

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 724.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, see No. 694.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1912.



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No. 724.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 694.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Sierra Leone,
16th July, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book for the Colony of Sierra Leone for the year 1911, which has been prepared by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. E. E. Evelyn, I.S.O.

I have, &c.,

G. B. HADDON SMITH,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
L. Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1911.

Sierra Leone is situated on the West Coast of Africa between $6^{\circ} 55'$ and 10° north latitude and between $10^{\circ} 40'$ and $13^{\circ} 21'$ of west longitude, and consists of two parts:—

- (a) The Colony of Sierra Leone, and
(b) The Protectorate.

Sierra Leone has a coast line of 210 miles, extending between $6^{\circ} 55'$ and $9^{\circ} 2'$ of north latitude, from the territory of the Republic of Liberia on the south-east where the Mano River forms the boundary, as far as Kiragba on the north-west.

It is bounded on the north and north-east by French Guinea; on the south-east by the Republic of Liberia; and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

The estimated area of the Colony and Protectorate is about 31,000 square miles. According to the Census of 1911 the population of the Colony amounted to 75,572 (41,001 males and 34,571 females), while that of the Protectorate is estimated at 1,327,560, of whom 1,323,151 are natives other than those in military barracks, while the remainder, numbering 3,426, are non-natives. This estimate is based on the number of houses on which tax has been paid and on the assumption that so many persons live in one house, the number varying from 5 to 10 according to the district and tribe.

The following statement gives the approximate number of the various tribes in the Protectorate:—

Mendis	442,524	} Autochthonous and semi-autochthonous Pagan Groups.
Lokkos	38,580	
Krims	21,197	
Gallinas (or Veis)	6,685	
Sherbros	107,274	
Bulloms	27,701	
Foulahs	11,500	} Northern invading and Mohammedanising Groups.
Mandingos	12,735	
Konnohs	61,000	
Korankos	29,930	
Susus	36,544	
Yalunkas	15,600	
Timinis	347,229	
Limbas	110,938	
Gpakas	5,530	
Gbennas	11,777	
Miscellaneous	36,407	
Total	1,323,151	

The Colony and Protectorate are divided for administrative purposes into the following districts:—

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Freetown Police District.

Headquarters District.—Headquarters,	Waterloo.
Karene	Batkanu.
Ronietta	Moyamba.
Railway	Kennema
Koinadugu	Kaballa.
Sherbro	Bonthe.
Northern Sherbro	Bandajuma.

The Freetown Police District and the Sherbro District are entirely within the Colony, while the Headquarters District embraces part of the Protectorate as well as the remainder of the Colony. The other five districts are entirely within the Protectorate. There are also two sub-districts, Konnoh and Kanre Lahun, in the Railway District; two, Imperri and Shengay, in the Northern Sherbro District; and one, Port Lokko, in the Karene District.

The principles underlying the administration of the Protectorate have been to recognise, as between natives, the use of native customary law; to preserve the authority of the native rulers; to strengthen the just and lawful exercise of that authority, while preventing all acts of aggression; and to grant to all non-natives in the Protectorate the protection of the English law, to which they had formerly been accustomed.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

The revenue for 1911 amounted to £457,759, as compared with the estimate of £391,725. This return indicates an increase of £33,544 over the revenue received for 1910, and is in excess of the expenditure of the year under notice by £25,311, inclusive of the payment out of revenue of the sum of £45,306 on the construction of the Rowalla Railway extension.

This record is very satisfactory and reaches the highest point yet attained in Sierra Leone; but the figures do not appear to demand any special observations, as they are only a natural reflex from the general agricultural and commercial expansion adumbrated elsewhere in this report.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of revenue as compared with the preceding year:—

Heads of Revenue.	Revenue for 1911.		Revenue for 1910.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Customs	242,324	8 0	226,315	3 4	16,009	4 8	—	—
Port, Harbour, and Light-house Dues.	5,502	19 9	4,620	15 6	882	4 3	—	—
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	66,889	16 6	62,935	12 0	3,954	4 6	—	—

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Heads of Revenue.	Revenue for 1911.	Revenue for 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, Reimbursements-in-Aid.	14,059 3 10	12,324 9 0	1,734 14 10	—
Post Office and Savings Bank.	8,807 2 9	7,081 9 11	1,725 12 10	—
Rents on Government Property.	436 3 0	500 2 4	—	63 19 4
Interest	10,339 10 8	7,698 7 5	2,641 3 3	—
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,448 8 3	589 15 10	858 12 5	—
Railway	107,925 6 1	99,946 3 1	7,979 3 0	—
Tramways*	—	2,079 3 5	—	2,079 3 5
Land Sales	26 7 0	124 7 6	—	98 0 6
Total	457,759 5 10	424,215 9 4	35,784 19 9	2,241 3 3

* Merged in Head Railway.

The total revenue for the five years, 1907-1911, was as follows:—

	£
1907	359,104
1908	320,999
1909	361,326
1910	424,215
1911	457,759

Expenditure.

The following comparative statement shows the increases and decreases under the several heads of expenditure as compared with the preceding year:—

Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure for 1911.	Expenditure for 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Charge on account of Public Debt.	61,335 12 4	60,003 8 10	1,332 3 6	—
Pensions	7,291 12 11	6,616 17 9	674 15 2	—
The Governor and Legislature.	5,771 13 10	6,804 0 11	—	1,032 7 1
Colonial Secretary's Department.	5,530 16 8	4,844 6 0	686 10 8	—
Provincial Administration	31,288 15 2	29,579 9 10	1,709 5 4	—
Treasury	3,929 14 0	3,732 5 6	197 8 6	—
Customs Department ...	13,636 12 1	13,231 12 8	404 19 5	—
Audit Department ...	2,417 7 6	2,578 9 4	—	161 1 10
Port and Marine Department.	1,391 1 0	1,268 9 4	122 11 8	—
Legal Departments... ..	7,965 4 11	7,276 3 2	689 1 9	—
Civil Police	8,871 18 3	8,893 13 9	—	21 15 6
Prisons	7,491 13 7	7,210 15 8	280 17 11	—
Medical Departments ...	22,682 14 9	23,719 15 3	—	1,037 0 6
Sanitary Department ...	3,712 8 7	—	3,712 8 7	—
Education	8,521 3 3	8,414 13 6	106 9 9	—
Miscellaneous Services ...	19,127 0 8	20,341 16 1	—	1,214 15 5

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Heads of Expenditure.	Expenditure for 1911.	Expenditure for 1910.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Post Office	11,301 5 7	10,505 3 4	796 2 3	—
Agricultural Department ...	1,917 18 4	2,035 6 1	—	117 7 9
Forestry Department ...	2,191 0 1	—	2,191 0 1	—
Public Works Department	8,432 15 5	6,790 4 5	1,642 11 0	—
" " Recurrent...	17,015 2 9	12,665 8 3	4,349 14 6	—
" " Extraordinary	33,119 16 3	22,029 3 1	11,090 13 2	—
West African Frontier Force	22,413 19 2	20,633 8 4	1,780 10 10	—
Sierra Leone Government Railway.	79,784 14 5	77,976 3 0	1,808 11 5	—
Tramways*	—	2,649 2 7	—	2,649 2 7
Central Railway Construction.	45,306 6 5	1,422 12 10	43,883 13 7	—
Total	432,448 7 11	361,222 9 6	77,459 9 1	6,233 10 8

* Merged in Head Sierra Leone Government Railway.

The total expenditure for the years 1907-1911 was as follows:—

	£
1907	345,567
1908	341,871
1909	336,746
1910	361,222
1911	432,448

Loan Expenditure.

The amount expended during the year on works and undertakings chargeable to loan funds amounted to £700, the principal items contributing to this expenditure being for—

- (1) Freetown Wharf construction.
- (2) Jetties—Freetown Wharf.

The total expenditure on works and undertakings chargeable to loan amounted at the end of the year to £1,188,965, leaving a balance of £10,112 available for completing any works on hand.

It should be observed that an amount of £3,759 originally charged to loan funds has during the year been transferred to an account styled "Advances—Loan Conversion Account," thereby increasing the amount of the last cited item still available.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities was increased to the extent of the surplus of the year's transactions, and amounted on the 31st December, 1911, to £244,079, of which £149,961 is invested in securities, £37,000 is in the hands of the Crown Agents for the Colonies at interest, while £43,036 represents the value of stores on hand in the Railway (Open Lines), Railway Extension, and Public Works Department.

Public Debt.

The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,255,101, which is made up as follows:—

	£
4 per cent. ten year Convertible Bonds ...	530,000
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock, 1929-1954 ...	725,101
Total	£1,255,101

During the year the liability in respect of this funded debt was reduced by £7,400, being the value of bonds redeemed out of the Sinking Fund.

The amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Fund on the 31st December, 1911, were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Bonds	0	8	6
Stock	34,389	5	4
Total	£34,389	13	10

The net liability of the Colony in respect of its Funded Debt, after allowing for the amounts standing to the credit of the Sinking Funds, was on that date £1,220,711 6s. 2d.

Currency.

Vide pages 8 and 9 of the Report for 1909.*

General.

The balance standing to the credit of the Colony House Tax Fund on the 1st of January, 1911, was £5,792. The revenue collected during the year from this source amounted to £2,879, thus making a total of £8,671.

The expenditure on various improvements for the benefit of the inhabitants of the districts in which the tax is collected amounted to £3,463, leaving a balance on the 31st December, 1911, of £5,208 available for further improvements.

The amount standing to the credit of the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund at the end of the year was £1,125, of which a sum of £727 has been invested.

*Municipalities.**Freetown Municipality.*

The gross revenue of the Municipality during the financial year (1st November, 1910, to 31st October, 1911) amounted to £12,070, while the gross expenditure during the same period was £11,172.

These returns show an increase of £757 and of £137 over the corresponding returns for the preceding financial year. An inspection, however, of the net revenue and expenditure figures for the year reveals a deficit of £169 on the year's working, while

* Colonial Report—Annual, No. 648.

the total net debt of the Municipality has now reached an aggregate of £1,317.

To this latter amount has also to be added a further sum of £1,118, which represents the present total of the annual contributions of one per cent. paid by the Municipality to the Government towards the extinction of the Waterworks Loan. This sum has hitherto not been accounted for as final expenditure, but it is nevertheless not available to meet the liabilities of the city.

The Municipality accounts disclose a grave condition of financial embarrassment, enhanced largely by the non-collection of rates amounting to a large sum which can now hardly be regarded as realisable, and the position assumes a still less favourable aspect when it is remarked that while the expenditure on personal emoluments and ordinary departmental votes follow the estimates closely, that devoted to public works, both in respect of construction and of upkeep, almost invariably falls far below the sum estimated to be expended on those objects.

The Municipality is in receipt of an annual grant-in-aid from the Government of £1,800, and information regarding its debt, together with the provision for its repayment, will be found on page 10 of the report for 1909.

At the beginning of the financial year under survey, the Government advanced a further sum of £1,400 to the Municipality to relieve its pecuniary exigencies, which amount is included in the gross revenue return of £12,070 given above. This loan is subject to repayment without interest in five annual instalments commencing in 1912.

The following table shows the gross revenue (including the grant-in-aid) and the gross expenditure of the Municipality during the five years 1907-1911:—

Year.	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£			£		
1907	9,018	...	...	9,082
1908	9,118	...	...	8,851
1909	9,525	...	...	9,428
1910	11,313	...	...	11,035
1911	12,070	...	...	11,172

Sherbro Municipal Board.

The gross receipts of the Sherbro Municipal Board during the year 1911 amounted to £1,403, as compared with £1,723 in the preceding year; and the amount is made up as follows:—

	£
Balance from 1910	273
Grant-in-aid from general revenue for sanitary police	152
Grant-in-aid from Sherbro District House Tax Fund for general purposes	300
Local revenue from House Tax, Licences, Fees, Fines, &c., in the town of Bonthe	678
Total	£1,403

The expenditure of the Board on the maintenance of roads, drainage, and other necessary works, including salaries of staff and sanitary police, amounted to £920, as compared with £1,450 in 1910, thus leaving a balance of £483 to be carried forward to 1912.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the Sherbro Municipal Board for the years 1907-1911:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1907	1,440	935
1908	1,411	1,021
1909	989	1,445
1910	1,688	1,450
1911	1,130	920

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Trade.

The net revenue collected by the Customs Department during the year, after drawbacks and refunds had been deducted, amounted to £249,573, which exceeds the corresponding return for 1910 by £16,970. The gross revenue from import duties collected in the Sherbro District was £70,163, which shows an increase of £589 over that for the preceding year. The gross amount of customs duty collected in respect of each of the principal articles of import is given below in comparison with the figures for 1910:—

	Years ended 31st December,		Increase or Decrease in 1911 compared with 1910.	
	1910.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Ale, Beer, and Porter	1,577	1,719	142	—
Cottons	30,062	28,808	—	1,254
Hats and Caps	1,393	1,397	4	—
Hardware	1,350	945	—	405
Iron Manufactures	1,882	2,060	178	—
Oil, Kerosene	5,941	10,413	4,472	—
Provisions	1,638	2,016	378	—
Salt	2,644	1,986	—	658
Spirits	111,887	120,736	8,849	—
Sugar	4,179	4,027	—	152
Tobacco, Manufactured	2,623	2,990	367	—
" Unmanufactured	40,221	43,159	2,938	—
Wines	2,341	2,781	440	—
Woolens	1,361	1,394	33	—
Other minor imports taken collectively.	15,511	16,017	506	—
Aggregate receipts	224,610	240,448	18,307	2,469

The items mainly responsible for the increase in import duties during 1911 were kerosene oil, spirits, and unmanufactured tobacco, which together contributed 72·49 per cent. of the total receipts from that source. The decrease in cottons is due to the higher prices prevailing in Europe, which curtailed importation; while the decline in hardware is chiefly due to the carrying over of large stocks from 1910.

Imports.

Imports are valued for statistical purposes as they lie in the port of entry; such value consisting of invoice value, excluding trade discounts, but including cash and other special discounts, freight, insurance, and the value of the packages containing the goods. The total values of the imports for the five years 1907-11 are given below:—

					£
1907	...	...	...	...	988,022
1908	...	...	...	...	813,700
1909	...	...	...	...	974,581
1910	...	...	...	...	1,162,470
1911	...	...	...	...	1,267,231

Increases appear in every class of import, except in food for human consumption, which has decreased in value by £31,374; but this is due to the abnormal importations of rice in 1910 to meet the failure of the local rice crop of that year.

Greater consignments of coal for supplying steamships calling at the port of Freetown account for the majority of the advance in raw materials.

The importation of specie amounted to £217,832, showing a rise of £27,552. As stated on page 12 of the Report for 1910, the movement of specie to and from Sierra Leone is determined largely by outside influences; but this increase is a further indication of the expansion of trade which took place in 1911.

Government imports amounted to £76,673, being an advance of £47,574 over those of 1910, and representing 6·05 per cent. of the total imports.

This striking increase is due to the materials required for the railway extension and certain extraordinary public works, including the new Law Courts and the new prison.

The total value of imports reached an aggregate of £1,267,231, as against £1,162,470 in 1910.

Statistics analysing the importation of alcoholic liquors into the Colony will be found in Appendix A at the end of this Report.

Exports.

Exports are valued for statistical purposes as they lie in port of shipment—such value including the cost of the packages containing the goods, together with all charges connected with the

loading of the cargo, but exclusive of conveyance to the port of destination.

There are no export duties in Sierra Leone.

The total value of exports in 1911 amounted to £1,300,238 as compared with £1,249,367 in 1910.

The following table exhibits the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1907-11:—

					£
1907	...	...	...	...	831,259
1908	...	...	...	...	736,755
1909	...	...	...	...	981,466
1910	...	...	...	...	1,249,367
1911	...	...	...	...	1,300,238

Of the total increase of £50,871 the produce and manufactures of Sierra Leone yielded as much as £36,933.

Specie was exported to the value of £190,476, this representing a decrease of 4·45 per cent. as compared with the corresponding exportation in 1910. The decline is a favourable sign that money is now enjoying a freer and wider circulation, which causes a keener demand for cash, which in its turn results in the contraction of the amount available for export.

Apart from specie, the only categories in which a decrease appears are drink, the export of which has declined by the small sum of £162, and "miscellaneous and unclassified," where there is a fall from £3 to £2—a negligible item.

Increases in Exports.

Palm products.—In 1911 palm products constituted 72·39 per cent. of the domestic exports, and 65·53 per cent. of the total of all exports less specie—facts which make it clear to what extent the present prosperity of Sierra Leone is bound up with her palm industries and with the prices which the oil and kernels are able to command in the markets of Europe.

The export of palm oil exhibits an increase of 80,309 gallons, valued at £7,075; and out of a total exportation of 725,648 gallons 612,583 were consigned to the United Kingdom and 61,224 to Germany.

Kola nuts.—These rank as a principal export, second only to palm kernels. In 1911 the export figures reached the highest point hitherto recorded, namely 1,599 tons, valued at £194,312, representing an increase of 88 tons of a value of £2,370 over those for 1910. As much as 1,569 tons were consigned to other parts of West Africa. The demand for kola is increasing and the area of its cultivation is consequently being extended.

Ginger.—This industry is prospering. 1,692 tons, valued at £44,668, were exported, as compared with 1,093 tons, of a value of £33,288, in 1910; and of this quantity 1,688 tons were consigned to Liverpool.

Piassava.—The demand for piassava has revived. The best quality of this product comes from the Northern Sherbro District, where a branch of one of the largest bass dressing establishments in the United Kingdom is actively engaged in this industry.

The records of the export trade for 1911 are 906 tons, valued at £12,502, indicating an advance over those for 1910 of 271 tons, of a value of £3,660.

Hides.—9,101 more hides were exported in 1911 than in the previous year. This advance is attributable to the rapidly growing number of cattle killed for human consumption, the demand for meat having become stronger owing to the growth of the European community and to the increasing affluence of the native.

Decreases in Exports.

Palm kernels.—The amount of palm kernels exported was 139 tons less than in 1910, but the value of the exports was £12,664 higher than in that year.

This feature is due to the fulfilment in 1911 of contracts made in 1910 at high rates in anticipation of a further rise in the price of palm kernels in the European markets. That expectation, however, proved fallacious, as the prices in 1911 ranged only between £16 and £19 per ton, as compared with a movement between £17 and £20 in 1910.

Of a total exportation of 42,892 tons, 33,238 tons were consigned to Hamburg, a preponderance which is explained on page 19 of the Report for 1910.

Gum copal.—This export underwent a further decline owing to the low prices prevailing in Europe. 28 tons, valued at £2,966, were exported, as compared with 33 tons, of a value of £3,331, exported in 1910.

Reference is made to the prospects of this product on page 19 of the Report for 1909.

Rice.—22,620 bushels of Sierra Leone rice, valued at £4,715, were exported, as against 35,114 bushels, of a value of £5,925, in the preceding year.

The rice crop in 1911 was far superior to that of 1910; and the decrease under notice is entirely due to a keener demand for this rice for local consumption, which curtailed the residue available for export.

Rubber. The production of rubber in 1911 was the lowest recorded during the last ten years, only 16 tons, valued at £5,918, being exported.

The ruling average price in the markets of Europe was not sufficient to induce the natives to collect much rubber for export. Now that a Forestry Department has been instituted, it is hoped that, with the employment of more approved methods of cultivation and with a more rigorous superintendence of the growing plants and trees, better results will be achieved with this product. An English firm is cultivating a rubber estate in the neighbourhood of Waterloo.

General features of trade.

Although the labour unrest in England proved a disturbing element in the import trade of Sierra Leone by impeding the regular delivery of cargoes, the year under review was characterised by satisfactory increases both in the imports from and exports to the United Kingdom; while the aggregate trade with the United Kingdom reached the highest point hitherto attained, namely £1,264,387, or 49·25 per cent. of the total.

The United Kingdom is responsible for 75·03 per cent. of the total import trade and 24·12 per cent. of the total export trade.

The former percentage indicates a slight decline of ·23 per cent., and the latter an increase of 9·69 per cent., as compared with the corresponding figures for 1910; but the imports to the United Kingdom have nevertheless risen in value by £75,872.

The increased exports to the United Kingdom are chiefly due to larger consignments of palm kernels. Germany ranks second as an importer, with 11·22 per cent., and first in the export trade, with 40·37 per cent. of the total import and export trades respectively.

Allusion has been made earlier in this Report to one of the leading causes of this latter fact.

The imports from the United States of America have increased from ·39 to ·85 per cent. of the total import trade—an advance due to the establishment in 1911 of direct steamship communication with the United States of America, which led all importations by this service to be credited to the United States of America, while formerly they were credited to the European countries from which they were finally shipped to Sierra Leone. They consisted mainly of unmanufactured tobacco and kerosene oil.

The exports to other West African countries sustained a slight decline of 4·63 per cent., namely from 32·98 per cent. of the total export trade in 1910 to 28·35 per cent. in 1911.

The other variations do not appear to require comment.

Shipping.

The tonnage cited below is in every case the net register tonnage given on the vessel's certificate of registry.

858 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,248,455 tons, were entered; and 879 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 1,244,984 tons, were cleared.

When compared with the corresponding records for the previous year, a decrease of 34 vessels, but an increase of 252,052 tons, is shown in respect of vessels entered; while, as regards those cleared, a decrease of 64 vessels, but an increase of 247,097 tons, is shown.

These returns include 263 sailing vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 2,325 tons, entered, and 286, of an aggregate tonnage of 3,048 tons, cleared.

The corresponding figures for 1910 were:—Sailing vessels entered 404, aggregate tonnage 3,082; sailing vessels cleared 454, aggregate tonnage 2,733.

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It will therefore be seen that the number of sailing vessels trading is perceptibly declining, the carrying trade passing more and more to the steamship companies.

The following table gives the number and tonnage of steam vessels (distinguishing nationality) entered during the years 1910 and 1911 respectively, together with the proportion per cent. contributed to the total tonnage by the ships of each nation:—

Nationality.	Steam vessels entered.				Increase.	Decrease.	Percentage proportion to total tonnage entered.	
	1910.		1911.				1910.	1911.
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons	No.	Tons
Belgian ...	21	77,691	35	146,822	14	69,131	—	—
British ...	371	770,459	418	855,512	47	85,053	—	—
Danish ...	2	2,609	—	—	—	—	2	2,609
French ...	—	—	2	2,530	2	2,530	—	—
German ...	88	134,591	130	232,633	42	98,042	—	—
Greek ...	1	1,256	4	5,024	3	3,768	—	—
Norwegian ...	1	31	3	111	2	80	—	—
Russian ...	—	—	2	1,664	2	1,664	—	—
Spanish ...	4	6,684	1	1,834	—	—	3	4,850
Total...	488	993,321	595	1,246,130	112	260,268	5	7,459
							100·00	100·00

The year 1911 discloses an advance of 107 steamships, of an aggregate tonnage of 252,809 tons, as compared with the previous year; but it has to be observed that an artificial restriction was imposed on the shipping in 1910 by the outbreaks of yellow fever in the Colony, which led mariners to avoid the port of Freetown as far as was practicable. Both British and foreign shipping share in the advance, but the returns of foreign shipping show the better results.

It will be seen that in 1911 the position of the United Kingdom was weakened by 8·91 per cent., while that of Germany improved by 5·12 per cent. Belgium occupies the third place.

The advance in German shipping is due partly to the larger carrying capacity of the German cargo steamers visiting Freetown in search of trade; but still more perhaps to the inclusion during the year of that port among the places of call of the express mail and passenger steamers of the Woermann line.

The passenger traffic to and from Sierra Leone of this line is rapidly growing, owing to its vessels' marked superiority over some of the British mail-boats in respect both of accommodation and of punctuality.

It is, however, satisfactory to state that the total number and tonnage of the steamships which entered the ports of the Colony under the British flag in 1911 were the largest reached hitherto and surpassed all former years by the widest margin yet recorded.

The subjoined table gives a statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the years 1907-11:—

Year.	Inward.		Outward.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1907	952	943,575	964	946,956
1908	951	1,021,803	959	1,024,249
1909	1,116	1,096,686	1,133	1,094,446
1910	892	996,403	943	997,887
1911	858	1,248,455	879	1,244,984

Agriculture.

In 1911, the old Agricultural Department, which was formerly incorporated with the Forestry Department, was reorganised and divided into the Agricultural and Forestry Departments, and two European officers were appointed on the staff of each.

A site of about 1,000 acres in area situated near Mano, in the Ronietta District, has been selected as the headquarters of the Agricultural Department. Part of it will be cleared before the next rainy season, so that the Department will commence experiments very shortly with the various native crops.

One of the objects of the Agricultural Department will be to evolve a practical rotation of crops which will enable the farmer to grow produce on his land for a longer period than has hitherto been possible.

The principal food of the natives in Sierra Leone is rice, of which there are many different varieties. These are divided into two main groups—hill rice and swamp rice. The former is grown on the farms without irrigation, and the latter is grown in the swamps or low-lying grounds adjacent to the rivers.

The different varieties will be carefully investigated, and an improvement in the method of cultivating ginger, maize, guinea corn, benni seed, cassava, and ground-nuts will also be attempted. It is further intended to establish experimental stations in each district, at which experiments will be carried out with a view to improve the local crops.

Cocoa is being grown both in the Colony and in the Protectorate, and there is reason to believe that this crop may eventually be a successful one, in spite of the long dry season of Sierra Leone.

In the Koinadugu District soya beans have been successfully cultivated, and further experiments will shortly be made with this product at the Mano headquarters.

The rice harvest in 1911 proved a marked improvement on that for 1910, although several of the farms in the Protectorate were not planted to their full capacity owing to a shortage of seed rice. In spite, however, of the increased production of rice, the market price in Freetown remained unusually high.

Special attention is also being paid to the cultivation of the castor oil plant and of benni seed, products which may eventually come to be of considerable importance.

Although great allowance will always have to be made for the peculiarities of the soil and the strong conservatism of the native farmer, it may in general be said that under the new régime and closer superintendence a considerable advance may be looked for in the agricultural development of Sierra Leone.

This impression gathers strength from the growing interest taken by the native chiefs in agricultural pursuits, a valuable index of which was discernible in the active support accorded by them to the Agricultural Show held in September, 1911, at Moyamba in the Ronietta District. This was the first exhibition of its kind and was supported financially both by the Government and by the Chiefs. It proved a great success in every way, and a proposal to make it an annual event in each district is now under consideration.

Imperial Institute.

Several samples of vegetable products were submitted for examination to the Imperial Institute in 1911, and reports were received on specimens of cocoa, the dried roots of the "bitter leaf tree," "indigo" and "Kpoye" kernels.

The market value of the cocoa was estimated at about 54/- per cwt. at Liverpool; an estimate which would have been higher had the beans been more thoroughly and uniformly fermented.

The "bitter leaf tree" was identified at Kew as *Vernonia Amygdalina*, Delile.

The dried leaf buds and young plants of *Lonchocarpus Cyanescens* were not favourably noticed; but the kernels of the "kpoye" tree, which was identified at Kew as *Pycnanthus Kombo*, Warb., were reported to be of commercial value. Adequate quantities, however, of the latter are not obtainable.

Five samples of soya beans from the Ronietta District were found to yield from 22.9 to 25.9 per cent. of oil on the dry bean, this being above the average of the corresponding yield from the Manchurian soya beans. If properly prepared, those from Sierra Leone would be readily saleable at the current market price.

The Sierra Leone Court at the Imperial Institute has recently received some additions, including specimens of native basket work, some pottery exhibits prepared at Bo School, and a fine pair of tusks of Sierra Leone ivory.

During the present year further exhibits for the Court are being collected.

Veterinary Branch.

The principal country for cattle is in the Koinadugu District, where large herds of a hundred or more are frequently to be seen. The majority of the cattle are of a reddish brown colour, small in size with long horns. The quality of milk produced from them is good, but the quantity of yield at present is very low.

The method now prevailing of promiscuous breeding, with no selection of sire or dam, is very detrimental to the class of stock, as it leads to excessive in-breeding, owing to the cattle being herded together in one place and never having an opportunity of meeting cattle from other places.

It is possible that in favourable circumstances the bullocks might in time become available as draught animals, and the trade in cattle in this district will, it is hoped, become important, as the cattle do well on the high grass lands and there is an increasing demand for beasts for slaughter along the railway line.

Forestry.

A full account of the forestry conditions prevailing in Sierra Leone is given on pages 20 to 24 of the Report for 1910.

In 1911 the European staff was strengthened by the appointment of an Assistant Conservator of Forests, and the work of this department was carried on satisfactorily during that year.

The first step towards the reservation of Colonial forests was made in December, when an area of 75½ square miles lying between the Babadori valley on the north and Kent on the south was carefully surveyed by the method of minor triangulation, based on the points already fixed by Major Pearson in his survey of 1904.

Forest nurseries and plantations already existed at St. George's Valley in Freetown and at Kennema. New ones have now been established at Mano, Bo, and Yamadu.

The experiments made with Para rubber seeds met with varying success, while those made with gum copal at Kennema proved most successful.

Dried specimens of parts of 58 trees were sent to Kew for identification, and two of them proved to be new species, namely, *Stercospermum leonense*, Sprague, and *Corynanthe Lane Poolei*, Hutchinson.

A Forestry Ordinance, drafted on the lines of that in force in Southern Nigeria, is now under consideration, which, it is hoped, will have the effect of preventing the needless destruction of forests to which allusion is made on page 22 of the Report for 1910, and which, unfortunately, still continues to a considerable degree.

At present the people do not seem disposed to give much effect to the advice offered by the Forestry staff, and it remains to be seen whether the enactment of the Ordinance referred to will be followed by a more cordial co-operation on their part.

During the year 1911 the forest areas of the Protectorate underwent an appreciable diminution, owing to the cession to Liberia of a considerable portion of the Gola forest in virtue of the treaty adverted to elsewhere in this Report. With the exception of a few strip surveys conducted in 1909 by Mr. A. H. Unwin, of the Southern Nigerian Forest Service, the recesses of this important forest have never been seriously explored.

Those brief incursions, however, revealed the presence of several valuable specimens of mahogany, rosewood, and satinwood trees; and the loss, from the forestry standpoint, which Sierra Leone has sustained by being deprived of this forest district must therefore be accounted a serious one, though its precise degree is not now ascertainable.

SIERRA LEONE, 1911.

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III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed in 1911; but it is only necessary to make reference to five of these:—

- (1.) The Vicar Apostolic of Sierra Leone Incorporation Ordinance, which incorporates the Roman Catholic Bishop of Sierra Leone.
- (2.) The Unoccupied Lands (Ascertainment of Title) Ordinance, which provides a summary method of ascertaining the ownership of many lands apparently vacant or without owners.
- (3.) The Education Ordinance, which provides for a more effective system of education.
- (4.) Buchanan and Tyrell's Patent Ordinance, which grants patent rights in the Colony and Protectorate for the protection of a nut-cracking machine.
- (5.) The Public Health Amendment Ordinance, which directs that all wells situate within 130 yards of any public pump or standpipe shall be closed, and that the remaining wells shall be efficiently protected against the ingress of mosquitoes. This Ordinance also enacts that every barrel or other vessel containing water shall be provided with a mosquito-proof barrel.

IV.—EDUCATION.

COLONY.

The mode in which education is carried on in the Colony is concisely stated on page 27 of the report for 1910; and figures relating to the Primary Mission Schools later than those there cited are not available at the time of writing.

During the year under survey, a new Education Ordinance, No. 13 of 1911, was passed, by which the Director of Education and the Education Committee replace the old Board of Education, subject to the authority of the Governor-in-Council; and it is noticeable that the newly created Education Committee possesses an unofficial majority.

In addition to reading, writing, and arithmetic, assisted schools are required to teach the practice of some industrial or agricultural subject. Other subjects taught are history, geography, grammar, elementary hygiene, and nature study. Observation lessons, formerly sporadic and infrequent, now form part of the regular routine in most schools. The abolition of the system of payment by results has led to the foundation of a system of education better suited to the local environment. Schools run more smoothly and their work is productive.

Infant education, the methods of which were formerly with rare exceptions pernicious, now has regard both to mental and to physical activities. The hand is now employed as constantly as the head, and over-stimulation of the mind is avoided by arrangements for short intervals for recreation.

A gratifying feature is the higher level of efficiency now attained by many teachers; and by giving money grants to those of them who show merit, as well as by providing them with the opportunity of acquiring new and better methods of work, the Government is gradually solving a problem which was once the despair of the Colony.

It is, however, disappointing to have to record that educational energy still continues to be dissipated on two or more schools in sparsely populated areas—a feature apparently due to denominational *esprit de corps*.

Increased European inspection of the primary schools has fortunately been rendered possible during the past year by the presence in the Colony of the Principal and Instructress of the Government Model School, which is still under construction, and the effect of their work is already appreciable.

There are 14 Secondary Schools in the Colony, eight of which are Missionary Institutions, while the remainder are owned privately. The total number of pupils educated in these institutions amounts to over a thousand, 820 of whom attend the Missionary Schools; and from them come the professional classes, the teachers and the clerks employed by the Government and by business firms. A scheme has been sanctioned under which these schools will come into the grant-aided area, with the object of aiding in the establishment of systematic hand and eye work, and in securing a supply of trained youths for service as teachers.

There are five Mohammedan Schools or “Madrasas” in the Colony for the education of Mohammedan children; and, with the exception of a small sum contributed for the maintenance and equipment of these schools, their revenue is derived entirely from public funds.

The number of pupils on the roll in 1911 was 778 and the average attendance 456, as compared with 754 and 510 respectively in 1910. Of this number 250 are drawn from the various tribes of the Protectorate, and the Mandingos and Timinis continue to lead in numerical superiority.

The curriculum is the same as in Christian schools, with the addition of Arabic, which is taught daily between 7 and 9 a.m.

The majority of teachers in these schools are Christians; but out of the 12 Mohammedan boys who were originally selected for training as teachers under the supervision of the Education Department, 10 still remain. Their progress and work have been watched carefully, and it is intended that some of them shall be attached to the teaching staff of the “Madrasas” next year.

It is an interesting fact that the Mohammedans in this Colony are desirous that their women should be educated, and it is hoped that some of them will eventually become teachers.

Technical Education.

The Diocesan Technical School has continued to give instruction in the sciences relating to the building trade, architecture, and surveying.

The number of students is 31, several having left the school to take up various appointments during the year.

The expenses of the school have been met mainly by the Bishop of Sierra Leone's Diocesan Fund and by work done in the course of the school's curriculum. Approximately, the revenue is proportioned as follows:—

Sierra Leone Diocesan Fund...	...	33 per cent.
Receipts for work done	... ..	30 „
Government Grant	... ..	25 „
School Fees	... ..	12 „

There is increasing evidence that a scientific bias is needed in the educational programme of the Colony, as the larger proportion of youths enter life with only literary or theoretical knowledge, without having had sufficient training in the application of scientific principles.

The Technical School is doing useful work in supplying this need.

University Education.

The number of students at Fourah Bay College at the end of the year 1911 was 25, as compared with 17 in the preceding year. The income derived from students' fees was £436, while the expenditure amounted to £770.

The nature of the work done in connection with this estimable institution is indicated on page 30 of the Report for 1910.

The increase in the number of paying students, who now form as much as four-fifths of the entire number, is highly satisfactory; but the year 1911 marked the termination of the three years' grace granted by the Church Missionary Society in 1908 for the purpose of allowing local arrangements to be made for partially or wholly relieving that Society of their heavy financial responsibility in connection with the upkeep of the College. Up to the present, however, no local efforts have been made to ensure its continued existence; and the problem of its future career is a difficult one which still awaits solution.

On the last Degree Day, two candidates graduated as M.A. and two as B.A. (Dunelm).

EDUCATION IN THE PROTECTORATE.

The outstanding feature of education in the Protectorate during the year under review was the inauguration of the new system of grants to Protectorate schools, to which allusion is made on page 31 of the Report for 1910.

The sum of £313 12s. 8d. was distributed between 28 schools as a result of the inspection conducted by the staff of Bo School.

The aim kept in view is twofold—partly to encourage such practical teaching as will benefit the pupil materially, and partly to retain in the minds of the pupils respect for their own people, country, and institutions.

The ordinary Missionary school in the Protectorate rarely has a trained teacher in charge, and frequently he is out of touch with both Chief and pupils owing to his ignorance of their language.

The lack of trained teachers is perhaps the most serious obstacle to educational advancement; but a syllabus has been prepared which it is hoped will be of great assistance in these schools.

Although in some schools the inspection revealed great ignorance on many subjects of ordinary interest, as for instance the destination and use of country produce, such as oil, kernels, kola nuts, and so on, still on the whole the impression made was favourable; and it is fully anticipated that this year still better results will be obtained.

In particular, an effort will be made to introduce the accurate pronunciation of English, as distinguished from the coast patois now unfortunately so prevalent.

In 1911 there were, according to the returns, 70 schools, with 2,198 pupils on the roll, as compared with 71 schools, with 2,229 on the roll in 1910.

Full particulars of the school at Bo for the sons and nominees of Chiefs are given on page 32 of the Report for 1909.

At the end of 1911 there were 110 pupils, as compared with the 118 at the end of 1910, this slight decrease being due to the withdrawal of several pupils who had grown up to manhood.

When this school was started in March, 1906, it was found necessary to admit several boys of over 13 years of age, whereas now no boys are admitted if more than 10 years old.

The European staff has been strengthened by the appointment of a Vice-Principal, and the prefect system, which was introduced in May, 1910, is working well; so that the outlook is very promising. In this school also strong efforts are being made to teach the pupils pure English, but in spite of every care the coast idioms still creep in.

The pottery department has proved successful, while the manual training and drawing have wonderfully developed the sense of beauty and form in the minds of the pupils, and have led to greater neatness of work both in school and also in the surroundings of their homes.

It is confidently hoped that the pupils who have been withdrawn in 1911 will prove of great use and influence in their native towns.

The amount paid in school fees was £1,289, while the expense of maintaining the school in 1911 amounted to £3,172. The balance of £1,884 was paid out of the public revenue of the Colony.

Several Mohammedan schools are also to be found throughout the Protectorate, but the education given is chiefly of a religious nature. There are signs, however, that some of these schools are being influenced by the development of Mohammedan education in the Colony.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Asylums.

In 1911 the total number of patients treated at the various Government hospitals and dispensaries amounted to 2,570 in-patients and 83,103 out-patients—85,673 altogether; returns which indicate a decrease of 1,421 as compared with those of 1910, there being a slight falling off both at the out-stations and in Freetown.

In the Colonial Hospital, Freetown, 1,535 in-patients and 30,228 out-patients were treated. 334 operations were performed, 304 of which proved successful.

148 patients were under treatment in the lunatic asylum at Kissy; while 162, including 11 in the leper ward, were treated in the Male Incurable Hospital and 83 in the Female Incurable Hospital.

European Nursing Home.

There were 54 admissions as compared with 60 in 1910. The classification of the patients is as follows:—

Officials	...	...	...	...	21
Mercantile	...	...	...	...	29
Shipping	...	...	...	...	4
					54
				Total	...
					54

These included 22 cases of malaria and one of blackwater fever.

Savings Bank.

A steady increase in transactions was maintained in 1911. The total number of deposits was 9,158, amounting to £63,141, which represents an increase of 665 and £5,571 as compared with the corresponding figures for the preceding year.

The withdrawals numbered 7,291, amounting to £58,521, an increase of 276 and £6,510 in comparison with the figures for 1910.

The average value of each deposit was £6 17s. 10d., and of each withdrawal £8 0s. 6d., as compared with £6 15s. 6d. and £7 8s. 1d. in the year previous.

On the 31st of December, 1911, there were 6,002 depositors on the books, and the amount standing to their credit was £99,812, inclusive of interest for the year.

The average value of each account was £16 12s. 7d., as compared with £16 3s. 4d. at the end of 1910.

The revenue derived from the transfer of accounts to the United Kingdom and to Jamaica amounted to £17, as compared with £13 in 1910.

An investment of £10,000 in Straits Settlements 3½ per cent. stock was made during the year, bringing the total funds now invested up to £100,162.

The interest derived from investments was £3,462, thus showing an increase of £557 over the returns of the preceding year.

The profit and loss account shows a profit of £750 on the year's working, this being the largest realised since the opening of the Savings Bank.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of the judicial system obtaining in Sierra Leone are given on pages 39 and 40 of the Report for 1909.

The institution of an intermediate Court of Appeal standing between the Supreme and Circuit Courts of Sierra Leone and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has been approved. It will be composed of the Chief Justice and Circuit Judge of Sierra Leone and one of the Judges of the Gold Coast Colony, and will have jurisdiction both in civil and criminal matters.

Police.

Some details of the Police Force will be found on page 40 of the Report for 1909.

In 1911 the strength of the force was 253 including all ranks; but an augmentation to the force of two sergeants and nine men has since been approved.

The Detective Branch has done useful work, not only in the prevention and detection of crime, but also in the enforcement of the provisions of various Ordinances relating to spirits and public morality. This branch is also engaged in the finger-print classification of criminals, in connection with which 290 fresh prints were taken during the year, bringing the total of registered prints up to 1,796.

The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1900, has been strictly enforced, and 108 certificates of justness were issued, as compared with 318 in 1910.

514 weights, 173 weighing machines, and 136 measures were examined, and 292 surprise visits were made during the year to the various business houses.

There were 10 outbreaks of fire, as compared with 9 in 1910; with one exception all these took place at night time, and in no case was there any suspicion of incendiarism.

There is a volunteer fire brigade, consisting of 36 men and a native acting superintendent, which is under the control of the Municipality. The men receive 6*d.* per drill, and these take place about twice a week; they also receive a small sum for each fire they attend. There are no steam or manual engines, and the firemen depend entirely on the water-main hydrants, of which there are nearly 300 in various parts of the town. In serious fires, assistance is always rendered by the military, who bring a manual engine and other necessary appliances.

The number of cases reported to the police in 1911 was 1,954; 1,667 arrests were made, 1,248 persons were convicted and 419 were discharged.

As compared with 1910, the returns show an increase in assaults, drunkenness, and larceny from ships; while a decrease is shown in simple larceny and larceny from the person. Despite this increase in the cases of drunkenness, the total number only amounted to 102 during the year, which must be regarded as very moderate.

The cost of maintaining the force was £8,872, as compared with £8,894 in 1910.

There were only 36 young persons brought before the Freetown Police Court, as compared with 71 in the preceding year; 29 of these were convicted of larceny, as compared with 60 in 1910.

Prisons Department.—Freetown Gaol.

The total number of prisoners received into the Freetown gaol in 1911 was 947 as compared with 874 in 1910. Of the former number 94 were committed from districts other than Freetown, as compared with 71 in the year previous. The highest number of prisoners in custody at one time was 263, and the lowest 191. The highest monthly average was 247 in February, and the lowest 199 in November. The daily average for the whole year was 225, being one less than in 1910.

On the occasion of the King's Coronation 30 prisoners were released as an act of grace. In the course of the year seven died in hospital, seven were executed, and two were removed to the lunatic asylum as insane.

Breaches of the Prisons Regulations were rather numerous, and four prisoners were sentenced to corporal punishment by the Visiting Justices. It is anticipated, however, that when the new prison is completed, in which each prisoner will be confined in a separate cell, the number of these breaches will sensibly diminish.

During the year under review, there was a considerable increase in the number of habitual prisoners convicted in the Freetown Police District, an increase which is largely due to the operation of the Summary Conviction Offences Amendment Ordinance, 1910, which enables the police magistrate to give sentences up to nine months' duration to those offenders having five or more previous convictions for felony.

This class of criminal seems to present much the same problem as the corresponding class in England, and it is apparently in the interest both of themselves and of society that these offenders should be incarcerated rather than be at large, since the regular work and salutary prison discipline probably render their lives as harmless and useful as it is in their nature to be.

Two such cases may be cited, in one of which a prisoner has had 40 convictions dating from 1884, while another, since 1875, has spent no less than 25 years in the Freetown gaol.

The work of the Prison Manufacturing Branch continued to be satisfactory, consisting of tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry, and bed-making, the sales from which produced £1,202.

At the new prison, which is now partly in use, the daily average was 109 male prisoners. These men were employed in the heavier kinds of labour.

The health of the prisoners and the sanitary conditions of the gaol were maintained at a satisfactory standard.

District Prisons.

With two exceptions these all show an increase in prison population during 1911 over that of the previous year. The prisoners were generally employed in performing the sanitary work of the various stations and in road making.

Four executions took place, two for Human Leopard murder in the Ronietta District, and two for Human Alligator murder in the Karene District.

The increase in the number admitted to the district gaols does not necessarily imply any increase of crime in the Protectorate, but is no doubt to be attributed to the more efficient administration and supervision exercised by the District Commissioners.

The cost of maintaining the Prisons Department was £6,581, as compared with £6,402 in 1910.

Criminal Statistics.

The returns of the Supreme Court of the Colony show that there were 86 convictions in that Court during the year, including one for murder and 57 for larceny. In the preceding year 105 convictions were recorded, 11 of which were for homicide and 68 for offences against property.

In the Police Magistrate's Court at Freetown, 2,108 persons were convicted summarily, as compared with 1,095 in 1910. This apparently large increase is mainly due to the vigorous prosecutions under the Public Health Ordinances, especially that relating to larvæ.

In the District Police Courts of the Colony, at Waterloo and Bonthé, there were 526 persons convicted summarily, as against 539 in 1910.

In the Circuit Court of the Protectorate there were 70 convictions, as compared with 51 in 1910, and of these 17 were for homicide, as against eight in the preceding year. These convictions include those of members of the cannibal societies.

In the Courts of the District Commissioners in the Protectorate there were 705 convictions, as compared with 639 in 1910, this advance indicating greater administrative activity rather than an increase of crime.

The criminal statistics of the year under review do not call for special comment, save to observe that there seems to be no decline of cannibalism in the Protectorate.

In addition to the convictions recorded for cannibal murder, there have also been convictions on the charge of being in possession of the insignia and implements of cannibal societies.

The most active of these organisations are presumably the Human Leopard and Human Alligator Societies; for, although once—in 1910—a case purporting to relate to the Human Baboon Society was judicially investigated, there appears to be hitherto no conviction for murder on record of professed members of that body.

The operations of the Human Alligator Society are traceable mainly on the Rokelle River and in the vicinity of other rivers in the north of the Protectorate, while the influence of the Human Leopard Society is felt most in the Ronietta and Northern Sherbro Districts.

Apart from the murders which take place from time to time to gratify a lust for human flesh, there are indications that in the Imperri and Timdale Chiefdoms, which are situate within

the latter district, events such as the coronation of a chief or the death of a prominent personage are frequently made an occasion for a human sacrifice by either the "Borni" or the "Tomah" society.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

A statement of the returns of the census taken in 1911, as far as they relate to the Colony, is given later under the heading of "Census"; while an estimate of the population of the Protectorate appears at the beginning of this Report.

Two hundred and thirty-one marriages were solemnised and one civil marriage ceremony performed in 1911. The latter is hitherto the only marriage which has taken place under the Civil Marriage Ordinance, 1910, and both the parties concerned were Europeans.

Registration of births and deaths is not compulsory in the Protectorate, nor is it enforced in all parts of the Colony. In Freetown, however, it is obligatory.

During the year 1,116 births and 1,314 deaths were registered, of which 501 and 740, respectively, took place in Freetown.

These returns show a death-rate of 17 and a birth-rate of 14 per 1,000 respectively.

The population of Freetown according to the 1911 census was 34,090; the births registered numbered 501, and the deaths numbered 747. These figures show a birth-rate of 14 and a death-rate of 21 per 1,000 respectively. The ten chief causes of death were in the order given as follows:—

1. Diseases of the digestive system.
2. Diseases of the nervous system.
3. Diseases of the respiratory system.
4. Debility.
5. Fever (malarial).
6. Diseases of the circulatory system.
7. Rheumatism.
8. Premature birth.
9. Diseases of the urinary system.
10. Tubercle.

It must, however, be stated that only about 25 per cent. of the deaths registered are certified to by medical practitioners.

European Population.

There was an improvement in the health of the European population during 1911. The total number of Europeans resident in the Colony and Protectorate during the year was approximately 909, made up as follows:—

Officials	...	...	...	...	192
Military	...	...	...	...	374
Non-Officials	...	...	...	...	343
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>909</u>

There were three deaths, two of which were due, respectively, to blackwater fever and heart disease, while the other was accidental. Thirty-six Europeans were invalided, of whom 17 were suffering from malaria and one from blackwater fever.

Ninety European officials were placed on the sick list for a total number of 532 days, while five were sent to England invalided.

General.

There were no cases of yellow fever or trypanosomiasis during the year, nor any epidemic outbreak of small-pox.

Vaccination was carried on as regularly as possible both in the Colony and Protectorate.

8,432 persons were vaccinated, 5,199 (61 per cent.) with known success.

The returns of malaria show that 2,208 cases were treated, as compared with 2,472 in 1910. In Freetown 151 fewer cases were recorded than in the year previous, a decrease which affords some testimony as to the success of the anti-mosquito measures adopted during the year, which is further confirmed by a decrease in the deaths from that disease of 54.

The infantile death-rate in Freetown was 310 per 1,000, a decrease of 58 on the rate for 1910.

Sanitation.

An Ordinance further amending the "Public Health Ordinance, 1905," was passed in 1911, the purport of which has been stated earlier in this report under the heading of "Legislation."

The regular work of the Sanitary Department was diligently carried on during the year, special attention being devoted to the extermination of mosquitoes. Consequent on the routine inspections of collections of water with a view to the discovery of larvæ, 1,350 prosecutions were instituted under the Public Health Amendment Ordinance, 1910, and in 1,084 cases convictions were secured.

In Freetown the free distribution of quinine was extended by an arrangement under which the Princess Christian Mission Hospital Dispensary is supplied with large quantities, free of charge, for issue particularly in the eastern part of Freetown, where that institution is situated.

The inhabitants of Freetown show marked appreciation of the free supplies of broken stone provided, at Professor Simpson's suggestion, for use in filling up pools and other hollows.

Experiments are in hand to make trial of the usefulness of "Millions" fish as larvæ eaters. They may prove useful in pools, but larvæ-eating fish appear to avoid places where laundry work is habitually carried on, owing to the soapy condition of the water ensuing therefrom.

It is believed that, as a result of the comprehensive and sustained campaign against mosquitoes, their number in Freetown has been sensibly diminished.

1,918 rats and mice were brought to the Colonial Hospital by the public and paid for at the rate of one penny each.

A commencement has been made in the drainage of "Brookfields," a swampy area lying to the west of Freetown, in which direction the city may possibly be extended at some future time.

At Bonthe the water supply is still at an experimental stage, the pumps which had been installed having suffered from wilful damage and from thefts of the working parts. A new iron cylinder well, with a patent elevator attached, promises to be more satisfactory. The problem may perhaps be solved by sinking some concrete-lined wells outside the town with strong pumps operated by a windmill, or with an aero-motor pump attachment.

Owing to the partition of the Northern Sherbro and the Sherbro Districts, the District Commissioner of the latter is now more free to devote his care to the sanitation of Bonthe and York Island.

The usual sanitary inspections throughout the Colony were efficiently conducted during the year.

In the Protectorate, where the sanitation scheme is controlled by the District Commissioners with the assistance of the medical officers and is promoted by methods of suasion and encouragement, a gratifying advance is recorded.

One indication of this is discernible in the establishment, by a few of the native chiefs, of definite segregated cemeteries.

Some progress has also been made in the matter of expelling cattle from the towns and villages; while there are also cases of entirely new towns having been built by Chiefs on regular lines in the immediate vicinity of old ones, with a view to abandoning the latter eventually or at least to remodel them substantially.

It is further favourable augury that many Chiefs are now beginning to take a practical interest in the planning and making of roads and streets.

Presentation swords and certificates have, as usual, been awarded to those Chiefs whose zeal in promoting the sanitary condition of their Chiefdoms has appeared to merit recognition, and a general survey of the work done in 1911 justifies the claim that the interests of sanitation were appreciably advanced in that year both in the Colony and in the Protectorate.

Climate.

A general description of the climatic conditions prevailing in Sierra Leone, comprising an account of the rainfall, temperature, and the direction and force of the wind, appears on pages 50-52 of the Report for 1909.

At Freetown, in 1911, the mean shade temperature was 80·4°; the highest point recorded being 92° in March, and the lowest, 70·8° in October.

The rainfall measured 146·59 inches, August being the wettest month with 36·08 inches, while the driest was January with 0·01 inches.

The maximum humidity was, in August, 90°, and the minimum was recorded in April, 75°.

The general direction of the wind was westerly.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Postal Department.

A satisfactory expansion of postal business is recorded throughout the Colony and Protectorate.

The number of Post Offices open at the close of the year was 48. Savings Bank business was transacted at nine of these; money order business at 29; and postal order business at 33.

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year amounted to 1,490,618, as compared with 1,415,493 in 1910. This total was made up as follows:

	Letters, Post Cards, Book Packets.		Parcels.	
	Ordinary.	Registered and Insured.	Ordinary.	Insured.
Received from United Kingdom...	434,892	7,311	18,700	1,540
Despatched to United Kingdom ...	236,797	24,569	1,845	211
Received from West African Colonies.	159,087	17,534	6,167	24
Despatched to West African Colonies.	139,234	10,719	2,241	—
Internal	384,078	36,226	9,443	—

The money order transactions numbered 12,732, and amounted to £133,637. A comparison with the figures of the previous year shows a decrease in number of 52, but an increase in value of £11,305:—

	1910.		1911.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.
Received from United Kingdom...	485	£ 3,658	380	£ 1,913
Despatched to United Kingdom ...	3,985	35,932	4,001	34,628
Received from West African Colonies.	417	2,975	278	2,998
Despatched to West African Colonies.	469	3,992	481	4,309
Internal	7,428	75,775	7,592	89,789
Total	12,784	122,332	12,732	133,637

The postal order business continued to show an appreciable increase. 37,613 orders, amounting to £22,197, were issued, and 27,070 orders, amounting to £18,593, were paid during the year. Compared with 1910, 5,279 more, of the value of £4,054, were issued, and 2,362, of the value of £1,726, were paid.

The postal revenue totalled £8,807, an increase of 24 per cent. when compared with 1910. The Customs Duty collected in respect of parcels amounted to £2,449, and £3,462 was received as interest on the Saving Bank investments. £2,352 was collected by the Post Office in respect of Inland Revenue services.

The expenditure amounted to £11,301, an increase of 7½ per cent. over 1910. A sum of £1,962 was paid as interest to Savings Bank depositors.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

The only land line telegraph in Sierra Leone is under the control of the railway department. The head office is at Water Street, Freetown, and the line of operation extends to Baiima (220½ miles from Freetown): a branch runs from Mano on the railway main line to Bendu (Sherbro), a distance of about 72 miles, from which latter place telegrams are carried to and from Bonthe and York Island by boat services. There are two important transmitting centres, (1) at Boia, 64½ miles, and (2) at Bo, 136 miles up the line, also two sub-transmitting stations, viz., (a) at Songo Town, whence messages are telephoned to and from Port Lokko and Mabanta (Imperial Government military lines); this line serves the Karene and Koinadugu Districts; and (b) at Mano, from where the railway telegraph lines branch to Serabu and Bendu, whence telegrams are conveyed by boat to Bonthe, as stated above.

A telephone service was constructed during 1910 between Baiima and Pendembu terminus, a distance of 7½ miles, also between Boia Junction and Roruks, a distance of about 21 miles, on the Yonni branch line. A telegraph station was also opened at Serabu, on the Mano-Bendu line, to serve the districts round Sumbuya and Mafwe.

Telegrams from any part of the Protectorate can be sent to all parts of the world from any railway station through the West African Direct Telegraph Company in Freetown.

Telephones.

Webb and Thompson's staff and telephone instruments combined are in use by the railway for departmental working from Hill Station to Pendembu. There is also a private telephone service connecting the railway head office at Water Street, Freetown, with the various heads of the railway sub-departments.

An exchange switchboard for the railway's own departmental use is installed in the telegraph head office at Water Street, connecting the General Manager's office with all the sub-offices of the railway. The Customs Department and the Central Police Station are also in direct telephonic communication with the railway exchange.

There is a telephone line between the West African Direct Telegraph Company and their bungalow at Hill Station, and some short lines connecting about four commercial stores with their head offices in Freetown, and another small exchange is installed in the Colonial Secretary's Office, placing it in tele-

phonic connection with various other Government departments and with Hill Station.

The installation of a single central exchange serving the whole country would be a natural and advantageous development of the telephonic services of Sierra Leone.

The revenue derived from the railway telegraph department in 1911 was £2,060, as compared with £1,628 in 1910.

IX.—PROTECTORATE.

A comprehensive account of the "House Tax," the "Court Messengers," "Land Tenure," the "Spread of Mohammedanism," and "Game" is given in the Report for 1909, pages 55 to 57.

The returns from the House Tax in 1911 amounted to £52,771, as compared with £49,703 in 1910, an advance which must be regarded as gratifying, and attributable largely to the more efficient assessing of the various Chiefdoms.

The strength of the Court Messenger Staff was 223, and the cost of maintaining the force was £4,170, as compared with £4,353 in 1910.

The Political Staff was strengthened in 1911 by the appointment of three additional District Commissioners (second class); and the importance and wisdom of maintaining an adequate administrative establishment sufficient to ensure the efficient performance of the assessing and police duties of each district and sub-district are becoming increasingly manifest.

From the 1st of May, 1911, the Northern Sherbro and Sherbro Districts, which had been administered jointly, were divided, and the Northern Sherbro District was placed under a separate administration, with the old disused station of Banda-juma as its headquarters. A new site, however, has since been selected at Pujehun, which it is hoped to develop into a model station.

Two new sub-districts were opened during the year, one at Port Lokko in the Karene District and the other at Kanre Lahun in the Railway District. Each was placed under one of the newly appointed second class District Commissioners.

The institution of the former has already produced good results, while the latter was rendered necessary by the accession of territory in that locality consequent on the Anglo-Liberian treaty of the 21st of January, 1911.

The advance and spreading influence of Islam still remains a salient feature of many of the Protectorate tribes; and in districts where that influence is strong a high degree of sobriety and of amenability to good order prevails.

Game.

The following were reported as shot by holders of licences during 1911:—

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Elephants	5
Buffalo	2
Waterbuck	3
Duiker	3
Cobus-kob	6
Bush buck	1
Bush cow	1
Hippopotamus	...	...	...	...	...	1

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

On the 29th of April, 1911, Sir Edward Marsh Merewether, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., formerly Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to the Government of Malta, landed at Freetown and assumed the administration of the Colony in succession to Sir Leslie Probyn, K.C.M.G., who had been appointed to the Governorship of Barbados.

On the 21st of January, 1911, a treaty was signed, and subsequently ratified on the 13th of May following, on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Republic of Liberia, by which certain territories in the east of the Sierra Leone Protectorate, comprising part of the Gola Forest, were ceded to Liberia in exchange for an area of territory which is now administered as a sub-district of the Railway District, with Kanre Lahun as its headquarters.

In pursuance of the exchange of notes between the British and French Governments on the 6th of July, 1911, the Anglo-French boundary underwent a modification, resulting in the accession to Sierra Leone of a narrow strip of territory of an area of about 125 square miles, which is now also included in the Railway District.

On his return journey from Cape Town, General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., D.S.O., Inspector-General of the Oversea Forces, paid a visit of inspection to Freetown, which lasted from the 29th of October to the 1st of November.

During his stay he inspected the several contingents and corps composing the Imperial Military Garrison stationed in Sierra Leone, which is under the command of Major-General J. A. Ferrier, C.B., D.S.O., R.E., General Officer Commanding the Troops, West Africa.

The Census.

During the year under review the decennial census was taken under the provisions of the Census Ordinance, 1911, the 2nd of April being the "census day."

The skeleton results of this census are stated at the opening of this Report, and, in comparing them with those of the census taken in 1901, it has to be observed that in the interval the Isles de Los were ceded to France, while Kikonkeh is now comprised in the Protectorate.

The total population of the Colony shows an increase of 1,221 persons over that of 1901; the resident European community has advanced in numbers during the last decade by 341, thus more than doubling its number of 309 in 1901; while the Syrian population has increased from 47 in 1901 to 175 in 1911.

The Sierra Leoneans proper, or Creoles, on the other hand, have decreased during the same period by 2,120, or 6·3 per cent., a decrease which must be partly attributed to the depopulation of several of the villages of the Colony. It should, however, also be remarked that in recent years a considerable number of Sierra Leoneans have migrated into the Protectorate, or have sought employment down the coast.

State of Railways and Roads.

Railways.—The main line of the Sierra Leone Government railway extends from Freetown (Water Street terminus) to Pendembu, a distance of 227½ miles.

There is a branch line from Boia junction to Roruks, a distance of 20½ miles. An extension of this line northward to Rowalla was commenced in 1910, and it has now been decided to continue it across the Rokelle river in the direction of Makene, a town in the Karene District, 18 miles beyond that river. When completed, the total length of the branch line from Boia will be about 89 miles, and it will reach the heart of one of the richest palm-belts of the Protectorate.

A mountain line, 5¼ miles long, runs from Freetown to Hill Station. Hill Station stands 900 feet above sea level.

There are also short branch lines connecting the terminus with the Government wharf, Government quarry, Public Works Department, and recreation ground.

The gauge of all the lines is 2 feet 6 inches.

The total number of stations and flag stations is 51.

In 1911 the accounts for the mountain section were merged into those of the main line. The working expenses amounted to £69,818 and the earnings to £107,621, showing a net revenue of £37,803.

This result must be regarded as highly satisfactory, as it indicates a yield of about 3¼ per cent. on the capital expenditure. From a commercial point of view, however, it must be observed that the Railway Department does not bear the expenses connected with the residences at Hill Station occupied by members of its staff, nor of the pensions paid to retired railway officials.

In 1910 the earnings amounted to £101,610, and the net revenue to £36,576, so that the results of the year under review were still more satisfactory than in the preceding year.

A sum of £9,922 was spent on "Capital Works," and the allocation of working expenditure was as follows:—

Way and Works	£ 21,406
Locomotive, Carriage, and Wagon	25,721
Traffic	13,887
General	8,804
		£69,818

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	1910	1911
Total number of passengers ...	345,768	339,332
Goods tonnage	53,425	55,540
Train miles	249,493	261,056

The earnings and expenditure of the mountain railway are now merged in those of the main line, separate figures no longer being kept.

	1910	1911
Receipts per train mile ...	8s. 1'74d.	8s. 2'94d.

Working expenses per open and train mile:—

	1910			1911		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Per open mile ...	261	16	7·94	273	5	2·01
Per train mile ...	0	5	4·23	0	5	4·19

The revenue and expenditure of the Boia and Baiima tram lines are now merged in that of main line.

Rolling Stock:—

Locomotive engines	35
Coaching vehicles	59
Goods vehicles	203
	262

Roads.

An account of the Protectorate roads system is given on pages 47 and 48 of the Report for 1910.

During the year under review the ordinary work of maintenance was carried on. The surfaces of the first and second class roads were re-coated with laterite, and the embankments repaired.

The third class roads continued to be maintained by the Paramount Chiefs, acting under the instructions of the District Commissioners; and in connection with this work the sum of £513 was paid in subsidies to the Chiefs.

Several new bridges were built and other improvements effected in some of the more important roads in the Colony.

Public Works.

The work of the Public Works Department is increasing rapidly, and the European staff has consequently been considerably augmented.

Progress was made with the buildings of the new Supreme Court and legal offices, which were commenced at the end of the year 1910. This work, however, was somewhat retarded by the non-receipt of the steelwork and the delay in delivering the doors and window-frames.

Good progress was also made with the new Prison buildings situate at the Botanic Station.

The Prison hospital, which was commenced in 1910, is completed, and is considered by the Medical Staff to be thoroughly satisfactory in every way.

During the year the cell system of the prison was changed, and two blocks of solitary cells to accommodate 72 prisoners each are now under construction.

The new Post Office of Freetown was also completed in 1911, providing accommodation for the parcel post and accounts branches of the General Post Office.

A commencement was made in the building of the new Government Model School, the accommodation of which consists of a central hall, three class-rooms for standard pupils, and two class-rooms for infants, together with rooms for the Principal and the teaching staff. A workshop for manual training is also to be built in 1912.

Owing to the increase in the number of the European colonial officials, several new residences have been built both in the Colony and Protectorate, while others are still under construction.

A cast-iron screw-pile jetty was built at Port Lokko, the chief port of the Karene District, to facilitate the landing-of passengers and cargo. The new pier is 65 feet long and reaches to the deepest part of the channel, so that launches can now be made fast and passengers and cargo discharged direct on to it.

A bridge has also been constructed over the Bankasoko river, connecting the old and new towns of Port Lokko. It has a total span of 160 feet, and has proved of great convenience to the natives, who previously had to rely on a ferry service.

A hospital was built at the Moa Barracks, Daru, for the West African Frontier Force. The walls of this building are of sun-dried mud bricks, while the floors are of concrete and the roof is of corrugated iron.

It remains to observe that it has been decided to build a new Government House at Hill Station, but the construction of it has not yet been begun.

Commercial and General Outlook.

An indication of the opportunities and qualifications requisite for commercial enterprise and investment of capital in Sierra Leone is given on pages 61 to 64 of the Report for 1909.

The prospects of Sierra Leone trade at the present time continue to be favourable.

The prices of the principal exports still rule high in the European markets, and, with the further opening up of the rich but more remote palm-belts in the north of the Protectorate by the extended Yonni branch line with its accompanying "feeder" roads, it may be freely anticipated that the quantity of palm products brought down to the coast for export will be sensibly augmented.

The prosperity of this export trade produces as a natural corollary in natives and Sierra Leoneans alike a growing ability to command the various comforts and luxuries of food, apparel, and

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environment which characterise a people's progress in wealth and refinement of life.

Numerous signs occur in indicating that this Colony and its Protectorate are progressively attracting the attention of European business firms and financiers; the resident European community, official as well as unofficial, is steadily increasing in numbers; and a general survey of the year under review compels the conviction that Sierra Leone may justly look forward with confidence to a fair participation in the era now clearly dawning throughout West Africa, which augurs well to be one of commercial prosperity, of political development, and of an ever-advancing civilisation.

E. EVELYN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
12th July, 1912.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the importation of spirits into Sierra Leone during the five years ended 31st December, 1911.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanations.	
1907	420,078	£ 54,368	£ 89,586		From 1st January, 1906, 4s. the Imperial gallon or part thereof, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralle's Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of one penny for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 5.50 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1908	305,233	43,244	70,553		As above, till 14th August, 1908. From that date, 5s. the Imperial gallon or part thereof, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralle's Alcoholometer, together with a further sum of one penny for each unit per centum of pure alcohol above 50 per centum.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 5.31 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1909	303,537	46,054	83,416	As above		Value of spirit imports amounted to 4.73 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1910	413,791	59,281	111,930	As above		Value of spirit imports amounted to 5.09 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1911	457,911	76,144	120,736	As above		Value of spirit imports amounted to 6.01 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.

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

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., 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.
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910-1911
697	Swaziland	"
698	Barbados	"
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	"
702	British Guiana	1910-1911
703	Jamaica	"
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
708	Uganda	1910-1911
709	Straits Settlements... ..	1910
710	Basutoland	1910-1911
711	Leeward Islands	"
712	St. Vincent	"
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910-1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	"
719	Ashanti	"
720	Falkland Islands	"
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast... ..	"
723	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906-7 and 1907-8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute... ..	Rubber and Gutta-percha.



