

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

---

---

No. 611.

SIERRA LEONE.

---

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 588.)

---

---

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

*September, 1909.*

---

---



LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,  
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from  
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C., and  
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; or  
OLIVER & BOYD, TWEEDDALE COURT, EDINBURGH; or  
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1909.

[Cd. 4448-20.] Price 5½d.

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
I.—FINANCIAL ... ..	12
II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES ... ..	17
III.—LEGISLATION ... ..	30
IV.—EDUCATION ... ..	31
V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS ... ..	37
VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS ... ..	39
VII.—VITAL STATISTICS ... ..	43
VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES ... ..	48
IX.—PROTECTORATE ... ..	50
X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ... ..	53
APPENDIX I :	
Work conducted at the Imperial Institute during 1908 for the Colony of Sierra Leone ... ..	63
APPENDIX II :	
Some non-official publications relating to Sierra Leone ... ..	64
OUTLINE MAP SHOWING TRADE CHANNELS ... ..	11

---

No. 611.

## SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 588.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Freetown,  
Sierra Leone,

15th July, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit for your information the Report on the Sierra Leone Blue Book for 1908.

2. The year 1908 closed with a deficit of £20,871, and although the Report fully explains that the financial position of the Colony is thoroughly sound, there are several reasons which suggest that supplementary information on the subject may have some interest. The word "deficit" is, admittedly, a disquieting term; in the minds of the many who have no professional knowledge of finance it induces an uncomfortable suggestion of bankruptcy, and to experts it is a signal indicating an abnormal condition which demands critical scrutiny. There must also be many holders of Sierra Leone Inscribed Stock who, in addition to a natural desire for information as to the deficit, will welcome information concerning the effect which the expenditure authorized by the Public Loan Ordinance of 1903 has had upon the social and economic welfare of the Colony. The Ordinance empowered the Colonial Government to raise a loan of £1,250,000 for the following purposes:—

- (i.) Railway from the port of Freetown into the Protectorate, £1,093,500.
- (ii.) Mountain Railway and Hill Station scheme, £86,000
- (iii.) Freetown Wharf, £39,000, and
- (iv.) Freetown Waterworks, £31,500.

3. Of the works thus authorised the most important was the railway, and it is satisfactory that this undertaking may now be regarded as profitable; it is true that in 1908 the revenue, £71,000, was less than the gross expenditure, but this is due to £12,000 having been spent on additional rolling stock purchased to meet increased traffic, and if this "capital expenditure" be excluded a profit of £4,000 would be shown, to which should be added the large increase in the amount received from Customs Duties attributable solely to the trade created by the railway.

(14096\*—2.) Wt. 26122—322. 75. 9/09. D &amp; S.

A 2

The construction of the latter began twelve years ago, and was completed in 1905; the line is 220 miles in length and starting from the port of Freetown ends at Baiima, a small town situated about 20 miles from the Liberian frontier. The undertaking showed no signs of becoming profitable until 1904, when Blama, 168 miles from Freetown, was reached, and the railway, for the first time, entered a traffic-yielding palm country. The remarkable expansion of trade which began from the moment that this district was developed led to a decision which, being carried out, may, in a sense, be said to have resulted in the deficit of 1908. It was known that palms existed in exceptional abundance in the Yonni country, a Temne district 80 miles distant from Freetown, and situated about 20 miles to the north of the railway, and it was decided to connect the latter with this second palm country by means of a tramway; the construction of this branch line, identical as to gauge and grade with the railway, was begun in 1906, and the cost of its completion in 1908, amounting to £20,471, may, as stated, be said to account for the deficit; it is well, however, to remember that, as already stated, the expenditure of the Colony during the year provided for the purchase of additional rolling stock for the railway, and also that, owing to a depression in trade, common to other Colonies on the West Coast, the general revenue of Sierra Leone only amounted to £331,000 in 1908, as compared with £359,000 in the previous year. The Colony was not in any way embarrassed in finding the money needed to make good the deficit, as all that had to be done was to take the amount from its surplus funds, which latter, it may be mentioned, after the deduction, amounted to £104,795, as compared with £99,943 at the end of 1904, during which year the Sierra Leone Loan was subscribed.

4. In the Report which is transmitted with this despatch and in the Reports on the Blue Books for 1905, 1906, and 1907 allusion is made to the construction of another tramway, seven miles in length, at Baiima, the terminus of the main line, and to the expenditure incurred in connecting palm-growing districts situated between Bo, Blama, and the terminus at Baiima, with the railway by means of roads; the cost of these works, including the Yonni tramway, amounted to £105,000, of which £41,000 was appropriated from the unexpended balance of the loan, and the remainder obtained from general revenue; it would be quite correct, therefore, to point out that I am in error in stating, as I have done, that the Yonni tramway was the sole cause of the deficit. I prefer, however, to treat the Yonni line as being the sole cause, because, while the roads leading to the railway and the short tramway at its terminus were unavoidable, because obviously necessary for the development of the palm district between Blama and the terminus of the railway, the Yonni tramway was a separate undertaking designed to exploit an entirely new district situated beyond the zone in which the railway would naturally exercise its influence in trade development; it is moreover the fact that, but for the expenditure upon this tramway there would have been no deficit in 1908, and that the surplus funds of the Colony would now be £54,000 more than when the loan was subscribed instead of only being £4,000 more.

Although enough has been said to make it clear that the deficit of 1908 was not due to weakness in the financial power of the Colony but was brought about by expenditure designed to be reproductive and similar to that of a manufacturer who spends the greater part of two or three years' profits in extending a specially lucrative branch of his factory, it may be of interest if attention is called to some of the facts which show that the enterprise was well considered and that the new branch line will probably soon become a valuable asset.

As already stated the chief reason for deciding to construct the Yonni tramway was because the remarkable expansion in trade resulting from the railway having tapped a profitable palm country in 1904, augured that good results might be confidently expected from bringing the railway into touch with another district equally rich in palm produce. I can think of no more accurate way by which to show the extent to which trade expanded after 1904 than to compare the average value of exports during the three preceding years with that of the subsequent years: during 1901-3 inclusive, the average annual value of palm kernels exported was £186,000, and during 1905-8 inclusive, the value rose to £344,000: during the first period the annual average value of all the exports from the Colony, including specie, was only £375,000, as compared with £711,000 after 1904. The statistical method of showing the progress of trade, although the most accurate, is not particularly striking, and moreover it is apt to lack persuasive force on account of the untrue but popular generalization that figures can be made to prove anything; it so happens, however, that, previous to 1904, an author writing of the West Coast colonies in general and dealing with the subject in that authoritative manner most easily attained by those who are not hampered by local knowledge, employed as a summary of his conclusions respecting this Colony the picturesque phrase "Sierra Leone, the moribund," and I think that no more striking proof can be given of the recent growth in the financial strength of the Colony than the fact that the phrase quoted was not regarded as extravagant at the date when it was employed, and that, since that date, "Sierra Leone, the moribund," has been able out of her increased general revenue to connect the railway system with a second palm district as rich as that which was first reached in 1904.

5. Sufficient has been said of the "deficit" of 1908 to remove all the disquieting ideas associated with the expression, but before writing of the other results, important and interesting, of the loan of 1904, it may be of interest if I show in what way the Sierra Leone main line supplies both a warning and an encouragement to those who believe that railways exercise a magical effect in developing the resources of a country. The Report on the Blue Book of 1905 shows that in that year the railway, for the first time, earned more than enough to pay the working expenses of the line: the construction of the line began in 1896, and from time to time the completed sections were opened to traffic; thus in 1901 the public had the benefit of a working railway 75 miles in length, and in February of 1903

the distance handed over to, and controlled by, the Railway Open Lines Department was increased to 137 miles, yet in 1904 the working expenses exceeded the receipts by £5,000. There was nothing abnormal in this deficit, and it was, in the year mentioned, an accepted belief amongst the traders and firms in Freetown that the undertaking would not pay for many years. The Sierra Leone Railway was the first railway to be constructed in British West Africa, and this despondent view as to its future arose from the fact that since the gala day in 1896 when the first sod was turned, the annual working of the line had shattered, one by one, so many alluring hopes. Thus the waterways which are touched during the first 60 miles, instead of bringing regular and increasing traffic, proved competitors impossible to overcome at paying rates; again, it was thought that prosperous towns would spring up at the points where ancient trade routes were crossed, but it was found that the caravans of natives, produce-laden from the upper country, filed, one by one, over the line, stopping a moment perhaps to gaze with wonder at the new, big, crossroad with its mystery of iron, and then continued their journey southwards across hill and swamp until some long recognized market was reached at which the traders used canoe transport down to the port at Bonthe. It was hoped that traffic would improve when Moyamba and Bo, two agricultural centres respectively 75 miles and 137 miles distant from Freetown, were reached, but it soon became apparent that ordinary West African agriculture is insufficient to support a railway. This condition of stagnation still continues all the way from Freetown harbour to the Blama palm belt; with one exception no station on this section is busy, the goods sheds are empty, and nowhere is there a store or factory, under European management, belonging to any of the larger trading firms. The exception mentioned is at Bo, 137 miles, a small town reached by the line in 1903, but unknown to traders until 1906, when the Government constructed a good road connecting it with a fairly prolific palm country to the north, with the result that many traders as well as two of the European firms established stores there, and by thus creating a market at which the natives could sell produce for good prices, caused them to desert an ancient trade route which, crossing the line at a point 10 miles nearer to Freetown than Bo, led to Sumbuya, a trading station in touch with Bonthe.

6. Of the several works detailed in the Schedule to the Loan Ordinance of 1903, the railway is, of course, the most important, but I think the "Hill Station" scheme, authorized at a cost of £86,000, is of more interest. The "Hill Station" is a township designed exclusively for Europeans and built at an altitude of 800 feet near the western end of the half circle of high hills overlooking Freetown and the harbour; the Mountain Railway gives easy access to the Station, while a pure water supply, beautiful scenery, and provision for tennis and other games, enable the residents to live under pleasant and healthy conditions. It is not in these things, however, that the distinctive interest lies. The notable fact is that the Hill Station in Sierra Leone was planned and designed as a fortress against the mosquito, and was the first important tangible sign that war was

to be waged against malaria; such signs have a real effect on health, and as Freetown is the gate to West Africa, all ships from Europe calling there on the outward journey, every passenger coming out for the first time to the dreaded coast sees in the conspicuous red roofs of the lofty Station an assurance that, owing to the discoveries of gifted men, the conditions of life are being, and have been, so improved that, having a sound constitution and being determined to lead a temperate healthy life, he will be able to complete his tour of service without serious illness and again see the red roofed "fortress" on his way back to home. The township is, as already stated, intended for European residents only, and this principle of segregation is carried out as far as practicable; thus, there are no houses with native children, and each resident has to comply with the Government rule that not more than one native servant is to sleep on the premises: nevertheless the Hill Station is not and never was intended to be an experiment in the direction of ascertaining whether complete immunity from malaria can be attained by isolation of Europeans from the native community. It is obvious that Europeans serving on the West Coast cannot live the absolutely isolated life requisite if the principle of segregation is intended to be strictly carried out in a scientific manner. The judge has to try natives with the assistance of a native jury, the Medical Officer is in duty bound to attend to the sick natives whether adults or children, and as neither judge nor doctor nor any other official can be constantly protected by mosquito netting, it necessarily follows that in the course of their duties they may at any time become exposed to infection. It is the fact, however, that the health of officers at the Hill Station has been better than that of officers residing in Freetown or in the Protectorate, and this condition is doubtless in part due to the lessened risk of infection which is the result of the limited compliance with the principle of segregation. It is unsatisfactory that neither data nor statistics of strict scientific value are, or ever will be, forthcoming to prove the extent to which the improvement in the health of the officials, which has undoubtedly taken place since the establishment of the Hill Station in 1905, is due to immunity resulting from the partially segregated mode of life of the residents.

7. In 1898 the conditions of life on the West Coast were still unaffected by the great discovery that the bite of an infected mosquito was the cause of malarial fever, but since that date both Europeans and natives have learnt this weighty truth and now take precautions, formerly undreamt of, not only against malaria but also against other dangers incidental to life in a large tropical town. The fact is that the discovery of the mosquito theory respecting the cause of malaria, coupled with the untiring zeal and labours of the medical officers, has not only lessened the danger and frequency of that disease, but has made men realize that by sensible and quite easy precautions a temperate person has every chance of avoiding illness. The health statistics, therefore, vary with the two periods; those which relate to the years since the Hill Station was established are within the quinine-taking, health-studying era, while the

previous statistics relate to a time when hygiene was but little studied; it was the age of ignorance and carelessness, when nearly all thought that health was a matter of fate, and when some, from hopelessness and perhaps from fear, lived in a condition which aggravated the effects of the climate. Nowadays all have hope, and it is wonderful how widespread is the new knowledge; children know it because it is taught in the schools, the Protectorate natives in Freetown (about one-third of the population) view mosquitos as bad animals like snakes, and the housewife regards the sanitary officers in a friendly way, and does her best to keep her compound clean and free from stagnant water. From what has been said it is obvious that the health statistics concerning the European officials who lived during 1908 in Freetown and at the Hill Station respectively, do not afford evidence as to what improvement has been effected by the experiment in segregation represented by the Hill Station. The comparison of the figures is also complicated by the fact that the officials living in Freetown are in number more than double the residents at the Station, and that many of them constantly travel into the Protectorate where, owing to inferior house accommodation and exposure to rain and sun, some risk to health is unavoidable.

These general observations, however, will be thought insufficient, and there will be a desire to know what testimony on this subject is afforded by the health statistics. The European officials in Freetown and at the Hill Station are less than 100 in number, and recognizing the danger of generalizing from a few the medical department have adopted a system by which the relative health in different years and different localities is expressed by the days on which, during a year, the officials resident at a particular place have been on the sick list. According to this test it is found that the ante-quinine period, of which the year 1898 may be taken as a type, is the least healthy, and that the improvement shown ten years later, notable in all cases, is greatest in the case of residents at the Hill Station, less marked with the first grade officers dwelling in Freetown, and smallest in the case of the artisans, fitters, and drivers employed on the railway, who live at Clines Town in the eastern ward of the city.

*Ante-Quinine Period—type 1898.*

Days on Sick List owing to climatic diseases.	Days on Sick List owing to non-climatic diseases.
7·85	2·9

*Ante-Mosquito Period—type 1908.*

Days on Sick List owing to climatic diseases.	Days on Sick List owing to non-climatic diseases.
Hill Station ... .. 0·3	0·6
Freetown and Clines Town. 2·74	2·0
Freetown (first grade officers) ... .. 2·4	0·25
Clines Town ... .. 2·9	3·0



8. As already stated one of the works authorized by the Loan Ordinance was the Freetown Water Supply: the system was completed in 1905, and the fact that all now enjoy the blessing of pure water must be an important factor in the improvement in health shown by the statistics quoted. The superiority of the Hill Station is, of course, not alone due either to increased knowledge of hygiene or to segregation; the fresh air and quiet, restful nights obtained at an altitude of 800 feet give the residents a great benefit not enjoyed by the officials in Freetown, who have to get inured not only to the noises common to all large towns, but also to a continuous, insistent medley of sounds from gramophones, concertinas, and tom-toms in the evening, and from musical exercises on brass instruments at schools in the early morning before the ordinary hours of work.

The statistics show that the railway employees at Clines Town were, in 1908, more liable to non-climatic diseases than the other officials living in Freetown; this difference is perhaps natural and is to a great extent explained by the fact that the artisans and drivers, all respectable, hardworking, skilled, loyal men, believe that a stout heart is the best prophylactic against the diseases of a dangerous and depressing climate, and consequently are apt to be careless in avoiding chills, exposure to sun, &c.

9. The system of which the Hill Station is an example should undoubtedly be followed whenever practicable, and this principle was observed recently when the headquarters of the Railway District were constructed at Kennema. I believe that this new district station is at present without rival on the West Coast; the altitude (1,000 feet), the scenery, the pure water, the cool, stone-built houses, make it possible for the political officers to live under health-restoring conditions during the one week in the month which is not spent on patrol.

10. The West Coast obtained the sobriquet "The White Man's Grave" early in the 19th century, and as Sierra Leone was then and for many years afterwards the premier settlement, it became, and still is, specially identified with the phrase. This digression is made because I think it most necessary to call attention to the fact that the statistics quoted show that the words have become a libel, and that this grave-yard metaphor should itself be buried.

11. Of the works authorized by the Loan Ordinance, the Freetown Wharf is the last that requires mention. The original scheme was to construct a wharf alongside which steamers could berth, but the depth of water and the swell which occurs at certain seasons in the harbour led to a modification. The scheme actually carried out consists in the construction of two jetties, details of which are given in the Report, and of large warehouses having an aggregate floor space of 40,000 square feet; by these arrangements 500 tons of cargo can be handled in a day.

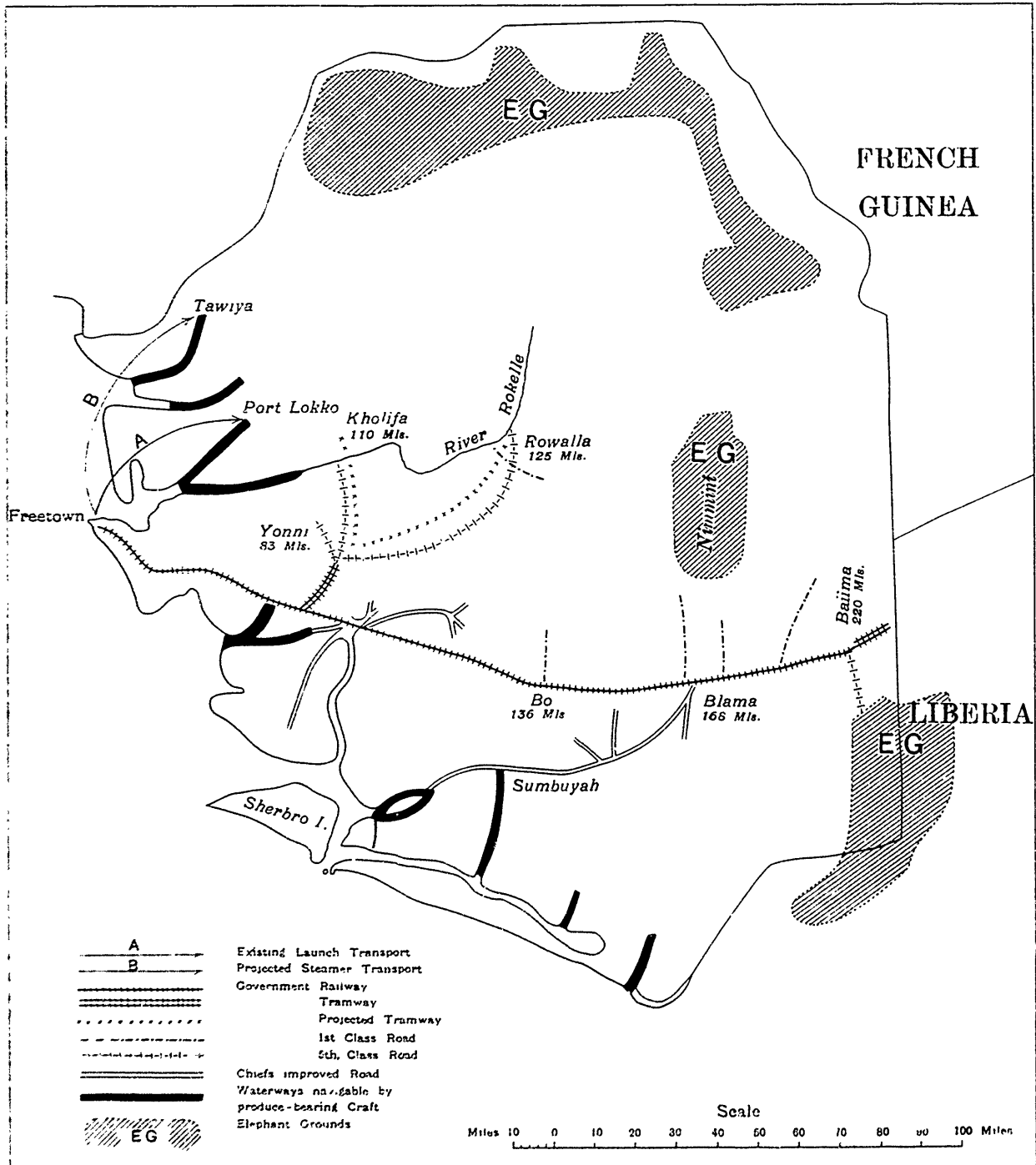
12. Having referred, perhaps too fully, to the Loan Expenditure, I propose saying but little concerning the financial position

or condition of the Colony during 1908, because these matters are fully dealt with in the Report, which supplies in detail information as to its general state during the year. The report, and perhaps also this despatch, may lead to a desire for information as to possibilities of future development, as well as to what opportunities exist for the investment of capital. It is very difficult to supply information on these points. Sierra Leone, like our other Colonies on the West Coast, is an agricultural country, and there will be no marked advance and no prospect for profitable investment of capital until, by Government direction and assistance, the native farmers can be enabled to grow, in quantities sufficiently large for regular export, products in demand in the European markets which, although plentifully yielded by semi-indigenous plants, have not yet, for want of proper cultivation and transport facilities, reached the stage as regards quality and quantity necessary for profitable exportation. Experiments have shown that the okra plant, if cultivated on a sufficiently extensive scale, will yield a fibre which can be relied upon to fetch a higher price than jute, and in favour of this form of cultivation is the fact that as the fruit, for the sake of which the plant is now grown, is in large demand, the fibre, as a by-product, will yield to the native, with but little additional labour, an added profit now uncontemplated. When it is remembered that Sierra Leone is the nearest to England of all the tropical possessions with well-equipped steamship communication, it must be obvious that the possibilities of fruit cultivation require consideration. As you are aware, a properly organised Agricultural Department will commence in Sierra Leone in 1911, but at present, having no expert advisers, I can make no definite suggestions as to what kind of fruit will, if cultivated, prove the most remunerative; it is my personal belief, however, that a very large fruit trade could be established between Sierra Leone and Europe, especially in pine-apples. The prevalent variety of this fruit appears to me to have excellent qualities, and no doubt can exist as to the suitability of soil and climate. It is, however, necessary to point out that no success in this direction can be hoped for unless the Government organizes some cheap and reliable form of transport from the districts within 80 miles radius of Freetown to that port. I foresee no difficulty in providing a sufficiently satisfactory form of transport; as regards the east and south-east, the railway and the Yonni tramway will serve, while from the north-east it is assured by the existing steamboat communication between Freetown and Port Lokko.

Finally, if, as I hope, a regular steamboat service is established between Freetown and Tawiya, the whole of the northern alluvial coastal lands will be brought into touch with the port, and, consequently, fruit, corn, and all other low-priced produce, now valueless for want of market, will yield a regular profit both to the natives, to investors, and to general revenue. It should be remembered that railways and steamer routes form only the main arteries of trade transport, and that to tap the actual resources of the country it is necessary to supplement the system of wholesale transport by some means which will enable produce



# OUTLINE MAP OF SIERRA LEONE SHOWING TRADE CHANNELS



*Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1909*

to be dealt with otherwise than by the wasteful method of head-carriage. The problem of minor transport on the West Coast is as yet unsolved, but I believe that the solution will be found in the employ of pack-animals.

I have, &c.,

L. PROBYN,  
Governor.

The Right Honourable  
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,  
&c., &c., &c.

---

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF  
SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1908.

---

1. Sierra Leone is situated between 7° and 10° N. latitude, and between 10° 40' and 13° 21' of W. longitude. The estimated area of the Colony and Protectorate is 32,000 square miles.

2. The population of the Colony and Protectorate is estimated at 1,250,000, such estimate being based, as regards the Protectorate, on the number of tax-paying houses, the houses being credited with from 5 to 10 occupants apiece, the numbers varying according to the tribes.

The population of the peninsula of Sierra Leone is estimated at 76,773.

3. The administrative divisions of the Colony and Protectorate in 1908 were as follows:—

- \*Freetown Police District.
- \*Waterloo District.—Headquarters Waterloo.
- Karene District.—Headquarters Batkanu.
- Ronietta District.—Headquarters Moyamba.
- Railway District.—Headquarters Kennema.
- Central District.—Headquarters Makondu.
- Koinadugu District.—Headquarters Kaballa.
- †Sherbro District.—Headquarters Bonthe.

The system of administration differs in the Colony and Protectorate.

4. The accompanying map shows the various trade channels, as well as the elephant grounds, of Sierra Leone.

---

\* Entirely Colony.

† Partly Colony, partly Protectorate.

---

## I.—FINANCIAL.

5. The revenue for 1908, including receipts from the sale of Crown Lands, amounted to £320,999 13s. 0d., being £37,389 7s. 0d. less than the Estimate. The revenue was less than the expenditure by £20,871 11s. 7d.

6. The revenue for 1908 did not reach the receipts for 1907 by £38,104 8s. 6d. The main decreases under the individual heads are shewn in paragraph 9 of this report.

The main source of increase was the Protectorate House Tax, which exceeded the amount collected in 1907 by £2,262 10s.

7. The heavy falling off in Customs receipts is accounted for by the drop in the prices paid in the European markets for the principal products of the Colony, especially palm kernels and palm oil, thus limiting to a proportional extent the purchasing power of the community. The railway receipts were necessarily also affected thereby.

8. In the Estimates for 1908, the revenue and expenditure of the Protectorate, which in previous years had been shewn separately, were for the first time merged with those of the Colony.

9. The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads of revenue as compared with the receipts for the previous year:—

—	1908.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Customs ... ..	163,522	198,058	—	34,536
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse dues	4,658	4,083	575	—
Licences, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	57,457	4,565	52,892 <sup>o</sup>	—
Fees of Court or Office, payments for Specific Services, and re-imbursements-in-aid.	9,407	8,031	1,376	—
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	8,967	8,767	200	—
Rents of Government property ...	445	581	—	136
Interest ... ..	4,270	6,734	—	2,464
Miscellaneous Receipts ... ..	355	627	—	272
Railway ... ..	71,633	74,513	—	2,880
Land Sales ... ..	6	1,011	—	1,005
Protectorate ... ..	—	52,134	—	52,134*
Tramways ... ..	275	—	275	—
Total ... ..	320,995	359,104	55,318	93,427

<sup>o</sup> See preceding paragraph.

10. The revenue for the five years 1904-1908, together with the Customs and railway receipts, is as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Customs.	Railway.
	£	£	£
1904 ... ..	240,472	132,798	35,642
1905 ... ..	231,523	143,537	57,786
1906 ... ..	305,074	162,656	62,019
1907 ... ..	359,104	198,058	74,512
1908 ... ..	321,000	163,522	71,909

11. The payments during the year amounted to £341,871 4s. 7d., being £24,640 15s. 5d. less than the Estimate, and £20,871 11s. 7d. in excess of the revenue. The expenditure was less than that for 1907 by £3,695 19s. 1d. The excess of expenditure has been met from surplus balances in previous years.

12. The sum of £341,871 4s. 7d. includes an amount of £34,553 9s. 2d. for special expenditure on works of an extraordinary nature. Of this amount, £20,474 5s. 2d. was spent on the construction of the tramways between Boia and the Yonni terminus, and Baiima and Pendembu; £27 8s. was spent in connexion with traction engines for the Protectorate roads; the remaining £14,051 16s. was expended by the Railway Department on the purchase of additional rolling stock, and of steel foot-bridges for attachment to several of the railway bridges crossing the larger rivers. After deduction of the cost of these extraordinary works from the total expenditure for the year, the normal expenditure amounted to £307,317 15s. 5d. which is less than the revenue receipts by £13,681 17s. 7d.

13. Supplementary expenditure to the extent of £11,430 2s. 8d. was authorised during the year, which, together with the amount appropriated by law, aggregated £377,942 2s. 8d. Owing, however, to savings under nearly every head of the Estimates, there was a net saving under all heads of £36,070 18s. 1d. as compared with the total amount authorised.

14. The cost of the retention of the detachment of the West African Frontier Force on the Liberian frontier during the year amounted to £1,290 3s. 5d. This brings the total expense incurred in this connexion since an expedition was sent in 1905 against the Kissi tribe, which inhabits that portion of the country (see paragraph 222), up to £13,526 6s. 11d.

15. The tramways alluded to in paragraph 12 were completed and opened for traffic during the year. They will be further dealt with in Section X.

16. The following table gives in detail the expenditure for the year as compared with that for 1907:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1908.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charges on account of Public Debt...	59,671	54,435	5,236	—
Pensions ... ..	6,617	7,299	—	682
Governor and Legislature ... ..	5,996	6,216	—	220
Colonial Secretary's Department ... ..	4,316	3,874	442	—
Provincial Administration ... ..	23,242	2,701	23,541*	—
Treasury ... ..	2,986	2,552	434	—
Customs Department ... ..	11,301	11,015	286	—
Audit Department ... ..	2,357	2,120	237	—
Port and Marine Department ... ..	1,116	1,053	63	—
Legal Departments ... ..	7,003	5,266	1,737	—
Carried forward ... ..	127,605	96,531	31,976	902

\* See paragraph 8.

Heads of Expenditure.	1908.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	127,605	96,531	31,976	902
Civil Police ... ..	8,631	8,599	32	—
Prisons ... ..	6,151	5,147	1,004	—
Medical Department ... ..	15,501	7,030	8,471	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries ... ..	4,962	5,087	—	125
Nursing Home ... ..	810	830	—	20
Education ... ..	6,444	3,377	3,067	—
Miscellaneous Services ... ..	9,097	10,918	—	1,821
Post Office ... ..	10,761	9,792	969	—
Agricultural Department ... ..	2,601	—	2,601	—
Public Works Department ... ..	3,503	2,950	553	—
Do. Recurrent ... ..	10,452	10,164	288	—
Do. Extraordinary ... ..	11,791	15,374	—	3,583
West African Frontier Force ... ..	20,924	22,890	—	1,966
Sierra Leone Government Railway	81,958	67,460	14,498	—
Protectorate ... ..	—	37,754*	—	37,754
Railway Special Expenditure ... ..	—	—	—	—
Public Works Extraordinary (Special). ... ..	20,502	41,664	—	21,162
Tramways ... ..	178	—	178	—
Total ... ..	341,871	345,567	63,637	67,333

\* See paragraph 8.

The sum of £81,958 which is given as the expenditure on the railway is misleading unless it is remembered that it includes the Special Expenditure on works of an extraordinary nature referred to in paragraph 12, amounting to £14,051 15s., which was expended on the purchase of additional rolling stock and steel footbridges. Deducting this sum, the normal railway expenditure is reduced to £67,906, which is less than the railway receipts by £4,003.

17. The expenditure for the five years 1904-1908 is as follows:—

	£
1904 ... ..	237,892
1905 ... ..	295,490
1906 ... ..	285,661
1907 ... ..	345,567
1908 ... ..	341,871

18. In comparing the ratio of "Personal Emoluments" to "Other Charges," it is interesting to note how largely that ratio has changed within the last ten years. In 1898 "Personal Emoluments" amounted to £62,850, "Other Charges" to £24,926, a proportion of 100 to 40, or 5 to 2. In 1903 the figures were £91,705 and £59,405 respectively, the ratio having altered to 100 to 65, or 20 to 13. In the year under review the proportion of "Other Charges" has still further risen: "Personal Emoluments" in 1908 amounted to £118,707, and "Other Charges" to £100,072, being in the ratio of 100 to 84, or 25 to 21, as compared with 100 to 40 in 1898.

19. The net proceeds of the loan of £1,250,000 issued in 1904, which at the beginning of the year was shown in the books of the Colony as £1,195,646 0s. 7d., were further reduced during



the year by £230 15s., being the expenses of conversion of Bonds into Stock.

20. The amount expended during the year on works and undertakings the cost of which is chargeable to Loan Funds, amounted to £13,844 9s. 3d. including sums spent on the railway, the Free-town Wharf jetties, and the barracks at the Moa River.

The total expenditure on works chargeable to loan funds amounted at the end of the year to £1,180,659 19s. 7d., leaving a balance of £14,755 6s. still available.

21. The excess of assets over liabilities at the end of 1908 amounted to £104,399 12s. exclusive of the value of the Railway Department stores on hand at that date, amounting to £26,795 5s. 6d. This is exclusive also of stores on hand in the Public Works Department.

22. The funded debt of the Colony at the close of 1907 amounted to £1,280,137. This amount was increased during 1908 by £1,010, being the premium at 3 per cent. on Bonds for £29,200, and at 2 per cent. on Bonds for £6,700, surrendered for conversion into Inscribed Stock.

At the first annual drawing of Bonds for redemption, which took place in May, 1908, the value of the Bonds drawn for payment was £12,400, of which £7,700 were Bonds already surrendered to the Government for conversion into Inscribed Stock. The remaining £4,700 were Bonds in the possession of the public, and were paid off on or after 1st June, 1908.

23. The Public Debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,276,447, made up as follows:—

	£
4 per cent. ten-year Convertible Bonds	566,800
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock 1929-1954	709,647

The yearly contributions to the Sinking Funds for both Bonds and Stocks have been made as they became due, the money in the Sinking Fund for the Bonds at the date of the annual drawing being utilised in paying off the drawn Bonds. The amount to the credit of each Sinking Fund on the 31st December, 1908, was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Sinking Fund—Bonds	3,052	0	10
„ „ Inscribed Stock	10,606	19	11
Total	13,659	0	9

Deducting this sum, the funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,262,787 19s. 3d.

24. In addition to the current coin of the United Kingdom the following coins are legal tender in Sierra Leone:—

	£	s.	d.
Gold {	Spanish and Mexican Doubloon	3	4 0
	20-franc pieces of the Latin Union	0	15 10
	American Eagle (\$10)	2	1 0
	„ Half-Eagle (\$5)	1	0 6
Silver {	„ Quarter-Eagle (\$2·50)	0	10 3
	...5-franc pieces of the Latin Union	0	3 10½

Of these coins, the 5-franc piece is the only one at all frequently met with, it being in considerable use among the natives of those districts of the Protectorate which adjoin French Guinea.

25. Until recently, the three-penny piece was the lowest form of coin in practical currency, a fact which naturally tended to keep prices high. This has now been overcome by considerable importations of pennies and half-pennies, and quite lately even farthings have been introduced and will no doubt become popular as soon as the people have had time to accustom themselves to their use.

26. The Bank of British West Africa, Limited, has a branch at Freetown, together with an agency at Bo, in the Railway District.

Some of the mercantile houses in the Colony also issue Bills of Exchange on their principals in Europe.

Inland Bills for sums of not less than £25 are issued at par by the Colonial Treasurer on the sub-Treasuries of the various districts.

#### MUNICIPALITIES.

##### *Freetown Municipality.*

27. The financial year of the Freetown Municipality is from 1st November to 31st October.

The total revenue received from all sources from 1st November, 1907, to 31st October, 1908, amounted to £9,118, showing an increase of £100 on the revenue of the previous financial year. The expenditure, including certain sums still due at the end of the financial year, amounted to £8,851, which is less than the expenditure of the previous year by £231.

28. The Municipality is in receipt of an annual grant-in-aid from the Government of £1,800. The following table shows the revenue (including the grant-in-aid) and expenditure of the Municipality in the five years 1904-1908:—

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	£		£	
1904	...	6,567	...	7,685
1905	...	6,185	...	7,163
1906	...	6,582	...	6,672
1907	...	9,018	...	9,082
1908	...	9,118	...	8,851

The increase of revenue in 1907 is due to the levying of Water Rates, which in the year under review contributed £1,606 to the revenue.

The Municipality has a debt of £2,800, lent to them by the Government for the carrying out of municipal works. To the Sinking Fund provided for its redemption, £75 was paid in the year under review by the Municipality.

##### *Sherbro Municipal Board.*

29. The revenue of the Sherbro Municipal Board, which is derived from proceeds of rates, tolls, and fees, supplemented by

a grant of £300 per annum from the Colonial House Tax collected within the Sherbro district, and an annual grant-in-aid of £152 from general revenue for the Sanitary Police in Bonthe, amounted in 1908 to £1,411, as against £1,440 in 1907. The expenditure for the same period was £1,021, as compared with £935 in the previous year.

## II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

30. The value of imports into the Colony, valued for statistical purposes at their invoiced values less trade discounts, but plus the cost of packing and the charges for freight, insurance, and commission to port of entry, amounted for the year 1908 to £813,700, being a decrease of £174,322, or 17·6 per cent., from the figures of the previous year.

31. The following table shows the value of the imports for the five years 1904-1908:—

						£
1904	...	...	...	...	...	717,236
1905	...	...	...	...	...	702,648
1906	...	...	...	...	...	885,851
1907	...	...	...	...	...	988,022
1908	...	...	...	...	...	813,700

32. At the end of 1907 there set in a period of general commercial depression, which in Sierra Leone was all the more marked as coming after three years of rapidly increasing prosperity. The figures for the year under review show a considerable decrease in Customs revenue and in the values of the import and export trade, which, under the circumstances, is not to be wondered at, and which was, indeed, fully anticipated. It is none the less disappointing, however, to have to record a set-back after two such good years as 1906 and 1907.

33. The gross revenue collected by the Customs Department in 1908 amounted to £172,632, or after deducting drawbacks and refunds of duty, to £170,377, which is a decrease of £33,449, or 16·4 per cent., from the net yield for 1907.

It may be mentioned that the amount collected by the Customs Department in 1907 constitutes a record.

34. The import duties, of which £38,662 were *ad valorem*, and £126,166 specific, formed 96 per cent. of the total gross revenue of the Department, and are alone responsible for the falling off in the Customs revenue.

35. This decrease in import duties, amounting to £34,203, of which £7,088 is *ad valorem* and £27,115 specific, is due to the fall in the prices obtaining in the European markets for the principal products of this Colony, and the corresponding fall in the prices paid locally. The imports rise and fall with the prices

which the people of this Colony can obtain for their produce, as these prices are the determining factor of their purchasing capacity.

Some of the large firms, moreover, anticipating a continuation of trade prosperity, imported in 1907 more goods than under the altered conditions they were able to dispose of profitably. The subsequent slow liquidation of this surplus stock has to a certain extent restricted fresh business.

36. The imports show a decrease in all the heads under which they are classified.

Predominant among the articles showing a decrease are those which are looked upon by the people as luxuries, *e.g.*, spirits, tobacco, cotton goods, silks, beads, &c.

37. Specie has declined by £38,906, in sympathy with the depressed condition of trade, in consequence of which lesser quantities were required by the bank to meet demands.

38. The returns show that the number of bullocks imported falls short by 549 head, valued at £3,680, of the number imported in 1907.

This decrease, being more apparent than real, requires some explanation. The greater portion of the bullocks slaughtered for purposes of consumption in this Colony has for years past been brought by sea from Senegal, Gambia, and French Guinea. During the year 1908 the enormous decrease in exportable products of the soil in French Guinea, more particularly in rubber, deprived the natives of a great part of the resources necessary for their maintenance and payment of taxes; they were thus compelled to sell their cattle in order to supply their needs, and meet their obligations. The price of their bullocks dropped in consequence to such an extent that Senegal and the Gambia could no longer compete. Moreover, a large number of the bullocks supplied by French Guinea last year were brought overland to Port Lokko, and conveyed thence to Freetown by canoe, and as no statistics are kept of the inland trade none of the bullocks thus imported figure in the returns.

In point of fact, the consumption of beef is on the increase, and the number of bullocks slaughtered in Freetown for human use in 1908 is in excess of that in 1907.

39. The rises in imports comprise coal and groundnuts, both on the free list, and salt. The import of unmanufactured tobacco has increased in value, but decreased in quantity. As regards coal, that commodity being admitted free of duty, does not, of course, contribute directly to the revenue of the Customs Department. Its importation is recognised, however, as requiring the employment of labour, and as such it contributes indirectly to the commercial prosperity of the Colony. The increased importation of coal is due to the marked improvement in the volume of the shipping trade. Although the value of the unmanufactured tobacco imported is higher than last year, its contribution to the Customs revenue is less owing to decreased quantity, and to the fact that it is liable to specific duty.

*Spirits and other Alcoholic Liquors.*

40. The following table shows the total quantity of alcoholic liquors of all kinds, viz. :—Ale and porter, liqueurs and cordials, spirits and wines, imported during each of the last five years, together with their declared value, and the amount of duty paid :—

Year.	Quantities.	Declared Value.	Duty Paid.
	Gallons.	£	£
1904 ... ..	420,901	52,058	57,921
1905 ... ..	386,551	53,391	66,378
1906 ... ..	392,311	59,277	74,287
1907 ... ..	510,142	70,243	93,361
1908 ... ..	385,522	57,657	74,051

The next table gives the same information with regard to spirits only (brandy, gin, rum, whisky, and other spirits):—

Year.	Quantities.	Declared Value.	Duty Paid.
	Gallons.	£	£
1904 ... ..	355,978	39,134	55,426
1905 ... ..	313,239	37,955	62,653
1906 ... ..	318,785	43,524	70,372
1907 ... ..	431,959	54,872	89,498
1908 ... ..	317,066	44,214	70,450

41. The following are the duties chargeable on spirits:—

- (1) Spirits and strong waters of which the degree can be ascertained by Tralles' alcoholometer :—
  - (a) when of or under the strength of 50 per cent. of pure alcohol by such alcoholometer. Per Imperial gallon or part thereof—5s.
  - (b) when of a greater strength ... Per Imperial gallon or part thereof—5s., plus a further sum of 1d. for each unit per cent. of pure alcohol above 50 per cent.
- (2) Spirits, being sweetened or mixed so that the degree of strength cannot be ascertained. Per Imperial gallon—5s.
- (3) Spirits or strong waters such as naphtha in its crude state, methylated spirits, and perfumed waters, which are totally unfit for use as a potable spirit. *Ad valorem*—10 per cent.
- (4) Spirits unenumerated ... .. Per Imperial gallon—5s.

42. The import duties on alcoholic liquors contributed in 1908 43.46 per cent. to the total (net) Customs revenue, as compared with 46.98 per cent. in 1907.

43. In connexion with the foregoing tables, the following facts will be of interest:—

Up to the 12th November, 1904, the import duty on spirits per proof gallon, as determined by Sykes' hydrometer, was 3s. On that date the duty was raised to 4s. per gallon, and continued at that rate until the 23rd May, 1905, when the Tralles' alcoholometer was substituted for Sykes' hydrometer, and caused the import duty on spirits to be re-adjusted as follows:—

The duty on spirits when of or under the strength of 50 per cent. of pure alcohol according to Tralles' alcoholometer, to be 4s. per gallon, together with a further sum of 1*l.* for each unit per cent. of pure alcohol above 50 per cent. This rate remained in force until August, 1908, when it was raised to the rate actually in force. During the last four months of 1908, that is to say from the time when the additional duty of 1s. per gallon was imposed, the proportionate decrease in the importation of spirits was considerably greater than during the first eight months of the year. Taking the decrease in gallons of imported spirits from January to August, 1908, as a basis for ascertaining what would have been the probable total contraction for 1908 had the import duty on spirits undergone no alteration, the figure arrived at is 35,887 gallons. The actual decrease in 1908 was 115,077 gallons, there being thus a difference of 79,190 gallons, with a consequent net loss to revenue of £11,573, to be accounted for. This basis would only be conclusive, however, if the general conditions of trade had remained constant throughout the year. As a matter of fact the value of the commercial imports subject to duty which were imported during the last four months of the year is proportionately less than that of those imported from January to August, from which it may be assumed that the decrease in the importation of spirits after August, 1908, though undoubtedly caused to some extent, probably to a large extent, by the raising of the duty, was also affected by the general trade depression, which was more pronounced than at the beginning of the year. It is worth recording that after the raising of the duty on spirits in 1904 and 1905, the importation of spirits promptly declined, and did not fully revive until 1907.

44. The total value of exports for 1908 amounted to £736,755, being a decrease of £94,504, or 11.37 per cent., from that of 1907.

45. Exports are valued for statistical purposes as they lie in the port of shipment, such value including cost of packages in which they are contained, and all charges incidental to placing them on board the exporting vessel, but exclusive of expenses of conveyance to port of destination.

46. The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1904-1908, distinguishing the produce and manufactures of the Colony from other exports:—

Year.	Produce and manufactures of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.			Total British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Grand Total
		Coal.	Specie	Other.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904 ...	356,024	40,052	77,875	10,919	128,846	484,870
1905 ...	435,806	27,780	87,590	11,974	127,344	563,150
1906 ...	526,342	43,526	111,451	25,304	190,281	716,623
1907 ...	675,544	44,118	6,827	14,770	155,715	831,259
1908 ...	529,849	36,364	52,396	15,146	206,906	736,755

From this table it will be seen that, classing the exports under the two heads of:—

1. Produce and Manufactures of the Colony;
2. British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures,

the total decrease in exports is caused by the decrease under head 1. The increase under head 2 is not, however, a matter for satisfaction, being almost entirely the result of an increased exportation of specie.

47. The general decrease in exports is to be accounted for by the unsatisfactory condition of trade during 1908, and the consequent relatively bad prices paid locally for the products of the country. The items principally affected are palm oil, palm kernels, kola nuts, and rubber. On the other hand, there has been a considerable increase in the export of locally-grown rice and other provisions.

48. It is not improbable that when the local prices of the produce of the Colony dropped, the natives suspected that the offering of reduced prices was the outcome of a desire on the part of the European firms to drive hard bargains with them. The physical wants of the native being fully satisfied by the soil, he is under no compulsion to sell his produce except when it suits his convenience to do so, and it seems likely, therefore, that to some extent the contraction in the export trade is due to his holding back his produce in the hope that prices would again reach the high level of 1907.

49. The export of specie has swollen by £55,569, as compared with 1907. The probable cause of this is that owing to the depression of trade in 1908, local demands for specie were so indifferent that the Bank operating in the Colony found it more advantageous to distribute it elsewhere. Of the total export of £152,396, £46,791 found its way to the United Kingdom; of the remainder, Gambia took £56,234, and Southern Nigeria £22,200.

50. The fall in the export of coal is, in view of the increase in the shipping trade, somewhat anomalous.

51. In 1907 the export of benniseed, which for some years past had been languishing, ceased altogether. This was due to the fact that the limited supply available caused by a short crop, created a keener demand locally and was retained for home consumption. The better price obtainable for this article in 1908, together with an output in excess of local requirements, has caused a revival, and it is gratifying to record an export in 1908 of 188 tons, valued at £1,897.

52. Notwithstanding the greatly reduced prices of ginger during the year 1908, its export has increased by 19 tons, valued at £293. The average price in the European market in 1908 was £23 per ton, as against £27 in 1907, and £25 in 1906, so that considering the large contraction in the price of 1908 from that of 1907, viz.: £4 per ton, the results may be looked upon as satisfactory. Of the efforts of the Government and others to improve the methods of the cultivation and preparation of ginger, something will be said under the heading of agriculture.

53. For the last five years the export of piassava has been steadily improving, and in 1908 amounted to 516 tons, valued at £8,628, which is an increase of 187 tons, or 56·8 per cent., valued at £2,880, on the output of 1907, and this notwithstanding the fact that the average price in the European market in 1908 was £2 per ton less than in 1907, and £3 per ton less than in 1906. The greater portion of the piassava exported is produced in the Sherbro District; of the 516 tons exported in 1908, 487 tons were shipped from Sherbro. Of the total value of the year's output, viz., £8,628, piassava to the value of £5,177 went to the United Kingdom, the remainder to Germany.

54. Since 1904 the export of rice has been steadily increasing, and in 1908 reached a total of 37,692 bushels, valued at £7,206, which is an increase of 6,924 bushels, valued at £1,571, on the export of the previous year. In 1904 the export only amounted to 2,863 bushels, valued at £938. Granted normal weather conditions, it is unquestionable that not only can the Colony produce enough rice for its own very large consumption, rice being the staple article of diet of the entire population, but that it is also able to meet a steadily increasing demand from abroad. Sierra Leone rice is universally preferred to Indian rice, the imports of which were considerable in former years, when scarcity in the local article had been anticipated, and had caused the price to rise, but have now very largely shrunk. In 1908 there were imported 101 tons of rice, as compared with 348 tons in 1907, and this amount was largely made up of small quantities brought in by passengers. Practically all the rice exported from Sierra Leone is destined for ports on the West Coast of Africa.

55. In 1908 the average price per ton fetched by palm kernels in the European market was £3 below that prevailing in the previous year. So large a drop in the value of the principal article of produce of this Colony, the prosperity of whose population is so largely dependent on the prices obtainable for its domestic produce, has naturally had a far-reaching effect on its general commercial development for the year under review, and



is, in particular, to a great extent responsible for the unsatisfactory results of the import trade. The falling off in the quantity of palm kernels exported is insignificant; it is in the value of those exported that the principal decrease is to be sought.

56. In 1907 there were exported 34,942 tons of palm kernels, valued at £447,801; in 1908 the quantity exported amounted to 33,721 tons, whereas the value was only £332,887. That is to say, while the quantity exported only decreased by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., the drop in the value reached the high figure of  $25\frac{3}{4}$  per cent.

57. The quantity of kernels exported in 1908, remains, notwithstanding the slight decrease, the second highest in the last five years, and in advance of the average output for that period.

58. Of the total output for the year under review, 20,868 tons were exported from Freetown, and 12,853 tons from the Sherbro District. The quantity exported from Freetown is actually in excess of the amount exported thence in 1907 by 437 tons. This increase, all the more remarkable in a bad year, is further proof, if such be needed, of the effect which the extension of the tramways and roads systems, acting as feeders to the railway, are having, and will have, in developing the trade of the Protectorate. The falling-off in the exports from Sherbro is entirely responsible for the general decrease in the Colony's output. The cause of the drop in the Sherbro kernels will be suggested in dealing with the decreased exportation of palm oil.

59. Palm kernels contributed in 1908 62·83 per cent. of the total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.

60. The results of the palm-oil trade are in many ways parallel to those of the kernel export. In both cases has there been a fall in the prices of the European market, in both cases has the decrease in value been greater than the decrease in the quantity exported. In both cases has the export from Freetown shown an increase on the figures of the previous year, due to roads and tramways, and in both cases consequently is the fall in the Sherbro export responsible for the general decrease. In both cases, too, have the exports for 1908 been above the average of the exports for the years 1904-1908.

61. The total export for 1908 amounted to 489,637 gallons, valued at £36,451, as against 615,997 gallons of the value of £51,154 in 1907, there being thus a decrease of  $20\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. in volume, and 28·7 per cent. in value. Of this quantity, 177,114 gallons were exported from Freetown, as against 157,823 in 1907, and 312,523 gallons from Sherbro, as against 458,174 gallons in the previous year. The average price ruling in the European market in 1908 was £22 per ton, in 1907 £23 per ton, and in 1906 £25 per ton.

62. That there should have been an increase both in the volume and in the value of the oil exported from Freetown in 1908, notwithstanding the fact that a drop of £6 per ton in price had to be faced, says much for the good effect which the tramways and feeder roads have had in tapping hitherto undeveloped palm-bearing areas. The Government is moreover steadily en-

couraging the output of palm oil by assisting the natives to obtain proper receptacles, such as kerosine tins, and an improved species of gourd, in which to transport it. Furthermore, by making the people of other districts acquainted with a simple and effective method of expressing oil from the fibre, which is in use among some of the natives of the Sherbro District, the Government hopes that a great saving of time and labour, and a consequent increase in output, may be anticipated.

63. An additional reason to the drop in price for the large falling off in the export of palm oil and kernels from the Sherbro District may be found in the fact that in consequence of the people having devoted themselves so largely to those articles of produce in 1906 and 1907, the farming work suffered to a considerable extent. Having already lost a certain amount of interest in palms owing to the low prices obtainable, they were all the more anxious to avoid a repetition of the shortage in the rice crop which occurred in 1907. Hence in 1908 they devoted more time to farming than to palms, and looked to other money-producing sources, such as rice and piassava, to supply them with their requirements.

64. Palm oil contributed in 1908 6·88 per cent. of the total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.

65. The quantity of kola nuts exported in 1908 amounted to 1,162 tons, of the value of £108,895, being a decrease of 212 tons of the value of £4,779, on the export of the previous year, that is to say, a decrease of 15 per cent. in quantity, but of only 4 per cent. in value, the price paid locally for kola nuts having risen since 1907.

66. The drop in the quantity exported is not due to any falling off in the trade, but probably to exceptional circumstances. Practically all the kola nuts exported from this Colony go to West African ports north of Sierra Leone. Owing to the outbreak of the plague at Accra in the early part of 1908, the Senegalese authorities placed restrictions on the landing of cargo from vessels which had touched at any of the Gold Coast ports, in consequence of which shipments of kola nuts were only made by those steamers which had not touched at Gold Coast ports before reaching Sierra Leone. As the passage of such steamers was of very infrequent occurrence, shippers in many cases held back their produce.

67. There is no reason why this article should not continue to be an increasingly important form of the Colony's produce. Its cultivation does not involve much labour, and gives, on the other hand, a high percentage of profits. It has been demonstrated that the soil of Sierra Leone is in many places most congenial to its development, and that it does not thrive in Senegal, the principal consumer on the Coast, or in French Guinea. At present the trade in kola nuts is largely in the hands of native traders, and its purchasers are almost entirely natives of West Africa, who value it highly as a sustaining and nutritious article of diet. The well-known medicinal qualities of the kola nut should, however, be able to find a market for it in Europe, and this may perhaps be done when European traders begin to take a greater interest in its possibilities. Of the total export of

1,162 tons, 1,111 tons went to Bissao (Portuguese Guinea, Gambia, and Senegal, while only three tons were consigned to Europe.

68. Kola nuts continue to take the second place among the exports of the Colony, representing 20·55 per cent. of its total produce and manufactures.

69. The export of rubber for 1908 amounted to 41 tons, valued at £9,372, as against 73 tons, valued at £22,480, exported in 1907, these figures being below the average export of the last five years both in quantity and value. In 1905, 190 tons, valued at £49,132, were exported from the Colony, and formed 11·27 per cent. of the total exports of its produce and manufacture; in 1908, the percentage has sunk to 1·77 per cent. It is to be regretted that what was once a valuable trade should languish, but the local price of rubber in 1908 was driven down to such an extent by the prices obtaining in the European markets, that the natives did not find that it paid them to collect it for sale. An additional reason for the decrease in volume is to be found in the fact that much of the rubber from Koinadugu, a district which largely contributed to the rubber produce of the Colony, now no longer comes down to Freetown, but goes instead to Marmo in French Guinea, which has recently been opened up as a large trade centre, and which is only three short days from the frontier and on the Conakry Railway.

70. Forty-five tons of gum copal were exported in 1908, this being the highest figure attained during the last five years. The increase in quantity from 1907 amounts to two tons; unfortunately, however, the value shows a decrease of £1,067, or 17·73 per cent. As in the case of other products of this Colony, the lower prices obtainable in Europe are responsible for the decrease in value.

71. Thirty-one cwts. of ivory, valued at £1,091, were exported in 1908, as against 39 cwts., valued at £1,443, in 1907. The quantity is the average of the amount exported in the years 1903-1907; the value is slightly in excess of the average value.

72. The following table shows the percentage of values of the import trade to total imports, export trade to total exports, aggregate trade to total aggregate, assigned to the countries and groups of countries as therein classified, during the years 1907 and 1908:—

Countries.	Import Trade.		Export Trade.		Aggregate Trade.	
	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908.
United Kingdom ...	69·16	70·16	27·48	24·05	50·12	48·25
Germany ...	12·58	11·45	42·39	41·36	26·21	25·66
British West African Possessions.	2·30	2·74	9·09	18·92	5·40	10·12
Foreign West African Possessions.	6·95	8·07	18·80	14·73	12·36	11·24
Other Countries ...	9·01	7·58	2·24	·64	5·91	4·43
Total ...	100	100	100	100	100	100

73. From the above table it will be seen that as regards the aggregate trade, the United Kingdom still holds a commanding position, and what percentage it has lost since 1907 it has lost in favour of British West African Possessions, the increase in the trade with which is due to larger importation and exportation of specie. The leading place which Germany occupies in the export trade is due to the fact that by far the largest proportion of the palm kernels exported from Sierra Leone is shipped to that country.

74. Among European countries the main share of the import trade continues to fall to the United Kingdom, but its value has contracted from £683,322 in 1907 to £570,908 in 1908, a shortening of £112,414, or 16½ per cent. As regards percentage, however, there has been an increase of 1 per cent.

75. Germany takes the second place with a value of £93,166. This is a decrease of £31,342 from the value of her import trade in 1907; the percentage, too, has decreased by 1·13 per cent.

76. The imports classified as coming from the United States, a country which, but for the present system of preparing the import statistics, would in this respect rank next to the United Kingdom, amounted in value to £23,790, which is £7,759 less than in 1907. From the United States are imported flour, petroleum, lumber, and unmanufactured tobacco.

77. Holland alone shows an increase both in value and percentage, having sent articles to the value of £27,377, forming a percentage of 3·37 per cent. of the total imports, as against £20,781, or 2·1 per cent. in 1907. This increase is due to a large importation of Dutch cotton goods.

78. The following table shows the distribution of the principal products of the Colony among the countries and groups of countries to which exported:—

—	Ginger.	Kola Nuts.	Palm Kernels.	Palm Oil.	Pias-sava.	Rice.	Rubber.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	11,833	119	40,588	33,079	5,177	4	7,892
Germany ...	—	4	292,167	2,098	3,451	1	1,480
British West African Possessions.	18	44,381	—	118	—	488	—
Foreign West African Possessions.	20	64,311	132	1,156	—	6,712	—
Other Countries ...	—	80	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	11,871	108,895	332,887	36,451	8,628	7,205	9,372

79. As before, Germany continues to take the main share of the produce and manufactures of the Colony, the proportion going to that country amounting in 1908 to 57·13 per cent. In 1900, of the Colony's total produce and manufactures, the United Kingdom took 35·38 per cent., and Germany 36·33 per cent.

Now the former takes only 19·9 per cent., a drop of 16·43 per cent., while Germany's share shows a rise of 20·8 per cent. as compared with her position in 1900. Owing to the serious falling off in the prices of local products, the total value of the exports to Germany witnessed a decline in 1908 as compared with 1907, yet the volume of palm kernels (the bulk of exports to Germany) sent there in 1908 is 2,987 tons in excess of the amount sent in 1907, although the total output from the Colony was 1,221 tons less than in the previous year. As long as Hamburg continues to offer the most remunerative prices, and to possess the most scientific appliances for dealing with palm kernels, Germany will continue to absorb to an increasing extent the principal item of the produce of the Colony.

80. Notwithstanding the unfavourable condition of the import and export trade, the aggregate tonnage of the ships entering and clearing the ports of the Colony in 1908 is the largest on record. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 1,910, of a tonnage of 2,046,152. Compared with 1907, this is a decrease of six ships, but an increase in tonnage of 155,621.

81. The following statement gives the number and tonnage of the ships, arranged under their several nationalities, entered and cleared in 1907 and 1908:—

Nationality.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908.
	No.	No.	Tons.	Tons.
British... ..	1,290	1,310	1,456,906	1,588,145
French... ..	323	284	14,132	2,291
German... ..	152	172	170,806	196,558
Belgian... ..	68	70	200,394	208,696
Spanish... ..	22	26	36,762	36,850
Portuguese... ..	40	22	728	625
Liberian... ..	8	12	42	64
Miscellaneous... ..	13	14	10,761	12,923
Total ... ..	1,916	1,910	1,890,531	2,046,152

82. The shipping trade with the United Kingdom is in a satisfactory condition. The percentage proportion to the total tonnage for the year 1908 as regards vessels entered, amounted to 77·6 per cent. The progress of the trade between this Colony and Germany is reflected in the steady rise in German shipping. In 1904 the tonnage of German vessels entered amounted to 34,217; in 1908, to 99,263. This is an increase of 190 per cent. in five years.

83. The following table shows the total number of vessels entered and cleared for the five years 1904-1908:—

Year.	Number entered and cleared.				
1904 ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,334
1905 ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,735
1906 ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,770
1907 ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,916
1908 ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,910

## AGRICULTURE.

84. Progress in the agricultural development of the country has been, and will continue to be, much impeded by the absence of a properly organised agricultural department. Notwithstanding this very heavy drawback, it is satisfactory to note that the efforts of the Government have succeeded in awakening interest in agriculture in the Colony as well as in the Protectorate.

85. At the experimental farms at Yamadu (Konnoh Country) and Batkanu (Karene) it has been shown that by deep hoeing and rotation of crops, rice crops can be obtained without letting the land go back into bush. Although this is not new, particular satisfaction attaches to the fact that the chiefs and people, who have been carefully watching the experiments, have now begun to copy them with good results.

86. At Kennema, the headquarters of the railway district, a nursery for rubber and cocoa has been established, the intention as regards rubber being to plant it in the forest-clad hills in the neighbourhood, and as regards cocoa, to have plantations in different parts. So far, the nursery is satisfactory, but the cultivation of rubber cannot be improved on a large scale until the time of better prices and an organised department. One of the chiefs in the Ronietta District has got a small cocoa plantation which is doing extremely well.

87. After experiments it has been ascertained that from Okra can be obtained fibre worth £20 per ton, provided that the stalk is cut at that stage representing two-thirds of its natural life. This, though involving the loss of one-third of the crop, makes it from an unworkable fibre into one of considerable value.

88. Kola plantations have been established at Mano and Moyamba, of 10 and 5 acres respectively. They have been made by the chiefs, but at the instance, and under the supervision, of the Government, thus ensuring that the great fault of native planting, namely the too close juxtaposition of the trees, which leads to the growth of a parasite, is avoided. One half of the nuts goes to the natives; the other half is hypothecated to the Government for the purpose of planting kola in the district.

89. The ginger cultivation affords another example of the difficulty of effecting improvements in agriculture in the absence of a department. It is essential to the quality of the ginger that it should be kept quite dry. Owing to carelessness, the natives used to let it get mouldy, in consequence of which it fetched in the European market only one-third of the price obtained by West Indian ginger. The Sierra Leone Farmers' Association, under the presidency of Mr. J. Abayomi Cole, one of the leading agriculturists in the country, made considerable and entirely successful efforts to improve the local ginger, but, unfortunately, just at that time the home prices fell, and the farmers got no more for their improved ginger than they had been getting for the unimproved, and were, consequently, disheartened. The Government is continuing, however, to encourage better selection of soil and improved cultivation, and is offering a grant of 10s. per acre for every farm worked on the improved system.

90. Several kinds of rice are grown in Sierra Leone, all good, and the Temne rice in particular being attractive both as regards size and colour. In time a considerable export trade in rice should be able to grow up with other parts of West Africa. (*See* paragraph 54.)

91. The satisfactory state of the piassava industry has been alluded to in paragraph 53. The piassava palm is particularly abundant in the Sherbro District, the people of which have paid additional attention to it in 1908, owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the oil and kernel market.

92. In the Ronietta District the gum copal trade had considerably revived, owing to more careful supervision of the methods of cutting. The natives have been encouraged to make new plantations of new trees; the seedlings planted in 1907 under Government supervision are now doing well.

93. Both Liberian and Sierra Leone coffee are grown in the Colony. Both are of excellent quality, but are only grown for home consumption, the price obtainable in the European market being too low to encourage its shipment.

94. The encouragement of the cocoa-nut industry has been attempted by the Government, but so far without meeting any noticeable results.

95. Tobacco is grown in the Koranko country (Koinadugu). A small consignment of it was sent for examination to the Imperial Institute, whose report will be found in Appendix I.

96. When the Agricultural Academy, founded in accordance with the bequest of the late Mr. S. B. Thomas, is completed, a considerable stimulus to agriculture may be expected. A large tract of agricultural land has been acquired by the trustees at Mabang, in the Protectorate, where the College buildings are now in course of erection. The important educational bearing of the Academy is fully dealt with in paragraph 135.

#### OTHER INDUSTRIES.

97. Cattle do not abound in Sierra Leone, and only in Koinadugu do they form a large source of the wealth of the district. In French Guinea, however, they are very plentiful, but a strict embargo is placed on the exportation thence of cows into Sierra Leone. Cattle are looked upon in this Colony chiefly as an outward sign of wealth, and are rarely sold, except by the people of Koinadugu, who dispose of a portion of their stock in the Mende country. The natives make neither butter nor cheese, but they sometimes drink the milk curdled. Sheep, goats, and fowls are extremely plentiful, and crossbreeding in the case of the former has had good results. Recently some English sows and turkeys have been imported into the country. Horses do not thrive.

98. Bee-keeping on English principles has recently been introduced into one of the districts, but so far without much success. The natives procure honey from the African bee.

99. In some parts of the Konnoh country and adjoining districts, iron is smelted for local use, and made into knives, cutlasses, and sticks ("country irons"). Owing to the presence of tungsten it cannot be worked commercially at a profit.

100. A small amount of crude pottery is made in some parts of the country. A sample of the clay used was submitted to the Imperial Institute, and has been found suitable for use in the manufacture of fire-bricks and tiles. An experiment in brick-making is about to be made in Koinadugu, and pottery is also one of the subjects of experiment at the Bo School for the sons and nominees of chiefs.

101. "Country cloths," some of them of handsome design, are made in the Mende, Limba, Gallinas, and other countries, and are coloured with an indigenous indigo dye. Sometimes English thread is employed in their ornamentation. Some country cloths fetch good prices, and a small overland trade in them is done with French Guinea, cloths and kola being exchanged for cattle and rubber. The industry has now completely died out in the Temne country, where formerly a considerable number of cloths used to be made.

*Note.*

In connexion with the exports, it is interesting to recollect that Sierra Leone has always been a large exporting country. In the year 1866, for instance, the total exports from the Colony amounted to £237,240 9s. 2d., made up of:—

	£	s.	d.
Produce and Manufactures of the Colony ...	9,071	14	3
British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures ... ..	228,168	14	11

Among the principal items which composed that amount figure over 500,000 lbs. of ginger; ground-nuts to the value of £33,364; gum copal, £588; hides, £28,086; palm kernels, £28,586; palm oil, £26,703; rice, £1,389; rum, £8,103; timber, £14,339; and tobacco, £23,010.

The comparatively low sum at which the "produce and manufactures of the Colony" are put is, of course, owing to the fact that in 1866 there was no Protectorate; a very large portion of the £228,168 14s. 11d. of "British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce" doubtless originated from those districts over which the Protectorate was subsequently proclaimed.

---

### III.—LEGISLATION.

102. Thirty-nine Ordinances were passed in 1908, of which only four were not connected with the Revision of the Laws or with Supply.

---



## IV.—EDUCATION.

103. Education is carried on in the Colony and Protectorate by means of—

- (a.) Primary Mission Schools.
- (b.) Secondary Schools, some of which are maintained by the Missions, others by private individuals.
- (c.) The C.M.S. Technical School.
- (d.) Fourah Bay College.
- (e.) Four Government Mohammedan Schools in Freetown.
- (f.) The Government School for sons and nominees of Chiefs at Bo in the Protectorate.

The cost of the upkeep of the Primary Schools of the Colony, with the exception of the four Government Mohammedan Schools, is met from school fees, Government assistance in the form of attendance and result grants, and contributions from the various Mission Societies.

The schools of the Protectorate, excepting the Government School at Bo, are maintained solely by the Missions.

There is no compulsory education.

104. The number of the Primary and Secondary Schools in the Colony proper is 82, of which 75 are Primary, and 7 Secondary.

105. The following table shows the distribution of the Primary Schools among the denominations, together with the number of pupils attending them:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number of pupils on the Rolls.
Church of England ... ..	36	3,207
Wesleyan ... ..	20	2,519
United Methodist Free Church ... ..	9	781
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion	4	331
Roman Catholic ... ..	3	648
Other Schools ... ..	3	236
		7,722

106. The number on the roll, as shown above, was 7,722, while the average attendance was 5,643. As compared with the previous year, these figures show a decrease of 71 in the roll number, but an increase of 96 in the average attendance.

107. The subjects taught in the Elementary Schools are reading, writing, and arithmetic, and in the girls' classes, sewing. There are three optional subjects, geography, grammar, and English history, but these are rarely taken up, there having been only 96 passes during the year. Moreover, they are practically only taken up by the lower Standards, and consequently but in a very elementary form.

108. 3,471 children were taught in the Standards (of which there are seven), of whom 2,824, or 81·3 per cent., were presented

for examination. Of these, 1,496 were proficient, being 43·1 per cent. of the number of those taught, and ·3 per cent. less than in the previous year.

The percentage of proficient pupils to the number of pupils examined was 52·9. This shows an improvement of ·2 per cent. over the previous year.

109. It is in the lower Standards that the better results are obtained. In the higher Standards the results cannot be considered satisfactory, but there is a reason for this in the fact that the senior pupils, owing to the inadequate staff of teachers, spend all their school hours in teaching, and only have a little while immediately before inspection in which to get up their own work.

110. The total income of the schools from all sources amounted to £5,143 13s. 8d., as compared with £5,083 18s. 8d. in the previous year. The total expenditure was £4,861 8s. 4d.

Toward the income, the Government provided, in the shape of grants-in-aid, the sum of £1,499 16s. 1½d., or a fraction over two-sevenths. The school fees amounted to £1,032 9s. 8d., or not quite one-fifth, the remainder being contributed either directly by the different denominations, or by voluntary subscriptions from their members.

111. It should be mentioned that the figures given with regard to elementary education refer to the condition of affairs at the beginning of 1908, complete returns for 1908 not being available.

112. The system of education as actually in force in the Colony has for some years remained unchanged, but it has been felt for some time that certain alterations are necessary in order to remedy the shortcomings which have grown up since it came into being.

With regard to the rural schools, each of the several religious bodies at work in a village possess their own church and their own school, the catechist and the schoolmaster being the same individual. As the villages are small, it is a question whether one school would not be sufficient to meet the needs of the population, not only of the village itself, but in some cases also of one or two adjoining villages.

Both in urban and rural schools, the smallness of the salaries which the managers are able to pay the teachers acts as a deterrent to many to take up the teaching profession, and of those who do, there are few who will refuse an opportunity of accepting employment in other directions.

These and other defects led the Government to provide in the Estimates for the visit of an educational expert, and his recommendations may be expected to result, by the reorganisation of the Department of Education, in putting the educational system of the Colony on a more economical and efficient basis.

113. As in the case of the Primary Schools, the Secondary Schools belong principally to religious denominations.

114. The total number of pupils educated in these schools amounts to about a thousand.

The results obtained at the schools are good, and from them are largely drawn clerks in the Government Service and in the mercantile establishments. A number of Sierra Leoneans occupy similar positions in the other West African Colonies, particularly in Northern Nigeria, and of them, many have been educated at these schools.

115. Fourah Bay College is at present the only institution in British West Africa in which a University Education can be obtained. The College is supported by, and is under the control of, the Church Missionary Society, having been originally intended for the training of native ministers. It is affiliated to the University of Durham, and its students can proceed to the degrees of B.A., M.A., and L.Th. The Visitor of the College is the Bishop of Sierra Leone.

116. The number of students at the College during 1908 was 10, of whom 6 were resident, and 4 non-resident. Five degrees and licences were conferred, viz., 1 M.A., 1 B.A., and 3 L.Th.

Thirteen candidates presented themselves for the entrance examination, held at the end of the year, and 11 of these were successful.

117. The future of Fourah Bay College is at present very uncertain. In the year under review the Church Missionary Society decided, for various reasons, to discontinue their support, a circumstance which would entail the closing down of the College, unless others were prepared to come to an arrangement with the Society for the purpose of carrying it on. The Society has now consented to take no action until 1911, up to which date it will continue to support it as before. If, however, by the end of that period, no further arrangements have been made, it seems probable that the long and honourable career of the College will come to an end.

118. The Diocesan Technical School is conducted under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society, for the purpose of giving, as its name implies, instruction of a purely technical character. It trains young men in carpentry, building construction, surveying, &c., the instruction being partly theoretical, partly practical.

The school has succeeded in turning out some highly skilled native workmen, who are successfully filling good positions in the Government and Municipal Services, and its value is shown in the fact that the Railway, Public Works, Roads, Waterworks, and other Departments have been able to find among its pupils men who have been able to fulfil their requirements.

119. The average number of pupils on the roll for the year has been 29, showing an increase of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on 1907. Of the nine students who completed their studies in 1908, one obtained by competition the post of Assistant to the Superintendent of the Freetown Waterworks, three have entered the Government Railway, two have been employed on the pier works, and one has obtained an appointment in the Nigerian Public Works Department.

The school is in receipt of an annual Government grant of £120.

120. There are four Mohammedan Schools or "Madrasas" in Freetown for the education of the children of the Mohammedan section of the community, also those of any Mohammedans in the Protectorate who care to send them.

The cost of the upkeep of the schools is entirely defrayed by the Government, and no school fees are charged.

121. The number of pupils on the roll in 1908 was 575, and the average attendance 483. In 1907 the figures were 596 and 454 respectively, from which it will be seen that although there has been a decrease in the number on the roll the average attendance has improved.

122. The subjects taught at the schools are the ordinary school subjects, but in addition to these Arabic is taught daily between the hours of 7 and 9 a.m.

The education given has been successful in spreading increased knowledge and intelligence among the Mohammedan youths, and has not only taught them something of Western ideas but has enabled them to acquire a more intelligent understanding of the tenets of their faith, and to lose the prejudices which formerly existed among some of the Mohammedans against the study of "English book." The teaching of Arabic is conducted on modern methods, and there could be no better object lesson for the boys of the advantages of good education than the comparison of these methods with the slow and antiquated system of teaching Arabic formerly in force, and still obtaining among the itinerant teachers in the Protectorate and throughout the Western Soudan.

123. As there are no Mohammedan teachers capable of instructing the children in these schools, Christian teachers are employed. With the object, however, of entering the teaching profession and eventually becoming masters in these schools, twelve of the most promising Mohammedan youths are being trained in the office of the Secretary to the Board of Mohammedan Education, and their progress is favourably reported on. The appointment of Mohammedan masters will undoubtedly have the effect of increasing the attendance at these schools.

124. The Mohammedan population of Freetown is considerable, although a certain section of it is of a transitory nature. Its permanent number may be roughly estimated at 10,000. One result of these schools has been that some of the clerkships in Government and mercantile offices, which formerly were a monopoly of the Sierra Leoneans, are now being held, although still in very small numbers, by members of the Mohammedan section of the residents in Freetown.

125. The school for the sons and nominees of chiefs at Bo was opened in 1906, having been established by the Government for the object of training those boys who will in after years become either chiefs or men of importance in their own countries, not in an alien system of thought and education, but in such a manner

as to fit them to fulfil in the most useful ways the responsibilities which will some day be theirs. The full value of the school will therefore only be gauged when that time arrives; in the meanwhile, it is not possible to say more than that the school is well fulfilling every expectation.

126. The school opened in March, 1906 with 18 pupils. At the end of 1908 there were 102, representing the Mende, Temne, Konnoh, Susu, Limba, Sherbro, and other tribes.

127. The system of instruction is naturally very different from that of the Colony schools.

It is based, not on the A B C, but on nature study and observation lessons, and aims at cultivating the intelligence of the boys before attempting to burden the memory. The boys are taught to speak pure English, and not the pigeon-English which is spoken in the Colony. The subjects of instruction are chemistry, plant-life, agriculture, hygiene, physiology, geography, arithmetic, and Arabic. Reading is taught as soon as the boys know enough English to understand what they are reading. No religious instruction is given, and no attempt is made to interfere with the boys' religious observances and beliefs.

128. The staff now consists of a Principal (European) and three European assistant masters, together with a number of native pupil teachers, and a native woman of good family selected to act as matron.

129. The school had, in its initial stages, many difficulties to overcome. The lack of suitable native teachers knowing both the boys' languages and English was one, and another was a fear on the part of some of the Mohammedan Chiefs that, in all good faith, the prejudices of the Moslem pupils might inadvertently be offended against. A question did, in fact, arise with regard to the boys being shown pictures of living objects, and after being referred through the medium of the Colonial Office to the Moslem authorities in Constantinople, Cairo, and India, was satisfactorily settled by the Mohammedan Board of Advice, a body consisting of the leading Mohammedans of Sierra Leone, which was appointed in order to reassure the Moslem Chiefs that no attempts were being made to tamper with the religious beliefs of their sons. This result has been fully attained, and the Mohammedan Chiefs are now most willing to entrust their sons to the school. The Board pays periodical visits to the school, each of the visits being about a week in duration, and eagerly looked forward to by the boys. It paid three visits in 1908, and was particularly impressed by the new Technical branch which was opened in October of that year. Not only as coming from Mohammedans, but also from good types of enlightened natives, the views of the members of the Board with regard to the school are of peculiar interest.

130. The results of the Technical Department have, even in the short period of its existence, been very apparent. Some of the pupils the most backward in other subjects, are the brightest in the Technical Department, showing interest and skill in

drawing, clay modelling, and woodwork. Their success in this part of their work has aroused latent ability and energy in other directions, and, as far as can at present be seen, manual training promises to be of great benefit throughout the school. The discovery of fire-clay in 1907 has also led to the formation of a pottery section, and much useful work has already been done in the erection of a kiln, and in obtaining and examining specimens of clay from various towns. It is hoped that towards the end of 1909 actual results may be apparent.

131. The teaching of hygiene and physiology, and the insistence upon cleanliness in the persons and the clothing of the boys have resulted in their enjoying general excellent health. No serious case of illness occurred during the year, and the boys themselves attribute their freedom from sickness to this cause. Sick pupils are tended by the matron, but other boys often volunteer to nurse them in the night, and such attentions, together with constant intercourse, do much to bring boys of different tribes together, and may have valuable results when the boys grow up.

132. The boys do not leave the school for holidays, but remain there continuously until they return to their homes for good. On the other hand, Chiefs often visit the school, to the satisfaction of the Government as well as of the boys, and have expressed their pleasure and surprise at what they have seen. Boys are encouraged to write letters home, and constantly do so, and it is not uninteresting to observe, in their frequent requests for pocket money, country cloths, and other delicacies from home, a strong similarity to the habits of the schoolboys of their own years in England.

133. The best conditions of native life are strictly adhered to as regards the boys' dwellings and surroundings. They live in their own village, in native houses, each of which contains five boys, one of whom is chosen "headman." Each house has a small flower and kitchen garden, which takes up much of the boys' spare time; the households are well regulated, and the work done is apportioned with great care by the "headman" in consultation with his "men." Most of the households show great method in their division of labour, and the inmates are swift to resent and punish laziness and neglect, and careful in seeing that cleanliness is maintained. The boys are fond of games, especially ball-games and pole-jumping, and make constant use of the two swimming pools which have been constructed for them near their village.

Each household is also provided with a small allotment of tools, such as hoes, cutlasses, and spades. A bank has lately been opened by the Principal, and during the year deposits to the amount of nearly £25 were made by the boys. The withdrawals were about £20.

134. The Government expends annually on the school the sum of £3,000. In addition, the parents pay an annual fee of £10 for each pupil, and it is no uncommon thing for a Chief to send two, and even three, boys to the school.

135. The Agricultural College at Mabang in the Ronietta District, for the establishment of which the late Mr. S. B. Thomas bequeathed the sum of £60,000, is not only the first instance on the West Coast of a native leaving a large sum of money for public purposes, but is also likely to affect very materially education in Sierra Leone.

In the working of the College the Government proposes to co-operate. The Director of Agriculture will occupy a professional chair, and the Government will give three scholarships of £50 per annum, tenable for three years after leaving the College, which will be awarded on the recommendation of the Professor. The will provides that the trust shall be administered in the main by those natives who realise that the future of Sierra Leone lies in successful agriculture, but the testator's desire that the Government should co-operate in his scheme is evidenced by the fact that the Chief Justice and the Local Auditor were designated, subject to their consent, to act as members of the Board of Management.

#### V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

136. During the year 22,579 cases were treated at the Colonial Hospital, which is an increase of 3,372 on the number treated in the previous year. Of these, 980 were in-patients, and 21,599 out-patients; 407 Europeans, and 22,172 natives.

137. Of the 980 in-patients, of whom, owing to the fact that during portions of the year three of the largest wards were under repair, there were 101 less than in 1907, 128 died. This is an increase of 34 over the number of last year, but it must be taken into consideration that of these, 28 died within 12 hours, and 21 within 24 hours, of admission. The actual number of deaths among patients who had the advantage of continued treatment is practically the same as in 1907.

The increase in the total number of deaths includes the following cases:—

Tuberculosis	...	...	increase of	2	deaths
Respiratory diseases	...	..	..	11	..
Digestive	..	..	..	6	..
Parturition	...	..	..	6	..

The increase under the latter head is accounted for by the fact that the natives still adhere very much to their own customs with regard to midwifery, and will often only send patients to the hospital when in a state of collapse.

138. 135 operations requiring the use of anæsthetics were performed during the year, which also saw the establishment of a separate consulting room for Government officers, and the inauguration of a Clinical laboratory, in which microscopic investigations have already been carried out in 300 cases.

139. The Nursing Home is an institution situated in the centre of the town, and is solely intended for the treatment of Europeans.

140. Forty-two cases were admitted during the year, as against 66 in 1907. There were 3 deaths, or 1 less than in the previous year, the causes being simple continued fever, tubercular pneumonia, and cirrhosis of the liver.

141. The patients were derived from the following classes of the community:—

Government employees—				
Railway Department...	...	...	...	8
Other Departments ...	...	...	...	4
Commercial firms ...	...	...	...	29
Shipping ...	...	...	...	1

Nearly all the Government employees admitted were those drawing salaries of under £300 per annum, two-thirds being plate-layers, drivers, and other second class railway officials. The charge for Government officials is 7s. 6d. per diem, the patient paying 2s. 6d. per diem, and the Government paying the difference.

142. The total expenditure of the Home in 1908 amounted to £810 4s. 5d., to meet which the Government contributed the sum of £681 11s. 1d.

143. The lunatic asylum, male and female incurable hospitals, lazaretto, and small-pox hospital are situated outside the village of Kissy, in the Freetown Police District.

144. At the beginning of 1908 there were in the lunatic asylum 73 male and 40 female lunatics. Sixteen males and nine females were admitted during the year, seven patients were relieved and discharged, six patients who had been placed under observation were discharged on showing no signs of insanity; there were 11 deaths, as compared with 20 in 1907, and 40 in 1906. Taking into consideration the number of inmates, it is noteworthy that there were no epidemics, and no case of accident.

145. Of the deaths, only two were caused by beri-beri, as compared with four in 1907 and nine in 1906.

146. The work done by the lunatics consists of garden and general work by the males, and laundry and sewing work by the females.

147. At the beginning of the year the female incurable hospital had 36 patients. Forty-two were admitted during the year, and 11 died.

In the male incurable hospital there were at the beginning of the year 85 patients, and 85 more were admitted during the year. There were 50 deaths, largely owing to the admission of many old and debilitated people.

148. During the outbreak of bubonic plague on the Gold Coast, 1,062 men, 52 women, and 34 children were placed under observation at the lazaretto. No development of the disease took place.



149. No cases of small-pox were admitted to the small-pox hospital. Seventeen cases of chicken-pox were admitted, and all the patients were discharged cured.

150. In the Colonial Hospital, Bonthe, 185 patients were admitted during the year, as compared with 212 in 1907. The number of out-patients treated was 2,495.

No cases were admitted to the small-pox hospital.

151. There are hospitals and dispensaries at the headquarters of all of the districts of the Protectorate, and there are, in addition, hospitals at Bo and Daru in the Railway District.

152. There has been a slight falling off in the number and value of deposits made in the Savings Bank in 1908, the figures being 6,746 deposits of the value of £43,434 16s. 6d., as against 7,010 deposits amounting to £45,149 14s. 0½d. in 1907. The average value of each deposit in 1908 was £6 9s., as compared with £6 8s. 10d. in 1907.

153. The number of withdrawals in 1908 was 5,611, being 908 more than in the previous year. This is in part owing to the departure of some of the troops stationed in the Colony, between October and December, many of whom had accounts with the bank. To the same cause is also due the falling off in the deposits.

154. The system of cheques introduced in 1907 to facilitate the withdrawal of money by absentee depositors has been found to be of great utility. On the 31st December, 1908, there were 118 holders of cheque books among the depositors, and the system has recently been extended to the Bonthe branch.

155. During the year, the sum of £4,400 was invested, which sum now brings the total investments up to £81,661 12s. 6d.

The rate of interest on deposits is 2½ per cent. The interest due to depositors for the year 1908 amounts to £1,720.

The dividends received from investments for 1908 amounted to £2,683 11s. 9d., as against £2,398 9s. for 1907.

156. The number of Savings Banks has risen from two in 1898 to nine in the year under review, there being, in addition to the Head Office in Freetown, branch banks at Sherbro and Waterloo and in each of the district headquarters in the Protectorate.

---

## VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

### THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF SIERRA LEONE.

157. The judicial system obtaining in Sierra Leone varies according to the Colony proper, the Protectorate, and the area technically Colony, but now regarded for administrative purpose as Protectorate, and subject to tribal authority (*e.g.*,

Turner's Peninsula, and Sherbro Island outside the town limits of Bonthe and York Island).

In the Colony proper, the system is very similar to that in force in England. It comprises the Supreme Court, Magistrate's Court, and Justices of the Peace, who, it may be mentioned, constantly adjudicate in aid of the Magistrate, both exercising in such cases the inferior jurisdiction analogous to that exercised by a Court of Summary Conviction and a County Court in England.

In the Colony, outside the above-mentioned jurisdictions, certain limited powers are vested in the tribal headmen of Freetown and in the headmen of the Peninsula villages. For example, the headmen of the Peninsula villages have power to fine up to £1 for breaches of the Village Regulations, and are also charged with the duty, under the Coroners Ordinance, of making inquiry into causes of death in suspicious cases. In Freetown the headmen have power to inflict small fines for breach (by a native of their tribe) of any regulations binding on the members of that tribe resident in Freetown, and also possess the right of taxing members of the tribe resident in Freetown. Up to date, this power is only exercised by the headmen of the Kru and the Foulahs. In the former case, the tax takes the form of the payment of one shilling per trip by every Kru man engaged on the ships, and the proceeds, now amounting to about £600, are devoted to matters of general welfare of the tribe, *e.g.*, education, and the improvement of buildings. The Foulahs are enabled to obtain a similar fund indirectly, by means of a regulation empowering the headman to inflict a fine not exceeding £1 on any Foulah resident in Freetown who refuses to obey his summons to a meeting of the **Jama**.

In the Protectorate, the mass of the judicial work is performed by the Chiefs' Courts, which have jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases between natives, with the exception of more serious forms of crime (murder, &c.). Serious crimes and all important civil cases are disposed of by the Circuit Court, while the District Commissioner's Court possesses a jurisdiction analogous to that of Summary and County Courts in England in all cases in which non-natives (*i.e.*, non-aborigines), or native and non-native, are concerned. Owing to the absence of any great number of serious cases, and also to inaccessibility, the Circuit Court usually does not visit the Districts of Karene and Koinadugu. Its jurisdiction is exercised in those districts by a special Commissioner, or by the District Commissioner of an adjoining district if certified to be qualified by the Chief Justice.

In one other respect the judicial system requires explanation: in areas formerly Colony, but now administered on Protectorate principles, the law is hybrid, because, although in the main that of the Protectorate, in certain cases it remains Colony. In these areas, the somewhat complex law is administered by the District Commissioners, and it is remarkable that although not lawyers by profession, it has rarely happened that their adjudications have given rise to any dissatisfaction.

## POLICE.

158. The police are only employed in the Colony of Sierra Leone, police work in the Protectorate being performed by the Court Messengers force, of which something is said in Section IX.

159. The strength of the force at the beginning of the year was the Commissioner, one European inspector, and 245 non-commissioned officers and men. In the course of the year the force was increased by three men in order to provide for the better supervision of Bonthe.

160. In the year under review a police concentration scheme came into force, by which the police in the Colony are now concentrated in four or five strategic points, whence they will undertake systematic patrols, the results of which will be duly reported.

This scheme supersedes the former practice of scattering the police singly in small and remote Colony villages. The order and administration in rural towns and villages will be maintained by the headmen, who, under the Coroners Ordinance and other laws, are entrusted with certain powers, in the exercise of some of which they have to consult the committee of the town or village.

161. That portion of the force stationed in the Waterloo and Sherbro Districts is armed with the Snider rifle and bayonet. In Freetown the rifle is only used by the bank guard, specie and other escorts, and for drill purposes. The ammunition used is Snider buck shot.

162. Included in the strength of the force is a detective department consisting of one sergeant and four constables, who are permanently employed as detectives, the assistance of constables in plain clothes being always given when necessary.

163. The harbour police, consisting of 11 men thus permanently employed, under the charge of a sergeant and two constables from the shore police, are occupied in keeping order among the licensed boatmen in the harbour, and in seeing that the harbour regulations are enforced. They patrol all the bays in the vicinity of the harbour to protect floating property, and search any boat suspected of smuggling, or of containing stolen goods.

The sergeant in charge is also responsible for an effective watch being kept on outward-bound steamers.

164. The cost of the force for the year amounted to £8,631 0s. 5d., as compared with £8,598 11s. 11d. in 1907.

165. The number of persons committed to the prisons of the Colony during the year was 970 males and 41 females, against 810 males and 22 females committed in 1907. The daily average number of prisoners was 244, as compared with 230 in 1907.

166. The health of the prisoners has been on the whole good; there has been a complete absence of epidemics.

The amount earned by the prisoners from the work done by them in prison amounted in 1908 to £2,496 2s. 6d.

167. At the headquarters of every district of the Protectorate there is a prison, which is under the control of the District Commissioner.

169. By the Protectorate Native Law Ordinance of 1905, Chiefs are given the power to commit natives to the district gaol, on condition that the application by the Chief to the District Commissioner for the harbouring of his prisoner constitutes an automatic appeal, and gives the District Commissioner the right, if he sees fit, to reduce the sentence. The possession of this privilege by the Chiefs is of great value, and highly appreciated by them. In former days a Chief could generally, when necessary, bring pressure to bear on the family of a wrong-doer, but in recent years many natives have left their own chiefdoms and families to work in other parts of the country, especially in the chiefdoms adjoining the railway. In such cases, the Chief would have very little power over the men, and but inadequate means of punishment, but for the power to commit them to gaol should serious offences have been committed by them.

170. There has been a decrease in crime in the Colony and Protectorate in 1908 as compared with 1907. The total number of offences reported in 1907 was 2,224, of which 560 were offences against the person. In 1908, 2,132 offences were reported, 488 of which were offences against the person.

Of the total number of 2,132 offences, 1,721 were reported in the Colony, and 411 in the Protectorate.

171. The number of summary convictions was 1,382, as compared with 1,501 in 1907. Of these, 1,054 were in the Colony, 328 in the Protectorate.

172. The number of indictable offences tried in the Superior Courts of the Colony and Protectorate in 1908 amounted to 148, a decrease of 31 from the figures of the previous year.

173 The following table shows the number of cases tried, the nature of the offences, and how the cases were disposed of:—

Nature of Indictment.	Number tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Fell through.
Murder other than wife and child murder ...	41	23	13	5
Manslaughter ... ..	2	2	—	—
Attempted murder ... ..	1	1	—	—
Rape ... ..	3	3	—	—
Other offences against the person ... ..	20	17	3	—
Malicious injuries to property, including arson	3	3	—	—
Robbery with violence ... ..	2	2	—	—
Larceny ... ..	60	48	3	9
Other offences against property ... ..	3	2	1	—
Miscellaneous offences ... ..	13	12	—	1
Total ... ..	148	113	20	15

## VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

174. The inhabitants of Sierra Leone fall into two very distinct classes, viz., "Natives" and "Sierra Leoneans." The former are the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, and consist of the tribes mentioned in paragraph 221. They inhabit the Protectorate and the Sherbro portion of the Colony proper, and a large number of them also reside in Freetown for purposes of trade. The term "Sierra Leonean," on the other hand, is exclusively applied to the descendants of those people the desire to find a home for whom in Africa originally led to the settlement of Sierra Leone. These people consisted in the first instance of a number of negro slaves who, after it had been decided by the English Courts that anyone on British soil, no matter what his colour, was free in the eyes of the law, had come to England from America to obtain their freedom, and who, especially after the American war, flocked to London in such numbers, and reached, owing to their inability to make their living when independent, so great a state of destitution, that a number of philanthropists determined to settle them in Africa in a region which they believed to be approximately that of their original homes. These "Original Settlers" were reinforced in 1792 by the "Nova Scotians," negroes from the southern States of the United States who had served in the Royal Army during the War of Independence, and who, in reward for their services, had been settled upon lands in Nova Scotia, the climate of which, however, they found uncongenial. In 1800 they were joined by 500 Maroons (slaves from Jamaica), and in 1819 by 85 slaves from Barbados, and 1,200 disbanded soldiers and pensioners belonging to the African Corps and the West India Regiment. By far the largest section, however, of what may be termed the imported population consisted of "Liberated Africans," that is to say, Africans rescued from captured slave-ships, and settled in and about Freetown, and it is principally from this source that the present Sierra Leonean community is descended. The Sierra Leoneans live in Freetown and in the villages of the Sierra Leone peninsula, but very rarely enter the Protectorate, and then never in bodies, but only as individual traders. They speak a patois of English, and any African language is to them as foreign a tongue as is English to the natives.

175. Accurate vital statistics can only be obtained by compulsory registration, which is now limited to Freetown and Bonthe. Even thus, such data as are obtained are probably fallacious. For example, a considerable section of the population of Freetown is of a transitory kind; Mende carriers, Foulah and Mandingo traders, merchants from French Guinea, to give only a few instances, are continually coming and going. Again, there are many Sierra Leoneans living down the Coast as clerks and traders, who generally return to Freetown in their old age. Their deaths naturally affect the death-rate, whereas the birth-rate is unaffected by such children as may be born to them in Lagos, Accra, or wherever else they have spent the greater portion of their lives.

176. As stated in paragraph 2, the population of the Colony and Protectorate is estimated at 1,250,000, and that of the peninsula of Sierra Leone at 76,773. Of the latter figure, the city of Freetown accounts, according to the estimate, for 37,682; the number of persons in Freetown at any given time, however, is probably seldom under 40,000.

The total number of births registered in Freetown in 1908 was 635, and of deaths 848, as compared with 583 and 816 respectively in 1907. This gives a rise of one per thousand in the birth-rate from the previous year, and also the same rise in the death-rate, the birth-rate in the year under review being 16 per thousand, and the death-rate 22 per thousand. The death-rate in 1907 was, however, the lowest since 1901.

In 1901, the date of the last census, the total population of the Colony proper, including the Sherbro portion, was given as 76,655. Of this number 41,856 were males, 34,799 females.

177. The Births and Deaths Registration, Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance of 1906 provided for the establishment, when desired, of registration districts for the purposes of voluntary registration. Up to the end of 1908, 14 such districts had been established.

178. The diseases responsible for the largest number of deaths in Freetown were:—

	1908.	1907.
Respiratory system ...	184	161
Malarial fevers ...	150	202
Debility ...	98	—
Nervous system ...	95	58
Digestive system ...	87	95
Circulatory system ...	45	42

It will be noticed that the number of deaths caused by malarial fevers has been greatly reduced. This is no doubt due to the increasing importance which is being attached to anti-malarial sanitation. Owing to the good water supply which Freetown enjoys, diseases of the digestive system also continue to decrease in number. On the other hand, owing to the susceptibility of the Sierra Leonean to chills, the rate of deaths resulting from diseases of the respiratory system continues a high one.

179. Of the total of 848 deaths, 222 were those of children under one year of age, showing a death-rate of 351 per thousand among infants. The infantile death-rate per thousand in the last five years is as follows:—

Year.	
1904 ...	398
1905 ...	461
1906 ...	434
1907 ...	357
1908 ...	351

This rate, although decreasing, is undoubtedly high, and is due to several causes, malaria being one. Another is ignorance as to the proper feeding, care, and cleanliness of the children in

the first few months of their existence, and the unscientific midwifery of the middle and lower classes is also an important factor.

The maternity ward of the Colonial Hospital has still to overcome the prejudices of the people, who are reluctant to discontinue the employment of native midwives, whose methods of treatment are often a compound of ignorance and superstition. It is, however, doing much by training native women and girls to be nurses and midwives, and will thus in time inspire more confidence and increase its sphere of usefulness.

180. There was no epidemic of small-pox in Freetown during the year, and but few cases in the Protectorate. Lymph is now supplied in fortnightly consignments from Liverpool, and has given very satisfactory results. Vaccination is being carried out extensively in the Colony and Protectorate, the total successful vaccinations for the year from available returns being:—Colony, 3,294; Protectorate, 1,023; total, 4,317.

A census was recently obtained from the principals of some of the Schools in Freetown, which showed that out of 854 pupils, 90 per cent. had been vaccinated.

181. It is impossible to estimate with accuracy the number of Europeans resident in the Colony during any year, as that number is continually varying. It is calculated that in 1908 there were 550 Europeans in the Colony, consisting of officials, officers and men of the garrison, missionaries, and merchants. The total number of deaths, including one case landed from a steamer, was 13, the same number as in 1907. Of these, two were officials, and five military. The number of deaths from climatic causes was four.

182. The total number of European officials who resided in the Colony and Protectorate during any portion of the year was 160. The percentage of working days (Sundays included) lost to the service by officials being on the sick-list was only 1·04 per cent. Nearly half the number of days on the sick-list were so spent by 15 second class railway officials.

183. The good points of the official cantonment at the Hill Station continue to be maintained.

184. The health of the Europeans at Bonthe, which is situated on a mud-bank, has on the whole been satisfactory. Of the six European officials who have been stationed there at various times during the year, none have been on the sick-list. Among the other Europeans resident there, numbering from 25 to 30, there was one death, due to pneumonia.

185. With a view to arriving at some estimate of the prevalence of ankylostomiasis in Freetown, experiments were carried out at the clinical laboratory of the Colonial Hospital. Of 100 specimens of *faeces* examined, 54 contained ankylostome ova, but in no instance was there observed any symptom directly attributable to the infection, or any skin eruptions such as have been described as due to ankylostomiasis.

186. Anti-malarial sanitation forms a very important part of the general sanitary work in Freetown, and was attended to regularly during the year.

187. The amount spent on repairs to streets and reconstruction of drains was £2,607 14s. 10d. The Public Works Department carried out the following works:—

- 1,600 feet of new drains and concrete gutters.
- 4,360 feet of non-masonry drains.
- 164 culverts repaired and cleared.
- Repairs to the canals in the water-courses.

188. A large masonry rubbish incinerator was also erected during the year by the Government, and six more have since been built in suitable sites throughout the town.

189. Special precautions were taken to prevent washer-women and others blocking up the natural water courses in order to form collections of water in which to wash.

190. As far as possible, all old tins, bottles, and similar refuse likely to act as breeding places for mosquitoes were removed from all premises, high weeds and grass were kept down, and all other forms of rubbish likely to attract and harbour insects constantly removed.

At the end of October the Municipal Council took over the work of scavenging into its own hands, instead of having it done by contract, a method which was not found to be satisfactory. The Council is providing mules and oxen for the removal of refuse.

As compared with other tropical and sub-tropical towns, Freetown is remarkable for its comparative freedom from the common house fly.

191. Progress was made with the new sanitary station for plague and yellow fever. A hospital, dispenser's house, European isolation barri, disinfecting chamber, police guard-house, &c., have been built, and a Clayton disinfecting machine obtained. Some work in rat-destruction was undertaken during the outbreak of plague on the Gold Coast.

192. Hygiene is now taught in all the secondary schools in Freetown, and for the encouragement of the study of this subject the Government voted a sum of £180 for distribution as prizes to the schools and scholars. At the examination held in December of the year under review, 66 candidates competed, of whom 3 obtained over 90 per cent. of full marks, 16 over 80 per cent., 18 over 70 per cent., and 13 over 60 per cent.

193. Professor W. J. Simpson, C.M.G., visited Sierra Leone from 4th October to 2nd November to enquire into questions connected with sanitation and the West African Medical Staff.

194. The sanitation of Bonthe is supervised by the Sherbro Municipal Board. Concrete surface drains are being fixed in the sides of the streets. A much-needed public slaughter-house has also been constructed.

195. Sanitation in the Protectorate is making some headway; instructions have been issued by the Government as to the best means of promoting it, and many of the chiefs are taking an intelligent interest in it, and are realising its importance. Every year the Government awards prizes to the chiefs of the two towns



in each district which have shown the greatest improvement in sanitation. These prizes take a highly appreciated form, that of handsome presentation swords, and the desire to possess them acts as a great stimulus on those chiefs who have not yet earned the reward.

Lest any chief should consider that by winning a sword he had done all that was necessary, and could allow his town to relapse into an insanitary condition, it is stipulated that the sword is given not only for improving the sanitation of a town, but also for keeping that town in a good sanitary condition.

196. The climate of Sierra Leone is unhealthy, and not suitable for Europeans, although those Europeans now residing in the Colony live under very much improved conditions to those formerly obtaining. A more careful mode of living, the precautions taken against the mosquito, and, as regards the officials, the conditions of leave under which they serve, have done much to mitigate the dangers of the climate. It may be mentioned, as a point of interest, that one of the highest pensions on the Colony's pension list for 1908 was paid to an official who retired from the service of the Colony, and began to draw that pension, as far back as 1867.

197. Generally speaking, the climate of the Protectorate is healthier than that of the low-lying districts along the coast. This is especially the case in the hilly country which forms a large portion of the Koinadugu District and of the Kono Section of the Railway District.

198. The seasons are divided into the wet and dry, the former commencing in May and lasting until October. The commencement and close of the rainy season are marked by the occurrence of tornadoes or violent thunderstorms, which, however, do little damage. There were 91 thunderstorms registered in Freetown during 1908, the average for the years 1904-1908 being 120·28.

Between the months of December and March the wind known as the harmattan is prevalent. This wind is a very dry easterly breeze, bringing with it a fine dust said to come from the Sahara.

199. The rainfall in Freetown during 1908 amounted to 142·89 inches, which is 22·7 inches less than the average for the last five years. The heaviest rainfall for any one day occurred on the 14th August, and registered 8·57 inches.

Rain fell on 151 days during the year, as compared with 160 days in 1907. The following table gives the number of days on which rain fell during the different months of 1908:—

March	...	...	...	...	2
April	...	...	...	...	3
May	...	...	...	...	17
June	...	...	...	...	22
July	...	...	...	...	20
August	...	...	...	...	24
September	...	...	...	...	29
October	...	...	...	...	23
November	...	...	...	...	11

The rainfall diminishes the farther the point of reference is from the coast; in the north of the Protectorate the average annual rainfall is about 100 inches.

200. The average daily temperature is less in the middle of the rains than at any other time of the year, though the daily range of temperature is least at that time, varying by from 5 to 10 degrees, and coinciding with the maximum humidity of the air. In July and August (the months in which most rain falls) the average minimum temperature for the last five years was 71·05 and 71·19 degrees, respectively, while the average maximum temperature for those months during the same period was 84·8 and 83·75, respectively.

The highest temperatures are experienced in March and April, the average minimum during those months for the last five years being 73·88 and 74·06 degrees, and the average maximum 91·91 and 91·89, respectively.

201. The coldest day in 1908 was the 1st of June, when the thermometer registered 65·4 degrees; the highest temperature was 96 degrees, registered once in each of the months of January, February, and May.

Each of these observations was taken at 9 a.m.

202. The variations in barometrical pressure are so slight in Sierra Leone as only to be of interest to persons especially interested in the subject. The mean monthly pressure varied in 1908 between 29·594 and 29·85.

#### VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

203. The total revenue collected at the Post Office and Savings Bank Department for the year amounted to £12,529 11s. 10*d.*, as compared with £12,304 14s. collected in 1907. Of this sum, £1,874 12s. 4*d.* was for Customs duty on parcel mails. It also includes a sum of £2,683 11s. 9*d.*, being interest received on investments of Savings Bank monies.

The expenditure, including interest paid to Savings Bank depositors, amounted to £10,761 6s., as compared with £9,792 3s. 6*d.* in 1907.

204. The total number of postal articles and parcels handled during the year amounted to 1,293,646, as compared with 1,256,859 in 1907, and was made up as follows:—

Letters	...	...	...	...	837,464
Postcards	...	...	...	...	102,039
Newspapers and books	...	...	...	...	323,696
Parcels	...	...	...	...	30,447
<b>Total</b>	...	...	...	...	<u>1,293,646</u>

The increase is due to the purely postal articles (*i.e.*, exclusive of parcels).

Of the 1,293,646 postal articles handled, 136,892 passed through the Registration Branch, being 3,105 more than in the previous year.

205. The total amount of cash which passed directly through the department in 1908 amounted to £244,152 4s. 1*d.*, as compared with £225,612 9s. 2½*d.* in 1907.

These figures show that the work of the Postal Department has increased very considerably during the year under review, and has been unaffected by the depression in trade.

206. Money orders numbering 12,130, of the value of £111,354 9s. 8*d.*, were paid during the year. Of these, 5,034, of the value of £42,764 11s. 3*d.*, were issued within the Colony, and 1,271, of the value of £8,526 14s. 8*d.*, were received from beyond the limits of the Colony. Of the 1,271 orders received from abroad, 297, representing a value of £2,481 4s., came from the United Kingdom.

There were 3,713 orders, valued at £29,135 6s. 4*d.*, sent to the United Kingdom, and 588, valued at £5,033 16s., sent to other countries.

207. There were 40,511 postal orders, of the value of £24,114 1s. 8*d.*, dealt with during the year as against 30,686, of the value of £18,540 18s. 7*d.*, in 1907. Orders numbering 24,936, of the value of £13,973 18s., were sold, as compared with 20,902, of the value of 12,345 0s. 3*d.*, in 1907, and 15,575 orders, of the value of £10,140 3s. 8*d.*, were paid, as compared with 9,786, of the value of £6,195 18s. 4*d.*, in 1907.

208. The expansion in the establishment of the Post Office Department during the last 10 years has been remarkable. In 1898 there were in the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone 23 post offices, 4 money order offices, and no postal order offices. In 1908 these figures had risen to 58 post offices, 27 money order offices, and 33 postal order offices. This expansion is directly due to the development of the resources of the Protectorate by the railway, the tramways, and the feeder roads.

209. Cable communication with Europe and other parts of the world is maintained by means of the African Direct Telegraph Company's lines. The rate per word between Freetown and the United Kingdom is 3s. 6*d.* Messages may also be despatched over the Spanish and French Government lines *viâ* Conakry, Dakar, St. Louis, and Cadiz.

210. The inland telegraph service is in charge of the Railway Department. The inland telegraph consists of two lines: one extending along the railway from Freetown to Baiima, a distance of 220 miles, and the other running from Mano, on the railway, to Bendu in the Sherbro District, thus putting Freetown in telegraphic communication with Bonthe. The length of the latter line is 72 miles.

211. The rate for telegrams is the same as in England. The telegraph earnings for 1908 amounted to £1,230.

212. There are numerous War Department lines or telephones in Freetown not available for public use. With the consent of the War Department the exchange at Tower Hill Barracks is connected with Government House, the police stations, and principal Government offices.

213. The War Department is at present constructing a telephone line from Songo Town Station to Port Lokko. The length of this line, including a cable under the River Rokell, will be 37 miles, and will, when completed, connect the military telegraph line from Port Lokko to Mabanta in the Karene District with Freetown and the main system.

---

## IX.—PROTECTORATE.

### HOUSE TAX.

214. Every year the system of registration for purposes of House Tax collection becomes more satisfactory and efficient. The granting of a rebate of 5 per cent. to chiefs on the tax of their chiefdoms has had good results, and this practice, together with the recently introduced tax-card, or receipt, which is now given to each individual taxpayer to attach to the wall of his house, has done much to remove the desire to evade payment. The tax-card has also another merit, in that it tends to prevent the overcrowding in houses, for it is probable that in the case where two families inhabit one house, the man who has the card will make the man lodging with him feel his dependence to such an extent that the latter will prefer in future to return to the native custom of living in a separate house.

When the house tax was originally imposed, cases frequently occurred in which chiefs oppressed the people by exacting amounts in excess of the tax, or, in other cases, by not accounting to the Government for the whole of the amount which they had collected.

These defects have now been rendered impossible by the privilege granted to each individual taxpayer to pay his tax, if he wishes it, not through the chief, but directly to the District Commissioner in the chief's presence. This privilege has been largely taken advantage of by headmen and sub-chiefs.

215. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a steady increase in the Protectorate House Tax receipts during the last five years. The figures for the years 1904-1908 are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1904 ... ..	37,503	1	0
1905 ... ..	38,553	10	0
1906 ... ..	40,947	5	0
1907 ... ..	43,034	15	0
1908 ... ..	45,297	5	0

## COURT MESSENGERS.

216. The Court Messenger force was reorganised in 1907, and is rapidly becoming a very serviceable body. It is composed of picked men, nominated by the chiefs, and thus forms a valuable link between the Government and the native tribal administration. A grant of £1 per man is being made to chiefs for each year's satisfactory service done by their nominees; the peculiar value of this payment being that not only do the Government and the chiefs thus work together for the good of the district, but that also there is an additional guarantee for the good behaviour of the men in the fact that their own people derive an advantage from it.

217. At all headquarters, Court Messengers' schools have been established, the schoolmasters of which are the best educated among the men themselves. The maximum rate of pay is not granted until the men show some proficiency in reading and writing, as well as in the knowledge of their other duties, and it is hoped that the proportion of illiterates, at present considerable, will thus in time be gradually reduced.

## LAND TENURE.

218. The position of the Sierra Leoneans trading in the Protectorate has now been put on a mutually satisfactory basis. The Sierra Leoneans residing in Protectorate towns occupy their lots by the consent of the local chiefs, in token of which they pay to them an annual due of £1, or, if residing in a town adjacent to an improved road, £1 10s. In return they are entitled to the same protection and "friendly offices" from the chiefs as these give to their own people.

219. The land in the Protectorate is regarded as belonging unreservedly and entirely to the people of the tribe, for whose benefit it is administered by the chief and his advisers. It is not granted or leased by the Government.

220. The chief, with the assent of his advisers, is empowered to grant leases of land both for trade and agricultural purposes. In the former case, where permanent buildings are erected, the arrangement by which the land is leased must be by deed, such deed stating the annual consideration to be paid to the chief, and being only valid if attested before the District Commissioner.

In the case of agricultural land, if the area does not exceed 50 acres, the consent of the District Commissioner to the lease is necessary, except where the terms of the tenure are prescribed by law; where the area exceeds 50 acres and does not exceed 5,000 acres, the consent of the Governor is required; if the area exceeds 5,000 acres, the consent of the Secretary of State must be obtained. The sole consideration affecting the consent in all cases is the benefit of the people for whom the chief and principal men act as trustees. Under no circumstances can a chief be forced to alienate land against his will, nor can a chief alienate any of the land of the tribe for his own benefit against the wishes of his people.

## NATIVE TRIBES.

221. The following is a list of the principal tribes inhabiting the Protectorate, together with an approximate estimate of their

numbers. An asterisk has been placed against those which are peculiar to Sierra Leone; of the others, the Susus, Korankos, Yalunkas, and Foulahs are also found in French Guinea, the Krim and Gallinas in Liberia, and the Mandingoes in both. For works on the languages of these tribes see Appendix II. (c).

					Approximate numbers in Sierra Leone.
*Mende	...	...	...	...	420,000
*Temne	...	...	...	...	300,000
*Limba	...	...	...	...	105,000
*Sherbro	...	...	...	...	80,000
Susu	...	...	...	...	64,000
Koranko	...	...	...	...	58,000
*Konnoh	...	...	...	...	50,000
*Lokko	...	...	...	...	26,500
Yalunka	...	...	...	...	18,000
Mandingo	...	...	...	...	10,500
Krim	...	...	...	...	9,000
Foulah	...	...	...	...	9,000
Gallinas or Vei	...	...	...	...	8,500
*Bullom	...	...	...	...	5,500

222. In addition to the above tribes, a certain number of Kissis inhabit a portion of the Protectorate north of the River Moa. The raids of the Kissis living on the Liberian side of the border into the Protectorate led to the Kissis Expedition of 1905.

The Sofas, old allies of the Kissis, who originally entered Sierra Leone as warriors of Alimami Samory, and were drawn from the districts of the Upper Niger, for many years ravaged outlying portions of the Protectorate.

Their power was broken when Samory was taken by the French in 1897, and since then there have been very few Sofas in Sierra Leone. A few of their villages still remain in the Limba country, but it is now the policy of the Limba chiefs to scatter the Sofas by threes and fours in Limba towns.

#### SPREAD OF MOHAMMEDANISM.

223. By means of immigrant traders and Moslem missionaries coming into Sierra Leone from the districts to the north and north-west, as well as from the fact that Mohammedanism is already firmly established among a considerable section of the indigenous population, Moslem influence is gaining ground to a large extent, particularly among the Temne and other tribes to the north and west of the River Rokell. It is impossible to give a numerical estimate of the Mohammedan population of the Protectorate, especially as many of those professing Islam are but very imperfectly acquainted with the doctrines of their nominal faith.

The advent of Mohammedanism is responsible for a remarkable decrease in the amount of spirits consumed in those districts to which it has penetrated, and abstinence from liquor is readily adopted also by those nominal Moslems who know but little else of the laws of Islam.

The teaching of Arabic goes hand in hand with that of the Moslem religion, and although the system of instruction is cumbersome and antiquated, it is welcomed by the natives, who are glad to give itinerant Arabic teachers housing and subsistence in return for the instruction of their children.

#### GAME.

224. Many species of wild animals are found in the Protectorate, including elephant, hippopotamus, African buffalo, leopard, wart-hog, crocodile, waterbuck, cobus kob, congo, duiker, oribi, many kinds of "bush-cats," &c.

Some of these, however, are rare. Guinea-fowl and bush-fowl—the latter akin to the partridge—are plentiful.

Only two elephants or hippopotami may be shot; the elephants as a rule carry small ivory, but tusks of 100 lbs. have occasionally been obtained. The best months for shooting are from April to June.

The big game licence is £25 per annum. Officials resident in Sierra Leone and officers of the garrison pay £5.

---

### X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

##### (A.) *Railways and Tramways*

225. The main line of the Sierra Leone Government Railway runs from the terminus in Freetown to Baiima, near the Liberian frontier, a distance of 220 $\frac{1}{4}$  miles. The number of stations on the main line is 27.

Of the tramways, one continues the main line from Baiima to Pendembu, a distance of seven miles, crossing the River Mauwa by a fine bridge. The other runs from Boia Station, 63 miles from Freetown, in a north-easterly direction to the Youni terminus, 21 miles distant.

The same rolling stock is used on the tramways as is employed on the main line.

Another line, known as the Mountain Railway, runs from the Freetown terminus to the Hill Station, a distance of six miles, this portion of the line having formed part of the scheme for establishing the Hill Station as a residence for Government Officials.

There are also lines connecting the terminus with the Government wharf, Government quarry, and the cemetery.

The total mileage under the Railway Department, including sidings, is 265 miles. The gauge throughout is 2 ft. 6 ins.

226. The original cost of construction of the railway, including subsidiary expenditure, was £1,014,731, the cost of construction up to 31st December, 1908, being £1,020,938. The

total receipts for the year amounted to £71,500, as compared with £74,266 in 1907, and £62,158 in 1906. The earnings of the main line, including £250 in respect of quarry earnings, were £69,537, while its working expenses were £63,483. This latter sum includes £1,200 "Extraordinary Expenditure" which on other than Government railways would be charged to "Capital Account." Deducting this sum, therefore, a profit is shown of £7,254.

227. The earnings of the Mountain Railway, which was not opened primarily as a commercial enterprise, amounted to £1,965, and the expenditure to £3,844. This shows a loss of £1,879, as compared with £1,708 in 1907.

228. It will be noticed that there is a slight divergence between the figures of the railway revenue as given in the above paragraph, and those given under the section dealing with finance in paragraph 10. The explanation is that whereas the Treasury accounts confine themselves to the earnings of each particular year, the railway system of accounting includes as revenue everything received in the following year from earnings of the year preceding.

229. That the depressed conditions of trade which prevailed up to November, 1908, would have their effect on the railway revenue was natural, and the falling off of £2,766 from the revenue of the previous year would doubtless have been considerably larger but for the fact that in 1908 the two tramway lines were opened for traffic.

In November an improvement in trade set in, and in the immediately succeeding months the railway, with its existing gauge, was taxed to almost an extreme limit in handling the traffic which was offered; although every available engine was utilised, the conveyance of traffic was not effected with that speed which is desirable. The pressure of traffic is by no means evenly distributed throughout the year, but is at its heaviest from the months of December to March, and July to the end of August. The narrowness of the gauge only permits of comparatively small locomotives being employed, and again, while the weight allowed to each engine axle is five tons that on a vehicle axle is only three tons. It is evident that if the increase of the Colony's productiveness, and consequently of the work of the railway, follows a normal course, further facilities for the handling of traffic will be needed.

230. The total number of passengers carried during the year amounted to 302,077, as compared with 284,856 in 1907, being an increase of 17,221, or 6 per cent. On the other hand, the revenue derived from passenger traffic was £16,816, as against £18,655 in 1907. The increase in the volume of passenger traffic is such as is naturally to be expected; the decrease in receipts is due to the fact that, owing to the bad year, the long-distance passengers, who reside principally in the kernel-producing country in the Railway District, travelled less.

231. It may be of interest to compare the passenger traffic on the Sierra Leone Railway with that of the three principal railways



of British South Africa; the figures in all cases being those for 1907:—

Railway.	Mileage open.	Total number of passengers.	Average receipts per passenger.	
Sierra Leone Government Railway	227	284,856	s. 1	d. 37
Central South African Railways...	2,409	7,376,834	2	11·57
Cape Government Railway ...	3,254	18,067,524	1	2½
Natal Government Railway ...	976	3,035,100	2	9·05

232. The gross value of the goods traffic in 1908 was £50,284, as compared with £51,992 in 1907. The decrease of £1,708 is due to Government goods transport, the public goods traffic in 1908 having exceeded that in 1907 by £1,240.

233. One feature of the railway charges in vogue is that it is open to any trader to hire a wagon and load it with every description of merchandise, irrespective of classification (spirits excepted); in payment the railway receives a rate which is approximately 33 per cent. lower than the rates charged for the conveyance of merchandise which is conveyed at the cheapest ordinary rate. In return for this exceptional privilege, the trader paying the haulage rate or toll undertakes to load and unload the wagon and also agrees that the railway shall be exempt from all liability for loss during transit, no matter what the cause. This system was introduced in order that the cost and complications connected with working the railway might be reduced to a minimum, and also to enable the smaller traders to have their quarterly or half-yearly stock conveyed at a minimum rate, and thereby compete with the larger firms. There are indications that the system, always unpopular with the railway authorities on account of the cheapness of the charge, is regarded with equal disfavour by the larger firms and small traders alike. Under the system, about 50 per cent. of the merchandise, and a much larger proportion of the produce or downward traffic, has been carried, and undoubtedly its adoption has enabled the railway to deal with a constantly increasing volume of traffic without a corresponding increase in the cost of administration.

234. As stated above, the Boia-Yonni and Baiima-Pendembu tramways were opened for traffic during the year. The object of the Yonni tramway is to bridge the traffic-barren country of about 20 miles in width which lies between the main line and the rich palm-bearing districts of the Yonni country. The last mile of the tramway is already within the palm country, and from the terminus roads are in course of construction which will radiate from there into the several remarkably rich belts by which it is surrounded on all sides except on that of the main line. A large and rich region will thus be tapped which would otherwise have remained outside the reach of the railway, and owing to the fact that a number of palm belts converge at the Yonni terminus, a

big market may be expected to grow up there as soon as the traders establish there in sufficient numbers to supply the natives with goods in exchange for their produce. Traders are now beginning to discover that there is in some parts of the country, especially in those inhabited by the Temnes, of whom the Yonnis are a section, a market for goods of a superior quality to the cheap and somewhat inferior goods which it was formerly believed entirely satisfied the natives' requirements. The wealthier natives now demand something better than the ordinary trade cloths, and are fully prepared to pay for them. This is a fact which should be borne in mind by those desiring to establish at a new trade centre.

The Baiima-Pendembu tramway, in crossing the River Mauwa, makes a trade accessible to the railway which the difficulty of crossing the river had formerly held back. This trade comes principally from the Bambara, Mende, and Konnoh Sections on the eastern limit of the Railway District, and not from across the Liberian Frontier, the commerce of which region is insignificant.

235. The quantity of rolling stock employed on the railway is as follows:—Locomotive engines, 28; coaching vehicles, 59; and goods vehicles, 204.

#### (B.) *Roads.*

236. There are in the Sierra Leone peninsula 163 miles of roads, connecting Freetown with the peninsula towns and villages.

237. In the Protectorate, a number of roads have been constructed by the Government since 1904 with the object of connecting palm-producing areas with the railway. That it is not sufficient for a railway to traverse a country without having roads to act as feeders is shown by the fact that traders will not establish at places isolated from the surrounding country, owing to the absence of a well-constructed road. Moreover, the provision of good roads for the natives who convey produce to the railway enables them to carry larger loads and travel at a greater pace than on bush paths, and on good roads they are also able to travel at night, a thing impossible where nothing but bush-tracks exist. During the construction of the Government roads, some of the principal chiefs were invited to send representatives to watch the road construction, with a view of employing the knowledge thus gained in their own chiefdoms. Great success has attended the experiment, and in the Railway District about 150 miles of improved roads have been made by the chiefs during the year under review without any Government supervision. Chief Lamboi of Gpa-Mende (Ronietta District) has also intersected his extensive country with serviceable roads, and other chiefdoms are following the same example. The difficulty which the natives experience in constructing these roads is how to provide permanent bridges, and it is on this point that the Government proposes to co-operate with them, the natives constructing the roads, and the Government the bridges, only providing bridges for those roads, however, which it considers to be of more than purely local value.

238. The Government roads are classified under first-class, third-class and fifth-class roads. First-class roads have permanent bridges, are cleared and grubbed for a width of 33 feet, having a roadway 12 feet wide, ballasted where necessary. The gradients do not exceed 1 in 12, and are usually not steeper than 1 in 29. The principal roads of this category are, from Bo Station to Mandu, 19 miles; Blama to Boagibu, 21 miles; Hangha to Largo, 9 miles; Segbwema road, 9 miles. The nature of the soil through which these roads are constructed is mainly laterite. In addition, the base-line of the Boia tramway is continued from the Yonni terminus to Masimera on the River Rokell, a distance of 14 miles.

The bridges in connexion with these roads (with the exception of those on the Blama road up to 10 miles), are constructed of steel girders with timber decking, supported by concrete abutments and piers. Those on the first 10 miles of the Blama road are decked with steel troughing, covered with broken stone and earth.

Third-class roads differ little from first-class roads, except in the bridges, which are of timber. Of this class is the road from Pendembu to Kanre Lahun, 14 miles. An excellent third-class road has been constructed under the supervision of one of the Court Messengers from Yonnibana to Makondu, the headquarters of the old Central District, a distance of 30 miles.

Fifth-class roads, of which there are over 200 miles, are carefully located paths, cleared and grubbed to a width of 16 feet, with native-made bridges.

239. The roads radiating from the Yonni terminus, now under construction, are, from Yonni terminus to Kitibui, 16 miles, with a steel and cement bridge over the River Yambutu (this road will probably be connected with the Yonnibana-Makondu road); and from Ronietta, 2 miles from the terminus, toward Robekki, 12 miles. The base-line from the terminus to Masimera, on the River Rokell, 14 miles, has already been alluded to.

The two first-mentioned roads were located, and are being constructed, by natives without European assistance.

240. The Government roads are under the supervision of the Maintenance branch of the Railway Department, and are reported on as being in a good state of repair.

#### PUBLIC WORKS.

241. Since the transfer of the Public Works Department in 1907 from its circumscribed quarters in the middle of Freetown to the site of the old Botanical Gardens on the outskirts of the town, its working capacity has been very greatly enhanced. It is now in possession of an area of about 30 acres, to which, should it ever become necessary, can be added from the adjoining Crown lands, and here are situated the store, yard, offices, workshops, sheds, and Director's bungalow, while two bungalows for foremen are also now being erected on the same area.

Running alongside this area is the new Government quarry, which is connected with the railway by a short branch line.

242. The opening of the quarry cannot but have very far-reaching results. Firstly, the Public Works Department can obtain on its very site whatever quantity of building stone it may require. Secondly, the fact that the quarry is connected with the railway enables stone to be sent without delay to any point on the line from the Hill Station to Pendembu. It is owing to the quarry that building stone is now available at half its former cost, and is consequently taking the place of wood as the material for the construction of houses. The advantage in Sierra Leone of stone houses over wooden ones is uncontested. Thirdly, it will facilitate the improvement in the sanitation of Freetown—

- (a) by providing cheap and accessible material for the manufacture of concrete, so essential for Freetown sanitation work; and
- (b) by enabling the Government to put at the disposal of the natives quantities of crushed stone to be used as ballast for their compounds, thus filling up mosquito-breeding pools and cavities formed by the rocky and uneven nature of the soil.

243. The stone now obtained from the quarry is mainly laterite. It is proposed, however, to lay a Decauville track to facilitate the removal of the syenite, large quantities of which are also found in the same region.

244. The barracks and quarters of the West African Frontier Force on the Moa River were completed by an expenditure in 1908 of £3,182 10s. 3d., thus bringing the final expenditure on this head up to £14,399 18s. 3d. The improved form of tropical bungalow adopted for the officers' quarters has proved most satisfactory.

245. The District Commissioners' quarters at Kennema in the Railway District were completed in 1908. These are the first stone houses to be built for District Commissioners in the Protectorate.

The new Court House and District Commissioner's office at Bonthe was also completed during the year.

In both places the new buildings are a vast improvement on the quarters previously available, and fill what has for many years been felt as a great want.

246. On the improvement of streets and drains in Freetown the sum of £1,409 14s. 10d. was spent during the year.

247. The Freetown Recreation Ground has been further improved by an expenditure of £413 11s. 5d. on constructing a tennis court, retaining wall round the bicycle track, culverts, drains, &c. £1,237 were spent on the recreation ground in 1907.

248. The two iron pile jetties constructed at the Government wharf to facilitate the loading and unloading of cargo have been completed. They are 100 feet long, 31 feet wide, and the depths at low and high water at their seaward ends are 42 and 51 feet, respectively (spring tides). Each jetty is fitted with a 4-ton steam crane for loading and discharging the lighters, and

is also supplied with mooring bollards, fenders, and ladders. Railway lines are laid down on the Government wharf, passing the heads of the jetties, and connecting with the main line; cargo can therefore be transferred from the cranes to the railway trucks with the utmost facility.

#### LABOUR.

249. The prices paid for labour in Sierra Leone vary largely with the class of labour, and also according as the labour is employed in the Colony or in the Protectorate. In Freetown the usual wage for labourers and carriers is 9*d.* a day, while the Krumen working on the ships are paid 1*s.* Both in the Protectorate and in the Colony, an important determining factor of the rate of wage is regularity or permanence of employment. Thus, the Sierra Leonean farmers in the peninsula are able to obtain a certain amount of labour at 10*s.*, and even less, a month, but provide housing and some food; in the Protectorate, still less is paid for permanent employment. In all cases, however, one element exists, almost unknown in Europe, which materially affects the rate of wages, namely, the personality of the employer. A considerate and thoroughly trusted employer will get an ample supply of cheap and good labour in a district in which an employer of a different type will be unable to obtain a single satisfactory workman. This is common knowledge, but as illustration may be cited the experience of the Roads Department, which, owing to the special gifts of its European officers, constantly employed over 1,000 labourers at 5*d.* a day, the labourers providing their own food and sinbeks (temporary thatch huts), while applicants were turned away daily.

#### SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

250. Sierra Leone, and Freetown in particular, probably includes representatives of more races and classes than any other region of its size in Africa, and it is consequently impossible, within the limits of this report, to deal with the social condition of its people in anything but a very rudimentary manner.

The Sierra Leonean community as defined in paragraph 174 forms the bulk of the population of Freetown and the Sierra Leone peninsula, but only about 5 per cent. of the total population of the Colony and Protectorate. It is not, with the exception of a few isolated traders, established in the Protectorate. It falls into two main classes, rural and urban, the former consisting of the small farmers who inhabit the peninsula, the latter of shopkeepers and artisans, while among the more educated classes is a large number of clerks and a considerable professional community consisting of clergy, lawyers, and medical men. Among neither class of Sierra Leoneans, however, are any labourers to be found.

There does not exist among the Sierra Leoneans the same sharp definition of social grades as among the natives of the Protectorate, whose social system is founded on the existence of three

very distinct classes: the aristocracy, from whom the chiefs are drawn; the independent citizens; and that large body, formerly slaves, which now occupies a position analogous to that held by serfs in Saxon and Norman England. Elaborate customs, a highly perfected etiquette, and strict social rules, control all, but it is a notable fact that the distinction between the serfs and the independent citizens has of late tended to become less. It may be added that the serf class, even in olden times, and certainly within the last 50 years, has occasionally supplied men who have acquired a large share of influence in the tribal community.

Fourteen tribes, speaking distinct languages, inhabit the Protectorate, not including those scattered representatives of tribes inhabiting adjacent territories who come into the country for purposes of trade. Social conditions naturally differ considerably with the various races and localities, there being a very great distinction between, for instance, the inhabitants of the Imperri and Timdale portions of the Sherbro country, the headquarters of the Human Leopard Society, and the home of a degraded people, and those of enlightened Mende and Temne chiefdoms. As regards the economic condition of the people, it must be remembered that the wage-earning section is comparatively small; the vast bulk of the population is exclusively occupied in agriculture. Of the wage-earning section, the Mendes are particularly pre-eminent for their working powers, and are constantly in request as carriers, not only in Sierra Leone, but also in other parts of West Africa, the late Madam Yoko, the most important Mende Paramount Chief, having supplied 2,000 men for the last Ashanti expedition. The Susus, Temnes, and some other races are less remarkable as labourers, but this is due to the fact that their respective countries have hitherto been outside main trade channels, in consequence of which they have had fewer opportunities of obtaining regular wage-earning employment.

In dealing with this subject it is impossible to refrain from allusion to a belief, much in vogue among the ill-informed, that the African is lazy. It is a belief which no one can retain who has witnessed the persevering toil on the farms, especially during an unpropitious season. The first step towards making a farm is to cut down the "bush" or coppice wood—a task necessarily involving each worker being constantly covered with ants. This discomfort is cheerfully borne, and it is a notable sight to see the "idlers" at heavy work, either under a broiling sun or, during the wet season, in tropical rain, singing their folk-songs during their labours. Again, the export of palm kernels for 1908 amounted to 33,721 tons, of the value of £332,887. These kernels are brought to market by the native, who is paid for them approximately little over  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  per lb. To obtain them he has to climb the tree—in which a snake is not infrequently concealed—dry, crack, and store the nuts, and then perhaps carry them on his head for anything up to 30 miles, in hampers made by himself.

Casual observers who have seen native families travelling along the roads, the man walking ahead, and his women-folk following behind carrying such few household goods as they take with

them, may be tempted to suppose that the men allow the women to do all the work. Such is not the case, and the admirable and economical division of labour between the men and the women is a remarkable feature of native life. The men do the heavy, agricultural work, road-clearing, sowing, palm-climbing, roof-building, carrying heavy loads; the women crack the nuts, extract the oil, weed, and prepare and apply the mud with which the houses are plastered, while the children are usefully employed in looking after the poultry. In the tribal community every individual has his place; none are overlooked, and pauperism is unknown. A native on being informed that in Europe men have died of starvation greets the assertion with incredulity.

It is necessary to emphasise the fact that all this refers to the native community in which the tribal system remains in force. Under this system the aged and the poor are well cared for, as are the infirm and imbecile, and in most cases those suffering from infectious diseases are isolated. The Sierra Leoneans among whom the tribal system is non-existent are unable to solve these problems. Government intervention is consequently necessary, and a sum of £450 is provided annually for the relief of the Sierra Leonean destitute, the relief thus given amounting to 5s. a head per quarter. It is probable that this sum will soon have to be increased.

A pleasant feature common to both natives and Sierra Leoneans is the tender care which is bestowed on young children, who are always the last to suffer should there have been a bad year, or should their families have been in any other way impoverished.

Of considerable interest are the business habits and traditions of the people. The inhabitants of the Colony proper are largely Europeanised, and have entirely adopted European business methods. In the Protectorate it is safe to say that the credit system as known in Europe is not at present understood. This is the more curious, because among the natives themselves an obligation to pay an admitted debt is rigidly observed. The anomaly is in all probability explained by the fact that a debt with a European or other non-native trader is incurred by the debtor without any of the formalities which in the tribal community are necessary before credit is given. Thus, in the native community, nothing in the nature of credit is allowed to a person unless his or her family is notified, and their consent obtained. Assuming that this inference is correct, it indicates the limits within which it may be advisable that trade credit should be confined.

251. The mistake is often made by those unacquainted with West Africa of supposing that it is inhabited by people homogeneous in race, language, customs, and aspirations. Freetown, owing to its geographical position, its harbour, and its reputation as a trade centre, offers a striking contradiction to this idea. Nothing there is homogeneous. It is a city not only of mixed races, but of many types of civilisation, containing as it does Europeans of many nationalities, Sierra Leoneans, East Indians, West Indians, Syrians, North African Arabs, and representatives not only of all the Protectorate tribes, but of many of those dwelling

from the Sahara to the Congo. It is said that in Freetown fifty African languages are spoken. In the Government of this mixed multitude the tribal headmen play an important part. The headmen of the Kru and the Foulahs have already been alluded to, and in addition to these, the Mendes, Temnes, and Limbas who dwell in Freetown, and who are in consequence temporarily deprived of the benefits of their tribal organisations, have been authorised by the Government to elect headmen, to whom they bring their disputes, and who are recognised by the Government as their spokesmen and representatives.

252. Allusion to the Kru Colony in Freetown is particularly appropriate in the report for the year 1908. The home of the Kru is that stretch of the coast which lies between Grand Bassa and Grand Lahou, but being a sea-going people they were at an early period attracted by the shipping trade to Freetown. The year under review is the hundredth anniversary of their official recognition by the Sierra Leone Government, for it was in 1808 that Mr.—afterwards General—Thompson, Governor of Sierra Leone, granted to them the special reservation in Freetown which they still inhabit. It is an interesting fact that although Krumen are found on the ships all along the coast, Freetown is the only place outside their own country to which they bring their families and where they make any attempt at permanent occupation. This is due, no doubt, to the incentive to settle here given to them by Governor Thompson, who in the same year offered a premium of five guineas to each of the six Krumen who “should first introduce their wives and families into the Colony, and live with them in one or more distinct houses to each family, and cultivate a quantity of ground not less than two acres, for the space of two years.”

E. EVELYN,  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Freetown, Sierra Leone,  
15th July, 1909.



## APPENDIX I.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING  
THE YEAR 1908 FOR THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE.

## SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT.

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

*Rubber.*

Ten specimens of *Funtumia*, *Landolphia* and *Ficus* rubbers were reported on in 1908. The *Funtumia* rubber was of good quality, containing 87 per cent. of caoutchouc in the dry material, and was valued at 3s. per lb., with fine hard Para at 3s. 5½d. per lb. The same price was quoted for a specimen of well-prepared *Landolphia* rubber, which contained nearly 90 per cent. of caoutchouc in the dry material.

The *Ficus* rubber was of very resinous nature and therefore of low value; it would probably not realise more than 1s. 6d. per lb. in this country, with fine hard Para at 3s. 5½d. per lb.

*Fibres.*

A specimen of pineapple fibre, though not so well cleaned as samples previously received at the Imperial Institute from other sources, was of good length and would be nominally worth from £25 to £30 per ton in London.

Further specimens of Okra and Napunti fibres were found to compare favourably with those previously reported on. From the results of the investigation at the Imperial Institute of different samples of Okra fibre, it would appear that the product prepared from the plants after the second crop of fruits has been picked is superior to that obtained after the first and third crops have been picked.

A specimen of Sansevieria fibre waste was valued at £10 to £12 per ton.

*Oil Seeds and Oils.*

The trial consignment of the seeds of *Lophira alata* asked for in 1907 was duly received and submitted to a firm of soap manufacturers in order that the oil might be expressed on a small commercial scale and tried for soap-making. The firm reported that they obtained from the decorticated seeds 43 per cent. of oil, which for their purposes would be worth, under ordinary market conditions, from £1 to £2 per ton more than cotton-seed oil, i.e., from £24 to £25 per ton at the date of the report.

A small sample of the *Lophira alata* kernels was also submitted to a firm of oil-seed crushers, who confirmed the above valuation and stated that they would be prepared to purchase a small consignment of five tons of the kernels at the rate of £10 per ton, c.i.f. Liverpool. This offer was duly communicated to the Government of the Colony.

The seeds of *Carapa procera* were examined, and the oil obtained therefrom was valued at about £20 10s. per ton. The kernels of these seeds are rich in oil suitable for industrial use, and would probably find a ready sale in Europe at about £9 per ton, if in good condition. It would not be possible to sell the entire seeds readily in Europe, as the cost of decortication would be too high.

The examination of a specimen of *Pentadesma butyracea* fat indicated that the product, if available in large quantities, would probably be saleable in Europe for edible purposes.

*Medicinal Plants.*

The leaves of *Cassia alata* were found to exert a mildly purgative action, but though no doubt suitable for local use they would be of no value for export.

An examination of the "craw-craw" plant, *Ageratum conyzoides*, indicated the presence of traces of an alkaloid or alkaloids, but the quantity obtainable was too small for characterisation.

*Timbers.*

A specimen of "native mahogany" was found to be very similar to "Iroko" wood but showed certain differences. The tests indicated that the wood could not be profitably imported into this country.

*Cassava Starch.*

A specimen of cassava starch prepared by natives in Sierra Leone was valued at £12 per ton in London. The prices for this product range from £9 to £14 per ton according to quality.

*Tobacco.*

The results of the examination of a specimen of tobacco from Koinadugu indicated that tobacco of good quality could probably be grown in the district if expert supervision were available.

*Minerals.*

Twenty-seven mineral specimens were examined, but with the exception of a complex mineral containing very small quantities of zinc, lead, silver, copper, and gold, none of the samples represented material likely to be of economic value. It has been suggested that if the deposit of this complex mineral is extensive, it will be worth further investigation in order to ascertain whether richer material occurs.

A sample of clay proved to be of good quality and suitable for use in the manufacture of fire-bricks and tiles.

*Exhibition Galleries.*

Specimens of a number of the above products were added to the Sierra Leone Court in the Public Galleries after examination in the Scientific and Technical Department. An excellent series of photographs illustrating the scenery and industries of the Colony, and several new maps have also been placed on exhibition, together with a diagram giving general statistics relating to the trade, &c. of Sierra Leone.

---

## APPENDIX II.

---

### SOME NON-OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO SIERRA LEONE.

#### (a) HISTORICAL, DESCRIPTIVE, &c.

- ALLDRIDGE. The Sherbro and its Hinterland. London, 1901.  
 CROOKS. A History of Sierra Leone. Dublin, 1903.  
 ELLIS. West African Sketches. London, 1881  
 INGRAM. Sierra Leone after a Hundred Years. London, 1894.  
 KELTIE. The Partition of Africa. London, 1895.

- KNUTSFORD, Viscountess. *Life and Letters of Zachary Macaulay*. London, 1900.
- PARKES. *Sierra Leone*. 1894.
- PIERSON. *Seven years in Sierra Leone*. London, 1897.
- POOLE. *Life, Scenery, and Customs in Sierra Leone and the Gambia*. London, 1850.
- SIBTHORPE. *History of Sierra Leone*. London, 1881.
- . *Geography of Sierra Leone*. London, 1881.
- WALLIS. *Advance of our West African Empire*. London, 1903.

## (b) JOURNALS OF SOCIETIES.

- Royal Geographical Society's Journal—  
 Vol. X., Trotter. *An Expedition to the Sources of the Niger*.  
 Vol. XXIV., 1904, Cox. *Notes on the Anglo-Liberian Boundary*.
- Manchester Geographical Society's Journal—  
 1896, Vivian. *The Mendi Country*.
- African Society's Journal—  
 1909, Willans. *The Konnoh People*.

## (c) NATIVE LANGUAGES.

- BULLOM (NYLÄNDER). *Grammar and Vocabulary of the Bullom Language*. London, 1814.
- FOULAH (REICHARDT). *Grammar of the Fulah Language*. London, 1876.
- . *Vocabulary of the Fulah Language*. London, 1878.
- (FAIDHERBE). *Grammaire et vocabulaire de la langue foule*. 1882.
- (KRAUSE). *Beitrag zur Kenntniss der fulischen Sprache*. Leipzig, 1884.
- (GUIRAUDON). *Manuel de la langue foule*. Paris, 1894.
- MANDINGO (MACBRAIR). *Grammar of the Mandingo language*. London, 1837.
- (STEINTHAL). *Die Mandé-Neger-Sprachen*. Berlin, 1867.
- (RAMBAUD). *La langue mandé, avec grammaire et vocabulaire français-mandé*, 1896.
- MENDE (SCHÖN). *Grammar of the Mende language*. London, 1882.
- . *Mende-English and English-Mende Vocabulary*. London, 1894.
- (COLE). *First book in the Mende language*. London, 1900.
- (MIGEOD). *The Mende language*. London, 1908.
- SUSU. *Grammar and Vocabulary of the Susoo language*. Edinburgh, 1802.
- (ENDEMANN). *Versuch einer Grammatik des Sotho*. 1876.
- (DUPORT). *Outlines of a grammar of the Susu language*. London, 1882.
- (RAIMBAULT). *Dictionnaire français-soso et soso-français*. 1885.
- (DOUGLIN). *Reading book in the Soso language*. London, 1887.
- TEMNE (SCHLENKER). *Collection of Temne traditions, with English translation and Temne-English vocabulary*. London, 1861.
- . *Temne Grammar*. London, 1864.
- . *English-Temne dictionary*. London, 1880.
- ELBA AND COLE. *Temne reading book*. London, 1892.
- LEWIS. *Temne Primer*. London, 1904.
- VEI or GALLINAS (KOELLE). *Outlines of a Grammar of the Vei language, with Vei-English vocabulary*. London, 1853.
- . *Outlines of a Grammar of the Vei language, with Vei-English vocabulary. Second enlarged edition, with appendix on the writing of the Vei People*. London, 1854.
- . *Sundry publications printed in the Vei script by the S.P.C.K.*. London.

**COLONIAL REPORTS.**

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

ANNUAL.							
No.	Colony, &c.						Year.
576	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	1907
577	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...	1907
579	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	...	"
580	Fiji	...	...	...	...	...	"
581	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	"
582	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	...	"
583	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	"
584	Imperial Institute	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
585	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	...	"
588	Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	...	1907
589	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
590	Grenada	...	...	...	...	...	1907
591	Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
594	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	"
595	Basutland	...	...	...	...	...	"
596	Swaziland	...	...	...	...	...	"
597	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	...	1908
598	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	"
599	Falkland Islands	...	...	...	...	...	"
600	Uganda	...	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
601	Imperial Institute	...	...	...	...	...	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	"
603	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	...	"
604	Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	"
605	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	...	...	"
606	Seychelles	...	...	...	...	...	"
607	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909
609	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	1908
610	Malta	...	...	...	...	...	1908-1909

**MISCELLANEOUS.**

No.	Colony, &c.				Subject.
51	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	...	...	...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-8.
54	Newfoundland	...	...	...	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	...	...	...	Reitfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	...	...	...	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	...	...	...	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	...	...	...	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1906-7.