

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 946.

NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 920.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

January, 1918.



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THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Nigeria,

30th September, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith my report on the Blue Book for the year 1916.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD,

Governor-General,

The Right Honourable

Walter H. Long, P.C., M.P.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1916.

FINANCIAL.

The gross revenue for 1916 amounted to £2,943,184, as compared with £2,703,257 in the previous year, an increase of £239,927. From this should be deducted, however, a repayment to revenue from Loan funds amounting to £111,985, representing a fraction of the sum advanced for the construction of the Eastern Railway pending the raising of a loan, leaving a net increase of revenue of £127,942. The details of the revenue are as follows:—

	1915.	1916.
	£	£
1. Licences and Internal Revenue	83,541	104,234
2. Fees of Court, &c.	105,106	139,814
3. Customs	1,383,467	1,148,992
4. Marine	37,000	74,324
5. Railway	586,981	770,020
6. Interest	31,499	31,764
7. Direct Taxes	305,134	371,002
8. Posts and Telegraphs	34,302	32,825
9. Rent of Government Properties	11,560	13,266
10. Miscellaneous	16,666	15,201
11. Imperial Grant-in-Aid	100,000	100,000
12. Land Sales	8,001	15,110
13. Cameroons	—	14,647
14. Repayment from Loan Funds.. .. .	—	111,985
Total	£2,703,257	£2,943,184

The increase under Licences and Internal Revenue was due to a larger revenue from tin (leases and royalties) and a larger total of Native and Provincial Court fines in the Southern Provinces.

Fees of Court, &c., increased by £34,000, due to a larger yield from Court fees in the Southern Provinces, timber exploitation (£7,900) and sales of coal (£18,412). The Customs revenue was less than in the previous year by £234,475. The specific duties fell by £297,932, due to a restricted importation of trade spirits, but the *ad valorem* duties increased by £17,000. The new export duties on produce introduced on the 7th October yielded a sum of £44,900.

The increase under Marine (£37,000) is accounted for by a larger yield from harbour dues owing to the greater depth of water on the Lagos Bar throughout the year, and the freight earned on Udi coal brought from Port Harcourt to Lagos. The railway revenue shows a gratifying increase of £183,039, due to greater trade activity, especially in the produce trade. The Direct Taxes in the Northern Provinces yielded a sum of £66,000 more than in 1915. A small sum appears on account of the revenue from the British sphere of the Cameroons. It is not Nigerian revenue, strictly speaking, and is more than balanced by the similar entry on the expenditure side.

The total expenditure for the year exceeded that for 1915 by £175,423. Deducting the extraordinary items of expenditure, Eastern

Railway Construction and War Costs, the normal expenditure for the year amounted to £2,971,050, or £324,984 in excess of the corresponding figures for the previous year. This is attributable to the increased expenditure under the following heads: (a) Public Debt, due to the new loan raised in 1916 to pay off debentures under the 1911 Loan, the interest on the new loan and a part of the old loan overlapping for part of the year; (b) West African Frontier Force, due to arrears of accounting owing to the Force being in the field from August, 1914, to March, 1916; (c) Railway, a small excess of £15,000 in working expenditure against increased receipts of £183,039, as shown above.

The normal revenue of the year fell short of the normal expenditure by £139,851. This result is not unduly discouraging in view of the fact that the fall in revenue is entirely due to the enormous reduction in the importations of trade spirits. The revenue from import duties declined by £673,000 between 1913 and 1916, the spirit duties falling from £1,133,305 in 1913 to £372,982 in 1916. Had the new export duties, referred to in a succeeding paragraph, been in force during the whole of 1916 the normal revenue for the year would have exceeded the normal expenditure. The year closed with a deficit of £124,411 in the accounts of Nigeria.

The surplus funds of £1,821,384, which were in the Treasury on the 1st January, 1914, have disappeared, having for the most part been used for the construction of the Eastern Railway, pending the issue of a loan for the purpose. The expenditure on this large work amounted to £1,848,762 to the end of 1916, of which £1,736,777 has been charged against revenue and £111,985 against a small balance on the loan raised in 1911. "War Costs" have also been in part defrayed from the surplus balances. "War Costs" represent the unprovided expenditure incurred in connection with the military operations against the Cameroons, and to the end of 1916 they amounted to £350,105 (of which £98,405 has been met by grants from Native Treasuries in the Northern Provinces). The debt to the Crown Agents amounted to £480,000 on the 31st December. This is offset, for the most part, by the investments still held on behalf of the "Surplus Funds" account (£476,537).

The only change of taxation in 1916 was the imposition of the export duties under Ordinance No. XLVI of 1916, which came into force on the 7th October.

They are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Cocoa, per ton	2	6	8
2. Palm Oil, per ton	2	0	0
3. Palm Kernels, per ton	1	2	6

In view of the large stocks of produce on hand at the time of the imposition of the duties, it was subsequently arranged to charge only one half of the above rates until the 31st March, 1917.

The Government received as its share of the Direct Taxes in the Northern Provinces a sum of £371,002, as compared with £305,134 in 1915.

The public debt was increased by £203,000 during the year owing to the loan issued in June to pay off outstanding debentures under a previous loan. Four years debentures were issued at 5 per cent. interest to a total of £4,425,000. The issue was made at 97½ per cent.

The accumulated sinking funds amounted to £377,066 at the end of the year, of which a sum of £88,373 awaited investment.

The surplus funds belonging to the Native Administrations in the Northern Provinces amounted to £129,979 on the 31st December, 1916, as compared with £121,449 at the end of 1915, after deducting a sum of £53,041 contributed by them during the year towards the war expenditure of Nigeria. £56,436 on account of these surpluses remained invested in England at the end of the year, the balance being on deposit in the Protectorate Treasury at interest.

The total revenue and expenditure of the Native Administrations for the last five years has been as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
*1912	£146,101	£132,761
1913	325,652	252,085
1914	326,508	319,940
1915	324,155	289,675
1916	394,848	307,123

* April to December only.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of the imports during 1916 (excluding specie) was £5,174,474, as compared with £4,983,728 in 1915. The increase is almost entirely due to enhanced prices as in every case but two (salt, and bags and sacks) the principal imports disclose a falling off in volume.

The following table shows the quantities and values of the principal articles of import during the preceding two years :—

Articles.	1915.		1916.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Bread and Biscuits cwt.	20,268	31,849	12,816	30,023
Fish "	36,119	81,456	4,862	13,338
Grain and Flour .. "	136,760	111,166	84,739	86,099
Kola Nuts centals	92,769	139,046	89,198	134,697
Salt cwt.	779,674	152,626	894,864	234,219
Spirits .. gall. at 100°	768,000	276,614	394,000	219,194
Tobacco, Cigars, &c. ..	—	248,352	—	245,921
Kerosene, &c. imp. gall.	2,337,126	70,075	2,300,858	72,775
Wood and Timber sup. ft.	5,017,850	57,785	1,413,215	23,185
Apparel "	—	61,787	—	69,530
Coopers' Stores	—	183,923	—	346,984
Hardware, &c.	—	83,267	—	100,444
Furniture "	—	20,044	—	24,071
Iron, Steel, and Manufactures thereof .. tons	24,665	346,049	5,712	148,467
Machinery "	—	140,447	—	125,058
Soap cwt.	92,992	88,734	66,216	77,338
Cotton Piece Goods ..	—	1,507,429	—	1,505,031
Textile: Silk Manufactures "	—	48,989	—	60,135
do. Woollen do.	—	17,816	—	17,336
Bags and Sacks	—	78,345	—	167,923

The reduced imports in the case of foodstuffs, nearly all of which came from the United Kingdom, is noteworthy. Nigeria has ceased to import foodstuffs from the United Kingdom during the War and is living on her own resources supplemented by importations from the United States of America. The importations of salt, to which reference was made in last year's report, continue to grow in a gratifying manner. Practically the whole quantity comes from the United Kingdom. It is said that this article is taking the place of trade spirits as an article of barter, but, unlike the latter, it cannot be stored for a long period. The value of salt imported during 1916 was £234,219 and the value of spirits fell to £219,194. The duty paid on the latter was, however, £372,982, as compared with £55,957 on salt. During the year 394,000 gallons of spirits at 100° Tralles were imported, as against 768,000 gallons in 1915 and 1,808,000 gallons in 1913. The largest importations took place in 1910—1,974,000 gallons. In 1913 the value of the spirits consumed, including duty, was over a million and a half sterling; in 1916 it was under £600,000, although the minimum duty on rated spirits in 1913 was 4s. 6d. a gallon (increased to 5s. during the year), whilst in 1916 it was 7s. 6d. a gallon, and the prime cost of the spirits had very nearly doubled. There is now good reason for believing that the produce trade in the native markets can be carried on without trade spirits.

Wood and timber also show a considerable reduction in imports. The Government now supplies its requirements in this respect from Nigerian sources and it is hoped that before long all the timber required by Nigeria will be produced locally.

The increase in the value of the importations of coopers' stores is due to enhanced prices.

Hardware, implements, &c.—The Comptroller of Customs reports as follows:—

“The value of imports has not yet reached the pre-War values, but supplies from the United Kingdom exceed in value those of the pre-War years. Central Powers supplied 22 per cent. of the imports, consisting chiefly of very cheap articles. Importations from the United States are increasing, but have assumed no considerable importance. The goods imported under this heading consist mainly of axes, hatchets, machetes, hoes, and other agricultural implements, saucepans, kettles, frying pans, nails, door-locks, padlocks, hinges, knives, forks, spoons, lamps, lanterns, iron bars, tools of all descriptions, uniform cases, tin trunks, iron pots from $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon to 50 gallons, etc.”

Bags and sacks have increased considerably in quantity and value.

The value of imports from the British Empire increased from £4,338,000 in 1915 to £5,012,000 in 1916. Foreign goods imported were valued at £768,000, as against £670,000 in 1915, the United States of America and France showing increases of £115,000 and £26,000, respectively. Merchants still experience difficulties in obtaining supplies of many of the staple articles of trade.

The total value of the exports (excluding specie) amounted to £6,029,546 in 1916, as against £4,946,228 in 1915, and was higher than in any previous year except 1913 (£7,097,646) and 1914 (£6,420,461). In view of the extreme difficulty in procuring adequate ocean tonnage which was experienced during the year the results must be regarded as very satisfactory.

The principal exports were as follows, as compared with the previous year :—

Article.	1915.		1916.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Bennisedced .. tons	616	5,225	1,581	16,523
Cocoa .. cwt.	182,095	313,946	179,121	393,101
Cotton Lint .. „	24,081	56,351	66,555	243,949
Cotton Seed .. tons	1,661	5,013	864	2,526
Corn and Maize .. cwt.	5,449	941	19,626	5,064
Rubber .. lb	556,460	38,113	886,362	34,192
Hides and Skins	—	302,420	—	538,917
Timber	—	54,559	—	49,361
Shea Products .. tons	10,085	69,822	3,512	32,529
Tin Ore	6,535	723,480	7,054	859,603
Gold, raw oz.	1,409	5,097	1,897	7,540
Palm Oil tons	72,994	1,462,162	67,442	1,402,799
Palm Kernels	153,319	1,692,711	161,439	1,739,706
Ground Nuts	8,910	72,177	50,368	473,653

The exports of cocoa were 3,000 cwt. less than in 1915, but were higher in value. The feature of the returns is the increased exports to the United States of America and France, amounting to 31,000 and 10,000 cwt., respectively.

The increase in the export of cotton is very marked, the quantity and value being higher than in any previous year. The Resident of Sokoto reports in this connection :—“A large development of cotton-growing has taken place during the past year and the trade has changed direction. In former years all the surplus cotton grown in this Province after supplying local needs was bought up for export north to French country. In the season of 1915 to 1916, owing to disturbances in French territory, the Bugaja buyers from the north failed to appear. At the same time the shortage of specie made it imperative for farmers to find some means of paying their taxes. The British Cotton Growing Association at Zaria and Funtua were buying cotton at a good price and so the transport of cotton to Zaria began and increased very rapidly. The Sokoto-Zaria road was for weeks filled with donkeys, camels, and oxen, and men carrying cotton to Zaria. Sellers were pleased with the price realised as being much higher than that formerly received from French buyers. The growing of cotton therefore has received a great stimulus in all the eastern half of the Province.”

The export of maize, which exceeded 300,000 cwt. some few years ago, is now almost negligible. Endeavours are being made to stimulate this cultivation so as to build up the export trade again. In the pre-War days a large percentage of the maize exports went to Germany.

The increase in the exports of hides and skins is noteworthy. As the result of competition comparatively high prices were paid in the local native markets. The bulk of the skins went to the United States of America.

NIGERIA, 1916.

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Shea products.—The utilisation of these products seems still to be in the experimental stage and the trade has not yet been properly developed.

The quantity and value of tin exported is higher than in any previous year.

There was a slight decrease in the palm oil exported during the year, but this is more than balanced by an increase in the exports of kernels. Large quantities of both remain on hand awaiting shipment. The prices which are now being paid locally should be sufficient to maintain production.

The exports of ground-nuts increased from 8,910 tons, valued at £72,178, to 50,368 tons, valued at £473,653, nearly the whole coming from the markets round Kano. About one-third of the ground-nuts went to France.

Taken as a whole, exports to France and French possessions increased in value from £259,046 in 1915 to £532,309 in 1916, whilst those to the United States of America increased from £236,477 to £619,527.

The total imports and exports for the last five years, including specie, were:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade (deducting specie).
	£	£	£
1912	6,430,601	6,089,706	11,725,371
1913	7,201,819	7,452,377	13,429,397
1914	6,901,072	6,610,046	12,697,417
1915	5,016,951	5,660,796	9,929,956
1916	5,780,118	6,096,586	11,204,020

The imports and exports of specie for the same period were:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Balance remaining.
	£	£	£
1912	478,718	316,218	162,500
1913	870,068	254,731	615,337
1914	624,115	189,585	434,530
1915	33,223	714,568	—
1916	605,644	67,040	538,604

From 1900 to 1914 the imports of specie have always exceeded the exports, but during 1915 the imports were less than the exports by £681,345. The absorption for the last five years has been £1,069,626.

ENEMY FIRMS IN NIGERIA.

The sale of the properties belonging to the German firms in Nigeria, which are being wound up by the Receiver appointed under the Aliens Restriction Ordinance, 1914, took place in London, in November, 1916, and as a result of the debate in the House of Commons as to the conditions under which the properties should be sold, the sale attracted a great deal of attention and realised a sum of £383,534. The total sum at the credit of the estates on the 31st December, 1916, was £467,633.

MINING.

Northern Provinces.—Fifty-six tin mining companies continued operations during the year, their nominal capital being £5,670,907 and their working capital £2,106,835. They held at the end of the year :—

331 Alluvial Mining Leases	79,100 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres.
91 Exclusive Prospecting Licences . .	231,901 „
Total	<u>311,001$\frac{3}{4}$ „</u>

In addition to the above, 14 stream mining leases and 120 mining rights, for a total of 7,232 acres, were in force.

8,186 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of tin ore were won in 1916, as compared with 6,910 tons in 1915, 6,143 tons in 1914, 5,331 tons in 1913, and 2,885 tons in 1912. The total output for the year gives an average of 1·9 cwt. per acre of land held under alluvial leases, stream leases, and mining rights. The average price of metallic tin in the London market was £179 1s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton.

The average number of persons employed by the mining companies during the year was 148 Europeans and 19,250 natives, and of the latter about 896 were employed on prospecting work. The number employed in actual mining shows an increase as compared with the preceding year of approximately 5,000; the increased output is undoubtedly due to this.

Gold mining operations have been continued near Minna, in the Niger Province, and 2,422·9 ounces of gold have been won. This gold is all alluvial from river washings, nothing further having been done on known small gold-bearing stringers of quartz.

The new Mining Law was brought into force on the 30th March. Amongst the principal amendments and additions mention may be made of the following :—(1) Provision for the issue of mining rights for the cheap and rapid acquisition of mining ground unsuitable for permanent work under a lease; (2) the possession and purchase of tin ore except under licence made illegal; (3) the alteration of the size and shape of mining lease, and (4) regulations as to the disposal of tailings.

The reduction on railway freight on tin is dealt with under “Railway.”

Southern Provinces.—Mining in the Southern Provinces is confined to the Calabar Province; and the Nigerian Proprietary Company, Limited, who have been mining on a small scale since 1911, is the only one operating. The Company have won tin from two areas with a total of 1·345 square miles, and during 1916 the output was 35·23 tons of tin ore, at an expenditure in Nigeria of £2,695.

Coal.—Work was continued steadily throughout the year at the Udi Colliery and the advent of the railway in May gave a considerable impetus to the output, which had previously been curtailed owing to the restricted stacking space. At the end of the year the output had been increased to an average of about 185 tons a day, in spite of difficulties which had arisen owing to the shortage of European staff

and the delay in obtaining plant, especially colliery tubs. Up to the end of 1916 24,500 tons of coal had been won, the cost per ton at the end of the year having been reduced considerably. Native labour is readily obtained and in December 500 labourers were employed underground and 287 on the surface. The latter are paid at the rate of 6*d.* a day and the hewers earn about 1*s.* a ton. The Government requirements of coal for the Railway, Marine Department, etc., average about 60,000 tons a year at Lagos, and as the average output at the date of writing has reached 300 tons a day, there is now a margin for sale, and a limited amount of coal has been offered for sale at Port Harcourt at 33*s.* a ton. Larger developments of the colliery are under consideration and a new railway siding is being constructed at a cost of £15,000 to a new and more permanent adit, known as the Iva Valley Workings, which will be capable of turning out coal on a large commercial scale. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining European staff and machinery and plant it is not possible to commence the new development work on a large scale at present.

AGRICULTURE.

Northern Provinces.—The season has been a fair one for most crops except cotton. This crop was far below that of the previous year owing to the rains terminating very abruptly and, within a few days of this, a strong harmattan setting in, resulting in serious boll shedding.

The Maigana Experimental Station near Zaria has maintained its usefulness. The American cotton, "Allen long staple," continues to find favour amongst the natives on account of its superior yield and the price paid, which has been raised to 1½*d.* per lb. by the British Cotton Growing Association. Forty-four tons of cotton seed were distributed in April, the demand being in excess of the supply.

Another exotic introduction which has met with great local favour is sugar-cane. Five varieties of pedigree seedling canes were obtained from Barbados early in 1914, and three of these, now in cultivation on native plantations, are highly esteemed not only on account of the superior size but also because of the relative richness of their juice as compared with that of the indigenous variety. Native farmers are readily paying from 1½*d.* to 2*d.* a cane for planting purposes.

At Ilorin, tobacco of the Virginian type has been under experiment for the second time and continues to give promising results. Further experience is necessary, however, in order to adapt the process of curing to the peculiarities of the climate.

Improved varieties of maize, with a yield double that of the native variety, have also been introduced with much success.

The fruit trees from the West Indies which have been successfully propagated by means of budding and grafting are now being distributed to the various Provinces, besides planting up one of each variety in each compound at the capital (Kaduna).

Southern Provinces.—The season was again normal as regards the amount of the rainfall but was marked by an exceptionally wet October and wet and cloudy, overcast November. The continuance of this weather, while exceptionally favourable to late-planted cereal

crops, such as maize in particular, was extremely unfortunate in the case of the cotton crop.

During the months of October and November when the cotton is flowering and bolling, plenty of sun is required, with intermittent light showers. Persistently cloudy, wet weather led to extensive "form" and boll shedding, with resultant loss of a considerable part of the crop. The Georgia cotton grown by the Agricultural Department, and distributed in selected districts, suffered perhaps more than the ordinary "natives" in such a season, the latter from their semi-perennial habit being able to recover partially, later in the season, though the staple would probably be weak and irregular. The Department distributed a large quantity of selected Georgia cotton seed to farmers in the Oyo district, but from a combination of unfortunate circumstances, the season, prejudice, and the apathy characteristic of so many natives till their interest is once thoroughly aroused, the result was complete failure and disappointment. Owing to depletion of the Department's staff in consequence of the transfer of several officers to the management of the Cameroons plantations, it was not possible to give the scheme all the European supervision necessary to success with new ventures in this country.

The cotton being brought to the ginneries at Ibadan is, in the case of one or two leading districts, of exceptionally poor quality though the general level is, on the whole, up to standard. The total production of lint for the year amounts to 11,094 bales, of which approximately 6,590 belong to the last year's crop harvested after January and 4,504 to the 1916 crop. This total is in excess of the 1915 figure, when 6,161 bales only were obtained, but is less than that of 1914 when the out-turn was 13,547 bales of lint. The fact that 1914 was an exceptionally poor growing year, in some respects worse than 1916, shows that the industry has not fully recovered from the shock of the low prices which contributed so largely to the shortage of 1915. The present high buying price came rather too late to affect planting.

The high price of imported cotton goods gave an impetus to native weaving, and much cotton which would otherwise have been exported was used in this way,—the British Cotton Growing Association offering 2*d.* per lb. for Georgia cotton at Oyo and 1½*d.* per lb. for ordinary native at their various buying centres.

The native interest in the cocoa industry continues to grow, especially perhaps in the Ibadan district, which now heads the list as a producing centre. Towards the end of the year the price of cocoa declined very seriously on the threat of a refusal of shipping facilities for this crop. Such a decline in the coffee market a number of years ago led to extensive cutting out of this crop by native farmers but, fortunately, no such panic measure has so far been taken with cocoa. The improvement in the preparation of the product continues though progress is slow. The premium of 3*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. given by merchants (at the suggestion of the Agricultural Department) for fermented cocoa has done much to assist it.

In October the Department's direct control of the Native Farm Regeneration Experiment at Agege (Blue Book, 1914) came to an end. The experiment, begun in 1912, to show that the mycological problem of the Colony (as regards cocoa) was in essence a simple one of

plantation sanitation, proved an unqualified success. The table below shows broadly the results of the work :—

Season.	No. of trees.	Average yield of cured cocoa per tree.	Total yield.	Cost.
		lb.	lb.	£
1st	1,224	·80	961	35
2nd	964	4·40	4,131	47
3rd	1,009	3·40	3,303	63
4th	1,000	5·92	5,512	35

The cured cocoa was sold locally at a premium of about $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. on the ordinary market price and realised £272. The total cost of upkeep of the plots, curing, transport, etc., amounted to £180, so that there was a total profit of £92, or annual profit of £4 12s. 3d. per acre. During the four years the five acres yielded 14,307 lb. of cured cocoa—an average annual yield of 715 lb. per acre. These results are highly satisfactory for the farm was without European supervision for several months in each year.

Kola cultivation continues on the increase in districts suited to its growth. It is perhaps too much to say that it will prove a serious rival to cocoa, but it has the great merit in the native's estimation of requiring little or no attention once established. An enormous market is close at hand, thus promoting a considerable local circulation of money which would otherwise go to neighbouring colonies.

At the agricultural station at Agege rubber tapping was commenced in September and was still in progress at the end of the year, a good yield being anticipated. A simple curing (smoke) house was erected and an endeavour made as far as possible to use methods and appliances within the powers and easy reach of native cultivators. In spite of this, some of the farmers in the district, alarmed evidently at the manifest need of careful work, ruthlessly cut down a considerable number of most valuable and well-grown Para trees on their farms.

The great task before the Agricultural Department is to prove to the native the value of intensive culture instead of the reckless cutting down of virgin forest and the use of ten times the area of land to produce the same output.

The work of the Department in regard to maize is being greatly extended. A number of highly selected American varieties, obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture, are being tested at Ibadan, and everything is being done to promote an interest in, and extended cultivation of, this most valuable staple. The conditions over wide areas of the Southern Provinces are admirable for its growth and it is a popular crop with the natives.

Ground-nuts are also receiving increased attention. Good yields were again obtained at Ibadan, and there is no doubt that the most serious disease problem of this crop has been solved. There is now no difficulty in obtaining yields as good as those recorded in the Northern Provinces and, without doubt, with due attention to variety selection, these ought to be surpassed.

A further impetus was given to work on the oil palm by the findings of the Committee which sat in England on "Edible and Oil Producing Nuts and Seeds."* The work on this crop has been extended, and it is confidently expected that by next year some valuable records should be obtained. Copra production is also being sympathetically fostered. The number of undeveloped coconuts in the country, especially along the creeks and lagoons (though few inland native villages have not got clumps of heavily bearing trees), must be, in the aggregate, very large. The value of the product and the method of obtaining it are not as yet sufficiently known to the native.

Limes and sugar-cane (the latter extensively grown by natives for consumption in the raw state, all over the country) are also being studied with a view to their cultivation being extended. It may be said, in brief, that there are few tropical crops of first class importance that could not be grown successfully in the Southern Provinces.

Only seven European officers were available for service within the Southern Provinces throughout the year, with an average of four officers in the country. The established experiment stations, substations, and district model farms were, however, all kept going. From these during the year 111,205 plants were distributed, including 35,483 cocoa, 12,952 kola, and 37,926 rubber, besides 160,854 counted seeds and 348 seed packets of other plants, in addition to the distribution of Georgia cotton seed referred to above. The British Cotton Growing Association distributed 652 tons of ordinary native cotton seed.

FORESTRY.

Southern Provinces.—Many tours of inspection were made and, in touring the Ijebu and Ikafe country, oil palms were found to be exceptionally abundant. An inspection of the sandy parts of the sea coast near Lekki revealed the fact that they were rich in Ekki (*Lophira procera*), most of that country being unsuitable for agriculture; and certain areas will be selected for forest reserves and plantations. In the central circle Iroko trees were seen to be numerous in the Udi and Onitsha Districts. In the eastern circle a large portion of the Bogi forests in the Ikom District was found to be rich in camwood, Iroko, *Ajara* (*Terminalia* sp.), and *Tala* (*Saxoglottis gabunensis*). The destruction of mahoganies and other valuable trees when clearing the land for farms was noted in this neighbourhood.

Owing to a shortage of officers, but little progress was possible in the preparation of working plans, and from various causes the acquisition of forest reserves is still in a backward state. An area of nine square miles was gazetted in the central circle, and proposals for the reservation of 225 and 427 square miles in the Shasha and Oni river drainage areas, respectively, have been submitted for the western circle.

Planting operations were mainly confined to refilling the blanks of previous years; the number of seedlings planted in the Oloke-meji

*The Report of the Committee is published as [Cd. 8247].

Reserve being 85,086, of which 44,820 were teak. In the Ibadan fuel reserves 15,247 young plants were put out. The acreage covered by new planting was 49·3, whilst that of repair planting was 68·2.

Owing to the War, timber exploitation by private enterprise was practically at a standstill. Work, however, continued at the Government workings at Akilla, 892 logs being sent to the Public Works Department sawmill at Lagos, whilst 484 remained at stump. 200 mahogany and 700 mangrove trees were felled in the eastern circle by licensees. In the western circle 236 trees were felled for export, and 225 for local use, the corresponding figures for the central circle being 825 and 794 trees, respectively.

The rubber trade continued to expand, the number of licences issued being 451, as against 150 in the previous year. A good deal of illegal tapping has been done in the western circle, owing to shortage of European officers.

The revenue for the year amounted to £11,969, of which £4,000 was derived from the Government exploitation at Akilla, as compared with £10,605 from all sources in 1915.

Northern Provinces.—Extensive tours, more or less of an exploratory nature, were carried out through portions of this immense tract of country. These included visits to the forests on both sides of the Katsina-Sokoto border where a large percentage of dead trees were seen, to the country between Kauranamodo and Sokoto, which was found to be extensively cultivated, to the forests round Tauguza and along the northern border to Sabon Birni and Issa, an extremely unpromising tract of country consisting of low ironstone-topped plateaux covered with small Gaza scrub, in the northern portions of which a few small reserves containing large numbers of dead trees have been taken up, to the "Gundi Bush," an area once covered with very good forest but in which about 70 per cent. of the trees are now dead, and, finally, to the forests between Sokoto, Dengi, Bajega, through Kwiambana and Birnin Gwari, to Zaria. Between Dengi and Damari forests of much more luxuriant growth than any met with elsewhere in the Sokoto Province were passed through.

In the Zaria-Bauchi circle the forests in the neighbourhood of the Ningi and Burra hills, which constitute an important watershed, were examined, as well as an area of something like 400 square miles in the north-eastern part of the Zaria Province. The growth on the whole in both tracts was found to be rather poor and stunted. This is attributed to damage done by bush fires and to wandering herds of cattle.

The most interesting trip made, however, was by the Senior Conservator through parts of the Bornu Province, the route followed being, in the main, to Maiduguri, through Bauchi and Nafada, and from thence back to Kano *via* Katagum. During this long journey the famous acacia forests of central and north-eastern Bornu were visited. They were found to be almost "pure" in character, and to consist, on the lower, annually inundated, areas, of practically nothing but *Acacia seyal* and *A. verec*—the two species that yield the best quality gums. The growth of the former is so dense as to give the impression of its having been planted. The latter is most plentiful

in the Geidam neighbourhood. Both these species cover immense tracts of country.

In the south and central portions of the Province there are large mixed forests of an open character, consisting mainly of deciduous, broad-leaved species. The predominating species here is the silk cotton tree (*Bombax buonopozense*), which is well grown and, in these localities, furnishes a durable wood that in some cases, when made into doors, is said to have lasted for 20 years. The shea-butter tree (*Butyrospermum Parkii*) is being tapped for what is known locally as "Gutta percha." This consists of the coagulated latex of the tree, and promises to become in the future an important article of trade. The exports for last year amounted to 120 tons.

North of the Yobe River, where it no longer forms the international boundary, the acacia forests thin out until in the extreme north-east nothing but a few gawo trees (*Acacia albida*) and some dum palms are to be seen on the sand dunes.

Considerable progress was made in selecting areas for forest reserves, and proposals for the reservation of some 6,316 square miles were submitted during the year (including 126 square miles already reserved). They are distributed as follows amongst the various Provinces:—Sokoto, 3,229 square miles; Zaria-Bauchi, 2,493 square miles; Kano, 600 square miles; and other Provinces, 120 square miles.

The reserves in the Sokoto Province were successfully protected from fire, with the exception of 600 acres in the Lalle Reserve, which was burnt through careless firing of adjacent farms. The fire was promptly put out by the local villagers.

The experimental plantation at Zaria was increased by 24 acres, whilst 38 acres were added to the Sokoto fuel plantation. In the former the local mahogany (*Khaya senegalensis*), the meriki (*Anogeissus leiocarpus*), *Albizia lebbek*, and teak have done very well indeed. Wattles and eucalyptus, however, were very badly attacked by white ants and though the attacks were checked by pouring a mixture of kerosene and solignum down the roots the remedy is likely to prove too expensive if applied on an extensive scale. The greater part of the plantations were treated on a dry-farming system which, so far, appears to be the cheapest and best tried. A light, horse drawn cultivator was used with success for clearing the ground and keeping the surface in a friable condition, and was found to be much more economical than manual labour. In the Sokoto fuel plantation mahoganies and *Albizia lebbek* did best.

Owing to the want of sufficient European staff the revenue derived from the issue of permits to take forest produce has dropped from £148 in 1915 to £63 in the year under review. Since the enactment of the new ordinance (3rd May, 1916), five permits to take timber, twenty-one for fuel, and one for minor forest produce were issued.

A training school was opened at Zaria on the 1st September, 1916. The Zaria experimental and fuel plantation is utilised for the practical teaching, whilst lectures on the conditions affecting plant growth, on

elementary botany, forest protection, and soils are given as a part of the theoretical course. Seventeen pupils in all, from the various Provinces, have attended the school since it was opened.

LANDS.

Northern Provinces.—208 certificates of occupancy were issued during the year, as compared with 88 in 1915. On the 31st December 403 certificates of occupancy and 63 leases were in existence, bringing in an annual rental of about £4,770.

The system of bidding on an upset premium for sites with special amenities, or in the preparation of which capital had been expended, was introduced during the year.

The Land and Native Rights Ordinance (No. 1, of 1916) was re-enacted with some alterations on the 25th February.

Eleven certificates of occupancy were issued to mission societies, at rentals varying from 1s. to £1 1s.

The Land Registration Ordinance No. XII, of 1915, came into operation on the 1st January, 1916, the Residents in charge of Provinces having been appointed Registrars under that ordinance. This was changed on 28th December, 1916, a Central Registry being established at the Secretariat at Kaduna.

The Minerals Ordinance, 1916, provides for the payment of surface rents. Surface rents (exclusive of building sites) are usually fixed for a mining area held under a lease, on the following scale:—

Barren and stony land, 1*d.* per acre.

Considerable proportion of grazing land, 1½*d.*

Including some cultivated land, 1¾*d.* or 2*d.* per acre or more.

Including much cultivated land, up to 3*d.* per acre.

Southern Provinces.—There were no new features in 1916 calling for special comment.

SHIPPING.

The shortage of ocean tonnage was felt all through the year, and in April the Government arrived at an understanding with Messrs. Eldor Dempster & Company whereby the distribution amongst shippers of the tonnage allotted for the rail-borne produce shipped from the railway termini at Iddo and Apapa was, as far as possible, left to a committee, composed of a representative of the railway and representatives of various trading interests, sitting with a senior Government officer as chairman. After an examination of the figures showing the distribution of the trade in previous years, the shipping company agreed to give the railway 60 per cent. of the total outward tonnage from the port of Lagos, as far as they could do so, reserving

40 per cent. for the non-railway-borne produce, known as the "Lagoon trade." The distribution of the latter amongst shippers was retained in the hands of the Company. It became necessary for the Government to intervene in the case of the rail-borne traffic, in order that the railway stock might be employed to the best advantage, as, in the absence of export warehouses, there was a growing tendency to use the wagons for that purpose. In other words, the Government intervened to control the shipment of produce from the railway wharves from which alone rail-borne produce can be shipped. The same reasons naturally did not exist in the case of the Lagoon trade.

The committee, which allocates on stocks, has served a useful purpose and has worked smoothly, although, naturally, each shipper thinks at times that he should get a little more tonnage and his neighbour a little less. Tests made from time to time have shown that the averages are, on the whole, well maintained, although at times there has been some dislocation, owing to certain ships having been loaded by the shipping company for special reasons, independently of the committee.

An export warehouse of a capacity of 3,000 tons has now been provided by Government at Iddo, and sites for private export warehouses with railway sidings have been sold at Apapa, after keen competition at auction.

The following statement shows the steamers and sailing ships entered and cleared in 1916, as compared with the previous year:—

Steamers and Sailing Vessels entered and cleared.

Nationality.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1915.		1916.		1915.		1916.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
STEAM:—								
British ..	263	530,138	250	490,957	270	536,699	251	485,705
French ..	56	9,560	59	20,001	56	9,560	59	20,465
Norwegian ..	5	3,435	10	5,811	5	3,435	10	5,811
Spanish ..	3	1,224	..	..	3	1,224	..	..
Belgian ..	3	14,373	..	..	3	14,373	..	..
	330	558,730	319	516,769	337	565,291	320	511,981
SAIL:—								
British ..	3	744	..	..	2	449	1	295
American ..	3	2,297	9	5,588	2	1,852	10	6,033
French ..	..	..	1	858	..	..	1	858
Total ..	6	3,041	10	6,446	4	2,301	12	7,186
	336	561,771	329	523,215	341	567,592	332	519,167

The value of trade carried by British and foreign vessels during the year, compared with the preceding year, was as follows:—

	Direct.				Transit.			
	1915.		1916.		1915.		1916.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.
Entered ..	£ 4,874,800	£ 142,151	£ 5,563,809	£ 216,309	£ 68,655	£ 40,584	£ 97,936	£ 76,270
Cleared ..	5,560,042	100,754	5,868,114	228,472	58,677	..	71,644	..
Total ..	10,434,842	242,905	11,431,923	444,781	127,332	40,584	169,580	76,270

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The total shipping inwards and outwards for the last five years :—

TOTAL SHIPPING.

	Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1912	533	829,038	542	826,779
1913	565	884,741	552	853,718
1914	490	730,892	480	692,749
1915	336	561,771	341	567,592
1916	329	523,215	332	519,167

LEGISLATION.

Seventy-nine ordinances of Southern Nigeria and forty-six Proclamations of Northern Nigeria were repealed and replaced by ordinances enacted during the year.

EDUCATION.

Northern Provinces.—The only addition to the number of primary schools during 1916 has been the opening of a class for the training of teachers at Yola.

Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.	Average Attendance.
1915	12	781	750
1916	13	830	733*

The number of native teachers in Government Primary Schools is 63, exclusive of teachers of religion only.

The Industrial School at Kano, on 31st December, 1916, contained 1 British and 11 native instructors, with 93 pupils.

Thirty-five apprentices were in training at the end of the year in the Public Works Department.

Unassisted mission schools numbered 58, with an average attendance of 993 pupils. Native Mohammedan schools are returned at 24,389, with a probable attendance slightly in excess of 1915, when the number was given as 221,668.

The total expenditure from Government funds was £12,443, and the revenue was £734.

Six European superintendents remained, seconded for military service with the Cameroons Expeditionary Force, during the early months of 1916, and the Director of Education continued his employment under the Army Council throughout the year.

*Exclusive of one school where the records were destroyed by fire.

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Southern Provinces.—The number of schools and of pupils at the end of 1916, as compared with 1915, is given below :—

	1915.			1916.		
	No. of Schools.	Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	No. of Schools.	Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.
Government ..	53	4,784	3,681	48	5,045	3,536
Assisted ..	82	15,171	11,550	86	16,410	12,345
Unassisted ..	587	35,619	24,092	963	53,689	31,338
Total ..	722	55,574	39,323	1,097	75,144	47,219

The large increase shown in the case of unassisted schools is due to the fact that many more returns than for 1915 were sent to the Department.

The number of pupils receiving a secondary education was 88 in Government schools and 264 in assisted schools. No reliable returns are available with regard to pupils in secondary classes in unassisted schools.

Instruction in manual training and elementary agriculture is given in most Government and assisted schools. Carpentry, printing, and tailoring are taught at the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, and carpentry at the C.M.S. Industrial Mission, Onitsha. The number under instruction at these institutions was 15 and 29, respectively.

In Government technical departments, there were at the end of the year, 212 apprentices on the railway, 250 in the Marine Department, 128 in the Public Works Department, and 37 in the Printing Department.

The total expenditure on education in the Colony and Southern Provinces was £33,869, of which £10,759 was expended on the staff and upkeep of Government schools, while the grants to assisted schools amounted to £11,529. The total expenditure on education in Nigeria during the year was £46,312, being 1.6 per cent. of realised revenue, as against £46,415 (1.7 per cent.) in 1915.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

Northern Provinces.—The principal hospitals and dispensaries are at Kaduna, Lokoja, Kano, Zungeru, and Zaria. At each place arrangements are made by means of mosquito-proof rooms for the separation of suspicious cases of fever from the other patients.

The following is a general summary of patients treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries in the Northern Provinces during the year :—

		Out- patients.	In- patients.	In- valids.	Died.
Europeans ..	{ 1915	812	325	20	14
	{ 1916	749	241	34	14
Natives ..	{ 1915	15,887	4,364	3	200
	{ 1916	18,581	6,265	2	227

Southern Provinces Hospitals.—The principal European and native hospitals are at Lagos, Calabar, Warri, Ibadan, Onitsha, Forcados, Sapele, and Port Harcourt.

The European hospitals are all mosquito-proofed, the native hospitals being only partially protected.

There are, in addition to the above, native hospitals at most out-stations. In some cases the buildings are constructed of brick and wood and iron, in others they are merely "bush" houses.

The following table shows the total number of cases treated and deaths :—

		In-patients.	Out-patients.	Deaths.
European	{ 1915	411	1,656	12
	{ 1916	450	2,704	13
Native ..	{ 1915	9,309	76,872	760
	{ 1916	13,121	105,972	724

Total number of attendances at dispensaries, 380,024. Number of surgical operations performed, 1,401.

Sixty-two European officials and 34 European non-officials were invalided during the year. There were nine deaths among European officials and eight among non-officials.

At the Lunatic Asylums at Yaba and Calabar 107 cases were treated, with 22 deaths.

Eighty lepers were treated at the Asylums at Yaba and Calabar.

SAVINGS BANK.

The withdrawals in 1916 again exceeded the deposits, but the amount at the credit of depositors increased slightly, from £46,717 at the end of 1915 to £46,840 at the end of 1916, the increase being due to interest paid during the year and added to depositors' balances.

JUDICIAL.

CRIMINAL.

The total number of persons brought before the magistrates increased from 10,817 in 1915 to 12,685 in 1916, and the number of persons summarily convicted increased from 9,294 to 10,634.

In the Provincial Courts 7,533 persons were brought before the Court in 1916, as compared with 8,249 in 1915, and 5,986 were convicted, as against 4,680 in the previous year.

The number of persons convicted in the Supreme Court fell from 163 in 1915 to 81 in 1916, out of a total of 137 persons brought before the Court, the decrease in homicide cases being especially noticeable, the great majority of such cases being now tried in the Provincial Courts.

POLICE.

Southern Provinces.—The force consisted of 24 European and 1,572 native ranks. Discipline was well maintained, and the health of the force was generally satisfactory.

A somewhat serious disturbance occurred in Lagos on the 18th September, in connection with the water rate, which had to be suppressed forcibly by the police.

During the year a police patrol operated in the Ezza country which resulted in 70 casualties amongst those people. A fine of £750 was also imposed and paid.

Northern Provinces.—The Government Police in the Northern Provinces consisted of 20 Europeans and 923 natives, at the end of the year.

They are distributed amongst the Provinces, with the exception of Sokoto and Bornu, in addition to detachments at Zungeru and Lokoja. The average strength of each detachment is 70 rank and file.

Towards the end of the year the police relieved the troops of many guards.

They have been reported on favourably by Residents and are efficient as regards the constabulary work which they are called upon to perform.

A section of Railway Police was organised in the Northern Provinces in 1916, under an Assistant Commissioner of Police, to deal with the constant thefts of merchandise in transit on the railway, with very favourable results.

PRISONS.

Northern Provinces.—The number of prisoners admitted to Government gaols during 1916 was 1,378, as compared with 1,790 during 1915, and the daily average was 793, against 879 in 1915.

Of those committed, 1,330 were males, 36 females, and 12 juveniles. Of these, 4 were imprisoned for debt, 311 were placed in safe custody for want of security, and 1,063 sentenced to penal imprisonment.

There were previous convictions against 125 of the number: 99 previously convicted once, 19 twice, and 7 thrice or more.

Of the total number of offenders serving sentences of penal imprisonment there were 523 for terms under six months, 407 for terms of six months up to two years, and 133 for terms over two years.

The average daily cost of food per prisoner was 1.3d., being similar to 1915, the maximum cost being 2d. a day at Bassa, and the minimum 0.6d. at Bornu. The total cost per prisoner rose from 6d. in 1915 to 7d. in 1916.

The discipline of the prisoners has been good, and there were only 7 cases of corporal punishments during the year. There were 11 escapes.

The total value of prisoners' labour during the year was £4,608. The actual cash earnings from prison industries was £578, of which sum £212 was realised from the sale of farm produce and vegetables.

The health of the prisoners was good.

There were 72 deaths, of which 34 were judicial executions.

The Native Administrations maintain 75 gaols at the principal centres in which prisoners convicted by the Native Courts are confined. The daily average of prisoners was 2,319, as against 2,439 in 1915.

Southern Provinces.—Four convict establishments and 37 local prisons were maintained. There were 5,066 prisoners in confinement on 1st January, 1916, and 29,313 were admitted during the year, as against 28,972 in 1915. The daily average prison population was 5,381, as compared with 5,211 in 1915.

Of those committed, 27,138 were males, 2,080 females, and 95 juveniles. Of these, 134 were incarcerated for debt, 9,420 were placed in safe custody for want of security, and 19,759 were sentenced to penal imprisonment.

Of the total number of offenders serving sentences of penal imprisonment, there were 15,602 for terms of six months and under, 3,029 for terms of over six months but under two years, and 1,128 for terms of two years and over. The total cost of the prison establishments and lockups was £55,451, while the total earnings of the prisons amounted to £31,167, of which £1,258 was in cash.

The number of prison days numbered 1,964,065, as against 1,923,482 in 1915 and 1,849,204 in 1914.

The average daily cost per Government prisoner was approximately 6·08*d.*, as against 5·68*d.* in the previous year, due to increased cost of food and stores. There were 512 deaths amongst the inmates of the various prisons, of which 92 were judicial executions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the Northern Provinces it was estimated that there were about 762 Europeans at the end of 1915, of whom about 350 were officials.

In the Colony and Southern Provinces there were about 2,000 Europeans, with about 1,250 officials. The European population of Nigeria may therefore be estimated at about 2,762, of whom about 1,600 are in the employment of the Government.

The native population of the Northern Provinces is estimated at 9,270,000, and of the Southern Provinces and Colony at 7,856,000—a total of about 17½ millions. The average density in the Northern Provinces would therefore be about 37 to the square mile, and in the Southern Provinces and Colony about 98.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Northern Provinces.—Europeans.—On account of the War the European population has decreased, and a corresponding diminution in the amount of sickness has been observed.

Malaria is responsible for about a quarter of the whole number of patients; dysentery shows a considerable decrease. Two cases of

trypanosomiasis have occurred, but yellow fever, which was reported last year, has, fortunately, not again appeared. During the year there were 14 deaths, blackwater fever being responsible for the majority (5).

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Average European Popula- tion	641	703	804	969	897	762
Number of Deaths	13	22	13	27	14	14
Death rate per 1,000	20·28	31·29	16·16	27·86	15·6	18·3
Number invalided	40	50	70	82	34	34
Invaliding rates per 1,000	62·40	71·12	87·06	84·62	37·9	44·6

Natives.—Although the number of patients treated at the Government hospitals and dispensaries has gone up considerably, there does not appear to have been any increase of sickness among the native population generally, and no epidemic of disease has occurred. Malaria, dysentery, and bronchial and venereal affections have been the chief complaints for which relief has been sought.

Southern Provinces.—There are no striking features to record in regard to the general health during the year under review. Owing to the large population and the shortage of staff, only a very small percentage of the people come under the notice of the medical officers.

Compulsory registration of births and deaths is still confined to Lagos and Ebute Metta, and the causes of deaths are frequently conjectural, so few being certified by a medical man.

The usual seasonal variations in the sick list have been observed; there has been a slight increase in the number of cases of chicken-pox, but it is gratifying to note that neither in 1915 nor 1916 has there been an epidemic of smallpox.

Malaria of the aestivo-autumnal type is, as usual, the most common of insect-borne diseases. The total number of cases of malaria treated was 8,740, of which 543 were in Europeans. This shows a slight increase in the European cases, and a very large increase in the native cases, namely, 3,148, which may be largely accounted for by the great increase in the total number of native patients treated. In 1915, 1 case occurred of malaria to 11·1 other diseases, while in 1916, 1 case of malaria occurred to 14·5 other diseases.

One case of yellow fever in a European occurred on board a steamer in Lagos harbour and proved fatal. The case was not treated in hospital, but was seen and diagnosed by a private practitioner. The diagnosis was confirmed by post-mortem examination.

Trypanosomiasis.—Only 3 cases have been under treatment.

Blackwater fever.—There has been a slight rise in the number of cases, 22 having occurred, 6 of them being natives, giving 16 cases in Europeans, as against 11 in 1915. One native and three Europeans died of the disease.

Dysentery shows a remarkable decrease in case incidence, the numbers being 401 in 1916 and 1,212 in 1915, the mortality being 28 in 1916, as against 138 in 1915.

Only 10 cases of beri-beri, with 1 death, have been recorded. 182 cases of tuberculosis, with 47 deaths, have been treated. Venereal disease is very common, especially in the open ports.

Ankylostomes are extremely common and have been treated in 686 cases; this is a large increase on last year, and is probably due to a more ready recognition of the conditions to which they may give rise on the part of the medical officers, and the consequent search for the parasite. It has so far been impossible to start treatment of ankylostomiasis on a large scale.

Guinea worm causes much sickness and disability in upcountry stations where the people are dependent on shallow water-holes for their supply of drinking water.

Registration is compulsory in Lagos and Ebute Metta only. The statistics from these places are as follows:—

Total Births	2,661*
Total Deaths	2,102*
Total Deaths of Infants under one year	728*
Total Still-births	165
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births ..	264·7

* Exclusive of 165 still-births.

SANITATION.

Northern Provinces.—Sanitary activity continued to be curtailed by the limitations incidental to war. The conquest of the Cameroons released the medical officers who had been on military service beyond the border; but a considerable number of them, having been seconded for military service in other parts of the world, did not return to their normal duty. The consequence of this was that some important centres remained without immediate medical supervision. Happily, however, the good fortune of the previous year was again experienced: the medical history was uneventful.

In various regions the rainfall greatly exceeded that experienced in any preceding year since the occupation of the country, many weak spots, until then unsuspected, being discovered, and it became evident that the layout arranged at numerous townships would have to be considered *de novo*. This was particularly true of the riparian settlements along the river Benue. The people were actually catching fish in the street of one old established town; the greater portion of the new trading quarter of another was washed away bodily, and numerous bodies of buffalo, and other big game, surprised and drowned by the suddenly rising river, kept floating down stream.

Considerable attention continued to be directed to the distribution of the tsetse-fly, and the incidence of trypanosomiasis and such preventive measures as were available were undertaken. The province of Nassarawa received special consideration, and arrangements were made for the purpose of enabling the eventual fate of certain stations therein to be settled.

Despite the War, the hide industry continued to expand throughout the cattle country of the north; this, together with the extension of other trading activities, necessitated the setting out of various new townships, and the matter of carrying on offensive trades—viz., hide curing—received consideration.

The general health of the population may be described as good. There was comparative immunity from epidemic disease throughout all the regions which came under accurate observation, and the incidence of endemic disease was in no way remarkable.

No case of yellow fever was recorded, but two Europeans were treated for trypanosomiasis, and, although only two natives were actually treated for this infection, more or less authentic reports of its existence were forthcoming from several localities.

Although yellow fever was not recorded, the occurrence of cases of enteric fever and of tuberculosis amongst the indigenous natives continued to show that these imported diseases had come to stay.

Food was abundant; internal trade was brisk; the people generally were well fed and well clad; and all this was favourably reflected by the public health.

Southern Provinces.—Although it is not possible to record any great and striking sanitary improvement, yet it is satisfactory to be able to say that steady routine sanitary work has been well conducted during 1916, in spite of the present shortage of staff.

The personnel of sanitary officers underwent a complete change, owing to promotions and transfers. The first batch of seven sanitary inspectors-in-training was examined at the end of the second year of training, and six passed and were sent out to complete their third year of practical training at out-stations. The re-grading of the salaries of sanitary inspectors has been carried out, so that, with definite prospects of promotion, a better class of man may be expected to enter the service.

A special tour of inspection was carried out on the main line of the Nigerian Railway, and a distinct improvement was found to have taken place in the sanitary condition of most stations on the line.

Port Harcourt has developed considerably, and the need of a good water supply was felt. The Shuini River as a source of water supply for Port Harcourt was investigated by the Senior Sanitary Officer, but was found unsuitable, and a better source is now being sought.

Malaria shows an increased incidence; in the number of cases treated in Europeans, there is a rise of 9·2 per cent., and in natives a rise of 60 per cent. over the respective figures for 1915.

Only one case of yellow fever occurred. This was imported into Lagos on a coasting vessel; the patient, a European, arrived ill and died. No cases of yellow fever are reported to have occurred outside of Lagos in the Colony or Southern Provinces.

Anti-mosquito work, with a view to preventing the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, is steadily maintained at all stations. One outbreak of smallpox occurred in the Western Province, but it was efficiently controlled by preventive measures and vaccination, which was extensively conducted. Lagos has been kept free from any epidemic of smallpox.

Systematic vaccination is carried out throughout the Colony and Southern Provinces, and the total number of successful vaccinations was higher than in 1915.

The preparation of segregation plans for stations, with a view to ultimately establishing a definite system of segregation of Europeans, has been continued, and the plans of three stations have been finally approved. In old established stations the object of these plans can

only be gradually achieved as facilities occur for making the desired changes.

The teaching of hygiene has been steadily continued at the schools in the provinces and in Lagos. Improvement in the teaching of this subject is shown, owing to the courses of training given to the teachers.

METEOROLOGY.

The meteorology records in the Northern Provinces are incomplete, complete observations have only been made at 13 stations, owing to the lack of medical officers.

The rainfall in 1916 exceeded that of 1915 by 47 inches, in the 13 observing stations.

Exceptional floods were recorded all over the country, more especially on the Benue River, where the highest flood level in memory was reached.

The following figures are of interest :—

	Reading.	Date.	Station.
Highest Shade Temperature ..	114°00	31st March	Maiduguri
Lowest Shade Temperature ..	40°00	28th October	Sokoto
Highest Mean Monthly Temperature	109°10	March	Maiduguri
Lowest Mean Monthly Temperature	51°70	Dec. to Jan.	Zaria
Maximum Total Rainfall .. ins.	72·16	—	Naraguta
Minimum Total Rainfall .. „	24·46	—	Sokoto
Maximum Rainfall on one day ..	4·25	12th August	Bauchi
Greatest Range of Temperature ..	62°	October	Sokoto
Highest Mean Monthly Relative Humidity	86°	May	Offa
Lowest Mean Monthly Relative Humidity	22°	February	Zaria

Southern Provinces.—The mean temperature at Lagos in 1916 was 80·5°, slightly lower than in any previous year during which records have been kept. From June to October, the mean monthly maximum was no more than 80·0°, and the absolute maximum did not exceed 89°.

March, as usual, produced the highest shade temperature, a maximum of 90·2° being recorded; the solar radiation thermometer, however, showed the highest temperature of the year to be 158·5° on the 26th October.

The harmattan was unusually severe in January, the grass thermometer reading as low as 61°, and on several occasions the humidity dropped to 36 per cent. Further north, at Olokemeji, a minimum of 47° was registered, which is the lowest ever recorded in the Southern Provinces. At the end of the year, however, when the harmattan again appeared, it was much milder, and this appears to have been the case over the country generally.

The rainfall at Lagos was nearly 12 inches below the average for the last 20 years, and 30 inches below that of 1915. Only at Forcados did the precipitation along the coast approach the normal, while the up-country stations registered very much higher falls than usual.

Particularly was this the case at Abeokuta, where the rainfall was as much as 14 inches higher than that at Lagos, although generally it does not amount to much more than half the rainfall at the latter place.

Olokemeji and Oyo both showed very large increases, causing floods in the Ogun River which carried away the approach to the Lafenwa bridge near Abeokuta, where the river rose to 30·5 feet above low water level.

The average annual rainfall at some of the principal stations is as follows :—

			Number of years on which average based.		Average rainfall in inches.
Lagos ..	..	..	23	..	72
Forcados ..	..	..	11	..	151
Calabar ..	..	..	13	..	133
Ibadan ..	..	..	15	..	48
Onitsha ..	..	..	12	..	67
Okwoga ..	..	..	6	..	63
Sokoto ..	..	..	10	..	24
Kano ..	..	..	11	..	33
Maiduguri ..	..	..	8	..	23
Zungeru ..	..	..	11	..	44
Lokoja ..	..	..	11	..	47
Yola ..	..	..	11	..	37
Zaria ..	..	..	11	..	45

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The revenue of the department was £40,710, a decrease of £2,599 as compared with 1915. The amount transmitted through the post by means of money and postal orders was £260,129, a decrease of £30,000 on the figures for 1915. The revenue from this service shows an increase of £262, the higher rate of commission charged for money orders between the British sphere of Cameroon and Nigeria accounting for this increase. No doubt the introduction of currency notes has had an effect on the money and postal order business.

The revenue derived from the telegraphs shows an increase of £1,000, or 10 per cent., and from the telephones £320, or 21 per cent.

The total expenditure of the department was £85,320, which includes £1,718 spent on small extensions to the telegraphs and telephones.

The estimated total number of postal packets dealt with was 3,222,455, an increase of 113,000 on the number for 1915. The number exchanged with the United Kingdom shows a decrease of 210,000. This reduction is, no doubt, due to the curtailed steamship service and to a reduction in the volume of advertising matter sent through the post. The number of telegrams dealt with shows an increase of 11,000 over the figures for 1915.

During 1916, a telegraph line of 300 miles was built to join up Victoria, Buca, Kumba, and Ossidinge in the Cameroons with the Nigerian telegraph system. The amount spent on this work was £2,500, which does not include the value of the materials used or the salaries of the officers engaged on the work.

MILITARY OPERATIONS.

Seven minor patrols took place in the Northern Provinces during 1916, all in pagan districts.

The most important of these, lasting four months, was necessitated by the rising of the Montoil Pagans, Muri Province, following upon the murder by them of Mr. Maltby, A.D.O., and his party.

The remaining six were caused by disturbances in districts which could not be regularly visited, owing to the paucity of political officers. The necessary troops were furnished by the Nigeria Regiment.

In the Southern Provinces seven patrols also were furnished by the Regiment. The most important of these was the Iseyin Patrol in Yorubaland, which lasted three months, and during which one native soldier was killed and two British officers and three native soldiers wounded.

The remaining six took place east of the Niger, and were all of minor importance. All were brought to a satisfactory conclusion (For police patrols, see "Police.")

RAILWAY.

(OPEN LINES.)

The accounts of the (old) Western line and the (new) Eastern line are presented separately, and the main features of working on the former are shown in the following table in comparison with the previous twelve months:—

	1915.	1916.
Mean mileage operated	976	976
Gross Earnings	£622,469	£786,655
Working Expenditure	£436,198	£478,893
Proportion of Working Expenditure to Gross Receipts	70·08%	60·88%
Net Receipts	£186,271	£307,762
Total Capital Expenditure on mileage open for traffic	£6,803,102	£6,885,396
Percentage of Net Receipts to Capital Expenditure	2·74%	4·47%

The revival of the export trade referred to in a previous paragraph, which was due to more ocean tonnage being available in 1916 than in 1915, is reflected in these figures. The gross revenue earned exceeded the estimate by £163,713, and was the highest in the history of the railway, exceeding the highest previous year (1914) by £22,742. The capital expenditure at the end of 1916 stood at £6,885,396, of which a sum of £961,166 has been found from revenue, the balance of £5,924,230 representing borrowed money. The interest and sinking fund on this borrowed money amounted to £341,792 for 1916, and the net earnings were £307,762 only. The railway, therefore, failed to earn enough to cover the debt charges on the borrowed money, and the capital found

from revenue made no return. This is occurring at a time when the capital value of the line is deteriorating at an abnormal rate, owing to the difficulty in getting material and men for effecting the necessary repairs, apart from the greatly increased cost of all supplies.

A very modest war surcharge of 10 per cent. only was imposed from 10th March, 1916, certain articles being exempted, viz., country produce (local trade), provisions, building material, cotton, ginned and unginned, machinery, tin, oil, &c.*

The capital account was increased by £84,478 during the year, of which the main item (£52,412) was for rolling stock. Expenditure under this head was restricted to essentials. The chief difficulty in dealing with the traffic during the year was again due to the lack of coal.

The ground-nut traffic was exceptionally heavy, showing an increase of 28,000 tons over the 1915 figures, despite the fact that the freight rates were increased during the year. There were also marked increases in traffic in machinery, ginned and unginned cotton, and cocoa.

During the year the sliding scale rate on tin was abolished, and a fixed rate introduced instead. This means a reduction in the rate from Bukuru to Iddo of £1 5s. per ton when the value of tin is less than £190 per ton, and of £6 3s. 6d. per ton when it exceeds that value. As tin has consistently been above £190 since the change was made, the mining companies obtained a very material advantage. For the benefit of the mines the rate on machinery and mining tools, &c., was reduced from the third to the first class.

The Niger Bridge (south) was opened for traffic in January.

EASTERN DIVISION.

The total mileage open for traffic is 151 miles.

Railhead reached Udi Colliery on the 27th May, the last 46½ miles having been constructed in five months.

Very heavy earthwork was encountered, 2,161,993 cubic yards being moved in the year, making a total of six and three-quarter millions to the end of 1916.

The Imo River Bridge, which is 505 feet long, was completed in June, and eight other bridges of less importance were finished, with the exception of the protection to the banks.

Fifty miles of ballasting was done on portions of the line which were likely to give trouble on account of the soapy nature of the ground; notwithstanding this, great difficulty was experienced in keeping the new line open to traffic.

The line was declared open to Aba (Mile 38) on the 31st January, to Afikpo Road (Mile 106) on 1st May, and to Udi Junction (Mile 151) on 1st September. The first train of coal was brought down to Port Harcourt on 28th May.

The construction of the quay wall and coal tip at Port Harcourt was commenced. The temporary jetty, 900 feet in length, was sufficiently advanced in construction to permit of ships being berthed alongside in December.

For reasons connected with the sale of the leases, and the difficulty in obtaining building material, merchants were not able to make

* Surcharge raised to 30 % on 1st August, 1917.

progress in establishing trading sites during the year, and the public traffic on the line to the end of 1916 was very small. The receipts during the year amounted to £28,375.

The scarcity of ocean tonnage is greatly hampering the development of trade on the line, but the merchants now established there are of opinion that the prospects are most encouraging and that rapid progress will be made as soon as normal conditions are restored.

The completion of the survey to Kakuri for the central and northern sections of the eastern line was effected. The following are the lengths :—

Port Harcourt to Udi	.. ..	151	miles.
Udi to Benue Bridge	.. ..	141	„
Benue Bridge length	.. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$	„
Benue Bridge to Kakuri	.. ..	287	„
		<hr/>	
Total	.. ..	579 $\frac{1}{2}$	miles.

The borings in connection with the survey of the Benue Bridge were completed and the site of the bridge practically fixed.

LAGOS HARBOUR WORKS.

The progress made during the year compares favourably with that made in 1915, but the scarcity of coal has impeded the progress very appreciably as compared with former years.

The West Mole was extended to 3,445 feet, of which 427 feet were constructed during 1916. The total weight of stone deposited by the end of the year was 434,571 tons.

The Training Bank has advanced fairly rapidly, and 1,322 feet had been constructed at the end of the year, of which 909 feet were added during 1916. The total weight of stone in the training bank is 97,692 tons.

East Mole.—Maintenance and repair work only has been carried out on this section. The total weight of stone used in this mole up to 31st December was 520,821 tons.

165,414 tons of stone were used for these works in 1916, as against 122,759 tons in 1915.

The total cost of these works is estimated at £897,000 (provided by loan), the total expenditure to the end of 1916 being £696,174.

The extension of Apapa Wharf by 180 feet was completed in March, 3,175 tons of stone being used as rubble backing in this work.

The bar draught has improved throughout the year. At the end of 1915 the draught was 15 feet, which was increased to 19 feet on the 19th February, and to 19 feet 6 inches on the 18th December, 1916.

MARINE SERVICES.

Owing to the absence of several officers on active service, it became necessary to lay up a number of craft, and a modified service only was maintained on the Niger and Cross Rivers. A mail service was maintained between Forcados and Warri, and between Bonny and

Degema, but, owing to the irregularity of the ocean mail steamers, these services could not be run to any regular schedule.

Dredging operations were carried out at Lagos during the whole of 1916, but reclamation work, which had been suspended for lack of coal, was restarted in June only.

The S.Y. "Ivy" and Dredger "Quorra" were sold to the Admiralty during the year.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Southern Provinces.—The strictest economy was exercised and, except for works in progress, the programme for the year was a very restricted one.

The ferro-concrete foundations for a new Customs shed at Lagos, on the up-stream end of the wharf, was completed about the middle of the year, and the shed (300 ft. × 60 ft.) erected on it. The staff then proceeded on leave, so work on the ferro-concrete wharf extension down stream, of 400 ft., was not commenced. All the piles are made and ready for driving.

The saw-mill at Apapa proved its usefulness and was able to meet the Government demand for timber.

The re-erection of the Akassa Lighthouse on Palm Point was completed.

The road from Owerri to Afikpo *via* Okigwi was opened for motor-car traffic, and good progress is being made with the Ibadan-Ilesha-Akure-Ifon road. When this trunk road is completed it will be possible to motor from Ibadan to the Cross River.

Northern Provinces.—At Kaduna 10 bungalows were completed, making 50 in all. The Police Office and additional prison outbuildings were built. Accommodation for troops, warders, artisans, and clerks was also increased.

At Zaria the bridge over the Kubani River was completed. On the Zaria-Masa-Sokoto road work was continued and bridges and culverts erected to Mile 30. A further 15 miles (to Funtua) were cleared and drifted for dry season motor traffic.

GENERAL REPORT.

I.—PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.

General Effect.—The continuance of the War during the year 1916 dominated, of course, every department of activity in Nigeria. The effect upon the general prosperity of the country has been very fully described in the paragraphs dealing with trade and finance, and I shall have a few remarks to add on this subject in a later paragraph.

Cameroons Campaign.

Direct participation in hostilities was at the beginning of the year confined to the Cameroons where, as I said in my last report, nearly 350 British and 4,000 native rank and file from Nigeria were engaged

at the beginning of the year, together with a very strong contingent of marine vessels and personnel. The campaign was brought to a successful conclusion in February, 1916.

The approximate cost of troops, civilians, and material borne on our estimates stands at £342,500 in respect of this campaign, while the extra and additional cost, for which no provision was made in the estimates, reached a sum of £350,105—a total of £692,605; apart from the charges incurred in re-equipping the troops and repairing the vessels damaged in the War. The Native Administrations of the North contributed a further sum of £53,000 to the War expenses, making £98,405 to the end of 1916.

Force for East Africa.

The Imperial Government soon before the Cameroons campaign was concluded had intimated the need for reinforcements in East Africa. The repatriation of the troops to their various stations in Nigeria, where they had left their wives and children, necessarily occupied some time, and they very urgently needed a short period of rest, but the call for volunteers for overseas met with a willing and, indeed, an enthusiastic response.

During September and October, when the Admiralty were able to send the necessary transports, a force of 128 officers and 78 B.N.C.Os., a large number of whom were drawn from the civil staff, with 2,400 rank and file, thoroughly well equipped and renovated, and accompanied by a telegraph party, left Nigeria under command of General Cunliffe. All were volunteers and eager for service.

No sooner had this large contingent—the flower of the Nigeria Regiment—sailed, than steps were taken to organise training depôts and to prepare new drafts for overseas. The results belong to the present year, 1917. The garrison of Nigeria was thus reduced to half its strength, the absolute minimum that I considered to be compatible with reasonable prudence.

Financial Assistance.

In my last report I referred to the resolution of the Nigerian Council to accept, as part of the public debt of the Colony, £6,000,000 of the Imperial War Debt. During the year 1916 the Native Administrations of the North volunteered to provide a sum of £50,000 per annum towards the service of this debt, but His Majesty's Government has not as yet accepted this offer. In the meantime, they subscribed £51,830 towards the annual local war expenses. Private subscriptions to various War Funds amounted during the year to £25,250—making a total of £41,392.

II.—FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROSPERITY.

The section of this report which deals with the financial position and outlook gives a full and clear summary of the state of Nigeria at the end of 1916. The revenue exceeded that of the previous year by about £128,000, but fell short by £519,300 of the pre-War figure of 1913.

This is more than accounted for by the decrease in Customs duties (£616,000, including export duties in 1916), due to the reduced yield from trade spirits, which amounted to £765,323, denoting a decrease of nearly 78 per cent. in the quantity imported in 1916, as compared with 1913.

In spite of the abnormal expenditure on War costs (£350,000), the deficit in the accounts of Nigeria at the end of the year stood at £124,411 only, while the total sum advanced to the Eastern Railway construction (eventually recoverable by loan) stood at £1,736,777. The decrease in our pre-War reserves (£1,821,384) may therefore legitimately be put at £209,018 only.

This satisfactory result has been obtained in spite of the fact that in the three years 1914–1916 the revenue of Nigeria has suffered a total loss on duties from spirits, taking the 1913 receipts as a basis, of no less than £1,470,000. The Treasury loan of 1½ millions, which at the outbreak of war it was anticipated would be required to finance Nigeria to the end of 1917, has not been asked for; and I am very hopeful that this Government will not have to ask for a single pound from His Majesty's Treasury.

Trade and Development.

There was a considerable revival of trade, notwithstanding the continued deficiency of shipping. The merchants claim to have successfully absorbed the German trade and to have invested an additional two millions or more capital in the country. The German premises and goodwill were sold for a very large sum by auction in London.

The Colonial Bank established itself in Nigeria during the year.

Tin averaged £179 1s. 10d. per ton, as against £160 5s. 7d. in 1915, and the export increased considerably.

The value of cotton exported was about four and a half times and of ground-nuts about six and a half times that in the previous year. Considerable progress was made in the development of the colliery, and the completion of the Eastern Railway in May to the coalfield enabled Government to make use of its own coal, thereby effecting an enormous saving on the enhanced war prices of Welsh coal—which, indeed, was almost unprocurable.

The exploitation of the timber forests and the conversion of the timber in the Government sawmills made progress and offered a further means of economy, but the production of a serviceable tile to replace imported roofing material, and of lime to supersede in part the use of cement, had not as yet materialised.

III.—PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

Apart from the participation in the War, and the events referred to under the heading "Political," the principal events of importance during the year were the following :—

(a) The completion of the railway to Udi (coalfields), and the progress made in building the township of Port Harcourt at its terminus.

(b) The development of the colliery with an output reaching nearly 200 tons a day at the close of the year. Much progress was also made

in the survey of the field and on the scheme for the best and most economical method of working.

(c) Progress was made in the amalgamation and re-enactment of the laws of Southern Nigeria and Northern Nigeria, many of which effected far-reaching reforms which had long been under discussion. Foremost among these were the Education Ordinance, with the new Grant Code and Regulations, and the Forestry Ordinance, designed to prevent the destruction of forests and to facilitate the creation of reserves.

The application of the Criminal Code to the Southern Provinces met with much opposition from no apparent cause. The simplification of the criminal law was essential to the proper administration of justice in the Provincial Courts. During the latter part of the year the Chief Justice undertook the revision of the Cause Lists of these Courts in the Southern Provinces, in order to relieve the Lieutenant-Governor, who was overpressed with work. He reports highly on their usefulness and on the quality of the judicial work done by Political Officers.

The Native Authority Ordinance, revised and improved, introduced new principles of native administration into the Southern Provinces, and the Assessment Ordinance established the principle of a water rate in Lagos.

(d) The capital of the Northern Provinces was removed to Kaduna at the end of December and during January, 1917. The greatest care was taken in dismantling the buildings, so that the demolition material should be available for use. The former capital, at Zungeru, thus became available as a large training centre for recruits for the overseas contingent and as an assembly place for carriers with the same destination. I propose to convert the large prison and its outbuildings—the only building of any real value—into a central institution for lunatics and lepers (who will, of course, occupy different parts of it).

(e) On the termination of the Cameroons campaign a provisional agreement between the British and French assigned the greater part of the country, including the port of Duala and the two railways, provisionally to the French. The British “occupied territory” was placed under the administration of the Nigerian Government and comprised :—

- (1) An area of about 18,350 square miles in the south, including the former capital at Buea on the Cameroon mountain. This has been constituted, for the time being, as a new province attached to the Southern Provinces.
- (2) An area of about 9,770 square miles lying to the north of latitude 7°, coterminous with the Southern Provinces. This has been incorporated, for the time being, with the Yola Province.
- (3) An area of about 3,030 square miles around Dikoa, formerly a part of Bornu and now provisionally administered as part of that province.

The total area of the occupied districts amounts to 31,150 square miles. The Southern Province included the large German cocoa and rubber estates on the slopes of the Cameroon Mountain. Their supervision has proved a very onerous task, the accounts of which are kept quite separate from the budget of Nigeria.

IV.—GENERAL POLITICAL.

Southern Provinces.—Continued progress has been made by the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Boyle, in the policy of developing native administration by the chiefs, under the control and supervision of the Residents of Provinces. He has met with marked success in Benin and Egbaland, where the Provincial and Native Courts have worked without friction, and the policy is more and more appreciated by the native rulers. In Yorubaland the rising at Iseyin might appear to indicate a less hopeful result, but, if I gauge the situation correctly, at least as much progress has been made in that large and densely populated province as in the others named. The rising, it must be understood, was in direct defiance of the Native Authority—the Alafin—and it brought to a head the growing insubordination of various subordinate chiefs. It was subsequently proved to have been seized as an opportunity for the perpetration of a number of cold-blooded and brutal murders, and a number of persons were tried and condemned for these acts in the local courts. It appears to have been due, in part, to reports spread by a few seditious persons that the Government was no longer able to maintain order, and that the British were being defeated by the Germans, who would presently return and be the rulers of Nigeria. In part, it was due to the spirit of lawlessness and defiance of all authority which had been growing for many years under the guise of a claim to independence of the control of the Central Government, the tolerance of which had become incompatible with peace and good order. The settlement of the long-standing difficulty regarding lands owned by alien natives, whose influence paralysed the authority of the local chiefs, and the support given to the loyal Alafin during these troubles will, I earnestly believe, result in re-establishing the native authority on a firmer basis than it has been for many years. There were a few minor disturbances as usual among the primitive tribes to the east of the Niger, due largely to the withdrawal of so many Political Officers and so great a proportion of the troops, but, generally speaking, the organisation of these tribes and the efficacy of the Native Courts has proceeded steadily, and there is, I think, no doubt that crime is being more effectively suppressed and law and order better enforced.

In the Colony I regret to record a disgraceful riot in connection with the collection of the water rate, which had to be suppressed by the police. The outbreak appears to have been due to the intrigues and efforts of a small group of disaffected persons. The town of Lagos, with a native population of 73,000, is only called upon to pay a sum of £5,000 (a large part of which is, moreover, paid by the European merchants) towards the annual cost of £21,000. The benefit of the abundant filtered water supply in lieu of the former supply from wells, which have been proved to be highly contaminated, is incalculable.

Northern Provinces.—The year was not marked by any exceptional events in the sphere of Native Administration. The final conquest of the Cameroons was hailed with great rejoicings, especially in the Eastern Provinces. Many of the Emirs exhibit a keen interest in the progress of the War in Europe, and their loyalty has remained as keen as ever. The total revenue of the Native Treasuries reached the high figure of £394,848.

An outbreak occurred among the cannibal tribe of the Montoils who, entirely without reason other than their primitive lust for blood, suddenly fell upon the District Officer and his unarmed party of 58, consisting largely of loyal native chiefs, and massacred them. Mr. Maltby, who thus lost his life, was an officer of much promise.

At the very close of the year, reports were received of an incursion by bands of the Senoussi and Tripoli Arabs into French territory, from the north.

F. D. LUGARD,
Governor-General.

26th August, 1917.

NIGERIA, 1916.

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APPENDIX.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE IMPORTATION OF SPIRITS INTO NIGERIA DURING
THE FIVE YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1916.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.*	Declared value.	Revenue. derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Remarks.
1912	4,450,196 (1,791,000)	£ 443,567	£ 1,013,807	From 15th January, 1909, duty on spirits was 5s. per imperial gallon and an additional 2½d. for every degree in excess of 50 degrees and a decrease of 1½d. for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum duty of 4s. the imperial gallon. Brandy, Whisky and Gin not treated as trade spirits 5s. per imperial gallon. From 4th March, 1912, 5s. 6d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees. 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 4s. 6d.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 6.90 per cent. of whole-inward trade, including specie.
1913	4,635,273 (1,808,000)	456,400	1,138,305	From 25th March, 6s. 3d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees. 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 5s. Sweetened or obscured spirits have been continuously taxed at 10s. the imperial gallon.	6.34 per cent. as above.
1914	3,509,344 (1,427,000)	353,637	923,065	As above	5.12 per cent. as above.
1915	1,972,940 (768,000)	276,614	648,276	From 12th January, 1915, 7s. 6d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees, 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 6s. 6d. Brandy, Whisky and Gin, not treated as trade spirits 7s. 6d. per imperial gallon.	5.51 per cent. as above.
1916	990,037 (394,000)	219,194	372,982	From 1st January, 1916, 8s. 9d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees, 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 7s. 6d. Brandy, Whisky, Rum, and Gin not treated as trade spirits 7s. 6d. per imperial gallon.	3.79 per cent. as above.

* Imports of spirits at 100° Tralles shown in brackets

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.
911	Basutoland	1915-1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915-1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915-1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915-1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916-1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916-1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916-1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somali'and	"
945	Swaziland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
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.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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