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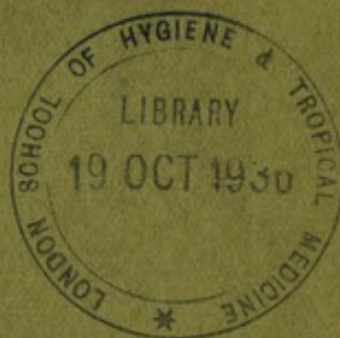
No. 1715

Annual Report on the Social and Economic  
Progress of the People of

THE GAMBIA, 1934

(For Reports for 1932 and 1933 see Nos. 1616 and 1664  
respectively (Price 2s. each).)

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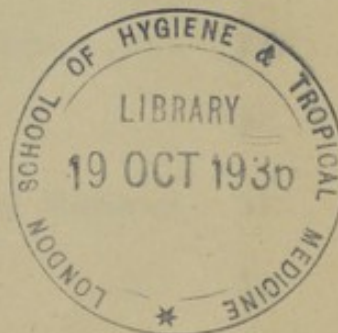
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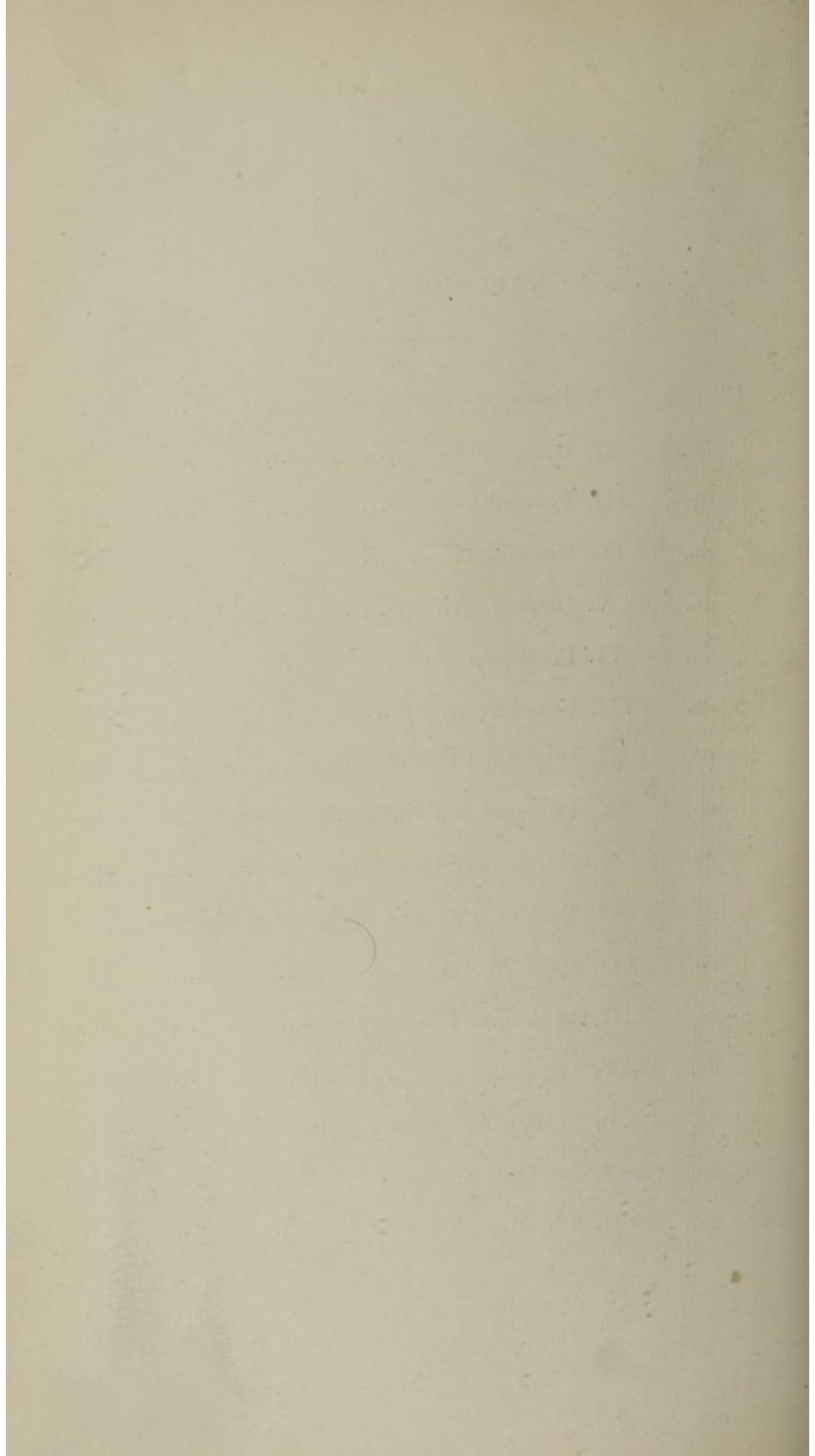


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# Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1934.

## CHAPTER I. HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE.

### *History.*

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded further up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of a fever, was buried; and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the facts that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (sc. Portuguese "egreja") near Kansala in Foni, Bintang and Tankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuko near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Philip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia, and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants, the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barke, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals".



Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618, and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbaktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Nerico. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who also made his way up to the Nerico. Notwithstanding the fact that Jobson in his "The Golden Trade" gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia, the patentees, who had been involved by these trading ventures in considerable losses, did not further prosecute the exploration of the Gambia but confined their attentions to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barracunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime James, Duke of Courland, who was the nephew and godson of James I of England, had in about 1651 obtained from various native chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Cape St. Mary), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Cape St. Mary. During the next eight years a very flourishing trade was carried on between the Gambia and Courland. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company, whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the Duke should be in a position to resume possession thereof. In 1660 St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information, which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of



the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18, 1661, he sailed up to St Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1672 the Royal Adventurers sold their forts and factories to the Royal African Company, which was incorporated in that year by royal charter.

In 1678 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1686 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1856.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1703, and 1709, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1720 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort by stratagem and held it to a ransom of two thousand pounds. An even more serious



disaster occurred in the following year, when the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Major John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's ships themselves turned pirate. Finally in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed twenty years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's "Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa." Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on a trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves—the consequence of which was that they were obliged to call in their out-factors on the continent.....By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort "was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight; and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an Act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1765 the fort and settlements in the Gambia were by another Act of Parliament taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next eighteen years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government headquarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Superintendent of Trade was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.



In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was therefore once more entrusted to the care of the African Company.

In 1787 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was purchased by the British government with a view to the establishment of a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisanía (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Aynsley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1791), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1795 James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association, to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars the British were in possession of St. Louis and Goree, but it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that these places should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the very extensive traffic in slaves, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels in the River Gambia, the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On April 23, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1866 when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In the following year the King of Kombo made a similar cession of territory on the south bank. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement.



for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. Further cessions of other tracts of land near the mouth of the river and also further upstream were obtained in subsequent years. In 1856 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain who in exchange renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance, but these boundaries were not actually surveyed until 1905-06 when a Boundary Commission carried out the work.

In the meantime despite a number of petty wars the Gambia government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fulladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts, which had not been ceded to but merely placed under the protection of the British government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of government. Consequently in 1895 and the following years ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902 the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

### *Geography.*

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly three hundred miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntau-ur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jolofs, Mandinkos,



Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mohammedans except the last named tribe who are pagan, though the Mohammedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

*Upper River Province*, comprising the districts of Wuli, Kantora, Sandu and Fuladu East has an area of 790 square miles and a population of 42,523. The greater number of the inhabitants are Mandinkos and Sarahulis with a rather smaller proportion of Fulas.

The Headquarters of the Province are situated at Basse, which is both the largest town in the Province and one of the most important river-ports in the Protectorate.

The districts of Sandu, Kantora and Wuli are all relics of former native kingdoms.

*MacCarthy Island Province* consists of the Districts of Sami, Niani, Nianija, Upper Saloum, Lower Saloum, Western Niamina, Eastern Niamina, Niamina Dankunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square miles and the population 37,542. The Headquarters are at Georgetown. The bulk of the population is Jolof and Mandinko.

*South Bank Province* includes the Districts of Western Jarra, Central Jarra, Eastern Jarra, Eastern Kiang, Central Kiang, Kiang West, Foni Jarrol, Foni Bondali, Foni Kansala, Bintang-Karenai, Foni Brefet, South Kombo, East Kombo, Central Kombo, North Kombo and Kombo St. Mary. The area of the Province is 1,294 square miles and the population 67,417. The Headquarters are at Bakau, Cape St. Mary. The majority of the inhabitants are Mandinkos but there is a large number of Fulas in the more easterly Districts while the Foni Districts are largely populated by Jolas.

*North Bank Province* has an area of 814 square miles and a population of 48,000. The districts of the Province are Lower Niumi, Upper Niumi, Jokadu, Lower Baddibu, Central Baddibu and Upper Baddibu. Of these the three Baddibu districts are predominantly Mandinko in population; Jokadu has a mixed population of Mandinkos, Jolofs and Tukulors (Mohammedan Fulas) while the two Niumis are mainly mixed Jolof and Mandinka districts. The Headquarters are at Kerewan.

#### *Climate.*

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy though, with modern methods of sanitation and housing, conditions of living generally have greatly improved during recent years. The most trying part of the year is from June to October, which is the wet period. During the remaining months the climate compares favourably with that of other tropical countries.



*Meteorological Statistics, 1934.*

## CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.			Mean Air Tempera- ture.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches.)
January	...	...	68·7	45	—
February	...	...	68·5	51	—
March	...	...	69·2	55	—
April	...	...	70·6	62	—
May	...	..	71·1	79	—
June	...	...	75·4	71	1·04
July	...	...	77·7	72	6·37
August	...	...	77·2	80	25·22
September	...	...	74·9	75	8·39
October	...	...	77·0	68	1·19
November	...	...	74·5	56	—
December	...	...	72·0	54	—
				Total ...	42·21 inches.

Other records of rainfall were :—

Bathurst		44·91 inches.
McCarthy Island Province	(Yoro Biri Kunda)	31·03 „
Upper River Province	(Wuli)	49·97 „

## CHAPTER II. GOVERNMENT.

The main political divisions of the Gambia are the Colony of the Gambia and the Protectorate, the latter consisting of four Provinces each administered by a Commissioner. The whole country is under the control of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Commissioners are responsible for their respective Provinces. The Colony includes the Island of St. Mary (on which the town of Bathurst is situated) and also Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island, the Ceded Mile and British Kombo all of which are administered by the Commissioners under the Protectorate system. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member) and several other senior officials. The Legislative Council of the Colony, of which the Governor is the President, includes the Colonial Secretary (ex-officio Member), some official Members, including the Members of the Executive Council, and also several Unofficial Members.

*Protectorate System.*—This system was introduced in 1894 by an “Ordinance to provide for the exercise in the Protected Territories of “certain powers and jurisdiction by Native Authorities and by “Commissioners”, (No. 11 of 1894), which laid down that “All “native laws and customs in force in the Protected Territories which are “not repugnant to natural justice nor incompatible with any Ordinance “of the Colony which applies to the Protected Territories, shall have “the same effect as Regulations made under this Ordinance”. The Ordinance defined the powers of the Chiefs in the following terms :—

“31. Every Head Chief and Headman shall possess and exercise—

(a) The powers of a Conservator of the peace, including the power of binding over unruly persons with sureties of the peace, and of preventing or suppressing riots, affrays and tumults of every description,

(b) The power of carrying into execution within his district, sub-district or village any law of the Imperial Parliament or of the Colony of the Gambia, any Order of Her Majesty in Council, any decree or order of the Supreme Court, or any order of the Commissioner, subject to such instructions as he may from time to time receive from the Administrator or Commissioner ; or, in respect of decrees or orders of the Supreme Court, from the Chief Magistrate ;

(c) The power of apprehending, detaining and sending to the Commissioner’s Court for examination, or to the Courts at Bathurst for examination and trial, of every person accused of any serious offence or crime, such as murder, robbery, slave-dealing, whether of the like or a different kind, and it shall be the duty of every Head Chief and Headman to use his utmost endeavour to discover the authors of all such offences.”

The protection of persons executing Chiefs’ orders was provided for by Section 32 of the Ordinance which reads “Every person employed



"by a Headman or Native Court in carrying into effect any order lawfully made, shall have the like protection for that purpose as a person authorized to execute Process of the Supreme Court."

Ordinance No. 11 of 1894 was later superseded by the Protectorate Ordinance of 1913 and during 1933 an advance was made in the administration of the Protectorate by the enactment of the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, (Nos. 3 and 4 of 1933). The two Ordinances, though each deals with separate matters of detail, are in fact directed to one common purpose, the development of local self-government by the Seyfolu (Head Chiefs) and people of the Protectorate, under the advice and supervision of the Commissioners who represent the Governor.

The Native Authority Ordinance provides for the establishment and constitution of Native Authorities in the Protectorate and provision is made for the continuation of existing Seyfolu and Alkalolu (Headmen) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than does the Protectorate Ordinance 1913 the duties and powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu in their executive capacity. It confers on Native Authorities power to issue administrative orders dealing with a great variety of matters in regard to persons subject to their jurisdiction and also imposes duties in connection with the prevention and suppression of crime.

The Native Tribunals Ordinance establishes throughout the Protectorate a system of Native Tribunals with defined jurisdiction both criminal and civil. It deals with the judicial powers of Seyfolu and Alkalolu, as the Native Authority Ordinance deals with their executive powers. Sections dealing with the removal of proceedings from Native Tribunals to the Court of a Commissioner and with the revisory powers of Commissioners reproduce in a clearer manner the rules governing these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913. Other sections also reproduce the law existing under the Protectorate Ordinance 1913.

Commissioners no longer sit with Native Tribunals, which are now quite separate from the Courts of the Commissioners.

The administration in the Protectorate still hinges on the Chief (or Seyfu) and the Headman (or Alkali) the Alkali being responsible to the Seyfu for his town and the Seyfu to the Commissioner of the Province for his district. The Alkali is chosen by the people of the village and his position is confirmed by the Commissioner. He acts as the representative of his village in dealing with Government and personifies the village community. This is exemplified by the fact that it is the Alkali who allots, to those who need it, unoccupied land belonging to the village as a community. He is bound by tradition to seek and to listen to the advice of the elder men in the village.

In the event of disputes arising in the community which cannot be composed by the friends or relatives of the parties the Alkali, although armed with no judicial powers, is often able by virtue of his office to act successfully as arbitrator and prevent the matter from reaching the point of litigation.



The Seyfu holds a position partly established by legislation and partly inherited from the Kings of former times. The Mandinka word for King (Mansa) is now applied only to the Governor who is, in native phraseology, the "King of Bathurst", and this limitation of the word reflects the passing of much of the old kingly powers. Yet a good deal of the standing and authority of the Kings remains, especially in cases where it is possible to appoint as Seyfu one of an old ruling family. It is now the policy, therefore, to appoint such men as far as possible, since on the authority inherent in the office depends a great part of the Seyfu's utility and prestige.

The Seyfu is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioner, who has previously ascertained which of the candidates has the best claim or commands most the respect and obedience of the district. This district opinion is becoming an increasingly important factor in the choice of a chief. Apart from his general administrative duties and the supervision of his district, the Seyfu is usually the President of the Native Tribunal of his district and exercises powers which may be compared roughly to those of a Police Court, appeals lying from his Court to that of the Commissioner.

The former system of advances of seed groundnuts and rice to the Seyfolu and people of the Protectorate was discontinued in 1932, and in 1933 each Native Authority made a Rule under which every cultivator of ground-nuts in the Protectorate is required to deposit in the village store, after the winnowing of the year's crop, five bushels of seednuts. Of the amount so deposited four bushels are returnable to the depositor at the beginning of the next planting season, the remaining bushel being placed in the village reserve.

The scheme, with the full co-operation of the Seyfolu and people, has worked very well and has resulted in an adequate supply of seed.

Ample supplies of home-grown food-stuffs are now being produced, and from the scheme there has resulted a considerable gain in morale and a more confident local administration by Seyfolu and Native Authorities.

*Local Government.* In 1931 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health was constituted in place of the former Board of Health for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst.

The Council, of which the Colonial Secretary is Chairman, is composed of representatives of the various Government Departments most closely concerned in the administration of Bathurst, of six Members elected by the Town Wards of Bathurst, and of four Members nominated by the Governor to represent commerce, industry or other interests.

An election for Ward Representatives is held every December, and meetings of the Council are held every quarter. Much useful advice on matters affecting the town of Bathurst and its inhabitants has been tendered to Government by the members of this Council both in their individual and collective capacities, and the Council serves as a valuable link between Government and the public.



## CHAPTER III. POPULATION.

The population of the Gambia according to the 1931 Census was 199,520 of which 14,370 inhabitants resided on St. Mary's Island. The Island contains few inhabitants outside the town of Bathurst.

Generally speaking the various races are distributed throughout the Protectorate with the exception of the Jolas who are practically confined to the South Bank Province. The numerical distribution of the races in the Protectorate was given in the Census as follows :—

Mandinko	85,640
Jolof	25,864
Fula	22,273
Jola	19,410
Sarahuli	12,316
Tukulor	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

People of all these races are included amongst the inhabitants of Bathurst.

Vital statistics are recorded in the Island of St. Mary only, as, owing to the illiteracy of the people, the collection of reliable data in the Protectorate is impossible.

The statistics in respect of Bathurst for the past five years are as follows :—

Year.	Births.	Birth Rate per 100.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 100.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered).
1930 ...	366	3·8	411	4·3	283
1931* ...	422	2·9	369	2·5	227
1932 ...	339	2·3	355	2·4	242
1933 ...	331	2·3	368	2·5	290
1934 ...	351	2·4	422	3·07	265

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burial permits being required in all cases), in some instances births of infants, in particular to illiterate parents, are not reported.

It is likely, however, that registration of births will soon become more accurate as time goes on since parents, including illiterate parents, are beginning to realise the value of certificates of birth to their children in adult years.

\* 1931 Census year showed a large increase of population.

With regard to the infantile mortality rate the figure given for 1934 is for the whole of Bathurst ; of the 351 births 92 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 93 infants 12 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 129 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the general mortality rate of 265 for the whole of Bathurst.

*Emigration and immigration.*

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the commencement of each ground-nut planting season a number of natives cross the border into the Protectorate from French territory for the purpose of assisting the local farmers in the planting and harvesting of the crop. These 'strange farmers' return to their homes after the crop has been marketed. Likewise a considerable number of foreign labourers and petty traders come to Bathurst at the beginning of each trade season and leave again when the season ends. The number of 'strange farmers', labourers and petty traders visiting the Gambia naturally fluctuates according to trade conditions. Immigration returns show that during the past four years the persons entering Bathurst by sea numbered as follows :—851 in 1931, 634 in 1932, 817 in 1933 and 530 in 1934 ; but it may be assumed that the majority of these people returned, or will return, to their homes. Immigration is controlled by the Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 12 of 1924) under which no person is allowed to enter the Gambia who :—

- (a) is likely to become a pauper or a public charge,
- (b) is an idiot or insane,
- (c) is deemed by the Governor to be an undesirable immigrant,
- (d) is a prostitute, or
- (e) is not in possession of a passport valid under the law of the country of which he is a citizen.

Any person who appears to the Immigration Officer to be without visible means of support is required to deposit the sum of £60, or to give security by bond in that amount.

At the expiration of eighteen months from the date of entering the Gambia, or at any earlier period, if the depositor, not having become destitute or unable to support himself, departs from the Gambia, his deposit is returned to him.



## CHAPTER IV. HEALTH.

The health of the inhabitants of the Gambia was fairly satisfactory ; but trypanosomiasis appears to be increasing judging by the numbers of patients presenting themselves for treatment.

Diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems remain the most prevalent in Bathurst, there having been 3,925 cases of the former with 15 deaths and 3,525 cases of the latter with 31 deaths.

It is once more noticeable that respiratory complaints occur mostly during the relatively cold season, January to April, and the digestive system complaints during the rains, June to October.

Malaria fever remains the most usual tropical complaint under treatment : in 1934 there were 934 cases with 3 deaths in Bathurst.

There are in the Protectorate one hospital and two dispensaries in charge of a Medical Officer and three Dispensers. From these centres prophylactic work is undertaken against all kinds of sickness including vaccination against small-pox.

In Bathurst there is a European and African general hospital (Victoria Hospital), an Infectious Diseases Hospital, two Maternity and Infants Welfare Clinics and a Home for Infirm. These are all in charge of Medical Officers and there are European Nursing Sisters in the European and African Hospital and in the Clinics. In addition there is a Public Health Service which attends to drainage and sanitary organisation.

There was an outbreak of yellow fever in Bathurst during the months of October—December. Complete details cannot be given until the results of various investigations at present being carried out at the Wellcome Research Institute are known, but 4 European and one native deaths took place, and one native recovered. Undoubtedly other native cases were not diagnosed as yellow fever.

There were no outbreaks of plague or small-pox in 1934.

Drainage and sand filling of depressions were continued during the year and the reclamation of shallow, low-lying, tidal areas by sand and refuse is proceeding.

The Health Department continued operations against mosquito breeding. This work is both difficult and expensive owing to the existence of large numbers of land-crab holes which provide ideal hatching-out places for mosquitoes.

## CHAPTER V. HOUSING.

There are no slums in Bathurst and the houses and compounds are well kept. There is some overcrowding at times during the "trade season" but not of a serious nature. All houses and compounds are periodically inspected by the Health Authorities and the sanitary and building laws are enforced.

Houses are constructed of different kinds of material: for instance some are of wattle and daub, others of brick, others again of concrete bricks, and the most usual roofing is of corrugated iron.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. These houses are well suited to local conditions.

There is no overcrowding since ample space is available for expansion.

The houses and villages generally are well kept and sanitation is satisfactory. Periodical inspection of villages is made by Commissioners and officers of the Medical Staff.

In the Protectorate the houses are almost invariably built and owned by the occupants and the same applies—though to a less extent—in Bathurst.

*Statistics.*

Province,	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province ... ..	48,000	22,861
South Bank Province ... ..	67,417	28,048
MacCarthy Island Province ...	37,542	25,101
Upper River Province ... ..	42,523	26,283
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)* ...	14,370	3,177

\* Census figures 1931.



## CHAPTER VI. PRODUCTION.

The Gambia is almost entirely dependent upon groundnut cultivation which forms the staple export crop. The export crop, which varies from 40,000 to 70,000 tons, is raised entirely by African farmers, as the country is unsuitable for European settlers. There are no permanent plantations or estates, the whole of the cultivation being carried out by what is usually described as "shifting cultivation".

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of foodstuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guinea corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Cotton is grown to some extent particularly in the North Bank, and the lint is used locally for the manufacture of long narrow strips of cloth. Experiments are being conducted in connection with the cultivation of crops under irrigation during the dry season.

The tonnage and value of groundnuts exported from the Colony during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.			Tons.	£ Value.
1930	...	...	74,761	867,634
1931	...	...	66,811	506,125
1932	...	...	37,315	391,659
1933	...	...	67,370	500,766
1934	...	...	71,919	387,345

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1934 the exports of these commodities were :—

			£
Palm Kernels	553 tons	value	2,712
Hides	141,511 lbs.	„	1,978
Wax	59,826 lbs.	„	1,404

There is no organised animal industry in the Gambia although it is estimated that there are usually about 35,000 head of cattle in the Colony and Protectorate. As the Gambia consists mainly of a narrow strip of territory on either side of the river and much of the land adjacent to the river is more or less swampy and tsetse-ridden, the position is to some extent analogous to that existing in larger Colonies where cattle are compelled, at certain seasons of the year, to frequent river valleys in which, while grazing is good, casualties from disease amongst the herds are numerous. The extensive French territories surrounding the Gambia act as a cattle reservoir for the Colony. There is consequently a continual movement of cattle to and fro across the border and the herds are owned by individuals on both sides of the border. As the border is some 600 miles in length the establishment of any effective control over the graziers and the movement of animals is impracticable. During 1934 some 4,299 head of cattle are reported to have died of



rinderpest in the Gambia but it is impossible to say how many of these were, in fact, animals which had recently crossed the border or were owned by natives in French territory. The ownership of cattle in the Gambia does not appear to differ in kind from that which obtains amongst other agricultural communities in West Africa. There is, strictly speaking, no communal ownership and most cattle are the property of individuals. The owner is, however, seldom the person who grazes the herd and conversely the grazier seldom owns more than a few head of cattle in the herd which he tends, but he is usually given the milk and butter and a certain proportion of the calves born. The graziers in the South Bank Province are usually Jolas. In the other three Provinces practically all the graziers are Fulas.

During April and May of 1933 the Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria and the Veterinary Pathologist visited the country to investigate the situation and outline a scheme to deal with rinderpest. At the conclusion of their visit and as a result of their investigations an immunization scheme, extending over a period of five years at an estimated cost of £6,448 was put forward. This scheme was sanctioned by the Secretary of State and grants not exceeding one half of the total cost are being made from the Colonial Development Fund.

The scheme was commenced in November 1933 when a Veterinary Officer was seconded from the Nigerian Veterinary Department for the period November 1933 to May 1934. The Veterinary Pathologist from that country also paid a second visit in November and December 1933 to assist in the preliminary work.

In October 1934, a Veterinary Officer was seconded again from Nigeria and inoculations were carried out in the South Bank and MacCarthy Island Provinces.

Although the scheme is still in its infancy it is apparent that the cattle owners readily appreciate the value of immunization and are quick to take advantage of it, and the success of the scheme is assured.

Rinderpest has been in the past the great obstacle to the development of the cattle breeding industry, but effective control of this disease is in sight and it is anticipated with confidence that in the near future the industry will be restored to its former prosperity.

In addition to cattle a considerable number of sheep, goats and pigs are reared, mainly for local consumption.

There are no minerals of commercial value in the Colony nor are there any important industries other than those already mentioned. A certain amount of leather, metal and pottery work is made for sale locally.



## CHAPTER VII. COMMERCE.

*Imports and Exports.**Imports.*

The imports for the last five years were as follows :—

		1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
		£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise	...	529,985	250,311	292,700	435,902	326,175
Specie	...	12,775	2,302	5,141	13,966	4,326
Total	...	542,760	252,613	297,841	449,868	330,501

The following table shows the principal items of imports from the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1934.

ARTICLES.	United Kingdom	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries	TOTAL.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£		£
Apparel	4,760	15	5,090 <i>a</i>	—	9,865
Bags and Sack	1,137	5,000	346	239,930 no.	6,483
Boots, Shoes and Slippers	323	17	2,231	29,153 prs.	2,571
Coal	2,714	—	286	1,732 tons.	3,000
Cotton Piece Goods	37,312	—	20,269 <i>b</i>	3,207,321 sq.yds.	57,581
Cotton Manufactures (other)	8,956	158	3,621	—	12,735
Cotton Yarn	7,153	4	1,491	123,792 lbs.	8,648
Flour Wheaten	2,753	1,418	2,107	14,218 cwts.	6,278
Hats and Caps	650	41	3,394	—	4,085
Kola-Nuts	—	28,432	15	20,659 cwts.	28,447
Metal (all kinds)	11,686	—	3,545	—	15,231
Motor Vehicles	1,858	1,038	1,566	44 no.	4,462
Oils, edible	4,137	—	68	50,172 galls.	5,705
Oils, not edible	1,579	—	10,045 <i>c</i>	261,872 „	11,624
Rice	—	28,983	414	84,646 cwts.	29,397
Soap	1,939	—	1,694	4,516 „	2,633
Sugar	429	—	7,385 <i>d</i>	9,746 „	7,814
Tobacco	5,172	610	2,258	98,398 lbs.	8,040

(*a*). Including £3,660 from Japan.

(*b*). „ 8,319 „ „

„ 6,642 „ Russia.

(*c*). „ 7,907 „ U. S. America.

(*d*). „ 6,542 „ France.



The percentages of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, were as follows :—

Country.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	34.39	37.73	51.02	50.34	42.43
British Possessions ...	11.11	14.45	15.07	16.66	22.32
Total—British Empire	45.50	52.18	66.09	67.00	64.75
France ... ..	29.75	24.52	14.75	11.63	9.06
Other Countries ... ..	24.75	23.30	19.16	21.37	26.19
Total Foreign Countries	54.50	47.82	33.91	33.00	35.25

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of imports for the last five years :—

Article.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement per ton	2 14. 7½	2 12. 9	3 10. 10½	2 11. 9¾	2 6. 0
Coal per ton	2 9. 7	2 9. 1½	2 8. 11¾	2 12. 5	1 14. 8
Cotton Piece Goods sq. yd.	0 0. 6½	0 0. 5	0 0. 4	0 0. 4½	0 0. 4½
Cotton Yarn per lb.	0 1. 6¼	0 1. 4¾	0 1. 1½	0 1. 4¾	0 1. 4¾
Flour Wheaten per cwt.	0 14. 11½	0 11. 11	0 12. 6½	0 10. 1	0 8. 10
Kola Nuts per cwt.	3 14. 6	1 11. 8	1 10. 0	1 15. 3¼	1 7. 6½
Oils Edible per gall.	0 2. 10¾	0 2. 5	0 2. 5¼	0 1. 11¾	0 2. 3½
Rice per cwt.	0 12. 8	0 9. 3¾	0 9. 7½	0 7. 1¾	0 6. 11¼
Salt per ton	1 9. 2	2 6. 6	1 13. 4¾	1 11. 7¼	1 12. 5
Sugar per cwt.	0 17. 1¼	0 17. 0	0 17. 2	0 17. 0¼	0 16. 0½
Tea per lb.	0 2. 1	0 1. 6¾	0 1. 9	0 1. 9	0 1. 8½

#### Exports.

The exports for the last five years including specie were as follows :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	898,807	527,111	406,894	515,208	401,849
Specie ... ..	7,836	2,761	199,620	—	53,900
Total ...	906,643	529,872	606,514	515,208	455,749



The following table shows the principal items of exports to the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1934.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides.		Palm Kernels.	
	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	8,185	39,776	33,636	449	194	1,033
British Possessions	327	1,721	—	—	—	—
Belgium ...	4,133	23,120	—	—	—	—
Denmark ...	4,324	25,377	—	—	—	—
France ...	—	—	86,257	1,172	—	—
Germany ...	37,696	199,190	21,618	357	296	1,337
Holland ...	17,085	97,440	—	—	63	342
Other Countries ...	169	761	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	71,919	387,345	141,511	1,978	553	2,712

The percentages of British and foreign exports, exclusive of specie, were as follows :—

		1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
		%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	...	19.35	03.83	20.66	34.06	11.26
British Possessions	...	01.96	00.82	00.89	01.23	01.14
Total British Empire	...	21.31	04.65	21.55	35.29	12.40
France ...	...	39.95	56.90	59.80	37.97	00.00
Germany ...	...	17.82	19.91	00.92	05.94	50.09
Holland ...	...	16.17	15.21	10.73	15.59	24.34
Other Countries	...	04.75	03.33	07.00	5.21	13.17
Total Foreign Countries ...	...	78.69	95.35	78.45	64.71	87.60

The following table shows the comparative average prices per unit of the principal items of export for the last five years :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	11. 12. 1	7. 11. 6	10. 9. 11	7. 8. 8	5. 7. 9
Hides per lb.	0. 0. 4½	0. 0. 2¾	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 3
Palm Kernels per ton	10. 17. 3	8. 19. 9½	7. 13. 8¾	6. 16. 6	4. 18. 1



*Shipping.*

The percentages of shipping of various nationalities for the last five years were as follows :—

				1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
				%	%	%	%	%
British	...	...	...	62.0	55.4	57.2	56.7	53.31
French	...	...	...	12.4	19.0	21.8	20.3	12.57
Dutch	...	...	...	3.0	4.3	2.7	2.5	1.71
German	...	...	...	5.7	3.3	4.6	8.0	20.54
Norwegian...	...	...	...	5.6	—	3.0	4.6	3.96
American	...	...	...	5.5	4.8	5.7	1.9	3.93
Italian	...	...	...	—	1.8	—	1.0	0.37
Swedish	..	...	...	3.0	7.2	4.9	3.3	2.34
Danish	...	...	...	—	2.9	—	0.3	0.37
Other Countries	...	...	...	2.8	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.90



## CHAPTER VIII. WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Generally speaking, labour is plentiful, in fact during the slack season there is unemployment in Bathurst. In the trading season a considerable number of natives from French territory enter Bathurst to obtain employment, whilst in the Protectorate numbers of French natives are employed by the local farmers in sowing and harvesting the groundnut crop. In both cases the majority of these immigrants return to their homes when the season is over.

*Rates of pay.*

The rates of pay for artisans such as carpenters, blacksmiths, fitters, masons, and painters range from 2/6 to 6/- a day (8 hours).

Unskilled labourers may be classified as follows:—

- (a) those on a monthly wage,
- (b) those on a daily wage, and
- (c) farm labourers.

(a) Labourers employed by mercantile firms, on monthly rates of pay, receive from 30/- to 36/- a month and, in most cases, a monthly issue of 45 lbs. of rice in addition.

Semi-skilled labourers (e.g. sanitary workers) permanently employed by Government receive from 1/9 to 2/6 a day. Unskilled labourers employed by Government receive from 1/3 to 1/6 a day. The normal day's work is 8½ hours.

(b) Daily wage labourers receive from 1/- to 1/3 a day, depending on the type of work. Piecework rates are sometimes paid when, e.g., ships are being loaded or discharged.

(c) Farm labourers from French territories are fed and housed by their employers and when the season's crop is sold they receive a proportion of the proceeds before returning to their homes. As regards the local natives, each family as a rule tends its own farm but where outside labour is employed the conditions of employment are similar to those obtaining in the case of the French subjects referred to above.

*Cost of living.*

In the Protectorate, rice and guinea-corn form the staple diet of the people, whilst a considerable amount of bread, sugar, salt and fish is consumed. More rice is consumed in Bathurst especially by the foreign labourer. The daily cost of a labourer's food in Bathurst may be reckoned as follows:—

Rice or corn	...	...	...	3d.
Bread	...	...	...	1d.
Fish	...	...	...	1d.
Oil	...	...	...	1d.
Sugar	...	...	...	½d.
Condiments	...	...	...	½d.
TOTAL				7d.



Meat and groundnuts are sometimes substituted for fish and rice and the daily expenditure is then increased by about 1*d*.

The average labourer spends very little on house-rent and clothing—probably not more than 3/- a month on an average.

The cost of living in the Protectorate for a labourer who provides for himself is rather less than in Bathurst.

The prices of foodstuffs are generally lower than those obtaining before the war. The following table gives some examples :—

	1934 (average)	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	21/-	33/-
Salt do. 66 lbs.	2/2	1/6
Flour do. 98 lbs.	14/6	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	3/-	4/-
Sugar per lb.	-/3	5½ <i>d</i>

*Cost of living. European Government Officials.*

The cost of living varies according to the income and tastes of the individual, but the following is considered to be the annual *minimum* outlay of an unmarried junior Government Official living in Bathurst :

	£
Servants ... ..	70
Washing ... ..	12
Firewood ... ..	9
Electric Light ... ..	10
Market ( meat, fish, bread, vegetables, eggs, etc. )	40
Provisions and Wines ... ..	125
Tobacco ... ..	10
Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme contribution	24
Miscellaneous expenditure including equipment	35
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>£335</b>

<sup>11</sup> This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.



## CHAPTER IX. EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education in the Gambia is controlled by the Board of Education of which the Governor is the President. The Members of the Board include the members of the Legislative Council, the Superintendent of Education and such other members, not exceeding six in number, as may be appointed by the Governor. The nominated members hold office for a period of not more than three years and they include representatives of the three Missions, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist, which operate in the Gambia. The powers of the Board are defined in the Education Ordinance (No. 14 of 1903). Briefly, the Board is empowered to dispose annually of such sums as the Legislative Council has granted for the promotion of education and to make regulations respecting grants-in-aid to assisted schools, the conduct of schools generally, the award of scholarships and other matters connected with the Education Ordinance. Such Regulations, after approval by the Governor-in-Council, come into operation as from the date on which they appear in the *Gazette*.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst, and the department is administered by the Superintendent of Education, a duty post held by an Administrative Officer. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of Chiefs.

Elementary and secondary education are provided by the Missions with the aid of Government grants, and Government also maintains a Mohammedan School in Bathurst and a Manual Training Centre under the Public Works Department. There is no university education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which, in 1934, had a total of 1,609 pupils on the registers (1071 boys and 538 girls) and an average attendance of 952. These schools provide education up to the seventh standard.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst, two for boys and two for girls, which are maintained by the Roman Catholic and Methodist Missions. The total numbers on the registers in 1934 were 50 boys and 84 girls with average attendances of 42 and 67 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government.

In 1930 a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst, and in 1934 there were 9 students on the register.

In the Protectorate there is a Government boarding school at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Province, for the sons and near relatives of Chiefs, with 43 on the register. It is felt that more can be done to improve conditions among the Protectorate people by training the sons of the rulers and leaders of the people than by opening several small schools which would have only a local effect. The Methodist Mission maintains a small day school in Georgetown, and the Anglican Mission two day schools (unassisted) in the Protectorate.



A committee was appointed in 1932 to draw up a revised syllabus for use in the Bathurst elementary schools. The new syllabus, after approval by the Board of Education, came into use on the 1st January, 1934, and has it is hoped considerably assisted educational progress in the Gambia.

The Education Rules, 1917, were amended during 1933 in respect of the award of attendance and proficiency grants and of grants for the training of teachers, (Rule No. 13 of 1933). Other amendments were also made in consequence of the introduction of the new syllabus, (Rule No. 22 of 1933).

The following examinations were held during the year: London Intermediate; Cambridge School Certificate, Junior and Preliminary Examinations; Clerical Services Examination; Elementary Schools Annual Examination; African Service Language Examinations (Jolof and Mandinka).

#### *Welfare Institutions, etc.*

Free medical treatment is provided at the various Government Hospitals and Dispensaries for those unable to pay fees. As stated in Chapter IV the Government maintains two Maternity and Children's Welfare Clinics and also a Home for the Infirm. There are no philanthropical institutions nor is there any insurance scheme for the provision of medical treatment, etc., in the Colony.

#### *Recreation, etc.*

In Bathurst Government maintains a public ground (MacCarthy Square) in which games are played by the inhabitants including the school children. A second public sports ground is to be constructed in Half Die, Bathurst. Organised games are conducted by the schools, which are allowed to import free of duty all materials required for sports. Football and cricket leagues have been formed by the African residents of Bathurst. Government has also provided two concrete tennis courts for their use.

Singing is taught in all the schools. Free concerts are given once every week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public. These concerts are well attended and are much appreciated by the public.



## CHAPTER X. COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

*External.*

For mail services the Colony is almost entirely dependent upon the ships of Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines Ltd. There is a regular monthly service but otherwise the mail steamers are irregular. The intermediate ships call outwards and homewards once in about every three weeks.

The Government during the latter part of the year entered into an agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and the United Kingdom. This company operates a service weekly during the period September to March and fortnightly during the other months.

The company commenced operating their regular trans-Atlantic mail service between Berlin and Port Natal on the 1st February, 1934.

The ports of call are Stuttgart—Marseille—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Port Natal for Buenos Aires.

The South American ports are served by the Condor Syndicate and Pan American Airways.

The Luft Hansa Bathurst establishment consists of a landing ground at Jeshwang, the catapult ship "Schwabenland", four flying-boats and two airplanes.

The mail service to Port Natal commenced with the Graf Zeppelin and airplanes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only. The Graf Zeppelin did not call at the intermediate ports.

The outward mail closes in Berlin on Saturday evening and arrives in Bathurst on Monday; the mail is then transferred to the catapult ship "Schwabenland", which proceeds to sea for 36 hours and on Wednesday morning catapults the flying boat which arrives at Port Natal on Wednesday evening.

The homeward mail plane leaves Port Natal Thursday noon on board the catapult ship "Westfalen" which proceeds to sea and catapults the plane on Saturday morning. The latter arrives in Bathurst on Saturday afternoon. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which starts from Bathurst on Saturday night and arrives in Berlin on Monday afternoon.

*Harbour of Bathurst.*

The Harbour of Bathurst is limited by the coast of St. Mary's Island and a line drawn parallel thereto at a distance of three miles from Government House to the entrance of Malfa Creek.

Bathurst is a deep water harbour. Anchorages offshore vary from 9 to 14 fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except



during tornadoes which are of a short duration and which occur in July and October. There is sufficient water at the entrance for vessels of 27 feet draft to enter the harbour.

Government Wharf is under re-construction; the wooden decking is being replaced by ferro-concrete, underwater piles are being refitted, and an up-to-date system of rails installed with two  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton petrol electric cranes. The "T" head of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 16 feet alongside. There are eleven other wharves which are from 100 to 200 feet in length, with an average depth of about 11 feet.

The tidal streams turn about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours after high and low water by the shore; their strength is considerable, but varies frequently without any apparent cause. During the ebb stream considerable swirls sometimes occur at springs during, and immediately after, the rainy season.

The harbour and approaches are well lighted by a light vessel, buoys, and lighthouse structures.

### *Internal.*

#### *River Transport.*

The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than 12 feet draft, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kuntau-ur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draft of 20 feet. Vessels not exceeding 6 feet 6 inches in draft can proceed above Georgetown to Fattoto, 288 miles from Bathurst, whilst launches and small boats can navigate as far as Koina, 292 miles from Bathurst.

During the trading season, groundnuts are brought down the river in ocean-going vessels, steamers and lighters. Cutters are employed to a large extent in transporting groundnuts from creeks and small ports to transit stations where deep-water vessels can load.

#### *Marine Department.*

A regular passenger and cargo service is maintained by the Government steamers "Prince of Wales" (400 tons) and "Lady Denham" (250 tons). Two government lighters "Vampire" (170 tons) and "Jean Maurel" (174 tons) are also available for additional cargoes; the latter will be self-propelled in 1935.

The steamers call at 26 ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles), and 31 ports when calling at Fattoto (288 miles). This ensures communication with all ports in the Protectorate twice weekly during the trade season from November to May. A fortnightly or monthly service is maintained for the remainder of the year.



\* Statistics regarding the freight and passengers carried by the Marine Department are as follows :—

	1932	1933	1934
Passengers carried ...	9,233	9,125	7,791
Cargo (tons) ...	1,311	4,403	5,391
Revenue from passenger traffic ...	£3,134. 1. 10.	£3,036. 0. 0.	£2,795. 12. 7.
Revenue from freight ...	£2,413. 14. 3.	£3,787. 7. 6.	£3,709. 10. 1.

The decrease in freight and passengers may to a certain extent be attributed to the quarantine restrictions in November and December—the commencement of the 1934—1935 trade season.

The refitting of Government steamers and of vessels belonging to firms was carried out by the Marine Slipway and Engineering Works. The workshop is fitted with modern equipment and is capable of carrying out repairs and refits to vessels of 400 tons gross—the tonnage of the largest river steamer at present in the Gambia.

The Marine Department also maintain and run launches which are mainly used for the conveyance of Government Officials in the Protectorate and for harbour services at Bathurst.

#### *Ferries.*

Passenger and vehicular ferries, installed by Government in connection with the road system plied at the following points :—

Kerewan (Road No. 2)	
Katchang — Konkoba (Road No. 3)	
Brumen (connecting Roads Nos. 1 & 3)	
Lamin Koto — MacCarthy Island	
Sankulikunda — MacCarthy Island	
Bansang	} continuation of Road No. 2.
Kunchau Creek	
Basse	
Fattoto.	

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1934.

#### *Roads.*

There are four trunk roads :

- No. 1. Bathurst—Jeshwang—Abuko—Lamin—Yundum—Brikama—Kafuta—N'Demban—Bwiam—Brumen Ferry. (90 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles).
- No. 2. Barra—Berrending (Bantanding) —Dasilami—Kerewan Ferry—Saba—Banni—N'Jakunda—Illiassa. (62 miles).
- No. 3. Illiassa—Katchang Ferry—Konkoba—Kwinella—Jataba—Brumen Ferry. (22 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles) with a branch eastwards at Jataba to Sandeng and the French boundary. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles).
- No. 4. Bantanding (site of old village on trunk road No. 2) to the French boundary. ( $\frac{3}{4}$  mile).



In addition there is a secondary road running from Illiassa via Ballanghar, Kau-ur and Kuntau-ur to Bansang Ferry where it connects with the secondary road on the south bank running from Kwinella, (on trunk road No. 3). to Kudang, Bansang, Basse and Fattoto.

There are also a number of secondary feeder roads to the various river ports in the Protectorate.

The total mileages of secondary and feeder roads in each Province are approximately as follows:—

North Bank Province	...	...	116 miles
South Bank Province	...	...	95 „
MacCarthy Island Province	...	...	280 „
Upper River Province	...	...	200 „

### *Postal Services.*

Mails are conveyed by Government river steamers weekly during the dry season and fortnightly or monthly during the rainy season. Travelling Post Offices are established on these boats and all classes of postal business are transacted at the ports of call. The General Post Office is at Bathurst and District Post and Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntau-ur. The Kuntau-ur office is closed during the rainy season (June to October).

The total number of letters, postcards, papers etc., dealt with during 1934 was 189,015—an increase of 17,911 over the preceeding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 3,469 as compared with 3,400 in 1933. In addition, 696 small postal packets were dealt with.

Little use was made of the airmail service via Dakar and Toulouse owing to the irregular steamship communication between Bathurst and Dakar, but considerable advantage was taken of the airmail service inaugurated by the Deutsche Luft Hansa A. G. in November; the number of letters received and despatched in the two months of operation being 1,330 and 1,049 respectively.

Money & Postal Order statistics are as follows:—

	1933	1934
	£	£
Money Orders issued & paid, value	28,892	16,881
Revenue derived from Money Orders	164	121
Postal Orders issued & paid	6,518	6,465
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	52	53

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1934 was £1,536 as compared with £1,591 in 1933.

### *Telephone Service.*

A 24 hours' service was satisfactorily maintained in Bathurst and at Cape St. Mary, the total number of subscribers, exclusive of extensions, being 76. The total value of the service was £533, of which amount £382 represented the value of free service to the Government Departments.



*Wireless Service.*

There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia but internal communication is maintained by four wireless stations established at Bathurst, Kuntau-ur, Georgetown and Basse, respectively.

The station at Bathurst has a range of 1000 miles and communicates with ships at sea and with Dakar. Press from Rugby is received daily. The other three stations are purely for inland work and have a transmission range of 250 miles.

The total revenue derived from the wireless service in 1934 was £834 including £316 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1933 were £950 and £425, respectively.

*Telegraph Cables.*

The Eastern Telegraph Company Ltd., has a station in Bathurst and cables run to Sierra Leone to the south and St. Vincent to the north.



## CHAPTER XI. BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURES

*Bank.*

The only Bank in the Colony is the Bank of British West Africa which has a Savings Bank for small depositors. The Government has also a Post Office Savings Bank, the rate of interest being  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum.

*Currency.*

The currency is British West African alloy and nickel-bronze coins of denominations 2/-, 1/-, 6d, 3d, 1d, &  $\frac{1}{2}$ d; and British West African currency notes of 20/- & 10/- denominations. (French five-franc pieces which were formerly in circulation were demonetised in 1922).

Stocks of currency are held on behalf of the West African currency board and issues therefrom are made to the Bank, as and when required, against payment in London.

The value of the notes in circulation on the 31st December 1934 was £224,434 as compared with £218,936 on the 31st December 1933 whilst alloy coins to the value of £218,672 were in circulation at the end of 1934 as against £259,872 at the end of the previous year.

*Weights and Measures.*

Standard weights and measures (Avoirdupois, Troy, Imperial measures of capacity, length and surface) are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance of 1902 and are kept by Government. The Commissioner of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures and is assisted by a number of Deputy Inspectors amongst whom are included the Commissioners of the Provinces in the Protectorate.

## CHAPTER XII. PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the execution of the public works in the Colony and the Protectorate for which provision is made in the annual Estimates and for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, two Clerks of Works, Mechanical Foreman, two Electrical Foremen, and two African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of two Accountants and nine African Clerks.

In addition the Department operates the electric light and power services comprising some 42 miles of distribution mains, the ice making plant, the Albert Market refrigerating plant, the Bathurst Waterworks, the fire protection plant and the Government motor transport service.

Roads, streets, tram lines and the Government Wharf in Bathurst are maintained by the Department and also the main road from Bathurst through St. Mary's Island to Kombo St. Mary, together with certain trunk roads in the Protectorate.

Activities during 1934:

(a) MAINTENANCE. (Expenditure £12,186).

*Bathurst Water Supply.*

The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1934 was 47,601,000.

The rates charged are as follows:—

General Water Rate	...	...	...(1½% on rateable value.)
Water supply rate	...	...	£2 per annum.
Supply rate to vessels	...	...	1/4 per 100 gallons.
Meter rate	...	...	1/6 per 1000 gallons.
Washing out ground nut stores			£2. 10/- per hour.

*Revenue 1934:—*

General rate	...	...	£655	0	0
Supply rate	...	...	178	0	0
Supply to vessels	...	...	140	19	8
Meter rate	...	...	3	2	7
Washing out groundnut stores	...	...	12	11	8
			<hr/> £989 13 11. <hr/>		

624,075 gallons were supplied to the R. W. A. F. F. at Cape St. Mary, 816,543 gallons to the Prison, 686,250 gallons to the Agricultural Station at Cape St. Mary, and 432,790 for cooling purposes at the Market, making a total of 2,559,658 gallons of the value of £191 19s. 6d.



Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1934 on maintenance of the water supply amounted to £1,809.

*Electric Light and Power Services.*

The Power Station is situated in the centre of the town of Bathurst and the generating plant consists of four solid injection heavy oil engines driving direct coupled alternators, 2 x 100 K. W., 1 x 50 K. W., and 1 x 25 K.W. Total 275 K.W.

System A.C. 3 Phase 4 wire 50 periods. Consumers voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Feeder and distributors overhead cable.

Number of private consumers 212, an increase of 12 over 1933.

Supply commenced June 1926.

Total units generated 1934, 352,877.

Maximum load recorded 103 K.W. at .95 P.F.

Total connected load 497 K.W. approximate increase of 15 K.W.

Total motors connected 254 H.P.

Public lighting 346 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some 9½ miles of streets in Bathurst, supplies a 30 K.V.A. transformer at the north end of the town—the voltage being stepped-up to 3,300 volts and conveyed by overhead cable to Cape St. Mary 8 miles away, where it feeds a 15 K.V.A. stepped-down transformer which supplies a low tension network of about 2 miles. Voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Units consumed during 1934 were as follows:—

(a) Units sold	...	...	...	67,298
(b) Ice Factory	...	...	...	7,166
(c) Public Services, Street Lighting			96,720	
(d) " " Wireless Station			1,901	
(e) " " Post Office			2,709	
(f) " " Hospital			20,398	
(g) " " Clinics			9,223	
(h) " " Prison			2,947	
(i) " " Market			7,368	
(j) " " Police Station			4,452	
(k) " " Pumping, Half Die			2,348	
(l) " " Marine Department			12,756	
(m) " " P. W. D.			11,389	
(n) " " Printing Department			1,239	173,450
(o) Government free services	...	...	...	26,950
(p) Power Station, (auxiliaries and lighting)				60,078
(q) Lost in distribution (meters, transformers etc.)				17,935
Total units generated				<u>352,877.</u>



Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1934 on maintenance amounted to £2,212.

*Ice Factory.*

The Public Works Department also run and maintain an ice factory and ice is sold to the public at 1d. per lb. Ice sold for last year amounted to 34½ tons. A falling off in sales for the past year or so has been due to the installation of between 35 and 40 refrigerators by private consumers.

*Market Cold Store.*

A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 363 tons of meat passed through this storage last year.

*Fire Protection Booster.*

A fire protection plant is installed at the Power Station where a reserve of 150,000 gallons of water is stored. Two Merryweather pumps are used for boosting up the main water supply of the town in case of fire. The two pumps can be driven either electrically or by a petrol-paraffin engine.

(b) CONSTRUCTION, ETC. (Expenditure £18,084).

The principal works carried out during the year included:—

Reclamation work at the Lasso Wharf area and drains in Perseverance Street, Lancaster Street, and Sam Jack Terrace	£396
Half Die area, excavation of drainage basin and forming embankments and roads	£994
Erection of block of seven cubicles, Police Lines	£224
Erection of X Ray room, Victoria Hospital	£160
Erection of boat shed, Marine Department Yard	£142
Erection of school room for R. W. A. F. F.	£118
Erection of squash racket court	£230
Denton Bridge, abutments	£127

*Colonial Development Schemes.*

These schemes are being carried out partly from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund and partly from Loan Funds.

The scheme for the development of the road to Brikama *via* Lamin and Yundum was continued and the gravel surfacing and bitumen dressing was extended to mile 17. The total expenditure to December 31st, 1934 was £22,400 (plus £300 from Colony funds).

The scheme for the renewal of the gravity main supplying water to the town of Bathurst was completed, the total expenditure to 31st December, 1934, being £15,600.



The scheme for re-conditioning the Government Wharf at Bathurst was commenced in May on the arrival of a European Diver and Foreman Erector and excellent progress has been made. By the end of December nearly all the underwater structure had been overhauled and new struts, ties, walings etc. put in. The steel troughing deck replacing the old timber deck was laid over three quarters of the surface and the tram lines and crane track had been received. Total expenditure to 31st December, 1934, £8,043. 12. 2d.

*Anti-malaria and anti-yellow fever measures.*

During December the removal of rain water tanks, gutters and downpipes from all Government buildings and the construction of incinerators for the destruction of town refuse were begun.

The Health Service (Medical Department) was provided with transport to meet the emergency and the Public Works Department also gave assistance in other directions chiefly in cutting down diseased and hollow trees.

Ten large cotton and seven hundred and eighteen ficus and other trees were felled and cut up for removal.

It is anticipated that this work will be carried on continuously during 1935.

## CHAPTER XIII. JUSTICE AND POLICE.

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The Courts in the Colony are the Supreme Court, the Court of Requests, the Bathurst Police Court, the Coroner's Court and the Mohammedan Court.

*The Mohammedan Court* was established in 1905. It is presided over by a Cadi who sits alone or with two Assessors, who are Justices of the Peace. It has jurisdiction in matters exclusively affecting Mohammedan natives and relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship. Appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

*The Bathurst Police Court* is usually presided over by the Police Magistrate. His Court which is a Subordinate Court of the first class may, under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 7), pass the following sentences:—

- (a) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
- (b) Fine not exceeding £200.
- (c) Corporal punishment.

His jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure Code, Sec. 4). Further summary jurisdiction over a variety of matters is conferred by a number of local Ordinances.

This Court may also be presided over by two or more Justices of the Peace. This Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace is a Subordinate Court of the second class and may under the Criminal Procedure Code (Sec. 8) pass the following sentences:—

- (a) Imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.
- (b) Fine not exceeding £50.
- (c) Corporal punishment.

Its jurisdiction extends to the summary trial of all offences not made cognisable only by the Supreme Court or by a Subordinate Court of the first class. The Justices generally sit in the absence of the Police Magistrate on leave or in case of sickness. An appeal lies from the Bathurst Police Court, whether constituted by the Police Magistrate or Justices of the Peace, to the Supreme Court and the Court may be required to state a case.

*The Court of Requests* is a civil court having jurisdiction in all claims up to £50, except malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conversation, seduction and breach of promise of marriage. The Court may be constituted by the Police Magistrate or by two Commissioners, who are Justices of the Peace. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court.

*The Supreme Court* is a superior Court of Record and has analogous jurisdiction to that of the High Court of Justice in England. It is constituted by one Judge. In addition to receiving appeals from



the Subordinate Courts, the Judge reviews criminal cases tried by these courts and by Native Tribunals. The Judge is also empowered to carry out the duties of the Police Magistrate if necessity arises.

*The Colonial Courts*, i.e. the Supreme Court, the Bathurst Police Court, the Court of Requests and the Mohammedan Court have the same jurisdiction over matters occurring in the Protectorate as they possess in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.

*The Protectorate Courts* are the Provincial Courts and the Native Tribunals. These latter were established in each District by the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. These Courts, constituted by native members only, have jurisdiction only over natives. They administer native law and custom, the Mohammedan law relating to civil status, marriage, divorce, dowry, the rights of parents and guardianship when the parties are both Mohammedans, and the provisions of local Ordinances which confer jurisdiction on them. The jurisdiction of a Native Tribunal is defined in the Warrant of the Governor establishing it. Native Tribunals are divided into two grades with the following jurisdiction:—

Grade A.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by nine months imprisonment or a fine of £15 or both such imprisonment and fine.  
Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £50.

Grade B.—Criminal causes which can be adequately punished by six months imprisonment or a fine of £10 or both such imprisonment and fine.  
Civil actions in which the debt, demand or damage does not exceed £25.

The Commissioner of the Province has wide powers of control and revision over the proceedings of Native Tribunals.

Provincial Courts were established by the Subordinate Courts Ordinance, 1933 and are presided over by a Commissioner, or an Assistant Commissioner. When presided over by a Commissioner, they are Subordinate Courts of the first class with the same criminal jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by the Police Magistrate (q.v.). When an Assistant Commissioner presides the Court is a Subordinate Court of the second class with the same jurisdiction as the Bathurst Police Court when presided over by Justices of the Peace (q.v.). The civil jurisdiction of Provincial Courts is the same as the Court of Requests (q.v.). An appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court, and the Court can also be required to state a case for the Supreme Court.

#### *Coroner's Court.*

A Coroner is appointed for the Colony and is paid by fees. Inquests in the Protectorate are held by the Commissioners.

*Judicial Staff.*

There are one Judge, one Magistrate, twenty-seven Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of the Court of Requests, four or more Commissioners, one Cadi, and approximately two hundred members of Native Tribunals. There is one office for all the Colonial Courts which is in charge of a Clerk of Courts who keeps the records and receives fines and fees.

*Crime.*

There has been a slight increase in the amount of crime during the year. In the Colony 498 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 454 persons in 1933. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 1,327 offences as compared with 985 offences in 1933. In addition the Bathurst Police Court also dealt with 730 rating cases.

The number of criminal informations filed in the Supreme Court was 23.

*Statistics for the year 1934.**Criminal.*

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	23	12	—	11
Police Court ...	498	79	17	402
Provincial Courts :—				
North Bank Province ...	110	30	—	80
South Bank Province ...	17	—	5	12
MacCarthy Is. Province	35	1	3	31
Upper River Province ...	43	2	2	39
Native Tribunals :—				
North Bank Province ...	138	3	—	135
South Bank Province ...	216	17	—	199
MacCarthy Is. Province	230	6	—	224
Upper River Province ...	538	33	—	505



*Civil.*

Supreme Court	...	...	29 cases
Mohammedan Court	...	...	124 "
Court of Requests	...	...	1,396 "
Provincial Courts	...	...	110 "
Native Tribunals	...	...	1,001 "

*POLICE.*

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Commissioner of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the Superintendent of Police and the Bandmaster. The African personnel consists of an Inspector of Police, two Sub-Inspectors and 120 other ranks, including 24 Band personnel.

In addition to the maintenance of law and order in the Island of Saint Mary, the Force is responsible for the issue of licences, the control of immigration, the supervision of weights and measures, traffic control, fire-fighting, court duties, the escort of convicted prisoners from the Protectorate to Bathurst Prison and other miscellaneous duties. In the Protectorate, police duties are normally undertaken by the Commissioners with the assistance of Court Messengers (known locally as "Badge Messengers").

*Maintenance of Law and Order.**Statistics.*

		1933.	1934.
Cases dealt with	...	417	504
Prosecutions conducted	...	271	369
Convictions obtained	...	242	340
Inquest summonses served	...	16	16
Warrants executed	...	4	24
Summonses and Subpoenas served	...	799	1,270

*Issue of Licences.*

Motor Vehicle	...	...	306	299
Dog	...	...	69	98
Firearms	...	...	364	118*
Domestic Servant	...	...	384	494
Motor Driver	...	...	413	461
Liquor	...	...	17	14
Entertainment	...	...	15	18

\* Bathurst only.

*Traffic Control.*

Control is maintained on weekdays in Bathurst from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

*Finger Print Bureau.*

The Bureau, which was organised in 1931, is administered by the Bandmaster in addition to his other duties and satisfactory progress was made during the year.

*Weights and Measures* are dealt with in Chapter XI.

*Relations with the Public.*

Good relations were maintained throughout the year.

*Training.*

Being an armed force, instruction based on military principles is included in the syllabus of training. The following subjects are included in the regular courses of instruction :—

Law and general police duties.  
Observation training.  
Traffic control.  
Physical training.  
Infantry drill.  
Musketry.  
Fire drill.

*Health.*

The health of the Force during 1934 was good.

*Band.*

The public concerts given weekly were greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Bathurst.

**PRISON.**

In the Gambia there is only one prison which is situated on St. Mary's Island in a good position. The buildings which were formerly used as an isolation hospital were converted into a prison in 1920. They are of solid construction, well ventilated and are provided with electric light and pipe-borne water supply. Accommodation is available for 150 prisoners and consists of three association wards, five solitary confinement cells, an infirmary, cook-house, stores and out-houses. The warders are accommodated close to the prison.

*Staff.*

The Staff consists of the Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Commissioner of Police), the Assistant Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Assistant Commissioner of Police), an African Chief Warder and twenty-three other African warders.



*Health.*

The prison is visited daily by a Medical Officer. The health of the prisoners during 1934 was good, the daily average number of sick being .44 per cent of the average daily number in the prison,

*Visiting Committee.*

The prison is visited regularly by a committee appointed by the Governor. The present committee consists of the Senior Medical Officer, the Land Officer and an African Member of the Bathurst Urban District Council. In addition, all Justices of the Peace having jurisdiction in Bathurst may, when they so desire, inspect the prison and examine the condition of the prisoners.

*Juvenile Offenders.*

On the very rare occasions that juveniles are committed to prison they are given separate accommodation and are not allowed to associate with adult criminals.

*Female Prisoners.*

Very few females are committed to prison. Separate accommodation is provided for such prisoners and they are placed in charge of the Prison Matron.

*Employment of Prisoners.*

In addition to the ordinary routine work of cleaning, cooking etc. the prisoners are employed on minor public work under the supervision of warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and, during 1934, 10,950 lbs. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

*Prison Offences.*

The discipline during 1934 was good, only three offences being recorded. One prisoner escaped but was recaptured.

*Admissions and Discharges.*

			1933.	1934.
Admissions	...	...	286	284
Discharges	...	...	246	223
Average daily number of prisoners.			57.21	50.68

## CHAPTER XIV. LEGISLATION.

During 1934 twenty-six Ordinances were enacted.

The only Ordinances which call for any comment are :—

*The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance*—introducing the quota system in the importation of certain textiles which are the manufacture of foreign countries.

*The Evidence (Foreign, Dominion and Colonial Documents) Ordinance*,—making provision with respect to the admissibility in evidence in the Gambia of entries contained in the public registers of other countries and with respect to the proof by means of duly authenticated official certificates of entries in such registers and in consular registers.

*The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance*,—authorizing the imposition of differential duties in respect of the goods of foreign countries, when a special duty is considered desirable.

*The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance*.—This is self explanatory.

*The Forced Labour Ordinance*—regulating the exaction of labour which is forced or compulsory labour, within the meaning of a Convention concerning forced or compulsory labour adopted by the International Labour Conference at Geneva on the 28th June, 1930, and confirmed and approved by His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council on the 12th May, 1931, and other kinds of labour.

*The Moneylenders Ordinance*—making provision with respect to persons carrying on business as moneylenders.

*The Criminal Evidence Ordinance*—dealing with the competency and compellability of husbands and wives as witnesses when either spouse is charged with certain offences.

*The Arms and Ammunition (Amendment) Ordinance*—conferring powers on the Governor to prohibit by Proclamation the dealing in and exportation of arms, ammunition or warlike stores.

*The Repatriation of Convicted Aliens (Amendment) Ordinance*—enabling any Court to recommend for repatriation an alien convicted before it of any offence in respect of which such Court has power to impose imprisonment without the option of a fine.



## CHAPTER XV. PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The Revenue and Expenditure during the last ten years were :—

YEAR.	REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
1925	£189,086	£271,836
1926	214,181	213,643
1927	252,419	277,625
1928	255,385	250,596
1929	235,265	289,506
1930	216,739	253,228
1931	184,825	227,487
1932	206,132	196,015
1933	231,787	180,161
1934	221,564	174,663

*Development Loan.*

On the 1st February, 1933, the Crown Agents for the Colonies arranged a loan for the purpose of meeting part of the cost of development works undertaken in the Colony viz:—improvement of roads, water supply and wharf.

The amount of stock issued was £38,759 13 9 at £97 bearing  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest per annum. The loan is redeemable in 30 years and a sinking fund contribution is made at the rate of 1·9 per cent per annum. At the close of the year the sum of £2,967 remained undischursed and the sinking fund stood at £1,419.

*Assets.*

(a) Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on				
	31st December, 1934	...	£173,553	
(b) Reserve Fund	...	...	70,198	
(c) Steamer Depreciation Fund	...	...	15,563	
			<u>£259,314</u>	

*Taxation.*

The main sources of Revenue from taxation with the yield for the last five years were as follows:—

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934.
<i>Customs Import</i>					
<i>Duties.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Ad valorem	12,509	7,522	18,588	18,480	8,392
Specific:—					
Kola Nuts	24,471	22,319	29,294	33,528	38,559
Kerosene & Petroleum	4,291	2,678	2,600	4,789	6,151
Soap ...	712	451	—	—	—
Spirits ...	4,911	2,587	2,463	2,461	3,430
Tobacco ...	11,492	9,954	10,821	14,704	8,974

	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ...	—	—	—	—	2,695
Cottons ...	—	—	—	—	14,273
Wines ...	2,840	2,080	1,623	2,194	1,353
Other articles	3,553	7,503	8,030	36,979	12,515
Rice ...	—	—	7,984	9,893	9,120
Parcel Post	839	572	517	524	492

*Customs Export Duty.*

Ground-nuts	74,309	66,321	18,520	33,609	35,666
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<i>Total Customs Duties.</i>	£139,927	£121,987	£100,440	£157,161	£141,620
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Port Dues	4,042	2,959	2,324	2,773	2,768
Protectorate Taxes	11,073	10,179	8,370	14,187	13,638
Trade Licences	3,413	2,360	1,968	3,111	3,195
Other Licences	2,594	1,911	2,435	1,883	2,126
Liquor, Motor Car etc.					
Town Rates	2,511	2,386	2,584	2,057	2,242
TOTAL	£163,560	£141,782	£118,121	£181,172	£165,589

*Customs Tariff.*

A few minor alterations were made in certain tariff rates.

*Excise and Stamp duties.*

There are no Excise duties. The revenue collected in 1934 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £127.

*Yard Tax.*

Under the Protectorate Ordinance the following scale of Yard Tax is imposed:—

- (a) For every yard containing not more than  
4 Huts or Houses ... 5/-
- (b) For every additional Hut or House in the yard 1/6
- (c) For every person residing in a yard other than  
a member of the family of owner or occupier 2/-
- (d) For every person residing in a yard who is not  
a member of the family of the owner or occupier  
and who cultivates public land ... 8/-



## CHAPTER XVI.—LAND AND SURVEY.

The Land and Survey Department carries out surveys of the townships in the Protectorate where plots are leased for trading purposes. Individual plots in the Protectorate and Bathurst are also surveyed when applied for and the necessary plans and deeds are prepared.

Various other surveys are made as required by Government and miscellaneous duties are performed in regard to lands held under lease from Government, the revision and preparation of plans, valuations of properties and the assessment of rates for the town of Bathurst, etc.

Grants and leases of public land in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grant and Dispositions) Ordinance No. 5 of 1902.

Freehold grants are now seldom made and then only in exceptional circumstances. The present practice is to grant leases either from year to year or for periods not exceeding 21 years.

Plots at the various trading centres in the Protectorate or "Wharf Towns" as they are called, where ground-nuts are collected for export, are leased at a rental varying from £2 to £4 per 1,000 square yards according to situation. The area of these plots is limited in ordinary circumstances to 6,000 square yards.

The whole of the town of Bathurst as now laid out has been granted either in fee simple or under lease. Rents of plots leased by Government in Bathurst vary from 10/- per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2 10 0 per 1,000 square feet for plots along the river front leased for commercial purposes.

No concessions of lands for the exploration of minerals or other purposes are in existence.

Rents payable to Government on public lands in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £7,154 for the year 1934, whilst £198 were received in respect of survey fees. In 1933 the rents and rates amounted to £6,685 and the fees for subletting and surveys to £153. Expenditure was £1,860 in 1934 as compared with £1,841 in 1933.

#### *Activities during 1934.*

##### *Surveys.*

Plots were surveyed at various wharf towns in the Protectorate and in Bathurst.

Revision survey for a new edition of the plan of the town of Bathurst was continued.

Survey of new area for Mohammedan Cemetery.

Re-survey of the coast line from Denton Bridge to Bathurst.

Survey of the Deutsche Luft Hansa Aerodrome at Jeswang.

Survey of Fajara Estate was commenced.

Survey of general lay-out of Barro Kunda Wharf Town.

*Plans.*

133 plans were prepared in connection with lands granted or leased.

Plans were drawn in the records of the Colonial Registry, as required.

Various plans and sun-prints were made for departmental use and for the Commissioners.

Forty-three tracings of plots surveyed made.

Map of Fatoto village drawn.

Map of Kankuntu village drawn.

Map of the Gambia prepared shewing areas occupied by scrub, mango and bambo and sun-prints made for Colonial Secretary for use in connection with a survey of forestry resources in West Africa.

Numerous plans, tracings and sun-prints supplied to other Departments.

*Grants and Leases.*

Forty-eight grants and leases were prepared.

*Rates Assessment, Bathurst.*

The Rating List for 1934 was completed early in the year and that for 1935 was prepared for public inspection.

The Land Officer and Surveyor was the Chairman of the Rates Assessment Committee in 1934.

*Miscellaneous.*

The Land and Survey Department supplied the Public Works Department throughout the year with the correct local time for regulating the clocks.

Valuations of properties in Bathurst were made for the Curator of Intestate Estates.



## CHAPTER XVII. MISCELLANEOUS.

Four French military airplanes visited the Gambia in February and made a short stay.

One British and three French privately owned airplanes also visited the Gambia during the year.

The R. M. S. "Atlantis" made two one day visits to Bathurst early in the year in the course of pleasure cruises.

## APPENDIX I.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

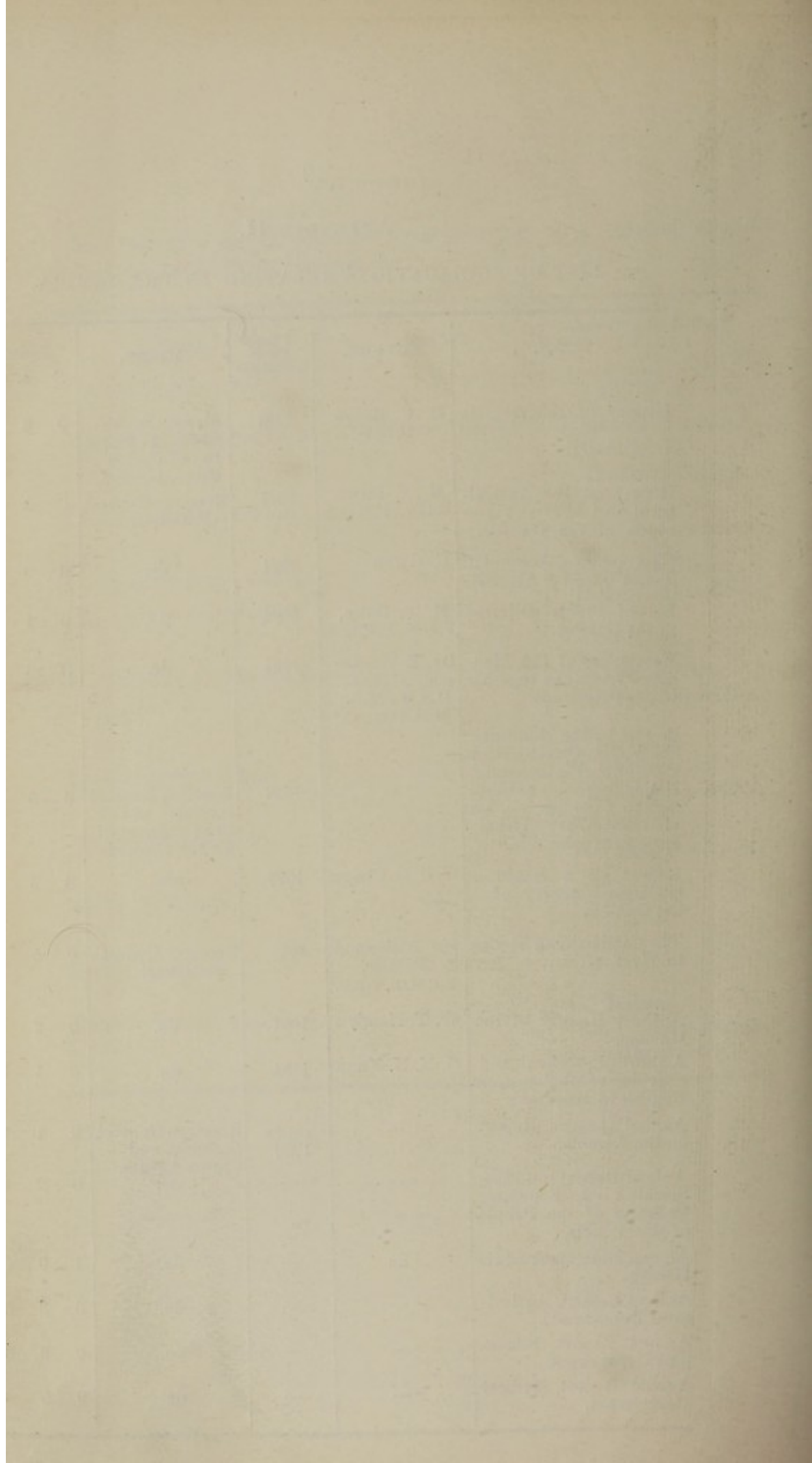
Name.	Address.	Address in Europe (if any.)
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Wellington Street	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	8, Cours de Gourque, Bordeaux.
Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijaux, Bordeaux.
Etablissements Vézia	do.	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux.
Maurel Frères S. A.	do.	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux.
V. Q. Petersen	do.	—
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street	—
Bahsali Bros. & Co., Ltd.	do.	G. Bahsali, 82, Princess Street, Manchester.



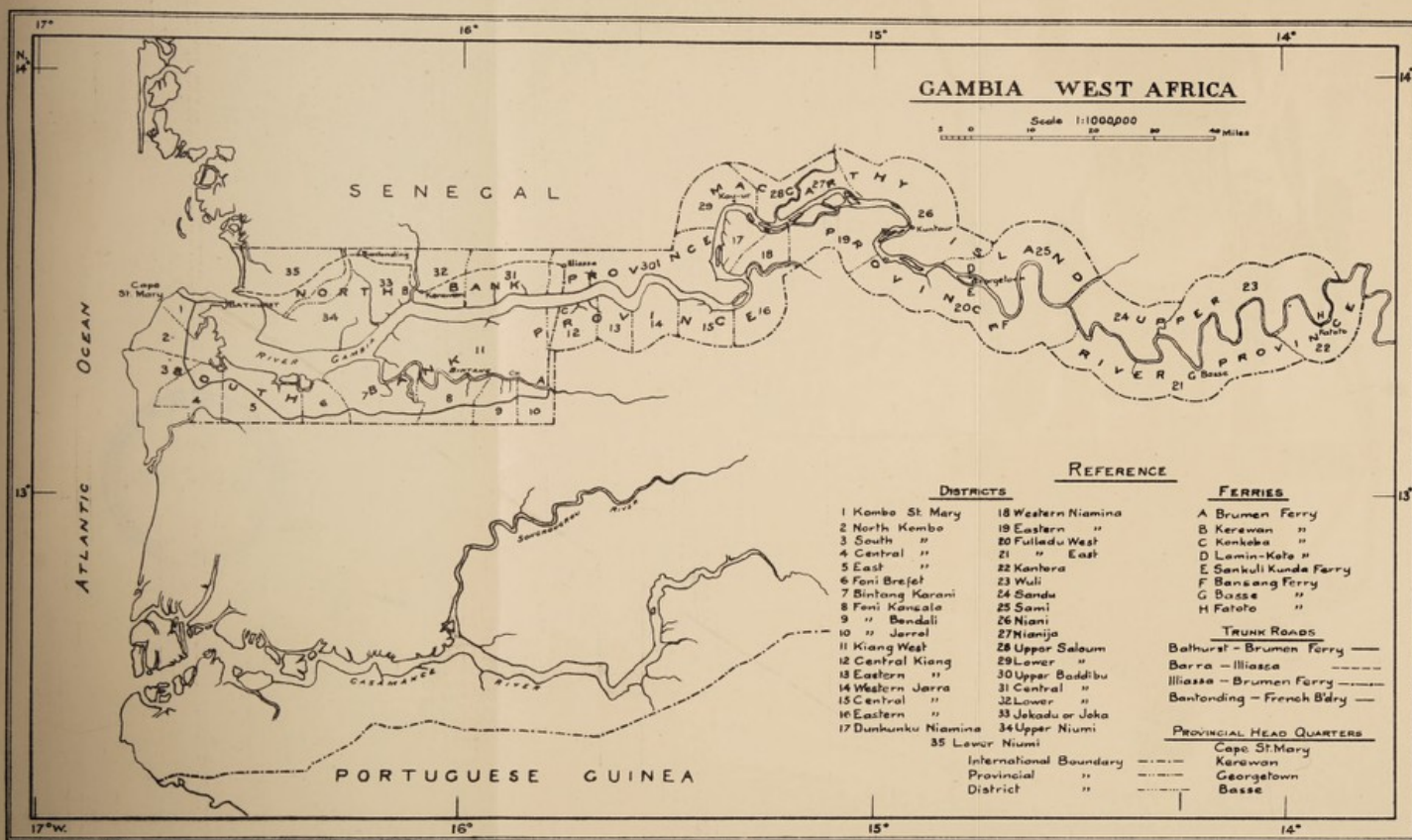
## APPENDIX II.

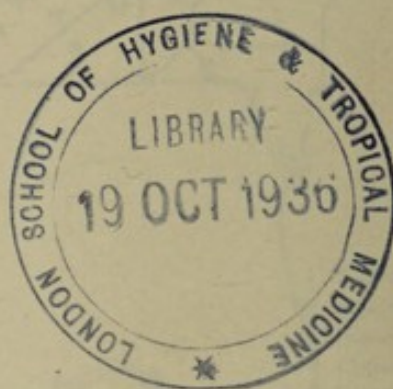
## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE GAMBIA.

WORK.	AUTHOR.	YEAR PUB- LISHED	AGENT.	PRICE.		
				£	s.	d.
History of the Gambia	H. F. Reeve, C.M.G.	1912	Messrs. Smith Elder & Co., 15, Waterloo Place, London.	0	6	0
Report on the Agricultural conditions and needs of the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1921	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
Chronological Account of James Island & Albreda.	C. Gwyn	1921	do.	0	0	6
List of Plants collected in the Gambia.	M. T. Dawe, F.L.S., F.R.G.S.	1922	do.	0	1	0
Vocabulary of the Mandingo Language together with an Addenda.	Dr. E. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.A., M.B. (Oxon).	1924	do.	0	10	0
Report by the Honourable W.G.A. Ormsby-Gore P.C., M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, on his visit to West Africa during the year 1926.	—	1926	Receiver General Bathurst and Crown Agents for the Colonies.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper	1927	do.	0	3	0
The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa.	Sir Richmond Palmer, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.	1931	Receiver General, Bathurst.	0	5	0
A Short History of the Gambia.	W. T. Hamlyn	1931	do.	0	2	0
A short phrase book and classified vocabulary from English to Mandinka.	G. N. N. Nunn	1934	do.	0	1	6
Annual General Report on the Gambia.	—	up to 1930	Receiver General, Bathurst, and Crown Agents.	0	1	6
Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia.	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Annual Blue Book of the Gambia.	—	—	do.	1	0	0
Annual Report, Agricultural Department.	—	—	do.	0	3	0
Annual Report, Education Department.	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Annual Report, Medical Department.	—	—	do.	0	5	0











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Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 11d.).  
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## IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).  
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Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3d. (3½d.).

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Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).  
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Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).  
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

## KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 7d.).

## TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2s. 6d. (2s. 8d.).  
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933-34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

## BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

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Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).

## SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).

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Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.).

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Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1s. (1s. 1d.).  
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Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 10d.).

## BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1s. (1s. 2d.).

## THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2s. (2s. 2d.).

## PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3s. (3s. 3d.).  
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2s. (2s. 3d.).

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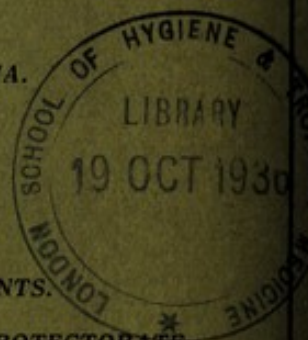


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