

## **Annual report on Sierra Leone / Colonial Office.**

### **Contributors**

Great Britain. Colonial Office.

### **Publication/Creation**

London : H.M.S.O., [1954]

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COLONIAL REPORTS

**Sierra Leone**  
**1954**



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LONDON  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
1956

FIVE SHILLINGS NET



COLONIAL OFFICE  
REPORT ON  
SIERRA LEONE  
FOR THE YEAR  
1954

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## PART I

### General Review

IN Sierra Leone the year 1954 was essentially a year of constitutional consolidation, accompanied by progress in the economic, social and public affairs of the territory. During the year the Leader of the Ministers and of the major political party was accorded the title of Chief Minister in recognition of the Ministers' gain in experience and authority in the carrying out of their responsibilities in the central government.

Although consolidation was the political keynote of the year, further constitutional progress within the unitary framework of the existing constitution was foreshadowed by the recommendation of the Commission on Electoral Reform, whose report was published in September. The Commission recommended a two-stage plan for broadening the franchise for both the Legislative Council and local government bodies and for reducing the differences between the electoral systems of the Colony and of the Provinces with a view to the introduction of universal adult suffrage in the not too distant future.

In the field of local government steady progress was made in the taking over by Local Authorities of many local services previously provided by the central government. Legislation was passed to introduce a single local tax in the Provinces, by means of which revenue will be provided for both Native Administrations and District Councils. The first unofficial President of a District Council was elected in September and later in the year Local Education Authorities, charged with responsibility for primary education, were organised throughout the territory.

During the year there were important developments in the improvement of communications including the opening to shipping of the Queen Elizabeth II Quay; by the end of the year the quay was handling over 19,000 freight tons of cargo a month. Steady progress was made in the replacement of ferries by bridges and in December the first concrete bridges were nearing completion.

In September the Court Messenger Force, which had been responsible for the policing of the Provinces for over fifty years, was replaced by the Police Force.

In November H.M.S. *Pelican*, wearing the flag of the Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic, Vice-Admiral I. M. R. Campbell, C.B., D.S.O., R.N., visited Freetown during her annual cruise to the West African Coast. Major-General Sir E. O. Herbert, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, West Africa, paid several visits to military units stationed in the territory.

## ECONOMIC

The economy of Sierra Leone depends largely on agricultural production for both home consumption and export to overseas markets. Agricultural products form a large part of the internal and external trade of the country.

In 1954 both the volume and value of the main agricultural exports were higher than those for 1953 and this was achieved in spite of a slight fall of 824 tons in the volume of palm kernels and a substantial fall of 1,544 tons in the volume of groundnuts.

The increase in the value of agricultural exports in 1954 as compared with 1953 was more than proportionate to the increase in the tonnage exported. This was the result of the boom conditions which prevailed for a good part of the year in the coffee, cocoa, and ginger markets. The total contribution of these commodities to receipts from agricultural exports in 1954 was £1,828,000 as compared with £931,000 in 1953 and £710,000 in 1950. Piassava production increased during 1954 and 5,693 tons were exported as against 2,646 tons in 1953; the f.o.b. values were £334,210 and £192,452 respectively.

The high level of prosperity of which mention was made in the 1953 Report was maintained in 1954 with a further increase in internal purchasing power. The value of imports exceeded exports by nearly £1½ million but this apparent adverse balance of trade is believed to be accounted for by receipts from illicit diamond exports.

Mineral exports showed a fall as compared with 1953 and this is the factor responsible for the overall fall in export values in 1954. The principal item responsible for this decrease was iron ore, exports of which dropped from 1,200,240 tons in 1953 to 877,306 in 1954 and the corresponding drop in value was £1,638,105. The fall in the export of this commodity was largely due to the drop in exports to Germany from 241,390 tons in 1953 to 27,800 in 1954.

There were no new developments in the processing of primary products. The Pioneer oil palm mills operated by the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board in various producing areas in the Protectorate were unable to work to full capacity because supplies of fruit were inadequate. These mills depend on individual farmers bringing in the fruit and production has been severely set back as a result of labour being attracted to other occupations.

Production of groundnut oil and cake by the plant operated by the Department of Commerce and Industry was small but the quality of oil produced was satisfactory for the local market. Given an adequate supply of groundnuts this plant is capable of satisfying local requirements of groundnut oil, and can also be used for palm kernel oil production during the groundnut "off-season."

## DEVELOPMENT

The main buildings and installations of the Queen Elizabeth Quay were completed early in the year and the quay was formally opened on the 1st of May.

The construction programme of new trunk roads continued, but at somewhat slower pace than previously. This was due to the loss of but one of the engineers and surveyors specially recruited for the project. The length of new roads opened in the Protectorate was 16 miles, and construction continued on a further 27½ miles. A further 10 miles of the Freetown-Bo road were regraded and a premix carpet and surface dressing laid. The construction of the 10 major bridges progressed favourably and work begun on nine of them. This work is being done by contract under the supervision of consulting engineers. Work on the extension and strengthening of the runway at the airport at Lungi continued.

In the Protectorate progress continued to be made in the implementation of district plans for economic development which in 1954 were their fourth year. These plans are financed by grants of £25,000 made by the central government to each district. The grants are spread over the five-year period and are augmented by a precept made on the chiefdom administrations by each district council. Special grants, though on a more reduced scale than in former years, continued to be made by the Produce Marketing Board for projects designed to increase production for export. One of the principal objects is the development of the oil palm industry, and particular attention has been given to the planting of improved strains of oil palms and the construction of new roads to facilitate the marketing of produce and to reduce the uneconomic use of head loading. District councils continued to devote considerable attention to the cultivation of rice in swamp areas. In the Pujehun, Moyamba, Port Loko and Kambia Districts 6,500 acres of land were mechanically cultivated with the help of the Department of Agriculture. This figure compares with 4,000 acres ploughed under similar schemes in 1953 and 2,100 acres ploughed in 1952.

In Kambia District the district council, assisted by Government officers, continued with schemes of land reclamation and empoldering of mangrove swamps for rice cultivation. In addition, the Samu Native Administration was granted a loan of £2,000 to assist individual farmers to empolder saline swamp lands of limited acreage. These swamp cultivation schemes are of importance since they should not only increase the rice production of the country as a whole but will, at the same time, enhance the prosperity of individual farmers and relieve pressure on the uplands where destructive forms of shifting cultivation are employed.

In Freetown the foundation stone of the new science block for the Prince of Wales School was laid on 30th April by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Robert de Zouche Hall, in the presence of a large representative gathering. The building will provide much needed modern and efficient laboratories to cope with the increased numbers in the school. The main administrative block of the Technical Institute, providing eight new classrooms, was nearing completion at the end of the year while the Engineering Machine Shop, providing machine shop, fitters' shop and motor technology shop, was completed.



In the Protectorate the major part of the building programme at Bo School was concluded. The Teacher Training College at Magburaka and the Segbwema and Kenema Schools were all completed.

Progress on the erection of laboratories at Fourah Bay College which were started in 1953, continued throughout the year. The old chemistry building was refitted for general science, and the science lecture theatre and reading room were completed. A new and larger chemistry laboratory, with adequate preparation room and storage facilities, is under consideration.

The motor van which is used in the Protectorate for the sale of reading material continued to give valuable service. At Bo the new bookshop with staff quarters neared completion.

Details of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes which were either initiated or in progress during the period under review are contained in the Appendix to this Chapter.

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES INITIATED, OR IN PROGRESS DURING, 1954

GENERAL REVIEW

Scheme No.	TITLE	Total Expenditure to 31st December, 1954	Amount Qualified for C.D. & W. Assistance	Colony's Share
		£	£	£
D.866	Protectorate Health Centres . . . . .	42,371	41,699	672
D.1048/1048A	Geological Survey . . . . .	121,671	90,735	30,936
D.1135	Veterinary Services . . . . .	94,317	49,530	44,787
D.1269	Library Grants to Secondary Schools and Training Colleges . . . . .	2,004	2,004	—
D.1293/A	Extension of Government School, Bo . . . . .	137,564	137,564	—
D.1372	Establishment of Central Schools in the Protectorate . . . . .	42,844	37,844	5,000
D.1389	Expansion of Protectorate Literature Bureau . . . . .	26,494	20,980	5,513
D.1555/A	Meteorological Survey . . . . .	26,672	26,672	—
D.1620/A	Aeronautical Tele-Communications Equipment . . . . .	6,639	6,639	—
D.1633	Agricultural Livestock Improvement . . . . .	46,239	37,003	9,236
D.1641	Health Centres, Colony . . . . .	19,647	19,647	—
D.1723	Expansion of Annie Walsh Memorial School for Girls, Freetown . . . . .	27,854	25,913	1,940
D.1788/A & B	Fourah Bay College (Recurrent) . . . . .	67,000	20,000	67,000
D.1867	Establishment of Bookshop and Book-van in the Sierra Leone Protectorate . . . . .	5,778	5,778	—
D.1884	Stage I of the construction of Prince of Wales School . . . . .	39,990	39,990	—
D.1917	Improvement of facilities at the Teacher Training College, Bunumbu . . . . .	27,517	15,850	11,667
D.1963	Water Supply, Fourah Bay College . . . . .	9,500	9,500	—
D.1981	Fourah Bay College, Construction of Staff Housing, etc. . . . .	58,420	37,500	20,920
D.1992	Appointment of Architects and Quantity Surveyors . . . . .	5,000	5,000	—
D.1994	Construction of four Hospitals in the Protectorate . . . . .	57,969	57,969	—
D.1995	Replacement of ten ferries by road bridges . . . . .	248,834	190,926	57,908
D.1996	Construction of 106 miles of new road . . . . .	55,180	55,180	—
D.2070	Rice Investigation Scheme. . . . .	34,508	34,508	—
D.2094	Central Broadcasting Station . . . . .	4,126	4,126	—
D.2110	Higher Technical Education West Africa Fourah Bay College, Construction of approach road . . . . .	—	—	—
D.2183	Construction of Bo Water Supply . . . . .	—	—	—
D.2217	Resurfacing of 8½ miles of Freetown—Occra Hills Trunk Road . . . . .	—	—	—
D.2219	Construction of a new hospital at Kambia and extension of the Port Loko hospital . . . . .	—	—	—
D.2350	Primary Schools in Freetown . . . . .	269,476	202,698	66,778
R.273/273A	West African Fisheries Research Institute . . . . .	4,639	2,669	1,970
R.299	Systematic Botanist and Ecologist . . . . .	80,923	71,716	9,206
R.300/300A	Rice Research Station, Rokupr . . . . .	—	—	—
R.585	Control of Rice Infestation . . . . .	—	—	—
R.598	Economic Research . . . . .	—	—	—

## PART II

### Chapter 1: Population

No full census of the population in the Colony area of Sierra Leone has been taken since 1931, but an enumeration was carried out on 28th December, 1947; population estimates for the Protectorate, based on test counts carried out in selected areas, were made in 1931 and in June 1948. In all cases the work was done by the administration without the aid of any specially trained staff. The results, which are shown at the end of this chapter, are not in any way intended to be a substitute for the next full census, but it is considered that they give some guide to the present distribution of population. The latest estimate of the total population for the whole territory was 2,000,000 at 30th June, 1952.

The results of the 1947 enumeration indicate that since 1931 there has been an annual increase in the population of the Colony of approximately 1.5 per cent. How much of this increase is due to immigration from the Protectorate and how much to natural causes cannot be definitely stated, though there was undoubtedly a large influx of labour to the Colony from the Protectorate during the war years, and it is probable that a number of the immigrants have not returned to their homes. The rate of increase of the population in the Protectorate between 1931 and 1948 was about 2 per cent per annum, though it must again be emphasised that these figures should be treated with caution.

There are in Sierra Leone Africans of many tribes, 13 of which are indigenous, each having a different language. There are no recent estimates of the numbers in these tribes, but it may be said that over 30 per cent of the total African population in the territory is of the Mende tribe, and that just under 30 per cent is of the Temne tribe. The Mende and Temne languages are widely spoken in the south and north respectively, and for all practical purposes are sufficient for the localities concerned. The only lingua franca is a form of pidgin English which is fairly wide-spread, though by no means universal.

The registration of births and deaths which has been compulsory in the Colony for some years now was made compulsory in six chiefdoms in the Protectorate in January, 1951, and up to December, 1954, 14 more chiefdoms voluntarily accepted registration of births and deaths. The registrations recorded in the Colony are probably fairly accurate but the registrations recorded in the Protectorate are unreliable; thus the only valid statistics are those of registrations recorded in the Colony. The figures are:

	<i>Births</i>			<i>Deaths</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Freetown . . . .	1,558	1,538	3,096	847	744	1,591
Rest of Colony . . . .	974	923	1,897	760	642	1,402
TOTALS . . . .	2,532	2,461	4,993	1,607	1,386	2,993

Out of the total of 3,096 births registered in Freetown, 340 deaths of children under one year of age were registered, giving an infant mortality rate of 109.81 per thousand. Of the 340 deaths, 63.25 per cent occurred during the first month of life.

The population of Freetown is approximately 70,000 although there are indications that this might be an under-estimate. Figures are not available for the main towns in the Protectorate but it is estimated that, the largest town, has a population of between 12,000 and 15,000.

## Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

### EMPLOYMENT

In previous years, employment throughout the principal industries of the territory was maintained at a satisfactory level, and except in the mining industry there was no appreciable change in the numbers employed during the year as compared with 1953. The exception was the mining industry where, owing chiefly to mechanisation and the closing of a small company, about 1,300 fewer people were employed during the year as compared with the previous year, a fall of 18 per cent in this industry's labour force.

The following table shows the numbers of wage-earners engaged in each of the principal industries during 1954 and the two previous years, and the changes which have occurred since 1953:

NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES

<i>Industry or Service</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1953(a)</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>Change in 1954 compared with 1953</i>
Mining . . . . .	5,878	7,164	7,600	- 1,286
Maritime and Waterfront . . . . .	7,638	7,972	10,800	- 334
Railway (Government) . . . . .	3,586	3,239	3,500	+ 347
Building and Construction (including P.W.D.) . . . . .	9,962	10,264	18,000	- 302
Road Transport . . . . .	815	563	600	+ 252
Clerical and Commercial Workers . . . . .	5,866	4,950	5,000	+ 916
TOTAL . . . . .	33,745	34,152	45,500	- 407

(a) The figures quoted in respect of 1953 are revised figures and are different from those given in the 1953 Report.

Although it is not possible to analyse the above figures to show the numbers of males and of females employed in each industry or service, the position continued to be that hardly any women are employed in

any of the industries except the last-named. Even among this group only a small number of women are still to be found and one reason for this is that an increasing number of girls follow other vocations, such as teaching and nursing. Another reason is that there is an inordinate high turnover of labour among women employees, since so very few of them enter employment with the intention of making it a career. The result is that when both are competing for jobs employers tend to prefer male to female workers. Nonetheless, recorded placings of women showed an increase of almost 100 per cent from 23 in 1953 to 40 in 1954; 18 were in respect of women bus conductors as against five in 1953.

### *Unemployment*

The monthly average of unemployed persons registered at employment exchanges during the year was 1,443, compared with 1,648 during 1953 and 2,700 during 1952. Out of an estimated wage-earning population of 80,000 this figure represents only 1.8 per cent.

There is no conclusive reason for the fall in the number of registered unemployed; but it seems to confirm suspicions that an increasing number of persons was engaged in illicit diamond digging during the period. Further confirmation of these suspicions appears to be given by the experience of employers in areas near new diamond finds where workers more often than hitherto tended to leave employment without giving any notice. It was not always possible to fill these vacancies, for lack of workers in the area.

Under-employment did not present a problem in Sierra Leone, as there were fair employment opportunities during 1954 for all classes and groups of wage-earners.

No marked seasonal fluctuations in employment occurred during the period under review.

### *Immigrant and Emigrant Labour*

While no figures are available for the number of workers entering or leaving Sierra Leone for purposes of employment, there seemed to be little or no flow of population in either direction.

In the past the Kroos from the neighbouring territory of Liberia formed the main source of group-migration, being attracted by opportunities for employment as deck labourers on ships plying the West Coast of Africa. The strict control of entry of new workers to the ports of registered seamen and dock workers has been effective in persuading new migrants from this tribe to return home.

## WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

In the following tables, the normal hours of work and other conditions of employment in the principal industries and services are set out, as well as average weekly earnings in a number of these industries:

OCCUPATIONS, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANISATION 11  
WAGE-RATES, HOURS OF WORK AND OTHER CONDITIONS

Industry or Service	Wages or Salaries	Type of Wage or Salary	Hours of work per Week	Rest Day	Holidays with Pay per annum
	<i>Per Day</i>				
Ministry of Pining	Unskilled 3s. 7d.—4s. Semi-skilled 4s.—5s. 10d. Skilled 5s. 1d.—13s.	} Statutory	45	Sundays and 3 Public Holidays	12
Waterfront	3s. 3d.—9s. 1d.				
Maritime Railway	4s. 10d.—9s. 7d. Unskilled 3s. 3d.—4s. 6d. Semi-skilled 4s. 1d.—6s. 2d. Skilled 5s. 11d.—9s. 8d.	} Statutory	60 45—48	—	—
Construction and Building	Unskilled 3s. 3d.—4s. 6d. Semi-skilled 4s.—6s. 8d. Skilled 6s. 2d.—9s. 2d.				
Road Transport	3s. 4d.—9s. 8d.	Statutory	48	Sundays and recognised Public Holidays	9
Commercial and Clerical workers	<i>Per Annum</i> £72—£588	Prevailing rates	39½—48	Sundays and recognised Public Holidays	14—45

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS AND HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES DURING 1954

	CLERKS		ARTISANS		LABOURERS	
	Average Weekly Earnings	Hours Actually Worked	Average Weekly Earnings	Hours Actually Worked	Average Weekly Earnings	Hours Actually Worked
<b>COLONY</b>						
Building and Construction	£ s. d. 2 15 8	49·69	£ s. d. 1 19 11	45·81	£ s. d. 1 0 6½	44·1
Miscellaneous Manufactures	2 6 9½	46·41	1 18 1½	44·69	1 0 11½	42·16
<b>PROTECTORATE</b>						
Agricultural Research	3 3 11	44·5	1 15 11½	47·68	15 4½	39·38
Building and Construction	2 14 5½	47·99	1 11 6	42·66	18 6½	40·78
Forestry	2 14 11½	41·08	1 3 11½	30·82	1 3 11	41·76
Mining	2 9 0	48·32	2 2 11½	58·59	1 8 3½	52·91

COST OF LIVING

The following table shows that the average quarterly price index rose during the year by 21 points from 389 in 1953 to 410 points in 1954:

*Retail Price Indices*  
Base year: 1939=100

Year	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	Average
1954	390	418	417	416	410
1953	391	389	385	389	389
1952	389	399	392	387	392

This rise in the index figures for 1954 was due mainly to a steep rise in the price of rice, the staple food of the country, and, to a lesser extent, in the price of fish. The price of rice rose from 30s. per bushel (84 lbs) in the fourth quarter of 1953 to 45s. per bushel in the second quarter of 1954 and remained at that price for the rest of the year.

The rise in the price of rice may be the result of a serious shortage of local supplies arising from the movement of labour from the farming

areas. So serious was the shortage that for the first time for many years the government was compelled to import supplies from Italy and Burma.

As was to be expected, this increase in the cost of living resulted in demand by some trade unions, on behalf of substantial numbers of workpeople, for a general increase in wages. Later in this Report in the section relating to industrial relations this matter is dealt with in greater detail. Here it is only necessary to mention that the demand was not confined to trade unions. The Senior Civil Servants' Association representing the large majority of European civil servants and a number of African civil servants, put in a claim towards the end of the year for a 20 per cent increase in salaries to meet the rise in the cost of living. The matter was discussed at the Senior Whitley Council and a Sub-Committee was appointed to investigate the rise which had occurred since January, 1953. The Sub-Committee was still carrying out its investigations when the year ended.

The following tables set out retail prices of essential commodities for April and October, 1954 in respect of Freetown, and the average retail prices in respect of three principal areas in the Provinces for the same periods.

PETTY RETAIL PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES  
*Freetown Area*

<i>April, 1954</i>			<i>October, 1954</i>		
<i>Food</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Price s. d.</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Price s.</i>
Rice . . . . .	7 oz	3	Rice . . . . .	6 oz	
Sweet Potatoes . . . . .	13 oz	3	Sweet Potatoes . . . . .	3 oz	
Cassava . . . . .	10 oz	1	Cassava . . . . .	6 oz	
Groundnuts . . . . .	3 oz	2	Groundnuts . . . . .	4 oz	
Greens . . . . .	8 oz	1	Greens . . . . .	2 oz	
Dried Fish (Bonga) . . . . .	2 oz	5	Dried Fish (Bonga) . . . . .	3 oz	
Palm Oil . . . . .	5 oz	4	Palm Oil . . . . .	8 oz	
Bananas . . . . .	one	1	Bananas . . . . .	two	
Bread . . . . .	2 oz	2	Bread . . . . .	4 oz	
Salt . . . . .	7 oz	1	Salt . . . . .	7 oz	
Pepper . . . . .	1 oz	1	Pepper . . . . .	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz	
<i>Clothing</i>			<i>Clothing</i>		
Khaki Shirt . . . . .	one	12 6	Khaki Shirt . . . . .	one	10
Khaki Shorts . . . . .	one	8	Khaki Shorts . . . . .	one	8
Singlet . . . . .	one	4	Singlet . . . . .	one	3
<i>Other Essential Items</i>			<i>Other Essential Items</i>		
Blanket . . . . .	one	9 3	Blanket . . . . .	one	9
Soap (local) . . . . .	one cake	1	Soap (local) . . . . .	one cake	
Matches . . . . .	one box	2	Matches . . . . .	one box	
Kerosene . . . . .	one quart.	6	Kerosene . . . . .	one quart.	
Firewood . . . . .	bundle. (2lb 1oz)	1	Firewood . . . . .	bundle. (2lb 7oz)	

## RETAIL PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

*Average of Three Areas in the Protectorate*

April, 1954			October, 1954				
Food	Unit	Price		Food	Unit	Price	
		s.	d.			s.	d.
Rice (Native cleaned)	6 oz		3	Rice (Native cleaned)	5.5 oz		3
Sweet Potatoes	7.2 oz		1	Sweet Potatoes	5.6 oz		1
Cassava	2.05 oz		1	Cassava	22.8 oz		1
Groundnuts	1.5 oz		1	Groundnuts	1.4 oz		1
Greens	18 oz		1	Greens	14 oz		1
Dried Fish (Bonga)	3.8 oz		6	Dried Fish (Bonga)	3.3 oz		6
Palm Oil	11.6 oz		6	Palm Oil	9.3 oz		6
Bread	7.3 oz		6	Bread	7.3 oz		6
Salt	5.3 oz		1	Salt	4.6 oz		1
Pepper	0.8 oz		1	Pepper	1.2 oz		1
<i>Clothing</i>			<i>Clothing</i>				
Khaki Shirt	one	12	6	Khaki Shirt	one	12	10
Khaki Shorts	one	9	4	Khaki Shorts	one	9	6
Singlet	one	3	9	Singlet	one	3	11
<i>Other Essential Items</i>			<i>Other Essential Items</i>				
Blanket	one a year	7		Blanket	one a year	8	6
Soap (local)	one cake		1	Soap (local)	one cake		1
Matches	per box		2.3	Matches	per box		2.1
Kerosene	per bot.		7.3	Kerosene	per bot.		8.3
Firewood	bundle. (2 $\frac{7}{8}$ lb)		1	Firewood	bundle. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb)		
Rent (average per month)	a room	6	10	Rent (average per month)	a room	7	

## LABOUR DEPARTMENT

From the opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Quay in May, 1954, (which for the first time in the history of Sierra Leone made it possible for ships to berth alongside a quay), the Maritime and Port Harbour Pools of the department were housed in a combined office on the quay at Cline Town. The old Maritime Pool Office in Freetown was vacated; but the Harbour Pool Office was maintained with a token staff to recruit stevedores and dock workers for ships which might still make use of Government Wharf.

There was no change in the siting of the employment exchange and the headquarters office of the department which remained in adjacent buildings in the central part of Freetown.

*Duties*

The following continued to be the main duties of the department:

- (i) to advise the government on labour matters generally;
- (ii) to maintain good industrial relations in the territory and improve them by the development and extension of collective



- bargaining and joint consultation between employers and workers through their representative organisations;
- (iii) to promote efficiency in management and labour;
  - (iv) to reduce the effects of unemployment by the distribution of labour, where possible, to other areas and districts;
  - (v) to encourage the sound growth of trade unions and to enable them to shoulder greater responsibility in labour matters;
  - (vi) to enforce labour legislation by wages and other inspections;
  - (vii) to register unemployed workers and place them in suitable employment;
  - (viii) to carry out registration of workers by fingerprinting for purposes of identification; and
  - (ix) to compile various labour statistics, including retail price indices.

### *Inspections*

Shortage of senior staff aggravated by incidence of annual vacation and sick leave of Labour Officers, did not allow wages inspections under the Wages Boards Ordinance to be maintained at the level of the previous year and there was a substantial fall in the number of completed inspections. The following table gives an analysis of the inspections carried out in 1954 together with similar particulars for the two preceding years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of wage inspections completed</i>	<i>Arrears of wages claimed</i>	<i>Arrears of wages paid</i>	<i>No. of workers whose wages were examined</i>	<i>No. of workers found to be underpaid</i>
		£	£		
1954	282	2,122	2,122	3,503	295
1953	439	3,528	3,528	3,017	503
1952	214	749	749	1,281	125

Opportunity was taken in the course of inspections to ensure that employers complied with the requirements of other labour laws: for example, the notification of vacancies to the employment exchange by certain employers as required by the Employment of Ex-Servicemen Ordinance and the employment of the statutory proportion of ex-servicemen; and in respect of the Colony area, the employment of workers holding registration certificates, and the monthly submission by certain establishments of returns showing numbers in employment, as required by the Registration of Employees Ordinance, etc.

### *Employment Exchanges*

The outstanding feature in the work of employment exchanges during the year was the registration by fingerprinting of artisans working in the Provinces. A five-man registration team (including a Supervisor and a photographer) proceeded on duty from Freetown in January and

October had visited all the main centres of employment and completed its work. In all, 253 artisans were registered for the first time and 1,000 artisans were given renewals of previous registration certificates. Registration in the Provinces is confined by law to artisans.

The five employment exchanges continued to function but active consideration was given to the closing down of the Waterloo exchange where business dwindled progressively. It was considered that if there could be a demand in the future for a large number of workers the demand could be met by the Freetown employment exchange, only 15 miles away. A total number of 4,342 placings was made during the year by all employment exchanges, excluding the Maritime and Harbour Pools. The Maritime Pool made 20,930 placings and the Harbour Pool 151,545. Corresponding figures for 1953 were 20,024 and 61,986 respectively.

Four thousand eight hundred and fifty-five registration certificates were issued by the Labour Department during the year. Of these, 1,006 were fresh registrations.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The following is a list of the registered trade unions which were functioning on 31st December, 1954:

	<i>General Membership</i>	<i>Paid-up Membership</i>
United Mine Workers' Union (Branches at Marampa, Yengema and Hangha) . . . . .	3,000	300
Maritime and Waterfront Workers' Union . . . . .	4,453*	1,027*
Transport and General Workers' Union . . . . .	1,160*	365*
Artisans and Allied Workers' Union (Branches at Bo and Freetown) . . . . .	6,353	601
Railway Workers' Union . . . . .	2,118*	2,000*
Sierra Leone Washerwomen's Union . . . . .	45*	21*
Clerical and Mercantile Workers' Union . . . . .	180	Nil
The Elder Dempster African Staff Union . . . . .	134*	120*
The Amalgamated Teachers' Organisation . . . . .	599*	575*
Sherbro Amalgamated Workers' Union . . . . .	284*	54*
Sierra Leone Domestic Servants' Union . . . . .	202*	171*
Association of Builders and Building Contractors . . . . .	n.a.	n.a.

\* Figures quoted are for 1953.

The Association of Builders and Building Contractors was the only one of the above unions which was registered during 1954. This registration, on 9th April, is of special interest in that it is the first in respect of an employers' organisation to be made under the Trade Unions Act. Figures of membership are not yet available.

Of the other unions, which are all workers' organisations, the Sierra Amalgamated Workers' Union is a general union catering for all classes of workpeople in the Bonthe area. The first five unions are industrial unions, covering all groups of workers in the respective industries; the others are occupational unions covering particular occupations.

With the exception of the Sierra Leone Washerwomen's Union, the Clerical and Mercantile Workers' Union, the Elder Dempster African Staff Union and the Sierra Leone Domestic Servants' Union, these unions have representation on one or other of the following wage-fixing bodies: the two Joint Industrial Councils for Artisans and General Workers, and for the Transport Industry, the Teachers' Joint Committee, and the three Wages Boards for Mining Workers, Maritime and Waterfront Workers and the Printing Industry.

#### *Joint Consultation*

The year saw an expansion in joint consultation machinery by the establishment of a new Works Committee in the Engineering Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. A preliminary meeting was held on the 3rd September to explain the functions of a works committee to representatives of management and workers. The inaugural meeting was held on the 5th November, at which the Committee's constitution (which closely followed the lines of the model prepared by the Labour Department in 1950) was formally adopted.

Meetings of the other Works Committees were held regularly during the year. The main subjects discussed were the promotion of welfare measures such as transport, first aid equipment, and protection against dangerous materials; promotion and training opportunities for employees paid daily; the keeping of workplaces in a clean and healthy condition and the observance of departmental and safety regulations etc. Much use was made of these committees by workers' representatives as a means of persuading management to reduce disciplinary measures which had been taken against fellow-workers.

While it would be idle to claim that the fullest possible use is being made of joint consultation where works committees are in existence, it is fair to state that free and unfettered discussion of awkward questions and problems has frequently enabled settlements to be reached and thus has had a good effect on the establishment and maintenance of good relations between the management and employees. By and large these committees are proving a success but the success can be greater and more assured if managements in each undertaking will communicate to their workpeople in advance any changes of policy and general arrangements which might affect them vitally.

The Joint Consultative Committee continued in being but no meetings were held during the year. This committee, which is fully representative of employers' and workers' organisations in the territory, offers advice to the Commissioner of Labour, chief labour adviser to the government on matters relating to the introduction of new labour policy and legislation.

*Wage-Fixing*

The proposals of the Printing Trade Workers' Wages Board, which was set up in 1953, were confirmed in 1954 and standards for occupational tests for certain skilled workers in the trade were agreed during the year. The following are the agreed rates of wage:

<i>Per Month</i>	
£3 10s. 0d.	Labourers
£6 10s. 0d.	3rd Class Journeyman
£8 12s. 6d.	2nd Class Journeyman
£12 10s. 0d.	1st Class Journeyman (and Proof Reader)

There was no change in the wage-rates of the other wage-fixing bodies but in September and October the Joint Industrial Council for Artisans and General Workers and the Joint Industrial Council for the Transport Industry each met to consider claims from the workers' representatives; the latter claimed first for a cost-of-living allowance to compensate for a rise in the cost of living, but later amended their claim to a flat wage-increase of 2s. 6d. per day. A number of meetings of each of these Councils was held but negotiations were still proceeding by the end of the year.

*Trade Disputes*

There were four stoppages of work during the year; three of these affected Messrs. Pauling & Company's work-sites at the Sewa and Rokel Bridges and the fourth concerned labourers employed by the District Commissioner, Bo. The following table shows the duration of each stoppage and the number of workers involved:

*Stoppages of Work in 1954*

<i>Date of Stoppage</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>No. of Workers Involved</i>	<i>Cause of Stoppage</i>	<i>Date of Resumption of Work</i>
3.54	Sewa Bridge	Not known (mainly labourers)	Alleged non-payment of overtime fees and unfair treatment	5.3.54
7.54	Bo (District Upkeep Gang)	100	Failure to make early payment of arrears of wages assessed by the Department	9.7.54
12.54	Rokel Bridge	About 172 (artisans and labourers)	Wage and overtime rates; compensation for injuries arising out of and in the course of employment; shortage of food supplies, particularly rice.	10.12.54
12.54	Sewa Bridge	About 78 (artisans and labourers)	Request for earlier payment of wages in respect of Christmas holidays.	15.12.54

## LABOUR LEGISLATION

One important labour ordinance was passed during the year. This was the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 18 of 1954) which replaces the existing Ordinance. The main features of the new Ordinance

include the improvement in benefits in respect of fatal and non-fatal accidents arising out of and in the course of employment, the provision of compensation for occupational diseases and the notification of accidents, as they occur, to the Commissioner of Labour (for further details see Chapter 8). Arrangements were made to bring the new Ordinance into force on the 1st January, 1955.

The following Public and Government Notices, relating to terms and conditions of employment of workers in certain industries, and to registration by fingerprinting of artisans in the Provinces, were issued during the year:

Public Notice No. 5 of 1954—Wages Boards Ordinance—Printing Undertakings, Direction by the Commissioner of Labour confirming minimum rates of wages and other conditions.

Government Notice No. 156 of 1954—Registration of Employees Ordinance, 1947—Period for Registration (Ordinance No. 8 of 1947).

Government Notices Nos. 250 and 251 of 1954—Wages Boards Ordinance—Notice of terms and conditions of employment agreed by the Joint Industrial Council for Artisans and General Workers.

Government Notice No. 297 of 1954—Wages Boards Ordinance—Notice of terms and conditions of employment agreed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Transport Industry.

Government Notice No. 371 of 1954—Registration of Employees Ordinance, 1947—Period for Registration (Ordinance No. 8 of 1947).

Government Notice No. 507 of 1954—Registration of Employees Ordinance, 1947—Period for Registration (Ordinance No. 8 of 1947).

Government Notice No. 677 of 1954—Registration of Employees Ordinance, 1947—Period for Registration (Ordinance No. 8 of 1947).

Government Notice No. 732 of 1954—Wages Boards Ordinance—Notice of terms and conditions of employment agreed by the Joint Industrial Council for Artisans and General Workers.

Government Notice No. 994 of 1954—Registration of Employees (Establishment of Employment Exchanges) Rules, 1947.

Government Notice No. 1045 of 1954—Wages Boards Ordinance—Notice of terms and conditions of employment agreed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Transport Industry.

Government Notice No. 1063 of 1954—Wages Boards Ordinance—Notice of terms and conditions of employment agreed by the Joint Industrial Council for the Transport Industry.

#### SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

Statutory returns from employers show that there were eight fatal and 336 non-fatal accidents during the year as against six fatal and 30

non-fatal accidents in 1953. The following table summarises the information from these returns:

Year	No. of Accidents		Total	Amount of Compensation paid		Total
	(a) Fatal	(b) Non-Fatal		(a) Fatal	(b) Non-Fatal	
1954	8	336	344	£ 1,120	£ 4,065	£ 5,185
1953	6	308	314	1,206	1,471	2,677
1952	10	714	724	1,766	4,252	6,018

The Chief Inspector of Mines continued to be mainly responsible for inspecting establishments employing dangerous machinery and for generally administering the Machinery (Safe Working and Inspection) Ordinance. There is no Factory Ordinance and no other statutory means available for checking accidents to workers.

#### *Health and Welfare*

The general health of workers continued to be satisfactory. No case of occupational disease came to the notice of the Medical Department but consideration was given to the need for ascertaining and controlling any possible risk of infection to underground workers at the chrome mines. The mining companies continued to provide adequate medical facilities for their workers. A new dispensary was under construction at the chrome mines.

The provision of welfare facilities is of particular importance in the Provinces where, on the whole, facilities are inadequate. The need is however being met gradually; and particularly in the larger centres works and departmental football and cricket teams are being formed and week-end matches arranged. As shown in previous Reports, the mining companies give much attention to this subject and maintain well-run services.

Attention is also being given by one or two companies to the establishment of non-contributory gratuity schemes, the amount payable being related to the number of years a worker has served with the company.

#### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

The Joint Apprentice Schemes, adopted by the two Joint Industrial Councils (for Artisans and General Workers and for the Transport Industry) in 1953, are now applicable to the whole of the industries covered by these Councils. The terms and conditions of the schemes, like the wages agreed by the councils are enforceable under the Wages Boards Ordinance. Both workers' and employers' organisations consider that these schemes offer the best hope of putting Sierra Leone craftsmanship on a sound basis.

## Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

### REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Revenue and expenditure for 1954 were £7,621,299 and £6,863,115 respectively, as compared with £5,418,153 and £5,269,095 in 1953. The estimated figures for 1954 were £7,344,063 and £6,808,813 respectively: thus revenue was £277,236 and expenditure £54,302 more than the estimates.

The main increases in revenue were:

	£
Customs . . . . .	632,607
Special Receipts . . . . .	12,282
Interest . . . . .	113,628
Grants from Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board and Educational Fund	15,000

Revenue from Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes was £539,821, compared with the estimate of £1,060,773. On the expenditure side, the figures were £1,485,996 and £1,343,658 respectively.

Customs Revenue was £3,562,768, an increase of £632,607.

The surplus at the close of the year was £779,976. The net appreciation on investments amounted to £21,792 and the General Revenue Balance was increased to £3,116,626.

The tables below give the figures of actual Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1952, 1953 and 1954:

	REVENUE		
	1952 £	1953 £	1954 £
<i>Ordinary</i>			
Customs . . . . .	2,233,574*	2,375,012†	3,562,67
Harbour and Light Dues . . . . .	18,878	23,141	61,82
Licences and Internal Revenue . . . . .	73,125	89,448	35,03
Taxes . . . . .	1,562,255	2,002,887	2,476,68
Fees, Payments for Services & Reimbursements	227,219	331,920	—
Fees and Receipts . . . . .	—	—	396,56
Reimbursements . . . . .	—	—	84,85
Posts and Telegraphs . . . . .	82,664	98,071	107,90
Rents of Government Property . . . . .	25,127	29,149	—
Royalties . . . . .	—	—	46,59
Interests and Loan Repayments . . . . .	53,120	46,769	157,90
Miscellaneous Receipts . . . . .	37,135	61,948	—
<b>Total Ordinary Revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>£4,313,097</b>	<b>£5,058,345</b>	<b>£6,930,13</b>
<i>Extraordinary</i>			
Special Receipts . . . . .	701,894	73,441	116,16
Colonial Development and Welfare Vote . . . . .	198,119	281,495	539,82
Miscellaneous . . . . .	—	—	16,81
Land Sales . . . . .	665	324	26
Grants from Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board and Educational Fund . . . . .	—	—	15,00
Investments . . . . .	—	4,548	3,09
<b>Total Extraordinary Revenue . . . . .</b>	<b>£900,678</b>	<b>£359,808</b>	<b>£691,16</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE . . . . .</b>	<b>£5,213,775</b>	<b>£5,418,153</b>	<b>£7,621,29</b>

\* Exclusive of £457,290 transferred to Sierra Leone Development Fund.

† Exclusive of £421,091 transferred to Sierra Leone Development Fund.

## EXPENDITURE

<i>Ordinary</i>	1952 £	1953 £	1954 £
Agriculture . . . . .	99,283	127,923	133,931
Education . . . . .	319,721	404,274	531,199
Forestry . . . . .	38,070	47,576	47,778
Forest Industries (a) . . . . .	—	88,556	117,385
Medical and Health . . . . .	335,954	394,644	436,418
Other Departments . . . . .	1,451,233	1,534,329	1,692,067
Miscellaneous Services (b) . . . . .	461,563	292,718	433,063
Pensions and Gratuities . . . . .	155,695	172,965	224,150
Public Debt Charges (c) . . . . .	158,837	158,837	230,668
Public Works Annually Recurrent			
Railway Loss . . . . .	287,195	325,031	333,670
Railway Recurrent . . . . .	227,486	228,488	—
Military . . . . .	—	—	145,479
	130,022	76,704	99,824
<b>Total Ordinary Expenditure . . . . .</b>	<b>£3,665,059</b>	<b>£3,852,045</b>	<b>£4,425,632</b>
<i>Extraordinary</i>	£	£	£
Electricity . . . . .	—	33,209	34,555
Posts and Telegraphs . . . . .	62,444	67,010	10,487
Public Works . . . . .	548,313	621,564	460,280
Road Transport . . . . .	56,117	43,431	50,350
Development Schemes (d) . . . . .	630,072	575,057	1,461,996
Miscellaneous . . . . .	11,770	127	9
Loans to Local Bodies, etc. . . . .	63,764	76,652	2,530
Railway New Recurrent . . . . .	—	—	223,276
Railway (e) . . . . .	164,000	—	—
Pensions . . . . .	200,000	—	194,000
<b>Total Extraordinary Expenditure . . . . .</b>	<b>£1,736,480</b>	<b>£1,417,050</b>	<b>£2,437,483</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE . . . . .</b>	<b>£5,401,539</b>	<b>£5,269,095</b>	<b>£6,863,115</b>

(a) Previously included under Development Schemes.

(b) Includes grants to local administrations, and charges not classified departmentally.

(c) Excludes the portion of interest payable by the Railway.

(d) Includes expenditure recoverable under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

(e) Contribution to Railway Department for replacement of railway engines.

## PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt of the Colony was £4,822,007 on 31st December, 1954, and the Sinking Funds for its amortisation had accumulated to £12,281 on the same date. Interest and redemption charges amounted to £254,383.

The sums of £9,900 and £26,850 respectively were subscribed locally for the loans of £2,030,000 and £1,680,000 which were raised in 1950 and 1953.



## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 31st December, 1954, the Colony's liabilities totalled £4,899,438 and assets amounted to £8,016,064, thus showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £3,116,626.

The cash, investments and reserves held by the government for its own account amounted to £2,544,343 made up as follows:

Cash (available to meet expenditure) . . . . .	£1,641,771
Reserve Fund . . . . .	92,258
Surplus Funds invested . . . . .	810,314
	<hr/>
	£2,544,343

The interest-free loan of £100,000 mentioned in the 1953 Report was repaid by the Government of the United Kingdom in 1945.

## MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

*Taxation Yields in 1954*

Customs Duties: (a) Export . . . . .	£806,955	
(b) Import . . . . .	2,676,289	
	<hr/>	£3,483,244
Income Tax and Concession Duty:		
(a) Companies . . . . .	£2,286,386	
(b) Personal . . . . .	91,306	
	<hr/>	£2,377,692
House Tax (Protectorate) . . . . .		91,116
Poll Tax (Non-Native) . . . . .		7,872
Royalties (Gold, Iron Ore) . . . . .		13,697
Stamp Duty . . . . .		3,859

There are no excise duties in Sierra Leone.

*Customs Duties*

Customs duty is payable on most imported goods and on a few domestic exports.

Import duties are collected on either an *ad valorem* or a specific basis and a preference, which in most cases is equivalent to nearly 75 per cent of the general rate, is granted to goods of Commonwealth origin or manufacture. The largest import revenue is collected on tobacco (manufactured and unmanufactured), textiles, drink, petroleum products and metals.

Export duties on a specific basis are collected on coffee, ginger, piassava and kola nuts and on an *ad valorem* basis on palm kernels, palm oil, groundnuts, benniseed and cocoa. Palm kernels continued to provide the highest export duty—£527,983, though there was a considerable decrease of £214,573 compared with 1953 because of lower prices and production.

Import duties in 1954 produced £2,676,289 compared with £1,897,466 in 1953 and export duties £806,955 compared with £898,595 in 1953.

*Income and Poll Tax*

Income tax was chargeable in 1954-55 at graduated rates (beginning at 6*d.* in the pound) on individuals and at a flat rate (9*s.* in the pound) on companies. Individuals were granted personal allowances and other deductions before the graduated rates began to be applied. An unmarried man was granted £300, a married man, £500. Children's allowances were granted at rates between £25 and £100 per child (up to a maximum of four children) according to where the child was maintained and whether costs of education were incurred. Dependent relatives' allowance was also made. Allowance was granted for life assurance and similar provision, subject to a generous maximum. In addition, contributions to approved pension and provident funds and the expenditure incurred on passages to or from Sierra Leone for the taxpayer or his dependants were allowed subject to conditions, as deductions in the calculation of income.

Arrangements have been concluded with the United Kingdom and certain other Commonwealth and foreign countries for the avoidance of double taxation. Broadly, they provide that tax payable on income from sources within one territory shall be allowed as a credit against tax chargeable on the same income in the other territory. Pensions and certain other forms of income are taxable in only one territory and are exempt in the other. The yield from income tax in 1954 was £2,377,693 of which £2,286,386 was from companies and £91,306 from personal.

Poll tax at £4 a year, or £2 a half-year, is payable, subject to certain exemptions, by non-natives who reside in Sierra Leone for more than three months. Minors and married women living with their husbands are amongst the persons exempted. Poll tax is set off against income tax that may be payable.

The following table illustrates the incidence of income tax on individuals:

INCIDENCE OF INCOME TAX ON INDIVIDUALS

<i>On Incomes of</i>	£300	£400		£500		£600		£700		£800		£900		£1,000					
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
Single Man	Nil	2	10	0	5	0	0	7	10	0	15	0	0	20	0	0	25	0	0
Married Man]	Nil	Nil		Nil		2 10 0		5 0 0		7 10 0		10 0 0		15 0 0		20 0 0		25 0 0	
„ with 1 child	„	„	„	„	„	„	1 17 6	4 7 6	6 17 6	9 7 6	14 7 0	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
„ with 2 children	„	„	„	„	„	„	1 5 0	3 15 0	6 5 0	8 15 0	12 10 6	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
„ with 3 children	„	„	„	„	„	„	0 12 6	3 2 6	5 12 6	8 2 6	11 5 0	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
„ with 4 children	„	„	„	„	„	„	Nil	2 10 0	5 0 0	7 10 0	10 0 0	„	„	„	„	„	„	„	„

*Local Tax*

This tax is levied in the Protectorate by local authorities, at a rate varying from 22*s.* to 30*s.* per year, on every adult male.

*Stamp Duty*

Stamp duty is collected mainly on cheques, bills of lading, probate of wills and conveyances.

## FINANCES OF PRINCIPAL LOCAL AUTHORITIES

In the Colony the principal local authorities are the Freetown City Council, the Rural Area Council and the Sherbro Urban District Council. In the Provinces there are 12 District Councils and 143 Native Administrations.

Details of revenue and expenditure are as follows:

## COLONY RURAL AREA COUNCIL

	1953 £	1954(a) £
<i>Revenue</i>		
Grants in Aid . . . . .	8,214	9,079
Grants from Produce Marketing Board	7,293	3,440
Contributions from Rural District Councils . . . . .	938	928
Miscellaneous . . . . .	394	1
Deficit . . . . .	3,280	4,486
	<u>£20,119</u>	<u>£17,934</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Administration . . . . .	2,541	2,636
Works Recurrent . . . . .	2,871	2,622
Works Extraordinary . . . . .	5,769	5,500
Oil Palm Development . . . . .	996	1,435
Coffee Production . . . . .	527	416
Swamp Rice . . . . .	1,807	—
Fruit and Vegetables . . . . .	467	655
Grants to Rural District Councils . . . . .	5,141	1,440
Education . . . . .	—	2,076
Kent/Dublin Ferry . . . . .	—	117
Community Development . . . . .	—	1,037
	<u>£20,119</u>	<u>£17,934</u>

(a) Revised Estimates.

## SHERBRO URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

<i>Revenue</i>	1954 £	<i>Expenditure</i>	1954 £
Rates . . . . .	2,603	Administration . . . . .	1,309
Government Grants . . . . .	5,395	Works recurrent . . . . .	654
Fines and Fees . . . . .	347	Works extraordinary . . . . .	3,997
Licences . . . . .	238	Medical and Sanitation . . . . .	1,117
Other receipts . . . . .	200	Education . . . . .	446
		Surplus . . . . .	1,260
	<u>£8,783</u>		<u>£8,783</u>

## FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL

	Revenue		Expenditure	
	1952-53	1953-54	1952-53	1953-54
	£	£	£	£
Establishment Committee . . . . .	13,293	25,929	17,608	25,929
Finance and General Purposes Committee . . . . .	13,966	12,450	13,875	14,695
Protection Committee . . . . .	8,026	6,734	23,071	19,930
Health, Housing & Building Scheme Committee . . . . .	1,716	5	2,535	125
Recreation Facilities Committee . . . . .	2,719	2,664	10,799	10,522
Education & Publicity Committee . . . . .	3,992	3,560	6,434	8,391
Assessment Committee . . . . .	—	—	3,278	3,831
Municipal Trading Committee . . . . .	11,706	12,041	13,342	14,401
City Rate . . . . .	39,360	40,878	—	—
Surplus Revenue . . . . .	—	—	3,836	6,437
	94,778	104,261	94,778	104,261

The combined total revenue estimates of the 143 chiefdom native administrations amounted to £538,440, compared with £405,801 in 1953. Estimated expenditure in 1954 was £560,411 compared with £440,265 in 1953. At the 31st December, 1954, the total assets of the native administrations were estimated at £222,452 as against £181,494 at the end of 1953.

Detailed figures which show the Revenue and Expenditure during 1953 and 1954 of each of the district councils are given on pages 26 and 27.

## REVENUE

	BO		BOMBALI		BONTHE		KAILAHUN		KAMBIA		KENEM
	1953	1954*	1953	1954*	1953	1954*	1953	1954	1953	1954*	1953
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government Grants in Aid	1,374	20,873	5,646	9,177	6,764	8,805	5,661	9,504	6,357	9,921	5,683
Contributions by Chiefdoms	8,842	21,953	6,044	11,154	2,376	7,334	4,604	13,282	1,602	6,352	6,697
Grants by Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board	23,539	24,024	3,839	9,373	6,365	8,929	14,361	9,312	10,298	2,986	7,766
Grants from Protectorate Mining Benefits Fund	625	150	650	200	—	—	—	—	900	2,000	—
Receipts from profit earning services	—	210	270	1,723	—	45	16	598	70	785	725
Other Receipts	1,154	1,051	494	—	2,006	738	251	728	792	880	368
Grants from Ginger Profits Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	130
Licences	—	3,411	—	1,219	—	1,727	—	2,667	—	930	—
Grants from Sierra Leone Selection Trust Limited	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deficit for year	—	—	—	—	—	3,325	4,163	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,534</b>	<b>71,672</b>	<b>16,943</b>	<b>32,850</b>	<b>17,511</b>	<b>30,893</b>	<b>29,056</b>	<b>36,091</b>	<b>20,019</b>	<b>23,854</b>	<b>21,368</b>

## EXPENDITURE

	BO		BOMBALI		BONTHE		KAILAHUN		KAMBIA		KENE
	1953	19540	1953	19540	1953	19540	1953	1954	1953	19540	1953
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Administration	3,067	3,300	1,365	2,086	1,522	1,938	2,306	3,226	895	1,604	2,782
Works Recurrent	4,890	6,550	2,838	5,035	3,187	4,876	6,956	10,395	4,416	6,385	4,974
Works Extraordinary	22,411	43,477	5,151	8,466	10,717	14,778	18,441	14,833	8,923	3,887	10,920
Development of Oil Palm Industry	1,595	2,000	1,448	1,302	161	210	957	526	1,885	200	545
Other Development Projects	1,316	—	3,947	316	1,328	25	396	—	1,313	875	618
Agriculture	—	4,598	—	1,974	—	3,968	—	898	—	2,275	—
Education	—	4,460	—	1,374	—	3,034	—	678	—	862	—
Forestry	—	880	—	2,364	—	—	—	244	—	1,437	—
Medical and Health	—	2,482	—	2,200	—	1,025	—	2,683	—	1,828	—
Welfare and Community Development	—	1,596	—	1,101	—	730	—	1,746	—	1,000	—
Miscellaneous	394	2,091	503	845	43	307	—	709	1,688	694	479
Surplus	6,841	240	1,691	5,787	553	—	—	153	899	2,707	1,051
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40,534</b>	<b>71,672</b>	<b>16,943</b>	<b>22,850</b>	<b>17,511</b>	<b>30,893</b>	<b>29,056</b>	<b>36,901</b>	<b>20,019</b>	<b>23,854</b>	<b>21,369</b>

\* Revised Estimates.

Councils

## REVENUE

COINADUGU		KONO		MOYAMBA		PORT LOKO		PUJEHUN		TONKOLILI	
1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
921	9,252	5,480	9,641	7,001	11,083	5,799	8,343	6,583	9,383	6,187	9,341
035	9,692	5,067	9,828	9,165	17,743	4,548	10,059	1,808	7,598	3,734	10,576
600	2,028	3,319	2,575	1,905	2,046	7,718	3,050	6,548	5,310	2,514	2,132
—	1,100	4,000	2,000	—	—	—	858	—	—	502	100
50	163	22	437	676	—	585	367	1,150	2,583	—	29
32	—	48	199	42	287	3	33	338	226	570	564
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	479	—	1,081	—	2,684	—	1,913	—	1,060	—	1,188
—	—	—	2,046	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	692	—	1,932	34	818	—
538	22,714	17,936	27,807	18,789	33,843	19,345	24,623	18,359	26,194	14,325	23,930

## EXPENDITURE

COINADUGU		KONO		MOYAMBA		PORT LOKO		PUJEHUN		TONKOLILI	
1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
579	1,214	986	1,234	2,071	2,857	1,675	1,510	2,094	1,766	1,295	1,788
004	5,643	5,143	7,487	3,526	4,733	4,425	6,026	3,920	6,020	2,683	3,600
025	6,928	5,117	8,545	6,572	8,883	9,218	6,241	7,550	5,150	6,288	3,506
—	—	3,319	2,575	1,905	2,798	412	357	1,377	1,390	2,514	2,132
627	496	2,355	—	1,769	156	3,515	—	3,312	—	1,304	—
—	1,528	—	1,074	—	2,264	—	1,980	—	4,719	—	1,545
—	18	—	1,690	—	4,531	—	150	—	1,204	—	1,350
—	1,137	—	2,348	—	1,024	—	2,068	—	989	—	1,957
—	1,150	—	731	—	3,268	—	3,162	—	1,915	—	2,099
—	537	—	60	—	350	—	60	—	2,286	—	371
19	117	282	458	269	196	100	957	106	755	240	137
84	3,947	734	1,105	2,677	2,783	—	2,112	—	—	—	5,445
38	22,715	18,789	27,807	18,789	33,843	19,345	24,623	18,359	26,194	14,324	23,930

\* Revised Estimates.

## Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

### CURRENCY

The currency in circulation in the Territory consists of notes of the face value of 10s., £1 and £5, nickel-bronze coins of  $\frac{1}{2}d.$ , 1d. and 3d. and alloy coins of 6d., 1s. and 2s. value.

These are provided by the West African Currency Board which has its offices in London and is represented locally by a currency officer. Its agents are the Bank of British West Africa Limited.

At the 31st December, 1954, West African Currency Board notes in circulation were estimated at £5,499,984, and coins at £3,163,980.

### BANKING

There are two banks operating in the territory: the Bank of British West Africa Limited, and Barclays Bank DCO. The former has a branch at Bo, in the Protectorate, and agencies at Segbwema and Pendembu.

Savings bank facilities are offered by both these banks and by the Post Office Savings Bank. The latter pays interest at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum, and at 31st December, 1954, the total amount standing to the credit of the 55,646 depositors was £1,271,015.

## Chapter 5: Commerce

During 1954 there were no significant changes in the regulation affecting imports. Most classes of goods can be imported without restriction from non-dollar countries (with the exception of Russia and its satellites and Japan). The customs import tariff was modified to give a narrower margin between preferential and general rates of import duties; this was achieved by slightly decreasing the general rate and by slightly increasing or leaving unchanged the preferential rate. One effect of this change may be an increase in imports of cheaper goods under the lower general tariff, which may result in some reduction of the cost of living. Milk, butter, potatoes, onions and cement are now entirely exempted from customs duty.

*Values of Imports into and Exports from Sierra Leone, 1952 to 1954*

	1954 £	1953 £	1952 £
Imports (a)	12,876,250	11,095,161	10,281,434
Exports (b)	11,381,673 (d)	11,966,463	10,164,158
Re-Exports (c)	397,429	227,694	239,359

(a) Excluding bullion and specie.

(b) Excluding re-exports of bullion and specie.

(c) Excluding the following amounts by which these articles exported to the United Kingdom were under-declared during that year and were corrected during 1953:

Palm kernels	£513,652
Palm oil	7,600
Benniseed	2,279

(d) Subject to further adjustment in respect of shipments of iron ore during the last quarter of 1954.

## ORIGINS OF IMPORTS (BY VALUE)\* 1952 TO 1954

<i>Countries</i>	<i>1954 Value</i>	<i>1953 Value</i>	<i>1952 Value</i>
<b>BRITISH COMMONWEALTH</b>	£	£	£
United Kingdom . . . . .	8,401,849	7,869,419	6,729,397
Australia . . . . .	34,317	31,372	43,833
Canada . . . . .	178,519	116,734	55,986
Cyprus . . . . .	122,727	104,637	84,498
Gold Coast . . . . .	68,665	27,002	30,780
Hong Kong . . . . .	407,644	177,703	65,220
India . . . . .	598,436	591,819	742,244
Jamaica . . . . .	6,745	14,367	17,890
New Zealand . . . . .	24,760	36,514	30,686
Nigeria . . . . .	184,664	118,754	125,835
Nyasaland . . . . .	294,351	270,678	256,666
Trinidad . . . . .	20,451	26,142	36,112
Union of South Africa . . . . .	114,084	97,666	136,298
Other parts of the British Commonwealth . . . . .	32,816	29,861	30,134
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>10,490,032</b>	<b>9,512,668</b>	<b>8,385,579</b>
<b>Irish Republic</b> . . . . .	<b>149,937</b>	<b>150,659</b>	<b>228,715</b>
	<i>1954 Value</i>	<i>1953 Value</i>	<i>1952 Value</i>
<b>REIGN COUNTRIES</b>	£	£	£
Belgium . . . . .	65,931	36,621	75,822
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	57,671	29,106	39,123
Denmark . . . . .	41,424	22,725	18,637
France . . . . .	68,643	43,832	48,271
French Morocco . . . . .	12,155	11,905	1,015
German Federal Republic . . . . .	151,914	75,602	169,095
Germany, Eastern . . . . .	2,942	1,139	97
Italy . . . . .	422,741	60,699	100,119
Japan . . . . .	128,666	88,544	276,552
Madeira . . . . .	10,984	11,139	13,230
Netherlands . . . . .	306,071	208,939	165,933
Netherlands West Indies . . . . .	452,312	322,211	284,291
Norway . . . . .	12,646	17,381	8,851
Portugal . . . . .	78,644	26,377	9,156
Spain . . . . .	10,970	11,027	49,691
Sweden . . . . .	63,804	70,651	45,732
United States of America . . . . .	263,831	325,939	313,073
Other Foreign Countries . . . . .	84,936	67,997	48,452
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>2,236,285</b>	<b>1,431,834</b>	<b>1,667,140</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>12,876,250</b>	<b>11,095,161</b>	<b>10,281,134</b>

\* Excluding bullion and specie.



## DESTINATIONS OF EXPORTS (BY VALUE) 1952 TO 1954(\*)

<i>Countries</i>	<i>1954 Value £</i>	<i>1953 Value £</i>	<i>1952 Value £</i>
<b>BRITISH COMMONWEALTH</b>			
United Kingdom . . . . .	7,654,439†	9,074,838	8,153,300
Australia . . . . .	—	624	3
Canada . . . . .	1,268	865	1,000
Cyprus . . . . .	—	1	—
Gold Coast . . . . .	23,684	30,115	8,600
Hong Kong . . . . .	—	—	—
India . . . . .	—	81	—
Jamaica . . . . .	—	2	—
New Zealand . . . . .	—	122	—
Nigeria . . . . .	19,966	24,288	40,000
Nyasaland . . . . .	—	—	—
Trinidad . . . . .	—	—	—
Union of South Africa . . . . .	20,107	12,949	20,100
Other parts of the British Commonwealth . . . . .	305,862	214,104	236,500
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>8,025,326†</b>	<b>9,357,989</b>	<b>8,460,000</b>
Irish Republic . . . . .	2,300	18	—
<b>FOREIGN COUNTRIES</b>			
Belgium . . . . .	153,516	9,451	4,800
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	2	28	—
Denmark . . . . .	101,598	62,421	8,500
France . . . . .	90,065	43,202	10,900
French Morocco . . . . .	527	3,712	700
German Federal Republic . . . . .	590,821†	1,070,345	747,500
Germany Eastern . . . . .	—	—	—
Italy . . . . .	67,497	17,268	—
Japan . . . . .	—	—	—
Madeira . . . . .	5	—	—
Netherlands . . . . .	1,303,854	266,620	66,200
Netherlands West Indies . . . . .	—	—	—
Norway . . . . .	1,752	791	300
Portugal . . . . .	—	—	100
Spain . . . . .	—	—	—
Sweden . . . . .	6,142	3,416	2,000
United States of America . . . . .	836,124†	1,069,204	790,900
Other Foreign Countries . . . . .	77,880	31,639	23,700
Ships' Stores . . . . .	124,264	30,359	48,400
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>3,354,047†</b>	<b>2,608,456</b>	<b>1,704,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>11,381,673†</b>	<b>11,966,463</b>	<b>10,164,000</b>

(\*) Excluding re-exports of bullion and specie.

† Subject to further adjustments in respect of shipments of iron ore during the last quarter of 1954.

Commodities	1954		1953		1952		
	Unit	Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £
Sugar . . . . .	cwt	83,333	214,549	72,693	199,140	56,717	192,744
Still Wine . . . . .	gall	503,766	211,284	322,698	150,706	298,964	138,952
Beer etc. . . . .	gall	1,056,676	509,395	925,321	414,221	734,998	374,145
Tobacco unmanufactured . . . . .	cwt	16,753	296,634	14,914	270,740	14,481	256,582
Tobacco manufactured:							
Cigars and Cheroots . . . . .	lb	173	422	281	691	179	365
Cigarettes . . . . .	lb	319,644	192,541	255,706	159,552	240,138	140,257
	1,000	129,641		110,435		103,361	
Aviation Spirit . . . . .	gall	235,587	32,113	106,300	16,996	69,608	9,593
Motor Spirit . . . . .	gall	2,076,698	172,059	2,144,566	158,352	1,922,349	142,748
Lamp Oil . . . . .	gall	2,347,110	126,283	1,825,287	95,206	1,641,303	82,988
Cotton fabrics of standard type (not including narrow and special fabrics)	sq yd	19,264,612	1,832,733(a)	17,921,054	1,786,454	14,441,190	1,704,299
Fents (Cotton) . . . . .	lb	4,851,965		4,416,065		3,591,239	
Fabrics of synthetic fibres including head ties in the piece but excluding fents . . . . .	lb	488,210	135,771	535,812	161,037	545,144	158,514
Jute, bags and sacks, new . . . . .	sq yd	4,857,965	583,043(a)	2,577,723	311,265	2,702,216	383,970
Cement . . . . .	lb	1,521,397		727,372		802,309	
Iron and Steel and manufactures (excl. buckets, pails and basins) . . . . .	no	890,905	89,023	1,276,806	134,680	1,936,238	410,466
Electric Machinery, apparatus and appliances . . . . .	cwt	17,922		25,821		38,989	
Passenger Cars . . . . .	ton	24,108	198,425	26,733	233,328	19,541	176,100
Chassis with engines mounted . . . . .	ton	12,937	685,824	—	1,029,202	—	831,271
	no	—	294,381	—	460,308	—	244,799
	ton	457	244,765	418	224,847	418	217,539
	no	500		(b)		(b)	
	ton	286		(b)		165	
	no	628		(b)		(b)	
	ton		248,611		179,546		132,277

(a) Not including knitted fabrics in respect of 1954 only  
 (b) Figures not available.

Articles	Unit	1954		1953		1952	
		Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £
<i>Food</i>							
Bananas, fresh	cwt.	13,234	16,169	10,561	11,410	7,903	9,785
Coconuts, fresh	cwt.	2,086	2,445	(a)	2,506	(a)	8,067
Kola Nuts	cwt.	27,597	275,545	24,100	136,385	24,845	181,009
Coffee, not roasted	cwt.	47,868	862,892	21,004	333,014	24	217
Cocoa Beans	cwt.	34,762	802,565	32,620	452,923	41,220	638,481
Ginger	cwt.	22,869	162,206	37,187	144,702	30,301	169,629
<i>Crude Materials (mainly inedible and excepting fuels)</i>							
Groundnuts	ton	1,142	64,288	2,686	153,000	2,169	182,322
Palm Kernels	ton	68,080	3,763,924	68,904	4,259,539	76,375	4,675,914
Benniseed	ton	198	17,561	636	45,666	336	30,995
Iron Ore	ton	877,306	2,707,324	1,200,240	4,345,429	1,378,959	2,228,685
Chromium Ore	ton	15,120	165,025	26,096	331,737	23,970	282,309
Piassava	cwt.	113,865	334,210	52,922	192,452	70,925	138,671
<i>Animal and Vegetables Oils and Fats</i>							
Palm Oil	ton	919	53,667	362	26,873	833	87,940
Beeswax	lb.	46,781	8,392	19,421	3,026	49,547	6,668
<i>Manufactured Goods classified by Materials</i>							
Diamonds, uncut and unworked	carat	443,598	1,699,875	416,742	1,198,133	423,327	1,217,059
<i>Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities</i>							
Monkeys	no.	486	1,441	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Chimpanzees	no.	238	10,030	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
<i>Transactions in Gold and Monetary Items</i>							
Gold Coin and Bullion	oz. troy	2,530	26,573	3,585	37,619	2,321	24,352

## Chapter 6: Production

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

The total land area of Sierra Leone is 27,925 square miles. This may be classified as follows:

	<i>Sq. Miles</i>
Arable land . . . . .	} 15,348
Land for growing tree crops, vines or shrubs . . . . .	
Permanent meadow and pasture . . . . .	8,500
Wood or forest land . . . . .	1,162
All other land . . . . .	2,915

The country may roughly be divided into the following vegetational zones:

- (a) the coastal belt, characterised by virgin mangrove and grasslands;
- (b) the high forest area in the south-east;
- (c) the Scarcies area in the west where there are extensive riverain swamps which are being developed for the cultivation of rice;
- (d) the northern and central areas where the natural vegetation varies from savannah to medium bush, interspersed with small inland swamps.

The traditional farming system on the uplands is of shifting cultivation with bush, mainly secondary, being cleared for farming once in five to ten years. This is a wasteful method and with a steady increase in the population is already leading to over farming in some areas. No entirely satisfactory system of rotation of crops has yet been found for Sierra Leone despite continuous experimentation for over a quarter of a century. The aim of the Department of Agriculture, therefore, is to encourage the farming of inland, riverain and mangrove swamps as alternatives to the uplands, and to encourage the planting of permanent tree crops such as oil palms, cocoa, coffee and citrus on the uplands. The possibilities of utilising upland pastures in conjunction with cattle or soil rejuvenation are being investigated as part of a long term programme.

As will be seen from the statistics of principal crops, the bulk of the main crop (rice) is still produced on the uplands; but with developments hoped for from drainage and mechanised cultivation in the swamp lands, with the gradual clearance and cultivation of the large areas of mangroves and with the organised cultivation of inland swamps, it should be possible eventually to make full use of these alternative areas to relieve the pressure on the uplands.

In spite of good yields from the swamps the 1954 rice crop was below normal. This was mainly because the acreage and yield of upland rice farms were smaller than average as a result of early rains and poor clearing by burning. In addition, a considerable number of young farmers gave up farming in favour of work on large government projects of industrial development and to take part in illicit diamond digging, thus reducing the labour available for the production of rice.

Coffee is rapidly developing into an important export crop and considerable areas have been planted throughout the country in recent years. The expansion of cacao in the high forest areas goes ahead steadily although less cacao than coffee has been planted recently. Piassava retains an important place amongst the exports, and production increased in 1954: it is unlikely to expand very much further owing to a rather inelastic demand. The wild oil palm is abundant throughout the Southern areas but, with two exceptions, oil palm plantations as such do not exist. Exports of palm kernels have declined slightly as farm labour has moved to more remunerative employment. Large numbers of oil palm seedlings of improved varieties are being distributed to local farmers every year. A start has been made on the introduction of power nut crackers and pioneer oil mills to mechanise processing.

Land and water resources are conserved by declaring forest reserves and protected forests, and by chiefdom bye-laws under sections 8 and 16 of the Tribal Authorities Ordinance. Details of other proposed projects will be found in the *Report on Soil Conservation and Land Use in Sierra Leone* (Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1951).

The law regulating the ownership of land in the Protectorate is to be found in the Protectorate Land Ordinance, Cap. 186 of the Laws of Sierra Leone. This Ordinance declares that all land in the Protectorate is vested in the tribal authorities and lays down conditions under which non-natives may occupy land. The principal provision is that which restricts the interest which a non-native can hold to a term not exceeding 50 years, renewable for further terms not exceeding 21 years. In order further to safeguard the rights of the indigenous people, the Summary Ejectment (Protectorate) Ordinance, Cap. 227 of the Laws of Sierra Leone, provides a simplified form of procedure for the removal of a non-native who unlawfully occupies Protectorate land.

The radical title to land in the whole of the Protectorate is vested in the indigenous inhabitants. From this are derived leaseholds under which the Government, trading firms and others may occupy certain areas of limited extent. Mining companies also occupy land for terms of years by virtue of mining leases, the conditions of which are governed by the Minerals Ordinance, Cap. 144 of the Laws of Sierra Leone. The areas occupied by Government and by commercial and mining interests are inconsiderable compared with the extent of the Protectorate as a whole.

Details of land tenure, apart from the leasehold tenure described in the previous paragraph, vary among the different tribes.

Local development programmes related to the use and ownership of land and water resources are arranged in discussion with the tribes.

authorities concerned. At present they principally concern the utilisation of tidal and inland swamp land for the improved cultivation of rice, and for the most part are on a small scale.

No provision exists for permanent settlement by non-natives in the protectorate. Africans may settle on land on such terms as are provided for by native law and custom in the chiefdom in which they wish to settle.

AGRICULTURE

The area and average production of the principal crops grown for local consumption and export are as follows:

<i>Crops</i>	<i>Area (in acres)</i>	<i>Estimated production in 1954 (tons)</i>
Rice (as paddy) (a)	660,000	220,000(b)
Millet and Sorghum	78,000	26,000
Maize	15,000	6,000
Groundnuts (undecorticated)	17,500	7,000
Vegetables	n.a.	n.a.
Millies	n.a.	800
Bananas and Plantains	n.a.	n.a.
Cassava	50,000	50,000
Sweet potatoes including yams	12,000	12,000
Coconuts	4,000	n.a.
Coffee	n.a.	2,500
Cocoa	n.a.	1,738
Cola	n.a.	2,000
Brebes—Piassava	n.a.	5,693
Pepper	n.a.	1,143
Castor seed	n.a.	198
Almond Kernels	n.a.	68,080
Almond (pericarp) oil	n.a.	29,000

(a) Conversion factor paddy to rice: 60 per cent.

(b) The rice crop year is from the 1st March to the 28th February.

The yields per acre vary: production is mainly by individual farmers working on their own and particular crops are not confined to any one section of the community. Whilst the whole rice crop was well below average, the swamp crop was slightly above.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

The headquarters of the department is at Njala. The country is divided into eight Agricultural Circles, each circle in the charge of an Agricultural Officer. In most cases a second Agricultural Officer or Agricultural Superintendent is attached to the circle. The circle is usually sub-divided into units of three chiefdoms, each unit being the responsibility of an Agricultural Instructor under whom there may be Senior Instructors or Native Administration demonstrators.

The main Agricultural Stations are:

*The Regional Rice Research Station at Rokupr* on the Great Scarcies which carries out research on rice-breeding, rice soils and allied subjects  
*Musaia Animal Husbandry Station* in the Derived Guinea Savanna area in the north. Work is aimed at selecting and breeding a strain of the local trypanosomiasis-resistant Ndama cattle which is early maturing, regular in breeding and has a good carcass weight. Work on pastures, poultry and settling the nomadic local Fula cattle owners is also carried out.

*Njala Experimental Farm* in the secondary bush area. Work is mainly concerned with annual crops, pigs and poultry.

*Newton Experimental Farm* in the Colony. Work on this farm is mainly concerned with pigs and poultry.

*Horticultural Station* at Lumley near Freetown for experimental work on horticultural crops and the provision of planting materials.

In 1954 certain of the agricultural department's schemes were taken over by district councils. The councils have their own economic development plans financed by grants from government funds to carry out the local development schemes, staff have been assigned or transferred from the Agricultural department and junior staff have been recruited locally under the general direction and advice of departmental officers. Whenever possible, successfully established schemes such as improved oil-palm planting, inland swamp-clearance, mangrove clearance, ex-ploughing and production and provision of planting materials, including cacao and coffee, have been handed over with staff and finance. Gradually, as district councils gain in experience and staff become available, it is intended that this process should quicken until responsible local administrations are running their own agricultural affairs, when the department will assume an advisory role and will be able to pay increased attention to experimental work and the establishment of further schemes.

#### *Development Schemes*

The main agricultural development schemes are as follows:

*Rice.* The extensive southern riverain grasslands and the north central flood plains or Boli lands are estimated to total some 350,000 acres. In 1952, 2,100 acres were tractor ploughed and cultivated. In 1953, this was extended to 4,000 acres and in 1954 to some 6,500 acres.

Work is done under contract for district councils. In 1955, 56 crawler tractors and ancillary implements will be in action. A grant from United Kingdom funds enabled extensive mechanical trials, including the use of combine harvesters on the Boli lands to be started in 1954. An hydrologist and soil chemist are to be appointed under this scheme which includes investigations into soil and water problems.

Whilst most of the mangrove area which can be cultivated in the Scarcies has been cleared and brought into use, large tracts remain in the south. In this area a loan scheme for clearing was started in 1938/39 and has since continued in varied modified forms. In 1953 the work

was handed over to district councils, when it was estimated that about 3,500 acres had been cleared. Felling continues at the rate of about 400-500 acres a year.

The empoldering of saline swamps is concentrated in the saline mangrove areas of the Scarcies and the Colony. A total of 890 acres is now empoldered, including 500 acres by excavators as a pilot scheme. Before further expansion takes place the economics require careful study. If successful economically, considerable acres could be reclaimed for rice-growing. In the Scarcies the empolders have been taken over by the Kambia District Council.

Ox-ploughing is confined to certain cattle areas in the north. Much of the demand has now been met and the population is more interested in tractors. Some 80 ox teams were in action in 1954.

Inland swamp clearance schemes have rapidly expanded from pilot schemes established by the department. District Councils have helped with grants and loans, and especially in the north there has been a very marked increase in this type of farming.

*Regional Rice Research Station, Rokupr.* The research programme in rice breeding and the study of rice soils, with particular reference to mangrove soils, continued during the year under review. Work has been held up owing to lack of sufficient specialist staff, but the position is likely to be remedied by 1956. Improved rice varieties continue to be multiplied and distributed. A large collection of 340 rice varieties from places throughout the world has been built up. Work is also being done on arboricides for killing mangroves and on crab control.

*Oil Palm.* The most important work of the Agricultural Department in regard to tree crops is the country-wide oil palm campaign and some 50,000 seedlings are now being distributed annually. The main oil palm nursery is at Njala where a modern germinator and overhead irrigation system are installed. All other stations have oil palm nurseries and there are many others run by District Councils supervised by departmental staff. Towards the end of the year a research officer from the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research main station in Nigeria was posted to Sierra Leone and he began the establishment of a sub-station at Njala.

*Cocoa and Coffee.* In 1954 increased planting was encouraged in suitable areas. Owing to the high price of coffee much more of this crop than of cocoa was planted. Experiments continued, particularly on methods of fermentation to obtain high quality cocoa. With the stimulus of a price differential for the various grades the farmers made efforts to improve quality and without doubt this was very much higher than in any previous year, over 75 per cent of the crop being Grade I.

*Piassava.* Piassava, which is a valuable local industry, was produced in larger quantities than normal after a set back in 1953. Quality was reasonable on the whole. Field officers continued to assist by demonstrations and by instruction in the best methods of preparation, and investigations at the small Piassava Experimental Station in Bontha District continued.



*Fertilisers.* Experiments continued and throughout the country demonstration plots were laid down, which many farmers went to see. Superphosphate stands out as the main soil improver, especially for swamp rice. Sales of superphosphate continued and some 360 tons were imported. It is likely that the demand will increase rapidly, particularly as it has been decided to subsidise fertilisers for food crop production in 1955. Experiments on trace elements were initiated.

*Livestock and Poultry.* The Animal Husbandry Station at Musaia in the main cattle area, continues as the chief centre for investigating the local Ndama breed, for studying management and pasture improvement and for disseminating knowledge and practical assistance to the surrounding Fula cattle owners. The station is at present concerned with selection and breeding with the object of producing animals which mature more quickly, whose carcasses are heavier and which breed regularly. The herd now numbers over 230. Extension work includes a scheme to settle the nomadic cattle owners, mainly Fulas. In 1954 some 17 settled areas were registered and help was given to establish small dams, to improve water supplies and pastures and to initiate soil conservation measures.

Other stations at which cattle are maintained are Newton, Njala and Rokupr where selection and good management are improving the herds. The proposed experiment to import Hereford semen was not carried out owing to technical difficulties.

Newton continued as a pig centre with Large Whites and Wessex Saddlebacks. One boar was imported from the United Kingdom. Pig houses were erected at Njala and Musaia and stocks on all stations increased. Small local piggeries continued to flourish, in the Colony area in particular, but shortage of feeding stuffs due to a general decrease in surplus food crops led to a decrease in numbers of stock and reduction in the standard of feeding.

The stocks of poultry on all stations were increased, new buildings were erected and additional equipment obtained. At the end of the year there were over 1,000 adult birds at Newton and stocks elsewhere were expanding. One thousand two hundred day-old Rhode Island Red chicks were imported by air from the United Kingdom. Experiments with the deep litter system were initiated at Newton and Njala. Demand from the public continued to be heavy and with the increases now being made it should be met in 1955.

Muscovy ducks and Chinese geese continued to thrive well and stocks were increased to meet public demand.

*Horticulture.* Work amongst the Colony market gardeners continued. Demonstration hill and valley gardens have been established, showing the value of terracing, irrigation, improved varieties, fertilizers, insecticides and new types of gardening machinery. In conjunction with one model garden a piggery and some poultry have been established to demonstrate their value in market gardening. Lectures, demonstrations and an horticultural show have taken place. Stocks of budding citrus and other fruit trees have been built up to meet the large local demand.

*Research.* Apart from fundamental rice research at the Rice Research Station, Rokupr, departmental research continued on soils and fertilizers and taxonomic studies were made of Sierra Leone fungi. The publication *Diseases of Cultivated Plants in Sierra Leone* was rewritten and a *Vernacular Botanical Dictionary for Sierra Leone* prepared.

#### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There has never been any accurate census of the livestock population in Sierra Leone. The number of cattle, which was greatly reduced during the disastrous rinderpest epizootic of 1949, is gradually increasing and the total number is now probably in the neighbourhood of 150,000. This increase is primarily due to the greater security felt by the Fula cattle owners for their herds as a result of the disease control measures which have been carried out in recent years by the Veterinary Department. Fula settlement schemes have also encouraged these people to forsake their semi-nomadic existence and to settle, with their cattle, in Sierra Leone, thus increasing the national herd. The majority of the cattle are to be found, under Fula ownership, in the Northern Province. Prior to 1949 many thousands of cattle were also kept in the Kono District of the South Eastern Province but memories of the losses suffered from rinderpest during that year, together with an increased interest in illicit diamond digging, have discouraged the people here from attempting to rebuild their herds. There are probably about 100,000 pigs in the country and this number is increasing mainly because of the encouragement and assistance being given to District Councils to build piggeries. Unlike the local Ndama cattle however, pigs are susceptible to trypanosomiasis, which in certain circumstances can constitute a considerable hazard to successful pig rearing in Sierra Leone. The numbers of sheep and goats have been estimated at 10,000 and 1,500 respectively.

The numbers of animals slaughtered for human consumption during 1954: cattle 7,838, sheep 216, goats 903 and pigs 695.

*Diseases.* With regard to epizootic diseases 1954 was a significant year for the Veterinary Department in Sierra Leone. Since 1949, when rinderpest destroyed more than half the cattle in the country, no year had passed without the reappearance of the disease until 1954 when an outbreak was reported. In 1952 there were 11 outbreaks of rinderpest and over 11,000 cattle were protected with Lapinised virus. In 1953 when 29,000 were inoculated the number of outbreaks was reduced to three. In 1954 over 42,000 cattle were protected and not a single outbreak was reported. These inoculation figures are significant and must have greatly influenced the disease position, but it is quite possible that other factors were also important, especially the improved control of rinderpest in French Guinea, from where the disease is always introduced. There was a small outbreak of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia at Bunumbu in the South-Eastern Province at the end of the year which was quickly localised following the issue of an order prohibiting the movement of cattle in the district.

*Veterinary Department*

As in former years the main concern of the Veterinary department was the control of rinderpest and a total of 42,565 cattle were immunised during the year with Lapinised Rinderpest Virus. Of these 8,127 were inoculated with dried virus obtained from Vom, Nigeria and the remainder with wet virus harvested at the place where the vaccinations were being carried out. A total of 22,003 poultry were vaccinated during the year against Newcastle Disease, compared with 3,683 in 1953. The demand for this vaccine is steadily growing.

During the whole year the Department operated with its full establishment, consisting of the Director, two Veterinary Officers, one Laboratory Superintendent and 12 Veterinary Inspectors.

Provided that the department can control major epizootics for the next few years, there will undoubtedly be a big rise in the cattle population, and it is essential that this increase should be absorbed into the southern parts of the country to relieve pressure in the Northern Province. Already there are signs in the Koinadugu District of a limited amount of over-stocking and over-grazing, and it is possible to foresee the day when soil erosion will commence unless the surplus cattle can be introduced into the south where excellent grazing exists in many areas. The problem is largely an administrative one, and if the Ful Settlement Scheme in the Northern Province (which gives cattle owners certain rights of land tenure) proves successful it may be possible for district councils and co-operative societies to persuade the people in the southern areas to accept the Fulas into their lands or to start keeping cattle themselves. Work is continuing at Musaia Livestock Improvement Farm and eventually it should be possible to supply improved breeding stock. However this is a long term policy and the pressing need is to get more cattle into the south as quickly as possible. It is the Department's first duty to see that these cattle are healthy, because nothing will retard the industry more than the fear of disease.

## FORESTRY

The forest estate was increased by 5.6 square miles of protected forests in 1954. No new reserves were constituted, although proposals for the reservation of about 92 square miles were in hand. At the end of the year the total area of constituted forest estate was 1,029 square miles, comprising 67 square miles of Crown forest in the Colony, 86 square miles of reserved forest in the Protectorate and 102 square miles of protected forest, also in the Protectorate. The more extensive use of mechanical equipment has overcome some of the difficulties imposed by topography on extraction, but considerable development of access roads is needed to tap the larger production reserves. Further reservation for productive and development purposes is becoming increasingly difficult.

Afforestation work included 578 acres in protected forests and 13 acres in reserves. Four hundred and thirty-seven acres of reserves were under natural regeneration; this is showing encouraging results but

requires to be assisted by silvicultural investigations for which staff is not available. Development of planned management for a sustained yield is also hampered by lack of staff. These restrictions affected progress in the preparation of plans for the Kenema Sawmill group of reserves, extending over approximately 350 square miles, and for the regeneration of the Kasewe reserve. Nevertheless forest operations now in progress are in line with the general principles of such plans. Negotiations were in progress with a private operator for the exploitation of the Dodo Hills reserve which is part of a group of reserves close to, but outside, the Kenema Sawmills Series.

District councils have been playing an increasingly active part in forestry matters. The process has involved little change in terms of the technical work done but staff arrangements associated with the transfer of duties have occupied a good deal of time.

#### Production

On the production side of the Forestry Department's activities, the Forest Industries Branch, which is the sole large scale exploiting enterprise in Sierra Leone, had a record year. Output of sawn timber was 23,556 cubic feet compared with 150,300 cubic feet in 1953. The value of manufactured woodwork was £23,868 as against £18,700 in the previous year and the total revenue of the Forest Industries Branch was 100,203. Delays in the arrival of the main engines have, however, been a source of anxiety, relieved to some extent by the putting into operation of a new frame saw. Logging prospects have improved through the concentration of the limited staff available on timber and road alignment surveys, but additional staff is needed for the forward planning essential to efficiency in both management and exploitation.

The main timbers exploited were *Tarrietia utilis*, *Brachystegia monensis*, *Lophira alata* (var. *procera*), *Nauclea diderrichii*, *Terminalia borensis* and *Piptadenia africana*. More than 30 species were cut by the Forest Industries Branch. There are no exports of timber but imports were below the 1953 level.

#### The Forestry Department

The established staff of the Department comprised:

1. Conservation Branch
  - 1 Chief Conservator of Forests
  - 2 Senior Assistant Conservators of Forests (1 vacant)
  - 8 Assistant Conservators of Forests
  - 61 Junior Service Officers (pensionable) (6 vacant)
  - 51 Junior Service Officers (non-pensionable) (4 vacant)
2. Forest Industries Branch
  - 1 Conservator of Forests
  - 1 Forest Engineer
  - 1 Chief Supervisor of Forest Works
  - 5 Supervisors of Forest Works
  - 19 Junior Service Officers (pensionable)
  - 3 Junior Service Officers (non-pensionable)

The loss of two expatriate officers by retirement and resignation caused serious gaps in the conservation branch. It is most satisfactory to record the appointment as Assistant Conservator of Forests of the first Sierra Leonean to achieve a forestry degree. In the Forest Industries Branch, the Chief Supervisor of Forest Works left, and it was doubtful whether the holder of one of the Supervisor posts would renew his contract. The post of Supervisor of Woodworkshops was filled. On balance, taking the Department as a whole, there was a loss of senior personnel.

#### FISHERIES

With the exception of two privately-owned European ocean-going fishing craft, sea fishing is necessarily confined to inshore waters and estuaries. The fish most sought after is "bonga" (*Ethmalosa fimbriata*) in large shoals of which are found in the shallow coastal waters at certain seasons of the year. Fishing for "bonga" is carried out with cast nets worked from large dugout canoes. Other fishing methods used include beach seine nets, hand-lines fished from canoes, and fish pounds and fences.

The supply of fish in the Freetown area in particular has been enhanced by the catches of the two privately-owned English and Italian trawlers at present fishing in Sierra Leone. These catches were particularly welcomed by consumers during the rainy season when supplies from local fishermen are usually inadequate.

Rivers and lakes are fished to the limit of their potential and yield a useful seasonal catch. No estimate of such landings has been attempted but the quantity obtained from this source falls short of the needs of the people in the interior.

Statistics are not available of numbers engaged in the fishing industry nor of numbers of boats, canoes, seine nets and fish fences. A very rough estimate of total landings of sea fish is 5,000 tons a year.

The fishing industry is virtually controlled by the fish traders (almost invariably women), who provide the capital required for the purchase of gear and other expenses. This is repaid by the fishermen in kind from their catches. Marketing is done almost entirely by these traders who take delivery of the fish as soon as it is landed, the whole of the catch being sold locally. Little use is made of refrigeration in the distribution of fish and processing is confined to the drying and smoking of fish intended for sale in the interior.

Prices vary greatly and it is generally considered that the traders make excessive profits, ranging from 100 to 200 per cent. The quantity of fish caught falls far short of the needs of the country and, with rising standards of living, the demand is increasing. This has forced up the price of local fish to such an extent that, in some cases, imported frozen fish is cheaper.

Experimental work is carried on for all four West African territories by the West African Fisheries Research Institute, which has its headquarters in Freetown and which operates a modern fishery research

essel. Surveys so far carried out indicate that there are fishing grounds which could be worked by trawlers within reach of all the territories, and the Institute has also demonstrated, in local waters, the potentialities of small powered craft of the surf-boat type for inshore fishing.

## MINING

Rights to prospect and mine are granted by the Governor on behalf of the Crown in which the minerals are vested.

Prospecting is permitted under a prospecting right or under an exclusive prospecting licence granted for a term of one year. The holder of the prospecting right may prospect for the mineral for which the right is granted over any part of Sierra Leone which has not been closed to prospecting. He may also apply for an exclusive prospecting licence which reserves to him the sole right to prospect within a specified area of the mineral specified in the licence. The licence is granted upon payment of a fee of £5 per square mile per annum and is renewable annually up to a maximum of three years in the case of an alluvial mineral and six years in respect of a lode mineral.

Mining may be carried out under a mining right or lease. A mining right is granted to enable the working of small stream deposits of an area not exceeding 880 yards along the stream and within 100 yards from centre. It is granted for a year and is renewable. The fee is 20 shillings for 100 yards of stream annually. A mining lease may be granted to mine either alluvial or lode deposits and may be for any term varying from five to ninety-nine years. Mining leases and mining rights confer an exclusive right to enter upon the land and to mine and dispose of the minerals specified in the lease or right upon payment of royalty, mineral and surface rents.

The mining industry continued to provide a high proportion of the exports of Sierra Leone representing nearly 40 per cent of the total value of all domestic exports. There has been a fall of nearly 10 per cent from the proportion in 1953 due mainly to a considerable decline in the exports of iron ore following the reduction in 1954 of demand from the United States of America where most of the ore is sold. The following table shows the quantity and value of minerals exported from Sierra Leone in 1953 and 1954.

Mineral	1953		1954	
	Quantity	Value £	Quantity	Value £
Gold	3,585 ozs.	37,619	2,530 ozs.	26,573
Quartzite	26,096 tons	331,737	15,120 tons	165,025
Ore	1,200,240 tons	4,345,429	877,306 tons	2,543,939
Diamond	416,742 carats	1,198,133	443,598 carats	1,389,033
Amberite	—	—	4 tons	7,874

*Gold.* Very little gold was produced by the Pampana Mining Company, Limited, in 1954. The dredge did not operate during the year and only 6.65 ozs. were obtained. The Yemen Company Limited produced 130 ozs. of gold and temporarily ceased production in October. The

remainder of the output of gold was 69 ozs. and was produced by small miners and natives under the alluvial gold mining scheme.

*Chromite* was first discovered in Sierra Leone by the Geological Survey Department in 1929 and deposits of this mineral are at present being worked by the Sierra Leone Chrome Mines Company, Ltd., Ngerihun, near Hangha. Mining by opencast methods ceased at the beginning of July when the underground development reached a point where underground production could commence. Ore is now being produced both in lump form and in a powder concentrate from the mine.

*Iron ore* is found in several districts and large deposits of known economic importance exist in the Marampa Chiefdom of the Port Loko district and in the mountains between Sokoya and Sakasakala on the eastern bank of the Tonkolili river. The ore is mined by the Sierra Leone Development Company, Limited, in the Marampa Chiefdom from two deposits on the Ghafal and Masaboim hills. During the year two grades were produced, these being "red ore" which is hard laterite in lump form and is now almost worked out, and "powder ore" which is concentrated from the underlying schists. Work continues on the surveys in connection with the possible development of the very extensive iron ore deposits in the Tonkolili area.

*Diamond* was produced exclusively by the Sierra Leone Selective Trust Limited which during the year under review held a monopoly for prospecting, production and marketing of diamonds over the whole of Sierra Leone except for the area held by another company for mining iron ore. The diamonds are all mined from alluvial deposits in the Koidu district, the gravel being excavated by mechanical earth moving equipment and transported by dumpers or endless rope haulage to be concentrated in pan plants, of which eight have been erected by the Trust, all of these were working throughout the year. The Trust continued the diamond drilling programme which was started in August, 1952, to test the geological feature in the area near Koidu from which it is believed that the rich alluvial deposits of the Woyie river may have been derived.

There was during the year a serious increase in illicit diamond digging and trading.

The Minerals Research Syndicate continued to show interest in the exploration for minerals of the niobium and tantalum group and commenced production of columbite from one of their mining leases.

Interest is also being shown in prospecting for gold, radio-active minerals, monazite and molybdenum.

Generally the Mines Department advised the government on all matters affecting mining and mining policy and was responsible for the administration of the Minerals Ordinance and the Machinery (Safety Working and Inspection) Ordinance and of the Rules made under these Ordinances. The department inquired into all accidents reported under these Ordinances and was also responsible for the licensing of explosives magazines for mining purposes and for the examining of applicants for certificates of competence to handle explosives.

## GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

The senior service staff of the Geological Survey Department in 1954 consisted of the Director, Assistant Director, four Geologists and one prospector. The main work of the Geological Survey during 1954 was the continuation of the mapping of the schist areas of Sierra Leone and of the granites by which these areas are bounded. The geological mapping of the Sula Mountains, north of the Pampana River, has been completed and a bulletin on the area is in course of preparation. A large part of the continuation of the range to the south of the river, where it is known as the Kangari Hills, has also been geologically mapped. The geological mapping is based on topographical survey maps prepared to the scale of 1:32,000 in the Surveys and Lands Department from aerial photographs taken by the Royal Air Force in 1951. The geological maps are subsequently reduced to the scale of 1:50,000, on which scale they are being prepared for publication.

Much of the Kangari Hills is thickly forested and is uninhabited and trackless. The area was entered and surveyed by means of lines cut through the forest in a direction normal to the strike of the rocks. Six such lines, having a total combined length of 40 miles, were cut, surveyed and geologically traversed during the year. The central part of the Kangari Hills consists essentially of quartzite which is often garnet bearing. It includes a narrow zone of magnetite quartzite. To the south the quartzites grade into synkinematic gneisses, but in the west they have been protected against granitisation by a zone of amphibolite beds, one or two miles wide. The quartzites average about two miles width. On the eastern side also there is a zone, two or three miles wide, of amphibolites. Further east occurs a zone of green schists and serpentines. The schists include chlorite schist, tremolite schist and some talc schist, but the serpentines are especially characteristic of this zone. Along the western side of the green schists the amphibolite is fine grained and often shows pillow structure, and in its southern end a narrow zone of spotted schist with cordierite porphyroblasts has been distinguished. The green schist-serpentine zone is approximately two miles wide and 15 miles in length. It occupies the eastern ridge of the Kangari Hills, further east of which it merges into a synkinematic gneiss area. A green fuchsite quartzite occurs in the western edge of the quartzite zone next to the amphibolites, and this rock is also mineralised with pyrite. The amphibolites carry evenly disseminated chalcopyrite and arsenical pyrites, but only the later has been seen in significant concentrations on both sides of the quartzite zone. Many of the streams draining the eastern and southern flanks of the Kangari Hills have been worked for alluvial gold but the samples of vein quartz and of sulphide mineralisations that have so far been assayed contain only uneconomical concentrations of gold.

*The Guma Water Dam Site.* One Geologist was fully employed throughout the early part of the year at the Guma Water Dam Site in the Colony logging diamond drill cores and reporting on the geological aspects of the site proposed for the construction of the dam. The drilling



confirmed the presence of a strike fault beneath the stream valley previously predicted by the Geological Survey. In all, twenty-four holes were drilled and grouting and water tests have shown that the fault and dam site are likely to be reasonably watertight. The extent of weathering at the dam site was determined as well as the depth to which excavation should be made to sound rock. The dam will be 150 feet high measured from the valley floor; it will conserve water to supply Freetown with its requirements and will also incorporate a hydroelectric scheme to supply electrical power. The scheme has been approved as a result of this investigation.

*Lignite.* Banka drilling prospecting operations for lignite were continued throughout most of the year in the Koya Chiefdom of Port Loko District, and met with only moderate success. The area was visited on behalf of the government by Mr. Muir, the manager of Sierra Leone Chrome Mines Limited, who has had considerable experience in the German lignite field. His report has indicated that the deposits as presently known could not be exploited economically. However, he recommended that prospecting should be continued in the hope that by increasing the proved reserves the overhead costs of their exploitation could be reduced sufficiently to make the mining of the deposits a practicable proposition.

*Ilmenite.* The British Titan Products Company, Limited, has applied for a Special Exclusive Prospecting Licence over approximately 2,000 square miles covering the coastal beaches between Shenge and Sulim after samples of ilmenite sand and concentrates previously collected by the Geological Survey had been submitted by request of the company for analysis. It is understood that the company intends to prospect these areas for ilmenite sands early in 1955.

*Chromite.* Professor K. C. Dunham and Mr. R. C. Phillips, of Durham University, spent December of 1953 and part of January, 1954, geologically mapping and investigating the chromite deposits of the Kambui Hills. As a result of their work they have prepared very useful large scale geological maps of the chromite deposits and are hoping to publish through the Geological Survey Department a comprehensive report on the chromite area. They have also given valuable advice as to where prospecting operations would be most likely to find further bodies of chromite.

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Among these the most successful and numerous were the cocoa marketing societies which have again expanded their business considerably. By the end of 1954 there were 66 such societies; in the current season they have marketed 347 tons to a value of over £85,000 and have increased their proportion of the country's crop to over 20 per cent. The standard of quality shewed noticeable advance on the previous year, and there was good prospect of further advance in this direction.

The piassava marketing societies made quiet progress, despite a year of falling prices. Some 200 tons, of a value exceeding £11,000, were

marketed by 40 societies. At the end of the year the market was dull; but this was thought likely to be only a temporary difficulty.

The banana marketing societies continued at about the same level. There have been further plantings; a considerable increase in outputs could readily be secured, and a high proportion of it could be organised through societies; but unfortunately the situation in the export market was unfavourable and gave ground for much anxiety about the future of the crop.

There was a satisfactory development of the marketing of smoked munga. There were four societies which did business of over £3,000 in the season. There are prospects of further expansion which are linked with experiments in progress for introducing improved methods of catching fish.

An interesting experiment has been made in rice marketing linked with short term credit. One Society has been formed which has already done business exceeding £2,000, and the prospects appear favourable. There has been a substantial advance in regard to credit work. The number of pure credit societies has increased from 20 to 38, and would have already risen further but for lack of staff. These societies have become well established in two areas, where their work is widely appreciated. They serve to extricate their members from debt; open up to them many opportunities of using a little capital to earn more; and by saving members from having to pay extortionate interest they tend to reduce substantially the real costs of cultivation.

In reducing cultivation costs, credit advanced through the marketing societies is even more effective, or at least more speedily effective, as resources are much greater. The provision of loans to societies by the Registrar, under government guarantee, has been considerably expanded. In 1954, 56 societies took loans totalling £13,928, (as against 18 taking £10,044 in 1953) and £5,243 was repaid during the year. There were no bad debts. The system is very greatly appreciated; and all information received indicates how great is the need in the country for agricultural short-term credit, and suggests that co-operation provides a satisfactory means of supplying it. There is every prospect of this work continuing to expand.

The indirect benefits of co-operation are beginning to make themselves obvious. One is an increase of economic vigour. As a visitor to a good credit society put it, "as soon as you enter the town, you can see that more people are working." People are working for themselves instead of for their creditors; and those who have done one job successfully with the help of their society, are encouraged to tackle another. The more of the energy released by getting out of debt is going into works of social welfare—building meeting halls, stores and roads, providing better drinking water and the like. The societies are also teaching elementary business methods to people who hitherto had no idea of them, and they form the best means of enabling rural people to get a fair share in the trade of their area. In several areas there is arising a very lively demand for co-operation, which is a challenge and an encouragement to the staff of the Registrar's Department.

The greatest need at the moment is for local training. The society will only gain their full strength when they can for themselves provide secretaries to do their work, and good managing committees. But to train these as well as to do the rapidly increasing current work demands more and better staff, however, the future of the co-operative movement in Sierra Leone appears promising.

## Chapter 7: Social Services

### EDUCATION

The headquarters office of the Education Department, which was moved to New England in 1953, continued to function with the following staff: the Director and the Assistant Director of Education, Senior Education Officer, the Administrative Assistant, the Departmental Secretary, the Secretary (Students) and the Librarian. The post of Deputy Director of Education remained in abeyance.

The Minister for Local Government, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon. A. M. Margai, who assumed office in 1953, continued in this capacity during the year under review. A start was made in implementing the development scheme for the rapid extension of education, with particular emphasis on certain sections of the Protectorate where development is much needed.

The system of decentralisation of educational administration in the Protectorate, whereby the Senior Education Officer posted at Bo assumed responsibility for all routine work and advises the Director of Education on Protectorate affairs, the Provincial Education Officers deal directly with him, has worked very satisfactorily.

The office in the Colony continued to function as before under the charge of the Senior Education Officer, assisted by an Education Officer and Supervising Teachers, whose duty it is to visit schools as often as possible, not only to supervise but also to help teachers raise the standard of education.

The Board of Education, which is the central consultative and advisory body, had several meetings during the period under review. The committees of the Board (a) The Secondary Education Planning Committee and (b) The Teacher Training Advisory Committee, with a sub-committee to make recommendations to this Advisory Committee on the primary school syllabus, met as often as was necessary.

The close bonds existing between the Department and the Missions have been maintained and have resulted in greater co-operation in the conduct of the majority of primary schools in the Colony and Protectorate.

In addition to the two Government Teacher Training Colleges at Njala and at Magburaka, Fouray Bay College Teacher Training Department, Union College, Bunumbu (run by the Protestant Mission)

presented on the United Christian Council) and the Roman Catholic College at Bo received financial assistance from government funds and grants made available through Colonial Development and Welfare schemes. Every effort was made to improve the standard of teaching in the primary and secondary schools. To this end scholarships for further education and training were provided for applicants of ability and promise, but of inadequate means, to pursue courses either locally at Fourah Bay College or in Britain.

The two Education Secretaries, one for the United Christian Council and the other for the Roman Catholic Mission, whose appointment had been approved by the government, received full financial support from government funds. It is worthy of note that these appointments have resulted in more effective co-operation between missions and the government.

Departmental policy is framed with the advice of the Board of Education and aims principally at providing as early as possible, within the funds available, an expanded system of primary education as a sound base of recruitment for secondary schools.

### *Schools*

The statistics for 1954 from various schools in the Colony and Protectorate are not yet available; the figures given below are for 1953. Statistics for primary and secondary schools are given on page 54.

*Primary Education.* Primary education for children between 5+ and 12+ was given in 356 schools, three of which were run by the government; 54 more primary schools were put on the assisted list so that there were 257 schools run by missionary societies and local authorities, which received building and/or equipment grants from the government and had their teachers' salaries paid partly or wholly by the government. There were 96 unassisted schools owned by missions and private proprietors.

*Secondary Education.* Secondary education at the post-primary level was provided for boys and girls between the ages of 12+ and 18 years. The total number of secondary schools, both assisted and unassisted, was 21.

### *University Education*

Fourah Bay College remained the only institution in Sierra Leone for higher education. General degree courses in Arts and Commerce were offered as well as post-graduate work in education. There were also non-graduate teacher training courses and a non-degree course for trainees for the Christian Ministry. The part-time and evening technical and commercial classes organised in 1953 by the College were taken over completely by the Technical Institute. Enrolment for University work did not show a marked increase, but the number of non-graduates in residence exceeded that of the previous year. Details of students following university courses abroad are given on pages 55-56.

*Teacher Training*

The training of teachers for primary schools is undertaken in the Colony at Fourah Bay College, and St. Joseph's Convent (Teacher Training Departments), and in the Protectorate (a) at Magburaka and Njala Government Training Colleges, (b) at Bo Catholic Training College and (c) at Bunumbu Union College. Students in the Colony Teacher Training Colleges are prepared for the Teachers' Certificate and the Teachers' Advanced Certificate examinations, whilst those attending Protectorate Training Colleges are prepared for the Teachers' Elementary Certificate examinations. The total numbers of students in training showed a decrease of 5 when compared with figures for 1953 however, the output in 1954 increased by 13.

*Technical Institute.* By January, 1954, all external work on the hall engineering and carpenters' workshops had been completed and in addition an existing building was adapted to serve the needs of a permanent machine shop. The machinery which had been ordered, together with equipment, was delivered and installed. The engineering and woodwork machine shops are operating, but not fully until electrical switch gear and transformers are installed.

The following technical courses were provided during the year under review:

Carpenters and Joiners . . . . .	22
Bricklayers and Masons . . . . .	19
Blockmakers, etc. . . . .	14
Motor Mechanics . . . . .	16
Woodwork and Craft Teachers . . . . .	14
	—
Total full time . . . . .	85
	—

Part-time day and evening classes were held for apprentices, technicians and clerks. In the evening classes a full range of courses in technical subjects at advanced level, and thirteen subjects at ordinary level were offered in connection with the General Certificate of Education Examination of the University of London. In addition a preliminary course was offered to those who were not yet up to the standard required for entry to the main General Certificate of Education courses. On the whole enrolments for these courses were encouraging and the attendances good. The classes in shorthand and typewriting organised a year ago were very popular.

*Scholarships*

Scholarships are liberally awarded to candidates of suitable ability and age whose circumstances are such that they would otherwise be unable to enjoy secondary or further education.

The number of scholarships provided in 1953 and 1954 from local United Kingdom funds, but excluding those awarded by Government

Departments to their staff for courses of instruction, was as follows:

	1953	1954
Higher School Certificate (Prince of Wales School)	17	12
Higher School Certificate (Bo Government School)	22	10
Post-School Certificate (Fourah Bay College)	129	84
Secondary School	672	680
Further Education	100	106
Teacher Training:		
Colony	102	122
Protectorate	268	282

#### *Adult Education*

Adult education continued under the Extra-Mural Department of Fourah Bay College, with encouraging results. In Freetown courses were organised in Business Management, Law, Music and English with a total enrolment of 85. Ninety lectures in all were given. In the Colony area six villages were visited by several members of the staff who delivered 57 lectures; there was a total enrolment of 105 and an average attendance of 10. In the Protectorate 12 lectures and several group meetings were held at different centres, and the average attendance was nearly 200.

In addition to these regular and occasional lectures and meetings, a successful "Week-end School" was held at Easter in association with the People's Educational Association.

#### *Literacy Campaign*

Literacy campaign work was carried on in 33 chiefdoms, including seven new ones. This work continued in several chiefdoms under the Community Development Officer and the local District Council. An important development during the year under review was the appointment of a woman teacher/supervisor. The response to this teacher in one chiefdom is very encouraging. Four hundred and sixty-three Reading Certificates were awarded altogether, bringing the total to date to 9,043. It is estimated that the total number of adults in this country who are now literate in their own language must be between thirty and forty thousand.

The Bunumbu Press, the Bible Society and the American Wesleyan Mission Press printed newspapers, readers and books in the vernacular, as in 1953.

#### *Libraries*

Apart from the two small public libraries in Freetown, there are libraries of varying sizes and types in institutions, schools and Government Departments throughout the country. At Fourah Bay College the existing stock of books and pamphlets, totalling about 11,000, has been increased by 1,300 during 1954; periodicals currently received totalled

240; and the total expenditure on books and periodicals from all sources amounted to £1,150 plus \$265.

The British Council maintains a subscription library which contains over 18,000 books and more than 100 different periodicals and magazines. The Council also makes regular bulk loans of books and periodicals to the Protectorate.

### *Outstanding Events*

The outstanding events of the year under review come under three main headings, viz:

- (a) The New Education Ordinance,
- (b) The District Local Education Authorities,
- (c) The Fulton Commission.

Owing to the expansion and development of education in the Colony and Protectorate the need for a new Ordinance was felt by all concerned, and although the preparation of it started several years earlier, it was not until 1954 that the Ordinance, having been brought up to date and approved by the Legislative Council, became law. Already there are signs to indicate that it is fulfilling the purpose for which it is designed.

In accordance with the provisions of the New Ordinance, District Local Education Authorities have been formed and are working well. The need to place greater responsibility for the planning and management of education on local bodies is becoming more widely appreciated.

The Commission appointed by the Governor to enquire into education in Sierra Leone at all levels and to make recommendations for the improvement thereof, with particular reference to Fourah Bay College met during the period 5th April to 3rd May, 1954. The Chairman of the Commission was Mr. J. S. Fulton, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, and there were five other members, three of whom were Africans. The report of the Commission was accepted in principle by the Legislative Council at its sitting in December.

## EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

TITLE	GOVERNMENT Education Dept., and Development Funds		LOCAL AUTHORITIES		VOLUNTARY AGENCIES		GOVERNMENT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ONLY	
	1952 Actual	1953 Actual	1952 Actual	1953 Actual	1952 Approximate	1953 Approximate	1953 Actual	1954 Actual
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>RECURRENT</b>								
Administration, Inspection and Office Equipment . . . . .	41,345	76,476	—	—	6,209	7,200	81,323	94,145
Board and Lodging . . . . .	15,103	18,953	440	—	2,494	2,500	17,194	20,758
Maintenance of Schools Buildings, Furniture and Equipment . . . . .	6,077	11,284	3,136	3,059	6,055	6,240	9,227	14,271
Scholarships, Overseas and Regional . . . . .	23,720	17,151	1,769	1,030	1,000	900	12,824	15,604
Post Secondary Institutions . . . . .	75,197	—	—	—	450	460	—	—
Secondary Schools . . . . .	61,475	63,119	—	—	3,573	3,480	60,533	61,284
Primary Schools . . . . .	152,011	158,628	—	—	8,106	9,625	191,117	194,897
Teacher Training Colleges and Courses . . . . .	41,248	28,450	14,987	16,697	2,300	2,100	20,490	34,094
Other Vocational Schools and Courses . . . . .	1,692	—	—	—	950	1,000	1,437	1,043
Other Expenditure . . . . .	12,632	15,941	2,477	2,680	1,112	2,000	2,346	11,393
<b>TOTAL RECURRENT . . . . .</b>	<b>430,500</b>	<b>390,102</b>	<b>22,809</b>	<b>23,466</b>	<b>32,249</b>	<b>35,505</b>	<b>396,491</b>	<b>447,489</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>								
Expenditure on Buildings, etc. . . . .	119,653	206,837	9,430	7,528	11,903	12,215	23,000	27,322
<b>GRAND TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>550,153</b>	<b>596,939</b>	<b>32,239</b>	<b>30,994</b>	<b>44,252</b>	<b>47,720</b>	<b>419,491</b>	<b>474,811</b>



SIERRA LEONE  
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Type	1952			1953		
	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils	No. of Teachers	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils	No. of Teachers
Government—						
Primary . . . . .	4	1,023	41	3	791	2
Secondary . . . . .	5	1,031	62	8	1,101	6
Aided—						
Primary . . . . .	203	30,332	1,060	257	34,263	1,12
Secondary . . . . .	11	2,235	110	11	2,176	15
Unassisted—						
Primary . . . . .	107	7,861	—	96	8,254	—
Secondary . . . . .	2	261	15	2	371	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>42,743</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>46,956</b>	<b>1,38</b>

FOURAH BAY COLLEGE

Courses	1952/53	1953/54
	Academic Year No. of Students	Academic Year No. of Students
Diploma Education . . . . .	3	9
Diploma Theology . . . . .	1	—
Arts . . . . .	82	71
Commerce . . . . .	36	39
Ministerial . . . . .	9	9
Preliminary and General Certificate of Education . . . . .	56	81
Teacher Training . . . . .	120	122
Technical Classes . . . . .	90*	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>331</b>
Lectures . . . . .		45

\* Transferred to Technical Institute.

TEACHER TRAINING

Institutions	1953		1954	
	Attending	Left to take up Teaching	Attending	Left to take up Teaching
Fourah Bay College . . . . .	129	77	122	8
St. Joseph's Convent . . . . .	8	6	3	1
Bo Catholic Training College . . . . .	45	17	45	2
Bunumbu Union College . . . . .	114	21	102	3
Magburaka Government Training College . . . . .	55	21	95	1
Njala Government Training College	79	28	50	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>18</b>

\* 91 Students left of whom 89 are Teaching.

## NUMBER OF STUDENTS FOLLOWING COURSES ABROAD

A. *Scholarship Holders in 1953 and 1954*

Course of Study	1953		1954			
	U.K.	Nigeria	U.K.	Nigeria	Gold Coast	U.S.A.
Accountancy . . . . .	1	—	1	—	—	—
Agriculture . . . . .	7	—	6	—	—	1
Arts Degree and Education Diploma . . . . .	1	—	6	—	—	—
Commerce and Economics . . . . .	1	—	1	—	—	—
Dentistry . . . . .	5	—	4	—	—	—
Education (miscellaneous courses) . . . . .	5	—	4	—	1	—
Engineering . . . . .	6	—	8	—	—	1
Forestry . . . . .	1	—	—	—	—	1
Geology . . . . .	2	—	2	—	—	—
Journalism . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—
Law . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—
Medicine . . . . .	17	2	14	1	—	—
Modern Greats . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—
Music . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—
Public Finance . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radiography . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—
Radio Engineering . . . . .	—	—	2	—	—	—
Science Degree and Education Diploma . . . . .	3	6	16	6	—	—
Social Welfare . . . . .	—	—	2	—	—	—
Telecommunications . . . . .	—	—	2	—	—	—
Veterinary . . . . .	1	—	3	—	—	—
Zoology . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS . . . . .	50	8	77	7	1	3

Notes: (1) Scholarships are financed from either territorial funds or Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes.

- (2) In addition to scholarships shown above, individual departments award annually scholarships, tenable in Britain, for *ad hoc* courses of instruction. These scholarships are financed from territorial funds (individual departmental votes).

**B. Private Students in the United Kingdom in 1954**  
*Course of Study*

Accountancy . . . . .	20	Marine Officers (a) . . . . .	3
Agriculture . . . . .	1	Medical Laboratory . . . . .	1
Architecture . . . . .	2	Medicine . . . . .	23
Arts Degree . . . . .	3	Nursing . . . . .	146
Biochemistry . . . . .	1	Pharmacy . . . . .	4
Child Welfare . . . . .	2	Physiotherapy . . . . .	2
Customs . . . . .	1	Police . . . . .	1
Dental Mechanic . . . . .	2	Printing . . . . .	
Dentistry . . . . .	6	Public Administration . . . . .	74
Domestic Science . . . . .	7	Radiography . . . . .	2
Engineering . . . . .	65	Road Transport . . . . .	1
Economics and Commerce . . . . .	12	Science Degree . . . . .	7
Estate Management . . . . .	1	Secondary Education (b) . . . . .	24
Forestry . . . . .	1	Secretarial . . . . .	27
Income Tax . . . . .	3	Social Science . . . . .	2
Journalism . . . . .	1	Surveying . . . . .	4
Law . . . . .	61	Teacher Training . . . . .	8
Labour . . . . .	1	Miscellaneous (c) . . . . .	33
Librarianship . . . . .	1		

(a) Cadets training to become executive officers.

(b) Studying with a view to obtaining exemption from University Matriculation.

(c) Objects potentially valuable in themselves but not required in the Public Service, e.g. music, bakery, confectionery, leather-work, soap-making.

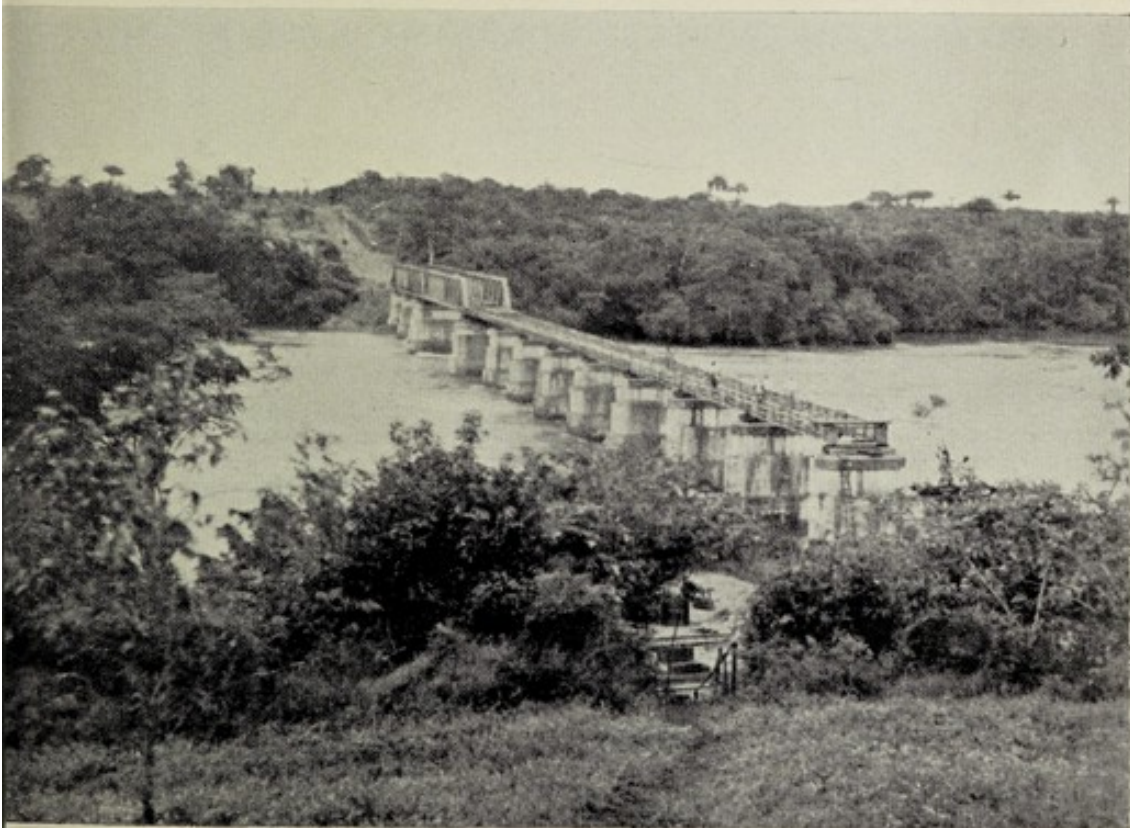
In addition to the above, four private students were studying medicine in Switzerland, and a further number were attending courses in the United States.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

With ever increasing activity, the perennial problem of shortage of staff, particularly of Medical Officers, continues to cause concern. Though services have been maintained, and indeed increased, this has led to a very heavy load of clinical work being placed upon some officers, a load which has been most willingly and loyally accepted. Eight Medical Officers left the Service either through resignation, transfer or being invalided, and only six were recruited. There were at the end of the year 27 Medical Officers serving, and 11 vacancies. Three Government scholars were due to take up appointments in 1955, to whom might be added a possible three private scholars, all Sierra Leoneans; but three Medical Officers had signified their intention of resigning early in 1955. In addition to the shortage of Medical Officers, the department suffered a heavy loss of senior staff. The Physician Specialist and Senior Pathologist left and had not by the end of the year been replaced, and the Deputy Director retired. The Director and the Senior Surgical Specialist were to retire in 1955. The post of Pathologist which remained vacant for a long period was filled in 1954, but the officer has since resigned.



THE NEW C.M.S. TRAVELLING BOOKSHOP



THE SEWA BRIDGE NEARING COMPLETION, BO DISTRICT



OPENING OF THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II QUAY BY H.E. THE GOVERNOR SIR ROBERT DE ZOUCHE HALL K.C.M.G.



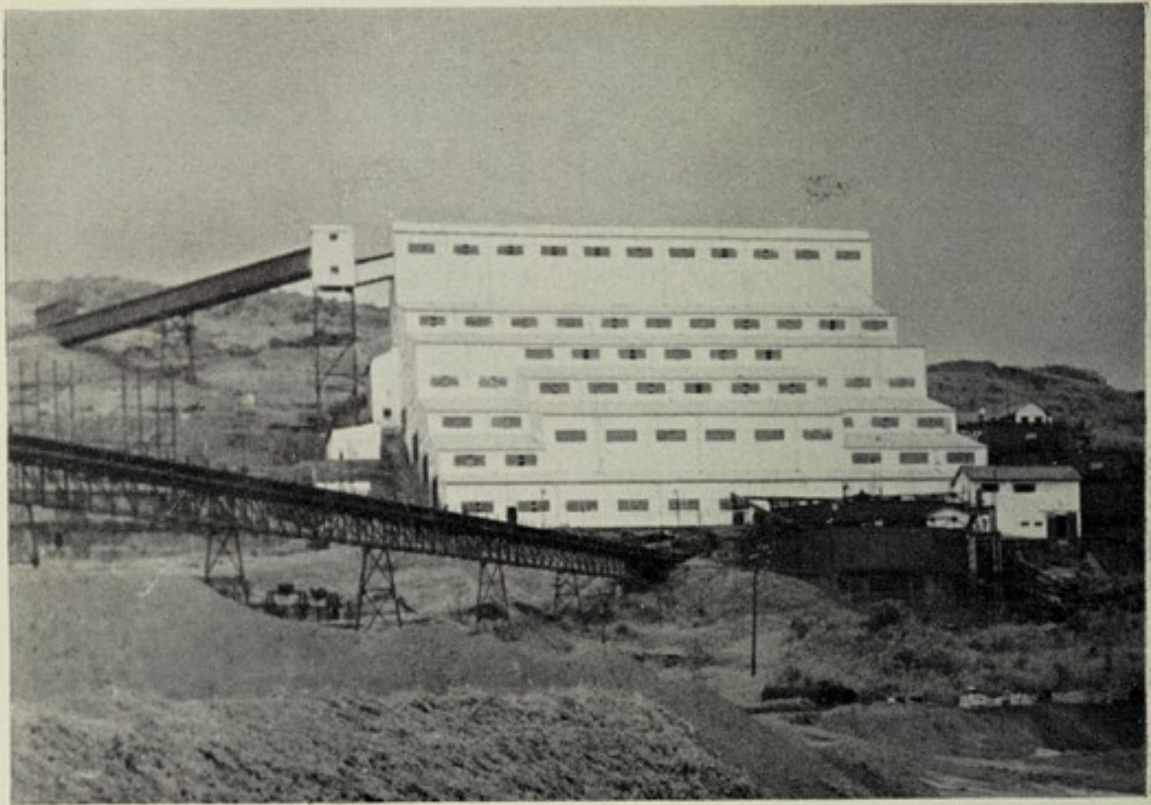
RICE GLEANERS



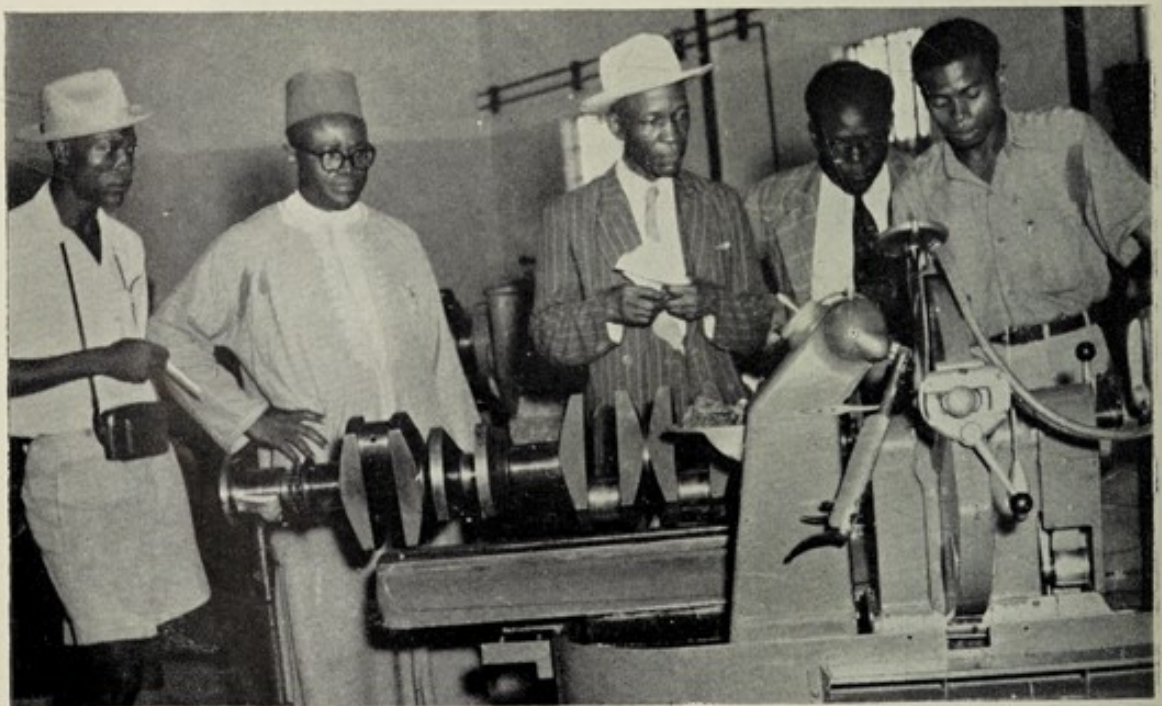
MAGBURAKA CENTRAL SCHOOL IN THE PROTECTORATE  
THE MAIN BUILDING IS A TWO-STOUREYED DORMITORY  
BLOCK OF STEEL AND CONCRETE



KING JIMMY MARKET, FREETOWN



IRON ORE MINING AT MARAMPA



MR. MUSTAPHA, MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT  
(second from left) at the Road Transport Department Workshops

This serious staff situation is occurring at a time when the original development plan for medical services is reaching its completion—at least as regards the building programme. Two new hospitals are already under construction at Kenema and Magburaka, under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme. Building of the remaining two at Kono and Kono is expected to start very soon. Construction of another hospital at Kambia under a similar scheme is also expected soon, and extensions to two hospitals at Port Loko and Moyamba will be made in 1955. Reference is made below to increased accommodation for tuberculosis cases and possible developments in maternity services. In addition eight out of 22 proposed Health Centres have been completed and the remainder should be finished within the next 18 months to two years; it has not yet been possible to post medical staff to supervise these Health Centres. It is clear that the next one or two years will be very critical, for without considerable re-inforcement medical staff will be strained beyond capacity.

Despite staff difficulties, all institutions have worked to full capacity and there has been some expansion of work. There has been an increase in the numbers of both in-patients and out-patients treated; the increase is attributable to the greater realisation by the public of the great efficiency of new drugs and new methods of treatment and to more general acceptance of hospital treatment. In-patient admissions to Government hospitals during the past 12 months were approximately 1,000,000, out-patient and dispensary attendances were well over 900,000, and maternity admissions exceeded 2,100. It was noted during the year in Freetown 58 per cent of the number of births registered were actually delivered in the maternity home, i.e., 1,308 births up to September out of a total of 2,280 births registered during the same period.

Plans for the development of maternity services in the Provinces, and Village Maternity Homes, have already been made public, and the preliminary work of selecting suitable women for training has started. These women will be called Village Maternity Assistants, to distinguish them from fully trained midwives, and will be recruited by Native Authorities in the Provinces and trained in the practical conduct of normal labour in district hospitals. It is intended that as they become trained they should attend women in their homes, under the supervision of fully trained midwives at the new Health Centres. There is to be a Supervisor who will be a registered midwife. The success of this experiment will depend on the adequacy of supervisory staff and the provision of Health Sisters and Medical Officers.

Buildings at Lakka, formerly used as a hospital for infectious diseases, have been temporarily converted for use as a tuberculosis hospital, and were opened for this purpose in June; this has provided improved accommodation for tuberculosis patients, with some relief of congestion at the Connaught Hospital, and has reduced the dangers of infection with tuberculosis in government hospitals. A grant of £10,000 from C.D. & W. funds has been made to meet the cost of converting this temporary hospital into a proper sanatorium.

On 1st January, 1954, district councils took over the financial



responsibilities of dispensaries and health centres in the Province and the maintenance of sanitation and hygiene in towns and villages. Supervision and training of staff will be provided by the Government Medical Department.

These developments of the medical and health services, with an increasing part taken by local authorities in medical and health services, and the building of new hospitals and health centres, will require a considerable expansion of staff; but staff must be properly trained and most staff in the lower salaried grades must be trained locally. To this end the schemes for training dispensers, health inspectors, nurses and midwives have been re-organised to allow of a regular intake of students into the respective training schools, and to provide a training school for health inspectors with training schemes for sanitary workers both in towns and in villages. The new schemes operate from January, 1955, and it is hoped that by 1958 there will be an adequate number of trained personnel to meet the requirements of the Department.

### *Diseases*

*Malaria.* The Malaria Control Unit has been amalgamated with the Health Service. The Entomological Laboratory is now established as a unit of the Health Service and is responsible for new malaria control methods and for pilot control schemes in both Freetown and the Provinces. The old malaria control unit's work was confined to Freetown. Formerly control depended entirely on larvicidal measures, but increased reliance is now being placed upon residual house-spraying with good results. The airport is protected from *A. gambiae* in this way.

*Yaws and Endemic Diseases.* Dr. Cruz Ferreira of the World Health Organisation visited the Unit in Kenema in January and saw the diagnosis team working. He noted the very low incidence of yaws; the cases seen were of the planter crab yaws type.

Sampling surveys have been done in the Northern Province. Dr. C. J. Hackett, also of the World Health Organisation, visited the Unit later in the year and advised about a projected campaign with UNICEF aid to cover the whole Northern Province.

*Trypanosomiasis.* One chiefdom was surveyed in Bo District which had not been examined since 1948. Only seven cases of sleeping sickness were found among 4,000 people examined. Fifty-two cases were diagnosed at treatment centres, the lowest number diagnosed in any year up to the present.

*Schistosomiasis.* An extensive survey of Kono district was made by Dr. Gerber, and he also undertook extensive trials of the molluscicide sodium pentachlorophenate demonstrated in 1952 by Dr. E. G. B. including a planned attempt to eliminate *Phyopsis* from one chiefdom. It is clear that the whole of Kono district is heavily infected. A promising early results with the molluscicide, the conclusion was that re-infestation occurred very quickly through failure to kill the molluscs. Higher dosage or more prolonged application would be needed.

as possible in this trial, or alternatively intermittent dosage would be needed to kill newly hatched snails.

*Leprosy.* In the South-eastern Province, the number of new cases reporting for treatment has fallen, and it is believed that around treatment centres most obvious cases have been treated. Unfortunately many patients fail to report after about a year's attendance when obvious signs have disappeared. There is a need for instruction of attendants and for a follow-up scheme to examine defaulters. On the whole the sulphone treatment of lepers by the Unit started in 1953 has been successful, but it will now need more concentrated development.

*Tuberculosis.* The number reported suffering from tuberculosis was 364, compared with 374 cases in 1953.

*Smallpox.* There has been no serious outbreak of smallpox. There were five notifications, all near to the eastern borders of the country. One notification, made by a non-government medical officer, was of a suspected smallpox in a European who had been in a mail ship at the presumed date of infection. Despite the serious implications of this notification, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining immediate specimens for examination by a virus laboratory. The case, and a contact later diagnosed, were eventually shown not to be smallpox in spite of apparently typical clinical appearances.

*Cerebro-Spinal Fever.* The incidence of this disease continued to be low.

*Yellow Fever.* Four cases of suspected yellow fever, two of which proved fatal, were reported by a mission Medical Officer. These cases were not confirmed pathologically. Liver obtained from one fatal case was reported not to be infected with Yellow Fever.

*Rabies.* There were serious outbreaks of canine rabies, particularly in the Freetown District, where about 3,000 dogs have been destroyed in the year. There has been difficulty in securing the application of dog-licensing legislation. Vaccination with Fleury vaccine has been offered free of cost, and about 152 dogs have been vaccinated at the request of their owners. There was one known death from human rabies in Freetown. An attempt is to be made to introduce compulsory vaccination of dogs where dog licensing is enforceable.

*Goitre.* Dr. D. C. Wilson, of Oxford University, made a survey of goitre, and showed that, as elsewhere in Africa, goitre is found in mountainous country, and in Sierra Leone is associated with very low iodine content of natural waters. As imported salt is increasingly used, the restriction of imports of iodised salt could abolish goitre in the endemic north-eastern highlands of the country.

Statistical details of the medical staff and institutions are given on the following pages.

## MEDICAL AND HEALTH STAFF

		Government	Mission	Military	Mining	Private	Notes
1.	(a)	35	4	4	3	10	
	(b)	2	3	—	—	—	
	(c) i.	2	—	—	—	—	
	ii.	1	—	—	—	—	
	(d)	—	—	—	—	—	
2.	(a)	23	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	None in private practice.
	(b)	154	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
	(c)	5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
	(d)	11	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
3.	(a)	21	11	3	—	24	Some of the private midwives are attached to Missions.
	(b)	105	n.a.	—	n.a.	35	
	(c)	2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
	(d)	44	n.a.	—	—	n.a.	Included in 1(f)
4.	(a)	1	—	—	—	—	
5.	(b)	10	—	n.a.	—	—	
	(c)	3	—	n.a.	—	—	
	(d)	2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2	
6.	Others:						
	(a)	1	—	—	—	—	
	(b)	11	—	—	—	—	
	(c)	3	—	—	—	—	
	(d)	1	—	—	—	—	
7.	(e)	57	—	—	1	37	Holders of certificate of local druggist examination. Included in item 6 "Government."
	(f)	1	—	—	—	—	

INSTITUTIONS—GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE

	Number of Institutions		In Dispensary	As separate unit
	In General Hospital	Number of Beds		
1. HOSPITALS:				
(a) General hospitals (institutions equipped to deal adequately with all general medical and surgical cases)	Government . . . . . Mission . . . . . Mining . . . . . Military . . . . .	. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	13 5 2 1	505 Beds plus 45 Cots 152 Beds plus 29 Cots 85 Beds plus 4 Cots 61 Beds
(b) Cottage hospitals or infirmaries (smaller institutions equipped to handle only lighter cases, more severe cases being referred to general hospital)	Nil			Nil
2. DISPENSARIES (institutions for the treatment mainly of out-patients)				
(a) Exclusively for out-patients	Government . . . . . Mission . . . . . Mining . . . . . Dispensaries . . . . .	. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .	48 5 1 n.a.	Nil Nil Nil 4 Beds
(b) Having beds for lighter cases to be referred to general hospitals	Mission . . . . .	. . . . .	8	35 Beds
3. SPECIALISED UNITS:				
(a) Maternity and Child Welfare centres	5			Government 1 (having 49 Beds plus 39 Cots).
(b) Tuberculosis	Government 2 Government 2			Government 1 —
(c) Venereal diseases.				Government 1
(d) Leprosaria				Government 1
(e) Mental Institutions				Government 1
(f) Others: Male and Female Infirmary				Government 1
Infectious Diseases				Government 1
Convalescent				Government 2

NOTE: All the institutions admit patients of any nationality and religion.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

In Freetown and the major towns, building is controlled and designs are subject to official approval under various Ordinances. In Freetown and Bo the improvement in the standard of building is particularly noticeable. Mud block and timber houses are being replaced by concrete structures with flat, corrugated iron or cement asbestos roofs. In Bo, where extensive rebuilding has been carried out over the past few years, the efforts of the Town Planning Committee are especially evident. Narrow laterite roads between mud or wattle and thatched houses have disappeared, and wide tarred streets with two- and three-storey buildings of concrete have taken their place. No government-aided housing schemes are in operation other than the arrangement whereby an African civil servant may obtain a loan from the government to enable him to build his own house, but assistance similar to that provided by building societies in the United Kingdom is available in Freetown under the Freetown Municipality Building Scheme Ordinance (Cap. 92). Much of the capital employed under this Ordinance has been advanced to the municipality by the Sierra Leone Government, to be re-lent for the construction of houses under a scheme which is both popular and efficiently run. In the remoter villages the wattle and daub construction is being replaced by sun-dried mud blocks. Roofs of grass, palm thatch or palm tiles are giving way to corrugated iron sheets, though the use of sawn timber is still a rarity. A plan for the grant of credit to members of rural communities for the purchase of building materials of a more permanent nature is in the course of preparation. In towns the normal material for walls is sand/cement, block-work or mass concrete, and for buildings of more than one storey flat concrete roofs are favoured.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

During the year proposals for the re-organisation of Social Welfare and Community Development in the territory were approved by the Secretary of State. Both these activities will from 1955 be merged as Social Development, and officers concerned with this will become responsible to the Ministry of Local Government, Education and Welfare.

During 1954 a new branch of the Social Welfare Department was opened at Port Loko in the Northern Province and this has received the support of the people of the area.

The Acting Social Welfare Officer was a member of the delegation to the Conference on Social Development held at Ashridge, Hertfordshire, England in August, which included in its agenda consideration of the objectives, organisation and training for social development in dependent territories. Two other members of the staff attended a seminar on 'Adult Education in a Changing Africa' held at Accra, Gold Coast, in December.

The activities of the department have included the training of its staff and of voluntary workers, the sponsoring of Women's Institutes and the groups interested in child welfare, and the care of the aged and mentally deficient. Two thousand, three hundred and ninety-six persons called at the central office of the department for advice concerning matrimonial problems, illegitimacy, adoption and other matters.

The Sierra Leone Blind Welfare Committee, which has so far raised over £3,000, has asked for a visit from the Director of the West African Office of the British Empire Society for the Blind, and it is expected that he will arrive towards the end of 1955.

The Sierra Leone Branch of the Red Cross Society was fortunate in having an Organiser attached to it from the Red Cross to develop the work of the Society.

#### *Youth Organisations*

Youth Leadership Training Courses were run during the year with satisfactory results and various youth organisations attended the Social Welfare Camp at Aberdeen in the Colony.

Mr. G. M. Paterson, O.B.E., Q.C., Chief Commissioner for Scouts, resigned on transfer to the Gold Coast and Mr. Justice E. F. Luke was appointed in his stead, thus becoming the first African to fill this office. At the end of the year the strength of the movement was just over 3,000.

The Sierra Leone Youth Council was represented by two of its members at the Second General Meeting of the World Assembly of Youth held at Singapore in August.

A trainer from Imperial Headquarters was attached to the Girl Guides during the year and her work resulted in a considerable improvement throughout the movement.

There is unfortunately still a shortage of volunteers for youth work and a very heavy burden falls upon the few who undertake this important activity.

#### *Community Development*

Community Development was one of the services transferred from Central Government to district councils in 1954, as a result of the implementation of the Davidson-Morris proposals for the Development of Local Government. Councils have continued the policy of existing schemes for the social betterment of the community and of providing funds to enable villages to improve communications and other supplies. Intensive activity continued in Pujehun District where a Community Development Officer was stationed and where, under his guidance, village committees continued with the building of houses of improved design, the making of public latrines, the laying out of plantations of economic crops, the organisation of communal labour for farming and the construction of minor motor roads. Some other district councils appointed junior community development staff, and some of these were trained at Pujehun, and began work in Bo and Yamba Districts.

### *Community Centres*

The Community Centres in Freetown were used by 27,919 persons for a variety of activities and the demand for accommodation is as keen as ever. Through the initiative of the District Commissioner a new centre was opened at Kabala towards the end of the year and is a great success.

### *Juvenile Delinquency and Probation Service*

Five hundred and twenty-three juveniles of between nine and 17 years appeared before the Juvenile Courts throughout the year, an increase of 139 over the total for 1953. Of these 113 were placed on probation and 25 under the supervision of probation officers. In addition 11 male and 12 female adults were put on probation during the year.

There were 63 admissions to the approved school during the year and 46 discharges; of a total strength of 124, 97 were in residence and 27 were absconders; eight absconders were struck off the roll during the year and two were readmitted. Two boys were sent to the New England prison camp as being of a depraved character. As a reward for good behaviour 68 boys spent a 20 days holiday at the camp at Aberdeen and four boys had home leave.

More boarding out of juveniles was arranged during the year owing to the limited accommodation at the approved school.

Three hundred and fifty-nine juveniles—333 boys and 26 girls—were admitted to the remand home; 18 of them, including 3 girls, were absconders; 24 boys and 4 girls were admitted on more than one occasion. In the Provinces it was necessary to remand juveniles in custody and to obviate this the Department has recommended that a remand home should be built in Bo.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

In 1954, 35 Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council. Of these, 10 were original Ordinances, including two Appropriation Ordinances, and 25 were amending Ordinances.

The following are comments on the more important enactments passed.

The *Diamond Supplementary Agreement (1954) Ratification Ordinance 1954 (No.2 of 1954)*. An agreement had been made between the Sierra Leone Government and the Sierra Leone Selection Trust to vary the Licence under which the Trust operates in Sierra Leone. The effect of this agreement will be to bring increased contributions to revenue from the diamond industry, and the Trust becomes liable to both Sierra Leone income tax at standard rates and the diamond industry profit tax calculated on a sliding scale, the Trust also making an annual contribution for the benefit of the Kono people in whose country the major operations of the Trust are carried out. The agreement provides that it should be ratified by legislation, and that was the purpose of the Ordinance.

The *Diamond Industry Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 1954 (No. 1954)*. This Ordinance is complementary to the Diamond Supplemental

Agreement (1954) Ratification Ordinance (No. 2 of 1954). Under section 10 of the Agreement, the Government is required to take all reasonable steps to prevent and eliminate illicit diamond mining and trading, and diamond stealing. The unlawful possession of diamonds is punishable under section 61 of the Minerals Ordinance (Cap. 144) with a fine of three hundred pounds or three years imprisonment, or both. This penalty has not proved a sufficient deterrent, and this Ordinance imposes heavier penalties.

*The Bo Town Council Ordinance 1954 (No. 11 of 1954)*. This Ordinance marks a step forward in the local administration of the Protectorate, in that this is the first time that provision is made for a town in the Protectorate to be administered as a municipality. Bo is the largest and most important town in the Protectorate and is expanding. The system of local government in Bo was divided between the Tribal Authority operating under the Tribal Authorities Ordinance (Cap. 245), and the Special Health Authority operating under the Public Health (Protectorate) Ordinance (Cap. 191), and this did not meet the present day requirements of Bo.

The Ordinance is based on the Sherbro Urban District Council Ordinance, 1950. The term "building" is used instead of "premises" because, unlike the Colony, ownership of land in the Protectorate is vested in the Tribal Authority under the Protectorate Land Ordinance (Cap. 186), and freehold interests in land cannot ordinarily be acquired.

*The Births and Deaths (Protectorate) Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 1954 (No. 13 of 1954)*. The effect of this Ordinance is to make registration of births and deaths free in all parts of the Protectorate, as in the Colony.

*The Pensions (Widows and Orphans) (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance 1954 (No. 16 of 1954)*. The important provisions of this Ordinance are contained in sections 2, 3 and 4. These sections make it optional for officers employed on contract or agreement to become contributors under the principal Ordinance. Previously these officers were compelled to contribute whether they wished to or not. When the principal Ordinance was enacted, it was the policy not to engage any appreciable number of European officers on contract, and consequently no special provision for them was thought necessary. This policy is now reversed. The option now granted is considered necessary on the grounds that the payment of contributions is a heavy financial burden from which those concerned may derive small benefit.

*The Summary Conviction Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1954 (No. 17 of 1954)*. The chief purpose of this Ordinance is the addition of a provision to the miscellaneous matters in the principal Ordinance, designed to reduce thefts from vessels in Freetown Harbour. The new section 63 enables the Commissioner of Police to control, by a system of permits, the approach of small craft to stationary ships and aircraft. Provision is made for exempting craft belonging to the Sierra Leone Government or the United Kingdom Government, and for the publication of general



exemptions in respect of persons or classes of persons, and boats or classes of boats.

*The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1954 (No. 18 of 1954).* This Ordinance repeals the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 268) in order to give statutory effect to certain international conventions regarding workmen's compensation and to remedy certain defects in the existing law.

The important departures from the repealed Ordinance are:

- (1) the Ordinance now applies to all workmen in Sierra Leone with certain exceptions;
- (2) the amounts payable in compensation have been increased;
- (3) the Governor in Council may require employers to insure in respect of their liability under the Ordinance;
- (4) workmen employed on ships are included;
- (5) comprehensive provision for medical aid is included;
- (6) the percentages for the loss of earning capacity for various injuries have been revised; and
- (7) provision is included for compensation for occupational diseases.

*The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance 1954 (No. 19 of 1954).* The principal object of this Ordinance is to amend the provisions of the principal Ordinance relating to lunacy of accused persons and defence of lunacy, to provide for periodic medical report on criminal lunatics, to enable the Governor to discharge them absolutely or conditionally, and to provide also for power to be given to the Governor to transfer them from one place to another. These provisions are taken from sections 4 and 5 of the Criminal Lunatics Act, 1894.

*The Lunacy Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance 1954 (No. 21 of 1954).* Difficulty had been experienced in the application of the provisions of section 20 of the principal Ordinance regarding the detention under observation and treatment of an alleged lunatic in a mental hospital for a period not exceeding seven days. This Ordinance extends the period of seven days by endorsement on the original certificate for further periods of seven days at a time up to a limit of thirty days.

*The Local Tax Ordinance 1954 (No. 23 of 1954).* As from 1st January 1954, district councils in the Protectorate assumed new and wide responsibilities as the result of the transfer to them of certain services from the Central Government. In addition to the tax collected by district councils from tribal authorities under the Chiefdom Tax Ordinance (Cap. 29), the central Government, to meet the cost of the transferred services, made over to the district councils the house tax collected under the Protectorate Ordinance (Cap. 185) together with certain revenue from licences. This Ordinance provides for a single tax called "local tax" in place of these two separate taxes, and repeal the Chiefdom Tax Ordinance (Cap. 29), and Part V of the Protectorate Ordinance (Cap. 185) which relates to house tax.

*The Audit Ordinance 1954 (No. 30 of 1954).* This Ordinance gives statutory confirmation of the status, powers and duties of the Director of Audit

as to ensure that he will not be hampered in his task of keeping check on the collection and expenditure of public moneys. The Director of Audit is also given power to audit the accounts of a corporate body established by an Ordinance if the Governor in Council so directs, and provision is made for laying his reports before the Legislative Council.

*The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing (Amendment) Ordinance 1954 (No. 31 of 1954).* This Ordinance amends the principal Ordinance in three main particulars. First, it gives the Governor in Council increased control and direction of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board. Secondly, it creates a Price Maintenance Fund into which the sum of £10 million pounds is paid out of the funds at the Board's disposal to assist in reducing the fluctuations in the market price of produce by subsidising the prices paid to producers by the Board. Thirdly, provision is made for appropriation of the Board's surplus funds, subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, for purposes likely to benefit producers, which include expenditure towards projects outlined in the Sierra Leone Development Fund Ordinance, 1952 (No. 32 of 1952), and the Sierra Leone Education Fund Ordinance, 1954 (No. 29 of 1954).

*The Distribution of German Enemy Property Ordinance 1954 (No. 32 of 1954)* Provision was made under the Trading with the Enemy Ordinance (Cap. 243) for the appointment of a Custodian of German enemy property, with powers vested in him by the Governor to receive all moneys which would, but for the existence of a state of war, be payable to or for the benefit of a person who was an enemy, and to control enemy property in Sierra Leone. The state of war with Germany having ended, this Ordinance provides for the collection and realisation of German enemy property in Sierra Leone, for the distribution of the proceeds, and for the appointment of an Administrator with certain powers and duties for these purposes.

*The Survey (Amendment) Ordinance 1954 (No. 35 of 1954).* This Ordinance relaxes the existing provisions in the principal Ordinance and permits the grant of licences to retired Government Surveyors with not less than 10 years efficient service, without sitting the examination prescribed under the Survey Rules 1953 (Public Notice No. 92 of 1953).

## Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

### JUSTICE

Courts of Sierra Leone are the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone, Magistrates' Courts in the Colony and Protectorate, and the Native Courts of the Protectorate.

#### *Supreme Court*

The Supreme Court has jurisdiction in the Colony and Protectorate, and exercises all the jurisdiction, powers and authorities which are vested in or capable of being exercised by the High Court of Justice in England with the exception of the jurisdiction and powers of the High

### Court of Admiralty.

Its jurisdiction, however, does not extend to cases arising exclusively between natives,

- (i) which involve title to land situate within the Protectorate subject to the reservation mentioned below, or
- (ii) which relate to marriage or divorce by native customary law or any matrimonial claim founded on such a marriage, or
- (iii) where the claim or matter in dispute does not exceed £50 value, or
- (iv) which relate to the administration of estates of deceased persons who are natives where such estates lie within the jurisdiction of any Native Court.

Such cases are triable only in Native Courts.

The practice and procedure of the Supreme Court in civil matters regulated by Rules of Court made under the provisions of the Courts Ordinance, Cap. 50, and in criminal matters by the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, Cap. 52.

As regards substantive law, the Common Law of England, the doctrines of Equity and English Statutory Law of general application in England on 1st January, 1880, are in force in Sierra Leone.

In addition, certain English statutes after 1880, affecting both criminal law and civil law, have been brought into force from time to time by Ordinance. Principal among them may be mentioned as follows:

- (1) The Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, 1881 (in part)
- (2) The Settled Land Act, 1882 (in part)
- (3) The Conveyancing Act, 1882 (in part)
- (4) The Settled Land Act, 1884 (in part)
- (5) The Trustee Act, 1888
- (6) The Settled Land Act, 1889
- (7) The Trustees Appointment Act, 1890
- (8) The Settled Land Act, 1890 (in part)
- (9) The Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, 1892
- (10) The Voluntary Conveyances Act, 1893
- (11) The Trustee Act, 1893 (in part)
- (12) The Trustee Act, 1893, Amendment Act, 1894 (the whole except section 2)
- (13) The Judicial Trustees Act, 1896
- (14) The Conveyancing Act, 1911 (in part)
- (15) The Perjury Act, 1911
- (16) The Forgery Act, 1913 (in part)
- (17) The Larceny Act, 1916
- (18) The Bill of Sale Act, 1878
- (19) The Sale of Goods Act, 1893
- (20) The Criminal Justice Act, 1925

Any person charged with a criminal offence in the Colony is tried by the Court with a jury consisting of twelve men, unless;

- (i) such person shall have elected to be tried by the Court with the aid of assessors; or
- (ii) the Court shall have ordered such person to be tried with the aid of assessors in accordance with the Jurors and Assessors Ordinance, Cap. 114.

In the Protectorate the Supreme Court is assisted by two or more assessors, whose opinions are given orally. The decision of the Court, however, is vested exclusively in the Judge. In civil cases trial is by the Judge alone. He may, however, appoint assessors to assist him in any case where native customary law is involved, but the decision is vested exclusively in the Presiding Judge.

In 1954 the Supreme Court dealt with 372 civil cases and 365 criminal cases. In the latter 324 adults and three juveniles were convicted and 32 adults and six juveniles were discharged.

#### *Magistrates' Courts*

The jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts in civil cases is as follows:

- (a) In the Colony, any cause or matter which may lawfully be brought before it, and
- (b) In the Protectorate, any cause or matter other than an action founded upon libel and slander where such cause or matter is between—
  - (i) non-natives,
  - (ii) a native and a non-native, or
  - (iii) a native and the holder of a trading licence, although a native, and arises out of the latter's trading,

wherein the claim, debt or matter in dispute does not exceed £50 in value, whether on balance of account or otherwise.

The criminal jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts is limited to cases triable summarily, and procedure in this jurisdiction is governed by the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, Cap. 52. In addition, Magistrates conduct preliminary investigations to determine whether a person charged with an offence triable by the Supreme Court shall or shall not be committed for trial.

#### *Native Courts*

The Native Courts of the Protectorate have jurisdiction in all matters between natives *inter se* not triable by any other court. The law and practice of such courts are according to native law and custom. In chiefdoms which have become Native Administrations the Native Court is presided over by the Paramount Chief and three or four members of the Tribal Authority, sitting in rotation. In other chiefdoms, the constitution is not so rigid. The former are also Courts of Record and submit monthly returns to the District Commissioner, whereas the latter are not so organised.

The Native Courts have jurisdiction in all civil cases arising exclusively between natives, other than a case involving a question of title to land

between two or more Paramount Chiefs, or of a debt claimed by the holder of a trading licence. If the amount in dispute, however, is over £50, the case may be taken to the Supreme Court. In cases of land disputes, the Native Courts have power to hear and determine claims except where the dispute concerns two chiefdoms. In such cases, or where the case is of unusual importance, the District Commissioner has power to inquire and decide. A report on the Native Court system in the Protectorate by Mr. N. J. Brooke, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court in Nigeria, is being studied by the Government.

### *Appeals*

There is an automatic appeal from the Native Court to the District Commissioner where sentences of imprisonment exceeding fourteen days are imposed by a Native Court. The District Commissioner, on the application of any party or of his own motion, also has a power of review of all cases originating in a Native Court. In Bonthe District three Group Native Appeal Courts have been set up under the Native Courts Ordinance, but it is too early to measure the degree of success they may achieve.

Appeals from the Magistrates' Courts go to the Supreme Court and from the Supreme Court to the West African Court of Appeal. The West African Court of Appeal is composed of the President, one or more Justices of Appeal and the Judges of the four West African Colonies. This Court sits in Sierra Leone in March and October and at any other time the President may direct. In 1954 the Court heard 10 civil cases and 25 criminal cases from Sierra Leone. The criminal cases resulted in 21 convictions and four discharges. From the West African Court of Appeal, an appeal lies in appropriate cases to Her Majesty's Privy Council in England.

### *Types of Case*

The commonest types of litigation and offences in the respective Courts are:

#### *Supreme Court*

- (a) Claims resulting from breach of contractual obligation
- (b) Larceny

#### *Magistrates' Courts*

- (a) Debts including arrears of rent and damages for assault and wounding
- (b) Larceny, burglary and housebreaking, assault and wounding

#### *Native Courts*

- (a) Bush disputes
- (b) Cases involving marriage customary laws.

### *Probation and Juveniles*

Under the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, No. 19 of 1950, offenders may be put on probation under the supervision of a Probation Officer. Immediately after conviction, a report as to character, a

cedents, etc. of the offender is submitted to the Court by the Probation Officer; the Court may then make a probation order. Juvenile offenders are sent to the approved school for corrective training.

## POLICE

The establishment of the Sierra Leone Police Force at the end of 1954 comprised 30 Superior Police Officers, 37 Chief Inspectors, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, and 1,268 non-commissioned officers and men. The establishment included a Band consisting of a Bandmaster Deputy Superintendent of Police) and 25 bandmen.

The Force is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the maintenance of public order throughout the whole country, following the disbandment on the 1st September, 1954 of the Court Messenger Force which up to that time was responsible for the policing of the Protectorate. The country, for the purpose of police administration, is divided into four divisions, which are in turn divided into police districts. In Freetown there are also the harbour police and traffic sections.

Wireless communication connects Freetown with divisional headquarters at Bo, Yengema and Makeni. There is also wireless communication to Lunsar and Kenema. In addition patrol cars equipped with V.H.F. transmitter-receivers operate from the information room in colony division headquarters. During 1954 the following calls were made to the information room.

<i>From Public</i>		<i>From Police</i>		<i>Arrests made</i>
<i>Crime</i>	<i>Accidents etc.</i>	<i>Crime</i>	<i>Accidents etc.</i>	
853	33	210	101	345

The training school plays an extremely important part in the force and 171 recruits completed training courses during 1954. Refresher and specialist courses were held. Instruction in first aid and life saving formed an important part of the training.

Appendix A classifies the state of crime in the Colony under the main heads. In 1954 there was a large decrease in all offences reported, the total being 3,987 against 5,493 in 1953.

Appendix B shows similar figures for the provincial divisions from the 1st September, 1954, to the 31st December, 1954. Serious crime is investigated by the criminal investigation department, and during the year intensive police operations were directed against illicit diamond activities. A total of 1,497 diamonds were seized by police during 1954.

The immigration and passport control section of the criminal investigation department is responsible for the issue of passports and other travel documents. Appendix C shows figures for this section.

In the Colony, 26 persons were killed in road accidents compared with 17 in 1953. The total number of accidents decreased to 678 in 1954 compared with 726 in 1953. The standard of driving remains poor but the road safety campaign aided by lectures to schools, broadcast talks and cinema shows is producing results.

## APPENDIX A: CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE COLONY

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Total Cases Reported	Cases referred to Native Authority	Total True Cases	No. of Cases Prosecuted	No. of Cases Convicted	No. of Cases Acquitted
<b>OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON</b>						
Murder . . . . .	3	—	3	3	2	1
Manslaughter (other than M.T.) . . . . .	1	—	1	1	—	1
Wounding and Serious Assault . . . . .	76	—	76	67	51	10
Common Assault . . . . .	155	—	152	130	123	6
Child Stealing . . . . .	1	—	1	—	—	—
Rape . . . . .	19	—	18	16	5	10
Indecent Assault . . . . .	24	—	24	21	9	10
Other Offences against Morality . . . . .	3	—	3	3	2	1
Other Offences not included above . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL . . . . .	282	—	278	241	192	39
<b>OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>						
Robbery with Violence . . . . .	9	—	7	3	1	1
Burglary . . . . .	70	—	70	5	4	1
Store, Office, etc., breaking by night . . . . .	62	—	62	3	3	—
Housebreaking . . . . .	100	—	100	12	8	—
Larceny—Dwelling—Day . . . . .	95	—	92	14	10	—
Larceny—Dwelling—Night . . . . .	81	—	81	4	4	—
Receiving Stolen Property . . . . .	3	—	1	1	—	—
Unlawful Possession . . . . .	71	—	65	63	50	—
Forgery and Uttering . . . . .	15	—	15	11	1	10
Larceny (a) £50 and over . . . . .	58	—	52	8	5	—
Larceny (b) under £50 . . . . .	2,039	—	1,271	560	455	5
Larceny—Person . . . . .	57	—	50	14	14	—
Arson & Attempted Arson . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences not included above . . . . .	23	—	23	15	13	—
TOTAL . . . . .	2,687	—	1,793	714	567	8
<b>OFFENCES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDERS, Including Riot, Unlawful Assembly</b>						
Affray, Disorderly Behaviour . . . . .	230	—	227	222	216	—
Drunkenness, Assault on Police . . . . .	87	—	87	86	5	—
Obstruction of Police . . . . .	25	—	25	21	2	—
OTHER OFFENCES . . . . .	676	—	662	540	524	1
TOTAL . . . . .	1,018	—	1,001	869	817	2
<b>GRAND TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>1,824</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>14</b>

N.B. This table does not include records destroyed when East

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1954

H No. of Persons Prosecuted		I No. of Persons Convicted		J No. of Persons Acquitted		K Value of Property Stolen			L Value of Property Recovered		
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
52	10	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
100	7	13	3	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
169	18	15	4	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	78	16	0	2	0	0
5	—	—	—	—	—	1,740	14	10½	115	11	4½
2	—	—	—	—	—	2,426	0	6	120	12	9½
9	—	—	—	—	—	2,151	1	9	499	1	7
1	—	1	—	—	—	2,933	14	5	48	4	10
8	—	—	—	—	—	1,975	15	11	72	18	10
—1	—	—	—	—	—	5	0	0	5	0	0
43	3	3	—	3	—	22	8	0	22	8	0
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	—	1	—	1	—	7,764	17	5	872	3	9
453	12	44	5	33	3	6,864	4	0	808	8	2
13	—	2	—	2	—	248	19	10	27	10	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
574	15	52	5	39	3	26,112	12	8½	2,593	19	6
254	42	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
71	3	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
392	176	53	7	48	7	149	12	2	13	2	4
739	221	58	7	53	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
482	254	125	16	103	12	26,262	4	10½	2,607	1	10

Station was burnt during the Riots in February, 1955.



## APPENDIX B: CRIMINAL STATISTICS FOR THE PROVINCE

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Total Cases Reported	Cases referred to Native Authority	Total True Cases	No. of Cases Prosecuted	No. of Cases Convicted	No. of Cases
<b>OFFENCES AGAINST PERSON</b>						
Murder . . . . .	26	—	23	19	1	
Attempted Murder . . . . .	4	—	4	3	—	
Manslaughter (other than M.T.) . . . . .	30	3	25	18	9	
Wounding and Serious Assault . . . . .	48	4	36	33	23	
Common Assault . . . . .	50	11	35	33	32	
Child Stealing . . . . .	1	—	1	1	—	
Rape . . . . .	23	2	18	15	3	
Indecent Assault . . . . .	9	2	7	5	5	
Other Offences against Morality . . . . .	34	1	33	33	33	
Other Offences not included above . . . . .	14	—	13	12	10	
TOTAL . . . . .	239	24	195	172	116	
<b>OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>						
Robbery with Violence . . . . .	13	—	11	5	—	
Burglary . . . . .	56	—	52	6	5	
Store, Office, etc., breaking by night . . . . .	37	1	36	6	3	
Housebreaking . . . . .	59	1	56	9	3	
Larceny—Dwelling—Day . . . . .	79	2	75	23	18	
Larceny—Dwelling—Night . . . . .	59	2	56	5	3	
Receiving Stolen Property . . . . .	15	—	14	11	7	
Unlawful Possession . . . . .	42	1	38	38	24	
Forgery and Uttering . . . . .	9	—	8	7	3	
Larceny (a) £50 and over . . . . .	56	2	50	25	7	
Larceny (b) under £50 . . . . .	699	45	607	329	257	
Larceny—Person . . . . .	16	2	14	11	10	
Arson & Attempted Arson . . . . .	15	1	12	7	5	
Other offences not included above . . . . .	154	7	121	91	57	
TOTAL . . . . .	1,309	64	1,050	573	402	
<b>OFFENCES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER Including—Riot, Unlawful Assembly, Affray, Disorderly Behaviour, Drunkenness, Assault on Police, Obstruction of Police</b>						
ORDER Including—Riot, Unlawful Assembly, . . . . .	21	1	20	18	17	
Affray, Disorderly Behaviour . . . . .	11	4	9	9	9	
Drunkenness, Assault on Police . . . . .	11	—	11	9	3	
Obstruction of Police . . . . .	37	1	31	30	19	
OTHER OFFENCES . . . . .	507	8	581	655	491	
TOTAL . . . . .	687	14	652	621	539	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b> . . . . .	2,235	102	1,897	1,366	1,057	

## DISTRICT FOR FOUR MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1954

G No. of Persons Charged	H No. of Persons Prosecuted		I No. of Persons Convicted		J No. of Person Acquitted		K Value of Property Stolen			L Value of Propert Recovered		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
22	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36	26	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	25	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
216	100	—	12	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	96	1	6	3	15	3
8	6	—	—	—	—	—	2,801	15	11	292	16	7
5	3	—	—	—	—	—	3,471	1	3	670	11	10
14	8	—	—	—	1	—	2,372	0	3	57	16	6
29	17	—	—	—	1	—	1,975	5	7	456	15	3
5	3	—	—	—	—	—	2,230	2	8	129	16	9
11	7	—	—	—	—	—	370	1	0	244	1	0
47	35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	17	1
6	3	—	—	—	—	—	28	5	0	—	—	—
40	12	—	—	—	—	—	7,831	2	1	478	0	9
407	283	4	20	—	18	—	4,741	4	8	1,209	4	9
11	10	—	2	—	—	—	81	8	2	55	19	0
6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
103	60	1	—	—	—	—	5,438	15	1	122	7	6
597	452	5	23	2	20	1	31,437	3	2	3,739	2	3
18	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	20	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
16	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	84	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
05	702	12	12	—	12	—	—	—	—	7,948	0	0
64	834	69	12	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
77	1,386	64	47	2	44	1	31,437	3	2	11,287	0	3

## APPENDIX C

## IMMIGRATION AND PASSPORT CONTROL

Number of passports and other travel documents issued during 1954 compared with 1953:

	<i>1954</i>	<i>1953</i>
Passports . . . . .	496	394
Travel Certificates . . . . .	985	1,060
Seamen's Certificates of Nationality and Identity . . . . .	109	179
Emergency Certificates . . . . .	33	6
	1,623	1,639

Two hundred and thirty two passports were renewed. Forty-two full visas and thirteen transit visas were issued.

Revenue derived from immigration and passport control amounted to £768 2s. 1d.

The following persons, excluding West Africans, entered and left Sierra Leone by sea, land and air:

	<i>1954</i>		<i>1953</i>	
	<i>Entered</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Entered</i>	<i>Left</i>
British Subjects . . . . .	2,024	1,970	1,858	1,839
American . . . . .	137	111	120	137
Belgian . . . . .	2	2	3	3
Chinese . . . . .	1	1	—	—
Czech . . . . .	3	3	—	—
Austrian . . . . .	—	—	2	—
Brazilian . . . . .	—	—	1	—
Danish . . . . .	40	31	23	28
Dutch . . . . .	18	19	16	19
Finnish . . . . .	1	4	4	—
French . . . . .	135	142	120	119
German . . . . .	10	11	9	11
Greek . . . . .	11	12	11	—
Hungarian . . . . .	1	—	—	—
Indian . . . . .	67	62	54	5
Iranian . . . . .	1	1	2	—
Italian . . . . .	23	17	19	1
Japanese . . . . .	2	2	—	—
Lebanese and Syrian . . . . .	252	252	227	18
Liberian . . . . .	240	275	275	31
Liechtenstein . . . . .	—	—	1	—
Lithuanian . . . . .	1	—	—	—
Norwegian . . . . .	4	7	2	—
Polish . . . . .	—	—	1	—
Portuguese . . . . .	2	2	—	—
Russian . . . . .	1	—	—	—
Spanish . . . . .	8	5	—	—
Swedish . . . . .	5	3	6	—
Swiss . . . . .	39	32	27	—
Stateless . . . . .	2	3	—	—
TOTALS . . . . .	3,030	2,967	2,781	2,781

Total number of persons, including West Africans, entering Sierra Leone:

	<i>By sea</i>	<i>By land</i>	<i>By air</i>
1954	4,157	169	2,272
1953	3,550	308	1,941

Total number of persons, including West Africans, leaving Sierra Leone:

	<i>By sea</i>	<i>By land</i>	<i>By air</i>
1954	4,087	200	2,151
1953	3,831	327	1,690

During the year 12 stowaways were convicted.

#### *Aliens Registration*

The total number of aliens registered during the year was 89, a decrease of eighteen compared with the preceding year. Their nationality was as follows:

	<i>1954</i>
	<i>No.</i>
American . . . . .	23
Danish . . . . .	4
Dutch . . . . .	1
French . . . . .	19
Greek . . . . .	3
German . . . . .	1
Italian . . . . .	6
Lebanese . . . . .	26
Spanish . . . . .	1
Swiss . . . . .	5
<b>TOTAL</b> . . . . .	<b>89</b>

#### PRISONS

There are 15 prison establishments in Sierra Leone administered by the Director of Prisons, who has his headquarters in Freetown. He is assisted by a staff of five superior officers and 277 subordinate ranks, including a small number employed on industrial training. In addition there are 13 clerical assistants, one storekeeper, two teachers and a discharged prisoners' agent.

The different establishments include a central prison and minimum security camp in Freetown, a camp for first offenders at Masanki, three district prisons and nine local prisons in the Provinces. Prior to the 1st September, 1954, the local prisons were staffed by the Court Messenger Force with, in some cases, one prison officer to assist the District Commissioner in the maintaining of records and administration. Since the abolition of the Court Messenger Force the Prisons Department has taken over all these local prisons. An additional establishment of 40 subordinate officers was provided for this purpose, and a new post of Deputy Director, to replace one Senior Prison Superintendent, was approved.

Land has been acquired for the construction of a central prison in the Protectorate. The site comprises some 557 acres including an area of swamp land. This land is very suitable for rice cultivation and it is hoped that the Prisons Department eventually will become self supporting in this staple article of diet, of which there are periodical shortages in the territory.

The extension of the police force into the Provinces has resulted in a 35 per cent increase in the daily average population of the provincial prisons and an all round increase of approximately 24 per cent on last years' totals. Total admissions during the year amounted to approximately 7,800.

The discipline of the prisoners generally is excellent. Even the old lags are acquiring a sense of self-discipline. There were no cases of corporal punishment being awarded for prison offences during the period under review.

The larger prisons now have a schoolmaster as a regular member of the staff and smaller institutions obtain the part-time services of a local teacher.

Efforts are being made by the local clergy to increase the religious instruction of the inmates of the provincial prisons. The Freetown and Masanki establishments have the services of ministers of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Moslem faiths.

The policy of providing all short sentence prisoners who are physically fit with a good hard day's productive labour is adhered to wherever possible. Long sentence prisoners who are physically and mentally fit are taught a trade.

The earning scheme has been reorganised in an effort to increase production and to make earnings more related to the skill, effort and behaviour of the prisoner. Instead of the previous flat rate of 2s. per mensem there are now three categories with rates of 1s. 6d., 2s. and 2s. 6d. per mensem.

No "Borstal" system exists in this territory but every reasonable effort is made to segregate the age groups affected. The number of youths between the ages of 17 and 21 years admitted during the year was 195 of whom about 60 would have been suitable for "Borstal" training.

The discharged prisoners' agent performs many useful functions. He not only looks after the interests of ex-prisoners but is instrumental in collecting a large number of fines, arranging bail and contacting families of offenders. In conjunction with the Labour Department, the Social Welfare Department and local employers he does a great deal in finding work for discharged prisoners.

The Voluntary Prisoners After Care Association which was founded two years ago now receives small monetary grants from the government, through the Director of Prisons, to enable it to give financial help to discharged prisoners in whom it is interested. These grants are given in recognition of the good work of the association and to encourage the extension of the work.

## Chapter 10 : Public Utilities

### ELECTRICITY

The Government Electricity Department continued to operate and maintain existing electricity supplies, and to extend and develop services in new areas.

The largest system is in Freetown where the installed generating capacity at 31st December 1954 was 4,500 kilowatts. The number of units generated during the year was 9,588,672 with a maximum sustained load of 2,150 kilowatts.

A major reconstruction of the Freetown high voltage system has been completed, which necessitated the laying of 12,000 yards of 11 kV. cable equipping an 11/3.3 kV substation, and installing two 1,500 kVA transformers at the power station. This has greatly improved the supply to the western half of the area, and will allow supply to be given to new areas.

Stage I of a rural scheme over the Mountain Rural Area was completed.

Other undertakings are at Bo, Magburaka, Lungi, Kenema, Njala and Rokupr; these are small systems with an overall total installed generating capacity of 1,050 kilowatts. Bo is the largest station, having a capacity of 375 kilowatts. The total number of units generated at the five stations was 877,039.

High voltage systems were completed at Bo and Magburaka. Supply schemes for four new areas have been planned, and the one for Bonthe has commenced. Voltages are standardised throughout, being as follows: low tension—400 volts three phase and 230 volts single phase. High tension—3,300 or 11,000 volts three phase. All supplies are at 50 cycles per second.

Rates are as follows:

Freetown: domestic— $1\frac{3}{4}d.$  to  $10d.$  per unit according to quantity consumed; power— $2\frac{1}{4}d.$  per unit plus fixed K.V.A. charge. Commercial lighting rates and bulk supply rates are also provided. Special rates for a contract can also be arranged.

Rates outside Freetown are on the same basis but the rates are higher.

### WATER SUPPLIES

Since 1950 considerable progress has been made in the provision of water supplies to towns in the Protectorate. Eight schemes have been completed and construction work on two more is in hand. Investigations for further supplies are being carried out. A resident engineer for the Bo Water Supply (estimated to cost £260,000) was appointed in August, and by the end of the year a considerable length of the pumping and distribution mains had been laid. Materials for the Freetown water and hydro-electric scheme were delivered throughout the year. In September, the resident engineer arrived and took up his duties. A contract for the first stage of the scheme was let and the contractor commenced work in November. Some difficulty has been experienced in recruiting supervisory staff for the resident engineer.

## Chapter 11: Communications

### SHIPPING

Freetown the capital and major port has anchorage room for 240 ships of unrestricted draught and berths for three ships alongside the Queen Elizabeth II Quay, which is 1,250 ft. long and has a depth of 32 ft. of water at Mean Low Water Ordinary Spring Tides. Ships also berth alongside Kissy Oil Jetty to refuel or to discharge various types of fuel into the Oil Storage Company's tanks.

The entrance to the harbour is marked by the Fairway Buoy and Cape Sierra Leone lighthouse and a radio direction-finding beacon transmits to all shipping from the signal station on Aberdeen Road. Cable and Wireless Limited have a branch at Freetown.

The Railway Department is responsible for administration of the customs area of the port of Freetown, embracing lighter berths, transit sheds and the provision and maintenance of crane facilities. The traffic handled over the wharves amounted to 270,782 tons compared with 264,558 tons in 1953. Stevedoring and shore handling operations formerly carried out by ships' agents and landing contractors became the sole responsibility of the Railway Administration as from the 1st May, 1954, when the newly formed Port Management Branch commenced operating. On 1st October, 1954, responsibility for lighterage was also undertaken.

The iron ore port of Pepel lies 12 miles up river from Freetown. Vessels are berthed alongside a knuckle and the ore is loaded by means of conveyor belt. The maximum loaded draught permitted in the channel from Pepel to Freetown harbour is 28 ft.

The port of Sherbro is mainly used as a terminus for the produce of the south and south-east districts of Sierra Leone. Produce is taken by lighter down to ocean-going vessels which anchor at Yangsai T. eight miles below the town of Bonthe. The maximum draught permitted is 24 ft. 6 ins.

The port of Sulima is used almost exclusively for the loading of piassava by small craft. The anchorage is in the open sea and loading is effected by surf boats which pass from the Moa River through the narrow sea channel at the mouth of this river.

The main shipping lines consist of Elder Dempster Lines, Palm Line and the Holland West Afrika Lijn, which between them provide services to and from the United Kingdom, the Continent and ports south to the Belgian Congo, with an average of 30 ships a month in each direction.

Swedish, Danish and German ships to the agency of Messrs. Holm & Co. Successor, Limited, maintain a fairly regular service of about 10 ships a month to and from Continental and Scandinavian ports as well as southwards to Angola.

Recognised launch routes including the coastwise route from Freetown northwards to the towns on the Great and Little Scarcies rivers and southwards to Bonthe total almost 500 miles. Rock bars and reefs

restrict the use of the upper reaches of the Colony's rivers and some of the river routes included in the above total are only navigable by launches during a period of about three months in the year when the rivers are in flood. Nevertheless a considerable amount of the territory's produce is still transported by waterways and a fair number of passengers continue to travel in launches and native craft.

Privately owned launches call at all riverside villages when required. Large numbers of native sailing craft known as Bullom boats transport local foodstuffs and passengers to and from the Bullom shores across Freetown harbour on three days a week.

#### RAILWAY

The main line of the Sierra Leone Railway runs in an easterly direction from Freetown to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles. A branch line from Bauya Junction, 64½ miles from Freetown, runs north-east to Makeni in the Northern Province, a distance of 83¾ miles. The railway, which is of 2' 6" gauge, was originally constructed as a development railway to open up trade in the hinterland. It follows a devious course throughout its length and this, combined with heavy gradients and river crossings, is responsible for its exceptionally high operating costs.

Much of the permanent way is between 40 and 50 years old and is in need of complete renewal. One hundred and twenty miles of new 35 lb. and 40 lb. plain track material was ordered in 1951 and approximately 10 miles has been re-laid during 1954.

During 1954 the railway carried 109,591 tons of paying traffic compared with 126,759 tons in 1953. The ton mileage of goods traffic was 7,281,946 as compared with 19,850,702 in 1953. Goods revenue amounted to £348,548 compared with £365,939 in 1953. The passenger revenue amounted to £203,137 compared with £172,912 in 1953.

Gross receipts were £674,956, an increase of £94,397 over the previous year. Gross expenditure, including expenditure on extra-ordinary works, amounted to £811,132 compared with £736,402 in 1953. The percentage of working expenditure to gross receipts was 132.44 as against 126.83 in 1953.

A private railway owned by the Sierra Leone Development Company runs from Marampa to Pepel, a distance of 57½ miles. It is of 3' 6" gauge and carries all the iron ore mined by the company; it is not available for use by the public.

#### ROADS AND VEHICLES

The following was the mileage of different types of roads in Sierra Leone in 1954:

	<i>Miles</i>
First class roads maintained by the Public Works Department . . . . .	1,620
Roads maintained by local government bodies (District Councils, Native Administrations, etc.) . . . . .	1,170
Roads owned and maintained by private companies . . . . .	122



All government roads and most of the remainder are motorable throughout the year, though occasionally ferries are closed for a few days at a time, because of abnormal flooding or the need for repairs.

The following was the number of vehicles licensed in Sierra Leone in 1954:

Lorries . . . . .	2,876
Motor cars . . . . .	3,168
Motor cycles . . . . .	325

Public motor buses of the Road Transport Department covered 791,999 miles during 1954, an increase of 11,197 miles over the previous year, and carried 3,778,032 passengers (not including season ticket holders) as against 3,625,559 in 1953. Revenue earned by this service amounted to £60,935.

#### AIR

The only airport in the territory is the Freetown Airport situated at Lungi, which is accessible from Freetown by launch and bus. It is an international airport and a customs station. Air traffic control was normally maintained only from dawn to dusk but night landing facilities are provided on request. Meteorological and wireless telegraphic services are maintained continuously on a 24 hour service. Reconstruction of the runway continued during the year.

In addition, two landing strips are maintained, at Hastings, near Freetown, and at Bo in the Protectorate. These strips are suitable only for light aircraft and no facilities are provided.

Scheduled services to and from Freetown Airport in 1954 were:

*West African Airways*—Bristol Wayfarer aircraft; Accra/Freetown/Bathurst/Dakar—once weekly in each direction. These flights provide connections with B.O.A.C. flights from Accra to the United Kingdom and with various foreign airlines from Dakar to Europe.

*Air France*—D.C.3 aircraft; Conakry/Freetown/Monrovia/Bama—once weekly in each direction. Conakry/Freetown/Monrovia once weekly.

(The aircraft on this service returned from Monrovia the same day.) An immediate connection was made at Conakry for both services to reach Europe the following morning.

*Hunting-Clan; Airwork Safari Service*—Viking aircraft; This service has been in operation for the second half of 1954. The two airlines operated alternately once a fortnight giving a weekly service between the United Kingdom and Accra, via Freetown and Bathurst with intermediate night-stops at Dakar and Tangier.

*Air Charter Limited*—Trooping once monthly during the year undertaken by this company using York aircraft.

Details of aircraft movements and of passengers and freight handled during the year were as follows:

<i>(a) Aircraft Movements</i>	
Scheduled Services . . . . .	706
Non-Scheduled Services . . . . .	70
Private Aircraft . . . . .	16
R.A.F. and Military aircraft . . . . .	22
Other commercial aircraft . . . . .	22
	Total . . . . .
	836
<i>(b) Passengers Handled</i>	
Embarking . . . . .	2,297
Disembarking . . . . .	2,513
Transit . . . . .	2,480
	Total . . . . .
	7,290
<i>(c) Freight</i>	
Loaded . . . . .	14.5 tons
Unloaded . . . . .	27.3 tons
Transit . . . . .	23.3 tons
<i>(d) Mail</i>	
Loaded . . . . .	5,758 kgs.
Unloaded . . . . .	8,788 kgs.

Equipment to provide long-range radio-telephone service to aircraft flight has arrived and was being installed at the end of the year.

#### POSTAL SERVICES

The air mail service to and from the United Kingdom operated twice weekly via Dakar and Accra whilst the fortnightly mail boat service to and from the United Kingdom and other British West African territories continued in operation. Direct air mails were also exchanged with the U.S.A., South Africa and other West African territories. Internal road, rail and carrier mail services were satisfactorily maintained, and the number of post offices and postal agencies was increased to 99. There was an appreciable expansion of business in the telegraph, parcel and money remittance services, together with a satisfactory increase of £116,382 in the balance due to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank. The balance due to depositors at the close of the year was £1,271,015, and the number of depositors increased by 2,875 to a total of 55,646.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The new central automatic telephone exchange at Freetown was successfully brought into operation on the 27th March, 1954. Two hundred and twenty-three new subscribers were given service during the year, and the total number of subscribers to the telephone service at the close of the year was 1,007.

An additional wireless telegraphy station was opened at Bo to supplement the overloaded land telegraph line to Freetown and to provide an alternative route for traffic in case of land line failures. Telegraph traffic continued to show a steady increase, and the service was maintained at a reasonable level despite difficulties. It is hoped to introduce teleprinter working between Freetown and Bo during 1955. Radio networks operated by the Police, Harbour Master and Fisheries Research Institute continued to be maintained by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

## Chapter 12: Press, Films, Broadcasting and Government Information Services

### PRESS

The following are the country's newspapers and periodicals:

TITLE	FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION	LANGUAGE	ADDRESS
<i>Sierra Leone Daily Mail</i>	Daily	English	29, Rawdon Street, Freetown.
<i>Sierra Leone Daily Guardian</i>	"	"	Oxford Street, Freetown.
<i>Evening Dispatch</i>	"	"	3, Garrison Street, Freetown.
<i>The Sierra Leone Observer</i>	Weekly	"	3, Hospital Road, Bo.
<i>The African Standard</i>	"	"	7, Trelawney Street, Freetown.
<i>The African Vanguard</i>	"	"	5, Wellington Street, Freetown.
<i>The Advance</i>	"	"	Dambarra Road, Bo.
<i>Weekly Bulletin</i>	"	"	Public Relations Department, Freetown.
<i>The Ten-Daily News</i>	"	"	17, Charlotte Street, Freetown.
<i>Seme Loko</i>	Monthly	Mende	Protectorate Literature Bureau, B

### BROADCASTING

The capital equipment for the establishment of a 5 Kw. transmitter in Freetown arrived during the year. Work was begun on the erection of a transmitting station at Hill Station and the reconstruction of existing studios at New England.

The Public Relations Department was responsible for the production of programmes on the Freetown rediffusion system, the engineering operations being in charge of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Local programmes included news bulletins, news magazines in Mende, Temne and English, topical talks, party political broadcasts, religious programmes, music and variety and band performances.

The B.B.C. General Overseas Service (including the regional p

programme "Calling West Africa") was relayed each day, for a total of 67 hours per week, and when possible the daily news bulletin from the Gold Coast Broadcasting Station (Z.O.Y., Accra) was also re-diffused.

The number of subscribers to the Freetown rediffusion system was 3,643. Noteworthy outside broadcasts during the year were: the Empire Day march past of school children at the Brookfields Recreation Grounds; the official opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Quay by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Robert de Zouche Hall; the opening of the 1953-54 Session of the Legislative Council including the installation of the Vice-President, the Hon. E. S. Beoku-Betts, M.B.E., and the Jubilee Thanksgiving Service of the Albert Academy from the King Memorial E.U.B. Church.

The use of tape recording equipment opened up new fields of entertainment. For the first time in the history of broadcasting in Sierra Leone, an experimental Sunday Half Hour Community Hymn-Singing programme recorded at the Bishop Crowther Memorial Church, Cline Town, was accepted by the B.B.C. and broadcast in the General Overseas Service on Sunday 26th September and was rediffused by the Freetown rediffusion system.

The public address equipment was used at a number of official and unofficial functions.

#### FILMS

It was an extremely successful year as far as departmental films shows were concerned. Every district in the Provinces was visited by either the mobile van or a portable unit.

The three commercial cinemas and the two non-commercial cinemas at the mining centres of Marampa and Yengema continued to receive supplies of the 35 mm. newsreels and documentaries from the Central Office of Information, free of charge.

A number of 16 mm. films and filmstrips were added to the film library maintained by the Public Relations Department and were made available to the British Council, to missions and to educational institutions.

The Schools Cinema was again organised in co-operation with the British Council.

#### INFORMATION SERVICES

During the year, the Public Relations Department continued to fulfil its main purpose of disseminating information and interpreting the policy of the government to the people through the medium of the press, publications, the cinema, photographs and broadcasting and press conferences. The department maintained close liaison with newspapers and relations continued to be cordial.

Press representatives visited government establishments and development schemes both in Freetown and the Provinces. Such visits enabled newspapermen to gain first hand information of development work being undertaken by the government.

Complete coverage of the sittings of the Electoral Reform Commission in the 12 district headquarters in July and August was arranged by the Public Relations Department. Reports of the proceedings were included in the news broadcast each evening and reported in the press and the Weekly Bulletin.

*The Weekly Bulletin*, which is published by the department, has a circulation of 5,000. This publication, which contains a summary of important world and local events and of government activities, has a wide circulation in the Provinces where the facilities for obtaining reading material are practically non-existent.

Acknowledgement must once again be made of the generous and valuable material supplied free of charge by the Central Office of Information through the Colonial office. This included films, film-strips, stereos and press material for local newspapers, newspapers, periodicals, books, posters, pictures and picture-sets. In addition the department purchased, in bulk, newspapers and periodicals which are regularly supplied to schools, native administrations, libraries and other institutions in the Provinces where they are greatly appreciated. There is evidence that the demand for reading and visual material is growing and the department endeavours to ensure that equitable distribution is maintained, particularly in areas where reading material is not readily obtainable.

During the year the mobile cinema van travelled extensively and covered every district in the Provinces, giving over 150 film performances of general and educational interest to audiences totalling approximately 90,000. An additional portable generating set received in August was used in connection with the community development programme organised by the Community Development Officer in the Pujehun District of the South-western Province. The department also assisted the Department of Agriculture in showing films on banana cultivation at Port Loko, Kambia and Rokupr in the Northern Province and also at Njala, Taiama and Mano in the South-western Province. Film shows were also given in the villages in the Colony area.

The photographic staff travelled extensively and covered many important events both official and unofficial. A number of photographs were supplied to local and overseas newspapers and were displayed in centres in Freetown and the Provinces. Close liaison was maintained with the ministries and other government departments and pictorial coverage of their activities, particularly development projects, was obtained.

In co-operation with the Provincial Administration, three visits to Freetown were arranged for parties of Paramount Chiefs and other prominent residents. During their stay in Freetown they visited Government House, various government departments, the Freetown municipal offices, Fourah Bay College, and the Rural Area. These tours were proving popular and the visitors were highly appreciative of the hospitality accorded them.

## Chapter 13: Local Forces

The principal military force in Sierra Leone is the 1st Battalion of the Sierra Leone Regiment, Royal West African Frontier Force. The Sierra Leone Signal Squadron and a unit of the West African Army Service Corps are also stationed in the territory.

The Sierra Leone Regiment traces its history back to the Sierra Leone Frontier Police raised in 1890 for service in the Colony and more particularly in the adjacent territories of what was later to become the Protectorate. The force was recruited from the local African tribes and included a number of transfers from the civil police. Its strength, including officers, was 288. At that time it was employed in the protection of the Colony's interests in the adjacent territories before the formal establishment of the Protectorate in 1896.

In 1898 the "Frontiers," together with other forces, were engaged in quelling the widespread rising in protest against the imposition of the hut tax in the newly constituted Protectorate. Later, columns marched through the Protectorate to show the flag and assist in the pacification of troubled areas.

A detachment of the "Frontiers" took part in the Ashanti Campaign of 1900-01 in the Gold Coast. They were employed as scouts and were highly regarded as the only members of the force trained in bush warfare.

In 1902 marked the creation of the Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force. All officers received military rank and the Battalion had an establishment of 600 rank and file.

In 1903 the Battalion was reorganised on a basis of five companies, each of 98 rank and file.

In 1905 the Battalion took part in operations against raiding Kissis who came chiefly from French and Liberian territory.

In 1906 the Moa Barracks were built at Daru and this became the headquarters of the Battalion until 1928.

During the first World War two companies of the Battalion saw service in Togoland and later in the Cameroons where they took part in the capture of Duala. The remainder of the Battalion also went to the Cameroons. After the campaign the Battalion returned to Daru.

In 1928 the W.A.F.F. received the honour of becoming a "Royal" force. In that year the Battalion moved to Freetown to relieve the West African Regiment which was disbanded.

In 1940 a 2nd Battalion of the Sierra Leone Regiment was formed. This Battalion remained in Sierra Leone during the war. The 1st Battalion was included in the 6th West African Infantry Brigade with Battalions from the Gambia and Nigeria. This Brigade was trained in Nigeria with the 81st West African Infantry Division and went with that formation to India in 1943. The Battalion saw active service in the Second and Third Arakan campaigns of 1944-45. It took part in the operations which led to the capture of Myohaung in January, 1945.

After the war the 2nd Battalion was disbanded and the 1st Battalion returned to Freetown. The Regiment's Training Centre is still based at the old headquarters at Daru.

At the end of the year, the Sierra Leone Naval Volunteer Force consisted of four officers and over seventy ratings. With the acquisition of several craft, useful sea experience was gained by the Force during the year. The Force was represented by an officer and a rating at the review of the R.N.V.R. in London.

Expenditure on defence in 1954 was £102,000.

## PART III

### Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is an area of some 27,925 square miles, (about the size of Ireland), roughly circular in shape, lying between  $6^{\circ} 55''$  and  $10^{\circ}$  of north latitude and  $10^{\circ} 16''$  and  $13^{\circ} 18''$  of west longitude. It has a sea-coast 210 miles in length, extending from the French Guinea border to the border of the Republic of Liberia. Inland it has common frontiers with only these two territories.

The Colony, i.e. the territory acquired by the Crown by treaty of cession or otherwise, consists of the Sierra Leone Peninsula (including Freetown), Sherbro Island and various other islands and small islets.

The peninsula is about 25 miles in length, and from 10 to 12 miles in breadth at its widest part. It is formed of a range of igneous mountains running parallel to the sea, the summits of the highest of which rise in conical form to a height of 2,000 to 3,000 feet. The mountains, composed principally of norite, are thickly wooded, and are intersected by gullies and small valleys. Freetown lies at the northern end of this peninsula, at the foot of steep hills, about four miles up the Sierra Leone river. It possesses one of the finest natural harbours in West Africa and, being one of the few points on the coast of Africa where there is high land near the sea, is a place of considerable interest and beauty. The western side of the peninsula, on the sea-coast, has a number of agreeable beaches and coves.

The Protectorate, an area of about 27,656 square miles, varies considerably in different localities. The coastal strip is flat and low-lying, and the river estuaries, below high-tide mark, are bounded by extensive mangrove swamps. The western and southern part of the Protectorate consists of rolling wooded country broken in places by ranges of hills, rising to 1,000 feet or more. The ground rises to the north and east to form an upland plateau having a general elevation of about 1,500 feet. The Sula and Kangari hills rise to nearly 3,000 feet and, to the east, near the French Guinea frontier, Bintimane peak and the summits of the Mung range rise to above 6,000 feet. Unlike many regions on the west coast of Africa, the country is well watered by a network of rivers and streams, the general direction of flow of which is from the north-east to the south-west and into the Atlantic Ocean. The principal rivers are navigable by small craft for various distances, and provide useful waterways, especially during the rainy season.

The climate of Sierra Leone is of the equatorial type, with two main seasons, a dry season from mid-November to mid-April and a wet season mid-April to mid-November. At the onset and cessation of the wet season violent thunderstorms occur, sometimes accompanied by cyclones (commonly but erroneously known as tornadoes), which can reach a maximum velocity of 40-45 mph.



Geographically speaking, the country can be divided into three climate belts, running roughly parallel with the coast, i.e. North-west—South-east,

- (a) from the coast to 50 miles inland
- (b) 50-120 miles inland
- (c) 120 miles inland to the eastern border.

Mean annual rainfall in these belts is of the following order: (a) 13 inches or more, the highest long term mean on record being 212 inches (although a rain gauge in the Freetown hills has recorded 319 inches in a year), (b) 100-130 inches (c) 75-100 inches. In belt (a) 60-70 per cent of the annual rainfall is likely to occur in July to September; in (b) 50-60 per cent and in (c) 45-50 per cent.

Temperatures and relative humidity, as would be expected, have the reverse tendency in these belts, (b) and (c) having larger ranges than (a). On the coast the mean daily range of temperature is 10 °F and the relative humidity 12 per cent, compared with daily variations of 15-20 °F and 25-30 per cent respectively inland.

MEAN TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATION

Station	Height above Mean Sea Level (feet)	Annual Mean Temperature		Rainfall (inches)
		Max. °F.	Min. °F.	
Freetown . . .	37	84.9	75.5	132.2
Lungi . . .	82	86.0	74.3	134.1
Makeni . . .	275	89.0	72.0	136.0
Bo . . .	302	87.8	71.8	129.4
Bonthe . . .	10	86.4	74.9	163.6
Daru . . .	624	87.1	70.8	89.9

## Chapter 2: History

The first written records of Sierra Leone are those of the Portuguese voyagers of discovery in the 15th century. Pedro da Cintra gave it its name about the year 1460 and in the succeeding decades the Portuguese built, but after a few years abandoned, a fortress on the shore of the Sierra Leone River. Adventurers from other countries soon followed, not as colonisers but as pirates and slave-traders. Sir John Hawkins, who came on a slave-raiding expedition in 1562 was probably the first Englishman to land here. Drake called in during his voyage round the world. A few relics of these early voyages still survive—the name "Pirates' Bay," the stone buried in Freetown bearing the names of the Dutch Admirals De Ruyter and Van Meppel who took in water at the stream there in 1664, and the ruins of the fort on Bunce Island with its slave-barracoons and churchyard. There were also barracoons on the neighbouring Tasso and Gambia Islands, and indeed all along the coast from the Rio Pongas down to the Sherbro and to Sulima.

The Colony of Sierra Leone was founded as an attempt to atone for the horrors of this slave trade. Granville Sharp, a friend of Wilberforce and a leader in the movement to abolish slavery, designed it as a home for slaves freed and destitute in England. In 1787 he sent out the first settlers to what he called "The Province of Freedom," where they were granted a strip of land on the north shore of the peninsula by the Temne King Naimbanna and there founded Freetown. In 1789 the settlers quarrelled with the neighbouring King Jimmy, who destroyed the town and drove them away. But in 1790 the enterprise was taken on by the Sierra Leone Company, of which Sharp was a director, more settlers were sent out, and in 1792 Lieutenant John Clarkson, the first Governor, brought over 300 who had been freed after the American War of Independence, and then uncomfortably settled in Nova Scotia. They were joined in 1800 by a group of Maroons, former slaves, sent from Jamaica after an insurrection.

The land did not prove as fertile as it had been described; the settlement was attacked at intervals by neighbouring tribes (aided sometimes by discontented settlers); and in 1794 it was sacked by a French squadron.

After the last Temne raid in 1803 the invasions ceased. The Sierra Leone Company was given a Royal Charter in 1799, and Freetown, already laid out with its regular street-plan, was given a corporation with mayor and aldermen. But the Company was unable to meet the heavy burdens of defence and settlement, and in 1808 Sierra Leone was transferred to the Crown. In 1807 Parliament had passed an Act making the slave trade illegal; the new Colony was to be a base from which that Act could be enforced. A naval squadron was stationed on the coast to intercept slave ships, and a Court of Vice-Admiralty set up in Freetown to try slave traders. When other nations agreed to prohibit slaving it was supplemented in 1819, by a Court of Mixed Commission where British and foreign judges heard slave cases jointly.

The first slave ship was condemned, and its cargo freed, in 1808. From then on, hundreds, and in some years thousands, of slaves were freed every year, most of them remaining in Sierra Leone. The whole of the peninsula was ceded by the Temne chiefs and most of the liberated were settled in villages round it. As the Colony could raise little revenue a parliamentary grant, administered by the British Treasury through a special Liberated African Department, provided for the villagers and for churches and schools in the villages.

These Liberated Africans, or "Creoles" as they came to be called, came from all parts of Africa. Cut off from their homes, they tended to adopt the original settlers' style of living; cut off from their traditions they proved a fruitful field for missionaries. From 1804 the Church Missionary Society and from 1810 the Methodists, had missions here; from the first there had been Methodist congregations among the Nova Scotians, with their own preachers and chapels. Education was left to the churches, the Liberated African Department providing only school buildings in the villages. In 1845, when the Department was greatly reduced, they were all handed over to the missions. The C.M.S. had

already started an institution for training for the ministry at Fourah Bay in 1827. By 1861 they had trained enough clergy to allow the mission to withdraw from the Colony and to provide the villages with African pastors under the direction of a European bishop. In 1876 the institution was affiliated to Durham University as Fourah Bay College. Only in this century has the government, working through the Education Department, taken an active part in establishing new schools and given grants to existing ones.

Though the Liberated African Department was reduced in 1845, the slave trade still continued and was not extirpated until the eighteen sixties. The Court of Mixed Commission was finally abolished in 1870. The population, increasing steadily with every capture, by the middle of the century exceeded 40,000, about 16,000 of whom lived in Free town. Legitimate trade with the interior succeeded the slave trade. The timber trade, started about 1815, flourished until the fine forest timber in and near the Colony was all cut down; after 1840 groundnuts, and later palm oil and kernels were exported. Many of the Liberated Africans set up as traders on a large scale. Not until the eighteen-sixties was there serious competition from European firms, and only in this century from Syrians. Freetown became the centre for the trading factories gradually established in the Sherbro, the Rokel, and the Scarcies rivers. Thus the Colony's interests began to extend beyond the peninsula.

The Isles de Los were taken over in 1816; the Banana Islands were leased from the Caulker family in 1820. In 1825 Governor Turner made a treaty of cession with all the Sherbro chiefs, but it was disallowed by the Secretary of State. In general, British colonial policy for the greater part of the 19th century disapproved of any expansion of the existing colonies. Succeeding Governors did, however, make treaties of friendship with neighbouring chiefs, usually with a clause prohibiting the slave trade. In 1845 Bai Sherbro ceded a nominal sovereignty over the coast line of the Bullom shore, north to the Scarcies. By 1861 trade in the Sherbro country was important enough for the Secretary of State to allow Governor Hill to take over Sherbro Island and a strip of the mainland as a part of the Colony. Hill also annexed the Koya country where tribal wars were threatening Waterloo and the Colony's eastern boundry. Part of Koya was restored in 1872 by Governor Kennedy.

The boundaries of these accessions and spheres of influence were first only roughly defined. The great expansion of the French Empire to the north and Liberian claims to the south made accurate definition necessary. After several fruitless commissions the Liberian frontier was settled in 1885, and rectified again in 1911. The French frontier was defined in 1895. A Protectorate was proclaimed over the British sphere of influence encircled by French territory in 1896, judicially and administratively separate from the Colony. It preserved its tribal framework and was governed by District Commissioners, assisted by the Frontier Police Force (and later, the Court Messenger Force), a semi-military body raised in 1890. The Proclamation was received without incident, but the chiefs did not understand all that it implied. In 1891 following the first attempt to collect house tax, many chiefs in the P

ectorate came out in revolt and attacked the English-speaking people, both black and white, and about 1,000 British subjects together with some American missionaries were killed. The resulting military operations to suppress this disorder were brought to a successful conclusion early in 1899, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

Poor communications in the hinterland were the principal obstacle to the country's economic and social development. At the turn of the century the first section of the Sierra Leone railway was opened, but communication with most areas continued to be by creek and navigable rivers, or by rough bush-paths and head portage. The last section of the railway was completed just before the 1914-18 war. The railway facilitated the export of palm products, and later, as a result of an economic survey in the late twenties, of certain minerals, on which commodities the prosperity of the territory is founded. Road communications outside Freetown did not really exist until 1917-18, and it was not until 1928 that the building of Protectorate trunk roads was seriously taken in hand. It was only in 1940 that the road systems of the Protectorate and of the Colony were linked.

In these circumstances economic development has necessarily been slow, but an idea of the progress may be gained from the increase in the territory's revenue from £300,000 in 1906 to more than £7½ million in 1954.

## Chapter 3: Administration

### CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

The constitution of Sierra Leone is to be found in the following constitutional instruments:

- (i) Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom dated 7th April, 1951, and 13th April, 1953, which constitute the office of Governor and the Executive Council and provide for the appointment of Judges and other officers, the grant of pardons and the disposal of Crown lands.
- (ii) The Sierra Leone Protectorate Order in Council, dated 9th April, 1951, as amended by the Sierra Leone Protectorate (Amendment) Order in Council dated 1st April, 1953, which defines the limits of the Protectorate, invests the Governor of the Colony with the power of Governor of the Protectorate, and provides that the Executive Council of the Colony shall also be the Executive Council of the Protectorate.
- (iii) Instructions passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet dated 9th April, 1951, and the Additional Instructions dated 8th April, 1953, relating to the membership, constitution, and procedure of the Executive Council, the responsibilities of Ministers, legislation, the disposition of Crown lands, appointments, and the grant of pardons in capital cases.

- (iv) The Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order in Council dated 9th April, 1951, as amended by the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Order in Council dated 1st April, 1952, which provides for the constitution, powers and privileges of the Legislative Council, the qualifications for elected and nominated members, the precedence of members, and the legislative power and procedure of the Council.

By virtue of these instruments the constitutional instruments of 1922, 1929 and 1939 have been revoked.

The *Executive Council* consists of the Governor as President, of four *ex officio* members who are the Colonial Secretary, the Chief Commissioner of the Protectorate, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary, and of not less than four Ministers, who must be elected members of the Legislative Council, selected and appointed by the Governor by instrument under the Public Seal, for a term of not more than five years.

The *Legislative Council* consists of:

- (i) The Governor as President;
- (ii) A Vice-President, who may or may not be a member of Council;
- (iii) seven *ex officio* members, who are the Colonial Secretary, the Chief Commissioner of the Protectorate, the Attorney-General, the Financial Secretary, the Director of Medical Services, the Director of Education and the Director of Agriculture;
- (iv) seven persons elected to represent the seven districts of the Colony;
- (v) 12 persons elected by the District Councils of the Protectorate;
- (vi) two persons elected by the unofficial members of the Protectorate Assembly, one of them being an African member nominated to the Assembly by the Governor, the other being an unofficial member of the Assembly representing a District thereof and
- (vii) two nominated members, appointed by the Governor by instrument under the Public Seal.

Power is vested in the Governor to appoint persons to be extraordinary members (without voting rights), and to make temporary appointments to fill vacancies among the *ex officio* or nominated members.

Decisions in the Legislative Council are reached by a majority of votes, the Governor having neither an original nor a casting vote. The voting powers of the Vice-President or other presiding member are regulated by the Order in Council.

If upon any question before the Council the votes are equally divided the motion is declared lost. No business except that of adjournment may be transacted in the Legislative Council if objection is taken by any members present that there are less than 10 members present besides the President, Vice-President or other presiding member.

Certain powers are reserved to the Governor to declare that ordinances and motions not passed by the Legislature shall have effect if

considers it expedient in the interests of public order, public faith or good government, subject to consultation with his Executive Council, if his declaration is contrary to the advice of that Council, to authority being obtained from the Secretary of State. The Governor is required to dissolve the Legislative Council at the end of five years from the last preceding election, if it has not been sooner dissolved. The next elections are due to be held late in 1956.

## THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Governor	Sir Robert de Zouche Hall, K.C.M.G.
The Colonial Secretary	A. R. Macdonald, Esq., C.M.G.
The Chief Commissioner of the Protectorate	H. Childs, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.
The Attorney-General	G. M. Paterson, Esq., O.B.E., Q.C.
The Financial Secretary	K. C. Jacobs, Esq., C.B.E.
The Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Agriculture and Forests	Dr. M. A. S. Margai, M.B.E.
The Minister for Local Government, Education and Welfare	A. M. Margai, Esq.
The Minister for Works and Transport	M. S. Mustapha, Esq.
The Minister for Trade and Commerce, Posts and Telegraphs	A. G. Randle, Esq., M.B.E.
The Minister for Lands, Mines and Labour	S. P. Stevens, Esq.
The Minister Without Portfolio	Paramount Chief Bai Farima Tass II.
	<i>Clerk of Executive Council,</i> W. W. Wallace, Esq., D.S.C.

## THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*President*

The Governor, Sir Robert de Zouche Hall, K.C.M.G.

*Vice-President*

E. S. Beoku-Betts, Esq., M.B.E.

*Officio Members*

The Colonial Secretary	A. R. Macdonald, Esq., C.M.G.
The Chief Commissioner of the Protectorate	H. Childs, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.
The Attorney-General	G. M. Paterson, Esq., O.B.E., Q.C.
The Financial Secretary	K. C. Jacobs, Esq., C.B.E.
The Director of Medical Services	Dr. E. Awunor Renner, O.B.E.
The Director of Education	P. S. Tregear, Esq.
The Director of Agriculture	G. W. Lines, Esq., M.B.E.

*Unofficial Members*

- J. P. Birch, Esq. (First Nominated Member).  
 Paramount Chief Alimami Jai Kai Kai (Member for Pujel District)  
 Dr. H. C. Bankole Bright (Member for Freetown Central Electoral District)  
 J. C. O. Crowther, Esq., J.P. (Member for Waterloo and Bri Koya Electoral District)  
 The Rev. Paul L. Dunbar (Member for Kono District)  
 Paramount Chief Alimami Dura II (Member for Bombali District)  
 C. S. T. Edmondson, Esq. (Second Nominated Member)  
 Rev. Dr. W. H. Fitzjohn (Member for Moyamba District)  
 Paramount Chief Kenewa Gamanga (Member for Kono District)  
 I. T. A. Wallace Johnson, Esq., (Member for Wilberforce York Electoral District)  
 Lansana Kamara, Esq., (Member for Koinadugu District)  
 Paramount Chief R. B. S. Koker (Member for Bo District)  
 Paramount Chief Bai Kur (Member for Tonkolili District)  
 A. M. Margai, Esq., (First Protectorate Member)  
 Dr. M. A. S. Margai, M.B.E. (Member for Bonthe District)  
 Paramount Chief Alikali Modu III (Member for Port L District)  
 M. S. Mustapha, Esq., (Member for Freetown East Electoral District)  
 A. G. Randle, Esq., M.B.E., (Member for Sherbro Electoral District)  
 Paramount Chief A. B. Samba (Member for Kailahun District)  
 Siaka P. Stevens, Esq., (Second Protectorate Member)  
 Paramount Chief Bai Farima Tass II (Member for Koinadugu District)  
 C. M. A. Thompson, Esq., (Member for Freetown West Electoral District)  
 J. Rogers Williams, Esq., (Member for Kissy and Moun Electoral District)

*Clerk:* S. V. Wright, Esq.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE COLONY

For administrative purposes the territory is divided into the Colony and the Protectorate. The Colony is British territory acquired by purchase or concession, as described in the previous chapter, and treaties entered into with native chiefs and tribal authorities from 1808 onwards. In detail it consists of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, the Tasso, Banana, Turtle, Plantain and York Islands, and some small islets, and some small areas of territory inland. Of these only the Peninsula of Sierra Leone, Tasso Island, Banana Island, Sherbro Island and the township of Bonthe are administered as parts of the Colony, the other areas being administered in every respect as if they were within the Protectorate.

The Colony is administered by the following authorities:

- (a) The Freetown City Council (as constituted under the Freetown Municipality Ordinance Cap. 91);
- (b) The local authorities constituted under the Rural Area Ordinance, No. 11 of 1949;
- (c) The Sherbro Urban District Council.

*Freetown City Council.* The Council consists of the Mayor, aldermen and councillors. Four councillors are elected by each of the three wards of the City; the Governor in Council may also appoint six councillors of whom at least two must be Africans. After election the councillors in turn elect three aldermen and the Mayor. The normal term of office of councillors is three years and for the Mayor one year.

The Council discharges a number of normal municipal responsibilities, including the provision of a fire brigade, markets and slaughter-houses, public parks and gardens, the care of public cemeteries, the lighting of thoroughfares and the recovery of water rates.

In addition, various "Tribal Headmen" in Freetown have certain prescribed administrative powers over the members of the indigenous tribes who reside within the municipality.

*Rural Area Council.* The Rural Area of the Colony, which comprises the whole Colony Peninsula including the Banana and Tasso Islands, is administered under a three-tier system of local government, which was established in July, 1950. The base of the structure is made up of 28 Village Area Committees. Each of these elects a prescribed number of its members to a Rural District Council. There are six District Councils and they perform the main executive duties of local government; these include the construction and maintenance of roads, provision of water supplies, parks, gardens and other public places of recreation and the regulation of markets, slaughter-houses and cemeteries.

Each District Council elects one of its members to the Rural Area Council. The duties of this Council are to act as a channel of communication between the Central Government and the Rural District Councils and to assist, co-ordinate and supervise the Rural District Councils and Village Area Committees in the performance of their duties. Each Village Area Committee and District Council elects its own chairman. For the first three years of its existence, the Commissioner, Headquarters Judicial and Freetown Police Districts, was appointed President of Rural Area Council by the Governor, but the Council was authorised in March, 1953, to elect one of its elected members to be President, and Mr. R. G. O. King was subsequently elected.

Instead of the former house tax of 5s. per house the Rural Area Council is empowered to impose a rural area rate and the village Area Committees are likewise empowered to impose a village improvement cess. A valuation of all premises in the area was carried out in 1950 and is being revised. The rural area rate on the assessed value of premises for 1954 was 1s. 6d. in the £. In addition the Village Area Committees imposed village improvement cesses ranging from 5d. to 1s. 6d. in the £.



With the help of funds from Central Government for community development, many Village Area Committees have been able to provide community centres and improved water supplies in their respective areas. The second annual inter-village competition for the best kept village which was begun in 1951 was carried out with much enthusiasm. A silver cup was presented to each of the six successful villages.

The Five-Year Plan of Economic Development of the area has already received the approval of Government and development projects are well under way. This plan makes provision for the improvement of road communications, increased production of oil palm, fruits, vegetables and fish, which it is hoped will result in a general rise in the standard of living of the people in the area.

*Sherbro Urban District Council.* The Sherbro Urban District, which includes the town of Bonthe, York Island and adjacent small islands, lies within the District of Bonthe. The Sherbro Urban District is administered as part of the Colony, while the rest of Bonthe District (the greater part) is administered by the District Commissioner as part of the Protectorate.

In order to re-organise the administration of the Sherbro Urban District on a popular basis along lines proposed by a Committee appointed by the Governor to recommend a more appropriate form of local government for the District, the Sherbro Urban District Council Ordinance was passed in December, 1950. The Ordinance repeals and replaces the Sherbro Judicial District Ordinance which was originally enacted in 1923, and it makes provision for a Sherbro Urban District Council, which consists of eight councillors, two elected by each of the three wards into which the District is divided, one nominated by the Governor, and *ex officio* the Medical Officer, Bonthe. The Council has chosen one of the elected councillors to be president. It exercises functions similar to those exercised by the Freetown City Council and by the various local authorities created under the Rural Area Ordinance, No. 11 of 1949.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE PROTECTORATE

The Protectorate is divided into 12 administrative districts, each of which is in the charge of a District Commissioner. These districts are grouped into three Provinces, which are administered by Provincial Commissioners to whom the District Commissioners are directly responsible. The Provincial Commissioners are responsible to the Chief Commissioner, whose headquarters are at Bo and who is responsible to the Governor for the general administration of the whole Protectorate.

It may be helpful to preface this brief account of the administration of the Protectorate with a word or two regarding the duties of the district administrative staff. In his administrative capacity a District Commissioner is the representative of the Colonial Government in the district committed to his charge. On him the success of the whole system of government depends. It is his part to integrate the efforts of others, both official and unofficial, and to direct them into the most productive courses. His enthusiasm, energy and example bear fruit

direct proportion to the degree in which they are displayed and there can be few jobs of importance to-day in which these qualities are more vital, or their effect more quickly apparent in the results they produce.

The District Commissioner is responsible for supervising the collection of the tax and other revenue in his district. He is also a sub-treasury accountant, who disburses monies for the payment of staff and for the various expenses of his departments. He co-ordinates the activities of the officers of the technical departments. In the maintenance of law and order both the Police and the chiefdom authorities are subject to the guidance of Provincial and District Commissioners. He is the friend and adviser of the paramount chiefs, the tribal authorities and the people. He is the support of recognised native authority, the holder of its prestige, and the protector of the poor against oppression by their rulers. He is the mouthpiece of the government, and the interpreter and demonstrator of its policy. He is President of the District Council and supervises the work of the Native Administrations and the Native Courts, and, if necessary, is expected to construct a road, or a school, or a dispensary, and to perform any duty for which the recognised technical staff may not be available. The claims on him are multifarious and unending, and he is always on duty.

As in other parts of Africa, the basis of social life is the family. Whether for protection, or for co-operation in husbandry, or through inter-marriage, families have combined to form villages. The villages have for some similar reasons combined to form the extended village, or section, while a number of sections constitute the chiefdom which is the principal administrative unit of the Protectorate. Altogether there are 146 of these chiefdoms. The estimated total population of the Protectorate in 1952 was over 1,888,000, giving an average of over 12,900 in each chiefdom. Each is in the charge of a paramount chief, who is elected and assisted by an advisory council known as the tribal authority. This is composed of the section chiefs and sub-chiefs and the headmen of the larger villages, together with a number of elders who no longer take any active part in public life, but whose opinions and advice are respected. At the present time tribal authorities are not rigidly constituted, but any attempt on the part of a chief to give preference to his own friends is resisted.

In 1936 a measure of organised local administration was introduced as an experiment in two chiefdoms. Chiefdom treasuries were established, and all males of marriageable age were required to pay an annual tax, usually fixed at 4s. and assessable in the same manner as Government house tax, in return for which they were relieved of communal services formerly required of them. Since their establishment the rate of chiefdom tax has been increased in all chiefdoms and it now varies between 11s. and 20s. In addition, court fees and fines, together with any other fees ordinarily paid personally to a chief, were added to the public revenue of the chiefdom. From these revenues the chief and other officials were paid fixed stipends, and payments were made for services which were formerly performed free.

By the end of 1954, 143 chiefdoms were organised on these lines leaving only three chiefdoms unorganised. Their total estimated revenue for 1954 amounted to £538,440. Their funds are spent on social services, such as small primary schools and minor medical and health measures, offices and court houses. Afforestation on a small scale is being attempted, and the organisation of seed-farms and other agricultural activities is in hand. The Central Government provides guidance and supervision and assists with small financial grants, but the main activities are run by the people themselves and paid for with their own money. In time, it is hoped that all chiefdoms will become organised Native Administrations.

Every chiefdom, whether re-organised as a Native Administration or not, constitutes a separate administrative unit. Some chiefdoms are too small to form satisfactory economic units, and where this is so there is a tendency for two or more to amalgamate.

During 1949 and 1950 it became clear that there was need for local government units of a size capable of undertaking functions which were beyond the resources of the Native Administrations. This need was particularly felt in connection with plans for local economic development. Accordingly the District Councils Ordinance (No. 17 of 1951) was enacted, under the provisions of which the District Councils, which have been established in 1946 as advisory bodies, were reconstituted as bodies corporate with executive and financial functions, charged with responsibility for promoting the development of the districts and the welfare of the people of the districts. The Ordinance was brought into effect on 1st January, 1951.

A District Council sat in 1954 under the presidency of the District Commissioner. Its membership comprises the paramount chief of each chiefdom in the district, one or more members elected by the tribal authorities of each chiefdom (the number of each chiefdom's representatives depends on the population of the chiefdom) and three additional members, natives of or residents in the district concerned, who are elected by the District Council. A District Council normally meets twice a year, business in the interim being carried on through committees the chief of which is the General Purposes and Finance Committee which meets under the chairmanship of the District Commissioner and is responsible for the detailed control of the District development plan and of expenditure under the District Council's annual estimates.

At the end of 1951 Mr. H. W. Davidson, then Deputy Financial Secretary, was seconded by the Governor to examine the possibilities of enlarging the responsibilities and financial resources of the District Councils. His report was submitted in August, 1952, and recommended that the functions of District Councils be extended by transferring to them the responsibility either wholly, or in part, for some of the public services hitherto discharged by the Central Government. The report, which was adopted as an interim step in the development of local government in Sierra Leone, also recommended that certain items of Central Government revenue should be transferred to the district Councils to enable them to finance the transferred services.

ne proposals made by Mr. Davidson were accepted by the District Councils and estimates of revenue and expenditure incorporating the new proposals were drawn up by all District Councils in 1953 and became effective from 1st January, 1954. The District Councils have thus extended from bodies responsible solely for the economic development of their districts to genuine local government authorities with direct responsibility for the maintenance and expansion of public services within their districts.

Above the District Councils is the Protectorate Assembly. This is presided over by the Chief Commissioner, and comprises official and unofficial members. The three Provincial Commissioners and representatives of the Agricultural, Education, Forestry, Medical and Public Works Departments are official members. The unofficial members consist of two representatives from each of the District Councils, together with six members nominated by the Governor. Originally all the representatives from District Councils were paramount chiefs. Recently, however persons other than chiefs have in some cases been chosen by District Councils and six such persons are members of the Protectorate Assembly. Of the six nominated members, four are Africans nominated to represent interests not represented on District Councils; of the other two (who may be African or European), one represents commercial interests and the other mission interests in the Protectorate.

The terms of reference of the Assembly are to advise on any matters referred to it by the Governor; to make recommendations to the Government on matters affecting the Protectorate as a whole; to consider matters referred to it by District Councils; and to advise on expenditure from the Protectorate Mining Benefits Trust Fund. This is a fund established by law into which monies in respect of mining rights, mining leases and water rights are paid: the proceeds of the fund are applied to the financing of schemes which would be legitimate charges on the funds of the Native Administrations, but which are beyond their present resources.

The Assembly met in Bo in October 1954 for the dispatch of ordinary business.

## Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Regulations regarding weights and measures in Sierra Leone are laid down in the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Cap 262, as amended in minor details by later provisions. The units of weights and measures are the same as those used in the United Kingdom. Standards, verified by the Standards Department of the Board of Trade, are obtained from the United Kingdom from time to time and kept at the Treasury.

Under the provision of the Ordinance the Commissioner of Police is the *ex officio* Inspector of Weights and Measures but executive responsibility has been taken over by the Director of Commerce and Industry and a full-time Commerce and Industries Assistant (Weights

and Measures) has been appointed. This officer with the assistance of Produce Inspection Staff is responsible for the verification of weight and measures and for the issue of certificates of justness throughout the whole country.

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Sheet Nos. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 30 and 35 . . . . .	1:1,250	3	0		1948 Edition.
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Bo Cadastral Sheets . . . . . Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 10-12, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25	1:1,250	3	0		1948-49 Edition.
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Kenema Cadastral Sheets . . . . . Sheets Nos. 2, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19	1:1,250	3	0		1951 Edition.
Protectorate Townships Plans . . .	Various	5s.	to	10s.	Sunprint form maps from surveys Protectorate Administration Surveyors.
Atlas of Sierra Leone . . . . .		12	6		Containing maps colour and plans. Includes gazetteer.
Wall Map of West Africa . . . . .	1:2,000,000	2	0	0	Mounted on roller

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Published by Directorate of Colonial Surveys D.O.S. 981  
Third Edition  
5000/75 200, 22

Compiled and Drawn by Directorate of Colonial Surveys  
Photographed and Printed by S.S.G.S. 1954

