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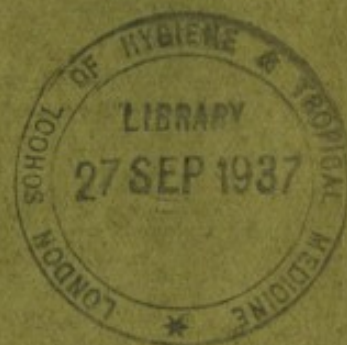
No. 1799

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

THE GAMBIA, 1936

(For Reports for 1934 and 1935 see Nos. 1715 and 1755  
respectively (Price 2s. each).)

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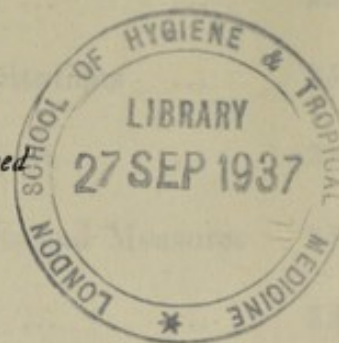
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# Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1936.

## CHAPTER 1. 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 barque, 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 Timbuctu. 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 European 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 Moor'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 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 Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Ansley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Ansleys 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 Gambian 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 Fuladu. 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 these are Mohammedans, except the last named tribe who are pagan; the Mohammedan religion is, however, 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 45,718. 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 40,222. 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 61,062. 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 37,970. 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 better 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, 1936.*

## CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.			Mean Air Tempera- ture.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches).
January	...	...	76.3	44	—
February	...	...	72.6	49	—
March	...	...	74.4	55	—
April	...	...	75.2	63	—
May	...	...	76.5	63	0.07
June	...	...	81.9	64	4.08
July	...	..	74.6	89	11.70
August	...	...	79.0	75	25.39
September	...	...	82.8	80	12.37
October	...	...	84.7	77	2.71
November	...	...	79.1	56	0.67
December	...	...	76.9	56	—
				Total ...	56.99

Other Records of Rainfall were:—

Bathurst	...	...	...	66.90 inches
Yoroberi-kunda,	MacCarthy Island Province			45.49 „
Wuli,	Upper River Province			58.75 „

## 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) 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 authorised 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 (Headman) as Native Authorities.

It defines in far greater detail than did 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 which governed these matters in the Protectorate Ordinance 1913. Other sections also reproduce the law which existed under the Protectorate Ordinance 1913, until April 1935. At that time this Ordinance was, in view of the frequent amendments necessitated by the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, 1933, re-enacted in a consolidated form.

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 most commands 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 ground-nuts 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 1935 the Bathurst Urban District Council and Board of Health, formed in 1931 for the purpose of advising Government upon matters relating to the welfare of the inhabitants of Bathurst, gave place to the Bathurst Advisory Town Council.

The constitution of the new Council is the same as that of the old, and is made up 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.

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 these Councils 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,150</b>

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.)
1932 ...	339	2.3	355	2.4	242
1933 ...	331	2.3	368	2.5	290
1934 ...	351	2.4	422	3.07	265
1935 ...	386	2.7	452	3.18	310.8
1936* ...	357	2.5	431	3.05	369

As regards the above figures it is necessary to state that whereas all deaths taking place in Bathurst are registered (certificates of deaths and burials 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.

\*1936 figures based on estimated population of 14,141.



With regard to the infantile mortality rate the figure given for 1936 is for the whole of Bathurst; of the 357 births 101 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 101 infants 11 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 128·7 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the infantile mortality rate of 369 for the whole of Bathurst.

*Emigration and immigration.*

There is practically no emigration from the Gambia.

At the beginning 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:—817 in 1933, 530 in 1934, 518 in 1935, and 855 in 1936; 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.

Much work must be done before the Colony can be styled healthy. Infantile mortality figures remain high and there are far too many cases of preventable disease.

The problem is largely one of proper and efficient sanitation and to this the Government continues to pay strict attention.

Steady progress has been made in improving the sanitation of the town of Bathurst.

The disposal of rubbish is now very satisfactory; large public dustbins are cleared daily by an efficient lorry service, and the rubbish removed to an incinerator site. Incombustible refuse is used for swamp reclamation.

New and satisfactory public latrines have been erected throughout the town.

Inspection of most compounds is done weekly, and the larval index is practically zero.

With the postponement of the reclamation scheme, arrangements have been made for extra temporary pumping plant to alleviate the condition of Bathurst in the rains.

As formerly, diseases of the digestive and respiratory systems are the most prevalent in Bathurst with totals for the former of 6,151 and for the latter 4,438. The incidence of malaria rises towards the middle of the rains; there is also a smaller rise in February following the very low temperatures of the preceding month. The number of patients treated for trypanosomiasis still increases totalling 1,972 for the year. There is also a marked increase in the incidence of yaws (4,046 cases). This disease is rare in Bathurst but the incidence increases with distance from the sea. 1

This year has seen the opening of a small hospital of twelve beds at Bwiam and a dispensary at Kaiaff. A Child Welfare Clinic in the Protectorate has also been started.

There are in Bathurst 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, while the service in the Protectorate consists (in addition to the hospital at Bwiam and Kaiaff Dispensaries) of a general hospital at Georgetown and two dispensaries at Basse and Kau-ur.

## CHAPTER V. HOUSING.

The very important question of Housing still engrosses the attention of Government. New Building Regulations were passed in 1936.

With these enforced and a competent Building Inspector one may hope for improvement. Up to the present little change has taken place, and many of the dwellings form ideal resting places for rats.

The native houses in the Protectorate are generally circular in shape and constructed of wattle and daub with conical grass roofs. In many places there is distinct improvement both in type and construction — but in nearly all cases there is inadequate provision for ventilation.

There is little sign of an organised lay-out in the villages and huts are crowded together—a condition of affairs only too suitable for the spread of disease.

An organised attempt is being made to improve sanitary conditions in the villages, particularly in relation to protection of water supplies and hygienic night soil disposal and there are definite signs of improvement in those towns where sanitary inspectors have been stationed.

*Statistics.*

Province.	Population.	No. of Houses or Huts.
North Bank Province ... ..	35,970	22,437
South Bank Province ... ..	61,062	27,519
MacCarthy Island Province ...	40,222	25,045
Upper River Province ... ..	43,718	24,810
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".

Attention is being directed to improvement in the preparation of hides and some success has been attained. Efforts are also to be directed towards creating a wider interest in the Oil Palm. Up to the present, propaganda to clean beeswax before sale has met with little success. Other exportable crops are under trial by the Agricultural Department.

In addition to the cultivation of groundnuts a large quantity of food stuffs is raised, including rice, maize, guinea corn, cassava, sweet potatoes etc., for local consumption. Owing to the danger of frequent locust invasions of recent years there have been risks of food shortage as the major crops grown are grains which the locusts attack. Efforts to increase areas under cassava and pigeon pea, (crops not attacked by locusts) are proving successful, particularly in the former case. The food of the people is most important from the agricultural point of view at present, and apart from the distribution of improved types of the local foods others are under trial which will vary the diet.

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, and so far results have been fairly satisfactory. Improvements in the primitive cultivation practised are desirable and trials by the Agricultural Department with local cattle trained to the plough are promising. A few interested Chiefs have sent cattle in for training.

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

Year.			Tons.	Value, £
1932	...	...	37,315	391,659
1933	...	...	67,370	500,766
1934	...	...	71,919	387,345
1935	...	...	45,110	368,887
1936	...	...	49,654	427,317

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1936 the exports of these commodities were:—

Palm Kernels	626 tons	value	£4,858
Hides & Skins	116,306 lbs.	„	1,839
Wax	32,573 „	„	909



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 1935 some 1,667 head of cattle were 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 begun 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.

In both November 1935 and November 1936, the Veterinary Pathologist was seconded from Nigeria and continued to inoculate cattle in MacCarthy Island Province and Upper River Province.

That the cattle owners appreciate the value of immunization has been shown by the many requests for inoculation from the adjoining districts where inoculations have not yet been undertaken.



There is no doubt but that with each succeeding season these demands will increase 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.

No minerals of commercial value are known to exist in the Colony and there are no 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 :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise ...	292,700	435,902	327,185	483,287	582,267
Specie ...	5,141	13,966	4,326	30,000	200
Total ...	297,841	449,868	331,511	513,287	582,467

The following table shows the principal items of imports from the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1936.

ARTICLES.	United Kingdom	British Possessions.	Foreign Countries	T O T A L.	
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	£	£	£		£
Apparel ...	6,111	873	2,994	—	9,978
Bags and Sacks ...	553	2,389	177	132,728 no.	3,119
(a) Boots, Shoes and Slippers ...	389	285	2,721	38,395 prs.	3,395
Coal ...	3,294	—	72	1,953 tons.	3,366
Cotton Piece Goods	166,609	2,633	15,085	8,783,880 sq.yds.	184,327
Cotton Manufactures (other) ...	4,900	—	9,522	—	14,422
Cotton Yarn ...	13,823	—	1,225	197,419 lbs.	15,048
Flour Wheaten ...	3,427	2,762	2,773	13,877 cwts.	8,962
(b) Hats and Caps	1,011	278	5,260	—	6,549
Kola-Nuts ...	—	46,155	33	29,492 cwts.	46,188
Metals (all kinds)	12,044	9	20,280	—	32,333
Motor Vehicles ...	3,072	4,221	1,335	65 no.	8,628
Oils, edible ...	7,134	4	2,636	70,795 galls.	9,774
(c) Oils, not edible	708	436	9,534	246,781 „	10,678
Rice ...	—	58,836	98	149,563 cwts.	58,934
Soap ...	7,423	—	458	7,488 „	7,881
(d) Sugar ...	7,993	—	5,467	19,331 „	13,460
Tobacco ...	6,977	3,054	2,108	180,711 lbs.	12,139

- (a). Including £1,807 from Czechoslovakia.  
                                   850 „ Morocco.  
 (b). Including 2,407 „ France.  
                                   1,823 „ Germany.  
 (c). Including 6,791 „ U. S. America.  
 (d). „ 7,993 „ United Kingdom.



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

Country.		1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
		%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	...	51.02	50.34	42.43	46.32	53.60
British Possessions	...	15.07	16.66	22.32	27.31	23.15
Foreign Countries	...	33.91	33.00	35.25	26.37	23.25
		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

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

Article.		1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cement	per ton	3 10. 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	2 11. 9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	2 6. 0	2 2. 8	2 2. 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Coal	per ton	2 8. 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	2 12. 5	1 14. 8	1 17. 6	1 14. 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Cotton Piece Goods	sq. yd.	0 0. 4	0 0. 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 0. 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 0. 5	0 0. 5
Cotton Yarn	per lb.	0 1. 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	0 1. 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 1. 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 1. 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 1. 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Flour Wheaten	per cwt.	0 12. 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 10. 1	0 8. 10	0 11. 1	0 12. 11
Kola Nuts	per cwt.	1 10. 0	1 15. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1 7. 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1 15. 6	1 11. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Oils Edible	per gall.	0 2. 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 1. 11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 2. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	0 2. 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 2. 9
Rice	per cwt.	0 9. 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	0 7. 1 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 6. 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 7. 9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 7. 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Salt	per ton.	1 13. 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1 11. 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1 12. 5	1 10. 8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	1 8. 10
Sugar	per cwt.	0 17. 2	0 17. 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 16. 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	0 14. 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	0 13. 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Tea	per lb.	0 1. 9	0 1. 9	0 1. 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	0 1. 7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	0 1. 5

### Exports.

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

		1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
		£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise	...	406,894	515,208	401,849	392,724	445,404
Specie	...	199,620	—	53,900	103,980	55,834
Total	...	606,514	515,208	455,749	496,704	501,238



The following table shows the principal items of export to the British Empire and foreign countries for the year 1936.

Country.	Groundnuts.		Hides and Skins.		Palm Kernels.		Beeswax.	
	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.	Tons.	Value.	lbs.	Value.
		£		£		£		£
United Kingdom ...	9,029	79,582	51,199	731	415	3,171	32,573	909
British Possessions	12	127	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium ...	10,338	89,683	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark ...	11,174	104,887	—	—	—	—	—	—
France ...	—	—	65,017	1,108	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	6,210	49,680	—	—	211	1,687	—	—
Holland ...	12,652	101,229	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Countries ...	239	2,129	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	49,654	427,317	116,306	1,839	626	4,858	32,573	909

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

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	20.66	34.06	11.26	23.67	19.50
British Possessions ...	00.89	01.23	01.14	00.54	00.35
Total British Empire ...	21.55	35.29	12.40	24.21	19.85
Belgium ...	06.51	00.04	05.75	21.24	20.14
Denmark ...	—	03.02	06.33	19.51	23.54
Germany ...	00.92	05.94	50.09	10.27	12.20
Holland ...	10.73	15.59	24.34	21.25	22.72
Other Countries ...	60.29	40.12	01.09	03.52	01.55
Total Foreign Countries ...	78.45	64.71	87.60	75.79	80.15

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

	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Groundnuts per ton	10. 9.11	7. 8. 8	5. 7. 9	8. 3. 7	8. 12. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hides & Skins per lb.	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 2	0. 0. 3	0. 0. 3	0. 0. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Palm Kernels per ton	7. 13. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	6. 16. 6	4. 18. 1	6. 11. 4	7. 15. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beeswax per lb.	0. 0. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	0. 0. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0. 0. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0. 0. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0. 0. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$



*Shipping.*

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

				1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
				%	%	%	%	%
British	...	...	...	57.2	56.7	53.31	55.74	72.05
French	...	...	...	21.8	20.3	12.57	9.63	9.63
Dutch	...	...	...	2.7	2.5	1.71	1.55	2.22
German	...	...	...	4.6	8.0	20.54*	22.39*	6.58*
Norwegian...	...	...	...	3.0	4.6	3.96	3.68	4.32
American	...	...	...	5.7	1.9	3.93	3.48	1.55
Italian	...	...	...	—	1.0	0.37	—	—
Swedish	..	...	...	4.9	3.3	2.34	2.07	0.82
Danish	...	...	...	—	0.3	0.37	0.43	1.25
Other Countries	...	...	...	0.1	1.4	0.90	1.03	1.58

\* Includes catapult vessels of Deutsche Luft Hansa, A.G.

## 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 crops 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.
<b>TOTAL</b>	...	...	...	<b>7d.</b>



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

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 average prices of foodstuffs in 1936 as compared with those obtaining before the war are shown in the following table, which gives a few examples :—

	1936 (average)	1913
Rice per bag of 216 lbs.	25/-	33/-
Salt do. 66 lbs.	2/1	1/6
Flour do. 98 lbs.	17/6	16/6
Edible oil per Imp. Gallon	3/8	4/-
Sugar per lb.	3d.	5½d.

*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
Total ... ..	<hr/> £335 <hr/>

This amount does not include the cost of clothing which is purchased in England.



## CHAPTER IX. EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In November, 1935, a new Education Ordinance came into force. It was drafted with a view to placing the method of assessing Grants-in-Aid on a more regularised basis, making provision, on the lines of legislation in other Colonies, for the more efficient supervision of the work done in schools, and making the Board of Education an advisory body with a wider and freer scope for criticism and discussion. The new Board of Education, presided over by the Superintendent of Education, consists of one representative from each mission or educational body working in the Colony or Protectorate appointed by the Governor, together with not less than three other members of whom one must be an African, and one a woman. It is the duty of the Board to consider the reports on schools laid before it by the Superintendent of Education and to advise Government thereon; to recommend to the Governor any changes in regulations, and to make any reports which it may consider necessary on matters of importance affecting education.

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 a Committee of leading Mohammedans runs the Mohammedan School, an elementary school. These schools are all aided by grants from Government which maintains also a Manual Training Centre at the Public Works Department. There is no university education.

There are six elementary schools in Bathurst which in 1936 had a total of 1,856 pupils on the registers (1,256 boys and 600 girls) and an average attendance of 1,037. 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 1936 were 52 boys and 118 girls with average attendances of 39 and 80 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government. There is also a secondary class with 5 boys maintained by the Anglican Mission.

In 1930 a Teacher Training School was opened in Bathurst, and in 1936 there were 13 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 38 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 following examinations were held during the year: Cambridge Senior, Junior and Preliminary Examinations; Clerical Services Examination; Elementary Schools Standard VII. Examination.

#### *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.

#### *Recreations, 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 a week by the Police Band in front of Government House, where the terrace gardens are thrown open to the public, and during the dry weather in MacCarthy Square. The 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 continued the agreement with the Deutsche Luft Hansa A.G. for the carriage of airmail between the Gambia and Europe. This company operates a service weekly throughout the year.

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

The ports of call are Frankfurt—Marseille—Lisbon—Las Palmas—Bathurst—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, a catapult ship, four flying-boats and two airplanes.

The mail service to Natal commenced with the Graf Zeppelin and air planes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only.

The airships Graf Zeppelin and Hindenburg during October and November made four visits to the Jeshwang aerodrome, while the catapult ship and airplanes were undergoing repair.

The outward mail leaves London on Wednesday evening, Frankfurt on Thursday at 6 a.m. and arrives in Bathurst on Friday at 1 a.m.; formerly the mail was transferred to the catapult ship, which proceeded to sea and after 36 hours' steaming catapulted off a flying boat. Now the trans-Atlantic crossing is effected direct from Bathurst, and the mail reaches South America on Friday at 8 p.m.

The homeward mail plane leaves Natal on Friday, arriving in Bathurst on Saturday morning. The mail is then transferred to a land plane which leaves Bathurst on Saturday morning, arrives in Frankfurt on Sunday afternoon and in London on Monday afternoon.

*Bathurst Harbour.*

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 off shore 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 has been reconstructed, the wooden decking having been replaced by ferro-concrete; underwater piles have been refitted, and an up-to-date system of rails installed. Two  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ton petrol cranes are now in operation. The "T" head of Government Wharf is 221 feet long, with a depth of 13 feet close alongside at L.W.O.S.T. 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  $1\frac{1}{2}$  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 marked by a light vessel, buoys, and light structures.

### *Internal.*

#### *River Transport.*

The River Gambia is navigable for ocean-going vessels of not more than 12 feet draught, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kuntau-ur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draught of 19 feet. Vessels not exceeding 6 feet 6 inches in draught 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 is self-propelled.

The steamers call at 28 ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles) and 33 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:—

		1934	1935	1936
Passengers carried	...	7,791	10,057	12,751
Cargo (tons)	...	5,391	4,211	6,076
Revenue from passenger traffic	...	£2,795. 12. 7.	£3,501. 13. 7.	£3,952. 0. 0.
Revenue from freight	...	£3,709. 10. 1.	£3,837. 14. 7.	£4,069. 0. 0.



The refitting of Government steamers and vessels belonging to the firms is 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)	
Brumen (connecting roads Nos. 1 & 3)	
Lamin Koto — MacCarthy Island	
Sankulikunda — MacCarthy Island	
Bansang	} continuation of Road No. 2
Basse	
Fattoto	
Kaur-Jessadi	

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1936.

### *Roads.*

There are four trunk roads, which are except for No. 1 unmetalled.

No. 1. Bathurst-Jeswang-Abuko-Lamin-Yundum-Brikama-Kafuta-N'Demban-Bwiam-Brumen Ferry. (90 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles). This road is metalled as far as Brikama.

No. 2. Barra-Berrending (Bantanding)-Dasilami-Kerewan Ferry-Saba-Banni-N'Jakunda-Illiassa. (62 miles).

No. 3. Illiassa-Katchang-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 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 1936 was 227,496—an increase of 5,325 over the preceeding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 3,872 as compared with 3,911 in 1935. In addition, 1503 small postal packets were dealt with. 16,510 airmail letters were despatched and 7,920 were received during the year.

Money and Postal Order Statistics are as follows :—

	1935	1936
	£	£
Money Orders issued & paid, value	17,536	17,922
Revenue derived from Money Orders	104	106
Postal Orders issued & paid	7,633	7,696
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	61	62

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1936 was £5,260 as compared with £6,785 in 1935.

*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 96. The total value of the service was £653, of which amount £447 represented the value of free service to Government Departments.

*Wireless Service.*

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 500 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 1936 was £1,042 including £362 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1935 were £871 and £359 respectively.

*Telegraph Cables.*

There is no land line telegraph system in the Gambia.

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.

*Banks.*

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. At the 31st of December 1936 the deposits amounted to £4,418 in respect of 1,117 depositors

*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.

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 1936 was £239,600 as compared with £232,984 on the 31st December 1935 whilst alloy coins to the value of £358,100 were in circulation at the end of 1936 as against £250,522, 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 the 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 three African Foremen of Works. The Stores and Accounts Staff consists of an Accountant 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 in the Protectorate the main road from Bathurst which branches to Cape St. Mary and to the Kombo North and Central Districts, and certain other trunk roads are similarly maintained.

Activities during 1936:—

(a) MAINTENANCE. (Expenditure £13,893).

*Bathurst Water Supply.*

The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1936 was 47,485,000 gallons.

The rates charged are as follows:—

General Water Rate	...	...	1½% on rateable value.
Water supply rate	...	...	£2 per annum.
Supply rate to vessels	...	...	1/4d. per 100 gallons.
Meter rate	...	...	1/6d. per 1,000 gallons.
Washing out ground nut stores	...	...	£2 10/- per hour.

*Revenue 1936:—*

General and Supply rates	...	...	...	£608	9	1
Supply to vesssels	...	...	...	238	18	4
Meter rate	...	...	...	14	13	0
				<hr/>		
				£862	0	5
				<hr/>		



Water supplied to the following metered consumers was:—

R. W. A. F. F. ... ..	765,550	gallons
Prison ... ..	978,259	"
Botanical Gardens, Cape St. Mary ...	713,292	"
Cooling Plant, Albert Market, Bathurst	308,854	"
Power Station ... ..	125,897	"
Marine Department ... ..	296,937	"
	<u>3,188,789</u>	

*Electric Light and Power Services.*

The Power Station is situated in the centre of the Town of Bathurst and the generating plant consists of five solid injection heavy oil engines driving direct coupled alternators 1 x 220 K.W., 2 x 100 K.W., 1 x 50 K.W., and 1 x 25 K.W. Total 495 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 248, an increase of 14 during the year.

Supply commenced June 1926.

Total units generated 1936, 371,725.

Maximum load recorded 129 K.W.

Total connected load 567 K.W.

Total motors connected 279 B. H. P.

Public lighting 350 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some  $9\frac{1}{2}$  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 Capt 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 1936 were as follows:—

(a) Units sold ... ..	82,061
(b) Ice Factory ... ..	6,760
(c) Public Services, Street Lighting ...	112,350
(d) " " Government House ...	16,668
(e) " " Hospital, Clinics, etc. ...	24,822
(f) " " Market ... ..	7,439
(g) " " Police Station & Prison ...	8,891
(h) " " Customs Shed & Wharf ...	1,775
(i) " " Half Die Pumping Station ...	3,842
(j) " " Post Office, Wireless, Telephones and Wire- less Station ...	6,511
(k) " " Public Works Department ...	9,386
(l) " " Marine ... ..	16,600
(m) " " Printing Office ... ..	2,179
(n) " " Other Government Offices ...	3,582
	<u>214,045</u>

*Carried Forward*

**302,866**



	<i>Brought forward</i>	302,866
(o) Power Station (auxiliaries) ... ..		48,460
(p) Lost in distribution ... ..		20,399
Total Units generated		<u>371,725</u>

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1936 on maintenance amounted to £2,548.

#### *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 approximately 24 $\frac{3}{4}$  tons.

#### *Market Cold Store.*

A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 176 tons of meat passed through this storage last year.

#### (b) CONSTRUCTION, ETC. (Expenditure £13,431)

The principal works carried out during the year included:—

	£
Sanitary Works ... ..	2,609
Consolidation of Roads ... ..	1,371
Experimental Training Bank ... .	1,350
Minor Works ... ..	766

#### *Colonial Development Schemes.*

The extension of the Electric Light service (expenditure for the year £7,354) and the Development of water supplies (£4,617) were commenced in the early part of the year and satisfactory progress has been made.

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

The extraordinary measures adopted in 1935 in the campaign against malaria and yellow fever became in 1936 part of the routine work of the Public Works and Health Departments.



## 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 Supreme Court* has the same jurisdiction over matters occurring in the Protectorate as it possesses in respect of matters occurring in the Colony.

*The Protectorate Courts* are the Provincial Courts and the Native Tribunals.

Provincial Courts were established by the Provincial Court Ordinance, 1935 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.). Provincial Courts have a civil jurisdiction in all claims up to £100. 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 in a criminal matter.

Native Tribunals 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, succession, 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 damages 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.

#### *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, thirty one 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.*

In the Colony 592 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 489 persons in 1935. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 996 offences as compared with 797 offences in 1935.

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

*Statistics for the year 1936.**Criminal.*

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	28	13	—	15
Police Court ...	592	109	4	479
Provincial Courts :—				
North Bank Province ...	34	6	—	28
South Bank Province ...	69	3	7	59
MacCarthy Is. Province	58	3	1	54
Upper River Province ...	55	1	6	48
Native Tribunals :—				
North Bank Province ...	109	2	—	107
South Bank Province ...	240	5	—	235
MacCarthy Is. Province	266	12	—	254
Upper River Province ...	165	24	—	141



*Civil.*

Supreme Court	...	...	19 cases
Mohammedan Court	...	...	112 „
Court of Requests	...	...	1,368 „
Provincial Courts	...	...	71 „
Native Tribunals	...	...	573 „

**POLICE.**

The Police Force is an armed body under the command of the Superintendent of Police. The other European Officers are the Assistant Superintendent of Police, the Chief Inspector of Police and the Bandmaster. These Officers, with the exception of the Bandmaster, were formerly styled Commissioner of Police, Assistant Commissioner of Police and Superintendent of Police respectively. The African personnel consists of a Pay Clerk and Quartermaster, an Inspector of Police, four Sub-Inspectors and 120 other ranks including 25 Band.

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.*

		1935.	1936.
Cases dealt with	...	660	404
Prosecutions conducted	...	489	301
Inquest summonses served	...	15	13
Convictions obtained (persons)	...	459	264
Warrants executed	...	1	12
Summonses and subpoena served	...	902	502

*Issue of Licences.*

Motor Vehicle	...	...	336	441
Dog	...	...	63	38
Firearms	...	...	145*	154*
Domestic Servant	...	...	495	353
Motor Driver	...	...	495	512
Liquor	...	...	25	11
Entertainment	...	...	9	15

\* 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 1936 was good.

*Band.*

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

**PRISON.**

In the Gambia the main Prison is situated at Bathurst, but there is a native prison at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island Province. The buildings of the Prison at Bathurst 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 a 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 Superintendent of Police), the Assistant Inspector of Prisons (whose duties are performed by the Assistant Superintendent 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 1936 was good, the daily average number of sick being 39 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 Assistant Receiver General and an African Member of the Legislative 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 works under the supervision of warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and, during 1936, 10,980 lbs of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

*Prison Offences.*

The discipline during 1936 was good, 25 offences being recorded. Three prisoners escaped. Two were recaptured and one was still at large on 31st December, 1936.

		1935.	1936.
Admissions	...	292	222
Discharges	...	234	210
Average daily number of prisoners		75.5	64.7

## CHAPTER XIV LEGISLATION.

During 1936 twenty-four Ordinances were enacted. The only ones which call for any comment are:—

The Plant Importation and Regulation Ordinance—making provision with regard to the importation of plants with a view to the prevention of the introduction and spread of pests and diseases affecting vegetation.

The Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance—making provision for the enforcement in the Gambia of judgments given in foreign countries which accord reciprocal treatment to judgments given in the Gambia, and for facilitating the enforcement in foreign countries of judgments given in the Gambia.

The Savings Bank Ordinance—making provision for the establishment of a Government Savings Bank.

The Educational Films (Exemption from Duty) Ordinance—providing for the exemption from customs duty of films of an educational character and giving effect to the International Convention for Facilitating the International Circulation of Films of an Educational Character.

The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Ordinance—providing that the registered proprietor of any design registered in the United Kingdom shall enjoy in the Colony the like privileges and rights as though the Certificate of Registration in the United Kingdom had been issued with an extension to the Colony.

The Naval Volunteer and Defence Ordinance—making provision for the discipline, service and training of the Gambia Naval Volunteer Force.



## CHAPTER XV. PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

*Revenue and Expenditure.*

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

YEAR.	REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
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
1935	245,485	194,669
1936	257,180	209,000

*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 per cent 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 sinking fund stood at £3,028.

*Government Funds.*

(a) Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on	31st December, 1936	... £226,374
(b) Reserve ...	...	... 127,390
(c) Steamer Depreciation Reserve ...	...	... 16,727
		<u>£370,491</u>

*Taxation.*

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

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936.
<i>Customs Import</i>					
<i>Duties.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
Ad valorem	18,588	18,480	8,392	10,519	10,227
Specific :—					
Kola Nuts	29,294	33,528	38,559	54,689	55,059
Kerosene & Petroleum	2,600	4,789	6,151	7,872	5,808
Spirits ...	2,463	2,461	3,430	3,906	3,369
Tobacco ...	10,821	14,704	8,974	17,150	14,764

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ...	—	—	2,695	4,355	4,796
Cottons ...	—	—	14,273	22,395	34,549
Wines ...	1,623	2,194	1,353	2,438	2,060
Other articles	8,030	36,979	12,515	14,028	13,371
Rice ...	7,984	9,893	9,120	13,774	16,212
Parcel Post	517	524	492	530	427

*Customs Export Duty.*

Ground-nuts	18,520	33,609	35,666	22,358	24,594
<i>Total Customs Duties.</i>	£100,440	£157,161	£141,620	£174,014	£185,236
Port Dues	2,324	2,773	2,768	3,023	3,625
Protectorate Taxes	8,370	14,187	13,638	11,365	13,332
Trade Licences	1,968	3,111	3,195	3,347	3,865
Other Licences	2,435	1,883	2,126	2,627	2,231
Liquor, Motor Car etc.					
Town Rates	2,584	2,057	2,242	1,978	1,523
TOTAL	£118,121	£181,172	£165,589	£196,354	£209,812

*Excise and Stamp duties.*

There are no excise duties. The revenue collected in 1936 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £166.

*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 lands in the Colony and Protectorate are regulated by the terms of the Public Lands (Grants 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 and Wharf Licences in Bathurst and the Protectorate and rates on properties in Bathurst amounted to £5,881 for the year 1936, whilst £87 was received in respect of survey fees. In 1935 the rents and rates amounted to £6,900 and the fees for surveys to £222. Expenditure was £1,885 in 1936 as compared with £1,708 in 1935.

### *Activities During 1936.*

#### *Surveys.*

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

Numerous surveys were carried out in Bathurst and position of all sanitary sites surveyed.

Sites for 4 new bungalows at Cape St. Mary on the Fajarra Estate were surveyed; compounds for 15 new bungalows were laid out.

The following surveys of wharf towns were revised :—

Jowara, Balangar, Kosema, Diabugu, Bansang, Kau-ur, Jisadi and Koina.

The towns of Bwiam and Bara were surveyed.

*Plans.*

107 plans were prepared in connection with lands and wharves granted or licensed.

273 plans were drawn in the records of the Colonial Registry.

34 tracings of plots and wharves surveyed, made. Maps of Bwiam and Bara re-drawn. Numerous plans, tracings and sun-prints supplied to other Departments.

*Grants and Leases.*

Thirty-seven grants, leases and wharf licences were prepared.

*Rates Assessment, Bathurst.*

The Rating List for 1936 was completed early in the year and that for 1937 was prepared for public inspection. The Land Officer and Surveyor was the Chairman of the Rates Assessment Committee in 1936.

*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.

*Route Map.*

Route Map of the Gambia shewing all possible information for travellers, was compiled, sun-print copies made and supplied to Michelin & Co.



## CHAPTER XVII. MISCELLANEOUS.

The outstanding event at the beginning of the year was for the Gambia, as for the whole Empire, the death of His Majesty King George V. A memorial service, attended by representatives of all classes of the community, was held in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral on January 28th, and testified to the affection which His late Majesty, in a long and eventful reign, had aroused in the hearts of his people.

The Accession of King Edward VIII was particularly welcome here as there were pleasant memories of His Majesty's visit to Bathurst in 1925. The news, therefore, of his decision to renounce the Throne was received with deep regret.

The Accession of His Majesty King George VI was proclaimed in MacCarthy Square, simultaneously with the proclamation in London.

On June 5th, His Excellency Sir Arthur Richards, K.C.M.G., left on leave prior to going to Fiji on transfer. On 22nd October His Excellency Sir Thomas Southorn, K.B.E., C.M.G., accompanied by Lady Southorn, O.B.E., arrived in Bathurst and took the oaths of office.

H.M.S. "Milford" visited Bathurst for nine days in May, and H.M.S. "Rochester" for two days in November. H.M.S. "Amphion", the flag-ship of Vice-Admiral Tottenham, also made a two day stay in November.

On the 19th December, two flying-boats of the Royal Air Force visited Bathurst from Malta under the command of Air Commodore Maltby.

On the 14th May, Sir Malcolm Hailey and party arrived in Bathurst in the course of their tour of Africa on behalf of the African Research Survey.

During the cold weather at the beginning of the year, a number of pleasure cruise ships visited Bathurst.

## APPENDIX I.

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

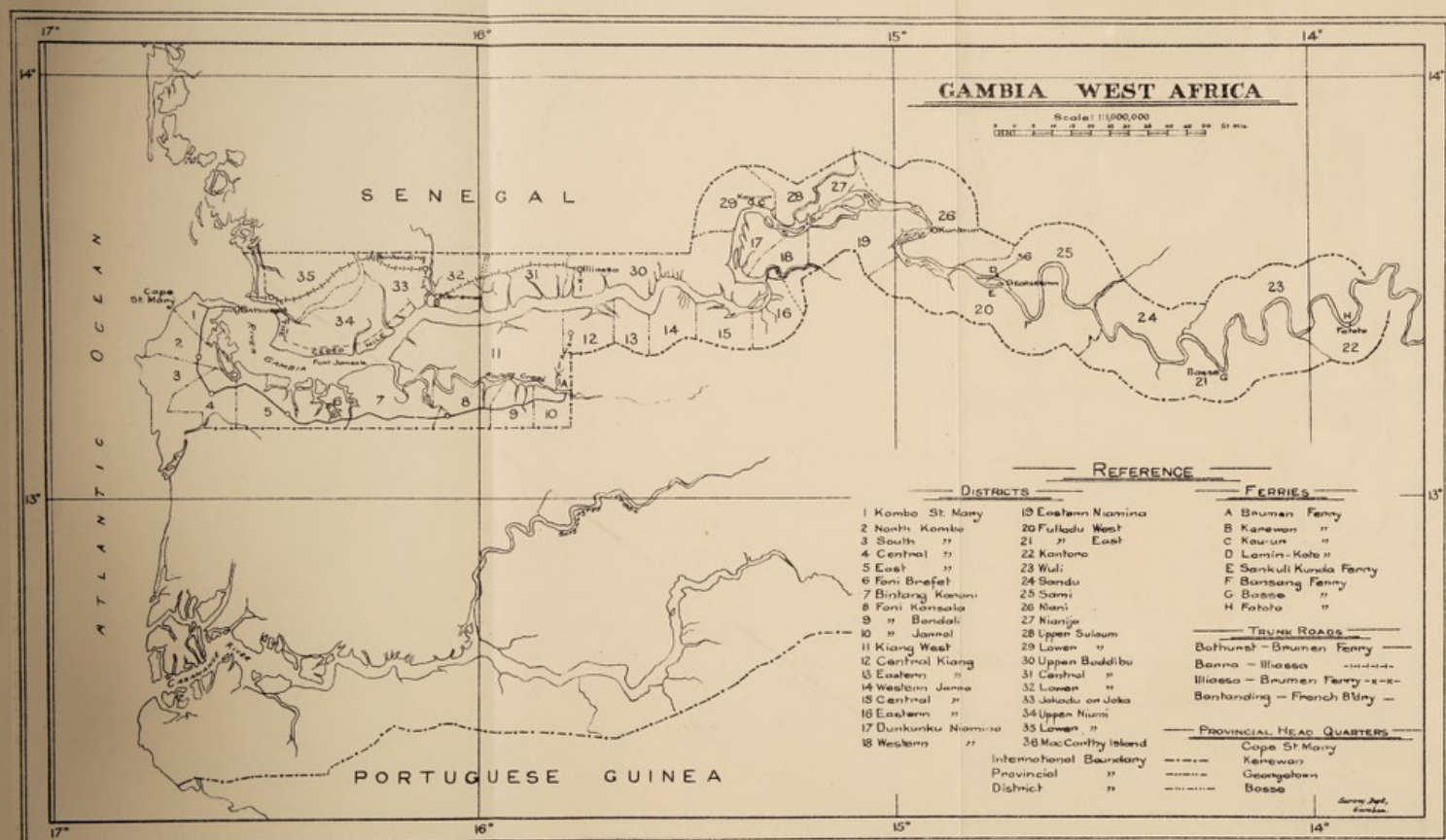
Name.	Address in the Gambia.	Address of Head Office outside the Gambia.
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Wellington Street Bathurst.	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4, England.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	Represented by Office Cooperatif de l'Afrique Francaise, 22 Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles, France.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijeaux, Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements Vézia	do.	18, Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Maurel Frères S. A.	do.	Represented by Maurel Frères Société à responsabilité Limitée, 6, Quai Louis XVIII Bordeaux, France.
V. Q. Petersen	do.	29, Boulevard Pinet Laprade, Dakar, F.W.A.
Sarkis Madi	Russel Street Bathurst.	Campbell Bros, Carter & Co., Ltd. 37-41 Grace- church St: London, E.C. 3, England.
M. K. Bahsali, Ltd.	do.	J. Bahsali, 82, Princess Street, Manchester, England.



## APPENDIX II.

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO THE GAMBIA.

WORK.	AUTHOR.	YEAR OF PUBLICATION.	AGENT.	PRICE.		
				£	s.	d.
The Gambia Colony and Protectorate: An Official Handwork.	Francis Bisset Archer	1906	St. Bridés Press, Ltd., London.	0	10	6
History of the Gambia	H. F. Reeve, C.M.G., M.I.C.E., F.R.G.S., F.A.S.	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
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, London, Eng.	0	3	6
Report on a Rapid Geological Survey of the Gambia.	W. G. G. Cooper B. Sc. (Eng.)	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 of the Mandinka Language.	G. N. N. Nunn, B.A. (Cantab.)	1934	do.	0	1	6
A Short Study of the Western Mandinka Language.	W. T. Hamlyn	1935	do.	0	5	0
Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	Receiver General and Crown Agents.	0	2	0
Blue Book of the Gambia (annual.)	—	—	do.	1	0	0
Report of the Agricultural Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	3	0
Report of the Education Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	2	0
Report of the Medical Department (annual.)	—	—	do.	0	5	0



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Report of Imperial Committee, 1933 [Cmd. 4335] 2s. (2s. 2d.)

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Summary of Proceedings and copies of Trade Agreements [Cmd. 4174] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)

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Report of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the period 1st April, 1935 to 31st March, 1936 [Cmd. 5202] 4d. (5d.)

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Report of the East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani, for the period 1st April, 1935 to 31st March, 1936 [Colonial No. 119] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

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Memorandum by the Advisory Committee on Education in the Colonies [Colonial No. 103] 6d. (7d.)

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Report of the Kenya Native Affairs Department for the year 1934 [Non-Parliamentary Publication] 7s. (3s. 4d.)

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## KENYA LAND COMMISSION

Report, September, 1933 [Cmd. 4556] 11s. (11s. 9d.)

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