

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

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No. 583.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

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REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, see No. 554.)

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.  
*November, 1908.*

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No. 583.

**SOUTHERN NIGERIA.**(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 554.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,  
Lagos, Southern Nigeria,  
12th September, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Blue Book Report on this administration for the calendar year 1907, which was one of very great prosperity as the following figures show:—

	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Revenue ... ..	1,088,717	1,459,554
Expenditure ... ..	1,056,290	1,217,337
Trade (exclusive of specie) ... ..	5,797,000	7,702,000

2. The report, compiled by Mr. F. S. James, Acting Colonial Secretary, is evidence of the excellent work done by the Civil Service of this Colony and Protectorate, and of the rapid development of the resources of this rich country.

3. The expansion of Southern Nigeria is well shown by the chart appended to the report.

4. The year is notable for the very great extension in trade and revenue, for the opening of the railway to Oshogbo, 186 miles from the coast terminus, for the inauguration of a volunteer force, for the commencement, after over 20 years of discussion, of dredging operations on the Lagos bar, and of the harbour works designed to deepen the entrance to the harbour, for the improvement in the health of the European population, and for the increase in the production of cotton as shown by the following figures:—

	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Value of cotton and cotton seed exported	51,906	107,891

I have, &amp;c.,

W. EGERTON,  
Governor.

The Right Honourable,  
The Earl of Crewe, P.C., K.G.,  
Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
&c., &c., &c.

## ANNUAL BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1907.

## FINANCIAL.

The total revenue collected amounted to £1,459,554, exceeding the amount estimated by £306,875, and the revenue receipts of the previous year by £370,837. The excess over the estimate is partly accounted for (1) by the increased duty on spirits—raised from 3s. 6d. to 4s. a gallon on 22nd December, 1906, and (2) by the high prices paid for West African produce in the European markets, resulting in increased importations of the staple goods for which such produce is exchanged and a corresponding increase in Customs duties and Railway receipts, the principal items of revenue affected. The foregoing reasons account for the excess over the previous year's receipts; but much is due to the increased confidence of the natives in the administration and the progress made in the development of the country by the improvement of means of communication and the establishment of peace and good order.

2. The following statement shows the receipts under each head of revenue compared with the preceding year:—

Head of Revenue.	1907.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs duties ... ..	1,178,193	885,858	292,335	—
Harbour and lighthouse dues ...	1,812	1,431	381	—
Licences, &c. ... ..	17,497	19,028	—	1,531
Fees of Court, &c. ... ..	79,380	47,128	32,252	—
Postal Revenue ... ..	8,196	11,840	—	3,644
Rent of Government properties	1,932	563	1,369	—
Interest ... ..	15,129	25,637	—	10,508
Miscellaneous ... ..	8,329	10,730	—	2,401
Railway and tramway ... ..	148,234	84,842	63,392	—
Land sales ... ..	852	1,660	—	808
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,459,554</b>	<b>1,088,717</b>	<b>389,729</b>	<b>18,892</b>

3. The receipts from Customs duties amounted to 80·7 per cent. of the revenue received from all sources. The receipts from specific duties totalled £994,130, compared with £754,888 in 1906, while *ad valorem* duties amounted to £184,063, compared with £130,970 in 1906. The following are the percentages of the duty derived from the principal articles on which duties of customs are levied:—

	Per cent.	£
Spirits ... ..	68	807,000
Cotton Goods ... ..	9	107,000
Tobacco Unmanufactured	8	93,000

4. The actual expenditure for the year met from revenue amounted to £1,217,337, as against £1,056,290 in the preceding year, while further expenditure chargeable to loans (railway construction, &c.) amounted to £296,871, compared with £262,343 in 1906. With regard to the expenditure met from revenue, the sum of £1,162,733 was supplemented by £85,046, and in addition the following expenditure originally intended to be met from loans was actually met from revenue:—

	£
Harbour Works ... ..	2,623
Warri-Benin Road ... ..	27,578
Dredger for Lagos Bar ... ..	49,179
	£79,380

The actual excess of the estimated over the actual expenditure amounted therefore to £109,822. As regards loan expenditure, which totalled £296,871, the sum of £280,766 was expended on railway extension, and £16,072 on harbour works at Lagos, preparations being made for the construction of the eastern mole in connexion with the deepening of the entrance into Lagos harbour. The total sum expended on railway construction to 31st December, 1907, amounted to £1,958,522.

5. The following statement shows the amount spent from each head of expenditure during the year 1907, compared with the preceding year:—

Head of Expenditure.	1907.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt	70,345	70,083	262	—
Pensions and gratuities ... ..	12,224	12,052	172	—
Governor's office ... ..	7,210	9,423	—	2,213
Colonial Secretariat ... ..	9,562	12,076	—	2,514
Political and administrative ... ..	68,814	66,568	2,246	—
Judicial ... ..	9,745	9,195	550	—
Legal and registration ... ..	2,677	2,610	67	—
Treasury and Customs ... ..	34,293	33,087	1,206	—
Postal and telegraphs ... ..	12,280	10,385	11,335	—
Audit ... ..	15,440	5,351	364	—
Printing ... ..	5,715	6,841	221	—
W.A.F.F., S.N.R. ... ..	7,062	84,169	16,129	—
Volunteer Force ... ..	100,298	—	1,084	—
Marine ... ..	1,084	92,195	22,678	—
Civil Police ... ..	114,873	31,411	3,721	—
Prisons ... ..	35,132	22,180	1,323	—
Forestry and agriculture ... ..	23,503	17,401	8,322	—
Carried forward ... ..	20,723	401,027	64,680	4,727
	550,980	401,027	64,680	4,727

Head of Expenditure.	1907.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	550,980	491,027	64,680	4,727
Medical ...	48,250	45,609	2,641	—
Sanitary ...	3,516	2,613	903	—
Native affairs ...	20,212	8,964	11,248	—
Edu. tion ...	16,638	12,521	4,117	—
Land and Survey Department	1,229 8,588	9,236	581	—
Laboratory ...	639	636	3	—
Rent ...	1,566	1,013	553	—
Charitable ...	412	325	87	—
Transport ...	54,581	35,167	19,414	—
Contribution to Northern Nigeria	71,250	75,000	—	3,750
Miscellaneous services ...	21,179	50,596	—	29,417
Public Works Department	34,176	36,349	—	2,178
Roads construction ...	3,640	1,903	1,737	—
Works and buildings :				
Annually recurrent ...	36,461	51,216	—	14,755
Roads and bridges :				
Annually recurrent ...	5,732	1,398	4,334	—
Government motor transport :				
Ibadan and Oyo ...	4,265	—	4,265	—
Railway ...	74,997	59,181	15,816	—
Tramway ...	1,633	1,539	94	—
Carter & Denton Bridges	1,256	689	567	—
Works and buildings :				
Extraordinary ...	102,055	123,102	—	21,047
Roads and bridges :				
Extraordinary ...	65,744	15,899	49,845	—
Telegraphs :				
Extraordinary ...	17,715	11,204	6,511	—
Marine do. ...	61,019	21,105	39,914	—
Works chargeable to Surplus Funds.	9,604	—	9,604	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>1,217,337</b>	<b>1,056,292</b>	<b>236,914</b>	<b>75,869</b>

6. The following statement shows the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1903 ...	760,230	757,953
1904 ...	888,136	863,917
1905 ...	951,748	998,564
1906 ...	1,088,717	1,056,290
1907 ...	1,459,554	1,217,337

7. There have been no important changes in taxation during the year, though the increase of 6*d.* a gallon on spirits practically affected the revenue of the year, as, although levied in 1906, it only took effect in that year from 22nd December.

8. The following is the statement of assets and liabilities on 31st December, 1907:—

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Deposits due by the Colony and Protectorate—		Cash Balances .. ..	135,023 8 0
Savings Bank .. £ 30,813 5 2		Advances due to the Colony and Protectorate—	
Sundries .. £ 133,871 13 6	104,684 18 8	Lagos Railway 104,788 10 0	
		Baro-Kano Rail- way. 24,000 0 0	
Drafts on Crown Agents unpaid.	848 18 4	Sundries .. 00,825 1 8	210,413 12 5
Remittances from Crown Agents.	3,000 0 0	Remittances in transit.. ..	64,434 2 5
Due on Sinking and Depreciation Funds	23,021 6 7	Investments—	
Excess of Assets over Liabilities.	632,338 2 9	Savings Bank .. 24,350 0 0	
		Sundries .. 357,648 18 11	
		Sinking and Appropriated Funds. 23,021 6 7	405,020 3 6
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>£ 823,891 6 4</b>	<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>£ 823,891 6 4</b>

NOTE.—(a) Liability—Lagos Railway (1905) loan issued £2,000,000, realised £1,889,217 18s. 10d. net. Lagos Railway Construction Account £1,968,522 5s. 2d. (overpaid on this account from surplus balances pending issue of new loan £69,304 6s. 4d.).

NOTE.—(b) Extraordinary expenditure on services other than railway from surplus balances pending issue of new loan £18,071 14s. 7d.

The excess of assets over liabilities, amounting to £632,338, is £156,841 more than at the close of the preceding year, when it amounted to £475,497. The improvement in the financial position over that of 1906 represents the excess revenue over expenditure for the year 1907. A further sum of £85,376 was expended on railway extension and harbour works in anticipation of the raising of the new loan since floated: this sum is not shown as an asset, although it will become an asset when a similar amount is transferred to surplus balances from the loan since raised.

9. The total indebtedness of the Colony and Protectorate on 31st December, 1907, amounted to £2,000,000 raised by loan in 1905, which realized £1,889,552 net, and has been expended on railway construction. Provision has been made for the repayment of this loan from revenue by a sinking fund commencing in September, 1908.

10. The banking business of the Government is transacted by the Bank of British West Africa, under an agreement entered into in 1894. This agreement, however, applies only to Lagos, and equal facilities are still lacking in the Central and Eastern Provinces. The competition introduced into the banking business in Lagos by the establishment of a branch of the Bank of Nigeria has proved beneficial to Government and the mercantile community.

## TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

11. Imports and exports increased abnormally during the year under review, the gross total value of the trade amounting to £9,824,391, compared with £7,185,269 in 1906—a difference of £2,639,122—or, if specie is excluded, amounting to £8,883,453, compared with £6,683,292—a difference of £2,200,161.

12. The principal reason for this large increase can be found in an exceptionally good “oil” season and in the high prices for West African produce prevailing during the year in the European markets, but at the same time due weight must be attached to the following factors:—

(a.) Improved means of communication by the extension of the railway, the construction of roads, the clearing of rivers, and the establishment of public transport services, resulting in the markets being made more accessible and in a consequent increase in the produce output;

(b.) Material development of agriculture throughout the country, more especially in the Lagos Province; and

(c.) The more settled state of the country, due to increasing confidence in the administration.

## IMPORTS.

13. The value of the Commercial and Government imports for the last two years, excluding specie and import duties, amounted to: 1907, £3,839,339—1906, £2,847,317.

14. The following figures show the percentages supplied by the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, and other countries:—

	1907.	1906.
	Per cent	Per cent
United Kingdom ... ..	75·3	75·6
Germany ... ..	12·4	10·7
Holland ... ..	8·4	9·5
Other Countries ... ..	3·9	4·2

15. Increases have taken place in all the principal imports except silk, which apparently drops from £60,000 to £48,000. The explanation has been suggested that some cotton goods in 1906 were wrongly classified as silk.

16. There has been an increase of £317,000 in cotton goods, the total imports being valued at £1,078,000 as compared with £760,000 during the year 1906. It is noteworthy, as an indication of the development of trade in the north, that cotton goods to the value of £132,000 passed up the Niger to Northern Nigeria during the year, whereas in 1902 the whole of the imports into that country are reported to have amounted to only £59,000.

17. The importation of spirits\* aggregates about three quarters of a million gallons more than in the previous year. The percentage of the total importations during the last two years is:—

	Per cent.
1907 ... ..	10
1906 ... ..	10·6

It is noteworthy that in the Western Province with exports totalling to £334,000 more than in 1906, spirit imports increased by only 5 per cent. The value of the importations of spirits for each Province is given below:—

	1907.	1906.
Western Province ... ..	98,844	82,859
Central „ ... ..	96,072	61,983
Eastern „ ... ..	190,588	156,439

It is interesting to note the relative value of the imports of cotton goods and spirits into Nigeria during the year under review, comparing the cost of the goods in Europe with the cost when delivered from the Custom House for consumption in Southern Nigeria:—

	Declared value on importation.	Value with duty added.
	£	£
Cotton goods ... ..	1,078,224	1,185,627
Spirits ... ..	385,505	1,192,447

#### EXPORTS.

18. The value of the exports, excluding specie, compared with the previous year is as follows:—

1907.	1906.
£3,863,332	£2,950,391

and the following figures show the percentages taken by the various countries supplied with produce from Nigeria:—

	1907.	1906.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom ... ..	52·7	56·9
Germany ... ..	41·9	39·2
France ... ..	2·2	1·2
Other countries ... ..	3·2	2·7

19. The percentage supplied to the United Kingdom has been affected by the increased export of palm kernels, as practically the whole of the extra production (20,000 tons) was taken by Germany, the consignments of kernels to the United Kingdom being 1,100 tons less than in 1906. The increased percentage of trade to France has been caused by the larger shipments of palm oil to that country (£74,000 in 1907, compared with £32,000 in 1906).

\* A comparative statement of the imports of spirits during the past five years is given in the Appendix.

20. The following figures show the value and quantity of palm oil and palm kernels exported, compared with the preceding year:—

Palm oil, 1907, 18,332,531 gallons, £1,313,960 (including £48,000, Northern Nigeria).

„ 1906, 16,032,571 gallons, £1,001,648.

Palm kernels 1907, 133,630 tons, £1,658,292 (including £22,609, Northern Nigeria).

„ 1906, 113,347 tons, £1,193,939.

The exports are the best on record both as regards value and bulk, for, although, as far as palm kernels are concerned, the official returns for 1904 show that 139,000 tons were exported in that year, the figures for the first eight months included the kernels exported from the French Colony of Dahomey passing through the inland waters of Lagos. This transit trade is not now included in the trade of Southern Nigeria.

21. The following comparative statement shows the export of palm oil from each Province, compared with kernels:—

—				Oil.	Kernels.	Average gallons oil to one ton kernels.
				Gallons.	Tons.	
Western	...	...	...	3,848,789	57,505	67
Central	...	...	...	3,594,535	29,331	122½
Eastern	...	...	...	10,889,457	46,794	232
Total ...				18,332,531	133,630	137

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that there is opportunity for great development of the trade in kernels in the Eastern and Central Provinces, and, if the exports were only 75 per cent. of what the Western Province yields, 80,000 tons more would go out of the country yearly. In the Central Province improved transport arrangements will gradually improve the output. In the Eastern Province in certain districts the lack of transport and the ease with which the wants of the population are satisfied remain the chief causes retarding the development of the trade. From Opobo, the most important trading district in the Eastern Province, 25 per cent. more oil is shipped than from the Western Province, whereas the quantity of palm kernels exported amounts to 25 per cent. that of the Western Province. The difficulties of transport compared with the facilities in Lagos to some extent account for the difference, but the chief reason is the backward condition of the Ibibio and Kwa races. The average for 1907, with the high prices prevailing in the European market for kernels, was 137 gallons of oil to one ton of kernels, compared with 350 gallons in 1904, when not

more than three quarters of last year's prices were paid by the merchants. In the early days of the Protectorate the Opobo merchants paid over to the chiefs a larger percentage of the price paid for oil than for kernels, and the European traders by these "dashes" encouraged the oil trade to the detriment of the kernel trade. The chiefs compelled their people to trade in oil as affording them larger profits and presenting fewer difficulties. In consequence the Opobo native traders for years despised the kernel trade as "a small boy's trade," prices being small and profits less, with the consequence that only women and small traders engaged in it. Although all "dashes" have for many years been abolished, the up-river markets are still dominated by the Opobo chiefs, who do little to develop this trade, as they make ample profits on the oil trade, and their whole time is occupied in dealing with and transporting the more profitable produce. The extensive clearing of the Imo River and its tributaries by the Government in 1907 and 1908 will assist in hastening the further development of this trade which is sure ultimately to take place.

22. The quantities and value of rubber exported during the year under review compared with the previous year are:—

1907.	1906.
2,843,823 lbs.—£244,989.	3,434,279 lbs.—£307,077

The decrease in the export is due to the fact that tapping has been prohibited in some of the principal rubber districts. Officers of the Forestry Department give instruction to natives as to the best means of tapping and preparing rubber for the European market. All the rubber exported at present is forest produce. There are large tracts of land in well-situated areas throughout the country suitable for planting Para rubber, and plantations of Para and *Funtumia Elastica* rubber started in recent years in the Central Province are doing well.

23. The value of the exports of timber, compared with the preceding year, is as shown below:—

1907.	1906.
£69,241	£68,718

The bulk of the timber exported was procured from West African mahoganies, valued at £62,834; the value of other timber amounted to £6,407.

24. The following are the export values of cotton for the last two years:—

1907.	1906.
£107,891	£51,906

Cotton has been exported for many years from Lagos, and the value of the exports (at the high prices then current) in 1869 amounted to £77,000. In 1903 the British Cotton Growing Association, aided materially by the Government,

commenced serious operations. At that time the average exports for four years past had been only 15,000 lbs. weight, of the value of, say, £375. The actual weight of lint cotton shipped from Lagos in the last two years was:—

1907.	1906.
3,790,345 lbs.	2,294,629 lbs.

The Commercial Intelligence Officer in reporting on the trade of the country writes:—

“Cotton is already grown for local use in most of the districts which will be served by the railway now in course of construction, and it is cultivated so cheaply that in the north I bought seed cotton at a price which would permit of its being landed at Liverpool at 3½d. per lb., after allowing for the cost of ginning and rail and steamer freights, &c. Even on the borders of Southern Nigeria, pure coarse country cloths, made from cotton, grown, ginned, spun, and woven locally, can be bought at a price which works out at only 10d. per lb. in the cloth. To anyone who has travelled through the country beyond the palm belt, and has given attention to the extraordinary low prices at which locally-grown produce and native manufactures are sold, there can be no doubt as to Nigeria having the handicap in its favour so far as labour values amongst the natives themselves are concerned.

“In the Lagos Province we have in the fifth year shipped a crop of 9,000 bales of 400 lbs., and it must not be forgotten that this has been produced in a country where there are strong competing industries which will not apply to anything like the same extent beyond Ikerun, and that only hoes and manual labour have so far been used on the farms, no draught animals being employed. In the open country which the railway is now entering, cattle and donkeys can live and thrive, and from the condition of the majority of the farms I saw in the north I consider ploughing will be feasible.

“The important points to be considered with a view to properly developing the cotton industry, are, to my mind:—

“(a) The maintenance of staple buying rates.

“(b) Careful selection of seed, giving particular attention to the improvement of indigenous varieties.

“(c) Suitable rotation of crops bringing in something which can be exported—ground-nuts for example.

“(d) Introduction of ploughs and other labour-saving implements, and

“(e) The presence on the spot of the merchants whose assorted goods will induce the natives to work.”

25. The quantity and value of the export of cocoa, compared with the preceding year, are as follows:—

1907.	1906.
2,089,226 lbs.—£47,840.	1,619,987 lbs.—£27,054

Three-quarters of the cocoa exported is grown in the Western Province, the figures for the last two years being:—

	1907.	1906.
	lbs.	lbs.
Western Province ...	1,525,089	1,153,439
Central „ ...	1,936	1,284
Eastern „ ...	562,201	465,263

There is ample scope for expansion of this crop, as excellent land is available which could be utilised for the purpose. The export is steadily increasing. It amounted to only 687,845 lbs., valued at £11,206, in 1902.

26. The exports of maize for the last two years are as follows:—

1907.	1906.
9,891 tons—£28,521	13,074 tons—£37,386

At present the whole of the maize exported is grown in the Western Province, and although the returns show that a considerable falling off has taken place, it is said that the business done was really of a more satisfactory nature to the merchants, who refrained from buying green corn, and in consequence there was less loss of weight by  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in the 1907 shipments. Owing to the exceptionally dry autumn the second crop in 1907 was a failure.

27. The value of imports and exports exclusive of specie and duties in the last five years is given below:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1903 ...	2,128,000	1,356,000	4,484,000
1904 ...	2,371,000	2,635,000	5,006,000
1905 ...	2,592,000	2,553,000	5,145,000
1906 ...	2,847,000	2,951,000	5,797,000
1907 ...	3,339,000	3,863,000	7,702,000

#### AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

28. Details of the principal agricultural products have been given in connexion with exports. In addition to cotton, cocoa, and maize, rice is grown to a very small extent in the Western Province. Guinea corn is extensively grown for local consumption in the hinterland of Southern Nigeria, north of the 7th degree of latitude. Ground-nuts grow well in the northern parts of the country, and instruction is being given to the farmers in the best methods of cultivation.

29. Botanical stations exist at Olokemeji in the Western Province, Calabar in the Eastern Province, and Onitsha on the Niger in the Central Province. Experiments are carried

out at these stations to ascertain the most suitable crops for cultivation and the best rotation possible. From these stations large numbers of plants and seeds are distributed to District Commissioners and farmers. The natives are thus readily supplied with plants and seeds suitable for cultivation, and instruction in the best methods of cultivation is obtainable.

#### LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

30. Up to 16th October, 1905, the majority of land grants on Lagos Island—of recent years—were made under the Swamps Ordinance by "Swamp Agreements." The Government sold a portion of an unfilled swamp to a private individual on the understanding that he was to fill it up to a certain level within a fixed time with suitable materials, and, if the conditions were satisfactorily fulfilled, that he should then have a Crown grant of the area in question. The following notice was published on the date mentioned: "Intending applicants for allotments of Swamp Land in the Island of Lagos are informed that no further grants of Swamp Lands for reclamation purposes will be issued until further notice." Many of the old agreements have not been satisfactorily completed, and this system of swamp reclamation has proved a complete failure.

31. Leases of Crown lands in non-swamp localities are granted from time to time, each case being dealt with on its merits. The rent payable varies according to the locality.

32. The real value of land on Lagos Island and its neighbourhood is very difficult to estimate; so much as £2 (approximately) a square yard has been paid for land on the Marina, the principal business thoroughfare, while even in the poorer portions of the town no land is obtainable at a less rate than 9*d.* to 1*s.* per square yard. There is much speculative buying of land, and the high prices now ruling are probably in excess of the true value.

35. The Supreme Court has recently—in proceedings for the acquisition of land for public purposes taken under the Public Lands Ordinance of 1876—fixed the present value of land in various parts of the Island and its neighbourhood as follows:—Victoria Road (the main trading thoroughfare of the native population) 4*s.* per square yard; Offin Road (one of the swamp-reclaimed areas between the Marina and Carter Bridge) 1*s.* per square yard; Race Course (the better residential quarter) from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* per square yard according to position; Ebute Metta, within 1,000 feet of the railway, 1*s.* 3*d.* per square yard; and on the east of the MacGregor Canal at from 5*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per square yard.

The great difficulty in arriving at any definite value is the fact that adjoining and identical portions of land change ownership at or near the same time at widely divergent rates, and so many of the purchases are merely speculative.

## SHIPPING.

34. The following statement shows the steamers and sailing vessels inwards and outwards compared with the previous year:—

Flag.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1906.		1907.		1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steam:—								
British .. .. .	298	504,885	308	506,437	281	443,993	296	484,979
Foreign .. .. .	177	209,932	166	206,477	181	218,762	160	197,634
Sail:—								
British .. .. .	8	1,341	2	670	3	1,272	3	1,110
Foreign .. .. .	1	6	—	—	1	6	—	—
Total .. .. .	479	716,144	476	712,584	446	659,033	459	683,723

It is not possible to make any further comparison owing to the amalgamation of Lagos with the Southern Nigeria Protectorate in 1906, as ships which called at Lagos also called in some cases at the river ports, and a combination of the statistics of the two places would give a most inaccurate result. The carrying trade is practically divided among British and German ships.

35. The following statement shows the value of the trade carried during the year, compared with the preceding year:—

—	Southern Nigeria.				Porto Novo.			
	1906.		1907.		1906.		1907.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.
Entered ..	£ 2,779,926	£ 868,843	£ 3,928,031	£ 515,975	£ 25,842	£ 10,851	£ 46,291	£ 6,452
Cleared ..	2,450,401	851,017	3,232,896	970,809	40,654	123,409	51,062	111,616
Total ..	5,180,327	1,119,860	7,155,426	1,486,184	66,496	133,760	97,378	118,068

British shipping has captured the greater portion of the increased trade. The trade with Germany during the year totalled £2,100,000, whereas the value of trade carried in foreign ships amounted to £1,486,000 only.

## LEGISLATION.

36. The legislation of the year was in the main confined to amendments of existing laws, and the consolidation of the two systems in force in Lagos and in the old Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

37. The subjects of new legislation include the constitution of lunatic asylums, the institution of a Volunteer Force, the surrender of fugitive criminals from the Protectorate, and the regulation of mining for oil.

38. The Lunatic Asylum Ordinance has been passed for the purpose of providing for the detention and proper treatment of lunatics in the Colony and Protectorate. It provides for the establishment of asylums, the appointment of officers and visitors, the adjudication of persons as lunatics, the discharge of lunatics, and the disposal of lunatics' property; it sets forth the offences, and gives the Governor power to make rules. The Fugitive Criminal Surrender Ordinance provides for the surrender of fugitive offenders between Southern Nigeria and the possessions of foreign Powers in West Africa. The Ordinance regulates the procedure under which criminals may be surrendered, and sets forth the list of crimes for which surrender is permissible. The Volunteer Ordinance was passed in contemplation of the formation of a Volunteer Force in the Colony. The Ordinance provides for the organization of the force, the occasions when the force can be called out for actual military service, its discipline, and miscellaneous matters as to its property, arms, and other matters. The Mining Regulation (Oil) Ordinances of 1907 regulate the raising, winning, and getting of mineral oils in the Colony and Protectorate.

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## EDUCATION.

### PRIMARY EDUCATION AND NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

39. The course of primary education is according to a syllabus of subjects including the highest Standard prescribed in the English Education Code for elementary schools. But the revised syllabus, which it is hoped will shortly come into force with the new Education Code of the Colony, makes special provision for the teaching of English as a living language. Throughout the schools the elementary matters of instruction received adequate attention.

40. The schools administered under the supervision of the Education Department are of two classes, namely, Government and Assisted schools; to the latter are awarded grants in aid on inspection and examination. The number of Government schools at the end of the year was 6 in the Western Province, 18 in the Central, and 16 in the Eastern, making a total of 40. The number of assisted schools was 36 in the Western, 12 in the Central, and 25 in the Eastern, making a total of 73. The total number of schools under the supervision of the Department was therefore 113.

41. The children under instruction in Government schools were: in the Western Province, 514 boys and 31 girls—total 545, with an average attendance of 394; in the Central Province, 1,073 boys and 145 girls—total 1,218, with an average attendance of 825; in the Eastern Province, 1,036 boys and 39 girls—total 1,075, with an average attendance of 712. The total enrolment of the Government schools in the three provinces was therefore 2,838, and the average attendance 1,931.

42. In the assisted schools the number under instruction was: in the Western Province, 3,681 boys and 1,437 girls—total 5,118, with an average attendance of 2,732; in the Central Province, 1,225 boys and 99 girls—total 1,324, with an average attendance of 1,062; in the Eastern Province, 2,815 boys and 776 girls—total 3,591, with an average attendance of 2,259. The total enrolment of the assisted schools was therefore 10,033, and the average attendance 6,035.

43. It will thus be seen that at the end of the year the total enrolment in Government and assisted schools was, 12,871, and the average attendance 8,984.

44. Besides the schools included in the above totals there is a large number of mission and private schools in each of the provinces which either have not sought, or, on account of inability to comply with the Code, have not obtained financial assistance from the Government. It may also be mentioned that the Education Law of the Colony does not apply to the schools in the interior of the Western Province.

45. Moslem schools exist in the Western Province, and the children in regular attendance numbered about 2,500. The instruction is confined to learning by heart and copying portions of the Koran, and the schools are generally held in the teacher's house or in the open street.

46. What are locally known as "secondary" schools are, strictly speaking, higher grade elementary schools containing classes in which instruction is given in the subjects of the higher Standards of the Education Code, together with a somewhat enlarged curriculum of literary or technical subjects. The fees in these secondary schools are higher, and the teachers are better qualified than those in the elementary schools. The extra subjects taught include a little Latin, Greek, and French, the more elementary parts of algebra and geometry, and such commercial subjects as book-keeping, shorthand, and type-writing.

47. In the Central Province small gardens are attached to 10 Government and 2 assisted schools, and workshops for instruction in carpentry to 6 Government and 1 assisted schools. Similar workshops are also attached to 2 schools in the Eastern Province. All these schools are elementary.

48. Technical departments are also provided in connexion with some of the secondary schools for boys and girls in the Western and Eastern Provinces. There are two boys' schools thus provided: the Government boys' school at Bonny and the Hope-Waddell Institute of the United Free Church of Scotland Mission in Calabar. The three girls' schools thus provided are all at Lagos; two are in connexion with the Roman Catholic Mission, and the third is connected with the Church Missionary Society. In the boys' schools the course comprises wood-sawing, carpentry, joinery, coopering, engineering, telegraphy, printing, tailoring, and also a little gardening. In the girls' schools domestic economy is taught in its various branches, plain needlework, washing and ironing, baking of bread, preparation of native foodstuffs, fancy needlework, and instruction in native industries of any kind according to an approved scheme.

49. Two schools have also been opened at Onitsha in the Central Province, one by the Bishop of Western Equatorial Africa and the other by the Roman Catholic Mission. In these schools all the pupils are really apprentices to some trade or other. They are systematically and practically taught their trade by competent teachers and devote their whole time thereto. At the end of the year the Bishop's school had 32 apprentices under training, including 19 carpenters, 11 sawyers, and 2 turners. This institution has already supplied well-trained apprentices to the Public Works Department. The school itself has also done a large amount of useful work for the Government in the shape of house fittings and furniture made for quarters and offices. At the Roman Catholic Onitsha school 21 apprentices received instruction in carpentry, bricklaying, and joinery throughout the year.

50. In the Western Province two schools for boys and girls have been established by the Roman Catholic Mission at the Topo settlement. Nearly the whole of the time of the boys is devoted to farming, gardening, and cattle-rearing; and the girls are taught the more practical branches of domestic economy. A strong feature of the farming is the cultivation of the cocconut and the manufacture of copra, large shipments of which are made to France.

51. The manual work introduced in the elementary schools has produced under good direction a remarkable effect on the habit of attention and order and on the physical vigour of the children generally, apart from the industrial and economic results of the instruction given, more especially in backward districts. It should be remembered that some of the elementary schools have been established in places where nothing was previously known of even the rudiments of the arts of carpentry, wood-sawing, or bricklaying. In many parts of the country the first village carpenter or the first village bricklayer has been trained in the industrial department of the village school.

In addition to the technical instruction given in schools large numbers of apprentices are trained in the Government workshops of the Railway, Marine, and Public Works Departments as fitters, joiners, carpenters, builders, boat builders, engine drivers, &c., &c.; and scholarships are given to the best pupils from the schools.

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## GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

### HOSPITALS.

52. At the Lagos Hospital 1,251 native and 103 European patients were treated as in-patients, and 6,043 (natives) were treated in the out-patient department. 205 operations were performed.

53. The daily average number of Europeans in ward was 4, being nearly double what it was three years ago. The local death-rate of Europeans admitted was 2.9 per cent. The death-rate among natives admitted was 5.1 per cent.

54. At Calabar, in the European Hospital, 107 patients were treated, and there were three deaths. In the Native Hospital 1,058 were treated, of whom 88 died. Cases numbering 4,235 were treated in the out-patient department.

55. European nurses are in attendance at these hospitals. Dispensaries are established in various parts of Lagos Town, while there is a Government Dispensary at all the important stations.

### ASYLUMS.

56. The leper asylums at Onitsha, in the Central Province, and at Yaba, near Lagos, afforded refuge to an average of 39 patients.

57. A lunatic asylum has been opened at Yaba, in which 21 patients were housed at the end of the year. There is also a criminal lunatic asylum at Calabar.

### SAVINGS BANK.

58. During the year 1907 the operations of the Savings Bank were confined to the town of Lagos and were carried on under the control of the Financial Commissioner; but from the 1st January, 1908, the management has been transferred to the Post Office, and the advantages of this institution extended to the principal stations of the Colony and Protectorate.

59. Sums deposited in the bank during the year amounted to £16,967 as against £17,469 in 1906—a decrease of £502; and withdrawals to £14,169 as against £14,638 in 1906—a decrease of £469.

60. The Savings Bank held a total of £30,813 for 2,668 depositors on 31st December, 1907, as against £28,015 which stood to the credit of 2,414 depositors on 31st December, 1906—an increase of £2,798.

61. A total sum of £24,350 has been invested by the Crown Agents for the Colonies in securities approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on behalf of the Savings Bank. Interest on this sum on 31st December, 1907, amounted to £805, which has been credited to general revenue.

62. Interest at 2½ per cent. per annum computed on the various amounts deposited during the year aggregated £696, of which a sum of £19 was paid to depositors who closed their accounts, the difference, viz., £677, being added to capital in favour of the remaining depositors. The amount realised by interest on invested Savings Bank funds was £805, the difference thus being £109 in favour of the bank.

63. The increase in the number of depositors was 254, while the accounts closed during the year numbered 129.

## JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

### POLICE.

64. The authorised establishment on 31st December, 1907, was 1,200, an increase of 116 on the preceding year; and the actual strength was 1,122, consisting of:—

European staff	...	...	...	10
Native staff	...	...	...	12
Clerks, &c.	...	...	...	10
Rank and file	...	...	...	1,090
				1,122

The force was allocated as follows:—

	Western Province.	Central Province.	Eastern Province.	Total.
Establishment ...	547	278	880	1,200
Actual strength ...	536	247	839	1,122

The cause of this deficiency in establishment was the fact that a reduction in establishment to come into force from 1st January, 1908, of 85 constables, hitherto employed as prison guards, had been determined on, the duties of prison guards being in future undertaken by prison officers.

65. Police were for the first time sent to Oban and Okigwi, two newly-formed districts in the Eastern Province. In the Western Province 16 constables proceeded to Ilesha and relieved a detachment of the Southern Nigeria Regiment.

66. The force are armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine '303.

#### PRISONS.

67. There are 36 prisons in Southern Nigeria, and in 1907 there were 13,827 prisoners. The chief prisons are at Lagos and Calabar, under the direct supervision of European prison officials; in the other districts the political officers are responsible for superintending the work of the prisons.

68. An outbreak of beri-beri occurred in the Calabar prison, but the spread of the disease was stopped by the transfer of the prisoners to another station. A revision of the prison diets has been made with a view to supplying prisoners with the food to which they are accustomed when free. Instructions have been given by the medical authorities to boil the drinking water.

69. The prisoners are engaged on sanitary work, and clearing Government grounds and keeping them in order. Some industrial work has been carried out, the cash earnings amounting to £355.

#### CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

70. The number of persons apprehended or summoned before all the Courts was 5,390, of whom 4,384 were convicted and 1,006 discharged.

	Western Province.	Central Province.	Eastern Province.	Total.
Convicted ... ..	1,968	526	1,890	4,384
Discharged ... ..	887	175	444	1,006
Total ... ..	2,855	701	2,334	5,890

71. The number of offences dealt with was 3,812, of which 2,064 were indictable and 1,748 non-indictable. Out of the 3,812 cases dealt with, 2,924 resulted in convictions, 801 in acquittals; 5 prisoners were remanded; 13 died before trial; and 69 cases, of which the results are not yet reported, were committed to Assizes.

72. The estimated value (by complainants) of property stolen was £3,118, of which £1,052 was recovered; but the valuation often proved to be exaggerated, and not infrequently reports received of loss were found on examination to be purely hypothetical.

73. The number of "offences against the person" was 1,101, resulting in 716 convictions. The most serious were murder (113) and slave-dealing (292).

74. The number of "offences against property" was 1,246, of which 995 were proved. The most serious were larceny and receiving (1,027) and false pretences (67).

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### VITAL STATISTICS.

75. The estimated native population of Lagos in 1907 was 57,000 and the European population 400, as compared with 39,387 natives in 1891 and an estimated European population of 100. A census of the population of Southern Nigeria has never been taken; but officers acquainted with various parts of the hinterland have formed estimates of the population, and the result works out at 6,000,000 for the whole country, distributed as follows:—

Western Province	...	...	2,200,000
Eastern Province	...	...	2,200,000
Central Province	...	...	1,600,000

### GENERAL STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

76. The general state of health on the whole was as good as in the preceding year so far as Europeans are concerned; regarding natives, there are no reliable statistics except in Lagos Town, where the death-rate is recorded at 39·8 a thousand against 48·5 in the preceding year.

77. In Lagos there was no death among European officials from malaria or blackwater fever, while among other European residents 1 death from malaria occurred as compared with 5 from malaria and 5 from blackwater in 1906. Seven Europeans died in the Western Province compared with 15 in 1906.

78. In the Central Province there were 3 deaths among officials and 6 among non-officials from a population of 301 Europeans, as compared with 6 deaths among officials and 3 deaths among non-officials from a population of 273 in 1906.

79. In the Eastern Province 2 officials and 3 non-officials died, compared with 3 and 6 respectively in the preceding year.

## SANITATION AND ANTIMALARIA WORK.

80. The clearing of bush around the settlements and the reclamation of swamp land in the neighbourhood of the various stations steadily continued, special attention being given to the reclamation of the unwholesome swamp areas in Lagos town.

81. A sewage disposal system for Lagos town was inaugurated consisting of the use of dry-earth-pans, with depôts in various places for the receipt of pans and issue of earth. From the depôts the 'sewage' is conveyed away by rail. Throughout the country sewage disposal is, on the whole, satisfactory, even in the small settlements, so far as the European quarters are concerned, and in the larger centres the natives are being taught cleanliness and obedience to sanitary demands in this respect, public latrines being provided. The system in vogue, as in Lagos, is the dry-earth-pan, with daily burial of the sewage in trenches in suitable areas, or, in some places, the emptying of the pans into the sea, or central current of the large rivers near their mouths.

82. A scheme of water supply for Lagos town is receiving consideration. At Calabar the water supply is satisfactory and allows of the abolition of tanks and gutters. Tanks and wells supply the water requirements of the country generally, but at a few stations there is good spring water.

83. The main features of the antimalaria work carried out at all stations are:—

- Use of quinine as a prophylactic;
- Destruction of mosquito breeding grounds and larvæ;
- Use of kerosine oil for collections of water which cannot otherwise be treated;
- Clearing of bush;
- Filling of swamp land and surface depressions;
- Use of anti-mosquito wire-gauze for rooms and houses; and
- The use of quinine prophylaxis among natives, which is gradually spreading.

## CLIMATE.

84. At the Lagos Observatory the mean temperature was 80·4°; the highest shade temperature was 96° in February, and the lowest 68° in August.

85. The rainfall at stations on the coast or at the mouths of the various rivers is heavier than in the up-country districts. More rain fell at Opofo than at any other station, the rainfall there totalling 216·46". The lowest rainfall was at Shaki, where only 32·82" fell in the year. The rainfall at provincial headquarters was: Lagos, 79·46"; Calabar, 129·68"; Warri, 87·58".

86. The prevailing breeze blows from south to south-west, but during the harmattan, from the end of November to the beginning of February, a breeze blows in the early morning from a north-easterly direction.

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### POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

87. There has been a general increase in postal business conducted during the year under review compared with previous years, due to the growth of commerce and the further development of the country.

88. An increase of over 500,000 is shown in the number of articles, exclusive of parcels, passing through the post, and of 22,414 in the number of parcels dealt with, while the number of articles registered and insured has also increased.

89. Money Order business shows a falling off of £6,892, but this decrease is due to the extension of the British Postal Order system. British Postal Orders are now sold and paid at every station at which there is a District Commissioner or other responsible officer, so that against the decrease in Money Order business should be set the increase for the year under review of £22,554 in Postal Order business.

90. In the map accompanying the report the telegraph lines are shown. The principal districts of the country are now in telegraphic communication with Lagos and Bonny, where the African Direct Telegraph Company are established.

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### MILITARY.

91. The Southern Nigeria Regiment of the West African Frontier Force took part in the following operations during 1907:—

Ishinkwa Patrol, from 2nd to 12th January.

Uruala Patrol, from 17th to 25th February.

Aka Ogoni Patrol, from 14th January to 2nd March.

Ikot Ekpene Patrol, from 15th February to 11th March.

Etchi and Ngor Patrol, from 25th July to 20th September.

Ntarappu Ishianjo Patrol, in which Captain E. de H. Smith, who commanded, was fatally wounded.

92. A Volunteer Force was established in the year under review.

## MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

## RAILWAY.

93. The gross revenue of the Lagos Railway for the year amounted to £139,747, the working expenses to £74,435, and the net revenue to £65,312. The capital cost of the line in operation during 1907 cannot be exactly determined, as construction to Oshogbo was going on during the whole year. The approximate cost may, however, be placed at £1,640,000. On this sum the interest at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. amounts to £57,400, and as the net revenue was £65,304, the railway yielded a profit of nearly £8,000 after paying all expenses. This result, achieved for the first time since the railway was opened in 1901, is satisfactory.

94. The number of passengers carried in 1907 was 188,419, at a charge of £24,872, compared with 125,584 carried in the preceding year at a charge of £17,401. Taking into consideration the increase caused by the extension, the Iddo-Ibadan passenger traffic increased by 14,000, or 11 per cent. on 1906 traffic.

95. The tonnage of goods conveyed was 82,900, and the income derived therefrom £107,224, compared with 55,784 tons in the preceding year producing £62,957.

96. The increased business done is due to the opening of the Iwo-Oshogbo section, and to the Ibadan-Iwo section being only opened in October, 1906, and therefore not contributing largely to the revenue obtained in that year. The actual increase of local goods traffic on the Iddo-Ibadan section was worth £8,737.

## ROADS.

97. The construction of railway feeder roads has been actively carried on in the northern districts of the Western Province; and a road has been commenced with the object of establishing road communication between the Marine Works at Apapa, the railway, and Lagos. The metalling of Lagos town roads has been continued.

98. In the Central Province road construction was carried on with the usual energy in all the districts. On the road connecting Warri, Sapele, and Benin City 38 miles of earthworks were completed. The road connecting Onitsha with Awka, a sub-district 23 miles inland, was finished. A road between Onitsha and Oguta has also been commenced; and six miles of a cart road connecting Asaba with Okpanam (9 miles), where lignite deposits are known to exist, have been completed.

99. In the Eastern Province the construction of a road connecting Calabar with Uwet, on the Calabar River, and Itu on the Cross River, and extending thence to Ikot Ekpene, has been continued. The latter road will ultimately be continued from Ikot Ekpene to Awka, and so establish a main trunk road between the Niger and the Cross Rivers. Road construction was carried on in all the districts.

#### WATERWAYS.

100. The work of waterway clearing has continued steadily throughout the year. In the Eastern Province the River Imo and its tributaries the Otaminie and the Azuminie were cleared and opened up. The Osse River, in the Benin City district, was cleared for canoe traffic and the passage of logs from the neighbouring timber concessions. The waterways between Benin River and Lagos were kept clear of sudd blocks to allow the passage of timber rafts and the free passage of the river.

101. During the year a canal was cut connecting the Ologi Creek and Benin River and having its entrance just below Koko town, one of the principal timber ports in the Central Province. The canal, which is three-quarters of a mile in length, is 20 feet wide, and the depth is 2 feet, so that logs from the timber concessions of the Benin country can be easily floated through. A journey of 16 miles down the Ologi Creek is thereby saved.

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#### MARINE SERVICES.

102. In the Western Province there are two services:

- (i) Lagos—Porto Novo Service.—A mail and passenger service run weekly from Lagos to Porto Novo and back. The number of passengers carried was 2,785, an increase of 880 on the previous year.
- (ii) Lagos—Siluko.—A similar service to the above. The number of passengers carried was 2,701, an increase of 659 on the previous year. Its importance lies in the fact that a weekly mail service is maintained between Lagos and the timber concession and bitumen district.

103. In the Central Province the Niger Transport Service was carried out by Southern Nigeria until May, when it was handed over to Northern Nigeria, that Administration becoming responsible for serving the demands of both Northern and Southern Nigeria.

104. In the Eastern Province the transport service on the Cross River has worked well during the year. During the

wet season all launches and lighters were employed to the fullest capacity, and in many cases it was difficult to provide sufficient transport.

105. The dry season service on the Cross River is maintained by the motor canoes "Spider" and "Sandfly"; and regular communication with the up-river stations is thus assured.

106. A mail passenger and general transport service is run by launches between Bonny and Akassa, calling at Bakana, Buguma, Degema, and Brass, the chief ports along the route. There is a similar service between Bonny and Opobo. Regular communication is thus maintained between all stations and the homeward and outward mail steamers calling at Bonny.

The services are much appreciated by the public to whom they are a great convenience.

#### OYO—IBADAN MOTOR SERVICE.

107. Considerable improvement has taken place in the working of this service, which, although not directly remunerative, is much more convenient and expeditious than head portage, and is materially assisting in developing the trade of Oyo. In addition cheaper and better transport has been available for the carrying of Government material to the Oyo district, releasing for agricultural pursuits natives who would otherwise be employed as carriers by the Government and the commercial community.

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#### PUBLIC WORKS.

108. In Lagos the first and second wings of the Public Offices were completed and at once occupied.

Quarters for six European officials and two rest-houses were completed, in addition to various minor works.

109. In the Central Province the steamer pier at Forcados was nearly completed at the end of the year. Three hundred acres have been laid out at this station in roads and plots, with tidal drains cut to take off all surface water, and the whole place has been thoroughly cleared.

110. Warri has been thoroughly cleared; bungalows have been erected, gardens and grounds laid out, and much drainage work done.

111. At Onitsha a European hospital has been erected and several minor works carried out.

112. In the Eastern Province the principal work has been the continuation of the drainage and sanitation scheme for

Duke Town, consisting of road formation and drain construction throughout the town.

### IMPORTANT EVENTS.

113. The Iwo-Oshogbo section of the railway, 30 miles in length, was opened for public traffic at the end of April, 1907, bringing the length of open lines up to 186 miles from Lagos. The work of extension to Ilorin, 62 miles from Oshogbo, was in progress during the year; and, in August, the sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the further construction of the railway to Zungeru, whence a junction is to be effected with the Baro-Kano line now being built by the Government of Northern Nigeria. The completed line will extend to approximately 460 miles from Lagos. The Secretary of State's sanction to the expenditure of £40,000 was received towards the close of the year for increased facilities in the way of workshops, running sheds, traffic sidings, &c., at Ebute Metta, the railway headquarters. These extensions are necessary, as the present arrangements only suffice for the Iddo-Ibadan section.

114. At the end of May, 1907, the steam-dredger "Egerton" arrived at Lagos, and dredging operations on the bar commenced. On 28th July a direct channel on which the dredger was working was brought into use; and this channel having kept open, the draught for vessels was increased from 10 feet to 10 feet 6 inches on 31st December, and at the time of writing is 13 feet.

115. There have been no important changes in the civil establishment of the Colony during the year 1907. His Excellency Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., was absent on leave from 14th May to 27th October, and during that period Mr. J. J. Thorburn, C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor and Colonial Secretary, administered the Government. Mr. F. S. James, C.M.G., Provincial Commissioner, acted as Colonial Secretary from 30th March to 7th May, during Mr. Thorburn's absence on a sick trip, and from 14th May to 27th October, while the latter acted as Governor.

116. The following officers were in charge of the Eastern and Central Provinces during the year, 1907:—

#### *Eastern Province.*

Mr. H. Bedwell. 1st January to 14th May.  
 Mr. H. A. Simpson-Gray. 15th May to 23rd May.  
 Lieutenant H. A. Child, R.N. 24th May to 6th June.  
 Mr. W. F. W. Fosbery, C.M.G. 7th June to 31st  
 December.

*Central Province.*

Mr. F. S. James, C.M.G. 1st January to 29th March.

Mr. R. Roberts. 30th March to 17th June.

Mr. H. Bedwell. 18th June to 31st December.

The Provincial Commissioner, Western Province, was appointed His Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Colony of Dahomey and its Dependencies on 15th October, 1907.

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**FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.**

117. Under ordinary conditions the expansion of trade in Southern Nigeria must continue for many years. The factors which have had so favourable an effect on the trade of the year under review will continue to operate towards developing the resources of the country. It has been shown that the palm-kernel trade of the Eastern and Central Provinces is capable of yielding at least 80,000 tons more kernels in the districts in which trade is at present carried on, and further development is to be expected from the newly-controlled districts. As the influence of the middleman over the people of what are now the interior markets is replaced by more direct trade between the merchants and the consumers, a further impetus will be given to trade. Improved transport facilities and means of communication will set free a large number of people now engaged in carrying head loads and as paddlers in canoes, a matter of great importance in the present comparatively undeveloped state of the country. At present the operations of the trading companies are confined to the banks of the rivers, and practically the whole transport to the factories is by head load or canoes under native supervision with little co-operation.

118. There are large tracts of land in Southern Nigeria suitable for rubber and cocoa-growing, and plantations of these products have already been started.

119. In the Western Province there is some likelihood that in the country between Lagos and Benin River mineral oil will be found in paying quantities, and oil-boring operations are being carried out by the Nigeria Bitumen Corporation, who have received financial assistance in the shape of a loan from the Government. In this province agriculture has rapidly developed and suitable land is available for the cultivation of cocoa, maize, and cotton, which are being actively grown for export. The extension of the railway and the construction of feeder roads are opening up a country in which cotton has for many years been grown for local use. Among the minor industries to be developed in the northern districts ground-nuts and shea produce may be mentioned.

120. The Commercial Intelligence Officer has reported as follows on the prospects of the northern trade:—"In touching upon the possibilities of expansion in the near future, perhaps the most important factor to be noted is the rapid extension of the Lagos Railway, which is now entering the Ilorin Province of Northern Nigeria on its way to join the Baro-Kano line near Zungeru. Having travelled over a good portion of the country which will feed the Oshogbo-Ilorin section of the railway, I am of the opinion, as already indicated, that business on a large scale may be looked for within the next few years from that district as the outcome of agricultural development, and that an important cash trade will soon be done at Ilorin town. After Ilorin, a matter for the early consideration of the merchants will be as to the desirability of opening up at Jebba, where the railway reaches the Niger. Although factories at Jebba are certain to stimulate trade in the Borgu and Kontagora Provinces, it should be remembered that those districts of Northern Nigeria are at present sparsely populated, and that the navigation of the river above Jebba and near Boussa is very difficult. Consequently the immediate outlook for that station as a trading centre is not so bright as a glance at the map would appear to indicate. At the same time it would seem probable that there would be a good opening there for some of the Lagos firms which are not over eager for immediate profits, and that, in addition to such produce as the Borgu and Kontagora people can work, a fair trade from the Sokoto Province should find its way to Jebba.

"Looking to the more distant future when—within five years it is hoped—Lagos will be in communication with Kano by rail, an enormous field in the Upper Zaria and Kano Provinces will be accessible to our merchants. From the Ilorin Province up to Zaria town the population on the railway route is very scanty, but beyond there is a dense population—more than that of the whole of the Western Province of Southern Nigeria—and a very large business indeed may in the course of a few years from the opening of the line be reasonably expected from the northern section of the railway. Superficially it may be thought that the Kano trade will be done *via* Baro and the Niger, and I agree in thinking that cheap produce—shea-nuts, ground-nuts, salt, &c.—will probably be worked by river, but I believe that the bulk of the trade in Manchester and other European goods will pass through Lagos, and that it is not improbable that a large proportion of down freights in the way of raw cotton will also come this way, for it must be remembered that the cotton crops are gathered at a time when the Niger is not in flood. At the same time I think the Lagos produce merchants following the line will later on need to give consideration to the idea of having forwarding depôts at Baro to deal with coarse produce and salt. It will be remembered that the important trade centre of Bida lies between Baro and the junction of the Lagos Railway with the Baro-Kano line.

"In connection with this distant trade, some reference may be made here to the Soudan skin export business from the Lagos Province. Ten years ago this did not exist from Lagos, but in 1907 £12,700 was contributed to the export total, a comparatively insignificant sum, but one which, by the rate of progress seen during the last four or five years, gives good promise for the future, although the trade has its limitations at about £50,000 per annum. The following table shows the value of skins and hides exported from the Western Province only:—

	£
1904	674
1905	1,530
1906	3,382
1907	12,702

The total shipments from the whole of Southern Nigeria in 1906 and 1907 were valued at £3,462 and £12,937, respectively, which indicates how the Hausa caravan people prefer to travel overland to Lagos rather than dispose of their skins at trading stations on the Niger, where limited assortments of goods are stocked. Formerly the skin trade of Kano and other northern centres went almost entirely across the desert to Tripoli, which is three times as far from Kano as Lagos. In addition to the total exports from Southern Nigeria quoted, there was a considerable business done between Kano and London in these skins by parcel post. So far as Lagos is concerned it must be understood that what was aimed at all along was not so much the profits resulting directly from the skin exports, as the return trade in European goods and especially the introduction of Lagos qualities into the markets in the upper parts of Northern Nigeria. The business has been the means of bringing down very considerable numbers of Hausa caravans in addition to the ordinary potash and live-stock caravans, and it may fairly be claimed that good work has been done in the way of convincing the northern natives of the value of Lagos as a great and free market.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Amongst the potentialities of agricultural development in the upper parts of Nigeria which will be served by the Kano Railway, should be numbered wheat and tobacco in addition to cotton and ground-nuts. Possibly dye-stuffs may also contribute. All are now cultivated to some extent, and in the Katsena sub-province of Kano I saw some really fine farms of tobacco and so-called indigo. Wheat was to be had at Zaria, Kano, Katsena, and Sokoto, but does not appear to be largely grown at present, the consumption being apparently confined to the ruling native classes, and to the Europeans who have bread made from the wheat-meal."

121. The climate of Southern Nigeria is unsuited to, and unhealthy for, Europeans. In a few of the up-country stations,

the climate is not so unhealthy as in the swamp districts, but the conditions of living are difficult, and generally those Europeans who remain in Southern Nigeria for periods in excess of twelve months at a time suffer in health. With reasonable precautions Europeans can remain twelve months at a time in most districts without suffering evil effects to any great extent from the climate.

122. The majority of the Europeans in Southern Nigeria who are not in Government service are employed by the various companies which are established in the country for the purpose of trade, timber-working, &c. There is a fair supply of native talent to meet the demands for clerical work and skilled labour.

123. The cost of living for Europeans varies, but for foremen of works, telegraph inspectors, &c., the average cost is 5s. a day. To the native labourer the cost of living nowhere exceeds 3d. a day. The cost of unskilled labour varies from 6d. to 1s. a day. Where native skilled labour is employed wages vary from £2 to £6 a month. Blacksmiths, bricklayers, carpenters, painters, coopers, and engine drivers are paid from £4 to £6 a month. Fitters, moulders, and tin-smiths are paid somewhat less. Owing to the demand for labour on account of the railway and other works wages are increasing.

124. There is an ample field for the investment of capital in the palm oil and kernel trade of Southern Nigeria, especially in the neighbourhood of the Cross and the Imo Rivers. The establishment of rubber plantations affords another field for the investment of capital, as there are large tracts of country admirably suited for growing rubber. Lands exist suitable for growing cotton, cocoa, maize, ground-nuts and other agricultural products requiring capital for their development. These areas are well populated. In the timber industry another field is open to the capitalist.

#### SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

125. In the Western Province there has been little disturbance during the year. At Ibadan, the chief town in the northern portion of the province, there was some restlessness which ended in the resignation at the end of the year of the late Bale—a weak ruler who had lost the confidence of his people. The establishment of the capital of Southern Nigeria at Lagos has added considerably to the wealth of the Yoruba people. In a portion of the swamp country between Lagos and Benin River, the Ikaes, a tribe nearly akin to the Binis, drove out their principal chief, the Bale of Igbotako, and refused to receive the District Commissioner. The people are of a low type and indulge in barbarous practices. The matter has now been settled, and for a time a Commissioner will be stationed in the immediate neighbourhood to assist the Bale

in the reforms which he is anxious to introduce for the good of his people.

126. In the Central Province no disturbances of any importance have occurred, the good work done and constant travelling by the District Officers having induced the natives of the province to place more confidence in the Government. Inter-tribal disputes have been unknown during the year, a fact bearing eloquent testimony to the changed condition of native affairs as far as this province is concerned.

127. In the Eastern Province progress has been made during the year in extending the influence of the Government in areas hitherto unoccupied and in the pacification of disturbed areas. The Provincial Commissioner reports as follows on the improved conditions brought about during the year in the various districts:—"In the Ibibio country, which a few years ago was closed to all comers, white or black, and where inter-tribal warfare existed almost between every neighbouring town, with all the other evils which such a state brought, the present situation is most promising. Barbarous customs, such as cannibalism, human sacrifice, twin-killing, slave dealing, &c., are no longer openly indulged in, and if they are practised the offenders are sure to be detected and brought to justice. Disputes are settled in Court instead of by matchets and guns. Roads extend in all directions and trade has largely increased.

"A remarkable transformation has also been brought about in the country administered by the officer at Omoduru, where conditions similar to those mentioned above prevailed when the country was occupied in 1906. Offences against human life are now rare and slave-dealing is largely on the decline, notwithstanding the efforts of the Aros, who overrun the northern and eastern portions of this district and exercise a pernicious influence over the natives, spreading evil reports as to the intentions of the Government and doing all in their power to prevent the peaceful penetration of the country by Government officers.

"These Aros are continually seizing and selling people, and are most difficult to find out, as they have a powerful hold over the natives, who are afraid to give evidence against them. They cause the same trouble in and around Abakaliki.

"In Ahoda district strides have been made in opening up the Ekpaffia country to trade and gaining the confidence of the natives. By tactful and careful handling, these people have been gradually brought under control, but are still very uncivilized and find it hard to drop old customs such as trial by ordeal, witchcraft, &c., but already appreciate justice administered through the Native Courts which have been established.

"Excellent progress has been made in the Bende district in improving relations between the Government and the natives

and in bringing the country to the south-west and north-west under control. In this district also the Aros give much trouble by their favourite pastime, slave-dealing.

“Much good work has been done from the station at Abakaliki, where complex questions caused by disputes over land boundaries between the Ezzas and Ezzis have had to be dealt with. The Ezzas are the predominant tribe, and, prior to the advent of the Government, absorbed many miles of the country belonging to their neighbours at the expense of continual warfare. Matters have been greatly improved, and although the land question is still a sore point with the Ezzis, the foundation of friendly relations has been well laid.”

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#### GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY AND PROTECTORATE.

128. Progress in the social condition of the people and expansion in the trade of the country have been remarkable during the year under review. There has been no relaxation in the efforts of Government to make remote districts easily accessible, improve the means of communication and transport, promote friendly intercourse between the natives of various tribes, and to suppress the slavery, cannibalism, and barbarous practices of the natives of the interior districts. The improvements in the means of communication, besides resulting in an increased trade, have tended to establish peace and good order in the remote districts of the country and to lessen the difficulties of administration.

129. The financial position of the country has been considerably strengthened during the year. The railway has been extended, more roads have been constructed, preparations for opening Lagos harbour have been made, and extensive public works have been carried out during the year. The revenue of the Colony amounts to £1,460,000, and the public debt on 31st December, 1907, amounted to £2,000,000 only.

The surplus balance has increased in amount from £475,500 to £632,000. There is practically no direct taxation, more than eight-tenths of the revenue being derived from customs duties. The free list has been much increased and most necessary articles of general consumption are now admitted free of duty. One-tenth of the revenue is made up of railway receipts. Rapid expansion in trade continues. The development of agriculture during the year has been most marked, especially in the Western Province. Education is steadfastly progressing, though the lack of proper native teachers is still felt. The transfer of the Savings Bank from the control of the

Financial Commissioner to the Post Office and its extension to the principal towns in the country will be of benefit to the community as soon as the natives realize the advantages afforded. Constant effort is being made by Government to improve the sanitation of the towns, and the natives are beginning to understand the benefits thereby accruing to themselves. In Lagos there has been some difficulty in securing sites for European residences, and although there was perturbation among the natives at the acquisition of the land required for administrative purposes, the ample awards given for the properties affected cannot fail to have satisfied even the most discontented. Improvements in the conditions of life in Lagos and the principal centres of the Colony are remarkable. Substantial houses and shops are being erected by both Europeans and natives; the principal roads are being improved, and wheeled traffic is gradually increasing. Four years ago there were one or two bicycles in use in Lagos; now-a-days there are thousands used throughout the country. There is no indication of any discontinuance of the progress in commerce and improvement in the social condition of the people—marked features in the condition of the Colony during the last few years and more especially during the year under review.

130. A map of Southern Nigeria, together with a chart showing the expansion of Southern Nigeria, from 1900 to 1907, and a statement of the importation of spirits during the last five years, is included with this report. I also attach a statement of the economic investigations conducted on behalf of the Colony at the Imperial Institute during the year 1907.

F. S. JAMES,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Secretariat, Lagos,  
7th September, 1908.

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## APPENDIX.

## I.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE  
DURING THE YEAR 1907 FOR THE COLONY OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Reports from the Imperial Institute have been made to the Government of Southern Nigeria on the following subjects, on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, followed, when necessary, by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. In many cases recommendations have been made as to the further action which is required in the Colony in order to develop the production of those materials for which it is probable that there would be a satisfactory commercial demand.

*Rubber.*

Two specimens of Funtumia rubber were forwarded for examination, but proved to be too small for analysis. Very satisfactory commercial valuations were, however, obtained.

The latex from a species of Mimusops, probably *M. Djave*, has been investigated. The product obtained on coagulation is of resinous character and would have very little commercial value.

*Timbers.*

A set of timbers representing twenty-two of the chief woods obtainable in the Colony has been examined at the Imperial Institute and full report supplied regarding their working qualities and mechanical properties. A number of these timbers would be suitable for export to the United Kingdom if the cost of collection and transport does not prove to be too high.

*Cotton.*

Eight samples of ginned cotton, consisting of native and hybrid varieties grown on the Moor Plantation, Lagos, were examined. They were of good quality and were valued a little higher than "middling" American cotton.

Sixteen samples of ginned cotton from the Government Plantation at Oloke-Meji had apparently been grown from American seed, with the exception of one of native "khaki" cotton. The American varieties were of very good quality, and were valued at from 6d. to 7½d. per lb. when "middling" American was quoted at 6·64d. per lb.

Seven samples consisting of American native and hybrid varieties were also examined and found to be of good marketable quality.

A sample of Ishan native cotton yarn was forwarded for examination. There is no demand in this country for native-spun yarn, but it is probable that the raw cotton of which the yarn is composed would command a ready sale in the English market.

*Fibres.*

Samples of jute grown experimentally in Southern Nigeria were forwarded for examination. The fibre was very weak, and owing to its matted and tangled condition it was valued at not more than a few pounds per ton for use as tow. This unsatisfactory result was probably due to over-retting. Other jute-like fibres from *Hibiscus esculentus* and *H. lunariifolius* were also examined.

*Shea Nuts and Butter.*

Four samples of Shea nuts, the seeds of *Butyrospermum Parkii*, and one sample of the fat (known as "Shea butter") extracted from these seeds were received for examination. The fat was valued at £27 5s. to £27 10s. per ton (December, 1907).

*Seeds of Mimusops Djava.*

These seeds were found to contain a fat which resembles Shea butter, and would have similar commercial applications.

*Seeds of Ricinodendron Species.*

"Nsa-sana" seeds, probably derived from a species of *Ricinodendron*, were examined and found to contain an oil which could be utilised as a substitute for T'ung oil.

*Maize.*

A memorandum on the cultivation, preparation, and marketing of maize was prepared for the Government of Southern Nigeria.

*Food Grains.*

Samples of food grains from the Ilorin Province, Northern Nigeria, were forwarded to the Imperial Institute by the Acting Colonial Secretary in Lagos. Specimens of white and red guinea corn were pronounced by commercial experts to be superior to Indian Dari and were valued at 25s. and 24s. per 480 lbs. in London respectively.

A sample of rice proved to be equal in quality to Bengal rice and worth about 9s. 6d. per hundredweight.

A variety of Millet ("Gero") was unknown to English buyers, and will be further investigated.

*Ninkon Fruits.*

Specimens of Ninkon fruits which are used in West Africa as a sweetening agent were examined. The fruits would have no commercial value in this country.

*Minerals.*

The following reports on the examination of the minerals collected in the course of the Mineral Survey were made during 1907 :—

Lignite from Moroko, Lagos.

Galena and Zinc Blende from Enyibi and Awarakum.

Limestone from the Oshogbo-Ilorin section of the railway.

A number of new exhibits from Southern Nigeria were received in the course of the year, and have been added to the West African Court in the Public Galleries of the Imperial Institute. Descriptive labels have been provided for the exhibits, and maps and statistical tables of information relating to the country have also been added. A catalogue of the Southern Nigeria exhibits has been prepared for publication in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute." During the year a collection of exhibits from the Southern Nigeria Court was lent to the Colonial Products Exhibition at Liverpool.

Mr. G. O. Dudgeon, Superintendent of Agriculture for West Africa, has been in constant communication with the Imperial Institute on all matters connected with agricultural operations and developments, and has transmitted numerous specimens of economic products for examination at the Imperial Institute.

## II.

Statement showing the importation of spirits into Nigeria during the five years ended 31st December, 1907.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.*	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanations.
1903 ..	2,707,308	£ 220,871	£ 418,548	3s. the imperial gallon not exceeding proof by Sykes's hydrometer.	Gallons shown at proof strength to 28th February, 1905.
1904 ..	3,190,339	277,300	479,846	—	—
1905 ..	2,811,438	282,256	499,024	From 1st March, 1905, 3s. 6d. the imperial gallon, not exceeding 12½ degrees below proof by Sykes's hydrometer, and an additional ½d. for every degree or part of a degree in excess of 12½ degrees.	From 1st March, 1905, duty being charged on liquid gallons, the figures are so included in the returns instead of in proof gallons.
1906 ..	3,321,093	301,738	600,784	From 22nd December, 1906, 4s. the imperial gallon, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles' Alcoholometer, and an additional 1d. for every degree or part of a degree in excess of 50 degrees.	Spirit imports amounted to 10'8 per cent. of whole inward trade.
1907 ..	4,055,209	385,505	808,942	—	Spirit imports amounted to 10 per cent. of whole inward trade.

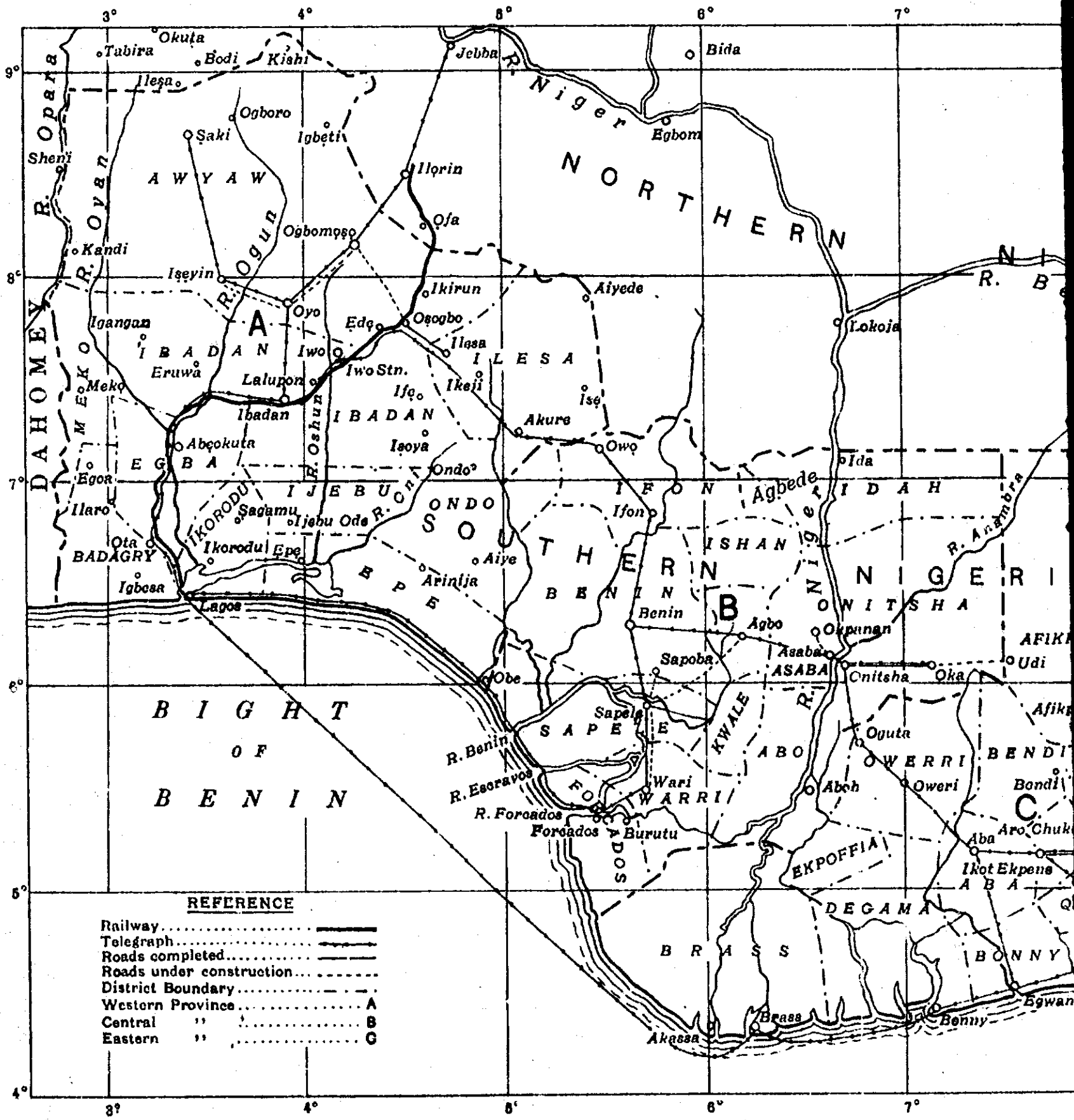
\* The quantity actually taken into consumption as shown for each year.

## III.

Expansion of Southern Nigeria, 1900–1907.

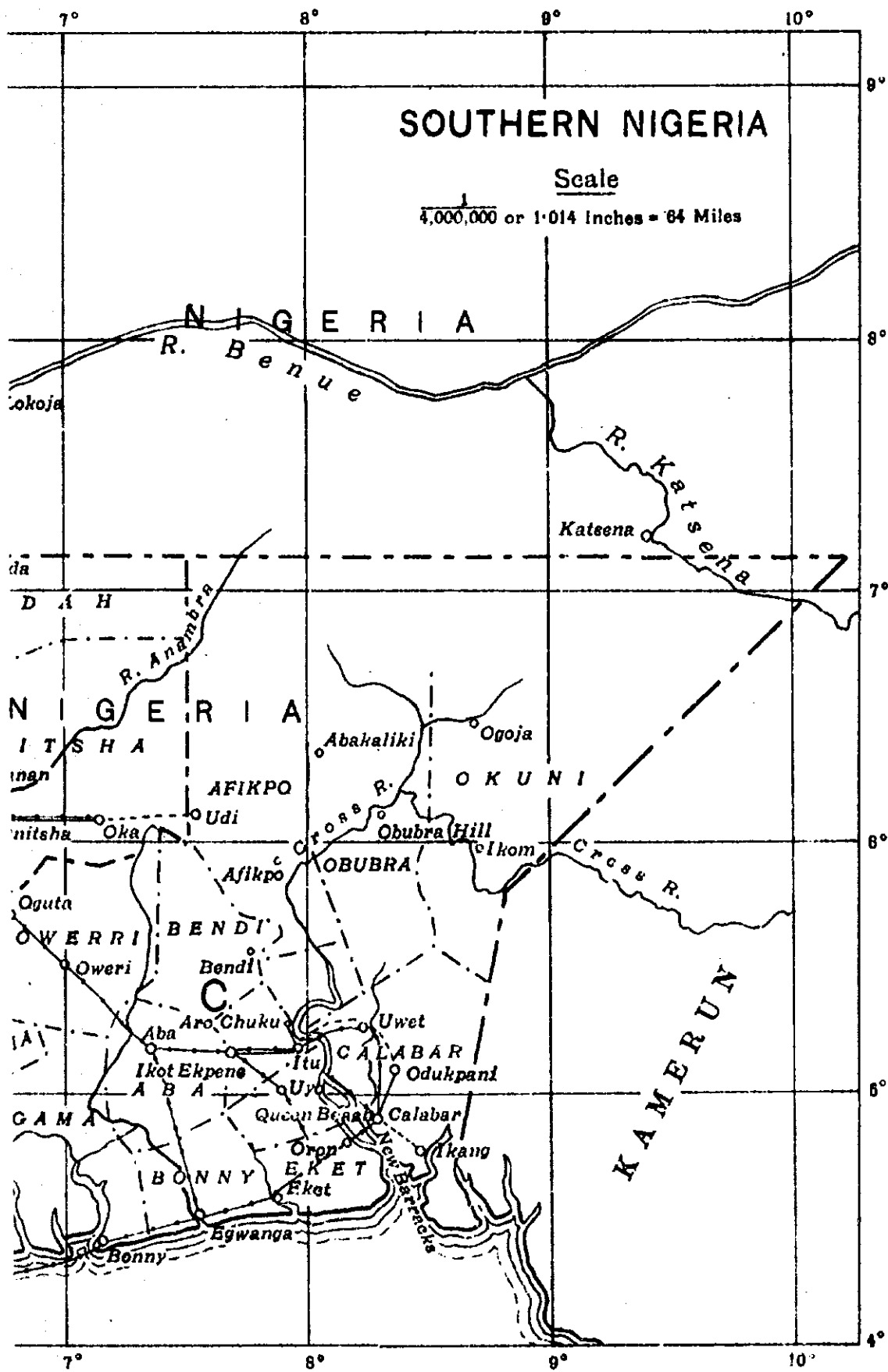
—		1900.	1904.	1907.
Railways—				
Miles...	...		126	187
Passengers	... No.		116,267	188,419
Goods	... Tons		46,203	82,900
Receipts	... Gross		60,336	139,747
	... Net		6,942	65,312
Postal Statistics—				
Letters and Postcards	... ..	Not available.	978,928	1,738,308
Cotton Exports (Lint)—				
Pounds (weight)	... ..	24,080	1,148,551	4,089,530
Value	... £	453	14,831	97,043
Palm Oil, Exports (Imperial Gallons)	... ..	12,761,585	16,225,175	18,332,531
Value	... £	681,296	929,170	1,313,960
Palm Kernels, Exports	... Tons	85,624	139,788	133,630
Value	... £	833,631	1,278,394	1,658,292
Specie—				
Imports	... £	210,803	289,577	599,566
Exports	... £	131,834	148,325	130,802
Telegraph Lines—				
Miles...	... ..	263	608	1,281





**REFERENCE**

Railway.....	—————
Telegraph.....	—————
Roads completed.....	—————
Roads under construction.....	.....
District Boundary.....	.....
Western Province.....	A
Central ".....	B
Eastern ".....	C



## COLONIAL REPORTS.

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

### ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
551	Northern Nigeria ... ..	1906-1907
552	British Honduras ... ..	1906
553	St. Lucia ... ..	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria ... ..	1906
555	St. Vincent ... ..	1906-1907
556	Basutoland ... ..	"
557	East Africa Protectorate ... ..	"
558	Uganda Protectorate ... ..	"
559	Swaziland ... ..	"
560	St. Helena ... ..	1907
561	Ceylon ... ..	"
562	Falkland Islands ... ..	"
563	Gibraltar ... ..	"
564	Ashanti... ..	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee ... ..	1906-1907
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ... ..	1907
567	Seychelles ... ..	"
568	Bermuda ... ..	"
569	Weihaiwei ... ..	"
570	Hong Kong ... ..	"
571	Malta ... ..	1907-1908
572	British Honduras ... ..	1907
573	Gold Coast ... ..	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate ... ..	1907-1908
575	Bahamas ... ..	"
576	Gambia... ..	1907
577	St. Vincent ... ..	1907-1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	1907
579	St. Lucia ... ..	"
580	Fiji ... ..	"
581	Mauritius ... ..	"
582	Straits Settlements ... ..	"

### MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate ... ..	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c. ... ..	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria ... ..	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa ... ..	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate... ..	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-08.
54	Newfoundland ... ..	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony ... ..	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks and Caicos Islands ... ..	Salt Industry.