

**COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.**

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**No. 1098.**

**NIGERIA.**

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**REPORT FOR 1920.**

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1064.)



**LONDON :**

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1921.

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No. 1098.

# NIGERIA.

## ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920.

### I. GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTE.

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. A small portion of the Cameroons (31,150 square miles) has, for purposes of administration, been placed under the Nigerian Government. It is proposed that it shall be administered by Nigeria under a mandate which will be granted to Great Britain.

2. The area of Nigeria is approximately 335,700 square miles and it is thus larger than any British Dependency other than Tanganyika, India and the Self-Governing Dominions. It is nearly three times the size of the United Kingdom. Along the entire coast-line runs a belt, from 10 to 60 miles in width, of dense mangrove forest and swamp, intersected by the branches of the Niger delta, and other rivers, which are connected one with another by innumerable creeks, the whole constituting a continuous inland waterway from beyond the western boundary of Nigeria almost to the Cameroons. Behind this belt lie dense tropical forests, rich in oil-palm trees and valuable mahoganies. Further inland the forests become thinner and are succeeded by open ground covered with long grass and occasional clumps of trees. In the extreme north, where there is a very small rainfall and little vegetation, the desert is steadily encroaching. There are few mountains in the southern portion of Nigeria except along the eastern boundary, but north and east of the junction of the rivers Niger and Benue there is a large plateau from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers as far as Jebba and Yola respectively, there are a number of important rivers of which the Cross River is the largest. Except for Lake Chad, on the extreme north-east frontier, there are no large lakes.

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3. The population of Nigeria is approximately 16½ millions, which is larger than that of any British Dependency except India. There are about 3,000 Europeans temporarily resident in Nigeria, chiefly in the employ of the Government and of mercantile and mining companies. The country is not suited for European settlement. Of the native inhabitants the greater number are of pure negro race, but in the north there are Berber and negroid tribes. Of the former the Yorubas, Ibos, and Benis are the most important, and of the latter the Fulani, the Kanuri, and the Hausa-speaking tribes, generally called Hausas. The Yorubas occupy the south-west corner of Nigeria and from an early date possessed an organised government. The Benis are now a comparatively small tribe, but Benin was formerly a very powerful kingdom and its influence extended over a considerable area. The Ibos are a large unorganised tribe who occupy most of the land east of the lower Niger. The Kanuri occupy Bornu, in the north-east of Nigeria, a kingdom which has survived for many centuries in spite of great vicissitudes. It was known to the Portuguese as early as the 13th century. The Hausas occupy the greater portion of northern Nigeria and from an early date had attained to a fairly high level of civilisation. At the beginning of the 19th century the Hausa states were conquered by the Fulani, a nomad people who had settled in the towns and country of Hausaland and who, by their superior intelligence, had acquired great power and influence. The existing Hausa system of law and administration based on the Koran was retained, but Fulani dynasties were established in the various states.

4. The coast of Nigeria first became known to Europe towards the end of the 15th century as the result of the visits of Portuguese explorers. Shortly afterwards the demand for negro labour in the American and West Indian colonies created an immense trade in slaves and for over 300 years the west coast of Africa was visited in large numbers by the slave ships of all nations. At the beginning of the 19th century efforts were made to suppress the traffic, which was declared illegal, and a British naval squadron was stationed on the coast to intercept the slave ships. In 1851 British support was given to an exiled King of Lagos, who, in return, pledged himself to abolish the slave trade in Lagos, which was at that time the chief slave market in West Africa. Finding himself powerless against the slave-dealing faction, his son ceded Lagos to the British in 1861 and the British Colony of Lagos came into being the following year.

5. By the exertions of Mungo Park (1796-1805), Captain Clapperton (1822-26), Richard Lander (1828-30), Doctor Barth (1850-55) and numerous other explorers, most of whom lost their lives in the country, the course of the Niger and the existence of the Fulani kingdoms in the interior had become known, and, after many failures, a successful trade was established along the banks of the Rivers Niger and Benue. In 1879 the various British firms

trading on these rivers were amalgamated, and in 1887 a Charter was granted to the amalgamated companies, which became known as the Royal Niger Company, Chartered and Limited. By this Charter the Company became responsible for the government of the river basins and the whole of Hausaland and Bornu, but, in practice, their influence extended little beyond the banks of the rivers.

6. The Berlin Conference of 1885 had recognised the British claim to a protectorate over Nigeria, and the remainder of the country was made into a separate administration under Foreign Office control and became known as the Oil Rivers and later as the Niger Coast Protectorate.

7. Owing to the restrictions on trade caused by artificial boundaries and the virtual monopoly which the Niger Company exercised, to the inability of the Company's forces to restrain the slave-raiding propensities of the Fulani Chiefs, and to foreign aggression on the western frontiers, it became necessary for the British Government to assume a more direct control over the country. The Company's Charter was accordingly revoked on the 1st January, 1900, and the northern portion of their territories became the Northern Nigeria Protectorate, the southern portion being added to the Niger Coast Protectorate and renamed the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, both Protectorates being placed under Colonial Office control.

8. In 1898 an Imperial Force, recruited locally but with British officers, was raised by Sir Frederick Lugard, and was later taken over by the Colonial Government. This force was named the West African Frontier Force, and the armed constabularies of the other West African Colonies and Protectorates were modelled on it. Soon after the establishment of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate, these troops were used to subdue the Muhammadan rulers of the Hausa states and Bornu, who had persistently ignored the British requests for the cessation of slave-raiding and whose attitude was one of open hostility to an administration of whose power they had had no proof. As each in turn was conquered a new ruler was appointed who undertook to govern his country according to local law and tradition, but without slave-raiding and the extortion and inhuman cruelties which had marked the former régime. British Residents were stationed throughout the country and exercised a wholesome check on any tendency to relapse.

9. In the south there were fewer large states and the people on the whole were of a much lower standard of intelligence and development. On the lower reaches of the Benin River, a Jekri chief, named Nana, defied the Protectorate Government and dealt openly in slaves. He was attacked by a naval and military force and defeated in 1894 after severe fighting. In 1897 a peaceful mission to the King of Benin was massacred and another combined

expedition was despatched : Benin was captured and was found to be full of the remains of human sacrifices, for which the city had long had an unpleasant reputation. In 1902 the Aro tribe were subdued.

10. While the remainder of the country was being opened up the hinterland of Lagos was being added by cession to the territories originally ceded by the King of Lagos in 1861. In 1866 Lagos had been included in the West African Settlements, and in 1874 it was united with the Gold Coast Colony. It became the separate Colony and Protectorate of Lagos in 1886.

11. In 1906 Lagos and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated and in 1914 Northern Nigeria was included and the whole country became the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

12. On the outbreak of war in 1914 the Nigeria Regiment (of the West African Frontier Force) took part in the campaign which resulted in the conquest of the neighbouring German Colony of the Cameroons and a strong contingent of the Regiment also fought in the East African campaign. The loyalty of the chiefs and people of Nigeria throughout the War was very marked, and even the entry of Turkey into the War did not affect the loyalty of the Muhammadan rulers. There was, however, a somewhat serious rising in Egbaland in 1918 which was quickly subdued.

## II. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

13. The main political divisions of Nigeria are the Colony of Nigeria, and two groups of Provinces, known as the Northern and Southern Provinces, which together form the Protectorate. The whole country is under the control of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, to whom the Lieutenant Governors of the Northern and Southern Provinces and the Administrator of the Colony are responsible. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of a few of the senior officials. There is also a larger advisory and deliberative Nigerian Council composed of official and unofficial members, all of whom, with the exception of three representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and Mines, are nominated by the Governor. There is a Legislative Council, the powers of which are confined to the Colony, laws affecting the Protectorate being enacted by the Governor. The members of the Legislative Council are nominated by the Governor and there is an official majority.

14. The Protectorate is divided into 23 provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident. In the Northern Provinces and the western portions of the Southern Provinces, where there are chiefs of sufficient influence and ability, native administrations have been recognised and supported by Government, the details of administration being left almost entirely in the hands of the paramount chief and his officials. In other parts, however,

where there is no strong native authority capable of governing, the rule of the political officers is a more direct one, but even in such districts a native judiciary with powers limited in proportion to its ability and integrity is made use of with results that are increasingly satisfactory.

15. The standard of administration in most of the Provinces continues to show steady improvement, more particularly in backward communities, where the policy is not to force the pace in regard to social evolution purely for convenience of administration, but to find out what the indigenous method of self-government is, and to build on that. The development of the administrative sense has been marked among these communities by a corresponding decrease in crime, by the facility with which criminals have been brought to justice, and by the opening up of districts hitherto classed as "unsettled." Without doubt these satisfactory results are directly traceable to the increase in the political staff, a sufficiency of which is essential for progress. It is necessary to add here that in spite of the depleted staff during the War, although there was no marked advance neither was there any very noticeable retrogression in this respect. With a full staff there is always a decrease in the number of military patrols and punitive measures generally.

16. In the more advanced communities during the period under review, the efforts of the political staff have been concentrated on increasing the efficiency and justice of the Native Courts, and improving the Native Gaols, resulting, in the latter case, in a pronounced improvement in the health of the prisoners. The Native Treasuries continue to grow in efficiency, and in some parts the methods of accounting and the conduct of public business appear to be developing very rapidly along lines analogous to those of our public departments.

17. In the Southern Provinces the newly organised Native Administrations have made satisfactory progress. The death of the Alake of Egband at a period when the country was settling down under his rule after the disturbances of 1919 was most unfortunate. Political intrigues in Lagos resulted in the withdrawal of all official recognition of Eleko, the titular "Prince" of Lagos, who had allowed his position to be exploited by political adventurers. Eleko is the present head of the House of Docemo, the king who ceded Lagos to the British Crown, and as an act of grace an allowance was made to him by the Government for the maintenance of the women and children of the House. This has now been stopped.

18. The provisional readjustment of the boundary line between the French and British spheres of Cameroon, in accordance with the Agreement concluded by the two Governments on the 10th July, 1919, has been carried out by the local officers of both countries without any friction or disturbance.

19. The number of criminal cases brought before the Courts continues to increase but this is probably due to the more efficient administration of the country. In the more backward provinces a great number of murders are committed, many of them for apparently trifling causes. Though a certain amount of trading in young children and ignorant or half-witted adults probably still goes on it may be said that there is now no such thing as a slave in the proper sense of the term. What is now called slavery is merely a definite and reciprocal contract of service which is to a certain extent enforced by the Native Courts of the Northern Provinces but not by the Protectorate Courts. The fact that all persons born since 1901 are free is becoming widely known, even in the most distant parts, and the institution of slavery in the Muhammadan Provinces will shortly die a natural death.

20. The question of an adequate supply of voluntary labour for the public services, which is closely connected with, and, in fact, is inseparable from the transport question, is already serious and likely to become increasingly so with the big construction programmes in view.

21. A great increase has been remarked in the numbers of women who apply to the Native Courts for divorce and are granted it, more especially at large centres where the development of trade and mining or the presence of troops and Government employees has introduced a larger floating population. This is commonly attributed to the increase of Native Courts in numbers and popularity; the consequent decrease in the transaction of matrimonial affairs by family and village Heads, and the facile marriages of soldiery, police, labourers, and other employees of Europeans.

22. While there has undoubtedly been a decrease of crime generally, in the neighbourhood of Government stations and townships the particular crimes of burglary and larceny show a tendency to increase and the thefts of sleepers and sleeper keys from the Railway, in spite of frequent convictions, continue to be a source of anxiety to the Railway authorities. This particular form of theft is most prevalent at the beginning of the farming season, indicating a shortage of iron for farming implements, and arrangements have been made to place steel railway sleepers which have been condemned at the disposal of the communities affected.

23. During the year there was a serious epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis in Sokoto Province, the case mortality being exceedingly high. Towards the end of the year the epidemic invaded the northern portion of Kontagora Province. There was also an epidemic of smallpox throughout the Southern Provinces, which was of a virulent type.

24. The population of Nigeria has, as stated above, been estimated at 16,250,000 natives and 3,000 Europeans. The

census taken in 1921 will probably show that the estimate is too low. There is little immigration or emigration.

### III. GOVERNMENT FINANCES.

25. The totals of revenue and expenditure for the past five years are as follows :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
1916 .. .. .	2,943,184	3,609,638
1917 .. .. .	3,492,738	3,219,958
1918 .. .. .	4,014,190	3,459,774
1919 .. .. .	4,959,429	4,529,176
1920 .. .. .	6,819,274	6,493,523

The expenditure for 1916 included £542,868 advanced pending the issue of a loan; smaller sums were similarly advanced in subsequent years. Separate accounts are kept by the Native Administrations, which receive a proportion, normally 50 per cent. of the sums collected by direct taxation. The total revenue of these Administrations in 1920 exceeded £700,000. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of the year 1920 of £3,296,789. The Public Debt at the same date amounted to £10,245,593 and the Sinking Fund to £557,381. There were no important changes in taxation.

26. During the year a new "mixed-metal" coinage was put into circulation and it has been found possible gradually to withdraw most of the low-value currency notes, which had proved very unpopular with the native population.

### IV. ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

27. *Trade.*—The value of the trade of Nigeria during the year 1920 was as follows :—

Imports .. .. .	25,216,000
Exports .. .. .	16,987,000
	£42,203,000

The value of the transit trade (*i.e.*, goods passing through the inland waters of Nigeria to and from Dahomey and the Cameroons) was £312,000.

28. As compared with 1919 the value of the import trade had increased by over £13,000,000 and of the export trade by over £2,000,000. The bulk of the trade is with the United Kingdom, which in 1920 supplied 81 per cent. of the imports and took 91 per cent. of the exports. Imports from the United States of America amounted to 11 per cent. of the total. The trade with other foreign countries is comparatively insignificant. There

has been a falling-off in the value of exports to the United States on account of the loss of the market for cocoa, hides and skins.

The prohibition of the importation of trade spirits has resulted in a serious financial loss to the Government, as the revenue derived from the high duties charged on these spirits has disappeared. It has, therefore, been necessary to increase the Import Duties on other goods. Export Duties on produce were first imposed in 1916 and they have also been recently raised.

29. In the early months of 1920 there was an unprecedented boom in trade, very high prices being obtained for the raw products of Nigeria, but in the latter half of the year the demand for, and the prices of, these products fell considerably, and serious losses were experienced by firms on stocks purchased before the slump. The purchasing power of the natives was severely handicapped as they were unable to obtain remunerative prices for their produce.

30. *Agriculture.*—The earlier part of the year witnessed a boom in the ground-nut trade at Kano. Prices rose locally to as high as £40 per ton and heavy losses were in consequence sustained by trading firms who were unable to ship their stocks before the inevitable slump occurred. The high prices resulted in a largely increased area being planted by the natives. Prices have, however, fallen considerably and very little business has in consequence been done in the new crop. The export trade in ground-nuts was created by the extension of the railway to Kano in January, 1912. During the first season thereafter the native willingly took £4 10s. a ton for his ground-nuts.

31. The possibility of producing tobacco of the Virginian type suitable for the home market has been engaging the attention of the Department of Agriculture. The results hitherto have been distinctly promising. Considerable success has also attended the Department's efforts to introduce into the Northern Provinces trees of economic value, and it has now been demonstrated that citrus of various kinds, as well as bananas, pineapples, and other tropical fruits can all be grown there successfully under irrigation. Improved wheat from India, and swamp rice from Ceylon and British Guiana, may also be mentioned among recent successful introductions which have established themselves in local favour.

32. The principal export crops in the Southern Provinces have continued to be cacao, cotton and rubber; whilst the chief energies of farmers have been devoted to the production of the ordinary tropical food crops, mainly yams, cassava, etc. All these activities are very largely carried out in conjunction with the collection and preparation of palm kernels and palm oil, but it is very rarely that the oil-palm itself has the benefit of any cultivation.

33. The slump in the cacao market, after the great boom of the previous season, seriously discouraged the farmers, and the demand and prices have become so low that those who can produce good cacao are threatening to cease fermentation altogether. If this occurs, Nigeria will practically disappear from the cacao market. The mercantile firms who handle cacao can best assist in the efforts of the Agricultural Department towards sustained improvement by showing a preference, in buying, for fermented cacao, and by offering such a premium for good fermented as the state of the market will permit. The past season has been somewhat unfavourable to production; but this circumstance is of little importance in the present very depressed state of the market.

34. The high prices guaranteed by the British Cotton Growing Association for cotton, coupled with a good late-planting season for the native kinds, have given so great a stimulus to production and the bringing forward of seed-cotton that would have been otherwise kept for the native weaving industry, that the existing ginneries of the British Cotton Growing Association are finding no little difficulty in dealing expeditiously with the crop. It is certain that the output of the 1920-21 season will exceed all previous records. The future of cotton in Nigeria is bound up with the provision of reasonably cheap transport.

35. The low prices of rubber in recent years for the inferior grades have almost put wild rubber out of the market and the small shipments are made up mainly of plantation rubber produced chiefly in the Benin Province. On the more carefully kept of these plantations a comparatively large expenditure is incurred for the combating of rubber diseases, but unfortunately efforts are largely nullified owing to the neglect of owners of neighbouring plantations.

36. The palm oil and kernel trade have shared in the general depression, merchants have ceased temporarily to buy, or have purchased only in small quantities, so that the products of the oil palm have been mainly used for supplying local needs.

37. English poultry have during the last two years been imported with the idea of improving the indigenous domestic fowl. The results so far have been extremely gratifying, the natives being keen to avail themselves of the opportunity of purchasing birds of the imported breeds in order to improve their own strain.

38. *Land.*—Under an agreement executed between the Imperial Government and the Royal Niger Company at the date of the revocation of the Charter, the latter's successors were allowed to retain certain sites then occupied as trading stations. There are a few such sites in the Southern Provinces too. With

the foregoing exceptions the whole of the land is native land, controlled and administered by the Government.

39. Proprietary rights in land have never been recognised by native law and custom, and legislation enacted since the establishment of the Protectorate provides for the maintenance of that policy. Building and agricultural leases are granted by Government with conditions as to improvements and revision of rent.

40. In making such revision Government is debarred by statute from taking into consideration any improvements made upon a site by the lessee, and from charging more, as rent, for any sites than the amount which is obtainable, as rent, for sites similarly situated and of equal areas. If the rent is raised on revision the lessee may appeal to the Provincial Court or to the Governor, who will appoint an arbitrator. If the occupier is dissatisfied he may surrender his lease, and the Governor may award such compensation for unexhausted improvements as in his discretion he may think fit.

41. In the Southern Provinces native lands are not at the disposal and under the control of the Governor in the same way as in the Northern Provinces, but land may not be leased to a non-native except with the consent of the Governor. Large tracts suitable for agriculture are available, but it is essential that anyone who desired to cultivate rubber or any other permanent crop should first visit Nigeria and ascertain the actual conditions.

## V. INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

42. *Forestry*.—Timber is exploited under the selection system with minimum girth limits for the various species. Licences are issued for defined areas (*i.e.*, Concessions) carrying the exclusive right to fell timber on such areas. Forty-two timber licences have been issued covering an area of 3,991 square miles. Hitherto only first grade timbers, such as mahogany, have been worked, but applications are now being received to exploit the secondary timbers.

43. There has been an addition of approximately 80 acres to the area of timber plantations in the Southern Provinces, 48 acres of which are plantations of Opepe (*Sarcocephalus esculentus*) at Akilla, which is showing great promise. The remainder are chiefly fuel species. Opepe yields a valuable timber, of a bright yellow to orange appearance, which is very durable, and the demand for which is steadily increasing. Experiments carried out in the Ibadan Fuel Plantations have shown that fuel plantations can be undertaken as a profitable investment wherever the initial costs of formation are not excessive.

44. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining supplies of timber from the home markets during the War, departmental agency was adopted for the exploitation of suitable local timbers. The whole of this undertaking has now been transferred to private enterprise, and this has resulted in a number of applications being received for licences for similar operations. There can be little doubt that such action will result in a considerable development of the timber industry both for export and local consumption.

45. The total area of all the Forest Reserves in Nigeria is 4,330 square miles.

46. *Mining.* There were 65 Tin Mining Companies operating during the year, and 34 individual workers, the average number of persons employed on the mines being 300 Europeans and 23,000 natives. The output of tin ore was approximately 7,300 tons. The average price of metallic tin was £305 per ton, and the value of the tin ore exported was £1,785,724, but in spite of the high average price, the 1919 output was not reached. The output of wolfram remained very small, being little more than an impurity exported with certain tin ores.

47. The output of gold was only 724 oz., this being all from alluvial river washings. Perhaps the most interesting development undertaken during the year is the prospecting for silver lead at Ameka, in Ogoja Province, where there are the remains of ancient workings.

48. The coal-fields at Enugu are owned and worked by the Government. The staff consists of 26 Europeans and 2,568 labourers. The output during 1920 amounted to 180,831 tons. The main coal seam, which averages 4 ft. 2 in. in thickness, consists of an outcrop and is worked by adits from different points. Rail facilities have been provided for the quick loading of the coal. A scheme of electrification in connection with the colliery has been sanctioned and is now being proceeded with. The coal is of good quality, highly volatile, and free from ash or clinker. It burns very quickly and has a specific gravity of 1.28.

49. The activities of the Geological Survey were continued according to programme on the tinfields in the Northern Provinces and along the western railway in the Southern Provinces. On the tinfields the preliminary survey was completed of that portion of the Bauchi Plateau over which tin mining is being actively carried on, and the principal field and laboratory results of the survey were incorporated in a Bulletin\* on the Geology of the Plateau Tinfields, which was published early in 1921. In the South the search was continued in Oyo Province for useful minerals and rock in the immediate neighbourhood of the western railway. Numerous occurrences of mica were noted but the plates were of little or no value. Talc, a mineral used in various industries, was found in considerable quantity and of fair

\* Copies can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies

quality, but its market value is probably too low to warrant exploitation in Nigeria. Traces of various other minerals were found but none in economic quantity.

50. *Fisheries.*—The rivers and creeks teem with fish, and a large number of persons are employed in fishing, chiefly for local consumption. Small quantities of fish are crudely cured and traded with the towns distant from the river, where this form of food is highly prized. There is very little sea fishing. Before the War a steam trawler was working off Lagos and a large quantity of fish of excellent quality was obtained.

51. *Water Power* is little used in Nigeria. In the southern parts of Nigeria there is little fall in the rivers, but on the Bauchi Plateau there is a considerable amount of force available.

52. *Manufactures.*—There are no manufactures in Nigeria on a commercial scale. Earthenware and brassware are made for local use and for sale as curios. Leather is worked and a certain amount of cloth is woven from locally-grown cotton. The produce of the country is exported almost entirely in a raw state, such little preparation as is necessary being done by hand.

## VI. BANKS.

53. Banking interests are represented in Nigeria by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, which was established in 1894 and now has 14 branches and 7 agencies, and by the Colonial Bank, which extended its operations to this part of the world in 1917 and now has 8 local branches. Both banks undertake all kinds of banking business. No new branches were opened in 1920, but in some of the larger centres the staff was increased.

54. The boom in trade during recent years, together with the spread of education, has disclosed to the African the practical value of banking institutions, with the result that in 1920 there was a marked increase in the number of Africans who utilised the banks and a corresponding increase in the number of accounts opened. There is a Government Savings Bank worked by the Post Office Authorities, and Savings Bank business is also conducted by the Colonial Bank.

## VII. LEGISLATION.

55. *Currency.*—West Africa, like other parts of the Empire, has had to resort to an alloy coinage. The Currency Offences Ordinance, 1920 (No. 14 of 1920) extends to this currency the prohibition against discounting, etc.

56. *Restriction of Rent.*—The Profiteering (Rent) Ordinance, 1920 (No. 8 of 1920) adopts the main provisions regarding rent of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (War Restrictions) Act, 1915, as amended by the Acts passed in 1919. The

“ standard rent ” means the rent at which a dwelling-house was let on December 31st, 1917, and the Ordinance applies to houses the standard rent of which does not exceed £100.

### VIII. EDUCATION.

57. A number of primary schools in Nigeria are conducted by Government, and a good many others, which for the most part belong to the Missionary Societies, receive financial assistance from the Government. All these “ Assisted ” schools are inspected regularly by officials of the Education Department. There is an increasing demand for schools, but at the same time parents are often unwilling to allow their children to remain longer at school than is sufficient for them to pick up a smattering of education.

58. There are also a great number of elementary schools which are not under Government control and which are sometimes conducted by men who do not possess any real qualifications for the work. For the most part the education given in these schools is of an indifferent character, and in many cases the schools are absolutely valueless, if not indeed harmful.

59. Throughout the Northern Provinces there are thousands of Muhammadan schools in which practically the entire time of the pupils is occupied in learning by heart and in writing portions of the Koran.

60. King's College, Lagos, is the only Government establishment in which the work is entirely of a secondary character, and in the whole country there are only a few hundred pupils receiving such education.

61. The chief difficulty of the Education Department is the lack of sufficient qualified native teachers. It is hoped that a training college for teachers will be opened at Katsena during the current year. Provision is also made for training teachers at the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, the C.M.S. Training College, Oyo, the Wesleyan Training Institute, Ibadan, and the Government Schools at Bonny and Warri. Evening Continuation Classes for teachers are held at King's College, Lagos. Vacation courses for teachers were held in July and December by officers of the Agricultural Department at Calabar and Onitsha.

62. Instruction in Manual Training and Elementary Agriculture is given in the majority of the Government and Assisted Schools. Technical education in the form of Carpentry and Joinery is given at the C.M.S. Industrial School, Onitsha, and the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar. The latter school has also a Printing and a Tailoring department. In the Northern Provinces good progress is being made not only in such semi-exotic work as carpentry, smithing, motor-work, and cart-building, but in the encouragement and improvement of endemic crafts such as tanning, leather working, weaving, basket and other plaiting.

## IX. CLIMATE.

63. The seasons in Nigeria depend rather on the rainfall than on temperature. They are as a rule well defined. The "dry season" with its attendant "Harmattan" commences in the north of the country in October, and ends in April. It is of shorter duration in the south, and at Lagos generally lasts from November to March with only intermittent "Harmattan." The "Harmattan" is a dry north-easterly wind which brings with it a thick haze composed of minute particles of dust. During the "Harmattan" the nights and early mornings are cold, but the days are very hot, and it is during this period that the maximum diurnal variations occur.

64. Generally speaking, the lowest mean temperature is in the months of July and August, and the lowest minimum recorded temperature at the beginning and end of the year. The highest mean and maximum temperatures are, as a rule, recorded in March and April. In most cases the difference in range between the maximum and minimum temperature is greater in proportion to the distance of a station from the coast.

65. At the end of the "dry season" numerous tornados herald the approach of the "rainy season." Before a tornado the air is oppressively close and heavy; the tornado itself, which is scarcely more than a heavy squall, lasts but a short time and is accompanied and followed by a thunderstorm and rain. The "rainy season" lasts until October, with a slight break in August, and is followed by another short tornado season. In the south the prevailing wind during this season is from the south-west, and with it comes the rain, which is remarkably heavy along the coast and decreases rapidly as it travels inland.

66. The average annual rainfall at Akassa, in the Niger Delta, is 160 inches; at Lokoja, situated at the confluence of the Niger and Benue it is 48 in.; and at Sokoto, in the north-west of Nigeria, it is only 24 in. The average rainfall at Lagos is 72 in. In the northern parts of Nigeria there is literally no rain whatever for the greater part of the dry season; for 12 years no rain has fallen at Sokoto during the four months, November to February, and over 23 in. out of the average rainfall of 24 is recorded during the five months, May to September. In the south the difference is not so marked, though the average fall at Forcados in the Niger Delta is 119 inches for the six months, May to October, out of an annual average of 151 inches.

## X. COMMUNICATIONS.

67. *Railways.*—The Western Division of the Nigerian Railway connects the Port of Lagos with the important towns of Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ilorin, Minna, Kaduna, Zaria, and Kano (705 miles) while the branch line to Bukuru (143 miles) serves the tin fields of the Bauchi Plateau. An outlet at Baro on the Niger

River is provided by the branch line from Minna (111 miles) and ships of 12 ft. draught can be safely navigated from Forcados and Burutu to the former port during the high river season between the months of July and October. During the remainder of the year the Niger River is navigable only by "stern wheelers" and barges. The Eastern Division, terminating at Port Harcourt on the Bonny Estuary, serves the important coalfields at Enugu (151 miles) as well as running through a very rich palm belt supporting an immense population. An extension 417 miles in length of this portion of the system, is now being constructed, and when completed will join up with the Western Division at Kaduna crossing the Benue River close to Abinsi. All the lines are of 3 ft. 6 in. gauge, except the Zaria-Bukuru branch line which is of a 2 ft. 6 in. gauge. A branch line—42 miles in length, will be constructed from a point on the extension mentioned in the preceding paragraph to Bukuru—the terminus of the 2 ft. 6 in. gauge line from Zaria.

68. The gross earnings during 1920 amounted to £1,626,799; the working expenditure to £1,041,523; net receipts, £585,276. The total number of passengers carried was 2,210,536. 532,335 tons of goods and minerals were handled. There are 126 stations open for the receipt of public traffic. The permanent staff of the Railways includes 458 Europeans. The African salaried staff numbers 1,800, while the artisans and labourers total some 12,000.

69. *Harbours, Rivers, and Creeks.*—The entrance works in Lagos Harbour consist of two main moles to the East and West of the harbour entrance, with a training bank for guidance of the currents. The West Mole was extended with the object of forming its correct relative position in regard to the East Mole; 372 ft. were added to its length during the year, and 213 ft. to the training bank. A total of almost 100,000 tons of stone was employed during 1920 in the construction of the entrance works. The official depth at the harbour bar was maintained at 20 feet.

70. The progress in the extension of the Western Mole and the training bank, coupled with the efforts of the dredgers attached to the Marine Department during 1920, has materially improved the bar and the outer approaches to the harbour. A portion of the old bar has disappeared entirely, and whereas a depth of 18 ft. of water only at L.W.O.S.T. was obtainable on the bar at the close of 1919, the lowest water L.W.O.S.T. at the end of 1920 was 25 ft. Progress on the Harbour Improvement Scheme, commenced in 1914 and paid for from Loan Funds, was greatly retarded during the War. A new and powerful tug was purchased during the year for the harbour.

71. In 1919 the channel connecting Forcados and Burutu, the chief depôt of the Niger Company and of all water-borne imports and exports for the River Niger and Benue and their

tributaries only carried 16 ft. of water, and as vessels can cross the Forcados River bar drawing 18 ft. 6 in. the shallowness of the Burutu Channel was a distinct disadvantage to trade. Dredging operations were undertaken and now vessels can negotiate this channel drawing over 18 feet.

72. A survey of the Bonny bar was continued during 1920 by marine officers and will be completed during 1921. Considerable work was done during 1920 in clearing obstructions on the River Niger, and the sudd region between Lagos and Sapele was kept open throughout the year for the navigation of launches and timber rafts.

73. *Shipping.*—The regular passenger and mail services are maintained by the steamers of Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co., Ltd., but a number of other lines are now running to Nigeria. 324 vessels of a total of 604,000 tons entered at the port of Lagos during the year 1920. The mail steamers take about sixteen days on the voyage from Liverpool to Lagos.

74. *Roads.*—The Government has constructed a number of wide motor roads which can be used throughout the year by light cars and in the dry season by heavy lorries, and the whole country is covered with a network of "bush paths" which are seldom wide enough for two persons to walk abreast.

75. *Post Office, Telegraphs, and Telephones.*—There has been a large increase in postal traffic, especially in the number of parcels handled. It has not been found possible, owing to shortage of material, to proceed to any great extent with the construction of new telegraph lines, but both the telegraph and telephone services have been well maintained. All important stations are connected by telegraph, and there are telephone exchanges in all the large towns.

76. The Nigerian telegraph system is connected with the telegraphs of French West Africa by land lines, and there is cable communication between Lagos and other countries. There is a wireless station of small range at Lagos.

77. No flying machines have yet been seen in Nigeria. Investigations were made by Government as to the possibility of establishing a waterplane service between the coast towns but the cost involved made the scheme impossible.

78. *Public Works.*—The wharfage scheme for ocean steamers at Port Harcourt was commenced during the year (a first instalment of 1,050 ft. is being built), and the preliminaries in respect of the Lagos scheme were settled, a contract being let to Messrs. Armstrong Whitworth and Company early in 1921 for the construction of 1,800 ft. of wharfage for ocean steamers. A contract was let to the same firm for large railway workshops at the headquarters of the Western Division. The road programme was

pushed on with and the route for a main trunk road to the Cameroon Province was surveyed. It is on the extension of transport facilities, railways, roads, and harbours, that the future prosperity of Nigeria depends. A coal and petroleum wharf is also being constructed at the terminus of the Western Division of the Railway and a new electric light and power station for Lagos is in course of erection.

A. C. BURNS,

*Assistant Secretary.*

Lagos.

27th September, 1921.

## COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent Reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

		ANNUAL.						
<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>						<i>Year.</i>	
1062	Mauritius .. .. .						1919-1920	
1063	St. Vincent .. .. .					April-December	1919	
1064	Nigeria .. .. .						1919	
1065	Sierra Leone .. .. .						"	
1066	Gold Coast .. .. .						"	
1067	Jamaica .. .. .						1919-1920	
1068	British Guiana .. .. .						1919	
1069	Trinidad and Tobago .. .. .						"	
1070	British Honduras .. .. .						"	
1071	Hong Kong .. .. .						"	
1072	Barbados .. .. .						1919-1920	
1073	East Africa Protectorate .. .. .						1918-1919	
1074	Leeward Islands .. .. .						1919-1920	
1075	Nyasaland .. .. .						"	
1076	Falkland Islands .. .. .						1919	
1077	Bermuda .. .. .						1920	
1078	Grenada .. .. .						"	
1079	Uganda .. .. .						1919-1920	
1080	Fiji .. .. .						1920	
1081	Gibraltar .. .. .						"	
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast .. .. .						1919	
1083	Bechuanaland .. .. .						1920-1921	
1084	St. Helena .. .. .						1920	
1085	Basutoland .. .. .						1920-1921	
1086	Ceylon .. .. .						1920	
1087	Barbados .. .. .						1920-1921	
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands .. .. .						1919-1920	
1089	East Africa Protectorate .. .. .						"	
1090	Sierra Leone .. .. .						1920	
1091	Zanzibar .. .. .						"	
1092	Cayman Islands .. .. .						1918-1919	
1093	Cyprus .. .. .						1920	
1094	St. Vincent .. .. .						"	
1095	Bahamas .. .. .						1920-1921	
1096	Nyasaland .. .. .						1920	
1097	Weihaiwei .. .. .						"	

### MISCELLANEOUS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony, etc.</i>					<i>Subject.</i>
82	Imperial Institute .. .. .					Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria .. .. .					Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies .. .. .					Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria .. .. .					Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria .. .. .					Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon .. .. .					Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute .. .. .					Oil seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria .. .. .					Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent .. .. .					Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate .. .. .					Geology and Geography of the Northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General .. .. .					Fishes of the Colonies.