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COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

The Gambia

1947✓

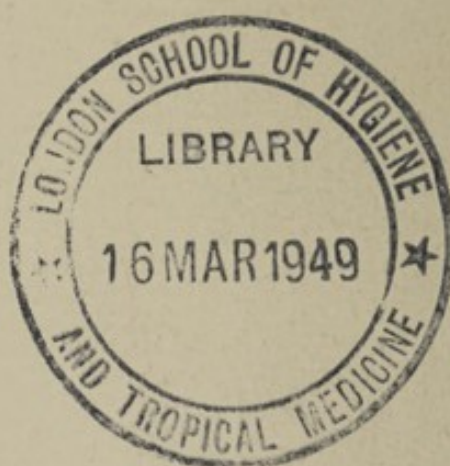


LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after suspension in 1940) is being continued with those relating to 1947.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates for which 1947 Reports are being published will, with some additions, be the same as for the previous year (see list on cover page 3).



COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE GAMBIA

FOR THE YEAR
1947

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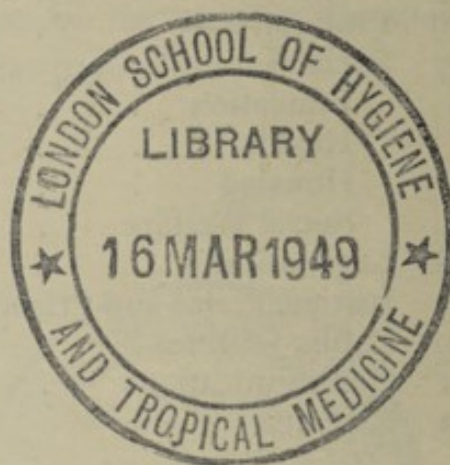
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1949

ANNUAL REPORT ON
THE GAMBIA
FOR THE YEAR
1947

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PART I

General Review

THE widespread economic tension of the year 1947 caused little disturbance of conditions in the Gambia, whose economy is closely related to the production and price of groundnuts. The general inflationary tendency and the continuing rise in the cost of living were accentuated by the new price for groundnuts of £20 per ton announced in July, which is £4 more than for the previous season and the highest price since 1920.

Sir Hilary Blood, who had left the Colony in October, 1946, was succeeded as Governor by Mr. Andrew Barkworth Wright (now Sir Andrew Barkworth Wright). The new Governor was welcomed to Bathurst on 29th March on the eve of a succession of annual public events—the Horticultural Show and Teachers' Week followed in the middle of April by the Chiefs' Conference which, this year, was held in a fort at Barra at the mouth of the Gambia opposite Bathurst.

Constitutional changes had been foreshadowed for some time and finally took shape towards the end of the year. The old Legislative Council comprised 5 official and 4 unofficial members, all of whom except the Colonial Secretary were nominated. Of the unofficial members, one represented Mohammedan interests, one commercial interests and two represented African interests generally. The last meeting of this old Council took place on 4th September and in the following month the first election was held under the new constitution. The Council was then reformed with an unofficial majority, the first in the history of the Colony's legislature. The unofficial majority is made up of 4 members (3 Chiefs and an African Anglican priest) representing the Protectorate, a member representing Moslem interests in the capital, a member (at present the only European unofficial nominated member) representing trade and commerce, and a member elected to represent Bathurst and the adjoining district of Kombo St. Mary, with an electorate of 5,580 voters. Five candidates stood for the election and Mr. E. F. Small, a newspaper proprietor with a strong interest in labour matters, was returned to the Council. Both he and the candidate with the next largest number of votes had sat as nominated members in the former Council. The first session of the new Council was formally opened on 12th December and proceeded a week later to the business of a budget sitting.

The Bathurst Town Council and the Kombo St. Mary Rural Authority (described in Part III, Chapter 3) both made a promising start during the year. These authorities are concerned with urban or suburban communities. Local government in the Protectorate is carried on

by the Native Authorities which are constituted on more traditionally African lines.

The programme of development works was impeded by lack of materials. Some projects had to be abandoned, either for lack of funds or because expert advice found them impracticable. Changed circumstances compelled the modification of other schemes. A start was made, however, with the experimental introduction of mechanised farming in the programme of the Field Nutrition Working Party, to which fuller reference is made in the sections on Health and on Research. The Agricultural Department's experiments in the cultivation of rice were continued. A beginning was made with the drainage of Bathurst and, by the end of the year, two-thirds of the length of the required embankments were completed and a site had been chosen for the construction of sluice gates.

The British South American Airways Corporation transferred from Bathurst to Dakar their jumping-off point for the South Atlantic crossing, and their sister Corporation, British Overseas Airways, abandoned the West Coast route in favour of direct flights across the Sahara from Tripoli to Nigeria and the Gold Coast. During the latter part of the year the Colony was served by a twice-weekly service operated from Lagos to Dakar. This service connects with the British Overseas Airways Corporation Trans-Sahara service at Lagos and with the British South American Airways Corporation service calling at Dakar.

Several distinguished visitors were welcomed to the Colony in 1947. These included a delegation of Members of Parliament organised by the Empire Parliamentary Association at the beginning and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, towards the end of the year. The M.P.s travelled by Government steamer to Balingho, saw groundnut buying and transiting in progress and visited those areas in which agricultural experiment is most active. Lord Rowallan was another welcome guest, especially to the local Boy Scouts Association. Two British warships, the cruiser *Diadem* and the submarine *Alliance*, spent a few days in Bathurst harbour in February and November respectively.

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

No decennial census was carried out in 1941. A census of Bathurst was taken in 1944 and in March, 1946, a survey was carried out to amplify the population figures contained in the annual reports of the Divisions, including Kombo St. Mary.

The census of Bathurst showed that the population had increased from 14,370 in 1931 to 21,152, of whom 274 only were non-Africans. It is significant that only half of the population was Bathurst born, and that as many as 5,169 persons had resided in Bathurst for less than five years. But although these figures can be in part attributed to the influx of foreigners and Protectorate persons attracted by the considerable war-time demand for labour, intercensal estimates compiled by the Health Department suggest that there has been no appreciable decrease in the population of Bathurst since the war and that it will probably increase in the future.

Over half of the population of Bathurst in 1944 was Wollof, the remainder being composed mainly of Mandingo, Aku, Fula, Jola and Serere in fairly equal numbers. Fifteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-six were found to be Mohammedans, 4,995 Christians, and the remainder was shown as pagans.

The population of the Protectorate, which now excludes the Kombo St. Mary Division (1946 population, 8,131), showed an increase to 225,358 in 1947 from the total of 185,150 in the 1931 census. There has thus been an increase in density per square mile from 46 to 57. There have been no significant trends of population either in the year under report or, as far as can be ascertained, in previous years. The more accurate distinction now given to tribal groupings, as for instance in the sub-division of the Fula tribe into its four main ethnological components, should enable a closer watch to be kept in future on such trends. A comparative table of the tribal distribution according to the 1931 census and the annual census for 1947 shows a tendency for all the three major elements, Mandingo, Fula and Wollof, to increase; of the minorities, the Serahuli and Aku have declined. (See Table on page 4).

An interesting element in the population of the Gambia Protectorate is the "strange farmer", whose habits are described in Part II, Chapter 6. These seasonal immigrants, mostly from neighbouring French and Portuguese territory, swell the Protectorate population during the farming season to a variable extent which depends mostly on their forecast of returns from the groundnut crop in the Gambia farmlands, as compared with that which they might raise and sell on their home soils. As was to be

expected during the war, when the Anglo-French frontier was closed and a high proportion of strange farmers were Gambians travelling from poorer to richer farming districts, the number of such immigrants declined sharply. In 1944, however, it rose to 10,793 and in 1945 to 19,779; in 1946 it fell to 13,263 while in 1947 it was 14,662. No convincing reasons have been put forward to account for these fluctuations.

	1931	1947
Aku	786	687
Bainunka	Unknown	291
Bambarra	"	5,107
Fula-Firdu	22,273	35,892
Fula-Futa	With Firdus	4,419
Fula-Lorobo	" "	2,376
Fula-Torodo (or Tukulor)	11,653	15,616
Jola	19,410	20,604
Mandingo	85,640	93,358
Manjagu	Unknown	1,618
Mauretanian	"	454
Niumunka and Serere	"	2,307
Serahuli	12,316	10,921
Wollof	25,864	29,577
Others	7,208	2,131
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	185,150	225,358
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

GENERAL

The Labour Department is now under the direction of a Labour Officer, appointed in 1946, who had previously been a full-time official of the Transport and General Workers Union of the United Kingdom. His duties include the collection of statistics on wages, hours of work and cost of living. He is the Government's chief source of advice on labour matters and he is the secretary of the Labour Advisory Board, established under the 1944 Labour Ordinance on which sit representatives of both employers and employed.

The resettlement of ex-servicemen proceeded fairly satisfactorily during 1947. Some of those who had been farmers before enlistment wished to obtain wage-earning employment, but the majority accepted the advice of the Resettlement Officer to return to their farms, as there were few opportunities of obtaining employment in Bathurst and accommodation was inadequate for their needs. Some who had acquired experience of various trades were given a short period of training at a technical training centre; but this experiment failed for want of an experienced instructor and the centre has now been closed down. An

Employment of Ex-Servicemen Ordinance compels employers to engage ex-servicemen in quotas which differ according to occupation; the largest is 100 per cent. in the case of messengers, gate-keepers and watchmen, the last two occupations being suitable for disabled ex-servicemen.

OCCUPATIONS

There are very few industrial undertakings in the Gambia, the main industry being the production of groundnuts for export. Thus the great majority of the people are farmers, but many migrate to Bathurst during the dry and off-farming season to seek wage-earning employment. The Government is the largest employer of labour, directly employing at a peak period over 2,000 manual workers, of whom 1,500 are daily paid. Government also employs 150 clerks and 300 persons in non-clerical appointments, such as hospital dressers, nurses, sanitary inspectors, wireless operators and the like.

Other employers are the United Africa Company and the British Overseas Airways Corporation, engaging in all over 1,000 people. The number of men employed in connection with the airfield fell considerably during the year.

There is a considerable demand for casual labour during the trade season, which lasts for five months of the year, but during the remaining months there are few openings for those who are not in regular employment. No reliable unemployment figures are available.

WAGE RATES

The minimum wage rate in the Colony for unskilled labour was raised during the year from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 3d. per day. The United Africa Company, however, continues to pay a rate in excess of the statutory minimum; for the past year the lowest rate paid by the company was 3s. a day. A large number of labourers are employed during the season at transit ports loading groundnuts on a piece-work rate of one penny per bag and, though the work is very arduous, it is estimated that the labourers engaged on this basis earn 5s. to 6s. per day.

HOURS OF WORK

The average working week is approximately forty-six hours, but there appears to be a good deal of absenteeism. There is no uniformity of practice as to the payment of overtime. Few employers pay additional rates for work performed on Sundays and public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

In the absence of any household budgetary survey, it is difficult to assess with any degree of accuracy the actual cost of living. The method of compilation of statistics was changed during the year to take into account an element for rent and to give more weight to that ascribed to clothing. The revised basis was discussed by the Labour Advisory Board and received its qualified approval as the best that could be obtained pending a household survey. During the year there was a very

substantial rise in the cost of living. Prices of essential goods continued to increase, causing hardship, especially among the lower paid workers. The price of certain items of food is controlled and a Maximum Price Order is applied to all imported goods, but the controls are rendered ineffective by the prevalence of petty trading and bargaining. Rents constitute a formidable element in the budgets of the poorer classes and, in Bathurst, are out of all proportion to the type of accommodation provided. The high level of rents results from the scarcity of houses and is aggravated by the influx of seasonal labour. So great is the demand for accommodation that landlords charge as much as 10s. to 15s. per month for one small room. Revised measures for control are being considered.

LABOUR DISPUTES

There was only one dispute during the year. The headmen and labourers employed by the Public Utilities Department on the Bathurst Drainage Scheme stopped work, claiming that the minimum wage was insufficient in view of the exceptional nature of their employment, necessitating work in deep mud. The Labour Department was called in to deal with the complaint. It was held that the claim was justified and the men resumed work after one day's stoppage when the minimum wage had been raised. The freedom from disputes enjoyed during the year is in part attributed to the Labour Department's policy of encouraging employers and employees to give ready vent to their grievances.

LEGISLATION

No labour legislation, other than the amendment of the Minimum Wage Order, was enacted during the year. Legislation is already in existence covering the protection of young persons and the regulation of night work, employment of women, factory inspection and workmen's compensation. The Trade Union Ordinance gives full protection to the trade unions, and arbitration machinery is provided for the settlement of disputes. The question of wage-fixing machinery is being discussed, and a Wages Council was proposed for the distributive and allied trades and a Joint Council on Whitley Council lines for Government departments. There is no social insurance scheme but established employees of Government are entitled to sick pay, free medical attendance and pension on retirement.

TRADE UNIONS

There are three registered trade unions—the Bathurst Trade Union, the Gambia Labour Union, and the Gambia River Trade and Commercial Workers' Union. Membership increased during the year but the unions lack funds, and it is extremely difficult to organise a satisfactory system for collecting contributions. An attempt was made to bring about an amalgamation but without much success. Discussions among the officials continue.

The Labour Officer has arranged classes and lectures for trade union members with the help of the British Council, which exhibits films illustrating the work of trade unions in the United Kingdom.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

The following statements set out Revenue and Expenditure during the period 1940 to 1947. These figures have been adjusted to exclude repayments of revenue received and net totals are shown as well as the gross totals that appear in the published annual accounts.

REVENUE

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947 <i>Estimated</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Revenue from local sources:								
Customs	86,372	138,209	177,908	215,809	212,471	252,613	298,139	339,000
Port Dues	1,469	3,527	8,092	4,465	2,446	1,879	1,576	2,200
Taxes and Rates	13,594	26,453	81,454	60,295	113,432	146,748	130,244	146,000
Licences, etc.	7,083	7,692	10,599	10,878	8,973	7,460	6,736	6,600
Fees, etc.	15,059	22,801	47,453	48,824	16,930	18,448	18,301	19,000
Commercial operations	—	—	—	—	36,349	31,496	22,723	24,200
Post, etc.	2,402	6,569	9,607	12,058	10,811	17,239	18,971	16,000
Rents	3,542	3,605	3,330	3,834	4,283	4,194	2,443	8,200
Miscellaneous	945	1,492	4,376	8,741	5,327	8,572	18,549	14,500
Total local sources	130,466	210,348	342,819	364,904	411,022	488,649	517,682	575,700
2. Interest	8,458	7,209	7,547	9,383	10,174	13,339	19,800	20,300
Total comparable revenue	138,924	217,557	350,366	374,287	421,196	501,988	537,482	596,000
3. Currency Board profits	1,100	3,545	1,325	1,682	4,974	12,740	13,902	7,000
4. C.D.F. and C.D.W.A. Grants	78	35	35	883	9,584	21,929	46,491	75,000
5. Other Grants	5,402	697	1,014	275	—	—	—	—
Total real revenue (net)	145,504	221,834	352,740	377,127	435,754	536,657	597,875	678,000
Revenue Refunded	1,891	12,679	55,013	98,783	88,154	50,347	18,453	2,000
Transfers from Revenues	56,348	12,684	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gross Revenue	203,753	247,197	407,753	475,910	523,908	587,004	616,328	680,000

EXPENDITURE

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947 <i>Estimated</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Recurrent Expenditure:								
Personal Emoluments	88,277	86,996	95,089	106,741	106,162	120,095	141,531	220,000
" " ordinary services ..					10,136	13,026	15,497	
" " commercial operations ..	13,007	15,554	19,247	15,700	13,007	13,283	13,054	13,000
Military and Defence ..	59,815	64,576	89,840	117,740	117,048	128,160	171,992	275,900
Departmental and Services ..	—	—	—	—	37,742	27,505	29,206	
Commercial Operations ..	20,920	21,577	21,831	21,807	26,440	30,799	28,090	36,000
Pensions and Gratuities ..	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,000
Steamer Depreciation Fund ..	2,093	2,093	2,093	2,093	2,093	2,093	2,093	2,100
Public Debt ..								
Non-Recurrent Expenditure:								
Land Purchase and Public Works ..	5,812	2,281	9,184	29,553	9,079	27,994	50,834	80,000
Expenditure against Special Grants	4,818	697	1,014	6,523	9,335	15,427	1,104	
Net Real Expenditure ..	196,742	195,774	240,298	302,157	333,042	380,382	455,401	633,000
Refund of Revenue ..	1,891	12,679	55,013	98,783	88,154	50,347	18,453	2,000
Transfer to Reserve ..	—	—	—	25,000	104,827	—	—	—
	198,633	208,453	295,311	425,940	526,023	430,729	473,854	635,000

Expenditure in the years 1945, 1946 and 1947 has been incurred under heads as follows:

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE SHOWING PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS
AS DISTINCT FROM OTHER CHARGES

<i>Heads of Expenditure</i>	<i>1945 Total</i>	<i>1946 Total</i>	<i>1947 Estimated</i>
	£	£	£
1. The Governor	5,646	5,226	5,300
2. Agricultural Department	9,842	14,847	26,000
3. Audit Department	1,847	1,807	1,800
4. Crown Law Office	1,982	2,154	2,600
— Brick and Tile Manufacture	—	1,536	—
5. Department of Supplies and Minor Industries	—	—	3,800
6. Education Department	22,863	19,785	27,000
7. Gambia Development	—	10,847	14,000
8. Judicial Department	2,987	3,515	3,900
9. Labour Department	574	2,320	1,600
10. Local Administration	500	500	—
11. Medical and Health Services	47,635	55,033	68,000
12. Miscellaneous Services	65,420	30,598	28,000
13. Pensions and Gratuities	30,799	28,090	36,000
14. Police Department	15,555	16,831	23,000
15. Printing Department	—	—	8,500
16. Prisons	3,567	3,829	5,000
17. Provincial Administration	21,645	32,850	37,000
18. Public Debt Charges	2,093	2,093	2,100
19. Public Relations Department	1,474	1,814	1,900
20. Public Utilities Department	51,159	81,666	117,000
21. Public Utilities Annually Recurrent	41,695	48,751	67,000
22. Public Utilities Extraordinary	24,328	47,436	80,000
23. Receiver General's Department	25,248	26,474	19,500
24. Royal West African Frontier Force and R.N.V.R.	13,283	13,054	13,000
25. Secretariat	13,857	16,548	12,000
26. Steamer and Marine Craft Depreciation Appropriation	2,000	74,000	6,000
27. Survey Department	1,490	1,724	5,500
28. Veterinary Service	2,747	2,526	1,500
Nutrition Field Working Party	—	—	10,000
Nutrition Field Research Station	—	—	8,000
Development	20,493	—	—
	430,729	545,854	635,000

Public Debt at 31st December, 1947, was £38,760, and there was a Sinking Fund of £12,600. These items, as well as an amount of £25,000 owing to the Government on account of an interest-free war loan made to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, are not included in the Assets and Liabilities.

Assets and Liabilities at 31st December, 1947, are estimated as follows:

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
Reserves:	£		£
Steamer and Marine Craft	126,000	Investments	657,000
General Reserve	250,000	Joint Colonial Fund	358,000
General Revenue Balance	490,000	Advances	37,500
Government Savings Bank	120,000	Cash and Bank Balances	22,500
Deposits	89,000		
	<hr/> 1,075,000		<hr/> 1,075,000

Income tax was introduced in 1940 and has yielded growing amounts since. There is a sliding scale of personal income tax which amounts to the following rates on chargeable incomes:

<i>Chargeable Income</i>	<i>Average Rate of Tax in the £</i>
£400	4½d.
£600	6d.
£1,000	11d.
£2,000	1s. 10d.
£5,000	3s. 9d.
£10,000	5s. 8d.

Incomes of single persons up to £75 per annum, and married persons up to £200 per annum, are free of tax.

In the year of assessment 1947 the company rate of income tax was 9s. in the pound. Estimated receipts for 1947 were:

	£
Companies	124,000
Private Persons	17,000

During the year arrangements for the relief of double taxation were entered into between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Gambia Government. In accordance with these arrangements British companies with permanent establishments in the Gambia should pay Gambia income tax at the full rate. This new procedure was given retrospective effect as from 1st January, 1946, and as a result this Government received, in the Gambia years of assessment 1946 and 1947, additional tax amounting to £26,000 (in addition to the figures given above) from British companies. These arrangements also exempt residents in the United Kingdom from Gambia income tax on pensions (except pensions paid by the Gambia Government), annuities and any other income derived from Gambian sources, provided that these residents are not present in the Colony for a period not exceeding 183 days in the aggregate in any one year. Similar arrangements apply to British pensioners resident in the Gambia and individuals who derive income from United Kingdom sources but are ordinarily or permanently resident in the Gambia.

The increased yield from Customs duties is principally due to increased volume of trade. The average rate of duty on all goods expressed in *ad valorem* terms is approximately 19 per cent. against 32 per cent. for the five years immediately before the war. Rates of duty on kola nuts, tobacco and liquor have been heavily increased since 1939 and in 1947 realised £77,000, £63,000 and £13,000 respectively. During 1947

the rate of Customs duty on manufactured tobacco was increased by 8s. per pound. No other changes in Customs duty rates took place during that year. Except for staple foods (grain, milk and sugar), building materials and a few smaller items, all goods are liable to import duties. There is a general *ad valorem* rate of 12½ per cent. preferential, and 15 per cent. general; important exceptions are: cotton goods 10 per cent. and 12½ per cent.; spirituous liquors 70s. and 90s. a gallon; manufactured tobacco 20s. and 22s. a pound; unmanufactured tobacco 2s. 6d. and 2s. 9d. a pound; kola nuts 6d. and 9d. a pound; motor spirit 8d. a gallon. There is also an export duty on groundnuts of 10s. a ton undecorticated and 14s. a ton decorticated.

There is a direct tax on inhabitants in the Protectorate based on the number of dwellings occupied; the rate of tax is 10s. a "Yard" of four huts and 2s. 6d. for any extra hut. In addition, there is a tax of 5s. for each lodger in the "Yard" and a tax of 10s. on each "strange" farmer.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

On 31st December, 1947, the currency in circulation was estimated at £1,248,000; this is nearly three times the amount of pre-war circulation. Of this circulation, £498,000 was in notes of £1 and 10s. denominations. Circulation is always at its highest point in December, January and early February, when large amounts are issued for the purchases of groundnuts which have then been harvested. Normally these issues of currency are quickly used for the purchase of goods, and towards the end of February and in March circulation falls and remains at a lower level until the opening of the next trade season. At the end of 1947 currency in circulation was more than the value of annual imports. Notes of the Banque d'Afrique Occidentale circulate freely in parts of the Protectorate, and Bank of British West Africa currency also circulates across the border in the Senegal and the Casamance.

The Bank of British West Africa is the only bank operating in the Gambia; it has one office only, situated in Bathurst. The principal trading firms make their own arrangements for remitting funds to the Protectorate. Money is carried as freight by the Government river steamers; small amounts are transacted through the Post Office on board the steamers (money-order remittances) and through District Treasuries and Post Offices at Basse, Georgetown and Kuntaur, Kerewan and Brikama.

At the end of 1947, Savings Bank deposits amounted to £120,200; before the war deposits amounted to less than £5,000. It is probable that amounts held in the Bank of British West Africa have also risen considerably. The total amount held by Government in the United Kingdom on its own account and account of its depositors in 1947 was £1,015,000 as compared with £284,000 in 1939.

Chapter 5: Commerce

The only important export of the Gambia is groundnuts. The tonnage exported in 1947 was 49,387 undecorticated and 4,858 decorticated and

the values were declared at £925,386 and £140,741 respectively, making a total of £1,066,127. The other exports are palm kernels, beeswax, and hides and skins; their values in 1947 were £24,482, £2,670 and £728 respectively. The value of total exports (including re-exports) in 1947 was £1,163,294.

The following were the values and tonnage of groundnut exports in 1946 and the average figures for earlier five year periods:

EXPORTS

<i>Period</i>	<i>Value</i>		<i>Tonnage: Groundnuts</i>	
	<i>Groundnuts</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Uncorticated</i>	<i>Decorticated</i>
	£	£		
1946	596,000	24,000	31,589	6,183
1940/44	230,000	10,000	21,000	7,000
1935/39	390,000	6,000	51,000	1,000
1930/34	531,000	8,000	64,000	—
1925/29	852,000	20,000	60,000	—
1920/24	1,123,000	16,000	65,000	—
1915/19	769,000	43,000	69,000	—
1910/14	540,000	24,000	61,000	—
1905/09	267,000	17,000	38,000	—
1900/04	230,000	5,000	26,000	—

The value of exports varies considerably with the quantity of groundnuts brought from across the frontier for sale in the Gambia, and on the number of "strange" farmers who migrate into the Colony to help with the farming of the land.

Since 1941 the Colony has supported an adverse visible balance of trade. This has been possible because of expenditure locally by departments of His Majesty's Government and British Overseas Airways, and because of the demand in the Senegal for goods imported into the Gambia. During 1947 the demand for goods, which still exceeded supply, was maintained by the high price paid for groundnuts and by savings accumulated in the war years; expenditure in the Gambia by War Departments had returned to normal. The price of groundnuts at wharftowns was fixed at £16 a ton for the season ended on 31st March, and £20 for that begun on 28th November; the f.o.b. price uncorticated was £19 6s. 4d. and £23 7s. 9d. respectively for these two seasons; with the exception of the year 1920, these prices were successively the highest ever recorded for uncorticated nuts.

The principal imports in 1946 and 1947 were as follows:

	1946		1947	
	Quantity	Value £,000	Quantity	Value £,000
Cotton Piece-Goods (sq. yds.) .	4,830	299	7,066	651
Other Cotton Goods	—	21	—	26
Apparel	—	28	—	56
Artificial Silk	—	21	—	9
Milk (cwt.)	2	10	1	8
Rice (cwt.)	—	—	10	12
Other Grain (cwt.)	—	—	10	17
Sugar (cwt.)	9	18	14	34
Flour (cwt.)	9	14	17	42
Kola Nuts (cwt.)	22	103	27	152
Unmanufactured Tobacco (lb.) .	147	12	126	15
Cigarettes (lb.)	99	41	61	27
Aviation Spirit (galls.)	218	22	516	52
Kerosene (galls.)	85	9	69	8
Motor Spirit (galls.)	208	29	342	48
Bags and Sacks, empty (no.) .	58	4	307	14
Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter (galls.)	26	10	24	10
Spirits (galls.)	3	4	4	5
Soap (cwt.)	9	18	22	23
Candles (cwt.)	1	3	—	3
N.A.A.F.I. Goods	—	—	—	—
Hardware	—	13	—	41
Wines (galls.)	3	2	9	8
Total Imports	£ 948,000		£ 1,261,000	
Re-exports	69,000		57,000	
Net Imports	879,000		1,204,000	

Chapter 6: Production

The Gambia farmer remains very largely dependent for his cash income on groundnuts, of which the total purchases (unshelled) for the season 1946-47 were 56,398 tons, with a price of £16 per ton. A sum of £902,368 was thus placed in the farmers' hands. The country is considered unsuitable for European settlers, and there are no plantations or estates, with the result that the crop is raised entirely by African farmers under a system of shifting cultivation, a system which over a period of years has afforded an average yield of 1,120 lb. of undecorticated groundnuts per acre. During 1947, 14,662 "strange" farmers visited the Protectorate and should contribute a considerable proportion of the 1947-48 crop. These men come from neighbouring colonies, such as the French Sudan and Guinea, and after raising and shelling a crop of groundnuts they return to their homes. This movement is substantial and results from the better prices which can be obtained from produce in the Gambia where the cost

of transport from the farms to the port of shipment is low. It is, in short, cheaper for the farmer to move himself than to pay for the transport of his produce from the remote hinterland. This, however, is not the only factor affecting migration. The relative abundance and cheaper price of consumer goods in this and neighbouring territories also influence the choice of the place at which groundnuts are to be grown. Considerable variations occur in the terms under which the immigrants work but the general pattern is always the same. The landlord provides board, lodging and land in return for which the "strange" farmer works a certain number of days for the landlord, the number of days so worked depending upon the custom of the district; a cash payment is sometimes agreed upon as well.

The crop is transported by donkey, lorries and river craft to buying points near the river and is then either transported by small craft to Bathurst or loaded direct into ocean-going vessels at Kuntaur, 150 miles from Bathurst, Kaur and Balingho.

The quality of the crop is maintained by propaganda to encourage early planting and late harvesting, and by Native Authority Orders controlling the date and method of harvest. Produce inspection is carried out by the Agricultural Department at the buying centres where all nuts have to be passed through rotary screens for cleaning purposes before purchase.

Palm kernels are also exported and, as a result of the drive to secure increased production of oilseeds, the amount purchased annually has risen and is now steady at about 1,220 tons per annum. The pre-war maximum, in 1939, was only 871 tons. Hides and beeswax are also exported in small quantities.

The Agricultural Department have continued to pursue experiments in crop rotation and a balanced system of farming. The use of cattle for work is strictly limited since trypanosomiasis is endemic and the resistance of local animals tends to break down with the extra exertion.

A complete census of cattle was not taken during the year but counts were made over the greater part of the country. It is estimated that the cattle population is well over 80,000. Numbers have increased greatly over the last fifteen years, largely as the result of the rinderpest inoculation system which the Veterinary Department has established and maintained for some years. Inoculation is very popular, with the result that in each succeeding season it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain susceptible animals for the manufacture of serum. Alternative methods of protection are under investigation in the laboratory. A number of outbreaks of contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia were reported. Vaccine was manufactured at the Veterinary Department laboratory on a large scale and over 9,000 animals were inoculated. Unfortunately, protection lasts only for one year. In addition to work on cattle diseases, the laboratory prepared and distributed vaccine for poultry.

A tomato puree plant was in operation during the year under the control of the Department of Supplies and Minor Industries and some 5,386 bottles of puree were manufactured. It finds a steady market in Bathurst outside the fresh food season, but so far there is no demand in the Protectorate.

As yet there is no organised fishing industry. Fish caught by individual fishermen operating from canoes is, nevertheless, abundant in the coastal districts. Much groundwork has been undertaken in connection with fishery development, and visits of the regional Fisheries Officer have been most welcome and of great assistance. The arrival of a Master Fisherman in October enabled classes for local fishermen to be started, including lessons in net-making, net-repairing, splicing, the use of purse seine nets and the manufacture of lobster pots. Instruction is also given in the use of preservatives for twine and ropes.

No minerals of commercial value are known to exist in the Colony, and there are no important industries other than agriculture. A certain amount of leather, metal and earthenware work is made for sale locally.

In former years the Gambian farmer, in concentrating on the groundnut crop, neglected food production and as a result the Colony was far from self-supporting in this respect. Latterly, propaganda has brought home to him the necessity of being self-sufficient in the matter of food and certain Native Authorities have enacted rules requiring "strange" farmers to work part of the week on the production of food crops and not, as formerly, entirely on the export crop of groundnuts. New areas have been opened up in the riverine swamps for rice production, and an experimental rice farm conducted by the Agricultural Department has been started.

Improved rice seed imported from Sierra Leone was distributed in all Divisions and is greatly favoured by cultivators. Rice is still regarded mainly as a "woman's crop", though the men have begun to take more interest in recent years. Until this prejudice is overcome there is little hope that the country can produce sufficient rice for its needs. Experiments in mechanical cultivation are progressing but are limited by the absence of empoldering to dry out the rice land sufficiently to carry tractors. Empoldering has been found to be inadvisable in some areas owing to the concentration of iron sulphates in the soil; these, if brought to the surface by capillary action, would produce toxic effects and render the land barren. Experiments are continuing to overcome this difficulty.

The dairy industry started by the Agricultural Department has continued to supply high-grade butter but the demand still exceeds the supply. The maximum production in any one month in 1947 was 1,048 lb. in August, but this had declined to 239 lb. in December owing to cattle owners moving away from the established creameries as the grazing deteriorated in the dry season; 8,183 lb. were produced during the year but production will be increased as refrigeration facilities are improved. As more cream can be purchased in the wet season than can be handled in the form of fresh butter, the surplus is converted into clarified butter fat, 567 lb. of which were produced in 1947.

The rainfall in 1947 was below average in the middle and upper river districts and some crops suffered accordingly. Although 41.24 inches were recorded at Bathurst and 41.09 at Kerewan, Basse and Georgetown, Kuntaur and Jenoi recorded only 30.98, 32.24, 29.89 and 30.89 inches respectively.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

General

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst and it is administered by the Senior Education Officer. He is assisted by a Woman Education Officer, also stationed in Bathurst, and by an Education Officer in charge of Protectorate education and *ex-officio* Principal of Armitage School, whose headquarters are at Georgetown. Previous proposals for the unification of the department with that of Sierra Leone have been abandoned but the Director of Education, Sierra Leone, will continue to advise the Gambia Government on educational problems.

The new Education Ordinance and Regulations came into force on 1st January, 1947. The new Ordinance regularises the arrangements under which, in 1945, Government took over primary education in Bathurst from the Missions and provides for the reconstitution of the Board of Education so as to allow for adequate representation of the Protectorate, where the demand for education is becoming increasingly insistent.

Under the new Ordinance the Board of Education now comprises 4 *ex-officio* members and 12 nominated members. The *ex-officio* members are the Senior Education Officer, the Assistant Director of Medical Services, the Senior Commissioner and the Senior Agricultural Officer. Nominated members include one Unofficial Member of Legislative Council, three persons to represent the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions respectively, one African member to represent the Mohammedan community, two African members to represent the Protectorate, one member to represent the Gambia Teachers and four other members nominated by the Governor, of whom two have been selected to represent female education. The function of the Board, which meets at least once in every year, is to advise the Governor on matters relating to educational policy in the Gambia.

The Colony

Government is now responsible for primary education in Bathurst, though the schools have a religious grouping and are administered through Management Committees on each of which the appropriate religious authority is represented. These Government schools are grouped as follows:

- 1 each Anglican/Methodist boys' primary, girls' primary and infant school;
- 1 each Roman Catholic boys' primary, girls' primary and infant school;
- 1 each Mohammedan boys' primary and infant school.

Education in the primary schools goes up to Standard VII and these eight primary and infant schools have a total of 2,028 children on the registers. In connexion with them Government maintains a Domestic Science Centre for girls, and also an Arts and Crafts Centre which is

attended by boys in Standards V, VI and VII. At Bakau a Government School was opened in September 1947—the only Government school established at present in the Colony outside Bathurst. There are four secondary mission schools in Bathurst—a Methodist Boys' High School and a Methodist Girls' High School and one Roman Catholic Secondary School for boys and one for girls. The total number of secondary school pupils on the rolls of these schools, which are controlled by the Missions concerned but receive substantial grants from Government, is 187 boys and 151 girls. The Methodist Girls' High School runs private kindergarten and preparatory classes attended by 146 children. The curriculum goes as far as School Certificate in the secondary schools.

A School of Science, serving all four secondary schools, was opened in January, 1947, and is already beginning to fill a long-felt need in secondary education in Bathurst. It is run by a Board of Management on which the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions and Government have equal representation. Government is responsible for recurrent expenditure on staff up to a fixed limit, other expenses being met by the Missions.

Government also maintains in Bathurst classes for adult illiterates, with an average roll of 45. For children who are over-age for admission to primary schools there are classes attended by 158 boys and 12 girls.

There is no post-secondary education in the Gambia. Teachers are sent for training either to Sierra Leone or Gold Coast under Government scholarships. Other students go to West Africa or to the United Kingdom for higher education, either in a private capacity or under Government scholarships.

The Protectorate

In the Protectorate there is a Government school at Georgetown, Armitage School, which gives an elementary education and also has two middle classes and a vocational class. In the near future, it is hoped to re-organise and improve this school and to establish a centre there for the training of teachers.

At present four village schools have been opened by Native Authorities, one at Kaur in the Central Division, one at Brikama (opened in 1945) and one at Sukuta (opened in August, 1947) in the Western Division, and one at Bansang (opened early in 1947) in the MacCarthy Island Division. One of these has already become a Local Administration school, earning a Government grant and with a trained teacher.

The Roman Catholic Mission runs an elementary school at Fula Bantang, in MacCarthy Island Division, with 59 pupils on the roll, and another at Basse, Mansajang, in Upper River Division, with 67 pupils on the roll. The Basse school receives a small Government grant. Both schools have a curriculum with a practical bias adapted to Protectorate life and occupations, and both are in predominantly Fulah areas where the Mohammedan creed has not so much force.

The Anglican Mission has a "station" at Kristi Kunda in the extreme east of the Protectorate. This station runs two schools, one being a small elementary school for children of neighbouring Fulah villages and the

other a combined primary and secondary school, chiefly for Bathurst boys whose parents have sent them to the station to develop a rural outlook and in the belief that they will receive a better education. Both these schools have been given a small Government grant. Numbers on the rolls are 45 and 96 respectively. The same Mission runs a very small unassisted elementary school for the children of the village of Kumbul, a few miles from Kristi Kunda.

HEALTH

The health problems of the Gambia must be related to its geographical, climatic and racial situation. The country may be likened to a narrow elongated insertion in the immensity of French West Africa and is, in fact, an important riverine corridor occurring between latitudes 13° and 14° North. It is thus on the northern flank of the tropic proper, and in the long dry season (November to May) its climatic conditions often resemble those of North Africa. Rainfall is confined to the period May-June to October and averages about 40 inches. Humidity, however, from proximity to river and sea, may be higher than the rainfall figures would suggest, while the dry Saharan harmattan winds very noticeably depress both humidity and temperature in the dry season. Over the year the average temperature range can be taken as 50° to 90° Fahrenheit, although considerable annual variations are observed, particularly in inland districts. For four to five months of the year a delightful climate is experienced, particularly in the areas bordering the Atlantic Ocean, but the low and somewhat erratic rainfall is liable to create important economic difficulties throughout the territory, which depends exclusively upon agriculture. In these conditions malnutrition is considerable; "hungry seasons" often occur and always hover in the background. The swampy nature of the country, allied to the temperature, favours important disease vectors, notably mosquitoes and tsetse flies, while the long dry season encourages the spread of such diseases as small-pox and cerebro-spinal meningitis. The frontiers, unsupported by natural features, have divided tribes, towns and hamlets. The resultant cosmopolitan aggregate of population, and the arbitrary boundary, present health problems indivisible from those of the surrounding French territory. On both sides of the border sleeping sickness, malaria, small-pox, to name the most important, and probably yellow fever, remain endemic. It is satisfactory in the circumstances to record mutual recognition of this health situation at the Anglo-French Medical Conference held in Accra in November, 1946, and agreement upon measures to ensure the fullest international co-operation.

During the year a medical survey was made of three representative areas in the Protectorate. The survey was under the direction of Dr. Charles M. Ross, of the Nigeria Leprosy Service, with the assistance of a lay worker employed by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, and the Gambia Medical Department Staff, whose report is being published as a sessional paper, entitled "The Ross Medical Survey". The primary concern of this investigation was to assess the prevalence of leprosy in the country, but the opportunity was taken, at the same time,

of obtaining detailed information concerning other important endemic diseases. The result has been that a much more complete picture of the health of the population has been obtained than has been possible hitherto.

17,000 persons were examined and the following incidences of the more important diseases investigated were found:

Leprosy	2.5 per cent.
Malaria parasite rate at all ages	55 " "
Spleen rate 2-9 years	50 " "
Trypanosomiasis	4.4 " "
Schistosomiasis	35 " " (in the eastern part of the country. Coastal areas are unaffected).

It was further found that about 8 per cent. of persons suffer from gross infective conditions of the eye or their sequelæ, and that trachoma is probably a potent factor in causing partial or complete blindness in 0.8 per cent. of the population. Other diseases noted as prevalent are intestinal helminthiasis, filariasis, yaws, skin diseases, and malnutrition.

1,343 mothers were asked questions about their children, and it is reported that of 4,482 children born, 1,928 died before the age of 10 years. In many places apparently more than half the children born die before the age of 10 years, and deaths under one year vary from 155 to 287 per 1,000 births.

It has been estimated that there are about 5,000 to 6,000 lepers in the country, and about 10,000 persons suffering from trypanosomiasis. Nearly all the fifty odd villages surveyed contained sufferers from these two diseases, and all were heavily infected with malaria. Fortunately, trypanosomiasis exists only in a mild form in the Gambia, and does not take the virulent and fatal course found in some other parts of Africa. In most cases it is very amenable to treatment.

In Bathurst, the infant mortality rate during the year was 120 deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births, and the still birth rate 97 per 1,000 total births. At present, Bathurst is the only place where registration of births and deaths can be said to be reliable. The chief causes of death certified were: pneumonia and bronco-pneumonia 79; malaria 75; diseases of the heart 41; pulmonary T.B. 26; diseases of early infancy, prematurity, asphyxia of the newborn, etc. 28; intestinal helminthiasis 27. The crude death rate in the town was 23 per 1,000 population, and the birth rate 34 per 1,000.

The most common diseases treated by Government Medical Officers in Bathurst were: malaria; pneumonia and acute bronchitis; intestinal infections and helminthic infestations; and infections of the eye.

Towards the end of the year an investigation was made into the cause of the high still-birth rate in Bathurst, and it became evident that a high incidence of maternal syphilis was responsible. Both syphilis and gonorrhea are extremely common, and measures for their cure, control and prevention are being considered.

Mosquito-borne diseases, for long the chief plague of the country, are coming under control, at least in Bathurst and its surroundings. The yellow-fever mosquito—*Ædes aegypti*—has been practically eliminated

from the town, and the *Ædes* index was nil throughout the year. Neither larval nor adult forms of this mosquito were found.

Malaria mosquitoes invade the town from the surrounding mangrove-swamps which are virtually uncontrollable without drainage, and there is an annual epidemic of malaria during the rainy season. Malaria is well controlled during most of the year, however, and work has now started on a permanent drainage scheme for the town, including the reclamation of a nearby mangrove-swamp. It is expected that the completion of this work during the next two to three years will bring great benefits to the health of the town. More extensive schemes of anti-malarial drainage are under consideration.

Work has also started upon the drainage of a swampy stream near Fajara, the main residential area outside Bathurst, which is responsible for the *Anopheles*-infestation of this area, and of a group of villages.

For the rest of the country, control of mosquitoes and tsetse flies presents a formidable problem. Its whole extent is upon the banks of the river, which is bordered by vast swamps intercepted with creeks. Only sound agricultural development of the land, with consequent drainage, or controlled irrigation, appear to hold out hope of permanent improvement.

Early in the year, a Field Working Party of the Human Nutrition Research Unit of the Colonial Medical Research Council started work at Genieri in the Central Division. This party is engaged on a detailed enquiry into the nutritional, medical and economic condition of the people in the surrounding villages and, in co-operation with the Agricultural Department, is experimenting with the prospect of mechanised farming of rice in the adjacent swamps and other food crops. An allied but independent enterprise, namely the Nutrition Field Research Station, is being established by the Colonial Medical Research Council for its own purposes, using the buildings of the old 55th General Hospital at Fajara. This station will be under the charge of a Director with a permanent staff of doctors and ancillary workers. (A fuller account of their activities will be found in Part II, Chapter 12.)

There are two General Hospitals in the country—the Victoria Hospital in Bathurst, with 98 beds including a Maternity Home, with a supervisory staff of two medical officers, one matron, and three nursing sisters, and the Bansang Hospital about 200 miles up river, with 48 beds and a supervisory staff of one medical officer and one nursing sister. During the year, these hospitals treated the following numbers of patients:

	<i>In-patients</i>	<i>Out-patients</i>	<i>Total Out-patients' Attendances</i>
Victoria Hospital .	2,703	26,877	31,612
Bansang Hospital .	892	7,423	26,052

The Maternity Home admitted 364 mothers of whom 213 were cases of normal labour.

Considerable improvements have recently been made to the Bansang Hospital, including erection of quarters for the nursing sister, staff

SOCIAL SERVICES

quarters, and a new out-patient block. New equipment for water-supply and electric power is shortly to be installed.

The Victoria Hospital remains unsatisfactory owing to the antiquity of its buildings, but the first stage of rebuilding is to be started in 1948, with the erection of kitchen, laundry, stores, theatre block, and two new wards, at a cost of £80,000 granted from the Colonial Development and Welfare Vote.

In addition to the hospitals, there are 10 health centres and Dispensaries, and 20 sub-dispensaries visited by mobile teams. These institutions are staffed by African dispensers, and at present four have midwives attached to them. During the year they were responsible for the treatment of 53,754 cases of disease, with a total of 138,145 attendances. There is also an Infectious Diseases Hospital in Bathurst and one small leper camp in the Protectorate.

Preventive medicine is served by a supervisory staff of one Medical Officer of Health with three Sanitary Superintendents, an Entomologist, and a Welfare-Sister. Shortage of supervisory staff still hinders progress of work in the Protectorate, but 11 Protectorate districts had Sanitary Inspectors permanently posted to them, where they undertake such duties as vaccination and erection of simple sanitary structures. In Bathurst and the Colony there is a well-developed health organisation which includes an efficient anti-mosquito service.

HOUSING

All over the Gambia the poorer and many of the wealthier people commonly use the cheap and readily available bamboo and rhun palms as building material. Bamboo stems are sliced into long strips and woven loosely into a matting for "krinting" to provide a good "lath". The trunk of the male rhun palm (*Borassus*), which is termite resistant and practically indestructible, is roughly split to form supporting framework. Mud, or in the vicinity of the sea a good lime compound called "lasso", composed of burnt pulverised sea-shell and sand, are used as plaster, and a diluted solution of the lime makes an effective and hygienic limewash for external and internal application. Roofing material may be of corrugated iron or thatch according to the purse of the builder or the building regulations of the area. A serviceable building of considerable durability can thus be erected quite cheaply, and the general comfort and effect greatly surpass mud or mud block structures. When a cement floor can be added, the hygienic standard attainable can be high. Unfortunately standards are sometimes lower than they need be.

The problem of *housing in the Colony* (which for the present purpose can be taken as the town of Bathurst) was fully dealt with in Sessional Paper No. 18/1946 entitled "Report of the Committee appointed to consider remedial measures to be adopted to deal with overcrowding in Bathurst". The origin of the problem dates back to 1816, in the days of slave suppression, when a sandbank closely adjacent to the Kombo mainland at a narrow part of the river mouth was selected as a military control post.

The Island of St. Mary, as the sandbank was named, was then occupied by a few "straggling natives", but very soon a settlement rose round the post, and by 1921 the population had risen to 9,000. Owing to lack of means of migrational control and natural increase of population, the town continued to grow and despite overcrowding the population was found to vary from 12,000 to 15,000 in the period 1931 to 1942, rising to over 20,000 in the 1944 census. Growth at this rate in a circumscribed, poorly drained area has inevitably created serious problems.

The second world war intensified the difficulties. Imperial strategy demanded the residence of large defence units of all Services in and around Bathurst, and eviction of civilians from certain areas in the town became imperative to make room for them. The absence of alternative sites and shortage of building materials led to further deterioration of the housing situation, and to inevitable laxity in enforcement of existing building regulations and public health measures generally.

Various remedial measures have been considered by Government. Effective control of migration remains impracticable. Vertical expansion is out of the question owing to the sandy soil and high sub-soil water level, even if public or private wealth permitted such an expensive solution. Limited areas of contiguous swamp have already been reclaimed and, although this policy continues actively, the filling materials available are of poor quality and long periods must elapse before buildings, and particularly heavy modern buildings, can be erected on these sites. The nearest areas suitable for large-scale building operations are some six to ten miles distant in the Kombo and, while certain small numbers of the Bathurst population are observed to be moving voluntarily to this district, the problems of building cost and transport to and from Bathurst, where employment, apart from agriculture, is almost exclusively concentrated, have yet to be solved satisfactorily to a degree permitting larger scale emigration.

With the aid of Colonial Development and Welfare grants, a major surface-water drainage scheme for the town has been undertaken, which will make possible a very great improvement in existing housing conditions, and allow the development of sound and permanent town-planning. There still remains the problem of finding building land for the erection of houses for about 5,000 people, outside the existing built-up area in Bathurst, to relieve overcrowding. The building of a satellite town on the nearest suitable building site on the mainland, at Jeshwang in the Kombo, about six miles from town, was originally proposed. Recently the possibility of finding suitable land adjacent to Bathurst on reclaimed swamp in the Island of St. Mary has been under consideration, and it is possible that use of reclaimed land, with additional anti-malarial reclamation, may provide the answer to this difficult problem.

Housing in the Protectorate is gradually being brought under increased control, as circumstances permit, by the application of specially designed Protectorate Building Regulations.

It has been found possible to extend their application to several additional areas, and with an increase in sanitary staff linked up with progress in town planning, improved standards of building and sanitation

are already becoming evident. The great majority of the people of the Protectorate are farmers, living at present very close to subsistence-level, and improvement in housing will principally depend upon the extent to which it may be possible to raise their general standard.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Promotion of Community Life

The need for such activities is much more pronounced among the mixed population of Bathurst than in the more coherent village communities of the Protectorate, where the traditional social groupings are maintained. A number of voluntary agencies exist in the Colony and during the year have carried on their social, recreational and cultural activities. These include an increasingly vigorous Boys Scouts Association which flourishes under new and experienced leadership.

The British Council, whose centre was opened in 1946, continued to provide a much needed link between different sections of the community. Some 232 members enjoy the use of a reading room, with a wide range of periodicals, and of an increasingly well-stocked library. A children's library, to which 116 children belong, has also been opened. Magazines were distributed regularly to schools and other institutions and other activities include film and filmstrip shows, lectures, gramophone recitals and women's meetings. Exhibitions included one, which was also shown in four schools outside Bathurst, of paintings by British children.

Relief of the destitute and disabled

The Government assists Missions in their relief work among the poor and needy in Bathurst; it also maintains a Home for the Infirm on the Island of St. Mary, to which are admitted disabled persons from all parts of the Colony. Voluntary organizations send occasional gifts to the inmates. A leper camp is established in the Protectorate.

Juvenile delinquency

There is no separate juvenile court in the Gambia but it is the practice of the Courts to deal with juvenile offenders in private session outside the adult Court Room. Justices of the Peace who preside over these special sittings include one woman. The number so dealt with during the year was nine in the Bathurst Court and five in the Court at Kombo St. Mary, 10 offenders being convicted. They were bound over under recognizances entered into by them and by their parents or guardians. The Prisoners' Aid Society continued to function with financial assistance from the Government. The Society organised a series of lectures delivered to the prisoners.

Mass Literacy

Mass literacy experiments were carried out at Manduar village in the Western Division during the latter part of the year. Forty-one pupils were enrolled, and of these 25 were reasonably literate by the end of the year. Four of the literates were trained as teachers.

Chapter 8: Legislation

Twenty-two Ordinances were enacted during 1947, but only one calls for special comment, namely:

THE PUBLIC OFFICERS' PENSIONS ORDINANCE (No. 17 of 1947). This Ordinance amends and consolidates the law relating to Public Officers' pensions. It revises the rates of pensions which may be granted and provides for the compulsory or voluntary retirement, at the age of 45 years, during an experimental period of three years commencing on 1st January, 1947, of officers who have accepted the new conditions of service (which are based on the recommendations of the Harragin Commission as set out in Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1947).

It also embodies provisions for pensions to dependants of non-European Officers killed on duty, identical with the corresponding provisions of the European Officers' Pension Ordinance.

The Public Officers' Pensions Ordinance, 1923, has been repealed, and replaced because the law had become abstruse through constant amendment.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

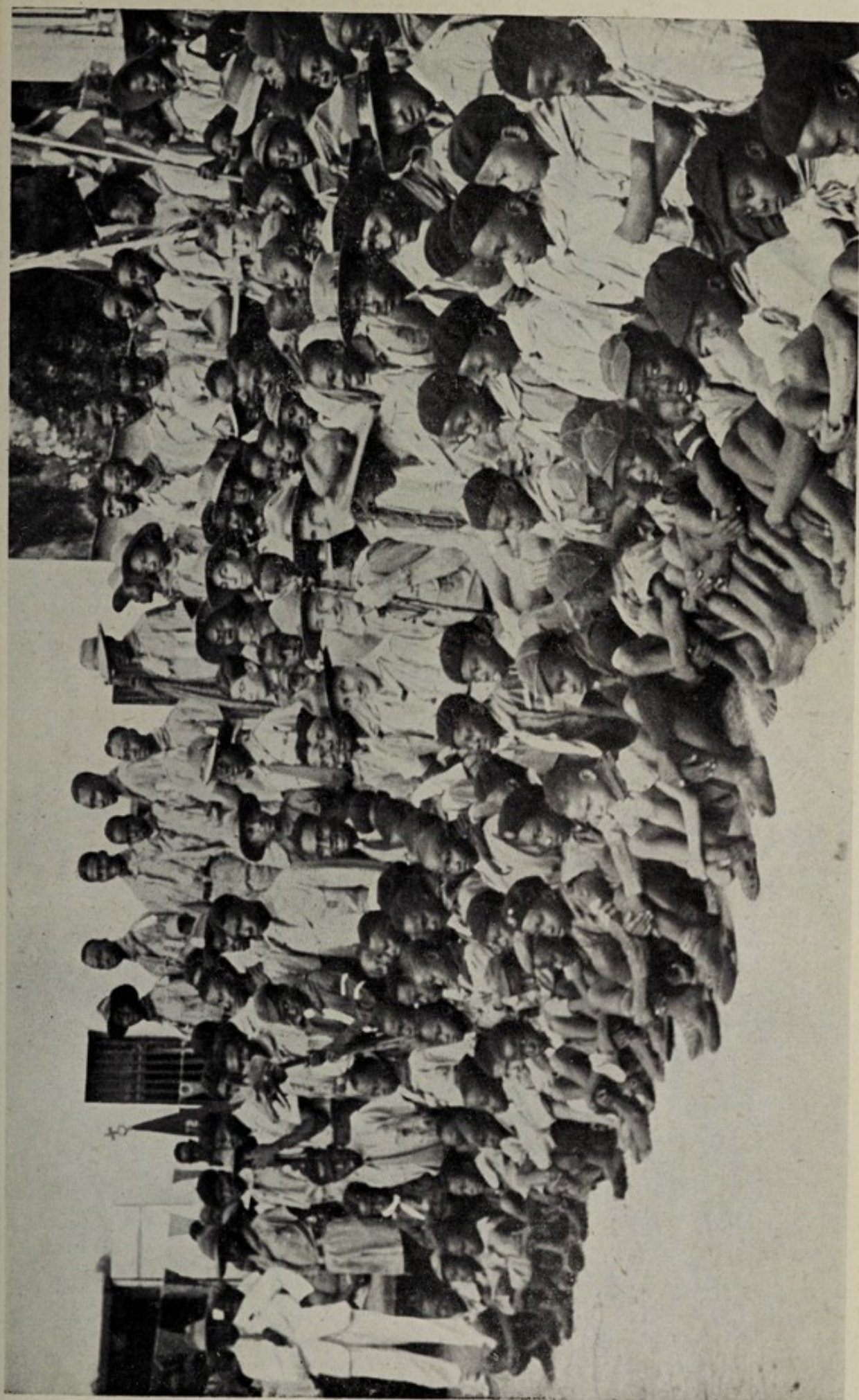
A description of the legal and judicial systems of the Gambia must distinguish between the Colony system and the Protectorate system.

The Legal System of the Colony

The legal system in the Colony is founded upon English common law and the statutes of general application which were in force in England on 1st November, 1888. It includes Colony Ordinances and subsidiary legislative instruments enacted locally. It includes also a Mohammedan Law Recognition Ordinance, under which a Mohammedan Court constituted by a Cadi exercises jurisdiction in causes and matters between, or exclusively affecting, Mohammedan natives of West Africa relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship under forms of procedure and practice according to the rules of Mohammedan law.

The criminal law and procedure are codified in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Codes administered by the Colony Courts, other than the Mohammedan Court, which has no criminal or quasi-criminal jurisdiction.

All summary conviction offences are heard and determined by the Colonial Magistrate or, in his absence, by two or more lay Justices of the Peace who have power also to receive and inquire into all charges of offences punishable on information before the Supreme Court of the Colony. Any person charged with a grave offence, such as treason, murder, manslaughter, rape, or robbery with violence, must be committed for trial before the Supreme Court; and any adult person charged



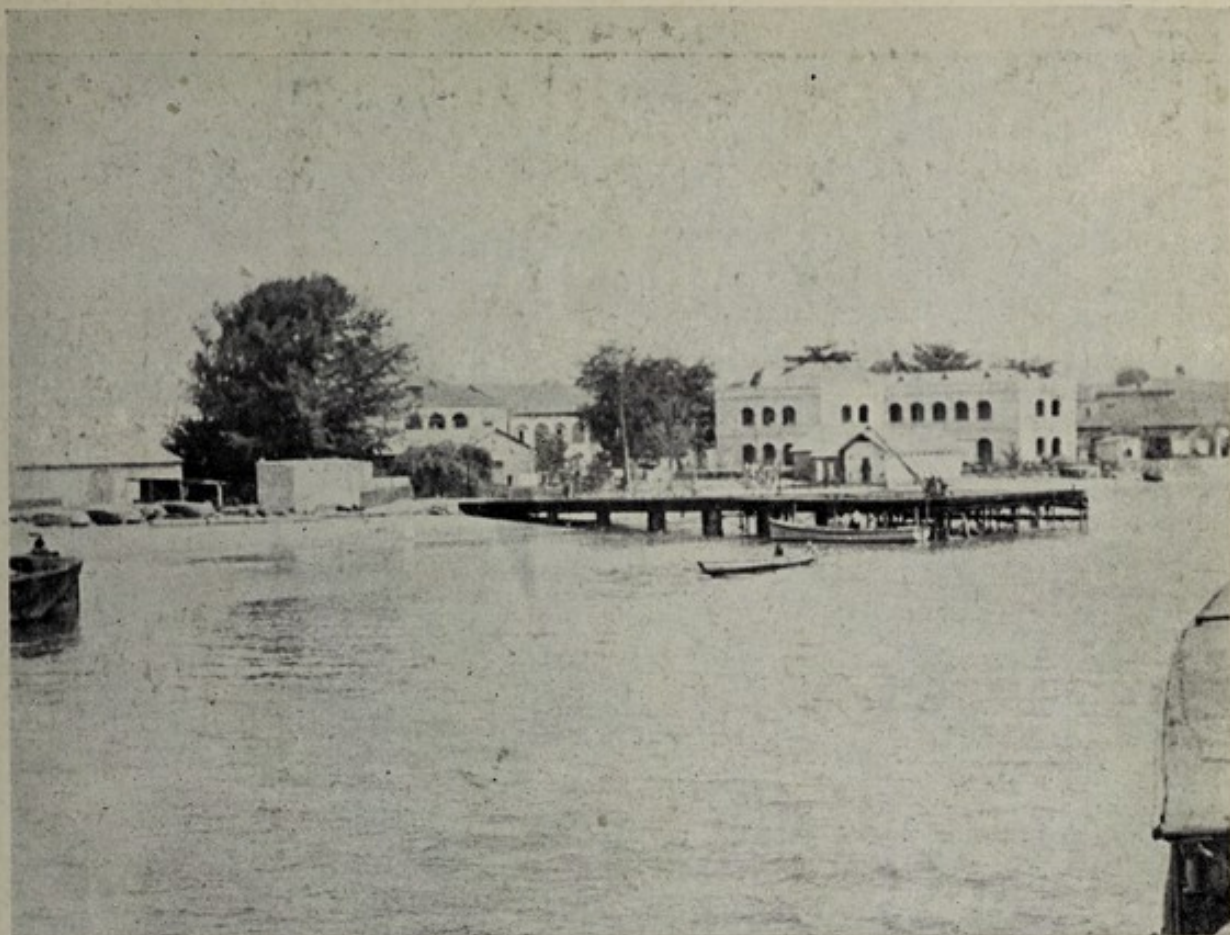
LORD ROWALLAN, CHIEF SCOUT, WITH GAMBIA SCOUTS



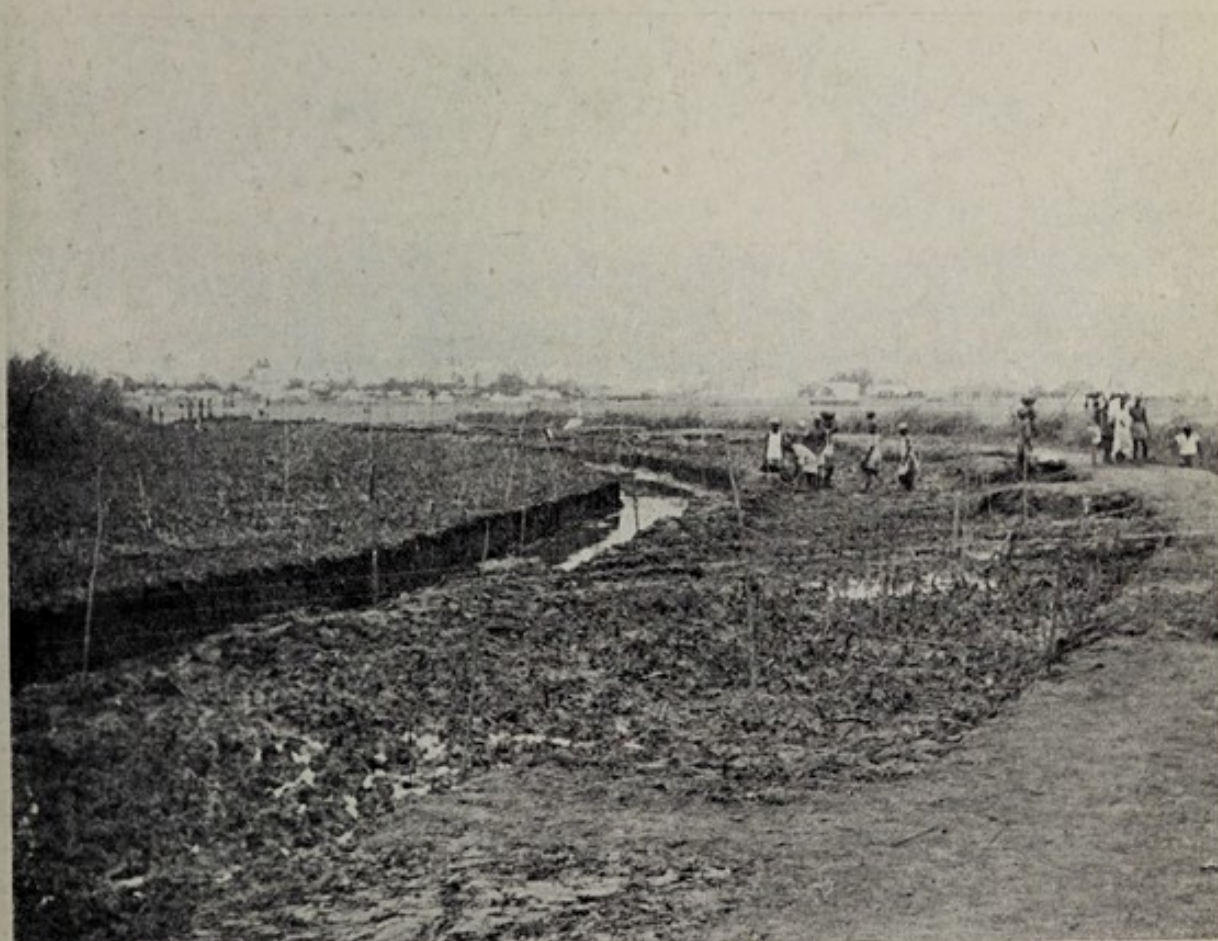
RECEPTION OF CHIEFS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE
AFTER THE 1947 CONFERENCE



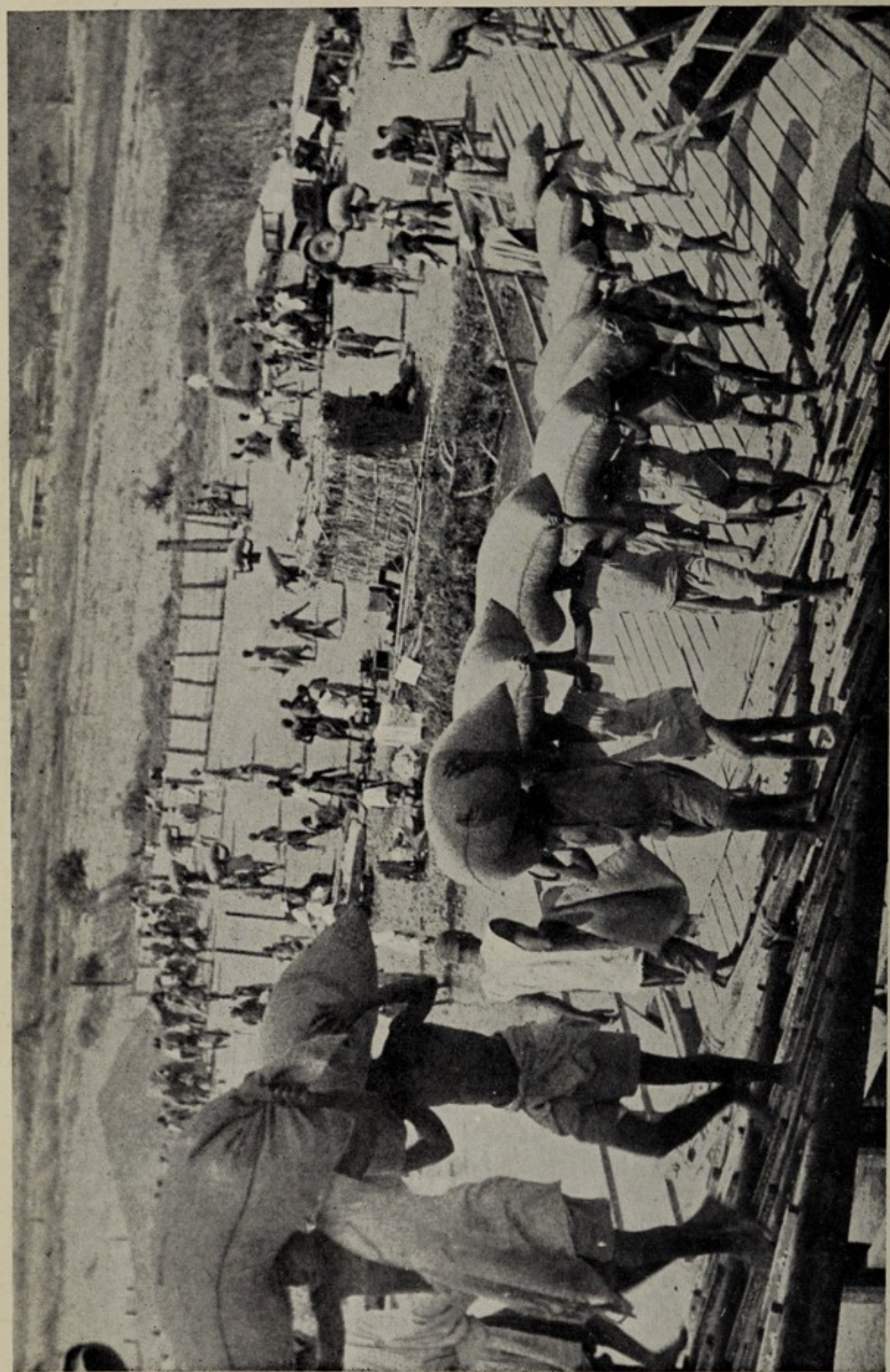
SPORTS AT PROTECTORATE CHIEFS' CONFERENCE



BATHURST, CAPITAL OF THE GAMBIA, FROM THE RIVER GAMBIA



BATHURST DRAINAGE SCHEME



LOADING GROUNDNUTS UP-RIVER

with an offence punishable by imprisonment for more than three years, which is an offence triable as a summary conviction offence, may be tried summarily only with his recorded consent. Furthermore, the Magistrate or Justices have no jurisdiction to deal summarily with any offence charged before them where the prosecution is being carried on by the Attorney-General, except with the Attorney-General's consent.

The civil law of the Colony is, briefly, the English civil law. It is administered by the Supreme Court and by the Court of Requests, presided over by the Colonial Magistrate or two or more Justices of the Peace. The Court of Requests has jurisdiction in the Colony in all pleas of personal actions where the debt or damage claimed is not more than fifty pounds, and in actions of ejectment or of title to corporeal or incorporeal hereditaments where the value of the suit does not exceed fifty pounds. The Court of Requests has no jurisdiction in actions for malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conspiracy, seduction, or breach of promise of marriage.

Minors may sue for wages in this Court as if they were persons of full age. The Court provides for easy and speedy determination of matters before it in a summary manner, and any party aggrieved by a decision of the Court has a right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

The civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is, of course, unlimited. It includes probate, matrimonial, and divorce jurisdiction, and the Court has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals from the Court of Requests and from the Mohammedan Court already referred to.

The law of evidence in the Colony, and in British Courts in the Protectorate, may be described shortly as the English law of evidence.

With some minor restrictions relating to the value of civil suits and to convictions on a plea of "Guilty" in criminal cases, a right of appeal to the Supreme Court lies from all decisions of Subordinate Courts and decisions of the Mohammedan Court, and a right of appeal lies to the West African Court of Appeal from all decisions of the Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction and from decisions of the Supreme Court on a matter of law in its appellate criminal jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court exercises powers of review and revision over all criminal proceedings decided by or brought before a Subordinate Court. The complete list of all such proceedings, which is required by law to be forwarded to the Judge of the Supreme Court at the end of every month or as the Judge may direct, operates as an appeal on behalf of every convicted person whose name appears in the list and brings the review and revision procedure into effect automatically.

The Judicial System of the Colony

The judicial system of the Colony comprises, first, the Supreme Court of the Colony, consisting of and held by a Judge appointed by the Governor by Letters Patent under the Public Seal in accordance with instructions received from His Majesty. The Governor has power to appoint a person to act as Judge when the office is vacant and can also appoint a Deputy Judge whenever circumstances require a deputy to represent the Judge.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and possesses the same jurisdiction as His Majesty's High Court of Justice in England, excepting only Admiralty jurisdiction. The Supreme Court has all the powers and authority of the Lord High Chancellor of England. There are attached to the Supreme Court a Sheriff of the Colony, a Clerk of Courts, an Assistant Clerk of Courts and an Interpreter. The Clerk of Courts is the Taxing Master.

All criminal trials in the Supreme Court are normally heard before the Judge with a jury of twelve men. In any case where an offence is punishable by death, and in libel cases, seven of the jurors must be special jurors. In case of slave dealing, rape and other offences against women of a like nature, and in perjury and embezzlement cases, one half of the number of jurors must be special jurors. Special jurors, who are selected by the Justices of the Peace, are persons selected on account of their education, intelligence, judgment, or as being otherwise specially qualified.

Every male person in the Colony between 21 and 60 years of age with understanding of the English language who is a member of a learned or liberal profession, or has a seven pound property valuation, or is a rent payer of ten pounds per annum, or is in receipt of salary or commission of fifty pounds yearly value, and is not under disability or disqualified from serving or exempted, is qualified and liable for jury service.

Any person charged with an offence other than a capital offence may elect to be tried by the Court with the aid of assessors instead of being tried by Judge and jury. The Attorney-General may require the Court, where any person is charged with a non-capital offence, to try a case with the aid of assessors instead of by Judge and jury where he is of opinion that a more fair and impartial trial can be obtained for the person charged by such method. Assessors who must number not less than three, special are selected by the Judge from among the Justices of the Peace and jurors. On the conclusion of the evidence and summing-up the assessors express their opinions orally and these are recorded by the Judge. The decision of the case is, however, vested exclusively in the Judge.

Civil causes in the Supreme Court are triable by the Judge without a jury, and the Judge's decision is taken, deemed to be and is recorded as the judgment of the Court. Civil suits are commenced by writ of summons, accompanied by particulars of claim in proper cases, and are ordinarily heard and determined in a summary manner without pleadings, but pleadings may be ordered in any case when the nature and circumstances of the case appear to render pleadings expedient.

The Rules of the Supreme Court, which are similar in many matters to their English counterparts, are made by the Judge and require approval by the Legislative Council of the Colony. They are applied to all matters and proceedings, civil and criminal, to which they extend.

The other Courts of the Colony are the Bathurst Police Court, the Court of Requests of the Colony and, from the 1st January, 1947, the Subordinate Court of the Kombo St. Mary Division of the Colony. These Courts are normally constituted and presided over by the Colonial

Magistrate or, in his absence, by two or more Justices of the Peace or, in the case of the Kombo St. Mary Subordinate Court, by the Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner. There is also the Mohammedan Court, already referred to, which is constituted and presided over by the Cadi of that Court, or by the Cadi and two assessors whenever in the opinion of the Governor the Cadi is not a man of "uncontested ability". In the absence of a Cadi the Mohammedan Court is presided over, or constituted, by two or more assessors. Mohammedan Court assessors are Justices of the Peace of the Colony of the Mohammedan faith. The jurisdiction of the Mohammedan Court has already been referred to.

The criminal jurisdiction and the civil jurisdiction of the Police Court and the Kombo St. Mary Subordinate Court are the same for both Courts. As already explained, they are courts of summary jurisdiction under the supervision of the Supreme Court, to which appeals lie also. The limitations imposed on these Courts in regard to summary conviction offences have been referred to already and their civil jurisdiction mentioned.

The Criminal Procedure Code prescribes the attendance of a parent or guardian and permits "any Court by or before which a young person is found guilty of an offence punishable with imprisonment" to commit the offender to the care of a fit person, whether a relation or not, who is willing to undertake the care of him, with or without a probation order. This power of committal to private care may be employed by the Court in lieu of, or in addition to other prescribed powers of punishment. Present-day interest in juvenile delinquency and reformatory treatment will have the effect in the near future of increasing general appreciation and understanding of these powers.

The Protectorate Legal and Judicial Systems

The Protectorate legal and judicial systems may be explained together.

The Protectorate system comprises the High Court of the Protectorate, constituted by the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony and having in respect of matters occurring in the Protectorate the same jurisdiction, civil and criminal, as the Supreme Court has in respect of matters occurring in the Colony. It comprises also British Subordinate Protectorate Courts and graded Native Tribunals.

Generally stated, the system of law in force in the Protectorate is the law for the time being in force in the Colony, together with reasonable native law and custom which is not repugnant to justice, or incompatible with the principles of the law of England or any law or Ordinance of the Colony applying to the Protectorate. British Courts in the Protectorate administer British law, Colony law, and Ordinances applying to the Protectorate. Native Tribunals administer native law and custom prevailing in the area of the jurisdiction of the Tribunal and Mohammedan law relating to civil status, marriage, succession, divorce, dowry, the rights and authorities of parents and guardianship, where the parties are Mohammedans. They also administer Native Authority and Commissioners' Rules and Orders, provisions of Ordinances and subsidiary legislative

instruments which they are authorised to administer or specifically authorised to administer by Order in Council, and the Criminal Code to the extent of any offence justiciable by a Subordinate Court of the Second Class: that is, by a British Subordinate Court. Native Tribunals are not in the strict sense of the word "Subordinate" Courts.

In the High Court all matters, civil and criminal, are tried without jury, but the Judge may employ assessors, for advisory purposes only, for civil or criminal cases. He may relax Rules of Court where expedient for facilitating or expediting the administration of justice and not prejudicial to an accused person making his defence.

The High Court has the same appellate jurisdiction in regard to Subordinate Courts in the Protectorate in civil and criminal matters, and exercises the same powers of review and revision over such Courts as the Supreme Court possesses and exercises in regard to Subordinate Courts in the Colony. The Rules of the Supreme Court of the Colony apply, subject to the powers of relaxation, to the High Court.

The Subordinate Courts of the Protectorate are constituted by the Commissioners of the Protectorate as *ex officio* Magistrates of the First and Second Class. Their powers of punishment for criminal offences in the case of First Class Magistrates are the same as those of the Colonial Magistrate, who is also a First Class Magistrate in every Division of the Protectorate in which he may be required to sit from time to time. The civil jurisdiction of Subordinate Courts of the Protectorate is limited to £100 in suit value. The jurisdiction of such Courts in civil and criminal matters is concurrent with the jurisdiction of the Native Tribunals.

The Native Tribunals are established by the Governor, as he shall think fit, by warrant under the Native Tribunals Ordinance 1933. There are two grades of Tribunals. Group Tribunals may try criminal cases which can be adequately punished by imprisonment up to twelve months, or by fine up to £25, or by both such imprisonment and fine, and they possess civil jurisdiction up to £50 suit value.

District Tribunals extend to criminal cases similarly up to six months, and/or fine of £10, and to civil cases of £25 suit value. Proceedings are commenced by complaint, information or application, either to the Tribunal when it is in session, or to the President of the Tribunal when it is not in session. Records of cases are kept and preserved.

Tribunals have jurisdiction over any member of an African race, but the Governor has power to direct that any native or class of natives shall not be subject to Tribunals except with their consent. Members of the Armed Forces, the Police Force, Government servants, Members of the Legislative Council, Justices of the Peace and Members of the Bathurst Town Council are exempted in this way.

In addition to the forms of punishment permitted to Tribunals under the Criminal Code, they have power to inflict any punishment authorised by native law and custom which is not repugnant to natural justice and humanity. Subject to any prescribed Rules, the practice and procedure of the Tribunals is regulated in accordance with native law and custom. Every Tribunal is required by law to report all cases tried by it to the Commissioner of the Division in which the Tribunal has jurisdiction.

Sentences of corporal punishment may be passed on infants not exceeding 16 years of age and are subject to confirmation by the Commissioner and the Supreme Court. The complete lists of all Native Tribunal criminal cases are forwarded to the Judge of the High Court monthly, or at such intervals as the Judge may direct, by the Commissioners and such lists operate as appeals so as to bring into operation the review and revisional powers of the Judge on behalf of every convicted person.

The Tribunals are under the immediate supervision of the Commissioners, who have access to them and to their records at all times. The Commissioners exercise wide revisional powers, including power to direct a retrial before the same or another Tribunal and to transfer any cause to a Subordinate Court for disposal. Cases both civil and criminal may be removed to a Subordinate Court from a Tribunal by the Commissioner upon the report of a defendant.

No legal practitioner may appear or act for any party before a Native Tribunal. No legal practitioner shall appear in any cause or matter before a Subordinate Court in the Protectorate except by special leave of the Judge.

General

The main types of civil and criminal cases before British Courts in the Gambia can only be very briefly stated. The majority of civil cases are civil debt cases. The great majority of criminal cases are offences against property, mostly stealing and kindred offences.

Cases of outstanding interest very seldom occur in the Gambia. High lights in delinquency and weighty questions of civil law have as yet to make their appearance. Political crime is non-existent. The Gambia is happily free from serious crime.

POLICE

The strength of the Gambia Police Force is 191, consisting of 2 European officers, seven African officers, 141 n.c.o.s and constables, 24 Bandsmen and 17 Firemen. It is a quasi-military, well-disciplined body. There are three civilian officials attached to Police Headquarters—the Pay and Quartermaster, the Passport Clerk, and the Schoolmaster; a civilian mechanic is employed with the Fire Brigade.

The Central Police Station and Fire Station are in Bathurst. There are Police Outposts at Cape St. Mary, Yundum Airfield, Brikama, Barra, Basse and Georgetown, the personnel being provided from the established strength of the Force.

The Fire Brigade has 2 motor lorries fitted out as fire tenders, and there are 9 Auxiliary Fire Pumps. The town of Bathurst is too small an area to need any great mobility of the Force. Two motor cycles are kept at headquarters and are used principally for carrying urgent messages. The post at Cape St. Mary has a wider area to patrol and is equipped with a van as well as a motor cycle. A motor cycle is also provided for the post at Yundum.

Eighty per cent. of the crime reported in Bathurst is petty stealing; many of the offenders arrested in Bathurst are not residents of the town

but come from the Protectorate or French territory and the Courts usually recommend their repatriation at the end of their sentences. At Headquarters there is a Fingerprint and Photographic Department, where the criminal records are kept. There is a reciprocal arrangement with the French authorities whereby criminal records of travelling criminals are kept up-to-date.

In order to give more adequate protection to persons and property in Bathurst the town has now been divided up into areas for the purpose of Police patrol. Instead of working set beats, each policeman has a general area allocated in which he works under supervision of an officer and n.c.o.s. This has proved a better method than the former practice of patrolling only certain streets.

Although the Police are primarily concerned with the prevention and detection of crime, they are also responsible for such other matters as the control of motor traffic, immigration, weights and measures and registration of firearms, etc.

During 1947 an Auxiliary Force was formed at the Public Utilities Department, Bathurst, owing to the large number of thefts from that Department. This Force consists of 20 men, mostly ex-servicemen, who are commanded by two ex-regular police sergeants. Each man is given three months' training with the regular Force.

PRISONS

The Prisons in the Gambia are under the control of the Superintendent of Police who acts as Inspector of Prisons and is assisted by the Assistant Superintendent of Police. The staff numbers 42 and consists of one chief warder, one first class warder, six second class warders, 16 third class warders, 17 temporary warders and one matron.

There are two prisons in the Protectorate, at Georgetown and Kerevan, and the staff for these is drawn from the main prison. There is also a lock-up at Basse which is used only for remand prisoners and those sentenced to not more than 14 days imprisonment. The Protectorate prisons are under the supervision of the District Commissioners and visited periodically by the Inspector of Prisons.

The main prison is situated two miles from Bathurst and consists of three separate buildings which are classified as follows:—Class 1 for recidivists, Class 2 for first offenders serving sentences of over six months, and the female prison. In addition, there is another set of buildings, the Class 3 prison, one mile from the main prison, which is used for young offenders up to 22 years of age, military prisoners and remand prisoners.

Prisoners are mainly employed on road-making, wood-cutting, gardening and basket-work. The prisons are visited daily by a Medical Officer and the Inspector of Prisons, and quarterly by the Prison Visiting Committee, consisting of Justices of the Peace. Religious services are held weekly in the prison.

There was a reduction during 1947 in the prison population of the Colony and Protectorate over that of the previous year. The daily average for 1947 was 120.47 as compared with 171.34 in 1946.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities

ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS

Of the four larger plants generating electricity in the territory, the most important is that operated in Bathurst by Government, supplying electricity in the town and in the residential areas in Kombo St. Mary. The power is generated by Diesel engines, the latest of which, a 240-K.V.A. set, was installed and put into operation in 1947. 733,089 units were generated and 442,520 sold, the number of consumers connected being 560. The supply to the Kombo St. Mary area is not satisfactory and a 133-K.V.A. generator was erected in December with a view to improving matters; but new high-tension lines and transformers are awaited and must be put into service before this can be entirely put right.

During the year the Public Utilities Department took over the plants serving Yundum Airport and the main Aeradio Transmitters at Lamin. A small set is running at Brikama, the headquarters of the Western Division, and the Government also maintains generating sets at Bansang for the hospital and at Kuntaur, Georgetown and Basse for radio transmitting and receiving.

WATERWORKS

Bathurst and part of Kombo St. Mary have an adequate supply of chlorinated water; 250,000 gallons a day are pumped to an elevated reservoir whence it gravitates to the distribution areas. The supply is operated by Government and a water rate is imposed on consumers. Investigations were carried out during the year with a view to increasing the supply. Other small waterwork undertakings are maintained by Government at Brikama and Bansang. Assistance is given to Native Authorities in the Protectorate to maintain wells in the villages. Little difficulty is experienced in finding and supplying water by means of wells at a reasonable depth throughout the Gambia.

BROADCASTING

There is at present no broadcasting service in the Colony or Protectorate, but tentative experiments were begun during the year with the object of determining whether such a service would be practicable; results were promising.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

Ocean-going vessels: Tonnage entered in 1947—416,639.

Merchant Shipping		Warships	
British	Foreign	British	Foreign
345,700	70,939	6,899	
gross	gross	displacement	nil

Inland water transport

Since the loss of H.M.C.S. *Lady Denham* there have been only two Government River Steamers in operation, H.M.C.S. *Prince of Wales* and H.M.C.S. *Vic 20*. The *Prince of Wales* is an oil-fired steam vessel of 450 tons which was received in the Colony in 1922, and the *Vic 20* a steam coasting vessel of about 150 tons. The two ships maintained a regular service for passengers and freight except for a period during which the *Prince of Wales* underwent major replating. Between them they carried more than 5,600 passengers and 2,500 tons of freight. A Commission of Enquiry, held by the Judge of the Supreme Court as Commissioner, found that the sinking of the *Lady Denham*, which occurred towards the end of 1946, was the result of the negligence of the quartermaster and he was dismissed. A new ship has been ordered to replace her.

The river is also used by smaller craft, including a number of tugs, lighters, launches, as well as cutters and canoes. Cutters play a useful part in the evacuation of groundnuts from buying stations along the river to shipping ports. Several are owned by Africans and all are sailed entirely by African crews. They are maintained and repaired by local shipwrights and, when timber is available, can be built in the Colony.

RAILWAYS

There are no railways in the Colony.

ROADS AND VEHICLES

There are 30 miles of tarmac roads in the vicinity of Bathurst, and about 600 miles of sandy and laterite tracks in the Protectorate. Most of these have, in the past, been open to motor traffic during the dry season (December–July) only, but standards are improving and the mileage of all-weather roads increases each year. A census was taken in June of the density of motor traffic on the road leaving Bathurst and showed a maximum figure of 1,312 tons per day.

The following vehicles were licensed in December, 1947:

<i>Private and Commercial</i>	321 Lorries
	169 Cars
	56 Motor Cycles
<i>Government Vehicles</i>	62 Lorries
	4 Tractors
	6 Kit Cars
	4 Private Cars
	12 Motor Cycles

Many of the private and commercial vehicles are owned and operated by African enterprise as freight and passenger carrying services, largely between Bathurst and the neighbouring villages.

AIR

There is an airfield and a seaplane base in the Gambia. The airfield is at Yundum, 17 miles from Bathurst. The Air Ministry Directorate of Works, who were responsible for the maintenance of the runways, airport

buildings, power and water supplies up to 1st March, handed them over to the Colonial Government on that date. International Aeradio, Limited, took over air radio facilities from the Air Ministry on 1st September, and on 1st October this Government assumed responsibility for meteorological services, one Meteorological Officer being lent by the Air Ministry to take charge of the Meteorological Section. Aircraft movements during 1947 were 1,146. The Director of Public Utilities performs the duties of Controller of Civil Aviation.

The British Overseas Airways Corporation's trunk service on the United Kingdom-Lagos route ceased to operate in October 1947, and was replaced by a twice-weekly inter-colonial West African Airways Corporation service operating between Dakar and Lagos. An Air France coastal service called at Bathurst once a week.

The river at Bathurst provides one of the finest seaplane bases in the world and full advantage was taken of it during the war; it is now, however, but little used.

The appendix to this chapter contains a more technical description of the airfield and seaplane base.

POSTS

The General Post Office is at Bathurst, and District Post and Wireless Offices are established at Georgetown, Basse and Kuntaur. The Kuntaur Post Office is closed during the rainy season (June to October). A travelling post office is established on the Government river steamer and all classes of postal business are transacted at the ports of call. There is also a Postal Agency with restricted postal facilities at Kerewan, North Bank Division.

The approximate total number of letters, postcards, papers, etc. dealt with during 1947 was 579,540, which represents an increase of 13,248 on the figure for 1946. Parcels dealt with during the year numbered 9,570 as compared with 6,861 in 1946. Approximately 206,300 air mail letters were received and 189,300 despatched during the year.

Money and postal orders statistics are as follows:

	1946	1947
Money Orders issued and paid, value .	£55,140	£66,775
Revenue derived from Money Orders .	345	393
Postal Orders issued and paid .	8,580	8,688
Revenue derived from Postal Orders .	59	59

The total revenue derived from Postal Services in 1947 was £16,085 as against £19,560 in 1946. The greater revenue in 1946 was the result of the sale of Victory Stamps.

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

Telephones

Government maintains a telephone service in Bathurst, Kombo St. Mary, at Yundum Airfield with temporary extensions to Brikama and across the river to the police post at Barra. There is also a line between Georgetown and Yoroberikunda and Bansang.

Radio telegraph

There are four Wireless Stations operated by the Government in the Colony:

Bathurst	.	Call sign V.S.H.	Wave-length 3495, 2865 and 2525 K/cs.
Kuntaur	.	" " 2 C.A.	" " " " " "
Georgetown	.	" " V.S.W.	" " " " " "
Basse	.	" " V.S.X.	" " " " " "

Appendix

BATHURST AIR PORT (YUNDUM)

The two runways consist of universal pierced steel planking laid on consolidated laterite. Each runway measures 2,000 yards and is equipped with electric flarepath night landing facilities. The terminal buildings consist of a control tower, passenger's reception room, administrative and meteorological offices, main receivers, two Belmont hangars, one door width 113 ft. 6 in. by 156 ft. by 25 ft. high and one 90 ft. 6 in. door width by 175 ft. 6 in. by 25 ft. high.

Radio facilities

24 hours Air Traffic Control by International Aeradio Ltd.

Call sign MRO H/F Guard 6,510 K/cs.

From 1900-0700 hours H/F guard also on 3,105 K/cs. This latter frequency has been found more reliable at short ranges than 6,510 K/cs. especially during hours of darkness and at dusk and dawn.

Airfield

Control R/T 6,440 K/cs. and 4,220 K/cs. 116.1 M/cs.

Call sign Yundum Tower.

D/F-H/F call MRO; V.H.F. call sign Yundum Homer.

Radio Beacon "N.D." Followed by 20 sec. dash, 350 K/cs.

Low-power beacon in tower 360 K/cs.

Meteorological

Aircraft radio equipment serviced by skilled mechanics. 24 hours' service available; observations, reports and forecasts, type 2 limited service.

Servicing facilities

Fuel Spirit 100 and 87 Octane, adequate supplies by Shell Bowers.

Adequate oil available—100, 120, 100B, 34A, 114.

Fresh water unlimited.

Repair facilities

Apron and hangars available.

Machine shops in Bathurst.

Telecommunications

Cable and Wireless Company, Bathurst.

Medical facilities

Hospital, Bathurst.

Medical Orderly and First Aid Post on Airport.

Ambulance at Airport.

Firefighting

Two fire tenders stand by at all landings and take-off.

Chapter 12: Research

There has been no historical research in the territory during the year but, in marked contrast, scientific research has assumed proportions of real importance and it is no overstatement to say that the Gambia has become a laboratory for nutritional enquiries of a nature that may, in time, profoundly affect the whole course of this branch of medical science in tropical Africa. Enquiries, which were begun in 1946, pointed to the suitability of the Gambia as a site for the investigation of the nutritional deficiencies of the African peasant, and the means to be adopted for their cure, with the result that the Human Nutrition Research Unit of the Colonial Medical Research Council, operating with the advice of the Nutrition sub-committee of the Colonial Medical Research Council, has sent two groups of workers to the Colony.

The first to arrive was the Field Working Party whose objectives can best be described by re-stating their plan of action. This is to be divided into three stages.

Stage I

(a) A survey of health, food consumption and production, sociology and economics in a selected area.

(b) Experimental work, including reclamation of salt lands, mechanisation of crop production, the use of artificial fertilisers, fishing and fish culture and methods of processing and storing food.

Stage II

A three-year period in which the Field Working Party makes an experiment in a rural community.

Stage III

The application of results to other communities.

The scheme was approved and begun in March with the building of quarters at Genieri, a village in the Eastern Kiang District of the Central Division for the occupation of the Medical Officer, who was responsible for their construction, and for the nutritionist and agriculturist, who arrived early in May. Records of health, food consumption and food production were begun at once but experimental work on the reclamation of salt lands tended to show that the rate at which salt was leached out of such ground was too slow to enable the Working Party to achieve the results they sought within the time at their disposal. It was decided,

therefore, to transfer experiments to the mechanical cultivation of groundnuts and cereal crops. With this object in view, the agriculturist proceeded to England and bought machinery but the change in plan made it impossible to draw even the most tentative conclusions from the first year's work. The medical data and those collected from the nutrition survey are in the process of analysis.

The second of the parties sent out by the Human Nutrition Research Unit arrived in November and began work on the reconstruction of a former military hospital to serve as a Field Research Station. This was a considerable task as the buildings had been stripped of all fittings, windows, doors and their frames and the whole area had become derelict since the military authorities vacated it in 1946. Ninety-four acres of land have been leased and, in addition to the work to be done in the research wards, it is proposed to cultivate the land around the hospital site in order to produce food crops for the unit and patients, and to experiment with vegetables and, later, with different methods of processing food.

Mention was made in last year's report of the entomological research carried out by the Government Entomologist. He has been engaged in the statistical analysis of data obtained by the mosquito survey of 1946 and has constructed tables of constants by which entomological data may be standardised for purposes of comparison. Other statistical research has included the calculation of human mortality and morbidity rates by weeks for the principal diseases current in 1947 and earlier years and their correlation with figures for malaria and malarial relapses. Work has also been done on experiments and field trials of D.D.T. emulsions, new types of "knock down" insecticides and on mosquito breeding places; these have been examined, especially with a view to relating differential plankton counts with breeding place frequencies.

Finally, Mr. D. P. Gamble, the holder of a Colonial Research Fellowship, who arrived in May of the previous year, was engaged in investigations relating to the political structure and history of the chiefdoms, the status and role of district chiefs and village headmen and in studying the growth of the system of Native Administration. He also carried out detailed studies of the social and economic organisations of typical communities of Mandingo, Wollof and Jola, with special regard to the place the cultivation of groundnuts takes in the village economies, and collected material on the Mandinka language.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony consists mainly of the Islands of St. Mary and MacCarthy and the division of Kombo St. Mary. The capital of the Gambia is Bathurst, situated on the Island of St. Mary.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten miles wide on each bank of the Gambia river, extending for nearly 300 miles from Bathurst. The source of the river is near the village of Labe, on the Futa Jallon plateau, and it flows westward for about 700 miles. It is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntaur, 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 tide of two feet. During the rains the upper river has a maximum rise of some thirty feet.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Wollof, Mandingo, Fula and Jola. All of these are Mohammedans, except the last-named tribe who are mainly pagan; the Mohammedan religion is, however, gaining ground amongst them and, as a result, they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

The climate of the Gambia is not healthy, but it may be expected that, as materials for the improvement of sanitation and housing become available after the scarcities due to the war, conditions of living will improve. All the year round the climate on the coast is the best in British West Africa, and from the beginning of December until the end of April, is in fact, extremely pleasant. During the rains, from June to October, humidity increases and approaches that of the other coastal areas in West Africa. The climate up-river is very much hotter, especially during the period February to June. The onset of the rains produces cooler and more pleasant conditions.

Chapter 2: 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 fact 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 Phillip 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 Royalist 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), Juffure 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 18th March, 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 17th November, 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 1677 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 natives 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 a 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 Jola 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 it.

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 Grey (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 23rd April, 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.

It is not proposed here to attempt to summarise the more recent history of the Gambia, which may be found in the Annual Reports published during the past forty years, but during that time the pace of development in the Colony has outstripped that of the Protectorate and has accentuated the cleavage between the two areas considerably.

The population of the Protectorate, except for the annual ingress and egress of the "strange" farmer from the neighbouring French and Portuguese territories of the Senegal and the Casamance, mainly comprises the indigenous peasant tribes who still cling tenaciously to the native law and custom handed down to them from their ancestors. Bathurst, on the other hand, carries a population of a somewhat cosmopolitan character, consisting of an admixture of persons of very different races and creeds, who have imported with them certain characteristics peculiar to their several places of origin. The social structure of the capital thus has its foundation in a mixture of the endemic and the exotic.

In the capital, perhaps one of the most important events of recent years was the enactment in the year 1946 of legislation for the establishment of a Town Council, a self-governing body including fifteen elected members, which is the culmination of several years of experiment with smaller bodies known in succession as the Bathurst Urban District Council, the Bathurst Advisory Town Council and the Bathurst Temporary Local Authority. It is hoped that the powers and responsibilities of the new body will be increased in the light of the experience and success gained with the coming years.

An experimental local government body known as the Kombo Rural Authority has been set up for the district of Kombo St. Mary, which, although part of the Colony, has for many years been administered as Protectorate. The social development of the district was hastened by circumstances arising out of the war and it has now reached such a stage of social and political standing as to make continued administration under the Protectorate system ill suited to its needs.

One of the most important features in the annual events of the Protectorate is the Chiefs' Conference. This is an assembly at which all the Chiefs attend for the purpose of reviewing past achievements, formulating future plans and discussing and solving problems of common interest. The venue of the conference varies each year from one Division to another. Since its introduction in the year 1944 much useful work has been done, chiefly in the fostering of a spirit of co-operation among the Chiefs, both towards one another and towards the Government.

The internal economy of the Gambia has always been far from satisfactory. Destitute of mineral resources and dependent on only one crop for its trade, the need for the inhabitants to pay more and more attention to the land cannot be over-emphasised. Before the recent war the country was almost entirely dependent on imported food. The precariousness of such a situation made itself very sharply felt with the fall of Burma during the Japanese invasion and the consequent cutting off of the main source of supply of the Gambia's staple food—rice. But such a circumstance has had a salutary effect, for it made the people, under the threat of imminent famine, more responsive than hitherto to the appeal for more extensive production of food crops in addition to the export crop of groundnuts. If this extensive farming, which has already had excellent results, is maintained side by side with the experimental large-scale rice farming now being launched by the Agricultural Department, the future food and economic position of the Gambia should be a matter for less anxiety than it has been in the past.

Chapter 3: Administration

The office of Governor is constituted by the Letters Patent of 29th November, 1946, which also provide for an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

Under Royal Instructions of the same date, amended by additional instructions dated 26th November, 1947, the Executive Council is declared to consist of the Colonial Secretary as an *ex-officio* member and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. At present there are 7 such persons, 4 of whom are Government officials, appointed by name and not by office, and 3 non-officials. Of the unofficial members, one is the elected member for the town of Bathurst and the Kombo St. Mary Division and the others are two of the nominated members of the Legislative Council, representing the Protectorate. The Governor presides at meetings of the Council.

The Legislative Council is constituted by the Gambia (Legislative Council) Orders in Council, 1946 and 1947, and consists of the Governor as President, the Colonial Secretary, Attorney-General and Receiver General as *ex-officio* members, an elected member for the town of Bathurst and of Kombo St. Mary Division and such other persons as may from time to time be nominated. At present 3 officials and 6 un-officials have been nominated; of the unofficials one represents Moham-medan interests in Bathurst, one represents commercial interest and the remaining 4 represent the Protectorate. The first Legislative Council elections were held in November, and the newly constituted Council with an unofficial majority met for the first time in December. In certain circumstances, and subject to a report being made to the Secretary of State, powers are reserved to the Governor to declare a Bill or motion though not passed by the Council to have effect as if passed.

Of the various portions of the Colony, Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island and the Ceded Mile were, up to the end of 1947, administered as part of the Protectorate, leaving only the Island of St. Mary, which includes the town of Bathurst, and Kombo St. Mary Division under their own systems of administration.

Within the Colony the various functions of Government are mainly exercised directly by the department concerned, e.g., Police, Education, etc. A Commissioner of the Colony has been appointed with general supervisory responsibilities but without executive powers.

Local Government in Bathurst is in the hands of the Bathurst Town Council, established under the Local Government (Bathurst) Ordinance, 1946, which consists of the Colony Commissioner as *ex-officio* chairman, 4 nominated members, and 3 elected members from each of the five wards. The Council has not yet taken over the full responsibilities provided for it in the Ordinance, and its activities extend chiefly to the lighting and cleaning of streets, the maintenance of buildings, markets and drains and the care of open spaces. Its revenue includes rates assessed on the annual value of premises and duties on palm wine entering the town.

The Kombo Rural Authority was set up at the beginning of the year under the Kombo St. Mary Division Ordinance, 1946. It consists of the Colony Commissioner, 2 nominated official members and a variable number, at present 21, of members nominated for the most part from the headmen of the villages of the district. The authority at present concerns itself chiefly with the maintenance of streets and markets, for which purpose it collects rates, market fees and trade licences.

The Protectorate Ordinance, 1935, consolidated and amended the law relating to the Protectorate. The appointment of a Senior Commissioner in October, 1943, was the prelude to a number of changes in the Protectorate Administration, which consists of four Divisions with a resident population of 225,358 administered by Commissioners. These are known as the Western, Central, MacCarthy Island and Upper River Divisions, with their Headquarters at Brikama, Kerewan, Georgetown and Basse. A new headquarters for the Central Division situated at Monsa Konko is in process of erection.

Each Division consists of a number of Districts under a Head Chief whose appointment is approved by the Governor by Proclamation. There are 35 such Districts of various sizes, ranging from 305 to eight square miles and with populations between 24,000 and 600 persons. These Districts may be divided into Sub-Districts under Sub-Chiefs but none are in existence at present.

Each District possesses a Native Authority and a Native Tribunal. The Native Authority is declared by the Governor for any specified area and may be any Chief or other native or any native Council or group of natives. The District Head was previously the Native Authority but a change was made in all the Districts during 1945 when the District Head became the President and the Village Heads, with their advisers-in-council, were appointed members of the Authority. The Native Authority has powers to make Orders and Rules to be obeyed by natives within the District, and is expected to maintain order and good government in the area over which its authority extends. The Native Authority Ordinance, 1933, confers these powers.

Mention has been made in Part II, Chapter 9, of the Native Tribunal system, which was remodelled in January, 1946, by the creation of two grades, the Group and the District Tribunals. There are now 35 District Tribunals, with the District Head as President and an average of six elders as members. Two Group Tribunals were constituted in 1946, serving the three Kombo and five Foni Districts of the Western Division, and a third was started in 1947, serving three Districts in the MacCarthy Island Division.

As the result of the passing of the Protectorate Treasuries Ordinance, No. 13 of 1945, 12 Group or District Treasuries have been established, and the total revenue to be collected by them during the financial year 1947-48 is estimated at £32,000, with expenditure at £27,000. A surplus of £30,000, of which £15,000 has been placed on reserve, has already been created. Although each District frames its own estimates of revenue and expenditure, the majority of the Districts prefer to group for the purpose of a treasury, which is managed by a Finance Committee. The sources of revenue are moneys derived from the imposition of district rates, rents, tribunal fees, timber and miscellaneous fees and interest on deposits.

The expenses of administration, which include the payment of salaries to chiefs and staffs, are limited to half the revenue, if possible, so that the remaining 50 per cent. can be used for local improvements and the creation of a reserve.

A further step has been taken by the institution of an annual conference of Protectorate Chiefs. The first of such conferences was held in 1944. Divisional conferences take place at frequent intervals. During the year, four members were nominated to represent the Protectorate on the Legislative Council and two on the Executive Council.

Finally, fresh provision has been made for the tenure and management of lands in the Protectorate Lands Ordinance, 1945, whereby they are declared to be vested in the authorities of the districts in which they are situated and shall be held and administered for the use and common benefit of the communities concerned.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

The Superintendent of Police is the Inspector of Weights and Measures. All Commissioners and Assistant Superintendents of Police have the power of Deputy Inspectors of Weights and Measures.

The scales, weights and measures in all markets and shops are inspected periodically throughout the year. In the town of Bathurst 31 stall-holders and 74 shops were visited in 1947. Examination was made of 295 weights, 103 measures and 75 weighing instruments. Twenty-four cases against traders for using unjust or unstamped weights were prosecuted in Court; 20 convictions were recorded and fines totalling £58 imposed.

At Police Headquarters the Weights and Measures Office is available to any person wishing to have his scales, weights or measures checked.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The main newspapers and periodicals published in the Gambia are listed as follows:

The Gambia Outlook, price 6d., published weekly by the Senegambia Press, 4 Fitzgerald Street, Bathurst. Proprietor and Editor: E. F. Small, Allen Street, Bathurst.

The Gambia Echo, price 4d., published weekly by the Gambia Echo Newspaper Syndicate, Leman Street, Bathurst. Editor: Lenrie Peters, Major Street, Bathurst.

The Gambia Weekly News, price 6d., published fortnightly by Finden Dailey, Proprietor and Editor, at 11 Hopkinson Street, Bathurst.

The Gambia News Bulletin, subscription 1s. per month, published daily, except Sundays and Public Holidays, by the Public Relations Office, Bathurst.

Chapter 6: Bibliography

Publications other than those of a purely official character which are listed in the Appendix to this chapter, are limited in number. Most of the older publications are now out of print. Those listed include books dealing exclusively with the Gambia, and not books which relate to West Africa in general.

The Gambia Colony and Protectorate, an Official Handbook, by F. Bisset Archer (1906), St. Bride's Press Ltd., London, price 10s. 6d., which is a very general survey of the Colony up to the date of publication; much of the information given, particularly in the historical portions, is of value even at the present time.

History of the Gambia, by H. F. Reeve, C.M.G., M.I.C.E., F.R.G.S., F.A.S. (1912), Messrs. Smith, Elder and Co., 15 Waterloo Place, London, price 6s.

The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa, by Sir Richmond Palmer, K.C.M.G., C.B.E. (1931), Stationery Store, Bathurst, price 5s. This booklet includes a translated extract from Sultan Mohammed Bello's account of the origin of the Fulbe tribe.

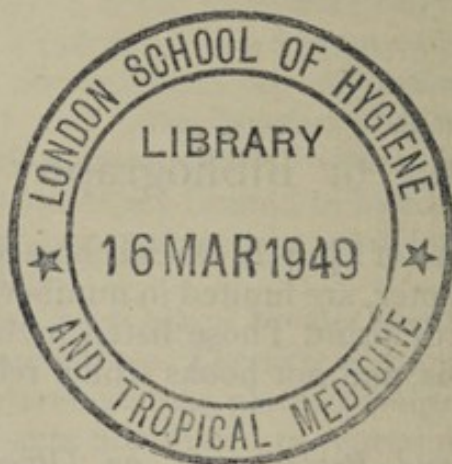
A Short Phrase Book and Classified Vocabulary of the Mandinka Language, by G. N. N. Nunn, B.A. (Cantab.) (1934). Stationery Store, Bathurst, price 1s. 6d.

A Short Study of the Mandinka Language, by W. T. Hamlyn (1935), Stationery Store, Bathurst, price 5s.

Stone Circles in the Gambia, by Henry Parker, Royal Anthropological Institution of Great Britain and Ireland, 50 Great Russel Street, London, W.C.1.

Stories of the Gambia (1945), Information Office, Bathurst, price 1s. 6d. This booklet, which was written as a short text-book, is based on and brings up to date *A Short History of the Gambia*, by W. T. Hamlyn, which is now out of print.

A History of the Gambia, by J. M. Gray (1940), Cambridge University Press, price £1 10s.

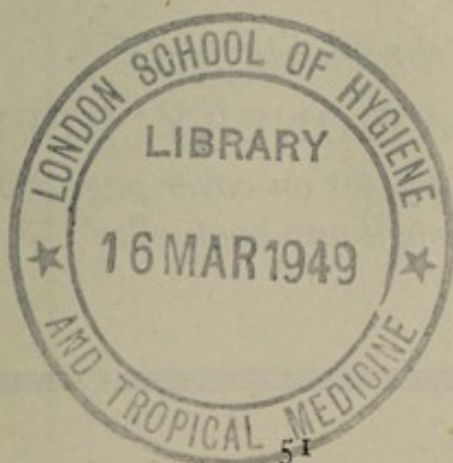


APPENDIX

LIST OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS	Year of Publication	Price
<i>Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the conduct and management of the River Steamer service</i>	1944	—
<i>Report of the Census Commissioner for Bathurst, 1944</i>	1944	—
<i>The Mosquito Problem</i>	—	4s.
<i>Trade and Shipping Report, 1944, with a Supplement Review of Trade in the Gambia from 1831 to 1944</i>	1945	3s. 6d.
<i>Notes on Yoroberikunda Village and Agriculture in the Gambia</i>	1945	1s.
<i>Report by the Senior Commissioner on the Annual Census of the Protectorate of the Gambia</i>	1946	6d.
<i>Notes on Strange Farmers</i>	1946	6d.
<i>Report of a Committee appointed to enquire into the provision of adequate transport facilities between Bathurst and the Kombo</i>	1946	6d.
<i>Report of a Committee appointed to consider remedial measures to be adopted to deal with overcrowding in Bathurst</i>	1946	6d.
<i>Summary of Proceedings of the Fourth Conference of Protectorate Chiefs held at Barra, Western Division, from the 14th to 18th of April 1947</i> .	1947	1s.
<i>Enquiry into the cause of and responsibility for the collision in the River Gambia between H.M.C.S. "Lady Denham" and H.M.C.S. "Vic 20"</i> .	1947	6d.

All these publications are obtainable from the Information Office, Bathurst, or the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1.

The usual Annual Reports of all departments are published at prices varying from 1s. to 5s. and are obtainable from the Information Office, Bathurst, or the Crown Agents for the Colonies.



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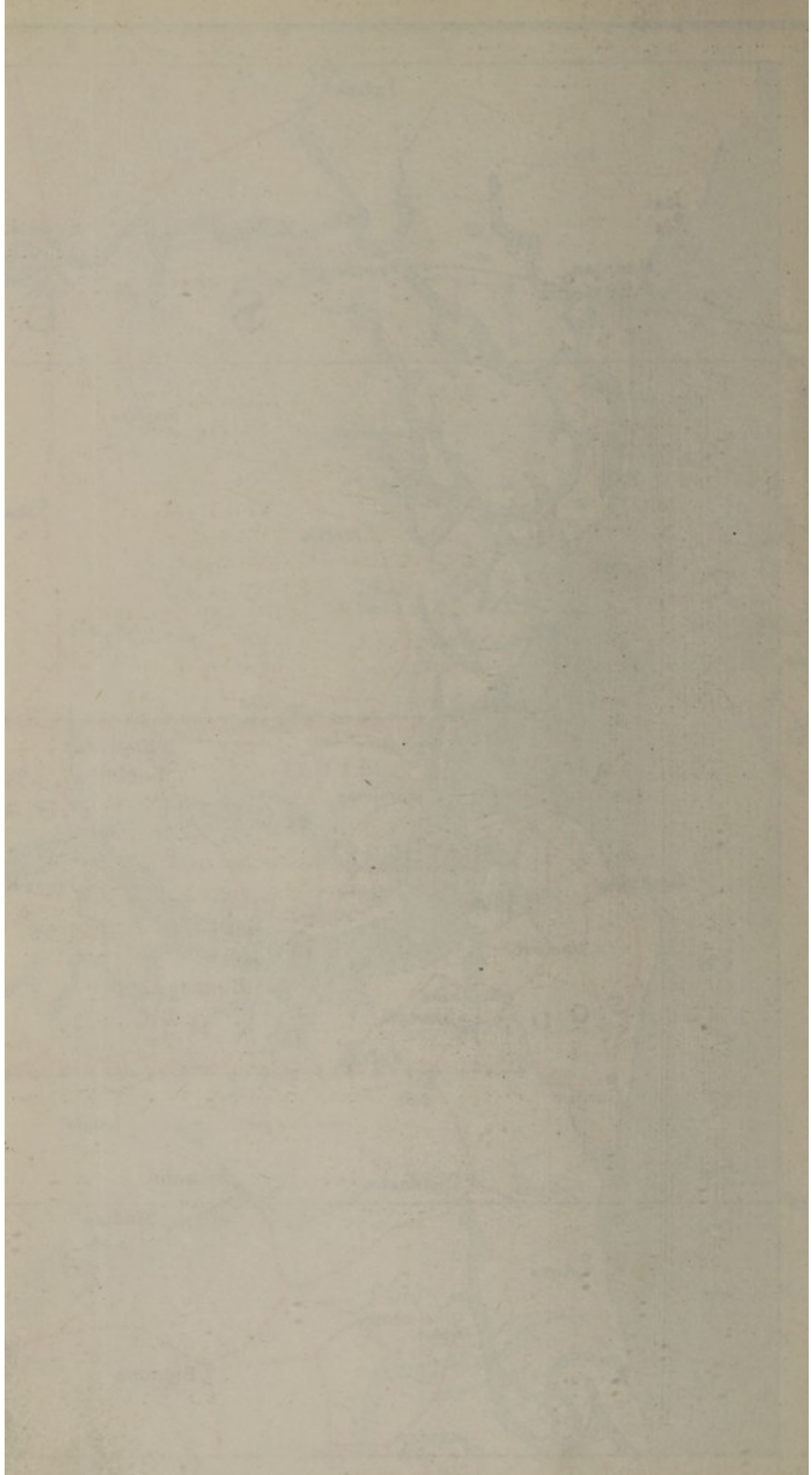
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