

767

WEST AFRICAN CURRENCY BOARD.

REPORT

OF THE

WEST AFRICAN CURRENCY BOARD

FOR

THE PERIOD ENDED 30th JUNE, 1914.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

February, 1915.



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Report of the West African Currency Board for the period ended the 30th June, 1914.

The members and the secretary of the West African Currency Board were appointed by the Right Honourable L. Harcourt, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the 21st of November, 1912, and the constitution, duties, and powers of the Board were defined in a memorandum dated the 6th of December, 1912, a copy of which is printed as Appendix I. to this Report.

2. In future the Board propose to forward to the Secretary of State a report in respect of each year ended the 30th of June. The present report covers a period of over nineteen months, but no currency operations were undertaken by the Board during the first six months of this period.

3. The Board have chosen the 30th of June as the end of their financial year and year of report, as that date is normally about the middle of the slack season in West Africa as regards demands for currency.

4. Before dealing with the transactions of the Board during the period under review, it will be convenient to give a short account of the circumstances which led up to the creation of the Board. Up to about the year 1898 the amount of coin used by the British West African Colonies and Protectorates was small in quantity. It consisted mainly of United Kingdom silver coin, but the amount used was not sufficient to cause any anxiety on the part of the Imperial Government, or to give rise to any question as to the possibility of diverting some part of the seigniorage to the Colonial Governments.

5. In 1898, however, a considerable increase took place in the import of United Kingdom silver coin. It was not long before it was pointed out that the Imperial Government was securing a large annual profit on the silver coin absorbed by West Africa, and it was urged that part, at least, of this profit, which, owing to the fall in the price of silver, exceeded and still exceeds half the face value of the coin, should accrue to the Colonial Governments.

6. Accordingly, in October, 1899, a Committee was appointed, of which Sir D. Barbour was Chairman, to discuss and report, *inter alia*, upon "the feasibility of replacing British silver coinage in West Africa by a Colonial silver coinage." This Committee reported in March, 1900. They stated that in their opinion there was not in principle any objection to the establishment of a special British West African silver currency, but they found that merchants and others trading with West Africa were generally opposed to the establishment of such a currency, and they therefore suggested that the Imperial Treasury should every year pay to the West African Colonies a portion of the profit on the coinage of United Kingdom silver coin supplied to West Africa. This suggestion was not accepted by the Imperial Government, and for the time being the matter dropped.

7. During the next ten years the annual amount of silver coin imported into West Africa increased rapidly, and in 1911 a second Committee was appointed, with Lord Emmott as Chairman, "to inquire and report as to the desirability of introducing into West Africa a special silver coinage common to the five British West African Administrations, and also as to the desirability of establishing a joint issue of currency notes in the same territories, and to advise upon the measures necessary for the regulation of the special coinage, if introduced, or for the better regulation of the existing currency in the event of a special coinage not being adopted."

8. The Committee reported* in June, 1912, that "apart altogether from any question of Mint profits, early steps should be taken to place the currency of British West Africa on a different and sounder basis," and recommended the introduction of a distinctive silver currency, supported by adequate reserves, as the only practicable measure they were in a position to suggest for removing the defects of the monetary conditions then existing in West Africa. They also made various recommendations and suggestions with regard to the management and control of the new currency and the reserves, one of which was the appointment of the Board.

9. The appointment of this Committee was largely due, as in the case of the previous one, to the desire of the West African Governments to share in the profits, but it is

* The Report and minutes of evidence were printed and presented to Parliament as [Cd. 6426] and [Cd. 6427].

clear from their Report that this was not the main reason which determined the Committee's conclusions. The amount of silver coin issued to West Africa had increased so largely that in the years 1909 and 1910 it had actually exceeded the amount issued for use in the United Kingdom. Though there is no legal obligation on His Majesty's Government to maintain the exchange value of the United Kingdom silver currency, there is a moral obligation which could not be ignored. At a time of severe crisis, however, this obligation could only be discharged by the use of gold, and no gold reserve is maintained by Government for this purpose. In a settled country such as the United Kingdom it is improbable that silver currency would ever become redundant to a serious degree, but in West Africa there are many circumstances which make the position less secure. So long as West Africa continued to use United Kingdom silver, any redundant coin would tend to return to the United Kingdom, and the return of a large quantity at an inconvenient time might seriously embarrass the Imperial Exchequer.

10. The Committee's recommendations as regards coinage were accepted in September, 1912, by His Majesty's Government, who had previously decided that the system of issuing silver coin for West Africa free of freight charges should be discontinued, and a notification was issued that such discontinuance would take effect from 1st of July, 1913.

11. The Committee also made certain recommendations with regard to the establishment of a note issue, and this matter is under consideration.

12. Among the first matters dealt with by the Board was the creation in West Africa of the machinery necessary for the proper management of the new silver coinage.

13. One of the most important points was to secure the convertibility of the new silver into gold. Lord Emmott's Committee had recommended that this should be effected by giving holders of silver coin a legal right to tender it in West Africa for conversion into gold in London at a specified rate of exchange not exceeding the cost of sending specie from West Africa to England. This recommendation has been carried out by the establishment of one centre in each Colony which is bound to issue drafts on the Board payable in gold in London in exchange for silver coin paid in at that centre, and by the maintenance of a gold standard reserve in London. The four Currency centres are Lagos, Accra, Freetown, and Bathurst, at each of which the Board is represented by a Currency Officer. The present Currency Officers are the Treasurers of Nigeria, the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, and the Receiver-General of the Gambia. The business of receiving, storing, and subsequently issuing the coin tendered in exchange for drafts on London is discharged by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, acting as Agent for the Board. The charge made for a draft on London has been fixed by the Board, until further notice, at 15s. per cent. Owing to the inadvisability (and, it may be added, the practical difficulty) of differentiating for this purpose between United Kingdom and West African silver coin, it was recognised by Lord Emmott's Committee that the right of obtaining drafts on these terms would have to be given, not only to holders of the new currency, but also to holders of United Kingdom silver coin. The Board thus had thrown upon them from the outset the responsibility of receiving, not only the West African coin issued by them, but also United Kingdom silver, so far as either may be tendered to them in West Africa for conversion into gold in London. On the other hand, the Treasury agreed, in accordance with a recommendation of Lord Emmott's Committee, to receive annually at face value £100,000 in United Kingdom silver coin repatriated from West Africa by the Board.

14. As regards the issue of coin, the Board decided to deliver coin in lots of not under £100 in face value at any ocean port in British West Africa served by Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's steamers, in exchange for prepayment in London of the face value of the coin and a premium. The premium which, in accordance with a recommendation of Lord Emmott's Committee, is imposed towards the cost of freight and other charges has been fixed until further notice at 15s. per cent. as from the 1st of July, 1913, the date on which, as already stated, the free issue of silver coin by His Majesty's Government ceased.

15. The Board supply West African or United Kingdom coin, used or unused, at their own option. They also reserve the right to supply, if necessary, coin of different denominations from that ordered.

16. In order to prevent inconvenience to passengers returning from West Africa, and consequent unpopularity of the new coin before it is firmly established, the Board have made a temporary arrangement with the Bank of British West Africa, Limited by which British West African coin tendered at their offices in London and Liverpool by *bonâ fide* passengers is received at par up to a limit of £10 in any one case. At

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the close of the period under review the amount of coin thus exchanged averaged nearly £100 a week.

17. These arrangements were made public in a notice sent to the Press on the 7th of June, 1913, of which a copy is printed as Appendix II. to this Report.

18. The new coins, the designs for which were approved by His Majesty the King on the 1st of February, 1913, are of the denominations of 2s., 1s., 6d., and 3d., and are of precisely the same size, weight and fineness, as corresponding coins of the United Kingdom.

19. The Orders of the King in Council legalising the new coinage were made on the 7th of May, 1913, and came into force on proclamation in West Africa on the 26th of June, 1913. These Orders provide *inter alia* that the coins shall be manufactured under the direction of the Master of the Mint.

20. The coins have now been in circulation for over a year, and the Board are glad to be able to report that they have been generally well received. At first a certain number of hostile comments appeared in the native Press, based as a rule on the misapprehension that a silver standard was being set up, but, except at Opobo and in a very few other localities in the Southern Provinces of Nigeria where the natives have been inclined to prefer United Kingdom coin, the Board are not aware of any difficulty having occurred in connexion with the circulation of the coin. The merchants in this country who are concerned in the West African trade received the scheme very favourably, and have given effective support, which the Board gratefully recognise, in carrying it into execution. The success of the new coins is also largely due to the trouble which the Colonial Governments and their officers have been good enough to take in publishing and distributing notices and in giving explanations to the merchants and the natives when necessary.

21. The Board are indebted to the Crown Agents for the Colonies for the free use of office accommodation, and for the valuable services rendered by their staff, two members of whom are regularly employed for part of their time on the work of the Board. The Board owe a debt of gratitude also to the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, whose ready co-operation has done much to help them in various directions.

22. In a normal year the demand for additional coin in West Africa is practically confined to the months of September to February inclusive, the demand coming at the beginning of that period mainly from the Gold Coast and at the end mainly from Nigeria. The Nigerian demand does not cease as a rule until April or May, but after February it can normally be satisfied from the other West African Colonies.

23. In 1913, however, a demand for additional coin arose during the month of June—a very unusual occurrence—and it was decided to use a certain amount of West African coin which was ready for issue. This coin was supplemented by a small amount of United Kingdom coin obtained by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, from the Royal Mint, as the amount available of the lower denominations of West African coin was insufficient.

24. The demand in the summer months, which came from Nigeria, was doubtless due to the very active season experienced in that dependency, when the exploitation of the tinfields, the high prices ruling for produce, and the general development consequent on railway extension combined to increase the demand for currency.

25. The usual autumn demand for coin commenced in the second week of September, 1913, and continued until the second week in January, 1914. It proved to be the heaviest demand on record.

26. This is not difficult to understand, having regard to the remarkable dimensions of the cocoa crop in the Gold Coast, which gives rise to most of the autumn demand for silver currency, and to a lesser extent to the ground nut crop in the Gambia. The Gold Coast cocoa crop reached in 1913 the extraordinary figure of 113,239,980 lbs., valued at £2,484,218, as compared with 86,197,151 lbs., valued at £1,642,736, in 1912, itself a record year as regards value. The ground nut crop in the Gambia was also a record—67,404 tons, valued at £622,098, as compared with 64,169 tons, valued at £502,069, in 1912.

27. The Board had given an order to the Royal Mint in the previous April which, punctually carried out and supplemented by orders placed elsewhere when the position became clear, would have sufficed to satisfy the demand, exceptional as it was. Unfortunately, however, an unexpectedly heavy demand for British gold and bronze coin

sprang up suddenly in the United Kingdom, and the Royal Mint were obliged to defer the execution of a large part of the Board's order. As soon as the Board were informed of the situation they made the best arrangements possible in the circumstances for manufacturing coin elsewhere, but time did not permit of making up the deficiency. Consequently, during November and December the Board were obliged to ship to West Africa £232,200 in United Kingdom coin. Of this amount £141,600 had already been in circulation in the United Kingdom. This was due to the fact that the Royal Mint and the Bank of England were unable to supply more than £90,600 in new coin, and the Board were obliged to employ the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, to collect the balance in used coin in London and in the Provinces, wherever it could be obtained. Arrangements have since been made with the Treasury for the repatriation during 1914 of an amount of United Kingdom coin equivalent to that sent out.

28. From the middle of January to the end of June, 1914, the demand for coin was, as usual, small, the total amount bought from the Board being only £24,000, whereas an amount of £256,912 10s. was paid in to the Board at Currency Centres in exchange for drafts on London. Of these, three drafts (two for £50,000 each and one for £25,000) had not become due for payment at the end of the year, and, as the Board were aware of their issue by telegraph only, the drafts and the amount paid for them to the Board locally (£125,937 10s.) do not appear in the accounts for the year ended the 30th of June, 1914.

29. The total amount of West African coin issued by the Board up to the 30th of June, 1913, was £70,022 16s. Of this amount £3 15s. consisted of specimen coins presented or retained by the Board, £1 10s. of specimen coins issued by the Board against payment, £37 10s. of coin issued to the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, for sale to the public in England, and the remainder (£69,980 1s.) of coin sold for use in West Africa.

30. During the year ended the 30th of June, 1914, the total amount of coin issued by the Board was £1,436,177 4s. Of this amount £1,203,977 4s. was West African coin, and £232,200 was United Kingdom coin issued under the circumstances explained in paragraph 27 above. £20 12s. 6d. consisted of West African coin issued to the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, for sale to the public in England, and £332,156 11s. 6d. of West African coin issued to the Bank in exchange for United Kingdom coin repatriated. The balance of £1,104,000 (*i.e.*, £871,800 in West African and £232,200 in United Kingdom coin) was sold, and delivered in West Africa. All but £24,000 of this amount was sold during the autumn season, *i.e.*, between the second week in September and the second week in January.

31. Inasmuch as a total amount of £256,912 10s. was held by the Board at Currency Centres on the 30th of June, 1914, it follows that the net increase in the silver currency during the year 1913-14 was £847,087 10s. This calculation, of necessity, takes no account of coin carried to and fro by travellers, or of coin lost or melted down.

32. The denominations of the West African coin issued from the date of the first issue up to the end of June, 1914, were as follows:—

	£
Florins	360,600
Shillings	869,000
Sixpences	27,200
Threepences	17,200
	£1,274,000

33. During the year 1913-14 instructions were given by the Board for the repatriation of £332,200 in United Kingdom coin, *i.e.*, £232,200 under the special arrangement referred to in paragraph 27 above, and £100,000 under the standing arrangement with the Treasury already mentioned.

34. Of the £332,200, £281,000 had been received and paid for at the end of the period under review, and the remaining £51,200 was either at the Royal Mint awaiting examination or in transit or in process of collection by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited.

35. The United Kingdom coin repatriated and paid for during the period under review was made up as follows :—

Colony.	Half-crowns.	Florins.	Shillings.	Sixpences.	Threepences.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gold Coast	25	67,650	97,600	1,525	—	166,800
Nigeria	—	27,250	41,250	4,900	400	73,800
Sierra Leone	—	8,150	13,050	—	—	21,200
Gambia	—	4,400	8,000	6,400	400	19,200
Total	25	107,450	159,900	12,825	800	281,000

36. A statement shewing the imports and exports of British (including British West Africa) coin and the amount of coin apparently added to the circulation in the British West African Colonies during the period from the 26th of June, 1913, to the 30th of June, 1914, is printed as Appendix III. The statement is prepared from returns supplied by the Currency Officers.

37. The accounts of the Board for the period ended the 30th of June, 1913, and the year ended the 30th of June, 1914, will be found in Appendices IV. and V. respectively. They have been audited and certified as correct by the Director of Colonial Audit, acting under the instructions of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

38. The amount of silver purchased by the Board during the whole period under review was 6,745,461 oz. std., *i.e.*, sufficient for the manufacture of £1,855,000 in silver coin. Of this amount £1,274,000 was sold or issued in exchange for United Kingdom coin, as explained above, £364,900 was on the 30th of June, 1914, at the manufacturers ready for issue, and the remainder was in the form either of coin which had not yet been passed by the Royal Mint, as required by Order in Council, or of bullion which was in process of manufacture or awaiting manufacture.

39. The amount paid for the silver bullion purchased during the whole period under review was £760,542 12s. 7d. This includes brokerage $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and a small amount in respect of rail carriage. The average price was slightly in excess of 27d. per oz. std. The highest price paid was 28 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz., on the 22nd of September, 1913, and the lowest price 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz., on the 19th of June, 1914.

40. The cost of administration in England, *i.e.*, salaries, stationery, and miscellaneous office expenditure was in the period ended the 30th of June 1913 £292 9s. 1d., and in the full year ended the 30th of June 1914 £600 5s. 9d.

41. The gold standard reserve amounted on the 30th of June, 1914, to £346,723 13s. 1d., made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Balance at Bank and in hand	146,648	13	1
United Kingdom coin in course of repatriation	51,200	0	0
Investments (mean market price on the 30th of June, 1914)... ..	148,875	0	0
	<u>£346,723</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>

42. In addition the Board had available for realisation in case of necessity bullion and unissued coin amounting to 2,112,727 oz. std. silver, which, taken at market price on the 30th of June, 1914 (26d. per oz.), was worth £228,878 15s. 2d., and issued coin held in West Africa of the face value of £130,975, as well as certain other small assets shewn in the balance sheet in Appendix IV.

43. The presentation of this report has been unavoidably delayed owing to the pressure of work in the Colonial Audit Department, from which the audited accounts of the Board for the year ended the 30th of June, 1914, were only received on the 12th of January, 1915.

D. L. H. BAYNES,
Secretary.
15th January, 1915.

G. V. FIDDES.
W. H. MERCER.
L. COUPER.

APPENDIX I.

MEMORANDUM DEFINING THE CONSTITUTION, DUTIES, AND POWERS OF THE
WEST AFRICAN CURRENCY BOARD.

1. The West African Currency Board has been constituted to provide for and to control the supply of currency to the British West African Colonies and Protectorates, to ensure that the currency is maintained in satisfactory condition, and generally to watch over the interests of the dependencies in question so far as currency is concerned.
2. The members of the Board and the Secretary are appointed by the Secretary of State.
3. The Board will have power to appoint officers for the discharge of such duties in connection with currency in the United Kingdom or in West Africa and at such rates of salary as the Board may think fit, subject in each case to the approval of the Secretary of State.
4. The Board is authorised to incur expenditure necessary for the due performance of such duties as are now or may be hereafter assigned to them.
5. The Board will have authority to make all necessary arrangements for the minting of any special coins authorised for circulation in the British West African Dependencies, and to comply with applications for the supply of any coins at the time being legally current in those Dependencies. They will also arrange for the supply of currency in exchange for United Kingdom silver coins now circulating in West Africa, and for the repatriation of the latter coins and their exchange for gold.
6. The Board may charge for coin to be delivered in West Africa against prepayment in London such premium above the nominal value not exceeding the actual cost of transporting specie (packing, carriage, insurance) as they may think fit, and, within this limit, may vary the charge from time to time. If coin is delivered by telegraphic order to West Africa the Board may increase the premium as they see fit. In West Africa, silver given by the Board in exchange for gold presented there will be issued at par.
7. The Board will, when required, arrange for the issue against silver tendered in West Africa of drafts payable in gold in London at a charge not exceeding the cost of transporting gold from West Africa to London and for the issue of telegraphic transfers on London on such terms as they may think fit.
8. The Board will maintain in London against the silver coinage a reserve of gold and securities, hereafter referred to as the "gold standard reserve."
9. The proportion of such reserve held in gold shall not fall below a limit to be fixed from time to time by the Secretary of State.
10. Initially the Board will provide themselves with funds by means of loans from the West African Governments or otherwise obtained on such terms as they may think fit.
11. All profit on the issue of currency and all other revenue of the Board which is not required for loan charges or for administrative or other expenses of the Board will be credited to the gold standard reserve, provided that, when the Board are satisfied, and shall have satisfied the Secretary of State, that the gold standard reserve is sufficient to ensure the convertibility of the silver currency, the Board may pay over the whole or any part of the surplus amount in aid of the revenues of the West African Governments in such proportions as may be hereafter determined.
12. The Board will submit annually for the approval of the Secretary of State a statement of their transactions during the preceding year.
13. The accounts of all the transactions of the Board will be audited by the Colonial Audit Department.
14. The portion of the gold standard reserve authorised to be invested may be invested in securities of the Government of any part of His Majesty's dominions, or in such other manner as the Secretary of State may approve.
15. If a note issue or note issues are hereafter established in the West African Dependencies the Board will undertake such functions and duties in connection with the regulation and working of the note issue or issues as may be assigned to them by the legislation with regard thereto.

Approved,
L. HARCOURT.

6 December, 1912.

APPENDIX II.

NOTICE by THE WEST AFRICAN CURRENCY BOARD.

(Sent to Newspaper Press, 7 June, 1913.)

The Royal Mint having now discontinued the free issue of United Kingdom silver coin to the British West African Colonies and Protectorates, future coinage requirements will be met by the issue of silver coins of the designs recently approved by His Majesty the King for circulation in British West Africa.

The new coins are of the denominations of 2s., 1s., 6d., and 3d., and are of precisely the same size, weight, and fineness as corresponding coins of the United Kingdom.

Both the new and the existing silver coins have been declared by His Majesty's Orders in Council to be legal tender throughout British West Africa up to any amount and will be accepted by all Government institutions and by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, on an equal footing.

Facilities for obtaining coin in West Africa will be afforded, as hitherto, by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited. In addition, it will in future be open to the public, if they prefer, to apply to the West African Currency Board, 4, Whitehall Gardens, S.W., for coin to be delivered on the Coast.

The West African Currency Board will deliver current silver coin, in lots of not under £100 in face value, at any ocean port in British West Africa served by the steamers of the Elder Dempster

Line, in exchange for prepayment in London of principal and premium. Coin so purchased will be delivered from local stocks or otherwise by the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, acting as the Board's Agent, at the desired port in West Africa in either United Kingdom or local silver currency, or both, at its option. The premium payable may be varied from time to time, but will, until further notice, be 15s. per cent, which will include all charges other than landing expenses at ports of destination where no branch of the Bank exists.

The Board will not deliver coin at places other than the ocean ports referred to above.

Notice must be given to the Board at least ten clear days prior to the departure from Liverpool of the steamer by which shipment is desired. The application must be accompanied by a cheque on a London bank for the principal sum and premium. The denominations of coin desired must be stated in the application. The Board will endeavour to meet the wishes of applicants as regards denominations, but they reserve the right, if necessary, to supply coin of different denominations from that ordered.

The Board will not be responsible for delay in the delivery of coin, however occasioned.

Holders in West Africa of United Kingdom or local silver coin will have the right, on tendering such coin at the local agencies of the Board at Bathurst, Freetown, Accra, and Lagos, to obtain in exchange from the Currency Officers who represent the Board at those places drafts at three days' sight on the Board in London at a charge which may be varied from time to time, but will until further notice be 15s. per cent.

The new West African coins will, of course, not be current in the United Kingdom. In order, therefore, to prevent inconvenience to passengers proceeding homewards from West Africa, the Board have made arrangements with the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, to exchange into British coin at par coins of the new currency which may be tendered at the offices of the Bank in London and Liverpool by *bona fide* travellers from West Africa up to £10 for any one passenger.

British West African silver coin will be accepted in payment of passages, freight, &c., on all the steamers of Elder Dempster and Company, Limited, trading with West African ports on precisely the same terms as United Kingdom silver. It is understood that, with regard to exchange on board, passengers will only be accommodated so far as their ordinary personal requirements are concerned.

6 June, 1913.

APPENDIX III.

WEST AFRICAN CURRENCY BOARD.

A.*

IMPORTS OF BRITISH (INCLUDING BRITISH WEST AFRICAN) SILVER COIN DURING THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1914.

Colony.	26th June to 31st Dec., 1913.	1st January to 30th June, 1914.	Total.
	£	£	£
Nigeria	311,388	564,153	875,541
Gold Coast	905,897	158,047	1,063,944
Sierra Leone	116,631	68,725	185,356
Gambia	105,775	10,875	116,650
Total	1,439,691	801,800	2,241,491

B.*

EXPORTS OF BRITISH (INCLUDING BRITISH WEST AFRICAN) SILVER COIN DURING THE PERIOD ENDED THE 30TH JUNE, 1914.

Colony.	26th June to 31st Dec., 1913.	1st January to 30th June, 1914.	Total.
	£	£	£
Nigeria	132,130	58,177	190,307
Gold Coast	111,140	309,810	420,950
Sierra Leone	48,715	75,609	124,315
Gambia	6,000	40,400	46,400
Total	297,985	483,987	781,972

* These returns include the inter-Colonial shipments.

C.

EXCESS OF IMPORTS OVER EXPORTS OF BRITISH (INCLUDING BRITISH WEST AFRICAN)
SILVER COIN DURING THE PERIOD ENDED THE 30TH JUNE, 1914.

Colony.	Excess of Imports over Exports.	Held by the Board on 30th June, 1914.	Apparently added to (+) or subtracted from (-) the circulation during the period.
	£	£	£
Nigeria	685,234		+ 685,234
Gold Coast	642,994	151,125	+ 491,869
Sierra Leone	61,041	65,487	- 4,446
Gambia	70,250	40,300	+ 29,950
Total	1,459,519	256,912	+ 1,202,607

APPENDIX IV.

WEST AFRICAN CURRENCY BOARD.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1913.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Advances	40,300	0	0	Bullion purchased (516,365 ozs. standard)	57,538	7	4
Amount received for new silver coin issued (nominal value) ...	70,017	11	0	Charges for Insurance	225	0	2
Amounts withdrawn from deposit	14,000	0	0	Repayment of Advances	40,300	0	0
Specimen coins (nominal value £1 10s.) and cases issued against payment	2	18	0	Interest on Advances	294	4	0
				Amounts placed on deposit at call	25,500	0	0
				Salaries	262	15	7
				Stationery	27	16	7
				Cases for specimen coins	4	16	0
				Miscellaneous expenditure	1	16	11
					£124,154	16	7
				Balance in hand	165	12	5
	£124,320	9	0		£124,320	9	0

New Silver Coinage Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Amount paid for bullion purchased	57,538	7	4	New silver coin issued	70,022	16	0
Cost of insurance (transferred from Insurance Account)	63	0	0	Bullion in store (261,736 ounces) cost	29,414	1	0
Profit on silver coinage (transferred to Profit and Loss Account)	41,835	9	8				
	£99,436	17	0		99,436	17	0

Insurance Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Premium paid	225	0	2	Proportion due in respect of coin shipped during 1912-13	63	0	0
				Balance	162	0	2
	£225	0	2		£225	0	2

Profit and Loss Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Interest on Advances	294	4	0	Profit on issue of new silver coinage (transferred from New Silver Coinage Account)	41,835	9	8
Salaries and Allowances	262	15	7				
Stationery	27	16	7				
Specimen coins and cases presented or retained by the Board	7	3	0				
Miscellaneous expenditure	1	16	11				
	593	16	1				
Net profit transferred to Balance Sheet	41,241	13	7				
	£41,835	9	8		£41,835	9	8

Balance Sheet.

<i>Liabilities.</i>				<i>Assets.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	41,241	13	7	Silver bullion in store (261,736 ounces) cost	29,414	1	0
				Deposit with Bank	11,500	0	0
				Balance of Insurance Account	162	0	2
				Cash at Bank	165	12	5
	<u>41,241</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>41,241</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>

G. V. FIDDES.
W. H. MERCER.
L. COUPER.
D. L. H. BAYNES,
Secretary.

I certify that this account has been examined under my directions and is correct.

1st August, 1913.

A. E. STEPHENSON,
Director of Colonial Audit.

APPENDIX V.

WEST AFRICAN CURRENCY BOARD.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1914.

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand (1st July, 1913)	165	12	5	Bullion purchased (6,229,096 ozs. std.)	703,004	5	3
Amount received for new silver coin issued (face value)	943	77	4	Charges for minting coin	30,121	3	8
Premium on new silver coin issued	7,176	0	0	Charges for freight, etc.	17,337	9	7
Premium on United Kingdom silver coin shipped out	1,741	10	0	Charges for insurance	1,582	17	10
United Kingdom silver coin repatriated	209,000	0	0	Payments to Agents for issue and withdrawal of coin	1,697	18	9
Dividends and interest	6,157	15	11	Cables sent to West Africa	13	12	7
Amount withdrawn from deposit	11,500	0	0	Drafts paid in London	130,000	0	0
				Amount invested	147,268	8	3
				Interest on overdrafts	1,157	16	9
				Specimen coins	2	12	6
				Salaries	554	3	4
				Stationery	27	19	7
				Miscellaneous	28	2	10
				Income tax on dividends (to be recovered)	72	18	4
					<u>1,032,869</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>
				Balance in hand and at Bankers (30th June, 1914)	146,648	13	1
	<u>1,179,518</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>1,179,518</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

New Silver Coinage Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Bullion in store and silver coin unissued on 1st July, 1913 (261,736 ozs.), at cost	29,414	1	0	New silver coin issued	1,203,977	4	0
Paid for bullion purchased	703,004	5	3	Premium on new silver coin issued	7,176	0	0
Insurance	1,116	10	2	Bullion in store and silver coin unissued on 30th June, 1914 (2,112,727 ozs.), at cost	235,307	7	4
Freight	12,237	6	6				
Landing charges	20	15	0				
Charges for minting	30,121	3	8				
Cables	13	12	7				
Profit on silver coinage (transferred to Profit and Loss Account)	670,532	17	2				
	<u>1,446,460</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>1,446,460</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>

United Kingdom Silver Coinage Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Freight, &c....	2,506	8	1	Premium on £232,200 United Kingdom silver coin shipped out	1,741	10	0
Insurance	213	3	2	Loss (transferred to Profit and Loss Account)	978	1	3
	<u>£2,719</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>£2,719</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>

Repatriation Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
West African coin issued to be exchanged for United Kingdom coin	332,156	11	6	Amount received in exchange for United Kingdom coin	281,000	0	0
Balance paid in London for United Kingdom coin repatriated	43	8	6	United Kingdom coin in course of repatriation	51,200	0	0
Agents' charges	1,043	1	3	Loss (transferred to Profit and Loss Account)	3,925	18	1
Freight	2,573	0	0				
Insurance	299	16	10				
Miscellaneous	10	0	0				
	<u>£336,125</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>£336,125</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>

Freight Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Amount paid for freight, &c.	17,337	9	7	Freight, &c., on outward shipments of West African coin	12,258	1	6
				Freight, &c., on outward shipments of United Kingdom coin	2,506	8	1
				Freight, &c., on homeward shipments of United Kingdom coin	2,573	0	0
	<u>£17,337</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>£17,337</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>

Insurance Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance 30th June, 1913, brought forward	162	0	2	Premium on outward shipments of West African coin	1,116	10	2
Premiums paid	1,582	17	10	Premium on outward shipments of United Kingdom coin	213	3	2
				Premium on homeward shipments of United Kingdom coin	299	16	10
				Balance 30th June, 1914, carried forward	115	7	10
	<u>£1,744</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£1,744</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>

Profit and Loss Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Interest on overdrafts	1,157	16	9	Profit on issue of new silver coinage (transferred from New Silver Coinage Account)	670,532	17	2
Salaries	554	3	4	Dividends and interest	6,157	15	11
Stationery	27	19	7	Premiums on drafts on London	975	0	0
Specimen coins	2	12	6				
Miscellaneous	18	2	10				
Agents' charges	654	17	6				
Loss on United Kingdom silver coin shipped out	978	1	3				
Loss on repatriation	3,925	18	1				
Net profit transferred to Balance Sheet	670,346	1	3				
	<u>£677,665</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>£677,665</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>

Balance Sheet.

<i>Liabilities.</i>				<i>Assets.</i>			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Balance of Profit and Loss Account as per last Balance Sheet	41,241	13	7				Bullion in store and silver coin unissued (2,112,727 ozs.), at cost
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	670,346	1	3				235,307 7 4
				711,587	14	10	Issued coin held at currency centres (face value)
							130,975 0 0
							United Kingdom coin in course of repatriation
							51,200 0 0
							Investments at cost price... ..
							147,268 8 3
							Balance of Insurance Account
							115 7 10
							Income Tax to be recovered
							72 18 4
							<i>Cash—</i>
							At Bank £146,648 1 7
							In hand 11 6
							146,648 13 1
				£711,587	14	10	£711,587 14 10

G. V. FIDDES.
W. H. MERCER.
L. COUPER.
D. L. H. BAYNES,
Secretary.

I certify that this account has been examined under my directions and is correct.
A. F. STEPHENSON,
Director of Colonial Audit.

11th January, 1915.

Statement of Securities held by the West African Currency Board on the 30th June, 1914.

Description of Securities.	Nominal Value.	Cost Price.	Middle Market Price on 30th June, 1914.
			£
Canada 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock (1940-1960)	£ 25,000	£ 24,751 0 0	£ 24,500
Victoria 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock (1940-1960)	25,000	24,407 5 0	25,000
New Zealand 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock (1929)	25,000	25,013 14 0	24,875
New South Wales 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock (1942-1962).	25,000	24,344 15 0	24,500
Trinidad 4 cent. per Inscribed Stock (1917-1942)	50,000	48,751 14 3	50,000
TOTAL	150,000	147,268 8 3	148,875