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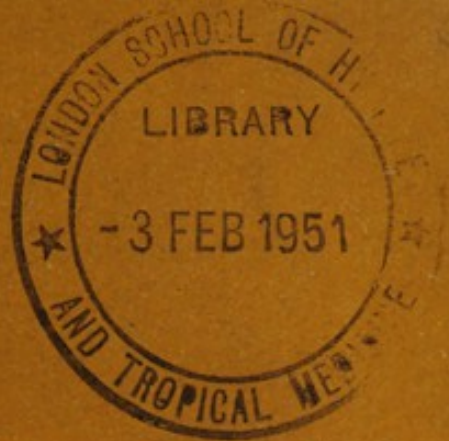
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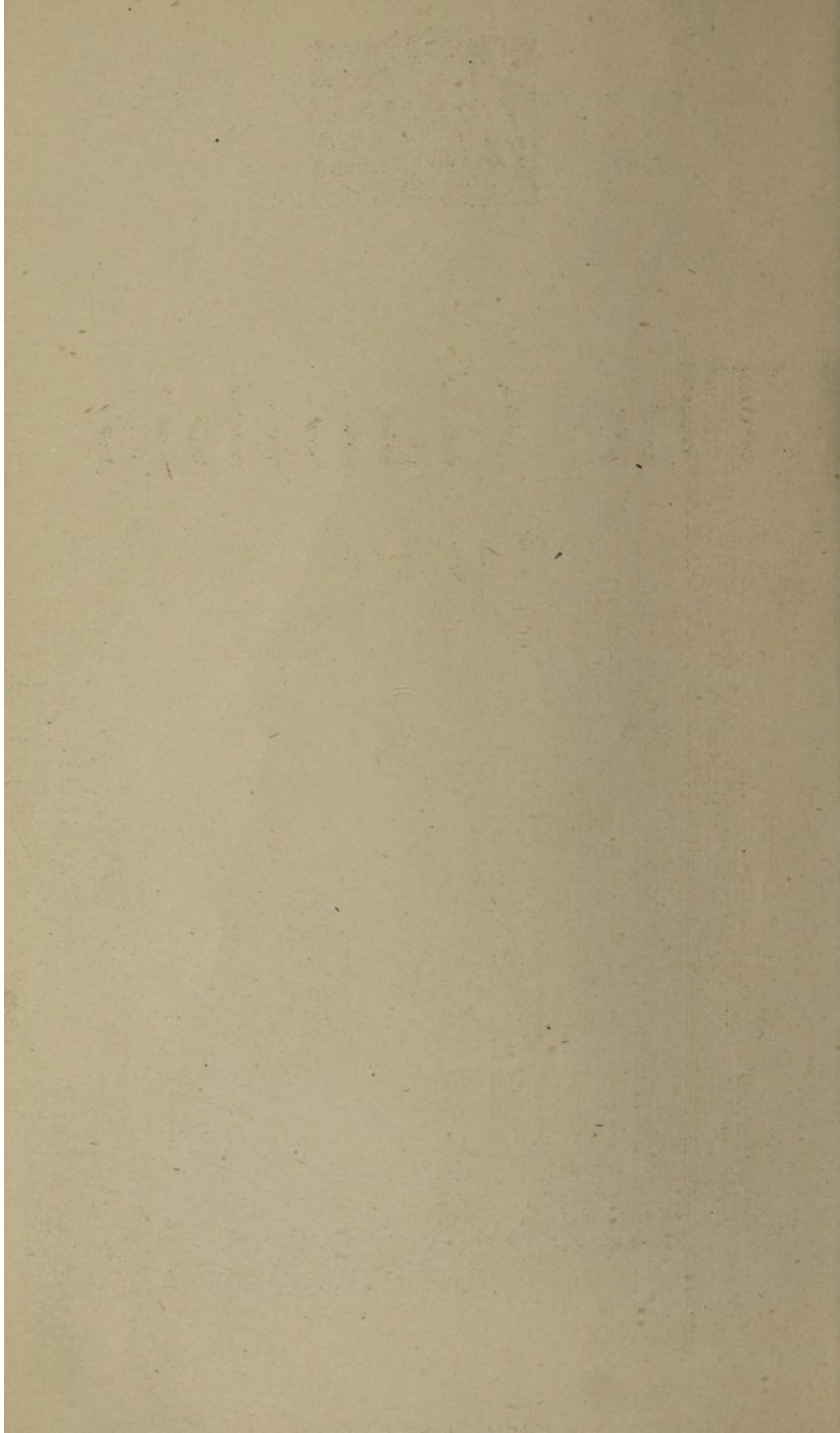
The Gambia

1949



LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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REPORT ON THE GAMBIA

FOR THE YEAR

1949

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The cover illustration shows two Drummers.

PART I

General Review

IN May the Governor, Sir Andrew Wright, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., left the Colony on transfer to Cyprus and in December Mr. P. Wyn Harris, C.M.G., M.B.E., assumed office as Governor. During the interval Mr. E. R. Ward, C.M.G., administered the Government.

Early in the year a member of a firm of consulting engineers arrived to investigate and report on a scheme designed locally for the reclamation of swamps in the vicinity of Bathurst by erecting a bund eight miles long. This scheme was designed to remedy the difficulties referred to on page 23 of the 1948 Report. Later in the year the consultant's report was received ; this viewed the scheme favourably, but raised questions of ways and means which were still under discussion at the end of the year.

A party sent out by the Colonial Development Corporation came to find suitable areas of unused land in the Protectorate for the growing of rice and other foods on a large scale. This followed on the visit paid in 1948 to the Colony by an irrigation engineer of the Colonial Development Corporation to make preliminary investigations. As a result of these visits two areas of land, one at Wallikunda of 10,800 acres and one at Kudang of 12,600 acres, were selected and the Colonial Development Corporation approved the plans for developing them.

The Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board was formed early in the year and the Board, on behalf of groundnut farmers, arranged for the purchase, shipment and sale of the 1949 crop of oilseeds.

In England the new Government river steamer built to replace the *Lady Denham* was launched in June by Lady Wright, after whom the vessel was named.

In March a meeting of the Legislative Council was held at Mansa Konko, the newly built headquarters of the Central Division ; the annual Chiefs' Conference was held at the same time and place.

The extensions to the Victoria Hospital were begun and by the end of the year the new buildings were beginning to take shape.

In September the Commander-in-Chief South Atlantic Fleet visited the Colony for the second year running in H.M.S. *Nigeria*.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

THE census of Bathurst in 1944 showed that the population had increased from 14,370 in 1931 to 21,152, of whom 274 only were non-Africans. It is significant that only half of the population was Bathurst born, and that as many as 5,169 persons had resided in Bathurst for less than five years. But although these figures can be in part attributed to the influx of foreigners and Protectorate persons attracted by the considerable wartime demand for labour, intercensal estimates compiled by the Health Department suggest that there has been no appreciable decrease in the population of Bathurst since the war.

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

The population of Kombo St. Mary Division, which is part of the Colony, was 8,131 in 1946.

The population of the Protectorate was estimated in 1949 to be 246,886, excluding "strange farmers" who numbered about 11,000. The tribal breakdown of the 1949 total was as follows:

Aku	220
Bainunka	619
Bambarra	2,619
Fula-Firdu	22,097
Fula-Futa	6,208
Fula-Lorobo	7,626
Fula-Torodo (or Tukulor)	18,469
Jola	15,764
Jombonko	882
Mandingo	113,121
Manjagu	2,448
Mauretanian	469
Niumunka and Serere	4,020
Serahuli	18,663
Wollof	30,252
Yalunka	854
Others	2,555
	<hr/>
	246,886
	<hr/>

An interesting element of the population of the Gambia Protectorate is the "strange farmer." These seasonal immigrants, mostly from neighbouring French and Portuguese territory, swell the Protectorate population during the farming season by a total dependent on their anticipation of good returns from the groundnut crop in the Gambia farm lands, as compared with that which they could raise and sell on their poorer home soils. During the war, when the Anglo-French frontier was closed, the number of such men declined sharply; the annual averages from 1940 to 1943 being 4,302. In 1944, however, it rose to 10,793, in 1945 to 19,779, in 1946 it fell to 13,263 while in 1947 it was 14,662. In 1948, it fell again to 10,863 and remained approximately the same at 10,981 in 1949. No convincing reasons have been put forward to account for these fluctuations.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organization

There was a further improvement in the labour position during the year. A number of works undertaken by the Public Utilities Department helped to provide employment for a large number of unskilled labourers; the Colonial Development Corporation also provided employment on a considerable scale.

The Labour Officer carried out inspections to ensure that the conditions of employment were in accordance with the Labour Ordinance. He attended the Annual Conference of the West African Labour Officers held at Freetown, Sierra Leone, and was accompanied by a representative of the trade unions. He also paid a visit to Freetown at the request of the Sierra Leone Government to assist in settling an internal dispute with the Railway Workers' Union.

OCCUPATIONS

There are very few industrial undertakings in the Gambia; the main industry is the production of groundnuts for export. The majority of the people are farmers, many of whom migrate to Bathurst during the dry and off-farming season for wage-earning employment. The Government is the largest employer of labour, directly employing over 1,700 manual workers and 150 clerical staff. The former are engaged mainly by the Public Utilities Department and the Medical and Health Services.

Other large employers are the Colonial Development Corporation which employs approximately 700 people, the majority of whom are labourers, and the United Africa Company which employs between 500-700 workers, of whom 50 per cent are labourers.

The following table shows the numbers employed in the various occupations :

Labourers	4,000	Blacksmiths	70
Masons	200	Electricians	70
Motor Drivers	230	Traders and Shopkeepers .	260
Carpenters and Joiners	300	Clerks	600
Fitters and Mechanics	160	Others	700

WAGES

In the Colony there is a minimum wage for unskilled labourers of 2s. 9d. for an eight-hour day, but a number of employers are paying rates up to 3s. per day. Artisans' rates vary between 4s. 6d. and 8s. per day, which compares favourably with the rates for daily-paid clerks.

In the loading of groundnuts for export the labourers are paid twopence per bag from the store to the ship. At this rate it is estimated that they can earn between 10s. and 14s. a day.

HOURS OF WORK

The average working week is approximately 46 hours. At the beginning of the last quarter of the year Government started to experiment with a 39-hour working week, the experiment to be reviewed at the end of the year. There is no uniformity of practice as to the payment of overtime. Few employers pay additional rates for work performed on Sundays and on public holidays.

COST OF LIVING

During the year there was a small rise in the cost of food and prices of other essential goods fell slightly.

Rents, which constitute a formidable item in the budgets of the poorer classes, are high for the type of accommodation provided. This is due to the scarcity of houses.

LABOUR DISPUTES

There were two minor disputes during the year, at the Public Utilities Department and in the Health Services. There was no stoppage in either case.

LEGISLATION

No labour legislation was enacted during 1949. The Minimum Wage Order was amended to provide for an increase to unskilled labourers from 2s. 3d. per eight-hour day to 2s. 9d. per eight-hour day and 5d. per hour for hours worked beyond eight hours.

The Labour Ordinance is to be amended to provide for the Governor to establish a Wages Board to advise on the rates of wages where considered necessary. It is expected that a Wages Board will be established early next year for the retail and distributive trade.

The following legislation is already in existence :

- The Employment of Women and Young Persons Ordinance.
- The Employment of Women on Night Work Ordinance.
- The Minimum Wage Order.
- The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.
- The Ex-Servicemen Ordinance.
- The Trade Union Ordinance.
- Arbitration for the Settlement of Disputes Ordinance.

TRADE UNIONS

There was a general improvement in the position of the trade unions during the year as it was agreed that one union could adequately serve all sections of manual workers. The Gambia Amalgamated Trade Union amalgamated with the Gambia Labour Union. The Riverside and Commercial Workers Union made satisfactory progress during the year and the finances of the union are on a sound basis.

The president of the Gambia Labour Union attended the meeting of the World Labour Conference held in London.

The Junior Civil Service Association and the Teachers Union are active but have not yet registered as trade unions.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following statements set out revenue and expenditure during the period 1942 to 1949. These figures have been adjusted to exclude repayments of revenue received and net totals are shown, as well as the gross totals that appear in the published annual accounts.

REVENUE

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1. Revenue from local sources :								
Customs (net)	177,908	215,809	212,471	252,613	298,139	338,882	375,176	319,016
Port Dues	8,092	4,465	2,446	1,879	1,576	2,230	3,097	27,758
Taxes and Rates	81,454	60,295	113,432	146,748	130,244	148,963	230,468	187,848
Licences, etc.	10,599	10,878	8,973	7,460	6,736	6,573	5,935	8,123
Fees and receipts from } Commercial Operations }	47,453	48,824	16,930	18,448	18,301	20,622	22,091	24,312
Posts, etc.	9,607	12,058	36,349	31,496	22,723	23,465	27,626	35,845
Rents	3,330	3,834	4,283	4,194	2,443	8,136	5,480	7,709
Miscellaneous	4,376	8,741	5,327	8,572	18,549	14,057	14,557	18,927
Total local sources	342,819	364,904	411,022	488,649	517,682	578,302	695,332	671,979
Interest	7,547	9,383	10,174	13,339	19,800	20,297	20,762	20,314
2. Total comparable Revenue	350,366	374,287	421,196	501,988	537,482	598,599	716,094	692,293
3. Currency Board profits	1,325	1,682	4,974	12,740	13,902	7,033	7,690	9,404
4. C.D.F. and C.D. & W. Grants	35	883	9,584	21,929	46,491	76,250	90,109	158,276
5. Other Grants	1,014	275	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total net Revenue	352,740	377,127	435,754	536,657	597,875	681,882	813,893	859,973
Revenue refunded	55,013	98,783	88,154	50,347	18,453	2,190	1,290	5,967
Transfers from Reserves	—	—	—	—	—	9,702	51,717	71,703
Advances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26,502
Gross Revenue	407,753	475,910	523,908	587,004	616,328	693,774	866,900	964,145

EXPENDITURE

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Recurrent Expenditure :								
Personal Emoluments :								
{ Ordinary services }	95,089	106,741	106,162	120,095	141,531	218,418	206,356	235,413
{ Commercial operations }	19,247	15,700	10,136	13,026	15,497	13,054	13,073	15,178
{ Military and Defence }	89,840	117,740	13,007	13,283	13,054	253,360	302,194	409,721
{ Departmental and Services }	21,831	21,807	117,048	128,160	171,992	36,450	36,120	32,925
{ Commercial operations }	2,000	2,000	37,742	27,505	29,206	6,000	6,000	6,000
{ Pensions and Gratuities }	2,093	2,093	26,440	30,799	28,090	2,093	2,093	2,206
{ Steamer Depreciation Fund }	9,184	29,553	2,000	2,000	2,000	85,879	124,193	235,390
{ Public Debt }	1,014	6,523	9,335	15,427	1,104	15,828	61,134	102,924
Non-recurrent Expenditure :								
Land purchase and Public Works	240,298	302,157	9,079	27,994	50,834	631,082	751,163	1,039,757
Expenditure against Special Grants	55,013	98,783	88,154	50,347	18,453	2,190	12,934	62,386
Transfer to Reserves	—	25,000	104,827	—	72,000	—	250,000	68,047
Net Real Expenditure	295,311	425,940	526,023	430,729	545,854	633,272	1,014,097	1,170,190

The following table shows actual expenditure for the years 1945 to 1949.

Heads of Estimate	Heads of Expenditure	Actual Expenditure 1946	Actual Expenditure 1947	Actual Expenditure 1948	Actual Expenditure 1949
		£	£	£	£
1.	The Governor	5,227	5,357	5,870	5,159
2.	Accountant General's Department	—	—	—	4,816
3.	Agricultural Department	14,847	26,352	21,441	25,311
4.	Audit Department	1,808	1,756	2,309	2,738
—	Brick and Tile Manufacture	1,535	—	—	—
5.	Colony Administration	500	—	2,262	2,051
6.	Co-operation	—	—	151	1,451
7.	Crown Law and Lands	2,154	2,578	4,476	4,391
8.	Customs	—	—	—	12,002
9.	Education Department	20,646	27,694	29,539	41,888
—	Gambia Development	10,846	15,829	—	—
10.	Income Tax	—	—	—	823
11.	Information Office	1,814	1,892	2,318	5,209
12.	Judicial Department	3,515	3,832	4,000	5,645
13.	Labour Department	2,321	1,633	1,344	1,721
14.	Legislature	—	—	—	686
15.	Medical & Health Services	55,033	68,396	70,045	83,999
16.	Meteorological Services	—	—	3,853	4,012
17.	Miscellaneous Services	30,598	29,712	49,907	105,195
—	Nutrition Field Research Station	—	8,000	—	—
18.	Nutrition Field Working Party	—	11,027	21,353	19,307
19.	Pensions and Gratuities	28,090	36,450	36,120	32,925
20.	Police	16,831	22,333	21,256	24,319
21.	Post Office	—	—	—	7,327
22.	Printing Office	6,860	8,609	9,965	14,111
23.	Prisons	3,829	5,147	4,661	4,634
24.	Protectorate Administration	32,849	37,903	67,041	39,806
25.	Public Debt Charges	2,093	2,093	2,094	2,206
26.	Public Works Dept.	81,597	105,459	75,540	148,399
27.	Public Works Annually Recurrent	50,201	63,387	108,235	128,154
28.	Public Works Extraordinary	30,999	85,879	157,086	319,007
—	Receiver General's Dept.	26,474	19,490	18,865	—
29.	Reserve Appropriation	74,000	6,000	256,000	74,047
30.	Royal West African Frontier Force	13,054	13,054	13,073	15,178
31.	Secretariat	10,688	12,348	11,513	13,739
32.	Supplies and Minor Industries	—	3,159	5,219	4,554
33.	Survey Department	1,724	5,799	5,775	5,915
34.	Veterinary Services	2,526	2,105	2,787	9,465
	Totals	£ 532,659	633,273	1,014,098	1,170,190

The Public Debt at 31st December, 1949, was £38,760, and there was a Sinking Fund of £16,500. These items, as well as an amount of £25,000 owing to the Government on account of an interest-free war loan made to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, are not included in the Assets and Liabilities.

Assets and Liabilities at 31st December, 1949, are estimated as follows :

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	£		£
Reserves :		Investments	857,179
Steamer Depreciation Reserve	30,942	Joint Colonial Fund	40,000
General Reserve	570,000	Advances	110,346
General Reserve Balance	220,639	Cash and Bank Balance	33,066
Government Savings Bank	155,621		
Deposits	63,389		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1,040,591		1,040,591
	<hr/>		<hr/>

MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

Income tax was introduced in 1940 and has yielded growing amounts since then. The estimated receipts for 1949 were : Companies £202,000, private persons £18,000. There is a sliding scale of personal income tax which amounts to the following rates on chargeable incomes (incomes of single persons up to £200 a year and married persons up to £350 a year are free of tax, and there are additional allowances for dependants) :

Chargeable income	Average rate of tax in £
£400	9d.
£600	1s. 2d.
£1,000	2s. 1d.
£2,000	3s. 6½d.
£5,000	7s. 5d.
£10,000	10s.

The company rate is 9s. in the pound. There is no estate duty.

The increased yield from customs duties is principally due to increased volume of trade. The average rate of duty for all goods is equivalent in *ad valorem* terms to just 19 per cent, against 21 per cent for 1948. Rates of duty on tobacco, liquor and kola nuts have been heavily increased since 1939, and in 1949 realised £71,000, £10,000 and £58,000 respectively.

Except for grain, milk, building materials and a few smaller items, all goods are liable to import duties. There is a general *ad*

valorem rate of 12½ per cent preferential and 15 per cent general ; important exceptions are cotton goods 10 per cent and 12½ per cent ; spirituous liquors 70s. and 90s. a gallon ; manufactured tobacco 10s. and 12s. a pound ; unmanufactured tobacco 2s. 6*d.* and 2s. 9*d.* a pound ; kola nuts 6*d.* and 9*d.* a pound ; motor spirit 11*d.* a gallon. There is also an export duty on groundnuts of 15s. a ton undecorticated and £1 7s. 0*d.* a ton decorticated, and palm kernels 15s. a ton.

An ordinance for the levying of harbour dues on all goods which are entered and cleared from the Port of Bathurst was enacted during 1948. The following is the scale of dues :

Beeswax	per ton of 20 cwt.	6s. 8 <i>d.</i>
Hides and Skins	„ „	20s. 0 <i>d.</i>
Groundnuts, decorticated and undecorticated	„ „	5s. 0 <i>d.</i>
Horns	„ „	16s. 0 <i>d.</i>
Groundnut Oil	„ „	5s. 9 <i>d.</i>
Palm Kernels	„ „	5s. 0 <i>d.</i>
Shea Butter	„ „	4s. 0 <i>d.</i>
Other cargo per ton weight or measurement on which freight is charged.		4s. 0 <i>d.</i>

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

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

Currency in circulation at 31st December, 1949, was estimated at £1,594,150, which is three times the amount of pre-war circulation. Of this circulation £768,318 was in notes of £1 and 10s. denominations. Circulation is always at its highest point in December and January, when large amounts are issued for the purchase of groundnuts. As a rule these issues of currency are quickly used for the purchase of goods and circulation falls in February and March, and remains low until the opening of the next trade season. Circulation at the end of 1949 was a little less than the value of annual imports. Notes of the Banque d’Afrique Occidentale circulate freely in parts of the Protectorate, and British West African currency also circulates across the border in the Senegal and the Casamance.

The Bank of British West Africa is the only bank operating in the Gambia ; it has one office only situated in Bathurst. The principal trading firms make their own arrangements for remitting funds to

places in the Protectorate. The Government river steamer service carries money as freight, and small amounts are transacted through the Post Office on board the steamer (money-order remittances) and through District Treasuries and Post Offices at Basse, Georgetown, Kuntaur, Mansa Konko and Brikama.

Savings Bank deposits amounted to some £151,491 at the end of 1949; before the war, deposits amounted to less than £5,000. It is probable that amounts held in deposit in the Bank of British West Africa have also risen considerably. The total amount held by Government in the United Kingdom on its own account and on account of its depositors was £897,180 in 1949 as compared with £284,000 in 1939.

Chapter 5: Commerce

The only important export of the Gambia is groundnuts. The exports in 1949 amounted to 61,106 tons undecorticated and valued at £1,571,000. The other items of export are beeswax, hides and skins and palm kernels; their values in 1949 were £2,894, £3,277 and £38,466 respectively. The following were the values and tonnage of groundnuts exports in 1946, 1947, 1948 and 1949 and the average figures for earlier five-year periods.

EXPORTS

Period	Value		Tonnage: Groundnuts	
	Groundnuts	Other*	Undecorticated	Decorticated
	£	£		
1949	1,571,000	45,000	61,106	—
1948	1,628,000	33,000	66,430	2,504
1947	1,066,000	28,000	49,387	4,858
1946	596,000	24,000	31,589	6,183
1945/49	1,100,000	29,000	48,000	5,000
1940/44	230,000	10,000	21,000	7,000
1935/39	390,000	6,000	51,000	1,000
1930/34	531,000	8,000	64,000	—
1925/29	852,000	20,000	60,000	—
1920/24	1,123,000	16,000	65,000	—
1915/19	769,000	43,000	69,000	—
1910/14	540,000	24,000	61,000	—
1905/09	267,000	17,000	38,000	—
1900/04	230,000	5,000	26,000	—

* Excluding re-exports. Re-exports in 1949 were valued at £125,000

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

Since 1941 the Colony has supported an adverse visible balance of trade. This has been possible on account of expenditure by departments and organisations of His Majesty's Government locally, and the demand in the Senegal for goods imported into the Gambia. Although expenditure in the Gambia by Service Departments had virtually ceased by 1947 the demand for goods, which exceeded supply, was maintained by the high price paid for groundnuts and by savings accumulated in war years. The price of groundnuts at wharf towns was fixed at £22 a ton and the f.o.b. price of undecorticated nuts was £26 a ton, which, except for 1920, was the highest recorded f.o.b. value.

The principal imports in 1948 and 1949 were as follows:

	1948		1949	
	Quantity	Value £'000	Quantity	Value £'000
Cotton Piece-Goods ('000 sq. yd.)	4,761	491	4,619	415
Other Cotton Goods	—	31	—	40
Apparel	—	77	—	59
Artificial Silk	—	23	—	10
Milk ('000 cwt.)	2	11	2	11
Rice ('000 cwt.)	37	101	16	41
Other Grain ('000 cwt.)	6	11	11	16
Sugar ('000 cwt.)	19	51	20	50
Flour ('000 cwt.)	9	23	15	34
Kola Nuts ('000 cwt.)	33	159	21	114
Unmanufactured Tobacco ('000 lb.)	205	26	274	50
Cigarettes ('000 lb.)	49	21	67	31
Aviation Spirit ('000 gall.)	—	—	308	11
Kerosene ('000 gall.)	127	16	103	12
Motor Spirit ('000 gall.)	370	43	630	25
Bags and Sacks, empty ('000 no.)	169	21	283	41
Beer, Ale, Stout and Porter ('000 gall.)	19	8	42	17
Spirits ('000 gall.)	2	3	3	5
Soap ('000 cwt.)	7	25	9	45
Candles ('000 cwt.)	1	14	—	—
Hardware	—	88	—	137
Wines ('000 gall.)	7	4	14	9
Other goods	—	691	—	1,013
Total Imports*	1,938,000		2,186,000	
Re-exports	45,000		125,000	
Net Imports	1,893,000		2,061,000	

* Excluding bullion.

A detailed analysis of trade and shipping statistics is available in

the annual Trade Report, which may be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

Chapter 6: Production

The Gambia farmer remains very largely dependent for his cash income on groundnuts, of which the total purchases (unshelled) for the season 1948-49 were 61,000 tons, with a price of £22 per ton. A sum of £1,342,000 was thus placed in the farmers' hands. The country is considered unsuitable for European settlers and there are no plantations or estates, with the result that the crop is raised entirely by African farmers under a system of shifting cultivation, which over a period of years has afforded an average yield of 1,120 lb. of undecorticated groundnuts per acre. Mention must, however, be made of an important feature in the agricultural life of the territory, the seasonally immigrant, or "strange" farmers who visit the Gambia for the express purpose of growing groundnuts. During 1949, 10,981 "strange" farmers visited the Protectorate and contributed a considerable proportion of the crop. These men come from neighbouring colonies, such as the French Sudan and Guinea, and after raising and selling a crop of groundnuts they return to their homes. This movement is substantial and results from the better prices which can be obtained from produce in areas, unlike those from which the "strange" farmers come, where the cost of transport from the farms to the port of shipment is low. It is, in short, cheaper for the farmer to move himself than to pay for the transport of his produce from the remote hinterland; this, however, is not the only factor affecting migration. The relative abundance and cheaper price of consumer goods in this and neighbouring territories also influence the choice of the place in which groundnuts are to be grown. Considerable variations occur in the terms under which the immigrants work, but the general pattern is always the same. The landlord provides board, lodging and land, in return for which the "strange" farmer works a certain number of days for the landlord, the number of days so worked depending upon the custom of the district; a cash payment is sometimes agreed upon as well.

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

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

Palm kernels are also exported and, as a result of the drive to secure increased production of oilseeds, the amount purchased rose in 1949 to 1,300 tons compared with the pre-war maximum of 871 tons in 1939. Hides and beeswax are also exported in small quantities.

The Agricultural Department have continued to pursue experiments on crop rotation and a balanced system of farming entailing the use of cattle both for ploughing and for the making of manure. Care is, however, necessary in using bulls for ploughing as trypanosomiasis is endemic and the resistance of local cattle to infection tends to break down when the animals are put to regular work.

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

Much has still to be done to ensure that the food grown is nutritionally sufficient in quantity and quality to effect improved production, earning capacity, and higher standards of living for the people.

The Human Nutrition Branch of the Colonial Medical Research Council has a Field Working Party in the Middle River at Genieri who are studying the nutritional needs of the people and experimenting on the mechanisation of groundnut growing. The Agricultural Department maintains a workshop nearby for the servicing of their machines and is also carrying out experiments on the mechanised cultivation of groundnuts and rice.

A small dairy industry has been initiated for the production of butter; cream is obtained partly from the Agricultural Department centres which are placed at points accessible to nomadic herdsmen. In the rainy season the amount of butter produced is almost sufficient for existing demands; in the dry season, however, yields are not so good and fall short of present requirements.

The number of cattle is estimated at 100,000, indicating a rapid rate of increase. Operations by the Veterinary Department against rinderpest were continued during 1949, but there were no extensions of veterinary services in the year; plans were, however, laid for a new veterinary headquarters at Abuko, near Yundum.

The local fishing industry is not yet organised; but a master fisherman has been appointed and a motor vessel has been ordered.

The Colonial Development Corporation chicken farm at Yundum

produced its first supply of eggs in 1949, and the first chickens were hatched on the farm during the year.

Investigations into the possibilities of increasing the production of foods and crops were made during the year by the Colonial Development Corporation and a scheme for converting large areas of unused land to the growth of food was approved by the Corporation.

The total rainfall recorded at Bathurst was 36·37 inches, at Yundum Aerodrome 34·35 inches, and at Brikama 42·73 inches. In MacCarthy Island Division 34·70 inches were recorded at Yoriberi Kunda, and in Upper River Division 34·36 inches were recorded at Wuli Farm.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

The headquarters of the Education Department are in Bathurst. It is administered by the Senior Education Officer, who is assisted by a Woman Education Officer, and by an Education Officer in charge of Protectorate education with headquarters at Georgetown where his main work is the control of Armitage School. The Director of Education, Sierra Leone, advises the Gambia Government on education when his advice is sought.

The new Education Ordinance and Regulations came into force on 1st January, 1947. The main reasons for the Ordinance were the need to regularise the arrangements under which, in 1945, the Government took over primary education in Bathurst from the Missions and the need to reconstitute the Board of Education in order to allow for adequate representation of the Protectorate, where the demand for education has much increased.

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

The Colony

The Government is now responsible for primary education in Bathurst, though the schools have a religious grouping, and are

administered through management committees on each of which the appropriate religious authority is represented. These Government schools are grouped as follows :

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

Education in the primary schools goes up to Standard VII and these eight primary and infant schools have a total of 2,154 children on the registers. In connection with them the Government maintains a Domestic Science Centre for girls and also an Arts and Crafts Centre which is attended by boys in Standards V, VI and VII. There are two schools in the Colony near to Bathurst, these having 258 pupils.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst—a Methodist Boys' High School and a Methodist Girls' High School and one Roman Catholic Secondary School for boys and one for girls. The total number of secondary school pupils on the rolls of these schools, which are controlled by the Missions concerned but receive substantial grants from Government, is 184 boys and 175 girls. The Methodist Girls' High School runs private kindergarten and preparatory classes attended by 148 children. The curriculum goes as far as School Certificate in these secondary schools.

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

The Government also maintains in Bathurst classes for adult illiterates with an average roll of 30. For children who are over-age for admission to primary schools there are classes attended by 164 boys and, in a different building, for 18 girls.

There is no post-secondary education in the Gambia. The teachers have in the past been sent for training either to Freetown, Achimota or Kumasi with Government scholarships. In March, 1949, a teacher-training centre for 30 men was opened at Georgetown under the direction of the Protectorate Education Officer with an African assistant. Women teachers will continue to be trained in other West African Colonies until facilities for them are available at the Gambia teacher-training college. Other persons requiring or suited for higher education proceed to institutions in West Africa or to the United Kingdom either in a private capacity or under Government scholarship.

The Protectorate

In the Protectorate, Armitage School, a Government institution at

Georgetown with a roll of 137 boys, gives elementary education. In the near future it is hoped to reorganise and improve this school, moving it to new buildings in a different location. Later it should develop secondary classes.

Up to the present 12 village schools have been opened by Native Authorities :

In Central Division	Kaur	1945
In Western Division	Brikama	1945
" " 	Sukuta	1947
In MacCarthy Island Division	Bansang	1947
In Central Division	Kintikunda	1948
In MacCarthy Island Division	Karantaba	1949
" " 	Kuntaur	1949
In Central Division	Illiassa	1949
" " 	Kaiaf	1949
" " 	Bureng	1949
" " 	Dumbutu	1949
" " 	N'Jau	1949

These schools have been developed in areas as evenly spaced over the country as local circumstances permit, except in the case of the Upper River Division, where peculiar problems exist.

The Roman Catholic Mission runs an elementary school at Fula Bantang in MacCarthy Island Division with 21 boys on the roll, another at Mansajang in Upper River Division with 51 boys on the roll, and a third at Bwiam in Western Division for 43 boys. The Sisters of the Roman Catholic Mission in Basse run an infant school for 32 children. In May, 1949, the first Roman Catholic elementary school in the Kombo was opened at Kanefing with 186 children. The schools at Fula Bantang and Mansajang have a curriculum with a practical bias adapted to Protectorate life and occupations. Both are in predominantly Fula areas where the Mohammedan creed has not so much force ; the latter is in receipt of a small Government grant.

The Anglican Mission has a centre at Kristikunda, in the extreme east of the Protectorate, where there is a small elementary school, which receives a small Government grant for children of neighbouring Fula villages.

HEALTH

To gain an appreciation of the health problems of the Gambia it is first necessary to recall, however briefly, certain geographical, climatic, and ethnic factors. First it will be noted the country can be likened to an elongated narrow insertion into the immensity of

French West Africa—in effect an important riverine corridor occurring between latitudes 13° and 14° North. It is situated on the northern flank of the tropic proper, and in its long dry season (November to May) climatic conditions often resemble those of North Africa. Rainfall is confined to the period May-June to October, and averages about 40 inches. Humidity, however, from proximity to river and sea, may be higher than the rainfall would suggest, while harmattan winds from the Sahara very noticeably depress both humidity and temperature in the dry season. Over the year the average temperature range can be taken as 50° to 90° Fahrenheit, although considerable annual variations are observed, particularly in inland districts.

The noteworthy health effects of these conditions are several. For four to five months of the year a delightful climate is experienced, particularly in the areas bordering the Atlantic Ocean, but everywhere the low and somewhat erratic rainfall is liable to create agricultural and, therefore, important economic difficulties. Owing partly to these factors malnutrition is considerable, and actual "hungry seasons" hover in the background. The swampy nature of the country, allied to the temperature, produces favourable conditions for the persistence and propagation of important disease vectors, notably mosquitoes and tsetse flies, while the long dry season encourages the spread of diseases of the nature of smallpox and cerebro-spinal meningitis. The boundaries of the territory—which were agreed in 1889—follow, in some places, an arbitrary course along a line of latitude or a meridian or, in others, and for the greater part of the periphery, a twisting line parallel to the course of the river at a distance of eight miles from it and bear no relation to the ethnography of the region. The aggregate of ethnic samples contained within this artificial boundary render the health problems of the Gambia indivisible from those of the surrounding French territory. Hence they demand effort and co-operation on both sides of the border where malaria, smallpox, leprosy (to name the most important), and, probably, yellow fever remain endemic. It is highly satisfactory in these circumstances to be able to record mutual recognition of this health situation at the internationally important Anglo-French Medical Conference held in Accra in November, 1946, and of measures unanimously adopted by both nations to ensure future co-operation.

In 1947 a medical "sample" survey was made of three representative areas in the Protectorate, a full report of which is published as Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1948, entitled *The Ross Medical Survey*. The primary concern of this investigation was to assess the prevalence of leprosy in the country, but the opportunity was taken of obtaining detailed information about other important endemic diseases. As a result a much more complete picture of the health of the population has been obtained than was previously possible. In the course of the Survey 17,000 people were examined, and the following incidences of the more important diseases were found:

Leprosy	2·5 per cent
Malaria parasite rate—all ages	55 per cent
Spleen rate 2-9 years	50 per cent
Trypanosomiasis	4·4 per cent
Schistosomiasis*	35 per cent

* eastern part of country only affected.

It was further found that about 8 per cent of the population suffer from gross infective conditions of the eye, or their sequelae, and that a form of trachoma is probably a potent factor in causing partial or complete blindness in 0·8 per cent of the population. Other diseases noted as prevalent were intestinal helminthiasis, filariasis, yaws, skin diseases and malnutrition.

One thousand three hundred and forty-three mothers were asked a series of questions about their children, and it was reported that, of 4,482 children born, 1,928 died before the age of 10 years. In many places apparently more than half the children born die before this age, and deaths under one year vary from 155 to 287 per 1,000 births. It is, of course, necessary to accept these figures with some reserve.

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

At present Bathurst is the only place where registration of births and deaths is in any way effective. Even there, defects in registration occur, and discovery of these defects has led in recent years to fluctuations in such indices as the infant mortality and still-birth rates. The last census was in 1944 and, as no estimates for the intervening years are available, it is not possible to give accurate birth rates or death rates. The death rate corrected as far as possible is about 17 per 1,000 population for 1949, the birth rate 33 per 1,000. The high still-birth rate at 80 per 1,000 total births continues, the major cause being maternal syphilis, which is being tackled energetically in ante-natal clinics. There is still, however, serious mortality of children up to 3 years of age, which has not been very greatly reduced in recent years, the chief cause of these deaths being bronchopneumonia, malaria and infantile enteritis in that order.

There are two General Hospitals in the country; the main unit is the Victoria Hospital in Bathurst with 120 beds, including a maternity home, with a supervisory staff of two medical officers, a matron, and three nursing sisters. Bansang Hospital has 54 beds and a staff of a medical officer and a nursing sister. During the year these hospitals treated the following number of patients:

	<i>In-patients</i>	<i>Out-patients</i>	<i>Out-patient Attendances</i>
Victoria Hospital .	3,213	24,794	32,994
Bansang Hospital .	677	6,934	16,625
	3,890	31,728	49,619

The maternity home admitted 398 mothers.

The Victoria Hospital remains an unsatisfactory unit owing to the great age of the buildings and the greatly increased demand on the limited accommodation, but the first stage of expansion and reconstruction on the same site has begun, and includes kitchens, laundries, stores, a theatre block, and two new wards at an estimated cost of £80,000, to be met from a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

The Bansang Hospital has recently been improved and expanded ; installation of new water and electricity plants has been completed.

In addition to the hospitals there are 11 health centres or dispensaries, 12 sub-dispensaries (lock-up units visited weekly), and a mobile dispensary team visiting six fixed points weekly. These institutions are staffed by subordinate staff, to five of which midwives are posted. During the year they treated 45,188 cases of diseases with a total of 107,793 attendances. Seven ante-natal and infant welfare clinics continued to operate busily.

There is also an Infectious Diseases Hospital in Bathurst and one small leper colony in the Protectorate.

Preventive medicine is served by a supervisory staff of one medical officer of health with four sanitary superintendents, an entomologist and a welfare sister. The shortage of adequately trained subordinate staff retards progress in the Protectorate but sanitary inspectors have been posted to some eleven Protectorate stations where they undertake such duties as vaccination and the erection and maintenance of simple sanitary structures. In Bathurst and the Colony there is a well-developed health service which includes an efficient anti-mosquito unit. A Health Propaganda Unit, with a mobile cinema, is being formed. Measures to control tsetse flies, leprosy, and venereal diseases are contemplated, but problems of staff and finance remain formidable.

The Field Working Party of the Human Nutrition Research Unit of the Colonial Medical Research Council continued their investigations into the nutritional, medical, and economic condition of the population in an area of the Central Division, and—in co-operation with the Agricultural Department—the development of mechanised farming in a form suitable for local adoption.

Important proposals for the reclamation of some 50 square miles of swamp in the vicinity of Bathurst are now under expert investigation. If no insoluble engineering problems are found to exist and if the expense of reclamation is not excessive, the health conditions of the Colony might be very greatly changed for the better, with the virtual elimination of malaria-carrying mosquitoes and the reclamation of large areas of land suitable for housing and agriculture.

HOUSING

In all the Gambia the poorer, and many of the not-so-poor, inhabitants commonly take advantage of the availability and cheapness of bamboo and rhun palms as building materials. Bamboo stems are sliced into long strips and woven loosely into a matting called "krinting" to provide a good "lath." The male rhun palm trunk, which is termite resistant and practically indestructible, is roughly split to form supporting framework. Mud is widely used as plaster, but in the vicinity of the sea a good lime plaster called "lasso," composed of burnt pulverized seashell and sand, is often employed, and a diluted solution of the lime makes an effective and hygienic limewash for external and internal application. Roofing material may be of corrugated iron or thatch, according to the purse of the builder or to the building regulations of the area. A serviceable building of considerable durability can thus be erected relatively cheaply, and the general comfort and effect greatly surpass mud or mud-block structures. When a cement floor can be added, the hygienic standard attainable can be high. Unfortunately, lower standards than are attainable are often observed, either from poverty, the lack of materials, or indolence.

Housing in the Colony is a problem which centres on the chronic overcrowding of Bathurst.

The origin of the problem dates back to 1816, in the days of slave suppression, when a sand bank closely adjacent to the Kombo mainland, at a narrow part of the river mouth, was selected as a military control post. The Island of St. Mary, as the sand bank was named, was then occupied by a few "straggling natives," but very soon a settlement arose round the post, and by 1921 the population had risen to 9,000. Lack of practicable means of migration control, added to the natural increase, continued to cause growth, and despite poor conditions in the town the population was found to vary from 12,000 to 15,000 in the period 1931 to 1942, rising to over 20,000 in the 1944 census. Growth at these rates in a circumscribed poorly-drained area has inevitably created serious problems which an unaided and impoverished Government was ill-fitted to tackle, although all observers commend the far-sighted action of an earlier Government in creating broad streets on a regular plan and at least one large open space.

Bad as conditions were, the second world war brought further tribulation. Imperial strategy demanded the residence of large

defence units of all Services in and around Bathurst, and eviction of civilians from certain areas in the town became imperative to make room for them. The absence of alternative sites and shortage of building materials led to a further deterioration of housing and to inescapable laxity in enforcing existing building regulations and public health measures generally.

None of the remedial measures that have from time to time been considered has provided a satisfactory solution. Effective control of migration remains impracticable. Vertical expansion is out of the question owing to the sandy soil and high sub-soil water level, even if public or private wealth could bear the cost.

The system of surface water drainage of Bathurst which was referred to in the report for 1948 was nearly completed during 1949, when the major work on it—a bund to cut off sea water and to close the mouth of the Malfa Creek—was completed. As a result of this scheme the annual floods to which Bathurst has been subjected in the past will be greatly lessened and an area of 400 acres, some of which is suitable for building, will be reclaimed,

A scheme for reclaiming about forty square miles of swamp in the vicinity of Bathurst was investigated during the year and found to be practicable if funds could be found for it. The scheme would go far to eradicating malaria and would provide land which in time should be valuable for various purposes.

Housing in the Protectorate is gradually being brought under control as circumstances permit by the application of specially designed Protectorate building regulations. With its increase of trained sanitary staff and more rapid progress in town and village planning, improved standards of building and sanitation are already becoming evident. As the majority of the people of the Protectorate are farmers living close to subsistence level, further substantial housing improvements will principally depend on the raising of economic levels generally and the subsequent availability of skilled tradesmen.

SOCIAL WELFARE

A Social Welfare Officer was appointed late in 1946, after a two-years' course in social science in the United Kingdom, and to begin with, at least, will concern himself mainly with probation work and the development of a boys' club in Bathurst.

Promotion of Community Life

The need for such activities is much more pronounced among the mixed population in Bathurst than in the more integrated village communities of the Protectorate, where the traditional social groupings are still maintained. Apart from the work now being undertaken by the Social Welfare Officer in Bathurst, many voluntary agencies and societies have been engaged in social and cultural activities.

The opening of a British Council Centre in Bathurst has provided a much needed link between different sections of the community.

The Relief of the Destitute and Disabled

The Government makes a grant of £105 to heads of religious bodies in Bathurst for distribution to the poor and needy.

There is a Home for the Infirm in the Island of St. Mary, maintained by the Government, to which disabled persons from all parts of the Gambia are admitted. Voluntary organisations send occasional gifts to the inmates.

A leper camp is established in the Protectorate.

Juvenile Delinquency, Probation Services and Cognate Matters

The Children and Young Persons Ordinance was passed during the year; it establishes juvenile courts to deal with offenders under 17 years of age.

The number of juveniles dealt with by the Courts has been very small—the lowest number was 3 in 1942 and the highest 23 in 1940. Nineteen cases, involving 21 young persons, were brought before the Court in 1949.

The Prisoners' Aid Society, founded in 1944 for the after-care of discharged prisoners, continued to function with financial assistance from the Government.

Chapter 8: Legislation

During 1949, 24 Ordinances were enacted. The following call for special comment:

The Junior Public Officers Relief Ordinance, No. 7 of 1949, makes void all contracts for the repayment of money lent or goods supplied thenceforth entered into by officers of the public service whose salary is not more than £30 per month. The object of this measure is to prevent borrowing from unofficial sources by junior officers which in the past has been the cause of grave trouble in the Service.

The Police Ordinance, No. 8 of 1949, which is modelled upon similar legislation in Sierra Leone, replaces an Ordinance enacted in 1916, which did not make adequate provision for the constitution and functions of the Gambia Police Force. The Ordinance of 1916 provided, *inter alia*, that members of the Force were liable for service as troops. This Ordinance establishes a force of a distinctly non-military character and creates, for the first time, a Police Reserve.

The Children and Young Persons Ordinance, No. 10 of 1949,

which is based upon similar legislation in Nigeria, establishes juvenile courts to deal with offenders under the age of 17 years and contains the usual provisions for the treatment of such persons.

The Repatriation of Convicted Aliens Ordinance, No. 11 of 1949, replaces an Ordinance of 1924. The word "alien" is defined as "any person who was born outside the Gambia: Provided that any such person shall not be regarded as an alien if (a) he has, while resident in the Gambia, acquired British nationality by naturalisation or registration under the British Nationality Act, 1948 or any Act repealed thereby; or (b) at the time of his birth one or other of his parents was ordinarily domiciled in the Gambia; or (c) he has lived in the Gambia for a period of twenty years or upwards." The law now enacted is intended to ensure that, before an order for repatriation is made for him, the fullest information about the alien will be brought to the notice of the Governor.

The Sale of Liquor (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 14 of 1949, constitutes the Bathurst Town Council and the Kombo St. Mary Rural Authority (in the Colony) and the Finance Committees of Native Authorities (in the Protectorate) as licensing authorities.

The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 16 of 1949, brings Customs Tariff legislation into conformity with that obtaining elsewhere in Africa.

The Customs Ordinance, No. 17 of 1949, repeals an Ordinance enacted in 1916 and replaces it with a law which conforms with modern customs legislation. The Ordinance is designed to achieve uniformity in customs law and procedure throughout British West Africa.

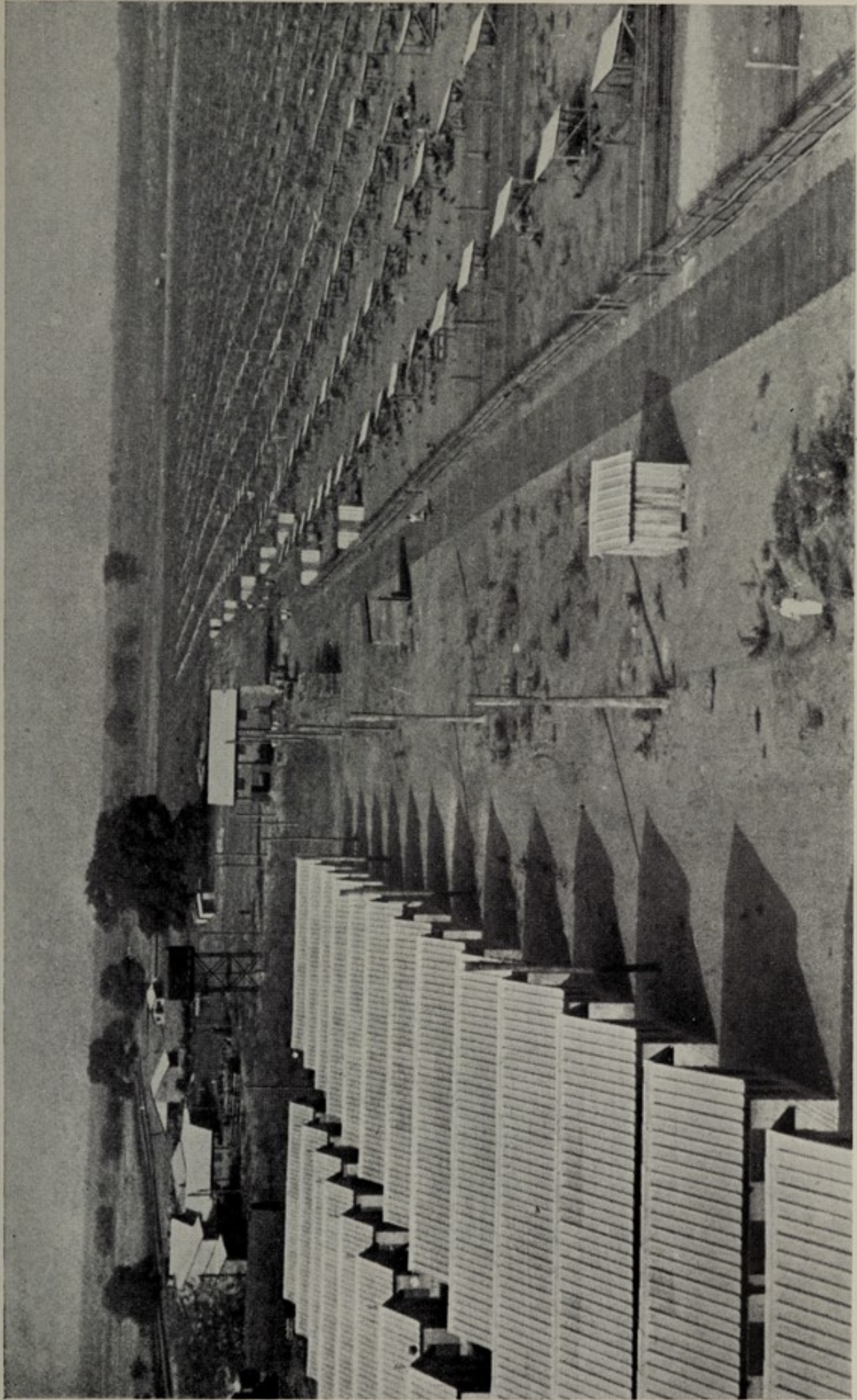
In addition to the Ordinances above-mentioned the following subsidiary legislation made during the year calls for comment:

The Fire Brigade Regulations, No. 2 of 1949, provide the machinery for the better regulation and control of the Fire Brigade established by the Fire Brigade Ordinance, 1948.

The Quarantine (Aerial Navigation) Regulations, No. 4 of 1949, are designed to enforce accepted international requirements in this connection.

The Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Regulations, No. 5 of 1949, provide the detailed machinery for the operation of the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Insurance) Ordinance, 1948.

The Legislative Council (Electoral) (Amendment) Regulations, No. 10 of 1949, amend the provisions made for the conduct of Legislative Council elections by the Regulations of 1948. The



COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION POULTRY FARM
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BATHURST FROM THE AIR



GAMBIAN POLICEMAN



GAMBIAN TRADER'S WIFE WITH BRAIDED HAIR AND
VICTORIAN GOLD EARRINGS

most important amendment is that in future each candidate will have a representative symbol by which he may be known. Voters will not mark their ballot papers, but every voter will insert his paper into the box which bears the name and symbol of the candidate for whom he wishes to vote. It is hoped that this amendment will enable illiterate voters to record their votes without assistance from officials.

The Immigration Rules, No. 1 of 1949, provide for the issue of visiting and transit passes to immigrants.

The Police Rules, No. 5 of 1949, amplify the provisions of the Ordinance of 1949 with regard to administrative matters connected with the Force and lay down a disciplinary code.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

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

The Legal System of the Colony

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

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

All summary conviction offences are heard and determined by the Colonial Magistrate or, in his absence, by two or more lay justices of the peace, who have power also to receive and inquire into all charges of offences punishable on information before the Supreme Court of the Colony. Any person charged with a grave offence such as treason, murder, manslaughter, rape, or robbery with violence, must be committed for trial before the Supreme Court, and any adult person charged with an offence punishable by imprisonment for more than three years, which is an offence triable as a summary conviction offence, may be tried summarily only with his recorded consent. Furthermore, the magistrates or justices have no jurisdiction to deal

summarily with any offence charged before them where the prosecution is being carried on by the Attorney-General, except with the consent of the Attorney-General.

The civil law of the Colony is, briefly, the English civil law. It is administered by the Supreme Court and by the Court of Requests, presided over by the Colonial Magistrate or two or more justices of the peace. The Court of Requests has jurisdiction in the Colony in all pleas of personal actions where the debt or damage claimed is not more than £50 and in actions of ejectment or of title to corporeal or incorporeal hereditaments where the value of the suit does not exceed £50. The Court of Requests has no jurisdiction in actions for malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conspiracy, seduction, or breach of promise of marriage.

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

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

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

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

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

The Judicial System of the Colony

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

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

All criminal trials in the Supreme Court are held normally before the Judge with a jury of 12 men. In any case where an offence is punishable by death, and in libel cases, seven of the jurors must be special jurors. In case of slave dealing, rape and other offences of a like nature against women, and in perjury and embezzlement cases, one half of the number of jurors must be special jurors. Special jurors, who are selected by the justices of the peace, are persons selected on account of their education, intelligence and judgment, or who are otherwise specially qualified.

Every male person in the Colony between 21 and 60 years of age with understanding of the English language who is a member of a learned or liberal profession, or has a £7 property valuation, or is a rent payer of £10 per annum, or is in receipt of salary or commission of £50 yearly value, and is not under disability or disqualified from serving or exempted, is qualified and liable for jury service.

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

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

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

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

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

The law relating to the treatment of young offenders and for the establishment of juvenile courts is contained in the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, 1949. The court is constituted by a magistrate (sitting with such other person or persons as the Judge of the Supreme Court shall appoint) or by two justices of the peace. The Ordinance contains the usual provisions for the treatment of persons brought before the court and restricts the punishment which it may impose. A separate room in the court buildings has been set aside for use as a juvenile court.

The Protectorate Legal and Judicial Systems

The Protectorate legal and judicial systems may be explained together.

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

Generally stated, the system of law in force in the Protectorate is, so far as is consistent with the Protectorate system, the law for the time being in force in the Colony, together with reasonable native law and custom which is not repugnant to justice, or incompatible with the principles of the law of England or any law or Ordinance of the Colony applying to the Protectorate. British Courts in the Protec-

torate administer British law, Colony law, and Ordinances applying to the Protectorate. Native tribunals administer native law and custom prevailing in the area of the jurisdiction of the tribunal, Mohammedan law relating to civil status, marriage, succession, divorce, dowry, the rights and authorities of parents and guardianship where the parties are Mohammedans. They also administer Native Authority and Commissioners' Rules and Orders, provision of Ordinances and subsidiary legislative instruments which they are authorised to administer, and the Criminal Code to the extent of any offence justiciable by a subordinate court of the second class, that is, by a British subordinate court. Native tribunals are not in the strict sense of the word subordinate courts.

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

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

The subordinate courts of the Protectorate are constituted by the Commissioners of the Protectorate as *ex-officio* magistrates of the first and second class. Their powers of punishment for criminal offences in the case of first class magistrates are the same as those of the Colonial Magistrate, who is also a first class magistrate in every division of the Protectorate in which he may be required to sit from time to time. The civil jurisdiction of subordinate courts of the Protectorate is limited to £100 in suit value. The jurisdiction of such courts in civil and criminal matters is concurrent with the jurisdiction of the native tribunals.

The native tribunals are established by the Governor, as he shall think fit, by warrant under the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. There are two grades of tribunals: group tribunals may try criminal cases which can be adequately punished by imprisonment up to twelve months, or by fine up to £25, or by both such imprisonment and fine, and possess civil jurisdiction up to £50 suit value. District tribunals extend to criminal cases similarly up to six months and/or fine of £10 and to civil cases of £25 suit value. Proceedings are commenced either by complaint, information or application either to the tribunal when it is in session, or to the president of the tribunal when it is not in session. Records of cases are kept and preserved.

Tribunals have jurisdiction over any member of an African race,

but the Governor has power to direct that any native or class of natives shall not be subject to tribunals except with their consent. Members of the Armed Forces, the Police Force, Government servants, members of the Legislative Council, justices of the peace and members of the Bathurst Town Council are so exempted.

In addition to the forms of punishment permitted to tribunals under the Criminal Code they have power to inflict any punishment authorised by native law and custom which is not repugnant to natural justice and humanity. Subject to any prescribed rules, the practice and procedure of the tribunals is regulated in accordance with native law and custom. Every tribunal is required by law to report all cases tried by it to the Commissioner of the division in which the tribunal has jurisdiction. Sentences of corporal punishment are subject to confirmation by the Commissioner. The complete lists of all native tribunal criminal cases are forwarded to the Judge of the High Court monthly, or at such intervals as the Judge may direct, by the Commissioners, and such lists operate as appeals so as to bring into operation the review and revisional powers of the Judge on behalf of every convicted person.

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

No legal practitioner may appear or act for any party before a native tribunal. No legal practitioner may appear in any cause or matter before a subordinate court in the Protectorate, except by special leave of the Judge.

General

The main types of civil and criminal cases before British courts in the Gambia can be stated only very briefly. The majority of civil cases are civil debt cases. The great majority of criminal cases are offences against property, mostly connected with petty stealing and kindred offences. It may be said that the territory is happily free from serious crime.

POLICE

The Force is a quasi-military force composed of members mostly of the indigenous tribes in the Gambia, viz., Aku, Fula, Wollof, Jola, Mandingo, Serahuli, and a number of the Bambara tribe from the French Sudan. Eighty per cent are Mohammedans. Pidgin English is generally spoken and understood, but police court cases are carried out in the local language through the court interpreter. Jollof is the predominant language in Bathurst. It is to be noted that although

so many different tribes form the personnel of the Force, there is no tribal friction on or off duty.

The Force is commanded by the Superintendent of Police, assisted by three Assistant Superintendents of Police. There are seven African officers, 149 non-commissioned officers and constables, 24 bandsmen and 17 firemen, making a total of 201. Police outposts are situated at Cape St. Mary, Yundum Airport, Barra and at the Divisional Commissioners' headquarters at Brikama, Georgetown and Basse, the personnel being provided from the established strength of the Force.

The duties of a constable are of a varied nature, but they are primarily the prevention and detection of crime, controlling of motor traffic and immigration, issuing of licences, and registration of firearms, etc.

Education within the Force has now been placed on a progressive footing by the appointment of a schoolmaster. All recruits, illiterate constables, and others whose standard of education is below normal, attend for instruction.

Crime of a serious nature is not prevalent in Bathurst and approximately 70 per cent of the criminal cases reported are cases of petty stealing. Criminal statistics may be found in the Annual Departmental Report, and a review of the figures available for 1949 show that crime is not tending to increase.

PRISONS

The prisons in the Gambia are under the control of the Superintendent of Police, who acts as Inspector of Prisons and is assisted by the Assistant Superintendent of Police as Assistant Inspector of Prisons. The staff numbers 33 and consists of one chief warder, one first class warder, six second class warders, 24 prison warders and one matron. There is one prison in the Protectorate at Georgetown, staffed from the establishment of the Prisons Department, but under direct supervision of the Divisional Commissioner, and subject to periodical inspection by the Inspector of Prisons. There was a reduction in prison admissions for Bathurst Gaol in 1949. There was one execution during the year.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS

The largest power house is in Bathurst, where the diesel-driven alternator generated 1,082,776 units in 1948, the peak load being

290 kw. There is a small power station at Yundum, with a standby at Lamin, for supply to the aerodrome and staff quarters. At Fajara Rest Camp a small plant was in use to supplement the supply from Bathurst.

The Government also undertook small-scale supplies of electricity at Brikama, Georgetown and Bansang; generating sets at Basse, Kuntaur and Mansa Konko, however, were used for radio operation only.

WATERWORKS

Bathurst and the Fajara area are supplied with chlorinated water from Abuko stream pumped to a reservoir at Fajara whence it gravitates. A water rate is in force. Investigations to replace the whole of this supply by deep bores were started by consulting engineers. Small supplies were maintained at Brikama, Bansang, Yundum and Mansa Konko.

Assistance is given to Native Authorities in the Protectorate in maintaining wells in the villages. Water is generally available at reasonable depths throughout the Gambia.

DRAINAGE

A major scheme, financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, to provide storm water drainage, reclaim 400 acres of swamp, and to improve mosquito control is in hand. The main bund is now closed and the scheme is nearing completion.

A dam and culvert to the sea were constructed at the mouth of Kotu stream. Further improvements are in hand.

BUILDINGS

In addition to maintenance, £26,500 was spent on new buildings and alterations. No very large or important building projects were put in hand during the year. Work continued on a project to replace the existing bucket latrine system in Bathurst by a static tank system.

Construction on Phase I of the re-building of New Victoria Hospital at Bathurst was commenced.

BROADCASTING

Experiments were carried out on short-wave broadcasts and these will be continued. It is probable that medium wave will prove more satisfactory for use in the Colony.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

Ocean-going vessels: Tonnage entered 1949—704,784.

Merchant Ships		Naval Ships	
British	Foreign	British	Foreign
196	160	1	—
598,171 tons	106,613 tons	Displacement	
gross	gross	8,000 tons	

Inland Water Transport

Passenger and freight services were maintained throughout the year by H.M.C.S. *Prince of Wales* and *Vic 20*, the two vessels carrying a total of over 7,000 passengers and approximately 2,400 tons of cargo. A postal service was carried out by both vessels. It is hoped to take delivery of a new vessel now under construction in the United Kingdom by June, 1950. Regular launch and ferry services in the Protectorate were operated throughout the year.

ROADS AND VEHICLES

There are 30 miles of tarmac road in the vicinity of Bathurst, and approximately 600 miles of sandy tracks in the Protectorate, most of which are open to motor traffic during the dry season (December-July) only.

Reconstruction and maintenance were carried out on roads in the Colony, and in the Protectorate the new trans-Gambia road was completed. In addition a new road from Barra to Karang on the route Bathurst/Kaolack/Dakar was also completed. A new road bridge at Abuko was built.

The following vehicles were licensed in December, 1949 :

<i>Private and Commercial</i>	9 Trailers
	2 Coaches
	457 Lorries
	141 Tractors
	260 Cars
	37 Motor Cycles
<i>Government Vehicles</i>	75 Lorries
	2 Ambulances
	6 Tractors
	6 Kit Cars
	15 Cars
	9 Motor Cycles
	1 Cinema Van

AIR

There is an aerodrome at Yundum, 17 miles from Bathurst. It is controlled by the Government and operated on behalf of the Ministry

of Civil Aviation by International Aeradio Ltd. The Public Utilities Department maintained runways, buildings, power and water supplies. The meteorological services were operated by the West African Meteorological Service.

Total aircraft movements in 1949 were 550. The regular scheduled services calling at Yundum are Air France from Dakar to Zinguinchor and West African Airways Corporation on the Lagos-Accra-Robertsfield-Freetown-Dakar twice-weekly service.

The marine airport at Bathurst was not used in 1949.

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

Telephones

Automatic equipment has been ordered to replace the manual exchange at present in use in the Bathurst, Fajara and Yundum areas.

In 1949 there were some 300 subscribers connected to the Bathurst, Cape and Yundum exchanges.

Radio Telegraph

There are four wireless stations operated by the Government in the Colony :

Bathurst	Call sign	V.S.H.	Frequency	3495, 2865 and 2525	K /cs.
Kuntaur	" "	Z.C.A.	" "	" "	" "
Georgetown	" "	V.S.W.	" "	" "	" "
Basse	" "	V.S.X.	" "	" "	" "
Mansa Konko	" "	V.S.H.2	" "	" "	K /cs.

POSTS

Apart from the General Post Office at Bathurst, the capital, there are sub-offices, with wireless telegraph stations, at Kuntaur, Georgetown, Mansa Konko and Basse and postal agencies at eight other places.

In addition to these, there is a travelling post office aboard Government river steamers where, except for the wireless telegraph service, full postal business is transacted at all ports of call. There are also licensed stamp vendors in Bathurst, Cape St. Mary, Brikama and Basse. The denominations of Gambia stamps are $\frac{1}{2}d.$, $1d.$, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$, $2d.$, $3d.$, $5d.$, $6d.$, $1s.$, $1s. 3d.$, $2s.$, $2s. 6d.$, $4s.$, $5s.$, $10s.$; the complete set costs £1 7s. 4d. and is obtainable, free of postage, from the General Post Office.

The approximate number of letters, postcards, newspapers, etc., dealt with during 1949 was 618,000 representing an increase of 46,000 over 1948. The number of parcels dealt with was 10,000 and the approximate number of air mail letters received and despatched was 267,000 and 220,000 respectively.

Money and postal order transactions were as follows :

	1948	1949
Money Orders issued and paid	£94,930	£51,364
Revenue derived	572	337
Postal Orders issued and paid	10,315	13,296
Revenue derived	71	93
Revenue and expenditure was as follows :		
Total Revenue	£9,700	£11,335
Total Expenditure	5,900	5,636
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	3,800	5,699

Chapter 12: Research

The Government Entomologist continued work on the bionomics of the malaria vectors, particularly on *Anopheles Gambiae*, var. *melas*, and on the control of breeding by varying the salinity in ponded waters.

The Human Nutrition Research Unit of the Colonial Medical Research Council, both at the Research station at Fajara, near Bathurst, and at Genieri in Central Division where its associated Field Working Party operates, continued very actively its programme of research, and investigation of the possibility of early and economic "grafting" of mechanical cultivation of crops on the peasant economy.

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

THE Colony consists mainly of the Islands of St. Mary and MacCarthy and the division of Kombo St. Mary. The capital of the Gambia is Bathurst, situated on the Island of St. Mary; population 21,000.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory approximately ten miles wide on each bank of the Gambia river, extending for nearly 300 miles from Bathurst. The source of the river is near the village of Labe, on the Futa Jallon plateau, and it flows westward for about 700 miles. It is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntaur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of tide of two feet. During the rains the upper river has a maximum rise of some 30 feet.

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

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

Chapter 2: History

The first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise da Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator, of Portugal, to lead an expedition along the African coast to the south of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded farther up the river and got into touch with

some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of fever, was buried; and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

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

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Philip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Francisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Cato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of ten years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture farther south than Joal—thirty miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals." In 1612 another attempt by the French to settle in the Gambia ended disastrously owing to sickness and mortality.

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618 and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its object the opening up of trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the River Neriko. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return

to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who seized some Portuguese shipping as a reprisal for the massacre at Gassan. Jobson also made his way up to Neriko and subsequently gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia in his *Golden Trade*. But both his and the previous expedition had resulted in considerable losses and a subsequent voyage, which he made in 1624, proved a complete failure. In the circumstances the patentees made no further attempt to exploit the resources of the Gambia, but confined their attention to the Gold Coast.

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

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

After the Restoration, English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the reputed existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers Trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York, and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island,

and to erect a temporary fort there. On 18th March, 1661, he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort, after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers, and lastly, by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On 17th November, 1664, after protracted negotiations he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1677 the Royal Adventurers sublet their rights between Capes Blanco and Palmas to another body of adventurers, who came to be known as the Gambia Adventurers. These latter Adventurers enjoyed those rights until 1678, when on the expiration of their lease they reverted to the Royal African Company, which had purchased the rights and property of the Royal Adventurers six years previously.

In 1677 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1681 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite to James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1857.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution, James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1704 and 1708, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1719 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort. An even more serious disaster occurred in 1721, when part of the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Captain John Massey, and, seizing one of the Company's ships, themselves turned pirate.

Finally, in 1725, James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

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

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

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

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

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

In 1780 the French privateer *Sénégal* captured four vessels, which had been sent with part of the British garrison at Goree under the command of Major Houghton to the Bintang Creek to obtain building material. The *Sénégal* was in its turn attacked by H.M.S. *Zephyr* and captured after a very warm action off Barra Point. The prizes had in the meantime been destroyed, but the troops, who had taken refuge on shore and had been befriended by the Jolas of Foni, were rescued by the *Zephyr*.

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British colony. The Gambia was, therefore, once more entrusted to the care of the African Company, which, however, made no attempt to administer it.

In 1785 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was acquired by the British Government with a view to establishing a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next thirty years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisania (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Aynsley. Subsequently, invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1790), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805), and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1794, on the representations of the African Association, James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

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

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars it was agreed as part of the terms of the treaty of peace that Goree should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the traffic in slaves the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the

African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied, but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On 23rd April, 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. In 1840 and 1853 considerable areas of the mainland adjoining St. Mary's Island were obtained from the King of Kombo for the settlement of discharged soldiers of the West India Regiments and liberated Africans. Cessions of other tracts of land further upstream were obtained at various dates. In 1857 Albreda, which as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory had proved a constant source of friction between the British and French Governments, was handed over to Great Britain, who, in exchange, renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

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

In 1888 the Gambia was once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British Governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal, and Casamance. In the meantime, despite a number of petty wars, the Gambia Government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fuladu. In 1894 an

Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts which had not been ceded to, but merely placed under the protection of, the British Government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the Colony isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of Government. Consequently, in 1895, and the following years, Ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally, by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902, the whole of the Gambia with the exception of the Island of St. Mary was brought under the protectorate system.

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

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

In the capital, perhaps one of the most important events of recent years was the enactment in 1946 of legislation for the establishment of a Town Council, a self-governing body including fifteen elected members, which is the culmination of several years of experiment with smaller bodies known in succession as the Bathurst Urban District Council, the Bathurst Advisory Town Council and the Bathurst Temporary Local Authority. It is hoped that the powers and responsibilities of the new body will be increased in the light of the experience and success gained with the coming years. A similar self-governing body has been set up for the contiguous district of Kombo St. Mary, which, although part of the Colony, has been administered for many years under the protectorate system.

In 1947 a new Constitution was brought into force under which a member of the Legislative Council is elected by popular vote to represent the town of Bathurst and the Kombo St. Mary Division. The Legislative Council assembled for the first time under this Constitution in December 1947 with a majority of unofficial members. At the same time the membership of Executive Council was extended to include three unofficial Gambian members.

In 1934 Bathurst was used by the Germans as an air base for the airmail service from Germany to South America. During the war the potentialities of Bathurst as an airport for both sea and land aircraft were considerably developed. Extensive facilities were made available for seaplanes in the port of Bathurst and for land planes at Yundum, 17 miles outside. Yundum was used to a considerable extent for the first few years after the end of the war but by 1948 the only aircraft to call regularly were those of the West African Airways.

In 1947 a branch of the Colonial Medical Research Council started work in the Gambia and in 1948 the Colonial Development Corporation opened its first enterprise in the Gambia. These projects are referred to in detail elsewhere in the Report.

Chapter 3: Administration

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

Under Royal Instructions of the same date, amended by additional instructions dated 26th November, 1947, the Executive Council is declared to consist of the Colonial Secretary as an *ex-officio* member and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. At present there are eight other members, four of whom are Government officials, one an elected member of the Legislative Council, and three who are nominated members of the Legislative Council. The Governor is the President of the Executive Council.

The Legislative Council is declared by the Gambia (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946, to consist of the Governor as President, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Financial Secretary as *ex-officio* members, and such number of nominated official and unofficial members as His Majesty, through a Secretary of State, may direct, and one elected member. At present there are three official and six unofficial nominated members. Four of the unofficial members represent the interests of the Protectorate, and three of these are Chiefs.

Of the various portions of the Colony, Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island and the Ceded Mile are administered as part of the Protectorate, leaving only the Island of St. Mary, which includes the town of Bathurst, and Kombo St. Mary Division under their own systems of administration. Within this area the various functions of Government are mainly exercised directly by the department concerned, e.g., Police, Education, etc. A Commissioner of the Colony has been appointed with general supervisory responsibilities but without executive powers.

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

The Kombo Rural Authority was set up at the beginning of 1947 under the Kombo St. Mary Division Ordinance, 1946. It consists of the Colony Commissioner, two nominated official members and a variable number, at present twenty-one, of members nominated for the most part from the headmen of the villages of the district. The authority at present concerns itself chiefly with the maintenance of streets and markets, for which purpose it collects rates, market fees and trade licences.

The Protectorate Ordinance, 1935, consolidated and amended the law relating to the Protectorate. The appointment of a Senior Commissioner in October, 1943, was the prelude to a number of changes in the Protectorate Administration, which consists of four Divisions with a resident population of 246,886, administered by Commissioners. These are known as the Western, Central, MacCarthy Island and Upper River Divisions, with their Headquarters at Brikama, Mansa Konko, Georgetown and Basse.

Each Division consists of a number of districts under a head chief whose appointment is approved by the Governor by Proclamation. There are 35 such districts of various sizes, ranging from 305 to eight square miles and with populations between 27,000 and 800 persons. These districts may be divided into sub-districts under sub-chiefs but none are in existence at present.

Each district possesses a Native Authority and a native tribunal. The Native Authority is declared by the Governor for any specified area and may be any chief or other native or any native council or group of natives. The district head was previously the Native Authority but a change was made in all the districts during 1945 when the district head became the president and the village heads, with their advisers-in-council, were appointed members of the Authority. The Native Authority has powers to make orders and rules to be obeyed by natives within the district, and is expected to maintain order and good government in the area over which its authority extends. The Native Authority Ordinance, 1933, confers these powers.

Mention has been made in Part II, Chapter 9, of the native tribunal

system, which was remodelled in January, 1946, by the creation of two grades, the group and the district tribunals. There are now 35 district tribunals, with the district head as president and an average of six elders as members. Two group tribunals were constituted in 1946, serving the three Kombo and five Foni districts of the Western Division, and a third was started in 1947, serving three districts in the MacCarthy Island Division.

As the result of the passing of the Protectorate Treasuries Ordinance, No. 13 of 1945, a number of group or district treasuries have been established, and in 1948 35 districts with a total population of 250,000 were collecting nearly £55,000 per annum in local revenue. Although each district frames its own estimates of revenue and expenditure, the majority of the districts prefer to group for the purpose of a treasury, which is managed by a finance committee. The sources of revenue are moneys derived from the imposition of district rates, rents, tribunal fees, timber and miscellaneous fees and interest on deposits.

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

A further step has been taken by the institution of an annual conference of Protectorate Chiefs. The first of such conferences was held in 1944. Divisional conferences take place at frequent intervals. During 1947 four members were nominated to represent the Protectorate on the Legislative Council and two on the Executive Council.

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

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in general use.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

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

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

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

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

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

Chapter 6: Reading List

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

The Gambia Colony and Protectorate, an Official Handbook, by F. BISSET ARCHER. London, St. Bride's Press Ltd., 1906. A very general survey of the Colony up to the date of publication; much of the information given, particularly the historical portions, is of value even at the present time.

History of the Gambia, by H. F. REEVE. London, Smith, Elder and Co., 1912.

A History of the Gambia, by J. M. GRAY. Cambridge University Press, 1940.

The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa, by SIR RICHMOND PALMER. Bathurst, Stationery Store, 1931. This booklet includes a translated extract from Sultan Mohammed Bello's account of the origin of the Fulbe Tribe.

A Short Phrase Book and Classified Vocabulary of the Mandinka Language, by G. N. N. NUNN. Bathurst, Stationery Store, 1934.

A Short Study of the Mandinka Language, by W. T. HAMLYN. Bathurst, Stationery Store, 1935.

Stone Circles in the Gambia, by HENRY PARKER. London, Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1923.

Stories of the Gambia. Bathurst, Information Office, 1945. This booklet, which was written as a short text book, is based on and brings up to date *A Short History of the Gambia*, by W. T. HAMLYN, which is now out of print.

APPENDIX I

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

	<i>Year of Publication</i>	<i>Price</i>
<i>Trade and Shipping Report, 1948</i>	1949	
<i>Report by the Senior Commissioner on the Annual Census of the Protectorate of the Gambia</i>	1949	6d.
<i>Notes on Strange Farmers</i>	1946	6d.
<i>Report of the Census Commissioner for Bathurst, 1944</i>	1944	—
<i>A Short Study of the Mandinka Language</i> by W. T. HAMLYN	1935	5s.
<i>Gambia Gazette</i>		
<i>Departmental Annual Reports</i>		
<i>Maps of the Gambia</i>		

All these publications and the annual reports of all departments are obtainable from the Information Office, Bathurst, or the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses on cover page three or through any bookseller. Prices in brackets include postage.

<i>Labour Conditions in West Africa.</i> Report by G. ST. J. ORDE BROWNE. Cmd. 6277, 1941.	2s. 6d. (2s. 9d.)
<i>Report of the Commission on Higher Education in West Africa.</i> Cmd. 6655, 1945.	3s. (3s. 3d.)
<i>Report of the Commission on the Civil Services of British West Africa,</i> by SIR WALTER HARRAGIN. Col. No. 209, 1947.	7s. 6d. (8s.)
<i>Report of the Mission appointed to enquire into the production and transport of Vegetable Oils and Oil Seeds produced in the West African Colonies.</i> Col. No. 211, 1947.	1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.)
<i>Report of the West African Oilseeds Mission.</i> Col. No. 224, 1948.	1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.)
<i>Trypanosomiasis in British West Africa,</i> by PROFESSOR T. H. DAVEY. 1948.	2s. (2s. 2d.)
<i>Tsetse Flies in British West Africa,</i> by T. A. M. NASH. 1948.	30s. (30s. 9d.)
<i>Agreement . . . respecting the Delimitation of certain portions of the Boundary between Sénégal and the Gambia.</i> Treaty Series No. 13, 1929. Cmd. 3340.	1s. (1s. 1d.)

APPENDIX II

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES IN PROGRESS OR INITIATED IN 1949.

<i>Scheme No.</i>	<i>Scheme</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Approved</i>
D. 636	Improvement of Bathurst Harbour Town Drainage	118,600	1946
	Investigation and drainage of Kotu Stream	48,000	
D. 727	Education Development	78,200	1947
D. 728	Agricultural Development	32,000	1947
D. 764	Organisation of Department of Supplies and Minor Industries	20,000	1947
D. 764A	Organisation of Department of Supplies and Minor Industries	1,000	1947
D. 769	Maintenance and operation of machinery purchased under D. 723	29,000	1947
D. 883	Development of Medical and Health Services	163,000	1948
D. 883A	Construction of Victoria Hospital	10,000	1949
D. 919	Provision of public lavatories and static tank in Bathurst	20,000	1948
D. 934	Field Nutrition Party	18,140	1948
D. 1061	Bathurst water supply	10,000	1949
D. 1092	Veterinary Services	45,000	1949

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*BAHAMAS	*GILBERT AND	SEYCHELLES
*BARBADOS	ELLICE IS.	SOLOMON IS.
BERMUDA	*GRENADA	*SOMALILAND
CAYMAN IS.	LEEWARD IS.	*TONGA
DOMINICA	NEW HEBRIDES	TURKS AND
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