
Medical Department	2,200 18 0	2,851 2 11	2,960 18 4	3,139 13 7
Hospitals and Dispensaries	818 0 11	917 15 10	959 8 8	1,104 0 11
Government Vessels	2,272 3 1	2,355 4 1	1,960 8 9	2,802 16 11
Charitable Allowances	90 19 0	101 9 4	101 7 11	107 12 0
Education	848 18 6	1,123 0 11	1,325 12 7	739 14 0
Transport	897 8 9	272 9 4	334 2 3	394 4 10
Miscellaneous Services	2,501 3 2	2,388 6 0	3,161 0 0	3,617 18 1
Drawback	32 15 7	309 14 6	79 9 7	152 11 0
Agriculture	586 15 8	738 16 10	391 12 11	336 10 5
Colonial Engineer's Department	1,531 17 11	1,651 5 6	1,700 3 2	1,716 9 7
Public Works—Recurrent	5,223 10 6	4,790 3 2	4,001 15 4	3,758 12 10
Public Works—Extraordinary	11,710 2 5	4,858 11 1	16,074 5 4	7,738 13 0
Special Services	11,002 7 11	2,364 8 5	7,654 18 3	3,190 11 7

(B.) TAXATION.

10. By Ordinance No. 1 of 1906 the duty on kola nuts was increased from twopence to threepence per pound, and that on unmanufactured tobacco from threepence to fourpence per pound. There were no other changes in the incidence of taxation during the year.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

11. The credit balance carried forward on the 31st December, 1905, was £28,704 4s. 4d. On the 31st December, 1906, it had risen to £34,582 17s. 11d. During the year securities standing in the Colonial Books as worth £25,969 were sold, and only realised £23,505; there was, therefore, a loss on this transaction of £2,464.

12. The Colony at the end of the year had a credit balance of £1,056 with the Crown Agents.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

13. The Colony has no public debt.

(E.) CURRENCY.

14. As has been previously reported, the currency of the Colony is British sterling and the French five-franc piece. English and French gold are also legal tenders, but are little used.

15. Below is a return showing the amount and denomination of the different moneys paid into the Bank of British West Africa by the Government:—

Statement showing Moneys Paid into the Bank of British West Africa by Government Departments during 1904, 1905, and 1906.

Year.	Bank Notes.	English Gold.	French Gold.	Five-franc pieces.	Cheques.	Other English Coins.	Total.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1904 ..	—	7,416 0 0	5 15 6	8,263 8 9	16,534 8 5	21,107 13 4	53,327 6 0
1905 ..	—	3,882 0 0	11 17 6	4,408 13 6	17,821 17 6	23,574 2 9	49,698 11 3
1906 ..	—	699 0 0	2 7 6	5,379 7 11	64,730 8 1	46,127 17 2	116,938 19 9
Total	—	11,997 0 0	20 0 6	18,051 9 3	99,086 14 0	90,809 13 3	219,964 17 0

16. It is interesting to note the manner in which the circulation of British sterling is increasing, and in this connection the subjoined table, shewing the import of five-franc pieces and British silver into the Colony for the past six years, is worthy of notice:—

Period.	Imports.		
	British silver.	French dollars.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1901... ..	10,329 0 0	39,977 0 0	50,306 0 0
1902... ..	21,269 0 0	80,519 0 0	101,788 0 0
1903... ..	26,035 0 0	91,278 0 0	117,313 0 0
1904... ..	31,252 0 0	65,638 0 0	96,890 0 0
1905... ..	11,810 0 0	108,667 0 0	120,477 0 0
1906... ..	53,000 0 0	111,465 0 0	164,465 0 0

17. The five-franc piece is accepted at the Treasury at 3s. 10½d.

18. The rate of exchange for bills on London was 1 per cent. for the year, and it is estimated that the circulation of all kinds of coin during 1906 amounted to £226,000.

(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF ANY MUNICIPALITY OR PUBLIC BOARD.

Board of Health.

19. The following returns give the revenue and expenditure of the Board of Health for the past five years:—

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of the Board of Health from 1902 to 1906.

Heads of Revenue.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance	—	336 2 9	51 9 3	19 11 0	—
„ Local Rates	594 12 0	543 9 0	581 0 6	611 8 0	615 2 11
„ Slaughter-house Fees	93 18 0	95 17 9	102 1 0	104 17 3	108 12 2
„ Sale of Stores	1 1 9	—	—	0 11 0	—
„ Excess of Expenditure	299 3 11	—	495 11 0	1,015 1 5	960 3 1
„ Grant-in-Aid	1,000 0 0	400 0 0	500 0 0	400 0 0	500 0 0
„ Departmental Fines..	—	—	0 10 2	0 10 0	0 6 7
Total	1,943 15 8	1,375 9 6	1,730 11 11	2,151 18 8	2,184 4 9

Heads of Expenditure.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Excess of Payment ..	346 6 9	—	495 11 0	939 19 3	1,035 5 3
„ Salaries	87 4 3	99 4 5	102 0 0	102 0 0	101 16 8
„ Horses and Carts ..	113 6 0	84 10 10	147 10 3	94 6 3	85 18 3
„ Street Lights	156 15 6	156 0 2	166 13 2	179 19 3	160 11 0
„ Cleaning Drains ..	646 16 1	628 2 10	457 6 9	401 4 9	413 9 6
„ Cleaning Latrines ..	72 0 0	72 0 0	72 0 0	72 0 0	72 0 0
„ Sluice Gate Keepers..	50 3 9	49 19 6	42 12 9	50 3 9	54 9 9
„ Commission on Collection of Slaughter-house Fees.	9 7 10	9 11 9	21 19 4	10 9 9	10 17 4
„ Miscellaneous	109 2 9	36 4 5	10 14 2	13 15 11	59 11 10
„ Extraordinary Expenditure.	—	186 16 4	192 4 0	286 9 9	166 13 10
„ Copying Rating List..	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0
„ Gratuities	15 0 0	—	—	—	—
„ Upkeep, Slaughter-house.	—	—	0 19 6	—	—
Total	1,607 12 11	1,324 0 3	1,711 0 11	2,151 18 8	2,162 3 5

McCarthy Square Board.

20. 1906 was the first year in which this Square was under separate management. The revenue for the period consisted of a grant of £240 from the Government, and a sum of £83 2s. 4d., which was carried forward from 1905, giving a total of £323 2s. 4d. The expenditure for the twelve months, including a sum of £44 paid for garden seats, amounted to £156 5s. 6d. A balance of £166 16s. 10d. was, therefore, brought forward to the 1907 account, no grant from the Government being asked for that year.

(G.) DEBTS OF MUNICIPALITIES AND BOARDS.

21. Neither the Board of Health nor the McCarthy Square Board has any debt.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS.

22. The total value of the imports for 1906 was £447,656, but of this £167,167 was for specie, which leaves a balance of £280,489 as the value of general imports. In 1905 the general imports amounted to £181,725; there was an increase, therefore, of £98,764 in 1906 in this respect.

23. The return given below shews the increase or decrease in the principal articles of import during the year:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease
Cotton Goods ...	Pkgs. 2,779	Pkgs. 3,895	£ 53,212	£ 89,688	£ 36,476	£ —
Tobacco ...	lb. 317,965	lb. 223,054	6,382	5,650	—	732
Kola nuts...	818,384	864,034	30,248	29,586	—	662
Spirits ...	Galls. 19,405	Galls. 47,316	3,562	6,974	3,412	—
Wine ...	15,340	20,183	1,999	2,115	116	—
Sugar ...	Cwt. 4,009	Cwt. 5,953	3,965	5,229	1,264	—
Salt ...	Tons. 1,337	Tons. 1,053	897	642	—	255
Gunpowder ...	Brls. 235	Brls. 313	442	669	227	—
Rice ...	Cwt. 52,883	Cwt. 121,359	23,239	52,427	29,188	—

24. Of cotton goods a large stock remains on hand. Although the import was so very large in 1906, only one firm had a full supply of spirits for the coming season, and rice was completely used up during the year, the import for 1907 being, at the present date, much larger for the same period than in any previous year.

25. From the figures given below, it will be seen that the imports were larger in 1906 than in any previous year:—

Imports.

Years.				Total Imports exclusive of Specie.	Imports of Specie.	Total Imports.
				£	£	£
1895	...	...	...	83,967	13,432	97,399
1896	...	...	...	91,062	19,262	110,324
1897	...	...	...	139,812	36,515	176,327
1898	...	...	...	187,062	59,030	246,092
1899	...	...	...	171,572	69,335	240,907
1900	...	...	...	194,408	83,251	277,659
1901	...	...	...	185,095	67,552	252,647
1902	...	...	...	188,239	115,376	303,615
1903	...	...	...	214,790	126,273	341,063
1904	...	...	...	197,430	108,719	306,149
1905	...	...	...	181,725	123,456	305,181
1906	...	...	...	280,489	167,168	447,657

(B.) EXPORTS.

26. The total value of the exports in 1906 amounted to £428,676, and in this is included a sum of £129,425 for specie; the general exports, therefore, were £299,250, as against £184,396 in 1905.

27. The following return shews the principal articles of export with their values :—

Articles.			Quantity.		Value.		
			1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	Increase. Decrease.
			Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£ £
Groundnuts	...	...	29,499	36,050	169,426	278,055	108,629 —
			lb.	lb.			
Rubber	...	...	9,071	10,454	915	1,084	169 —
			Tons.	Tons.			
Palm kernels	...	...	227	256	1,612	2,122	510 —
			lb.	lb.			
Wax	...	...	35,828	46,728	1,444	1,787	343 —
			No.	No.			
Hides	...	...	11,723	16,802	2,637	5,201	2,564 —

28. The increase is due to a larger crop of groundnuts, and also to the price of this staple being much higher in 1906 than it was in 1905.

29. There was a slight increase in rubber, which has continued in a very marked way during the present year. The export of hides is also steadily increasing, and the trade in live cattle has improved.

30. The following statement of the number of animals exported annually for the past six years may perhaps be of interest:—

	Year.	Number.	Value.
			£
	1901	294	382
	1902	154	434
	*1903	562	1,629
	1904	374	1,002
	1905	505	1,574
	1906	721	2,485

* In 1903, 203 head of cattle were exported by the Government.

31. The exports for the year, both general and specie, were the record, as will be seen from the figures given below, and in this connection I may mention that the value of the trade of the Colony reached the large sum of £876,335, the nearest amount previously reached in any one year being £675,080.

Year.	Total Exports exclusive of Specie.	Exports of Specie.	Total Exports.
	£	£	£
1895	89,047	4,490	93,537
1896	116,438	543	116,981
1897	163,622	2,272	165,894
1898	245,110	2,722	247,832
1899	234,497	7,439	241,936
1900	240,705	41,271	281,976
1901	194,455	39,212	233,667
1902	210,350	37,790	248,140
1903	290,740	43,277	334,017
1904	249,289	61,994	311,283
1905	184,396	95,876	280,272
1906	299,252	129,426	428,678

(C.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

32. There are no mines in the Gambia, and though gold dust is occasionally brought to Bathurst, it comes from far away to the eastward.

33. During 1906 a prospecting expedition, run by a French syndicate, proceeded up the river with a view to ascertaining if gold could be found in payable quantities, but, so far, I have heard nothing of the results achieved.

34. The people still continue to weave long strips of cloth, which they sew together and make into pagns, or native gowns, but I do not think this industry is as much followed as it used to be. Still, seed cotton continues to command the old price of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $3d.$ per pound, which points to there being a considerable demand for it.

35. There are no fisheries, though a certain number of the people of Bathurst go out fishing daily, selling as much as they can of what they catch in the market, and drying the remainder and sending it to the interior, where it is readily bought by the people.

(D.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

36. The principal agricultural product, indeed almost the only one in the Gambia, is the groundnut, and upon it the Colony really lives. The crops have improved in volume during the past six years, the average increase for that period over the previous six years being a little more than 11,000 tons.

37. In 1903, 1905, and 1906 seed was given out to the people, and this has undoubtedly improved the export both in quantity and quality.

38. The following figures give the details of these issues:—

—					Weight.	Value.	Crop.
1903.					Tons.	£	Tons.
By Government	...	...	...	...	104½	1,034	
„ Merchants	...	...	...	...	87½	816	
Total	...	...	...	...	192	1,850	43,436
1905.							
„ Government	...	...	...	...	56½	679	
„ Merchants	...	...	...	...	387½	1,988	
Total	...	...	...	...	444	2,667	36,050
1906.							
„ Government	...	...	...	...	137	1,490	
„ Merchants	...	...	...	...	564	4,516	
Total	...	...	...	...	701	6,006	41,000

39. The export from the 1905 planting was not as large as was expected, but I think this can be accounted for by the fact that that year very few, if any, nuts came in from French territory, the price given in Senegal being higher than that paid in the Gambia.

40. The 1906-1907 crop was spoilt by heavy and unprecedented rain in December, which not only damaged the nuts to the extent of about 6 per cent., but brought down the price fully 50 per cent. Had the rain I mention not fallen, I have no hesitation in saying the export would have been the largest ever known.

41. In addition to groundnuts, the natives grow large quantities of corn or millet for food. Unfortunately, in both 1905

and 1906, the Bassé and Kinto, which are varieties of the Indian Sorghum, were destroyed by disease, and a good deal of the Suna and Sania, a small kind of millet, was so damaged by the rain as to be perfectly useless.

42. A very little maize is grown in the Protectorate. As far as I am able to judge, it seems to do well, and I hope to see the cultivation of it increase very rapidly, as the people seem to like it.

43. Where suitable land can be found, rice is grown to a very considerable extent, but not in nearly sufficient quantities to supply the demand for it. For instance, in 1906, 6,068 tons of it were imported and found a ready sale, and a very large quantity has come into the Colony this year, the greater part of which has already been disposed of.

(D 1.) GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

44. The value of land and of property generally in Bathurst is said to be increasing. There have, however, been very few sales recently, and it is most difficult to speak definitely on the point. In Bathurst, in Russell and Wellington Streets, where the European houses of business are situated, very large sums would be paid for sites for factories, but further back the value falls very rapidly. In the first case £200 per acre or even more may be said to be the value; in the second, from £10 to £15.

(E.) SHIPPING.

45. The total tonnage for the year was 404,515; of this, 261 steamers represented 397,366 tons, and 94 sailing vessels 7,149 tons. From the return given below, it will be seen that there was a slight falling off in the tonnage of sailing vessels, but that the increase in that of steamers was nearly 80,000 tons.

Nationality of Vessels.	1905.			1906.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ...	204,952	17	204,969	254,842	323	255,165
French ...	58,023	1,885	59,908	64,998	2,082	67,080
German ...	25,682	—	25,682	41,148	—	41,148
Russian ...	4,648	—	4,648	15,130	—	15,130
American ...	—	3,190	3,190	—	1,976	1,976
Norwegian ...	5,478	391	5,868	3,936	—	3,936
Italian ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch ...	6,260	—	6,260	—	—	—
Portuguese ...	—	2,280	2,280	—	1,970	1,970
Danish ...	10,440	—	10,440	17,312	—	17,312
Spanish ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish ...	1,990	—	1,990	—	798	798
Total... ..	317,473	7,763	325,236	397,366	7,149	404,515

III.—LEGISLATION.

46. Fifteen Ordinances were passed during the year, the more important of which were:—The Customs Tariff Ordinance (No. 1), of 1906, under which the duty on kola nuts was increased from twopence to threepence per pound and on unmanufactured tobacco from threepence to fourpence per pound.

47. The Slave Trade (Abolition) Ordinance (No. 5), 1906, which repeals the Slave Trade (Abolition) Ordinance of 1894 and differs from that enactment in that under section 4 it is presumed that all slaves brought into the Protectorate are so brought for the purpose of being treated as slaves unless the contrary is shewn. Under section 5 a report has to be made to the Commissioners when any slaves are brought into the Protectorate. By section 6 all slaves coming in or being brought into the Protectorate are, *ipso facto*, free. In the same way by section 9 all children born of slaves shall, after the commencement of the Ordinance be free from their birth, and by section 11 all slaves become free on the death of their master.

48. Under the Judgments Extension Ordinance (No. 13), 1906, judgments obtained in certain of the courts in Sierra Leone are made effective in the Colony of the Gambia, and Ordinance No. 14, "The Registration of Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, 1906," requires all persons practising either medicine or dentistry to be registered, and provides that only persons whose qualifications are thus registered shall be entitled to sue for and recover fees in a court of law.

IV.—EDUCATION.

49. The number of schools in the Colony and Protectorate was the same in 1906 as it was in 1905.—

50. The total number of children on the rolls of the primary schools in Bathurst was 1,062, or 61 more than in 1905. 401 children were presented for examination in the standards, and 112 in the sub-standards; of these, 268 passed in the former, and 70 in the latter. The school which gained the highest percentage at the annual examination was the Saint Mary's Anglican School; four years ago it took the lowest place, so the improvement is very marked. Owing to various causes it was not possible to examine the McCarthy Island School in 1906.

51. The secondary school, under the management of the Wesleyan Society, was continued during the year. There were 17 boys on the rolls, and the average attendance was 14. This school is not under the Board of Education, but I have, by invitation, inspected it, and I cannot say the results were more

than passable. Still, it is the only attempt at secondary education in the Colony, and for that reason deserves encouragement. The school fees amounted to £29 18s., as against £24 9s. 6d. in 1905, and the voluntary contributions, which were only £23 17s. in 1905, were £50 14s. 6d. in 1906, making a total income of £80 2s. 6d., which shews an excess of £32 5s. 10d. on the previous year.

52. The technical school continues to do good work, and the Colony is now beginning to derive advantage from it. There were 25 boys on the roll in 1906, and the average attendance was 21. The total expenditure on the school was £682 12s. 11d., of which sum the Government contributed £300. Six boys have passed through their indentures at the school, and are now working at their trades in Bathurst. At the end of this year five more boys will complete their time, and leave the school.

53. The Mohammedan school is going on well, and I believe is popular with the people. On three days in the week the boys are given an ordinary English elementary education, and on the other three days they learn Arabic. The number of pupils on the roll was 125, and the average attendance 83. These figures include both standard and sub-standard children. There are in all ten boys from the Protectorate, who are the sons of Head Chiefs, at the school, and they are making good progress. Although not under the Board of Education, this school is visited regularly by the Inspector of Schools, and examined annually by him.

54. The expenditure on the school for 1906 was £136 4s., and of this sum the Government contributed £120 10s.

55. The actual sum expended on education during the year was £739 14s., but the grants for 1906, amounting to £479 18s., were not paid until 1907. The total amount, therefore, expended in respect of the year must be taken as £1,219 12s.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

56. The hospitals remained the same as in 1905. The General Hospital, the main building of which was built in 1854, has, as far as is possible, been brought up to modern requirements, and is much used by the public. The female hospital has accommodation for twelve patients, and is a substantial stone building, and was erected in 1902. The total number of in-patients in 1906 was 570, of which 23 were Europeans. There were in all 31 deaths, which, looking to the fact that in many cases the people will not go into hospital until they have tried their native remedies and the disease is far advanced, may be regarded as a small number. Only one

European died in hospital, Sister Dominic, from the Roman Catholic Convent, who succumbed to blackwater fever. Four European Government officials were in-patients, three of whom recovered, the fourth being invalided to England.

57. Of the 547 natives admitted, 91 were Government officials, 49 of whom suffered from fever, and 14 were Syrian traders. 168 are stated to have been Akus, who are the descendants of freed Yoruba slaves from Sierra Leone and still speak the former language. There were 157 Jollofs, but only 49 Mandingoes. The remainder belonged to 16 other different tribes.

58. The 31 deaths in the Hospital were due to the following diseases:—

Tetanus	...	...	...	...	2
Starvation	...	...	...	...	1
Sleeping sickness	...	...	...	...	3
Senile decay	...	...	...	...	1
Abscess of colon	...	...	...	...	1
Chronic asthma	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	2
Concussion of brain	...	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2
Debility	...	...	...	...	1
Blackwater fever	...	...	...	...	1
Exhaustion	...	...	...	...	1
Intermittent fever	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	2
Morbus cordis	...	...	...	...	4
Paralysis	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	1
Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					31
					—

59. Of the Europeans admitted to hospital, seven were Spaniards, five sailors from ships, and eleven British subjects residing in Bathurst.

60. With regard to out-patients, calculated on the system followed last year and in previous years, the number treated was 11,293, as against 10,140 in 1905. The new cases were 4,922, as against 4,235 in 1905.

61. Vaccination was energetically carried out both in the Colony and the Protectorate, the number being, in the first instance, 1,214, and 812 in the second.

62. No case of small-pox was known of in Bathurst during the period under report, but in the Protectorate it broke out in several places and carried off a large number of persons, especially children.

63. The receipts by the Medical Department for the maintenance of sick and sale of medicines amounted to £105 2s. 11d. The expenditure was as follows:

Salaries and allowances	£2,543	3	0
Maintenance of sick and other charges	618	11	7
	<hr/>		
	£3,163	14	7
	<hr/>		

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

64. The only savings bank in the Colony is under the management of the Treasurer. At the close of the year there were 320 accounts remaining and the amount due to depositors was £4,711 18s. 7d. During 1906, £2,997 5s. 4d. was deposited and £3,216 14s. 5d. was withdrawn. The interest for the year at 2½ per cent. amounted to £116 16s. 11d.

65. There were thirty-six Friendly Societies registered in 1906. They had a sum of £724 3s. 11d. standing to their credit. Thirty-four of these societies render assistance to their members in time of sickness, &c. The remaining two have for their object amusement only.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

66. At the commencement of 1906 the police force consisted of a superintendent, an assistant superintendent (both Europeans), and 80 non-commissioned officers and men who were natives of Africa. Under this arrangement the cost of the establishment was estimated at £4,384.

67. During 1906 the force was reduced by ten non-commissioned officers and men, which brought the expenditure on it for that year down to £3,927 0s. 1d. For 1907 and future years the cost will be still further reduced to £3,835 1s. 2d.

68. The men are armed with the Martini-Enfield short carbine, and are instructed in the manual and firing exercises and company drill. They are fairly efficient, turn out well, are very clean and smart, and are well disciplined.

69. The force has an excellent band, composed of 15 non-commissioned officers and men, which is trained by a European bandmaster.

70. The value of property reported to the police as stolen during 1906 was £44 16s. 2d., of which articles worth £30 11s. 6d. were recovered.

71. There is a police reward fund, which is derived from forfeitures of pay and fines for misconduct. These are paid into the Treasury into a fund called the Police Reward Fund, which is administered by the superintendent of police, and from it rewards not properly chargeable to the Colonial funds are granted, subject to the approval of the Governor.

72. There is a fire brigade attached to the force consisting of one first-class sergeant at 15s. per month, one second-class sergeant at 12s. per month, and eight constables at 8s. per month. It is equipped with a Merryweather "India Office" pattern, No. 3 manual fire engine for 30 men, and pumps 136 gallons a minute 130 feet high. The number of calls to fires during the year were nine, as against 13 in 1905.

(B.) PRISONS.

73. There is only one prison in the Gambia, and that is at Bathurst, and it has accommodation for 30 male and five female prisoners. The building itself, though old, is quite sufficient for the present requirements of the Colony.

74. The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 12.53, as against 19.39 in 1905. Thirteen prisoners were undergoing sentence on the 1st January, 1906, and 85 were admitted during the year. Eighty men were discharged at the expiration of their sentences. One man earned the remission for exemplary conduct granted by the rules, two were found to be lunatics and sent to Sierra Leone, and one man escaped from custody and was not recaptured; one prisoner died from heart failure.

75. The expenditure on the prison was £693 8s. 5d., and the value of the work performed by the prisoners is estimated at £111 18s. 3d.

76. The sanitary condition of the institution was excellent, and the health of the prisoners very good.

77. It was not found necessary to inflict corporal punishment on any prisoner during the year, and generally the behaviour of the prisoners was excellent.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

78. During 1906, 126 cases came before the police court, which were dealt with as follows:—

Discharged for want of prosecution or want of evidence	...	...	...	...	57
Dismissed on merits	...	...	...	...	14
Convicted	...	...	...	...	90
Committed for trial by Supreme Court	...	...	...	...	15
					<hr/>
					176
					<hr/>

79. Of the 15 cases for trial by the Supreme Court one fell through for want of prosecution, three prisoners were acquitted, and eleven convicted. Two cases of murder were brought in as manslaughter by the jury, and there was also another case of manslaughter.

80. The cases dealt with by the Native Courts in the Protectorate numbered 337, as against 193 in 1905. In 321 instances fines were inflicted, seven persons were sentenced to imprisonment, three cases were dismissed on the merits, two for want of evidence, and two were sent for trial by the Supreme Court.

81. The cases were distributed as follows:—

North Bank Province	58
South Bank Province	31
Upper River Province	193
McCarthy Island Province	28
Combo and Fogni Province	27
	<hr/>
	337
	<hr/>

82. There has been a great improvement in the manner in which the Native Courts deal with cases, and I believe them to be patient, conscientious, and impartial in the discharge of their duties.

83. On the 2nd January of the year under report a Mohammedan Court was opened for the trial of causes or matters between, or exclusively affecting, Mohammedan natives relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments, and guardianship, and a Cadi or Magistrate was appointed. Up to the 31st December, 1906, twelve cases had been brought before it and dealt with, and as the nature of these cases may be of some interest, I give the particulars of them:—

No.	Date.	Names.	Nature of Case.	How disposed of.
1	2nd January, 1906 ...	Julie Cham <i>v.</i> Demba Gay ...	Custody of child and return of dower.	Court ordered the dower to be paid and mother to keep child.
2	16th January, 1906 ...	Samba Secker <i>v.</i> Anna Gomez ...	Custody of child claimed to teach him Mohammedan religion.	The Court ordered child to remain with mother.
3	13th February, 1906...	Application by Yuma Turay ...	Permission sought to marry another.	Permission granted by the Court.
4	10th April, 1906 ...	Allasan Jagne <i>v.</i> ^m Benda ^s Jie ...	Return of dower ...	\$100 dower ordered to be returned by the Court, the father to maintain the child.
5	18th July, 1906 ...	Mariama Koita <i>v.</i> Binta Ann ...	Return of dower claimed ...	The Court ordered dower of \$52 to be returned, also 3 cows which were deposited.
6	8th August, 1906 ...	Najiru Tal <i>v.</i> Fatu Fal ...	Return of wife or dower ...	Wife refusing to return being pregnant, Court ordered the dower to be returned (\$189).
7	2nd August, 1906 ...	Momordoo Joof <i>v.</i> Juju Cham ...	Return of wife or dower ...	\$25 dower returned as ordered by the Court.
8	10th August, 1906 ...	Sadaga ^s Dure <i>v.</i> Fatu Balleh ...	Return of dower claimed ...	\$160 and 8 <i>d.</i> returned being the dower received.
9	16th August, 1906 ...	Momordo Sallah <i>v.</i> Mam ^s Dow ...	Return of wife ...	Court ordered husband to pay deferred dower of \$22.
10	20th September, 1906	Application by Yie Awa Cham ...	Permission sought to marry another.	Permission granted her to marry another, the former husband not having been heard of for 3 years.
11	25th October, 1906 ...	Momordo ^s Jie <i>v.</i> Jaine Sarr (Alimami of Bathurst).	Permission sought to return dower to husband.	Court ordered the Alimami to return \$315 to Jaine Sarr, and Jaine Sarr to give Alimami's daughter \$100, he having got 5 wives.
12	22nd November, 1906	Osman Jobe <i>v.</i> Aminata Sarr ...	Return of dower claimed by husband.	Court ordered \$176, the dower paid, to be returned.

84. On the whole the Court may be said to work well, and it is undoubtedly a great source of satisfaction to the Moham-medans of the Colony to have disputes amongst themselves relating to civil matters decided according to the Koranic law. So far, there has been no appeal from a decision of the Cadi. As an instance of the impartiality of the Court, I would call attention to the case in which the Alimamy of Bathurst, a very influential person from his position, was the defendant, and sentenced to refund a dowry amounting to £61.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

85. The population of the Colony may be taken to be 8,807. It is difficult to say definitely what the population of the Protectorate is. It has, undoubtedly, increased since the census of 1901, but not to any great extent, and I believe 155,000 may be taken as a fairly reliable estimate. An endeavour is being made to introduce a very simple system, under which a record of births and deaths will be kept by the Headmen and Alimamis of towns, but it has not been in force long enough yet to be able to tell if it will answer.

86. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 271, the same as in 1905, and the birth-rate is, therefore, 30·7 per thousand. 281 deaths were recorded, or 18 less than in 1905, the rate being 31·9 per thousand.

87. The number of marriages registered during the year was 22, and shews an increase of eight on 1905.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

88. In Bathurst the general health of the people was very good, and there was no epidemic disease of any kind.

89. In the Protectorate, especially in Combo, Fogni, and the South Bank Provinces there was a good deal of small-pox, and this has had the effect of causing the people to bring their children forward to be vaccinated far more readily than in previous years. They now recognise the benefit derived from it, and during 1907, had lymph been available, great progress would have been made. As it is, over 3,000 children have been vaccinated by the Commissioners during their last tour of service.

(C.) SANITATION.

90. For a West African town, Bathurst is remarkably well kept from a sanitary point of view. Bordered as it is on two

sides by large swamps, there must, however, be a great deal of fever endemic in the place, and this it is impossible to prevent, though considerable improvement has been effected by the anti-mosquito sanitation measures which are vigorously prosecuted.

91. In the Protectorate the towns are, as a rule, much better laid out than they used to be, the streets being far wider and the open spaces more looked after than in former years. Prizes of £10, £7 10s., and £5 are given in each Province for the three cleanest towns, and these were well contested and have produced a decided improvement.

92. The water supply, even in Bathurst, is a great difficulty. As far as the Europeans are concerned, drinking water is obtained from tanks, and is fairly good, but the natives use well water, which, in view of the surroundings, cannot but be bad.

93. In the Protectorate, except in the towns situated on the banks of the river, wells only are used. Some of them are very deep, from 100 to 140 feet, and these give excellent water, but the majority are shallow, and from them the water is generally muddy and foul-smelling in the dry season.

(D.) CLIMATE.

94. From the middle of December to the end of February the weather is very pleasant, and for the greater part of the dry season, that is from November to June, the climate is undoubtedly superior to that in the other West African Colonies. The rainy season, however, is, to my mind, much more trying than it is in Lagos. There, after a tornado or a fall of rain, the air is cool for some time, but in the Gambia this is not the case. From November to the middle of May the air is remarkably dry, but at other times it is most humid, and this has a very depressing effect.

95. In Bathurst I have rarely known the temperature fall below 65°, but in the Protectorate, in December, January, and February, it is, on most mornings, very little over 50° at 6 a.m. The hottest time of the day is from 1 to 3 p.m., and I have known the thermometer, under a thick thatch roof, shew 108° between these hours, but this is exceptional; though in April in the South Bank, McCarthy Island, and Upper River Provinces 100° to 104° is very common.

96. The rainfall in 1906 was 64.33 inches, as against 66.07 inches in 1905. In December 2.72 inches fell during the first ten days of the month, 1.29 inches being the greatest amount in any one day. This was quite unexpected, and most exceptional; in fact, if the records at the hospital are to be relied on, it is the first instance of rain in December during the past 26 years.

97. Below will be found the meteorological return for 1906:—

Months.	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.		Remarks.
	Solar Maximum.	Minimum on Grass.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.	
January ..	160	—	95	60	35	76·8	—	—	E.	—	
February ..	165	—	100	61	39	79·0	·01	—	N.	—	
March ..	165	—	100	68	35	75·6	—	—	Do.	—	
April ..	163	—	94	60	34	70·6	—	—	Do.	—	
May ..	166	—	104	64	40	80·0	—	—	Do.	—	
June ..	160	—	100	62	38	78·9	4·07	—	Variable.	—	
July ..	160	—	96	64	32	82·5	16·29	—	Do.	—	
August ..	160	—	94	70	24	82·6	28·15	—	Do.	—	
September ..	162	—	97	72	25	83·8	6·34	—	Do.	—	
October ..	162	—	96	70	26	84·3	6·75	—	Do.	—	
November ..	161	—	99	69	30	84·6	—	—	E.	—	
December ..	158	—	96	62	34	78·4	2·72	—	E.	—	
Total ..	1,942	—	1,171	779	392	957·1	64·33	—	—	—	
Monthly average }	161·8	—	97·5	64·9	32·6	79·7	9·19	—	—	—	

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

98. Mails for Dakar, the Canary Islands, Madeira, and England, and for Sierra Leone and the Leeward Coast as far as Opobo are carried by the steamers of the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company, which call at Bathurst, outward and homeward, once in every fourteen days.

99. During the last two years a much better class of vessel has been introduced by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co., the managers of the two companies named, and on the outward voyage very good time is kept. These new steamers are about 5,000 tons measurement, and have good accommodation for a limited number of passengers. They are thirteen-knot boats, and are a great improvement on the type of vessel which formerly served Bathurst.

100. The total postal revenue for 1906 was £1,317, as against £2,731 in 1905, and of this amount £1,228 5s. 9d. was obtained from the sale of stamps.

101. The expenditure for the same period was £712 15s. 10d., that for 1905 being £808.

102. The postal work shews an increase, 98,379 letters, post-cards, newspapers, &c., having passed through the Post Office, as against 91,768 in 1905. The parcels also shew an increase, as they were 1,994 in 1906 as against 1,554 in 1905.

103. Money orders to the value of £2,027 were issued in the Colony during the year, £564 being the amount of those paid.

104. The value of the postal orders issued was £868, whilst those paid amounted to £204.

TELEGRAPHS.

105. Bathurst is connected with Europe by cable viâ Saint Vincent, Cape de Verde, and also with Sierra Leone. The cables are the property of the African Direct Telegraph Company, which, until November of the year under report, received a subsidy of £500 per annum from the Government, when the period of twenty years, for which it was granted, terminated.

TELEPHONES.

106. All the principal departments of the Government are connected by telephone, but the system has not extended to the outside public in any way.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

107. As a result of the circumstances which gave rise to the punitive expedition in 1901, it was decided that a company of the West African Frontier Force should be stationed in Bathurst. This company, which was raised at the end of 1901, numbers 126 native non-commissioned officers and men, two-thirds of whom are recruited from Sierra Leone and one-third from the natives of the Gambia Protectorate and places adjacent to it. It is officered by one captain, two lieutenants, and two European sergeants, seconded from His Majesty's Regular Forces.

108. When first enrolled the company was quartered in barracks in Bathurst, but this was not thought to be desirable, and during 1906 it was removed to lines built on the outskirts of the town.

109. The men were at first armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine, but this has been replaced by the Lee-Enfield magazine rifle.

110. The cost of the company for 1906 was £5,543 7s. 7d.

X.—GENERAL REMARKS.

111. 1906 was a very uneventful though prosperous year for the Gambia. The Protectorate was quiet, and the people contented and happy, in spite of a certain amount of suffering amongst them caused by the failure of the corn crops, upon which they depend to a great extent for food. The Government, however, issued a large quantity of rice on repayment,

which prevented any really acute distress and was much appreciated. The high price paid to the producer for his groundnuts had a very beneficial effect on trade, as is proved by the increased value of the imports and exports and by the large revenue collected.

112. During the year the extension of, and repairs to, the Government jetty were almost completed. Unfortunately it was rammed by Messrs. Elder, Dempster and Co.'s steamship "Sapele" in March last, and two bays were destroyed, but what remains of it is the most substantial, useful structure yet constructed in the West African Colonies. The dredger, obtained in the main for deepening the Kai Hai Channel, was launched, and did excellent work in connection with the jetty, where it was used for removing the sand, mud, &c., which kept continually accumulating in front of it, whilst the repairs were going on. The repairs to the Senior Medical Officer's quarters were finished, making what was a very tumbledown building a most comfortable and commodious house, and the lines for the West African Frontier Force were also completed and occupied by the company on its return from Cape Saint Mary at the end of June.

113. The trade of the Gambia must be of an uncertain character so long as the groundnut remains the only staple. It is most difficult to persuade the native to take up any other products, because none are known suitable to the climate of the Gambia, with its long dry season, which will pay him so well for his labour. An experiment is being made this year with maize (*Milium Nigricans*), which has been so successful further down the coast, and also with the Egyptian Dhari (*Sorghum Vulgare*), and perhaps, if either of these give good crops, the people will cultivate them next year on a large scale if seed is issued to them, but it is almost impossible to persuade them to take up anything new.

114. At the factories in the Upper River a certain amount of trade in imported goods is done with places to the east of British territory, such as Tenda, Cognagui, Ferlo, and Fouta D'Jallon, and until a little over a year ago there was considerable caravan traffic between Fattatenda and the countries round Kayes. This, however, is now decreasing, and will not, I fear, recover, as every day the facilities for transport in Senegal are improving.

115. Though the climate of the Gambia is for some parts of the year better than in the other West African Colonies, it is for quite five months very trying for Europeans, and white labour would be impossible. Some 100 Europeans are employed as clerks both in Bathurst and up the river for about seven months, and, as a rule, their health is fair, but quite three-fourths of them go home for the rainy season, and all of those that remain out are withdrawn to Bathurst by the second week in June.

116. Perhaps the greatest peculiarity of this Colony is the way in which everything is at a standstill during the rainy season. Having been in Lagos for some years, where no difference as regards work is made between wet and dry seasons, I thought the course of action followed there might be pursued here with advantage, but experience shewed me my mistake, and I am now convinced that public works, such as the erection of buildings, &c., should only be undertaken from November to June, inclusive. Roads constructed during the rains would, no doubt, turn out well, but the cost of labour, if it could be obtained, would be ruinous, as the native takes shelter at the first sign of rain and remains under cover until it is over. Labour would also be very difficult to obtain, as the greater part of the men employed in Bathurst on unskilled work cultivate farms during the planting season and grow groundnuts and corn.

117. The rates of wages both for skilled and unskilled labour are much higher than in other places on the coast, and the cost of living is also more. The supply of skilled labour is very limited, and it is certainly inferior to that to be obtained in Lagos.

118. The social condition of the people of both Colony and Protectorate may be considered good. The inhabitants of the latter are of good class and, taken as a whole, are more advanced in their views and wide-minded than is the case further down the coast. Quite four-fifths of them are strict Moham-medans, and total abstainers. They are decidedly industrious for negroes, and, taken as a whole, are excellent farmers.

119. The general condition of the Gambia in 1906 was very satisfactory. The people were contented, and the commercial prosperity of the country judging by the imports, exports, and revenue of the Colony, was at a higher level than it has ever before been.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE C. DENTON,

Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent 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, &c.	Year.
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland... ..	1905-1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent... ..	1905-1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland... ..	1905-1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate... ..	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast... ..	"
535	Malta	1906-1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.