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No. 1852

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

THE GAMBIA, 1937

(For Reports for 1935 and 1936 see Nos. 1755 and 1799
respectively (Price 2s. od. each).)

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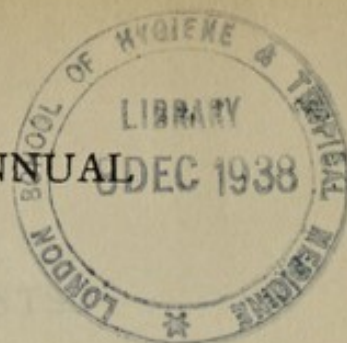
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Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Gambia 1937.

CHAPTER I. HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE.

History.

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

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and in course of time it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the facts that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (sc. Portuguese "igreja") near Kansala in Foni, and Tankular. The furthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuku 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”. In 1612 another attempt by the French to settle in the Gambia ended disastrously owing to sickness and mortality.

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 Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Neriko. 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 seized some Portuguese shipping as a reprisal for the massacre at Gassan. Jobson also made his way up to Neriko and subsequently gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia in his “Golden Trade.” But both his and the previous expedition had resulted in considerable losses and a subsequent voyage, which he made in 1624, proved a complete failure. In the circumstances the patentees made no further attempt to exploit the resources of the Gambia, but confined their attention 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 Barakunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three Royalists 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 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 (Half Die), Jaffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out from

Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Banyon Point. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner by the Swedes 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 reputed existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes, who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On March 18, 1661, he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On November 17, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1667 the Royal Adventurers sublet their rights between Capes Blanco and Palmas to another body of adventurers, who

came to be known as the Gambia Adventurers. These latter Adventurers enjoyed those rights until 1678, when on the expiration of their lease they reverted to the Royal African Company, which had purchased the rights and property of the Royal Adventurers six years previously.

In 1677 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 1681 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the native of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1857.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1704 and 1708, 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 1719 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort. An even more serious disaster occurred in 1721, when part of the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Captain John Massey, and seizing one of the Company's Ships, themselves turned pirate. Finally in 1725 James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

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

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on 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 Lieutenant-Governor 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 1780 the French privateer “*Sénégal*” captured four vessels, which had been sent with part of the British garrison at Goree under the command of Major Houghton to the Bintang Creek to obtain building material. The “*Sénégal*” was in its turn attacked by H.M.S. “*Zephyr*” and captured after a very warm action off Barra Point. The prizes had in the meantime been destroyed, but the troops, who had taken refuge on shore and had been befriended by the Jolas of Foni, were rescued by the “*Zephyr*”.

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, which, however, made no attempt to administer the Gambia.

In 1785 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was acquired 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 Aynsley. Subsequently invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1790), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Gray (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1794 on the representations of the African Association, 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.

In 1807 the African slave trade was abolished by Act of Parliament. At that date the British were in possession of Goree. With the co-operation of the Royal Navy the garrison of that fort made strenuous efforts to suppress the traffic in the River Gambia, which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels. On more than one occasion the slavers offered a stubborn resistance and the Royal African Corps suffered severe casualties.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that Goree should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the traffic in slaves 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 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. In 1840 and 1853 considerable areas of the mainland adjoining St. Mary's Island were obtained from the King of Kombo for the settlement of discharged soldiers of the West India Regiments and liberated Africans. Cessions of other tracts of land further upstream were obtained at various dates. In 1857 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 and the native inhabitants of the Gambia 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.

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 sixty-nine square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory for the most part ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for nearly 300 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 name 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 45,259. 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 district 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 Dunkunku, Fuladu West, and MacCarthy Island. The area of the Province is 1,101 square

miles and the population 42,596. 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 73,853. 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 40,219. 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 Mandinko 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, 1937.

CAPE ST. MARY STATION.

Month.			Mean Air Tempera- ture.	Relative Humidity.	Rainfall (inches).
January	...	...	74·4	40	—
February	...	...	77·1	53	—
March	...	...	74·7	63	—
April	...	...	71·0	70	—
May	...	...	75·9	71	—
June	...	...	79·7	89	0·91
July	...	..	80·6	72	6·69
August	...	...	80·4	76	18·93
September	...	...	79·8	80	11·55
October	...	...	77·6	71	2·49
November	...	...	80·7	57	0·03
December	...	...	74·7	39	—
				Total ...	40·60

Other Records of Rainfall were:—

Bathurst	...	...	...	39·37 inches
Yoroberi-kunda, MacCarthy Island Province				49·17 „
Wuli, Upper River Province	...		...	40·55 „

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, which, the Island of St. Mary excepted, 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, which was re-enacted in consolidated form in April 1935 on

account of the many amendments necessitated by the Native Authority and Native Tribunals Ordinances, 1933.

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 Seyfolu. 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
Tukuler	11,653
Bambara	3,261
Aku	786
Others	3,947
Total	185,150

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

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

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

Year.	Births.	Rate Birth per 100.	Deaths.	Death Rate per 100.	Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births registered.)
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
1937* ...	370	2·63	414	2·92	254·1

*1937 figures based on estimated population of 14,097.

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, and with the new scheme for registration of Unqualified Midwives our returns should be much more useful in 1938 than in previous years.

With regard to the Infantile mortality rate the figure given in 1937 is for the whole of Bathurst; of the 370 births 126 were conducted by the Clinic Staff and of these 126 infants 20 died within twelve months giving an infantile mortality rate of 158.7 per thousand which compares favourably with similar work in the British Isles and compares more than favourably with the infantile mortality rate of 254.1 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:—530 in 1934, 518 in 1935, 855 in 1936, and 894 in 1937; 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 Government continues to pay strict attention.

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

The system of refuse disposal is now working satisfactorily though far too many still consider that their compound is the most suitable depository for their household refuse. Constant education and supervision should eventually however overcome this.

The latrine system, whilst the best that can be devised at the moment, is not so satisfactory as it might be but any system of water closets, either of the septic tank type or otherwise is impossible till the centre of Bathurst is higher than the outside and the institution of the general use of such must be held over till after the completion of the Reclamation.

A temporary pumping plant has been installed 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 6,760 and for the latter 4,648. 667 cases of Malaria were treated at the Victoria Hospital. The incidence rises rapidly during the month of September and remains high until the end of the year.

The number of patients treated for Trypanosomiasis still increases totalling 2,025 for the year. There has been a marked decrease in the incidence of Yaws—1,642 cases as compared with 4,046 last year.

This year has seen the opening of a Dispensary at Kerewan.

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 dispensary at Kerewan) of a general hospital at Georgetown, a hospital at Bwiam, and three dispensaries at Basse, Kau-ur, and Kaiaff.

CHAPTER V. HOUSING.

Although a competent Building Inspector has been appointed, the solution of the housing problem is dependent on the Reclamation Scheme.

To insist on the rigid enforcement of the law before that would be a waste of the inhabitants' money, but once the Reclamation is made its value will be almost nullified if strict adherence to the Building Regulations is not enforced.

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	...	...	40,219	23,887
South Bank Province	...	...	73,853	27,718
MacCarthy Island Province	...	...	42,596	25,105
Upper River Province	...	...	45,259	25,426
St. Mary's Island (Bathurst)*	...	...	14,370	3,177

* Census figures 1931.

CHAPTER VI. NATURAL RESOURCES.

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".

As a result of propaganda, instruction and better prices, the majority of the main markets in the country are now preparing their hides by the improved methods advocated. Skins are now receiving similar attention.

Improvement in the quality of palm kernels and beeswax offered for sale is slow, but it is hoped that continued propaganda and the higher prices offered for better quality produce will meet with success.

Shea butter has been planted experimentally as a minor forest product in all districts by the chiefs, supervised by the Agricultural Department. It cannot yet be said whether this experiment is likely to be successful.

Ploughing with cattle is beginning to interest farmers and a few undertook the work with oxen and men trained by the Agricultural Department.

Irrigation also is receiving more attention from the people, particularly the women, and when the men can be persuaded to undertake the initial work of laying out the farms there is no doubt that they will be readily cultivated by the women at least during the rains. Efforts are being made to interest the people in the cultivation of a crop in the dry season also.

As regards food crops there is a general demand for the improved rices that are being gradually introduced into the rice growing areas by the Agricultural Department, while cassava, sweet potatoes and other garden food crops are receiving more attention.

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

Year.	Tons (undecorticated.)	Tons (decorticated.)	Value (undecorticated.)	Value (decorticated.)	Total Value.
			£	£	£
1933	67,370	—	500,766	—	500,766
1934	71,919	—	387,345	—	387,345
1935	45,110	—	368,887	—	368,887
1936	49,654	—	427,317	—	427,317
1937	66,576	508	646,635	6,954	653,589

A small export trade is done in palm kernels, hides and wax. In 1937 the export of these commodities were :—

			£
Palm Kernels	...	861 tons value	7,558
Hides and Skins	...	109,108 lbs.	„ 1,855
Beeswax	...	35,424 „	„ 1,140

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 up to

a maximum of £3,200 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 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. He again commenced inoculations in November 1937 in the North Bank of MacCarthy Island Province. The programme for this season's inoculations include the Eastern portion of the North Bank Province.

The season 1937-38 will conclude the last inoculating period under the five year scheme. There is no doubt that the value of immunization has been appreciated by the cattle owners and the results of these inoculations are clearly indicated by the notable increase of cattle in immunized herds.

The demands for the inoculations have also considerably increased and with each successive season the control of rinderpest will be facilitated.

There is every prospect that the cattle industry of this country will be restored in the near future 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.

The extent of the trade of the Gambia, both internal and external, is dependent on the annual production of groundnuts coupled with considerations of price in the European market for oil seeds.

The colony is dependent to a large extent on imported food supplies (principally rice) and textile goods for wearing apparel, and the ability of the African to pay for these requirements fluctuates with the local groundnut prices from season to season. The year under review witnessed a marked increase in the value of the aggregate trade of the colony which, at £1,404,148, was the highest since 1930. This expansion was the direct result of the excellent prices for groundnuts—up to £9 a ton—obtained by producers in the 1936–1937 season. It must be recorded, however, that the purchasing firms subsequently shipped the nuts at considerable loss to themselves, and that in consequence of the continued depression of the oil seeds market the opening price at the commencement of the 1937–1938 season was only £4 a ton. This low price seriously affected the purchasing power of the community in the last few months with the result that at the close of the year all firms were left with large unsold stocks of merchandise of all descriptions.

In the year under review the value of the groundnuts exported represented over 90 per cent of the total value of the export trade, and cotton piece goods and rice accounted for 24 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively, of the total value of the imports.

The maximum price at which rice may be sold by retail in the colony is controlled by Government, and imports of certain classes of textile piece goods of Japanese manufacture are subject to restriction by quota.

2. The total value of the imports, domestic exports and re-exports during the year 1937, as compared with the previous four years was as follows:—

Imports.

		1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
		£	£	£	£	£
Merchandise	...	435,902	327,185	483,287	582,267	705,165
Specie, etc.	...	13,966	4,326	30,000	200	96,551
Total	...	449,868	331,511	513,287	582,467	801,716

Domestic Exports :

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Produce and Manufactures ...	506,327	394,272	376,102	435,429	665,000
Bullion ...	—	50	—	—	—
Total ...	506,327	394,322	376,102	435,429	665,000

Re-exports :

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Merchandise ...	8,881	7,577	16,622	9,975	34,148
Specie, etc. ...	—	53,850	103,980	55,834	10,912
Total ...	8,881	61,427	120,602	65,809	45,060

3 (a). The percentage of British and foreign imports, exclusive of specie, for the year 1937, as compared with the previous four years, was as follows :—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	50·34	42·43	46·32	53·60	45·76
British Possessions	16·66	22·32	27·31	23·15	28·57
Foreign Countries ...	33·00	35·25	26·37	23·25	25·67
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

(b). The principal supplying countries provided the following percentages (exceeding five per cent) :—

Countries :

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	50·34	42·43	46·32	53·60	45·76
India ...	7·66	10·04	11·14	10·73	15·42
Sierra Leone ...	8·19	10·81	13·90	9·97	8·51
France ...	11·63	9·04	7·27	—	—
Germany ..	—	5·10	—	6·12	7·95
Japan ...	6·33	5·03	—	—	—

4 (a). The percentage of the domestic exports, excluding bullion, sent to British and foreign destinations in 1937, as compared with the previous four years, was as follows:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	34.24	10.83	24.17	19.39	32.01
British Possessions ...	0.59	0.60	0.16	0.12	0.18
Foreign Countries ...	65.17	88.57	75.67	80.49	67.81
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

(b). The percentage, exceeding 10 per cent, of the domestic exports, exclusive of bullion, sent to each of the principal countries of destination was as follows:—

Countries.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom ...	34.24	10.83	24.17	19.39	32.01
Belgium ...	—	—	22.18	20.60	26.39
Denmark ...	—	—	20.38	24.09	25.04
France ...	38.62	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	—	50.94	10.10	11.80	—
Netherlands ...	15.86	24.80	22.19	23.25	15.99

5 (a). The quantities and values of the principal imports, other than bullion and specie, for the year 1937 as compared with 1936 are as follows:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	1936.	1937.	1936.	1937.
Aircraft parts & accessories ...	—	—	7,190	18,818
Apparel ...	—	—	9,978	13,445
Cotton piece goods sq. yds	8,783,880	7,082,284	184,327	171,346
Cotton yarn ... lbs	197,419	150,092	15,048	12,729
Cotton manufactures (excluding piece-goods, yarn & apparel) ...	—	—	14,422	22,064
Flour, wheaten cwt.	13,877	16,999	8,962	13,786
Kola nuts ... cwt.	29,492	23,448	46,188	50,563
Metals, (all kinds) ...	—	—	32,333	37,446
Motor vehicles No.	65	96	8,628	11,914
Oils, non-edible (all kinds) galls.	246,781	422,293	10,678	21,101
Rice ... cwt.	149,563	229,402	58,934	101,700
Sugar ... cwt.	19,331	19,076	13,460	13,730
Tobacco, (all kinds) lbs.	180,711	190,930	12,139	15,805

(b). The principal sources of supply of the articles enumerated above were as follows in 1937 and (1936):—

Aircraft parts and accessories: Germany supplied the total imports in both years for the use of the Deutsche Lufthansa South Atlantic air mail service.

Apparel: United Kingdom—£5,813 (£6,111); Hong Kong—£4,020 (£829).

Cotton piece goods: United Kingdom—6,334,709 square yards, £151,115 (8,071,667, £166,609).

Cotton yarn: United Kingdom—100,479 lbs., £8,445 (180,933 lbs., £13,823); Belgium—49,508 lbs., £4,281 (8,710 lbs., £543).

Cotton manufactures (excluding piece-goods, yarn and apparel): United Kingdom—£6,934 (£4,900); Switzerland—£4,258 (£3,504); Germany—£3,703 (£1,967); Belgium—£2,742 (£515); Italy—£2,083 (£916).

Flour, wheaten: United Kingdom—5,239 cwts., £4,872 (4,517 cwts., £3,427); France—7,403 cwts., £4,649 (5,639 cwts., £2,760); Canada—4,158 cwts., £3,824 (3,699 cwts., £2,762).

Kola nuts: Sierra Leone—23,442 cwts., £50,536 (29,482 cwts., £46,155).

Metals all kinds: United Kingdom—£19,623 (£12,044); Germany—£10,732 (£14,763).

Motor Vehicles: Canada—Nos. 57, £8,196 (Nos. 29, £4,221); United Kingdom—Nos. 26, £2,886 (Nos. 20, £3,072).

Oils, non-edible (all kinds): United States of America—261,102 gallons, £11,307 (175,235 gallons, £6,791); British West Indies—86,428 gallons, £4,963 (nil).

Rice: British India (Burma)—227,413 cwts., £100,515 (144,923 cwts., £56,815).

Sugar: United Kingdom—11,557 cwts., £9,123 (11,005 cwts., £7,993); Belgium—5,495 cwts., £3,324 (3,111 cwts., £1,550).

Tobacco, all kinds: United Kingdom—41,852 lbs., £9,576 (31,118 lbs., £6,977); Canada—100,104 lbs., £4,629 (63,834 lbs., £2,633).

Domestic Exports:—

6. The quantities and values of the principal domestic exports and re-exports other than bullion and specie for the year 1937, as compared with 1936 are as follows:—

Commodities	1936.		1937.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Groundnuts ... tons	49,654	427,317	67,084	653,589
Hides & Skins... lbs.	116,306	1,839	109,108	1,855
Palm Kernels... tons	626	4,858	861	7,558
Beeswax ... lbs.	32,573	909	35,424	1,140

Re-exports:—

Articles,	1936.		1937.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Aircraft parts & accessories	—	4,181	—	24,704
Metal Manufactures ...	—	1,588	—	2,576
Motor vehicles & parts ...	—	1,318	—	1,960
Motor spirits ... galls.	26,244	1,082	31,194	1,601
Textile manufactures ...	—	479	—	1,372

7. Imports and exports of coin and currency notes in 1937, as compared with the previous four years, were as follows:—

Imports:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coin ...	437	604	—	200	51,551
Currency Notes	13,529	3,722	30,000	—	45,000

Exports:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Coin ...	—	53,600	100,496	34,000	10,000
Currency Notes	—	150	3,484	21,834	912

CHAPTER VIII. LABOUR.

The principle labour in the Protectorate is peasant—proprietor farming. Each year a fluctuating number of natives from the neighbouring French territories enters the Colony to engage, on a share-cropping basis, in the production of ground-nuts and some of these immigrants obtain alternative work in the wharf towns transporting nuts between stores for the buyers and loading ships. The number of these labourers is small compared with those engaged in agriculture and theirs is the only other form of labour in the Protectorate. There are no mines, plantations, estates or European enterprises of other kinds for which labour is needed.

In Bathurst the only constant employer of labour is the Government and the three departments mainly concerned, the Public Works Department, the Health Department and the Marine Department, employ at their busiest periods less than 1,000 in the aggregate, including skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour. These labourers are engaged in road work, water-pipe laying and electrical work, sanitation and shipyard work.

Non-governmental labour is subject to great numerical fluctuation. At the peak of the short trading season, November to April, the number of men employed by the mercantile firms rises as occasion demands, *i.e.*, when ships are being loaded, to as many as 2,000 but that rate of employment is maintained for very short periods. This casual, seasonal labour is all unskilled; it is indeed almost all some form of portering, and a large number of those engaged in it come from the neighbouring French territory. The supply of such migratory labour varies in accordance with the amount of financial profit to be anticipated from the production of groundnuts. After a good season, when selling prices have been high, the supply of immigrant labour decreases, though never sufficiently to cause anxiety. An increase in the rates of pay is enough to procure the numbers required from more proximate sources. After a year of bad selling prices the supply of migratory workers exceeds the demand. There are no factories or industries in Bathurst.

CHAPTER IX. WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The Labour Ordinance of 1933 empowers the Governor-in-Council to regulate rates of wages, and agreements between employers and labour but not to prescribe the weekly hours of labour. The normal day's work is $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Wages.—The usual wages paid for artisans such as carpenters, masons, etc., vary from 2s. 6d. to 6s. a day according to the skill of the employee.

Unskilled labour rates vary slightly and might be classified as :—

(a) Monthly employees—30s. to 36s. with generally a rice ration allowance of 45 lbs.

(b) Casual labour on daily wage—1s. to 1s. 3d. a day.

(c) Farm labourers—board and lodging during the planting season and a proportion of the proceeds. Such labour is generally from outside the colony and returns home after the reaping of the crops.

(d) Semi-skilled such as sanitary labourers.—1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day.

(e) Piece work labourers—employed usually on loading or discharging ships, may earn 2s. to 5s. a day.

There are no factories or industries; local activity is principally restricted to producing the staple product of groundnuts which is seasonal, although considerable amount of guinea corn, rice and garden produce is also grown.

The crops are grown by the native population on their own behalf, and there are no permanent plantations. The hired labour is therefore small and is principally confined to the trading firms and the various Government Departments.

Cost of Living.—The native population lives principally on rice and guinea corn but a considerable amount of sugar, fish and salt is also consumed; meat and groundnuts are also used.

The daily cost of a labourer's food in the towns may be reckoned as:—

Rice or corn	...	...	3d.
Bread	...	...	1d.
Fish	...	...	1d.
Oil (generally palm)	...	...	1d.
Sugar	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Condiments	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
		TOTAL	7d.

If meat and groundnuts are substituted for fish and rice the daily cost is increased by about 1d.

House rent and clothing enter very little in the cost of living, possibly not more than 3s. a month is expended on an average.

The prices of those imported foodstuffs in general use are given below:—

	£	s.	d.
Rice per bag of 216 lbs. ...	1	5	0
Salt „ „ 28 „ ...	0	0	10
Flour „ „ 98 „ ...	1	0	0
Edible Oil (Palm) per 4 gall. tin ...	0	7	9
Sugar per lb. ...	0	0	3

The prices of the locally produced foodstuffs would be:—

Meat—	£	s.	d.
Fillet per lb. ...	0	0	9½
Steak „ ...	0	0	7½
Meat with bone per lb. ...	0	0	6
Heart, liver & brain per lb. ...	0	0	5
Kidney each ...	0	0	4½
Skin, tripe, trimmings & offal per lb. ...	0	0	5
Mutton per lb. ...	0	0	6
Kidney (Sheep) each... ...	0	0	2
Fish per lb. approximately ...	0	0	1½
Groundnuts per bushel ...	0	1	0
Corn (Guinea) per bag of 216 lbs. ...	0	12	0

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	£335

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

CHAPTER X. EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

At the end of the year a change was made in the administration of the Education Department which has previously been in the charge of an Administrative Officer holding the duty post of Superintendent of Education. In December a Superintendent of Education was transferred from Nigeria to administer the Department which will henceforth be in the charge of a qualified Education Officer. One of his first duties will be to tighten up the existing organization and bring all schools as much as possible into line with the provisions of the Education Ordinance of 1935 which is not yet fully in force. It is recognized that a general reorganization of the present system is desirable and the intention is for the Superintendent of Education, during 1938, to formulate a scheme for the consideration of Government in which special attention will be paid to such questions as secondary education and vocational training.

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst, where the new Superintendent of Education has his quarters and office. At Georgetown the Assistant Commissioner, MacCarthy Island Province, is also Officer-in-Charge of the Armitage School for the sons and relatives of chiefs.

The 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 of schools laid before it by the Superintendent of Education and to advise Government thereon ; to recommend to the Governor any changes in legislation, and to make any reports which it may consider necessary on matters of importance affecting education.

Elementary and secondary education are provided by the missions with the aid of Government grants, and a committee of leading Mohammedans, assisted by the Superintendent of Education, supervises the Mohammedan School, an elementary school in which the teachers are paid by Government. The Manual Training Centre at the Public Works Department which was maintained by Government had to be closed in the middle of the year because the officer in charge was invalided and there was no one to take his place. The whole question of manual training in schools is under consideration. There is no University education.

These are six elementary schools in Bathurst which in 1937 had a total of 1,796 pupils on the registers (1,212 boys and 584 girls) and an average attendance of 1,053. 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 Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions. The total numbers on the registers in 1937 were 74 boys and 124 girls with average attendances of 50 and 101 respectively. Scholarships to these secondary schools are given each year by the Government. There is also a secondary class with 5 boys and 1 girl maintained by the Anglican Mission.

The Teacher Training School which was opened in Bathurst in 1930 continued its work and there were 10 students on the register in 1937.

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 50 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 (assisted) in Georgetown. This was closed temporarily in September owing to staffing difficulties but may re-open in 1938. The Anglican Mission maintains two day schools and the Roman Catholic Mission three day schools (all unassisted) in the Protectorate.

The revised syllabus for Bathurst elementary schools which came into use on the 1st January, 1934, remains the basis for the schools' curricula, but, though the latter have been improved in consequence, there is evidence that a more detailed syllabus with definite recommendations regarding text-books is required.

The following examinations were held during the year : the London Matriculation, the Cambridge Senior, Junior and Preliminary examinations; Clerical Service examinations.

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 XI. 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 LuftHansa 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—Marseilles—Lisbon—Las Palmas—Bathurst—Natal for Buenos Aires.

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

The LuftHansa 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 airplanes in alternate weeks, until September, 1934, when the weekly service was carried out by planes only.

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. The trans-Atlantic crossing is effected direct from Bathurst by flying boat, 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.

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 nine to fourteen 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 twenty-seven feet draught 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 twelve feet draught, as far as Georgetown, 176 miles from Bathurst. At Kuntaur, 150 miles from Bathurst, an ocean-going vessel can load to a maximum draught of nineteen feet. Vessels not exceeding six feet six 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 *Mansa Kila Ba* (70 tons) are also available for additional cargoes.

The Steamers call at twenty-eight ports outward and homeward when proceeding to Basse (242 miles). They do not normally proceed beyond Basse but should they go to Fattoto (288 miles) thirty-three ports are called at. A weekly service is maintained during the trade season from November to May and a fortnightly or monthly service for the remainder of the year.

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

	1935	1936	1937
Passengers carried ...	10,057	12,751	13,410
Cargo (tons) ...	4,211	6,076	6,334
Revenue from passenger traffic ...	£3,501 13 7.	£3,952 0 0.	£3,858 0 0.
Revenue from freight ...	£3,837 14 7.	£4,069 0 0.	£4,245 0 0.

The refitting of Government steamers and of vessels belonging to 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 and 3)	
Lamin Koto-MacCarthy Island	
Sankulikunda-MacCarthy Island	
Bansang	} continuation of Road No. 2
Basse	
Fattoto	
Kau-ur-Jessadi	

Between Bathurst and Barra a regular ferry service is maintained by a private firm which received a subsidy of £200 from Government in 1937.

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

No. 1. Bathurst - Jeshwang - 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 ($\frac{3}{4}$ miles).

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). There is also a postal agency at Kerewan, North Bank Province.

The total number of letters, postcards, papers, etc., dealt with during 1937 was 243,329—an increase of 15,833 over the preceeding year.

Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 4,668 as compared with 3,872 in 1936. In addition, 1,389 small postal packets were handled. 14,497 airmail letters were despatched and 10,155 were received during the year.

Money and Postal Order Statistics are as follows:—

	1936	1937
	£	£
Money Orders issued & paid, value	17,922	24,948
Revenue derived from Money Orders	106	145
Postal Orders issued and paid	7,696	8,834
Revenue derived from Postal Orders	62	71

The total revenue derived from the Postal Services in 1937 was £14,132 as compared with £5,260 in 1936.

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 105. The total value of the service was £707, of which amount £480 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 1937 was £1,077 including £407 in respect of Government messages. The corresponding figures for 1936 were £1,042 and £362 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 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, for the maintenance of all Government buildings and property entrusted to the Department, for the licensing and control of Petroleum Stores under the Petroleum Ordinance and for the enforcement of the Building Regulations for the Town of Bathurst.

The Engineering Staff consists of the Director of Public Works, the Assistant Director of Public Works, Technical Office Assistant, 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 47 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 1937:—

(a) MAINTENANCE. (Expenditure £15,013.)

Bathurst Water Supply.

The total number of gallons pumped at the Abuko Station during 1937 was calculated as 58,800,000 gallons.

The rates charged are as follows:—

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

Revenue 1937:—

General and Supply rates	...	...	£821
Supply to vessels	...	...	£297
Meter rate	...	...	£ 58
Total			<u>£1,176</u>

Water supplied to the following metered consumers was:—

R.W.A.F.F.	...	...	627,834 gallons
Prison	...	...	1,155,401 „
Botanical Gardens, Cape St. Mary	...	...	1,169,071 „
Cooling Plant, Albert Market, Bathurst			407,922 „
Power Station	...	...	148,864 „
Marine Department	...	...	329,653 „
Ships and private consumers	...	...	985,923 „
			<hr/> 4,824,663 gallons <hr/>

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 277 an increase of 29 during the year.

Supply commenced June 1926.

Total units generated 1937, 471,468 B.T.U.

Maximum load recorded 171 K.W.

Total connected load 641 K.W.

Total motors connected 287 B.H.P.

Public lighting 710 gas filled lamps.

The low tension network supplies and lights some 13 miles of streets in Bathurst, supplies a 30 K.V.A. transformer at the north end of the town — the voltage being stepped-up to 3,300 volts and conveyed by overhead cable to Cape St. Mary 8 miles away, where it feeds a 15 K.V.A. stepped-down transformer which supplies a low tension network of about 5 miles. Voltage 230 lighting, 400 power.

Units consumed during 1937 were as follows:—

(a) Units sold	...	...	98,046
(b) Ice Factory	...	...	6,456
(c) Public Services, Street Lighting		187,330	
(d) „ „ Government House		22,528	
(e) „ „ Hospital, Clinics, etc.		29,242	
(f) „ „ Market	...	9,551	
(g) „ „ Police Station & Prison	...	7,842	

Carried forward 256,493 104,502

	<i>Brought forward</i>	256,493	104,502
(h)	Public Services Customs Shed & Wharf ...	2,250	
(i)	„ „ Half Die Pumping Station ...	2,837	
(j)	„ „ Box Bar ...	12,990	
(k)	„ „ Post Office, Wireless, Telephones and Wireless Station ...	5,306	
(l)	„ „ Public Works Department ...	9,425	
(m)	„ „ Marine ...	12,643	
(n)	„ „ Printing Office ...	2,596	
(o)	„ „ Fire Protection Plant	230	
(p)	„ „ Other Government Offices	3,729	308,499
<hr/>			
(q)	Power Station (auxiliaries) ...	40,969	
(r)	Lost in distribution ...	17,498	
<hr/>			
	Total Units generated	471,468	
<hr/>			

Excluding emoluments of the permanent staff provided for under personal emoluments of the Estimates the expenditure during 1937 on maintenance amounted to £3,055.

Ice Factory.—The Public Works Department also operate and maintain an ice factory and ice is sold to the public at 1d. per lb. Ice sold for last year amounted to approximately 24½ tons.

Market Cold Store.—A small cold storage plant is installed in the Albert Market, Bathurst. Approximately 74¾ tons of meat passed through this storage in 1937.

(b) CONSTRUCTION, ETC. (Expenditure £37,744)

The principal works carried out during the year included:—

	£
Sanitary works ...	2,011
Consolidation of roads ...	1,714
Minor works ...	652
Four quarters at Fajara ...	12,373
Pumps Box Bar ...	778
Provincial Office, Basse ...	801
Hospital, Bansang ...	17,762
Customs Shed extension ...	942

Colonial Development Schemes.—The extension of the Electric light service (expenditure for the year £905) and the Development of water supply, Bathurst, (£8,719) were carried on during the year and satisfactory progress has been made.

Other Revenue earned by the Department.

			£
Electric Light	...	...	11,655
Ice factory	...	...	228
Transport	...	...	1,212
Petroleum Licence & Magazine Rent	...	...	415
Miscellaneous	...	...	196

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 the 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, twenty-five 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 568 persons were brought before the Bathurst Police Court during the year as compared with 592 persons in 1936. In the Protectorate the Provincial Courts and Native Tribunals dealt with 1,247 offences as compared with 996 offences in 1936.

The number of Criminal information filed in the Supreme Court was twenty-three.

Rates.—Under the provisions of the Rates Ordinance 1933, the Bathurst Police Court also dealt with 525 rating cases.

*Statistics for the year 1937.**Criminal:—*

Court.	Cases.	Dismissals.	Committals for trial.	Convictions.
Supreme Court ...	32	19	—	13
Police Court ...	568	70	6	492
Provincial Courts :—				
North Bank Province	80	3	7	70
South Bank Province	28	1	1	26
MacCarthy Is. Province	40	4	—	36
Upper River Province	38	1	8	29
Native Tribunals :—				
North Bank Province	243	—	—	243
South Bank Province	329	5	—	324
MacCarthy Is. Province	349	8	—	341
Upper River Province	240	19	—	221

Civil:—

Supreme Court	....	....	20 Cases
Mohammedan Court	....	....	147 „
Court of Requests	....	....	1,032 „
Provincial Courts	....	....	151 „
Native Tribunals	....	....	568 „

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. The African personnel consists of a Pay Clerk and Quartermaster, an Inspector of Police, four Sub-Inspectors and 122 other ranks including twenty-five 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:—

	1936.	1937.
Cases dealt with	404	378
Prosecutions conducted (persons)	301	303
Inquest summonses served	13	19
Convictions obtained (persons)	264	268
Warrants executed	12	11
Summonses and subpœna served	502	3,094

Issue of Licences:—

Motor Vehicle	441	509
Dog	38	70
Firearms	154*	154*
Domestic Servant	353	427
Motor Driver	512	592
Liquor	11	35
Entertainment	15	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 XV.

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 instructions :—

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

Health.—The health of the Force during 1937 was satisfactory.

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 are native prisons at Georgetown, MacCarthy Island Province and Kerewan, North Bank 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 constructed of crinting and plaster, 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 1937 was good, the daily average number of sick being 35 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 regularly at Government House and on minor public works under the supervision of warders. A garden is maintained by prison labour and, during 1937, 10,950 lbs. of vegetables were raised for consumption by the prisoners.

Prison Offences.—The discipline during 1937 was good, twenty-three offences being recorded. Three prisoners escaped who were all recaptured.

	1936.	1937.
Admissions (Bathurst)	222	163
Discharges	210	137
Average daily number of prisoners	64·7	58·9

CHAPTER XIV. LEGISLATION.

During 1937 sixteen Ordinances were enacted. The only ones which call for any comment are:—

The Regulation of Docks Ordinance—empowering the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for the safety of persons employed in loading, unloading, moving and handling goods or produce in on or at any wharf or quay and in loading, unloading and coaling any ship in any dock or harbour.

The Criminal Code (Amendment) Ordinance—making a number of amendments to the Criminal Code including provisions relating to seditious conspiracy, perjury, forgery and counterfeit coin, and the criminal responsibility of persons committing offences when under the influence of drink or drugs.

The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance—making many amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code and providing among other matters for the taking of evidence on commission, and for the trial of juvenile offenders and conferring an extended criminal jurisdiction on Subordinate Courts of the First and Second Classes.

The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance—enabling the Governor to exempt persons from jury service.

CHAPTER XV. BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS & 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 Savings Bank, administered by the Post Office, the rate of interest being $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum. At the 31st of December, 1937, the deposits amounted to £5,429 in respect of 1,281 depositors.

Currency.—The Currency is British West African alloy and nickel coins of denominations 2s., 1s., 6d., 3d., 1d., and $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and British West African currency notes of 20s., and 10s., 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, 1937, was £264,700 as compared with £239,600 on the 31st December, 1936, whilst alloy coins to the value of £380,214 were in circulation at the end of 1937 as against £358,100 at the end of the previous year.

From the 30th of January until the 15th of June, Bank of England notes were made legal tender by Ordinances Nos. 3 and 5 of 1937. This was a measure designed to combat the temporary shortage of currency experienced by all the British West African colonies.

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 Superintendent 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 XVI. PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

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

YEAR.	REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
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
1937	285,204	243,323

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 13s. 9d. 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 £3,874.

Government Funds.

(a) Surplus of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December,				
1937	...	...	...	£164,770
(b) Reserve	...	...	...	227,390
(c) Steamer Depreciation Reserve	...	...	...	18,610
				<u>£410,770</u>

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

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
<i>Customs Import Duties.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Ad valorem</i>	... 18,480	8,392	10,519	10,227	14,559
<i>Specific :—</i>					
Kola Nuts	... 33,528	38,559	54,689	55,059	43,743
Kerosene & Petroleum	... 4,789	6,151	7,872	5,808	9,894
Spirits	... 2,461	3,430	3,906	3,369	4,425
Tobacco	... 14,705	8,974	17,150	14,764	16,124

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
	£	£	£	£	£
Sugar ...	—	2,695	4,355	4,796	4,695
Cottons ...	—	14,273	22,395	34,549	28,503
Wines ...	2,194	1,353	2,438	2,060	2,995
Other articles	36,979	12,515	14,028	13,371	17,276
Rice ...	9,893	9,120	13,774	16,212	25,399
Parcel Post	524	492	530	427	563
<i>Customs Export Duty.</i>					
Ground-nuts	33,609	35,666	22,358	24,594	33,361
<i>Total Customs Duties.</i>	£157,161	£141,620	£174,014	£185,236	£201,542
Port Dues	2,773	2,768	3,023	3,625	4,075
Protectorate Taxes	14,187	13,638	11,365	13,332	11,918
Trade Licensees	3,111	3,195	3,347	3,865	4,369
Other Licences	1,883	2,126	2,627	2,231	3,014
Liquor, Motor Car etc.					
Town Rates	2,057	2,242	1,978	1,523	2,080
TOTAL	£181,172	£165,589	£196,354	£209,812	£226,998

Excise and Stamp duties.—There are no excise duties. The revenue collected in 1937 under the Stamp Duty Ordinance amounted to £185.

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

	s.	d.
(a) For every yard containing not more than 4 Huts or Houses ...	5	0
(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	0
(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	0

CHAPTER XVII. 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, and valuation of properties prepared. The Rates Assessment Committee, with the Land Officer as Chairman, held numerous sittings at the Land Office to assess the rates for the Town of Bathurst, and the Rating List was prepared by the Clerk to the Committee, who is also Chief Clerk in the Land Office, assisted by other members of the Staff.

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 14 years with certain exceptions.

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 10s. per 1,000 square feet for plots in residential areas to £2 10s. 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 £6,840 for the year 1937 whilst £106 was received in respect of survey fees. In 1936 the rents and rates amounted to £5,881 and the fees for surveys to £87. Expenditure was £1,872 in 1937 as compared with £1,885 in 1936.

Activities During 1937.

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

Numerous surveys were carried out in Bathurst and the Protectorate.

A new survey of the Fajara building estate was commenced the first seven plots set out, and four new bungalows together with boys' and out houses were placed on the map. All new roads were also surveyed.

The following surveys of wharf towns were revised:—

Bansang, Kau-ur, Basse, Kuntau-ur, Karantaba and Kudang.

The towns of Tintiba and Balingho were re-surveyed.

Plans.—104 plans were prepared in connection with lands and wharves granted or licensed and endorsed on deeds.

Twenty-three tracings of plots and wharves surveyed, made. Maps of Georgetown, Basse and the Fajara Estate re-drawn. Numerous plans, tracings and sun-prints supplied to other departments and British Airways survey party.

Grants and Leases.—Thirty-five leases and wharf licences were prepared.

Rates Assessment, Bathurst.—The Rating List for 1937 was completed early in the year and that for 1938 was prepared for public inspection.

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.

Acquisition.—Certain properties were valued and acquired for sites in connection with the sanitation of the town of Bathurst.

Aerodromes.—Certain sites which were thought to be possible as aerodromes in the Kombo were temporarily delineated and flagged for the guidance and easier reference on the ground in connection with the Air Ministry and British Airways survey party which visited Bathurst in December.

CHAPTER XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS.

The outstanding event of the year was the celebration of the Coronation of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. A service was held in St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral on the 12th of May after which His Excellency the Governor, and members of Legislative Council, moved the approval of the telegram of Loyal Greetings to His Majesty. A procession round the town of Bathurst then took place and His Excellency, His Honour the Judge and the Members of Legislative Council were able to see the gay and elaborate decorations with which the local inhabitants had decked the whole town. A military parade was held in the afternoon, a firework display was given in the evening and the day was concluded with a reception for all officials and leading citizens at Government House. Government house and its grounds were floodlit and there were many electrical illuminations all over the town.

On the morning of May 13th a parade of school children was held and, after an address by His Excellency, bronze commemorative medallions and sweetmeats were distributed. Sports took place in the afternoon and a torchlight procession in the evening. Special prayers were said in the Mosque and a distribution of food to the poor was made on the 14th of May.

All these arrangements were made by a special Coronation Committee whose members included representatives of every phase of European and African corporate life.

A permanent drinking fountain to commemorate the Coronation was erected by public subscription.

At each administrative centre in the Protectorate speeches, sports and feasts were held under the auspices of the respective commissioners and the inhabitants of the whole of the Gambia were able to make a spontaneous demonstration of loyalty such as will be forgotten by none who were privileged to witness it.

H. M. S. *Carlisle* visited Bathurst for one night on the 15th of April, H. M. S. *Penzance* visited Bathurst for seven days in July, H. M. S. *Milford* for five days in September and H. M. S. *Neptune* for four days in October.

In December a party, consisting of officials of the Air Ministry and members of the staff of Messrs. British Airways Limited, visited Bathurst to investigate the local conditions so far as they might concern the inauguration of an air service.

APPENDIX I.

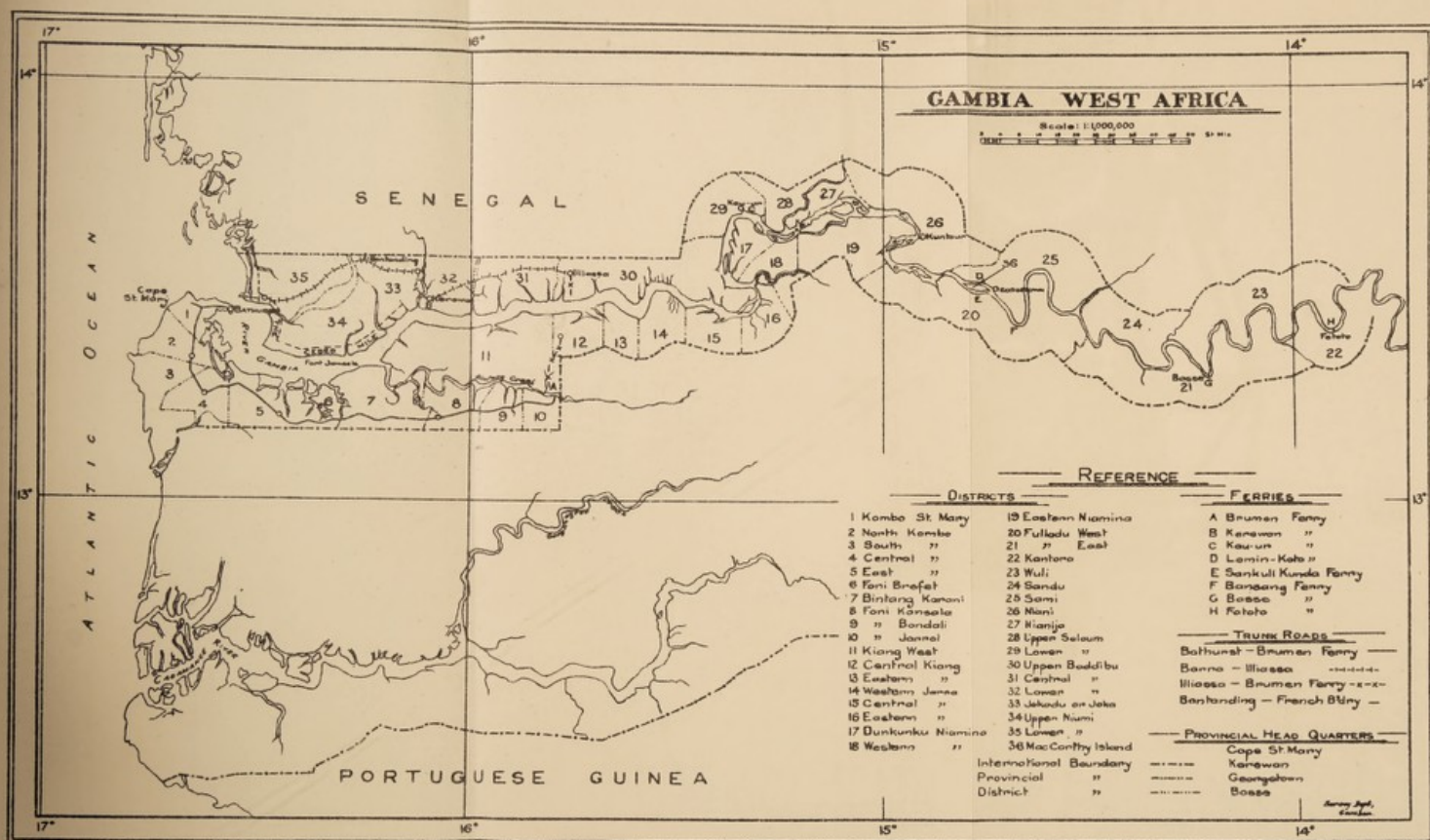
The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade in the Gambia :—

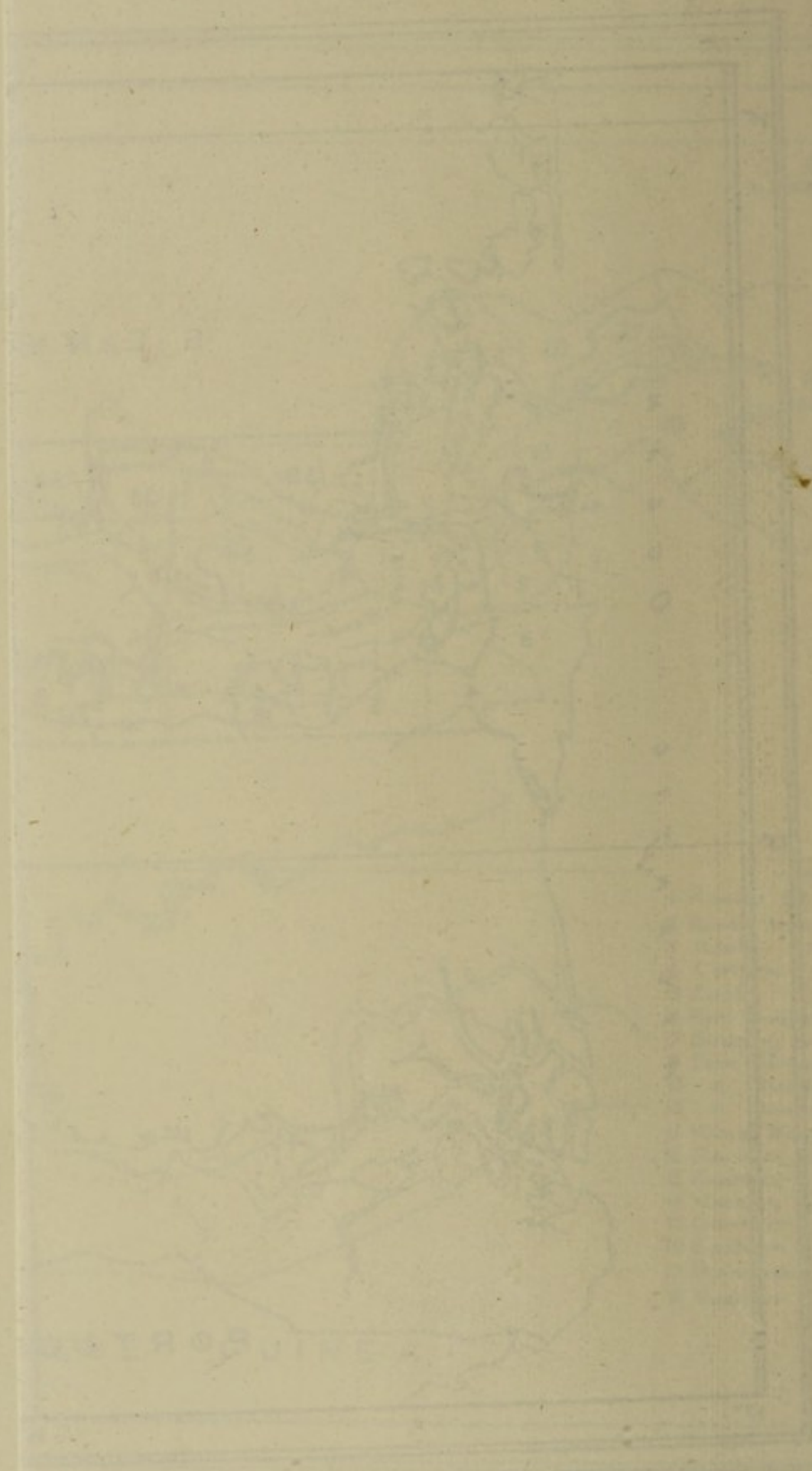
Name.	Address in the Gambia.	Address of Head Office outside the Gambia.
United Africa Co., Ltd.	Wellington Street Bathurst.	Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, E.C. 4, England.
Le Commerce Africain	do.	Represented by Office Cooperatif de l'Afrique Francaise, 22 Rue Ferrère Bordeaux, France.
Compagnie Française de L'Afrique Occidentale	do.	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles, France.
Etablissements Maurel & Prom	do.	18, Rue Porte Dijaux, 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 PUBLICA- TION.	AGENT.	PRICE.		
				£	s.	d.
The Gambia Colony and Protectorate: An Official Handbook.	Francis Bisset Archer	1906	St. Bride's Press, Ltd., London.	0	10	6
History of the Gambia	H. F. Reeve, C.M.G., M.L.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 Audenda.	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
The Gambia (for use in Schools).	—	1937	Receiver General Bathurst.	0	0	4





Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

THE INTRODUCTION OF PLANTS INTO THE COLONIAL DEPENDENCIES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

A Summary of Legislation as at the end of December, 1936

[Colonial No. 141] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

THE FINANCIAL POSITION AND SYSTEM OF TAXATION OF KENYA

Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into and report on

[Colonial No. 116] 9s. (9s. 6d.)

THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POSITION OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into and report on

[Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN RHODESIA

Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E.

[Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

NUTRITION POLICY IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE

Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated 18th April, 1936

[Colonial No. 121] 2d. (2½d.)

MUI TSAI IN HONG KONG AND MALAYA

Report of Commission

[Colonial No. 125] 5s. (5s. 4d.)

PENSIONS TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF OFFICERS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE, AND COLONIAL PROVIDENT FUNDS

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 5219] 1s. (1s. 1d.)

LEAVE AND PASSAGE CONDITIONS IN THE COLONIAL SERVICE

Report of Committee

[Cmd. 4730] 9d. (10d.)

Lists are issued showing schedules of Offices in the following Colonial Services with the names and brief biographical records of the holders. Each list includes the Special Regulations by the Secretary of State relating to the Service concerned :—

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Colonial Forest Service List	[Colonial No. 122] 6d. (7d.)
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H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the Peoples of the Colonies and Protectorates, most of which contain a map of the Dependency concerned. More than 40 Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 50s. per annum. (This rate does not include Mandated Territories.) Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply

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BARBADOS	PROTECTORATE
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BRITISH GUIANA	MAURITIUS
BRITISH HONDURAS	NEW HEBRIDES
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS	NIGERIA
PROTECTORATE	NORTHERN RHODESIA
BRUNEI, STATE OF	NYASALAND
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA)	PERLIS
CEYLON	ST. HELENA
CYPRUS	ST. LUCIA
FALKLAND ISLANDS	ST. VINCENT
FEDERATED MALAY STATES	SEYCHELLES
FIJI	SIERRA LEONE
THE GAMBIA	SOMALILAND
GIBRALTAR	STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
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GOLD COAST	PROTECTORATE
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JOHORE	UGANDA
KEDAH	ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE
KELANTAN	
<hr/>	
BASUTOLAND	SWAZILAND
BECHUANALAND	
PROTECTORATE	

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Annual Reports are published on the undermentioned territories administered by H.M. Government under mandate from the League of Nations

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Publications issued by the Governments of British Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories can be obtained from the CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, Millbank, Westminster, S.W.1. They include Departmental Reports, Laws, Handbooks, etc.