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No. 782.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, see No. 735.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1914.



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No. 782.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1911, see No. 735.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Lagos, Southern Nigeria,
23rd October, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria for the year 1912, together with a report upon it by the Acting Colonial Secretary, Mr. F. S. James, C.M.G.

2. I arrived in Southern Nigeria myself and assumed the administration on October 3rd, proceeding to Northern Nigeria for the same purpose on the day following. The Railways of Northern and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated on my arrival under Mr. Eaglesome, C.M.G. (who was appointed Director of Railways and Works for Nigeria) and preparations were made for the amalgamation of the Marine and Customs in the Estimates of the following year. These Departments were actually amalgamated on 1st January, 1913, and the public debt of both Administrations was at the same time unified. These steps were taken in anticipation of the complete amalgamation of the two Governments, for the carrying out of which you had instructed me to submit proposals to you.

3. The report that I have now the honour to transmit contains a record of substantial material progress due to the energy and ability of my predecessor, while the last sentence indicates an even more satisfactory advance in the relations between the Government and the population of the Central Province. Since I was myself so short a time in the country during 1912 I do not propose to do more in this despatch than to invite your attention to a few salient figures indicative of the progress made in various directions.

4. The population of Southern Nigeria is estimated at about 7½ millions natives and 1,840 Europeans, of whom 1,080 are non-officials and 760 officials. There were 26 deaths among the former and 9 among the latter during the year (32 and 57 invalidings respectively).

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5. The trade (exports and imports) of Nigeria by Southern Nigeria ports, exclusive of specie and of Government imports, amounted to £11,239,000. The revenue of Southern Nigeria exceeded all previous years and stood at £2,235,412, to which the Customs contributed £1,569,290. Of this latter sum 75 per cent. consisted of duties on spirits and tobacco of foreign origin and only 9 per cent. on cottons. The Reserve Funds showed on December 31st at £1,132,540, and the Debt at £8,267,565. Of the large increase in the imports 40 per cent. was in respect of cotton goods, and there was no increase in spirits. The exports suffered owing to a bad rainfall, but the great increase in the price of palm kernels on the European markets (double the price of 15 or 20 years ago) added to the prosperity of the country. The staple exports from Northern Nigeria, tin ore, skins, shea and ground nuts, and feathers, showed very large increases, as did cotton in both countries.

6. The examination of the coalfield near Udi was steadily undertaken, and drills for boring were ordered with a view to ascertaining whether there were any coal measures within a 25 mile radius of Onitsha, on the Niger. The Government Schools showed an average attendance of 3,984 and the Assisted Schools of 11,732, viz., 15,716 in all, an increase of 1,744 over 1911, and it is estimated that there are some 30,000 pupils in other schools.

7. Large sums were spent on sanitation, especially at Lagos, and great progress was made. The Postal and Savings Bank Departments showed large increases, while the revenue from telegraphs increased by 35 per cent. There were 2,144 pole miles of telegraphs in Southern Nigeria, a total of 4,328 in Nigeria, with 5,167 wire miles (8,700 in Nigeria) and 138 offices. The Railway revenue reached £394,919, the working expenses being £236,280, exclusive of interest on capital cost. The Public Works Department carried out a very extensive programme and much work was done by the Marine Department in clearing and opening up waterways, especially in freeing the Niger from snags.

8. The Colony had to regret the departure during the year of Sir W. Egerton, who had been Governor for eight years, and during whose tenure of office such great strides in commercial development have been made and the revenue more than doubled.

I have, &c.,

F. D. LUGARD,

Governor.

The Right Honourable,
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE
YEAR 1912.

FINANCIAL.

The total actual revenue collected during the year amounted to £2,235,412. This figure is the largest on record, exceeding the anticipated income as finally revised by the sum of £36,489, and showing an increase of £279,236 over the revenue for the year 1911. The details are as follows:—

Head of Revenue.	1912.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs Duties... ..	1,569,290	1,439,386	129,904	—
Harbour and Lighting Dues ...	2,340	2,423	—	83
Licences, &c.	20,172	19,911	261	—
Fees of Court, &c.	103,460	93,940	9,520	—
Postal Revenue... ..	16,675	14,196	2,479	—
Rent of Government Properties	2,962	2,470	492	—
Interest	126,061	53,178	72,883	—
Miscellaneous	6,884	22,532	—	15,648
Railway and Tramway ...	387,311	307,912	79,399	—
Total	2,235,155	1,955,948	294,938	15,731
Land Sales	257	228	29	—
Total	2,235,412	1,956,176	294,967	15,731
Loan Expenditure Adjustments	—	449,691	—	449,691
	2,235,412	2,405,867	294,967	465,422

The percentage of contribution of main revenue heads to total revenue was as follows:—

	1912.	1911.
Customs Duties	70·2	73·6
Railway	17·3	15·8
Fees of Court, &c.	4·6	4·8
Licences, &c.	0·9	1·0
Postal	0·7	0·7

An analysis of Customs revenue gives the following result:—

	1912.	1911.
	£	£
Specific Duties	1,379,484	1,275,601
Ad valorem Duties	189,806	163,785
	<u>1,569,290</u>	<u>1,439,386</u>

The principal articles yielding duty were:—

	Per cent. to total Customs Duties.	1912.	1911.
		£	£
Spirits	64·6	1,013,808	975,557
Cotton Goods... ..	9·1	143,024	117,007
Tobacco	10·6	166,144	141,155

The following figures show total revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1908	1,387,975	1,357,763
1909	1,361,891	1,648,681
1910	1,933,235	1,592,282
1911	1,956,176	1,717,259
1912	2,235,412	2,110,498

Exclusive of the public debt, the assets of the Colony exceeded the liabilities on 31st December, 1912, by £1,132,540, compared with a balance in 1911 of £1,007,625.

The balance of calls on the 1911 loan of £5,000,000 were received during the year, bringing the total receipts in respect of this loan to £4,875,035. From this sum £1,893,246 has been utilised for the services of the redemption of the outstanding 4 per cent. debentures of the 1908 loan, leaving £2,981,789 available for expenditure, of which sum £1,294,570 had been expended on 31st December, 1912. The total public debt of the Colony now amounts to £8,267,565.

The total expenditure on all heads of service, exclusive of expenditure from loan funds on certain specific undertakings, amounted to £2,110,498, of which the following are the details:—

Head of Expenditure.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on Account of Public Debt	228,042	343,440	115,398	—
Pensions and Gratuities	16,438	19,841	3,403	—
Governor's Office	9,127	7,638	—	1,489
Colonial Secretariat	16,499	16,352	—	147
Political and Administrative	83,239	85,659	2,420	—
Judicial	13,876	15,015	1,139	—
Legal	3,710	4,435	725	—
Treasury	15,792	15,688	—	104
Customs	38,810	43,711	4,901	—
Postal	16,506	17,465	959	—
Telegraphs... ..	27,683	31,719	4,036	—
Audit... ..	8,641	9,163	522	—
Printing	11,298	11,573	275	—
West African Frontier Force	91,803	115,967	24,164	—
Volunteer Force	2,084	1,535	—	549
Marine	120,141	121,267	1,126	—
Civil Police	47,959	50,677	2,718	—
Prisons	45,636	51,503	5,867	—

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Head of Expenditure.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Forestry	15,046	18,453	3,407	—
Agriculture	10,443	12,505	2,062	—
Medical... ..	67,805	74,127	6,322	—
Medical Research	690	1,434	744	—
Laboratory... ..	694	682	—	12
Sanitary	5,732	8,384	2,652	—
Native Affairs	22,708	22,808	100	—
Education	27,159	35,999	8,840	—
Surveys	21,636	23,060	2,324	—
Mineral Survey	2,145	1,650	—	495
Lands	1,257	1,691	434	—
Rent	2,247	2,437	190	—
Charitable	481	754	273	—
Transport	68,020	73,171	5,151	—
Motor Transport	5,882	3,061	—	2,821
Contribution to Northern Nigeria	70,000	70,000	—	—
Miscellaneous Services	55,880	40,505	—	15,375
Public Works Department	49,979	53,458	3,479	—
Roads Construction	179	—	—	179
Works and Buildings Annually Recurrent.	31,318	35,578	4,260	—
Roads and Bidges Annually Recurrent.	13,788	12,301	—	1,487
Railway	175,229	239,943	64,714	—
Tramway	3,796	3,628	—	168
Carter and Denton Bridges	1,998	1,729	—	269
Works and Buildings Extraordinary.	106,412	138,544	32,132	—
Roads and Bridges Extraordinary	32,962	35,127	2,665	—
Telegraphs Extraordinary	10,119	12,836	2,717	—
Marine Extraordinary	66,882	59,348	—	7,534
Railway Capital Works	49,488	163,237	113,749	—
	1,717,259	2,110,498	423,868	30,629

TRADE.

Gross Imports and Exports (Specie excluded).

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1910	5,122,000	5,258,000	10,380,000
1911	5,234,000	5,354,000	10,588,000
1912	5,949,000	5,773,000	11,722,000

Specie is *not* included in the above totals, but the figures embrace goods and produce passing through Southern Nigeria ports to or from Northern Nigeria, and also Government importations. They do not, however, include goods and produce in transit to or from foreign colonies.

Excluding Government importations from the above figures, the following represent the purely commercial imports and exports (Northern and Southern Nigeria together) for each of the last three years, specie excluded:—

Commercial Imports and Exports (Specie excluded).

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1910	4,579,000	5,257,000	9,836,000
1911	4,726,000	5,353,000	10,079,000
1912	5,467,000	5,772,000	11,239,000

In passing, it is of interest to note the average annual value of Nigerian commercial imports and exports for the three years 1906-1908 was £6,500,000 only, as compared with £10,400,000 for the years 1910-1912.

It is impossible to state the exact total value of commercial imports and exports to or from Northern Nigeria included in the above figures, as an account is kept only of the merchandise passing in or out of the sister protectorate at Idah on the Niger River. In addition to such river-borne imports and exports, appreciable quantities of goods find their way into Northern Nigeria overland *via* Lagos. Taking these into account, it may be assumed that in the year under review the total commercial imports and exports of Northern Nigeria would approximate one million sterling.

Dealing with the trade of Nigeria as a whole, it will be observed from the returns quoted that further marked progress has been made in the commercial development of this rich country. Imports for the year 1912 (excluding specie) were £715,000, or 14 per cent. in excess of the previous year, which was the best on record, and exports showed an advance of £419,000, equal to 8 per cent. more than 1911.

Import figures, unless coupled with reliable information as to stocks held by the merchants at the beginning and end of a given year, are apt to be misleading, as they do not necessarily represent actual consumption. It is, however, gratifying to note from the returns that 40 per cent. of the total value of increased inward shipments during 1912 is represented by cotton goods, whilst there is no increase in imports of spirits.

The following table shows the exports of the principal Southern Nigerian products for each of the last three years:—

—	1912.	1911.	1910.
Palm kernels, tons	185,000	176,000	173,000
Palm oil, tons... ..	77,000	79,000	77,000
Cocoa, lbs.	7,594,000	9,859,000	6,567,000
Rubber, lbs.	1,579,000	2,164,000	2,634,000
Cotton (lint), lbs.	4,373,000	2,238,000	2,478,000

SOUTHERN NIGERIA, 1912.

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It will be observed that, whilst palm oil, rubber, and cocoa show decreased exports, palm kernels and cotton were shipped in larger quantities than during the previous year. With regard to the cotton crop, it is to be noted that the yield was the largest since 1909, and that the 1912 output was the second best on record. Cocoa, and probably rubber also, suffered from short rainfall, which was the smallest for many years. It is difficult to satisfactorily account for the falling away by 2,000 tons of palm oil. Palm kernels, it will be seen, were, on the other hand, 8,000 tons in excess of the previous year. Taking the total tonnage and value of palm produce (oil and kernels together), the following are the comparative figures for the last three years:—

Exports of Palm Produce.

			Tons.	£
1910	...	...	250,000	4,193,000
1911	...	...	256,000	4,271,000
1912	...	...	262,000	4,452,000

In addition to the palm oil and kernels exported during 1912, it is especially interesting to note that, owing to the establishment of crushing mills on the spot, the first shipments of kernel oil and cattle cake were made from Southern Nigeria, 500 tons of kernel oil and 635 tons of cake being exported in 1912.

Prices for the principal commodity in the export list, *i.e.*, palm kernels, ruled high in Europe during the year under review, the average of £19 15s. per ton being the best on record. Even this high average has, however, been considerably exceeded since the end of 1912, and during the first half of the current year (1913) the average rate in Liverpool has been over £22, or say double what it was 15 to 20 years ago. As the total value of palm kernels exported during 1912 was 2½ millions sterling, or, say, practically 50 per cent. of the total Nigerian exports, these enhanced and apparently stable values have, needless to say, a very marked bearing upon the prosperity of the Colony and Protectorate.

The following table shows the average annual fluctuation in the values of Southern Nigerian staple produce during the last four years:—

—	1912.	1911.	1910.	1909.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Palm kernels, per ton ...	19 15 0	18 6 0	19 0 0	15 6 6
Palm oil, per ton ...	29 18 0	31 15 0	33 5 0	26 10 0
Cocoa, per cwt. ...	2 10 6	2 8 0	2 5 0	2 5 0
Rubber, "Lagos Lump," per lb.	0 2 4	0 2 2	0 3 6	0 2 2
Cotton, Mid. American, per lb.	6·46d.	7·03d.	7·87d.	5·50d.

With regard to the exports of products which are included in the general returns, but which really come entirely or mainly from Northern Nigeria, it is most encouraging to note the following increases in such exports during the year 1912:—

	£	
Tin ore	155,000	more than 1911
Skins and hides	31,000	do.
Shea nuts	11,000	do.
Ostrich feathers	10,000	do.
Ground nuts	8,000	do.

The total value of these five products exported in 1912 was £486,000, as compared with £271,000 only during 1911.

FORESTRY.

EXAMINATION OF FORESTS.

The Conservator and his assistants made several tours through the Western Province, during the course of which the various licensed timber areas and reserves were visited, and the work of the native staff inspected. Owing to the increase of plantation work, however, it has not been possible to devote as much time to the inspection and exploration of new areas as is desirable in this province.

Early in the year, a tour was made through the Effon and Western Ekiti countries, where some valuable hill forests containing mahogany, cedar (*Pseudocedrela*) and Iroko are still in existence. They are, however, rapidly being cut down by the native farmers, a practice that is certain to jeopardise the future water supply of the country, as some of the main rivers of both the Western and Central Provinces take their rise in those forests. The damage done to the Effon hill forests since a previous visit to them in 1910 was very noticeable, and the same may be remarked of the forests in the Ulesha district.

In the Central Province a large number of licensed timber areas were inspected by various forest officers and the work of the native contractors checked and a stop put to careless felling and the use of the stems of valuable young trees for rollers, a practice that was found to exist in some of the areas. In addition to this, numerous communal rubber plantations were examined and arrangements made for extending them, whilst reserves were also visited with a view to checking the wasteful clearing of forests for farming purposes.

Mr. Hitchens also visited the belts of fringing forests that are found along streams in the Onitsha, Awka, Udi, and Idah Districts. They were found to contain mahogany (*khaya senegalensis*) and Iroko in fair quantities. These areas have been dealt with more fully in other reports and it is not necessary to make any further reference to them here.

During the year extensive tours were made by the Conservator of Forests, Dr. Unwin, through most of the important wooded areas of the Eastern Province.

During May and June a visit was made by the Conservator of Forests to the Oban Reserve and thence to Insofan, Ikom, and

Ogoja. From the latter place he proceeded to Obudu whence he returned to the Cross River through the mountainous tract of country (Boki) between that station and Ikom.

PROTECTION OF FORESTS.

The protection afforded to certain species of trees in licensed timber areas was more or less maintained during the year and, with the exception of the Oloke-Meji Reserve, where a fire damaged some 2½ acres of teak plantation, all the reserves were efficiently protected. This is the only class of forest where, owing to the prohibition of farming, any real protection is afforded to plant growth; unfortunately, as mentioned above, there is but little progress to report in the acquisition of such reserves.

REGENERATION OF FORESTS.

(a) *Natural Regeneration.*

Owing to the exceptionally dry year experienced in the Western Province, natural regeneration is said to have suffered somewhat in that part of the Protectorate.

Departmentally, however, much more was attempted in the planting line during 1912 than has ever been undertaken before.

(b) *Artificial Regeneration.*

An area amounting to 406 acres was cleared of growth and 241½ acres of it was actually planted up with Indian teak and other trees of economic value. Of this, 219½ acres of plantation were still surviving at the end of the year. The balance is largely accounted for by the failure of 15 acres at Ibadan from drought and 2½ acres of teak at Oloke-Meji from fire. The total cost of these operations amounted to £1,252.

From the Central Province the Conservator of Forests reports that 71,786 seedlings of mahogany and other timber trees were planted out by licensees in licensed timber areas.

In the Eastern Province 450 mahogany seedlings were planted out by the African Association in licensed timber areas. Timber exploitation is in its infancy in that province, hence the small results reported.

FOREST EXPLOITATION.

(a) *Major Produce.*

Western Province.

The Conservator of Forests reports that in the Western Province 12 licensed timber areas were worked during the year and that 18 other licences were granted and completed before the close of that period. Five new applications were received, of which two were provisionally granted and two were refused by the native owners whilst the remaining one is still being dealt with.

Revenue and royalties.—The figures for the year as compared with those of 1911 were as follows:—

—	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
(a) Fees on export timber	1,614 4 0	3,135 4 0	1,521 0 0	—
(b) Royalties (payable to natives).	381 0 0	657 10 0	276 10 0	—
(c) Fees on local timber	183 0 0	665 17 0	482 13 0	—
(d) Royalties (payable to natives).	247 8 0	444 13 0	197 5 0	—
(e) Timber sales from reserves.	69 19 4	48 8 5	—	21 10 11
Total	2,495 15 4	4,951 12 5	2,477 8 0	21 10 11

The total revenue for the year, exclusive of royalties, was thus £3,849 9s. 5d., whilst the royalties amounted to £1,108 3s., making a total for both of £4,951 12s. 5d.

The net increase for 1912 amounted to £2,455 17s. 1d., which was mainly due to the enhanced prices for timber in home markets and a consequent increase in the number of areas exploited.

A satisfactory increase is also shown in the receipts from timber cut for local sales, but this is probably due to more effective supervision by the forest staff.

Central Province.

In the Central Province 45 licensed areas were worked during the year as against 40 in 1911, whilst, mainly owing to the scarcity of labour, 32 areas, including 7 abandoned ones, remained unexploited.

The revenue derived from timber during this and the previous year was as follows:—

—	1911.	1912.	Difference.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Revenue on timber for export ...	10,668 2 0	11,047 11 0	379 9 0
Revenue on timber, local sale ...	158 6 0	150 13 6	7 12 6
Royalties paid to chiefs and villages	2,452 18 0	2,470 14 6	17 16 6
Half royalties paid to forestry reservation fund.	48 10 0	76 1 0	27 11 0
Total	13,327 16 0	13,745 0 0	417 4 0

The net increase for 1912 thus amounted to £417 4s.

EXPORT OF TIMBER FOR THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA DURING 1911-1912.

The statistics as to the export of major produce (timber) during the years 1911 and 1912 for the whole of Southern Nigeria are given below,

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—			1911.		1912.	
Mahogany	...	logs	13,675	£ 55,575	15,565	£ 78,007
Ebony	...	tons	75	206	37	103
Camwood	...	cwts.	3	2	277	46

The total values of the export trade in such produce for 1911 and 1912 are thus £55,783 and £78,156 respectively.

(b) *Minor Produce.*

TAPPING IN THE IBADAN AND MAMU RESERVES.

Operations were started in the Ibadan Native Reserves and the Government Mamu Reserves on the 22nd June and were continued until November. The *Funtumia* trees were tapped on the half herring bone system up to a height of 20 feet and half way round the tree, mostly with a slightly improved type of native knife. Owing to the small staff available it was not possible to tap all the trees even once, let alone a second and third time, during the season as was originally contemplated. Coagulation was effected by boiling and the rubber turned out was of most excellent quality.

The total amount of wet rubber yielded by the three reserves was:—

		lbs.
Mamu Government Reserves	...	2,575
The Ibadan Native State Reserves	...	2,708
Total	...	<u>5,283 lbs.</u>

The Conservator of Forests reports that the loss of weight (33·73 per cent.) in drying accounted for 1,782 lbs., thus reducing the ultimate amount to 3,501 lbs. of dry rubber. Of this 3,435 lbs. was 1st quality, whilst there were 66 lbs. of scrap.

The rubber was sold locally in January of this year, so that the receipts do not figure in the 1912 accounts, but it may be as well to give the results of the sale here. They are:—

	£	s.	d.
3,435 lbs. 1st quality sold at 3s. 10d. per lb.	...	658	7 0
66 ,, scrap	...	4	19 0
Total	...	<u>£663</u>	<u>6 0</u>

The amounts have been credited as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
To the Ibadan Native State approximately,			
53 per cent. ...	...	351	6 6
To Government, 47 per cent. ...	...	312	0 0
Total	...	<u>£663</u>	<u>6 6</u>

The total revenue and royalties derived from minor produce during the year was as follows:—

		1912.	
		£	s. d.
Fees on rubber licences ... ..	...	1,316	5 0
Royalties on rubber licences . . . .	...	1,310	15 0
Rubber sales from reserves . . . . .	...	166	6 9
Licences for collecting minor produce in reserve ... ..	...	127	4 0
Total ... ..	...	£2,920	10 9

In the Oshun River Reserve 242 licences were issued for the collection of minor produce, chiefly palm nuts.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

The total number of rubber licences issued during the year was 1,008, as against 1,756 in 1911; of the former 766 licences were issued to natives and the balance, viz., 242, to foreigners. The total royalties and revenue from these licences amounted to £625, which sum was equally divided between the two.

The statement below gives the details of the rubber licences issued.

District.	No. of licences issued to natives.	No. of licences issued to foreigners.	Total.	Revenue.	Royalties to chiefs and villages.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Benin City	493	106	599	176 5 0	176 5 0
Ifon	237	117	354	117 15 0	117 15 0
Ishan	33	15	48	15 15 0	15 15 0
Okwoga	—	4	4	2 0 0	2 0 0
Asaba	3	—	3	0 15 0	0 15 0
Total	766	242	1,008	312 10 0	312 10 0

Communal Rubber Plantations.—Tapping in the native communal plantations began on the 13th of May and was carried on to the end of October.

The rubber was sold locally in March of this year and realised as follows:—

2,988 lbs. of good rubber at 3s. 4d. per lb. ...	498	0	0
43 lbs of tackey rubber at 2s. 10d. per lb	6	1	10
Total	£504	1	10

Of this sum two-thirds, or £336 14s. 6d., is payable to the native communities and chiefs.

The expenses to Government, apart from the cost of the supervision, harvesting, and preparation undertaken by the native forest staff, amounted to £50 5s. 8d.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

There is but little to report under this head from the Eastern Province. The number of rubber licences issued was 64, as against 63 in 1911. Other products exported were:—

	1912.	1911.
Piassava fibre	324·82 tons.	199·31 tons.
Ivory	23 cwts.	—

The increase recorded under piassava is satisfactory and shows that more attention is being paid to this product, for the preparation of which an almost unlimited supply of the raw material is available in the fresh-water swamps of the country.

COLLECTION OF WILD PRODUCTS.

Western Province.

The herbarium at Oloke-Meji was not added to during the year. Some logs of teak from trees about 20 years old, cut in Ebute-Metta Gardens, were shipped to England for testing, &c., and report. The latter has not yet been received.

Consignments of logs of four species of timber trees, viz.: the Emido (*Mimusops multinervis*), Apa (*Azelia africana*), Afara (*Terminalia superba*) and Arere (*Triplochiton johnsonii*), were sent to the Public Works and Railway Departments for trial and report.

The former reported favourably on the Apa and Arere logs and stated that there was a good demand for the latter. This wood, however, is only suitable for interior fittings and furniture and should not be exposed to the weather. The Apa is an excellent all round durable wood.

Central Province.

From the Central Province several herbarium specimens of plants were sent to Kew for identification. This was determined in the majority of cases.

Eastern Province.

Specimens of the fruit of the tallow tree and flowering specimens of the so-called bitter kola (*Garcinia coumouana*), were sent to the Imperial Institute and Kew respectively.

The revenue and expenditure for the whole Colony and Protectorate and for the three provinces was as follows:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.					£
<i>Western Province—</i>					
Revenue ... ..	...	...	...	...	4,058
Expenditure ... ..	...	...	...	...	14,315
					<hr/>
Deficit ... ..	...	...	...	...	10,257
					<hr/>

<i>Central Province—</i>					
Revenue ...	...	...	...	...	11,709
Expenditure ...	...	...	...	...	2,827
Surplus ...	...	...	...	...	8,882
<i>Eastern Province—</i>					
Revenue ...	...	...	...	...	423
Expenditure ...	...	...	...	...	1,311
Deficit ...	...	...	...	...	888
Grand Total for Colony and Protectorate:—					
1912.					
£					
Revenue ...	...	...	...	...	17,891*
Expenditure ...	...	...	...	...	18,453
Deficit ...	...	...	...	...	£562

This deficit is mainly due to the loss of revenue brought about by a very much smaller number of rubber licences being taken out in the Western Province during the year than in 1911.

If the £312 realised on the sale of rubber prepared from the Government Mamu Plantations in 1912, but actually sold in January, 1913, is added to the revenue of the former year the deficit of £562 is reduced to £250.

IBADAN NATIVE STATE.

On the 1st January, 1912, the Forestry Department took over charge of the Ibadan Native State Forest Reserves and of the whole of the Ibadan forest administration and staff.

Rubber Tapping.—The rubber trees in the Ibadan Native State Reserves near Mamu were tapped during the year and produced 14,388 biscuits, weighing, when wet, 2,708 lbs. This sold for £351 6s. 6d., but as it was not sold until after the end of the year the amount does not appear in this year's accounts. The rubber tapping was carried out in conjunction with that in the Government Reserve at Mamu, details of which are given in another portion of this report.

The financial results are encouraging but there is as yet no net profit. The following statement shows how matters stand:—

<i>Revenue.</i>					
£ s. d.					
Timber fees ...	...	...	...	464	9 0
Rubber licences ...	...	...	...	116	9 0
					£580 18 0

* This includes £1,701 received for rubber licences not included under provincial details above.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA, 1912.

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Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
European supervision	150	0	0
Native staff and other charges ...	998	10	8
	<hr/>		
	£1,148	10	8

showing a deficit of £567 12s. 8d. These figures do not include the cost of the Ibadan fuel plantation, provision for which is separately made in the Estimates.

 AGRICULTURE.

No records are available regarding the area of land cultivated; but it must be considerable, for the diet of the natives is mainly of a vegetable nature, and very few vegetable products are imported.

Excluding products of the oil palm, which is not systematically cultivated, the principal crops grown for export are cocoa, cotton, maize, ground-nuts, and benniseed. Para rubber is being extensively cultivated in several districts.

Cocoa.

From the figures given below it will be seen that, although the exports of cocoa were lower than those of the year 1911, they are considerably above those of the preceding three years. The falling off in the cocoa crop was due to abnormally small rainfall.

Year.	Lbs.	Value. £
1908	3,060,609	50,587
1909	5,019,150	71,916
1910	6,567,181	101,150
1911	9,858,774	164,664
1912	7,953,711	130,542
	<hr/>	
Total for 5 years ...	32,459,425	518,859
	<hr/>	
Average for 5 years	6,491,885	103,772

39,675 cocoa plants and over 12,000 cocoa seeds were distributed by the Department of Agriculture.

Cotton.

The quantity of cotton lint exported was 33 per cent. higher than the average exports of this staple during the last five years. The exports of cotton lint and cotton seed since 1908 are given below:—

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Year.				Cotton Lint.		Cotton Seed.	
				Cwts.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £
1908	20,485	53,316	2,496	6,059
1909	...	...	...	44,937	103,270	4,802	11,405
1910	...	...	...	22,128	78,478	2,177	5,472
1911	...	...	...	19,984	66,935	1,908	4,577
1912	...	...	...	39,043	102,932	4,058	10,030
Total for 5 years ...				146,577	404,931	15,441	37,543
Average for 5 years ...				29,315	80,986	3,088	7,509

264 tons of seed were distributed to farmers for planting purposes.

MAIZE.

The quality of maize exported was considerably in advance of that exported during the two previous years. This improvement was due to the higher prices offered locally for this product.

Year.				Quantity. cwts.	Value. £
1908	...	...	...	310,580	51,695
1909	...	...	...	203,260	34,335
1910	...	...	...	101,917	16,689
1911	...	...	...	17,337	3,128
1912	...	...	...	157,979	28,713
Total for 5 years ...				791,073	134,560
Average for 5 years...				158,215	26,912

OIL SEEDS.

The value of the exports of ground-nuts and benniseed were £18,930 and £2,972 respectively, as compared with that of £10,377 and £3,742 in 1911.

EXPERIMENTAL TAPPING OF PARA RUBBER TREES.

Para rubber trees are experimentally tapped at Ebute-Metta and Sapele, and the yields obtained are given below:—

Place.	Age of trees.	Average yield of dry rubber per tree.	
		lb.	ozs.
Ebute-Metta ...	20 ...	7	4·75
Sapele. Section I ...	6 ...	1	6·68
	II ...	1	11·87
	III ...	1	4·87

The Department of Agriculture distributed 14,796 plants and 151,420 seeds of this species.

SHIPPING.

The following statement shows the steamers and sailing ships entered and cleared compared with the previous year.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA, 1912.

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Flag.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1912.		1911.		1912.		1911.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
STEAM :—								
British ...	312	470,196	349	476,175	307	455,415	325	439,663
German ...	204	352,807	197	339,507	214	363,941	196	340,559
French ...	17	6,035	3	6,923	21	7,423	3	6,923
Dutch ...	—	—	2	114	—	—	2	114
SAIL :—								
Norwegian ...	1	548	1*	690	1	548	—	—
Total ...	534	829,586	552	823,409	543	827,327	526	787,259

* This ship was dismantled at Forcados and is now being used as a hulk.

The following statement shows the value of the trade carried by British and foreign vessels during the year compared with the preceding year.

—	Transit Trade.							
	1912.		1911.		1912.		1911.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.
Entered	£ 5,588,306	£ 819,295	£ 4,872,012	£ 803,969	£ 189,364	£ 103,029	£ 168,572	£ 38,504
Cleared	4,558,448	1,531,258	3,835,003	1,556,464	208,323	211,003	243,685	237,768
Total ...	10,146,754	2,370,553	8,707,015	2,360,433	347,687	314,032	412,257	276,272

The percentage of trade carried by foreign vessels during the four years 1909-1912 was 20.17, 21.2, 21.4 and 18.9 respectively.

The total increase in value of Southern Nigeria trade for 1912 amounted to £1,447,859 (exclusive of transit trade), of which British vessels gained £1,439,789 and foreign vessels gained £8,120. As regards transit trade there was a decrease over 1911 of £26,760, British vessels showing a decrease of £64,520 and foreign vessels an increase of £37,760.

LANDS.

The recognition of the supreme importance of a satisfactory policy toward land administration was emphasised by the decision of the Secretary of State announced in June, 1912, to appoint a committee to enquire into the question of land tenure in certain West African dependencies, including Southern Nigeria.

Many reports have been sent in by District Commissioners, and memoranda explanatory of the existing legislation and general position of land administration in the Colony and Protectorate were prepared. These memoranda and many of the district reports were submitted to the Lands Committee. Evidence was also taken in Lagos from witnesses representative of the various native interests in the Colony, and the original evidence and a report thereon were also forwarded to the Colonial Office.

Two salient points brought out by the various reports are the illegality of unrestricted alienation under the native system, and the inevitable confusion resulting from the uncontrolled application of the forms and tenets of English law.

The fact that the Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance applies to all three provinces has again been brought to the notice of the public by a notification inserted in most of the Gazettes of the past year. Leases under the provisions of the Ordinance are, so far as is possible, being substituted for leases contracted between natives and aliens prior to its enactment. Registration has been refused to deeds executed within the protected States where such deeds have not been submitted to the Government for approval.

The intention of the Government in enforcing the Ordinance is, by imposing a definite disability upon non-natives, to safeguard the interests of the native authorities and to prevent the acquisition of native rights over large areas upon terms too favourable to the grantees.

The question of the Government right to the foreshore on Lagos Island is still *sub judice*, the judgment of the full court in 1911 in favour of the Government having been made the subject of an appeal to the Privy Council.

A claim by a Lagos White Cap Chief to a large area of mainly undeveloped land, on a small portion of which works in connection with the construction of the western mole are being carried out, was brought before the Supreme Court in March. Judgment was given in favour of the claimant. This decision was subsequently upheld in December by the full court, though for somewhat divergent reasons. One of the judges considered that the claimant could have had no standing had the land in question been included in the Cession of 1861. The other two members of the court held that the land was included in the Cession of 1861 but that it was subject to the private rights of the chief's family, which in their opinion were not affected by the treaty of 1861.

The cadastral survey of Lagos has been continued during the year. Its early completion is very desirable in view of the difficulties in locating existing holdings, many of which appear to have diverged from the correct boundaries and in some cases to be supported by inadequate titles. It is also essential that native titles dating from a date prior to the Cession of Lagos should be properly defined and recorded.

The following land titles have been issued during the year:—

—	No. of Deeds.	Area.	Rent.
Western Province.			
Government leases	18	ac. rds. pls. 3½ 0 0	£ s. d. 132 0 0
Eastern Province.			
Under Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance.	10	25 3 33	78 5 0
Central Province.			
(i) Under Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance.	9	52 0 16	30 12 6
(ii) Government leases	38	49 3 0	254 16 0

MINING.

Under the Mining Regulation Ordinance ten applications were received for general prospecting licences, seventeen for exclusive licences, and eight for mining leases. No exclusive licence or lease was actually issued, a circumstance due in some cases to inability on the part of the applicants to prove genuine prospecting under a general licence at a date prior to that on which their application was made, or else through failure to comply with the Government requirements as to working capital or demarcation. No developments of note occurred in connection with boring for oil.

COMPANY REGISTRATION.

Ordinance No. VII., passed in March, provided for the registration of companies incorporated within the Colony and for the filing of certain particulars by others incorporated elsewhere, but carrying on business with the Colony. The Commissioner of Lands was appointed registrar in June. No companies were registered, but twenty-six firms of British or foreign origin filed documents required under section 232 of the Ordinance.

LEGISLATION.

The principal Ordinances passed during the year under review are:—

1. The Collective Punishment Ordinance, to legalise the imposition of fines on towns, villages, and communities and to regulate the procedure for the collection thereof.
2. The Companies Ordinance, for the incorporation, regulation, and winding up of trading companies and other associations.
3. The Peace Preservation Ordinance, to provide for the better preservation of the public peace in those parts of the Protectorate which are not under absolute control.
4. The Unsettled District Ordinance, to enable certain parts of the Protectorate to be declared unsettled districts and for other purposes relating thereto.
5. The Pawnbrokers Ordinance, to regulate the business of pawnbroking.
6. The Liquor (Prohibited Areas) Ordinance, regulating the importation, sale, and manufacture of spirituous liquors in areas to be hereafter defined.
7. The Money-lenders Ordinance, to regulate the business of money-lending.

EDUCATION.

The number of Government schools in the Colony at the end of the year was 59.

The enrolment and average attendance were as follows:—

Province.	Enrolment at the end of the year.			Average Attendance.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Western	914	13	927	639	5	644
Central	2,647	108	2,755	1,891	70	1,961
Eastern	1,947	53	2,000	1,343	36	1,379
Total	5,508	174	5,682	3,873	111	3,984

The total enrolment in Government schools in the preceding year was 5,637.

The assisted schools numbered 90, as against 115 in 1911, thus showing a decrease of 25, consequent upon the withdrawal from Government inspection of village schools which were unable to fulfil the requirements of the code. The subjoined table gives the number of pupils on register and the average attendance in the assisted schools.

Province.	Enrolment at the end of the year.			Average Attendance.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Western	4,724	1,911	6,635	3,515	1,420	4,935
Central	4,366	113	4,479	3,798	90	3,888
Eastern	3,359	953	4,312	2,360	549	2,909
Total	12,449	2,977	15,426	9,673	2,059	11,732

Notwithstanding the large decrease in the number of assisted schools, the enrolment has increased during the year from 14,216 to 15,426, and the average attendance from 11,732 to 13,050, showing a difference of 1,210 and 1,318 respectively.

The total enrolment for the year of both Government and assisted schools was 21,108, (17,957 boys and 3,151 girls) and the total average attendance 15,716 (13,546 boys and 2,170 girls). The corresponding totals for 1912 were 19,853 and 13,952 respectively. In comparison with the returns for 1911, there is an increase of 1,255 in the enrolment and 1,744 in the average attendance. The latter may be regarded as very satisfactory compared with 469 in the preceding year.

In addition to the Government and assisted schools there are in the Colony and Protectorate very many which are entirely controlled and maintained by the various missionary societies, and also a few adventure schools owned by private individuals. Returns are not available as to the exact number attending these schools, but it may be estimated to be about 30,000. The Niger

Mission of the Church Missionary Society, however, have furnished information regarding their educational work during the past year. In the districts of Onitsha, Asaba, Awka, and Owerri there were 41 schools, with an enrolment of 4,643 boys and 587 girls, making a total of 5,230. Of this number 3,800 received purely vernacular education. Belonging to this mission there are also a number of schools in which the teaching is almost entirely in the vernacular. It is estimated that the inclusion of the children attending the latter would bring the total number receiving instruction in all the schools of the C.M.S. Niger Mission to about 10,000.

The number of boys attending King's College, Lagos, increased during the year from 43 to 59, including 4 scholars, 7 exhibitioners and 3 pupils who hold exhibitions under the Hussey Charity scheme. The Principal reports that the standard of work has steadily improved during the year and that very satisfactory progress has been made.

Evening classes were again held this year at King's College. The course extended for some 17 weeks from the 29th July, and the number of teachers who attended was 135. The lectures were given by the members of the King's College staff and the Inspector of Schools. A special class was also held on Saturday mornings, by the Superintending Instructor, for clay-modelling and free-hand and model drawing. Vacation classes on similar lines were held in the Central Province at Onitsha in July, when the schools were closed for the holidays. Eighty-one teachers of both Government and assisted schools assembled from various parts of the province and the lecturers were members of the King's College staff and others of the department. Members of the Medical and Agricultural Departments lectured on hygiene and agricultural science, and a special course of instruction in drawing and wood-work was given by the Superintending Instructor of Schools.

The examinations for teachers' certificates and of pupil teachers were held in the month of December at Lagos, Warri, Onitsha, Bonny, and Calabar. There were 312 candidates (103 teachers and 209 pupil teachers), of whom 34 teachers and 115 pupil teachers were successful.

Clerical entrance examinations for 3rd class clerkships took place in March and September. Out of 275 candidates 87 were successful, showing an increase over the number entered in 1911, which was 159, of whom 54 passed. The clerical promotion examinations for second class clerks were held in January and July. There were 121 candidates and 22 satisfied the examiners. The reports show that in both the entrance and promotion examinations the standard of work presented is gradually, if slowly, improving.

The Cambridge University Local Examinations took place at King's College, Lagos, in December. The candidates numbered 62, of whom 26 obtained a pass, including 6 for the Senior Local Examination, 8 for the Junior and 12 for the Preliminary. Four of those who obtained the senior certificate are entitled to exemption from the whole of Part II. of the Cambridge University Previous Examination, and one of them has also qualified for

exemption from the Matriculation Examination of London University.

Evening classes were commenced in April at King's College for the apprentices engaged in the workshops of the Marine and Public Works Departments. The classes were held twice a week for two hours, and instruction was given by the Science Master at King's College and the Superintending Instructor of Schools in practical mathematics, drawing, and elementary mechanics. The number enrolled was 102, but the average attendance did not exceed 50, owing probably to the fact that some of the apprentices had not a sufficient knowledge of English and ceased to attend the classes on that account.

The 23rd Annual Exhibition of School Work in the Western Province and the Competition for the Lady Denton Memorial Needlework Prizes took place on the 30th March. The number of exhibits was 1,448, an excess of 61 over the preceding year, and the total sum awarded in prizes amounted to £80. A similar exhibition open to all schools in the Central Province was held at Onitsha in December.

The amount of fees collected in Government schools during the year is returned as £1,289 and voluntary contributions amounted to £1,620, which sums, in addition to a miscellaneous revenue of £194, give a total revenue of £3,103, a slight decrease on the previous year, mainly due to a falling off in school fees in the Eastern Province.

The total expenditure under the education estimates amounted to £35,999, being an increase of £8,840 over that of 1911. This is attributable to an amount of £15,081 paid during the year in respect of grants to assisted schools, of which the sum of £7,866 returned under the Western Province represents two payments of grants for the years 1911 and 1912, the former not having been paid during the year in which they were earned. Included in this amount also is a sum of £200 towards the expenses of the new buildings of the C.M.S. Grammar School at Abeokuta and Wesleyan Girls' High School at Lagos. These schools are not "assisted schools," but the grants were made under the provision of section 24 of the Education Ordinance, which empowers the Governor to make a direct grant to any school.

POLICE.

The authorised establishment on the 31st December, 1912, was 1,469, an increase of 81 as compared with the previous year, and the actual strength was 1,454.

The authorised establishment was :—

European staff	18
Native staff	21
Rank and file	1,430
Total	<u>1,469</u>

SOUTHERN NIGERIA, 1912.

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The allocation of the actual strength was as follows:—

Western Province	643
Central Province	...	...	...	343
Eastern Province	..	...	...	468
Total	...	...	...	<u>1,454</u>

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of persons apprehended or summoned before all the courts was 14,783, dealt with as under:—

Discharged for want of prosecution	...	...	...	702
Discharged on merit	...	...	...	1,942
Summarily convicted	...	...	...	11,653
Committed for trial	...	...	...	486
Total	...	...	...	<u>14,783</u>

Of the number of summary convictions 1,109 were for offences against the person, 9 for malicious injury to property, 20 for cattle stealing and arson, 2,654 for other offences against property, 4,412 for offences against revenue, laws, municipal laws, &c., and 3,449 for other minor offences.

In the superior courts there were 347 convictions, 198 acquittals, particulars of which are as follows:—

Offences.	Convictions.	Acquittals.
Murder	113	85
Manslaughter	50	10
Attempted murder	3	1
Rape	11	5
Unnatural crimes	1	—
Theft with violence	4	13
Other offences against the person ...	28	9
Other offences against property ...	99	36
Miscellaneous offences	38	39
Malicious injury to property ...	—	—
Total	<u>347</u>	<u>198</u>

PRISONS.

In the Colony and Protectorate there were 45 prisons, and during 1912 31,893 prisoners passed through the registers.

Practically all these prisons were inspected and reported upon.

Health generally has been very unsatisfactory. An outbreak of dysentery and an epidemic of chicken-pox occurred in Calabar prison during the year. Total number of deaths, 347.

Further improvement is expected as buildings are being improved and new prisons built to replace old ones.

The expenditure on the prisons amounted to £51,503, and the earnings to £31,653, of which £903 was cash.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

Lagos Hospital.—The out-patient department of the hospital was attended by 5,236 persons (Europeans and natives), whilst the in-patient department treated 2,218 persons (Europeans and natives).

Minor and major operations were performed to the number of 353.

Yaba Lunatic Asylum.—Forty-six cases received treatment, one recovered and five deaths occurred.

Yaba Leper Asylum.—Twenty-three cases were treated. There was one death.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Onitsha Hospital.—The out-patients numbered 5,291, the in-patients 1,090. Eight operations were performed.

Warri Hospital.—5,489 out-patients attended. In the European hospital there were 72 in-patients, with four deaths, and in the native hospital 372 in-patients, with 24 deaths.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

Calabar Hospital.—8,056 out-patients sought treatment, whilst the European wards treated 132 in-patients, with five deaths, and the native wards 1,194, with 70 deaths.

Calabar Lunatic Asylum.—One death occurred among the 25 inmates of this institution.

Opobo European Hospital.—Two cases received treatment during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The native population of Lagos and Ebute Metta in 1912 is estimated at 76,000, while that for the whole of Southern Nigeria is regarded as approximately 7,856,000, divided in the three provinces as follows:—

Western Province	...	...	...	2,151,000
Central Province	...	...	...	2,408,000
Eastern Province	...	...	...	3,297,000

2. The European population consisted of 760 Government officials and 1,080 non-officials.

3. There were 26 deaths and 32 cases of invaliding among European non-officials, and 9 deaths and 57 invalidings among Government officials.

SANITATION.

During the year 1912, owing to increased interest in the work by all concerned and more especially to the frequent and thorough visits to most of the European stations and large native towns by sanitary officers, the sanitation of the Colony and Protectorate showed a decided change for the better, water-supply, disposal of refuse and night-soil, prison ventilation and accommodation, the housing of Europeans, and mosquito-proofing of houses receiving special attention.

The progress of sanitation has been greatly facilitated by (a) the employment of European sanitary inspectors, who have been posted in the more important centres, and an increase in the number of native inspectors; (b) the framing or alteration of Ordinances and Orders in Council with regard to public health matters; (c) the prosecution of an active anti-mosquito campaign; (d) the adoption of sanitary schemes suited to various large centres; (e) the erection of new infectious diseases hospitals; (f) better provision for fumigation and disinfection of buildings, &c.; (g) a more thorough and systematic inspection of the railway; and (h) the reclamation of swamps.

As in 1911, the sum of £1,590 was voted for expenditure on general sanitary work outside the Lagos sanitary district.

Vaccination against small-pox was judiciously carried on, there being a large increase in the number of successful cases. No epidemic, and only few cases of this disease were reported.

There was no case of plague or yellow fever discovered, but provision was made for the possible outbreak of these diseases.

The general improvement in the Lagos sanitary district was very marked during the past year, and much progress has been made with the Iju Valley waterworks scheme, which is expected to be finished early in 1914.

The sanitary expenditure during 1912 was £8,384, plus a further sum of £14,068, which was used by the Public Works Department on drainage, reclamation, mosquito-proofing, and other sanitary works.

POSTAL.

The number of articles, exclusive of parcels, passing through post was 561,863 in excess of the previous year.

The total number of parcels dealt with was 17,625 more than in 1911, and there has also been an increase of 28,535 in the number of registered articles.

The number of cash-on-delivery parcels and packets received amounted to 16,826, the value of which was £15,465. Of this number 13,647 were delivered, and £13,528 was remitted to the senders in respect of trade charges thereon. All these parcels were received from the United Kingdom.

There was an increase in money order transactions to the extent of £20,339, whilst postal order business was £15,530 in excess of the previous year's transactions.

SAVINGS BANK.

The amount deposited in the Savings Bank during the year was £29,858, against £26,234 in 1911, an increase of £3,624. The withdrawals amounted to £27,483, as against £22,908 in 1911, an increase of £4,575.

The Bank held a total of £41,590 for 4,729 depositors on 31st December, 1912, as against £38,437 which stood to the credit of 4,368 depositors on 31st December, 1911.

The total sum invested on behalf of the Savings Bank by the Crown Agents for the Colonies in securities approved by the Secretary of State is £34,206.

Interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum computed on various amounts deposited during the year aggregated £873, of which a sum of £96 was paid to depositors who closed their accounts, the difference, viz., £777, being added to capital in favour of the remaining depositors.

The amount realised by interest on invested Savings Bank Funds was £1,095.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

The reconstructed section of the telegraph line between Agege and Itori, 26 miles, was connected up in March and the old route dismantled.

Between Ilorin and Jebba two Northern Nigeria postal telegraph wires were transferred to the new telegraph route along the railway. One of these wires is now worked direct between Lagos and Zungeru with intermediate offices at Oshogbo, Ilorin, and Jebba. The other wire was extended from Ilorin to Oshogbo and gives communication between Oshogbo, Offa, Ilorin, Jebba, Pateji, and Lokoja.

On 1st February, 1912, the entire maintenance of telegraph and telephone poles, wires, and instruments, including electric staff, between Iddo and Minna, were handed over to the Telegraph Department. The scale of rent to be paid by the railway was fixed at 25s. per wire mile per annum to include renewals, and £5 per instrument.

The Lagos-Meko line was extended to meet the French West African system, and a junction was made at the River Yewa

four miles west of Meko. In August signals were exchanged between Lagos and Porto Novo (Dahomey) but the line was not opened for traffic.

The Lagos-Akado-Epe line was extended and a telegraph office opened in March at Ijebu-Ode.

A third wire was erected between Benin City and Agbor and direct working was established between Benin City and Lokoja via Ubiaja and Egori. The additional wire has proved of great benefit in dealing with traffic between Lokoja, Onitsha, Burutu and other Niger River stations.

A consignment of 12,000 yards of river cable for the Niger River crossings at Agenebode-Idah and Asaba-Onitsha was received, but upon being tested it was found that the insulation of the whole consignment was defective. Enquiry was made and after some difficulty it was eventually discovered that the ship in which the cable was originally shipped had been on fire and the cable had been subsequently transferred to another ship. There were no outward visible signs to show that the cable had been damaged but the heat had evidently destroyed the insulation. A claim was submitted for the damaged cable and an order placed for a new consignment.

The telegraph main line was diverted to follow the new road between Asaba and Issele.

The telephone system at Lagos was extended to Apapa and the railway, Ebute-Metta, exchange was transferred to the 'Telegraph' Department.

There were 37 additional connections to the Lagos exchange, making the total number of telephones connected 167. The public subscriptions increased from £396 to £489.

A small exchange with ten subscribers was opened at Ibadan.

Instructions were received to open telephonic communication between Asaba and Ogwashi-Uku. The distance is 20 miles and it was found possible to utilise the telegraph poles for about 11 miles. Telephonic communication was established in December.

The Warri telephone exchange has been appreciated and eight public subscribers were added during the year.

At Calabar there was an increase during the year of six public and ten official subscribers to the telephone exchange. At the end of the year there were 53 public instruments and 61 official instruments in use.

There was an increase of one subscriber to the exchange at Opobo, making the number of instruments in use, public, 13 instruments, official, 10.

In addition to the telephone exchanges at Lagos, Ebute-Metta, Ibadan, Warri, Opobo, and Calabar, there are smaller telephone systems at Abeokuta, Oyo, Oshogbo, Ilesha, Onitsha, Itu, Afikpo, and Obubra.

The telegraph and telephone systems in Southern Nigeria at the end of the year consisted of 2,144 pole miles, including 57 miles of river cables, and 5,167 wire miles, which, linked with Northern Nigeria, gave a total mileage at the end of the year of 4,328 pole miles, with 8,700 wire miles and 138 telegraph offices.

In Southern Nigeria there was an increase of 87,388 telegrams, or 17 per cent., and an increase of £1,143 in paid telegrams, or 19 per cent. There was an increase of £662, or 16 per cent., in cablegrams handed in at Southern Nigeria telegraph offices, and an increase of £2,888, or 40 per cent., in cablegrams handed in at Northern Nigeria telegraph offices for transmission viâ Lagos.

The paid telephone service shows an increase in paid subscriptions of £399, or 38 per cent.

The revenue increased from £20,645 to £27,473, an increase of £6,828, or 35 per cent., and the expenditure from £27,683 to £31,718, an increase of £4,035, or 11 per cent. The large increase in expenditure was due to the transfer of the railway telegraph maintenance staff to the Telegraph Department during the year.

RAILWAY.

During the year 1912 the Lagos Government Railway, from Iddo to Minna, was amalgamated with the Baro-Kano Railway, including the Bauchi Light Railway, from Baro to Kano, the junction of the two lines being at Minna (mile 467), under the name of the Nigerian Railway, the actual unification taking place on October 3rd. The gross revenue for 1912 for the Nigerian Railway amounted to £394,919, the working expenses to £236,280, and the net revenue to £158,639. The number of passengers carried in 1912 was 870,626, yielding a revenue of £96,512; the number of third-class passengers was 844,067. The tonnage of goods carried in 1912 was 328,329 tons, earning £291,935. For the Lagos Harbour Works scheme 159,982 tons of stone were brought down.

The above figures are for the amalgamated railways, and the following shows the separate results of the working for the Baro-Kano Railway and Bauchi Light Railway (nine months only in the latter case):—The working expenses for the Baro-Kano line (£103,643) exceeded the gross revenue (£90,422) by £13,221. The number of passengers carried was 84,819, bringing in a revenue of £13,298; third-class passengers numbering 82,726. The goods revenue was £69,971: 24,413 tons having been carried. For the nine months of the Bauchi Light Railway the net revenue earned was £6,773, the gross revenue totalling to £18,723; working expenses amounted to £11,950. This branch carried 22,965 passengers in 1912, of which 22,170 were third-class; the receipts for this traffic came to £2,448. 5,456 tons of goods were carried, earning a revenue of £14,902. The total mileage open for traffic at the end of the year was 912 miles.

MOTOR SERVICE.

The Ibadan-Oyo Road motor service was taken over by the railway on the 1st June, 1912. The working results show earnings £2,731 against working expenses of £2,895, or a net loss for the seven months of £164.

WATERWAYS.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

Owing to the abnormal rise of the water throughout the sudd region early in September several very heavy blocks of sudd formed, which completely closed the launch route to navigation for the time being. By the end of October these waterways were again opened for traffic. Clearing work was carried on to the end of December, widening and improving the various channels.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

The Niger River waterway parties commenced work on the 5th June at Idah and cleared down stream; the river being exceptionally low, every snag between Idah and Abo was easily removed. Work was continued till the end of July.

The Omerum River was cleared from Onitsha to the entrance of the Mamu River. The Mamu River was cleared to the Awka-Udi Road, and, although the clearing did not admit of launch navigation, 15 tons of coal were actually brought down from Amansim to the Niger in steel poling canoes in June.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

The Ota—Minni River channels were widened and underwater growth cleared as far as Nekede. Two months' work was carried out in the River Imo.

The Azumini or Aba River was cleared from the source of the river, which is some five miles above the town of Aba, to its junction with the Imo River. Work was carried on in Stubbs Creek from January to April. It has been decided, however, to abandon the scheme of opening up this connexion between the Calabar and Kwa—Ibo Rivers owing to the heavy cost of maintaining a navigable route through such swampy country.

MARINE SERVICES.

In the Western Province there were two mail transport services.

- (i) Lagos—Porto-Novo Weekly Mail and Transport Service between Lagos and Porto-Novo, calling at intermediate ports. The total number of passengers carried during the first ten months of the year was 5,104.
- (ii) Lagos—Siluko—Sapele Weekly Mail and Transport Service between Lagos and Sapele, calling at intermediate ports. The total number of passengers carried during the year was 6,450. The Lagos—Porto-Novo Service was discontinued in November in favour of one run by the Chargeurs Réunis, a French shipping company subsidised by the French Government.

In the Central Province there are two mail and transport services:—

- (i) The Forcados—Burutu—Warri Service.
- (ii) The Forcados—Koko—Sapele Service.

21,289 passengers and 1,287 tons of cargo were carried during the year.

In the Eastern Province the services maintained are:—

The Cross River Mail and Transport Service and the Akassa—Bonny—Opobo Mail and Transport Service.

(i) The Cross River Mail and Transport Service is run weekly by stern wheelers between Calabar and Ikom. During the dry season months the mail service is carried on by shallow draught motor launches, the river above Itu not being navigable for any vessel drawing more than 12 to 18 inches. 14,249 passengers and 1,571 tons of cargo were carried during the year.

(ii) The Akassa—Bonny—Opobo Mail and Transport Service. This service is now entirely carried out by motor craft. 10,822 passengers and 1,112 tons of cargo were carried during the year.

ROADS AND WORKS.

Roads.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

The total length of roadways in Lagos which have been re-surfaced and repaired with laterite amounted to about 6½ miles.

Several new laterite roads have been constructed, as follows:—

Road from Five Cowrie Creek to Golf Links Road.

Marina from King's Street to Freeman Street.

Road across Golf Links to McGregor Canal completed.

Martin Street, Kosoko Street, &c.

Two laterite roads across Ikoyi Plains; one from McGregor Canal Bridge to the New I. D. hospital about 2 miles in length, and the other branching off from it near the Hausa Lines, making due east towards Ikoyi Village.

Isheri Market Road, 5 miles 25 chains of road completed.

Papalanto—Agbesi Road, 1 mile 75 chains of road completed.

Opelifa—Alagada Road, completed.

Eruwa—Lanlate Road, completed up to 14 miles 10 chains from Eruwa Station.

Otta Road, 2 miles 72 chains completed.

Ede—Ifo Road, 8 miles of this road constructed, with bridges and culverts for the first 3 miles.

Iseyin towards Shaki, 16½ miles of road made by the Public Works Department, 27 miles carried out by the District Commissioner, Oyo; 16 iron culverts constructed.

Egerton Road completed.

Oshogbo—Ogbomosho Road, 17 miles 72 chains formed; 6 miles 62 chains laterited; culverts and bridges completed up to 14 miles.

Ikirun—Ila Road, metalling completed.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Onitsha—Awka Road completed. A number of extra culverts put in and the bridge at the 17th mile widened. Throughout the year there was continuous motor traffic running.

A large amount of minor road and bridge works have been carried out, the most important being Benin City—Agbor Road, three screw pile bridges completed and new approach deviation made, also about eight miles of road regraded and surfaced. Sapele—Kwale Road, screw pile bridge erected. Orashi Bridge, a screw pile structure on five spans with reinforced decking. Bridge over Okija River, a reinforced concrete structure.

It is now possible to motor in a light car from Warri to Sapele. Benin City, Kwale, Agbor, and Asaba on the west side of the Niger, and on the east side from Onitsha to Awka and Udi, and from Onitsha to the boundary of the Eastern Province in the direction of Oguta. A short link is being constructed to connect with the Eastern Province roads, and when this is finished it will be possible to continue the journey to Itu.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

Marina at Bonny, constructed.
Bridges on Oron—Eket Road and over Calabar Canal.
Improvement to Obubra—Abakaliki Road.
Improvement to Azumini—Opobo Road.

Works.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

Lagos District:—

Government offices, completed.
Machinery and buildings, P.W.D. yard, frame work of first half of the factory, completed.
Golf links drainage, completed.
Race course drainage, outfall and mainland drains, completed.
Oke-Suna reclamation handed over to the Marine Department.
New post office, half the iron work erected.
Bonded warehouse, completed.
Four double bungalows for W.A.F.F., completed.
Quarters for five officers, completed.
Double bungalow, Apapa, completed.

Ibadan District:—

Extension to post office, completed.
Garage, Public Works Department, completed.
Improvement to water supply.
Quarters for clerks, Moor Plantation, completed.
Bungalow, Moor Plantation, built.
Quarters for postal clerks, completed.
Native court house, completed.
Store and strong room, completed.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Warri:—

Medical office, built.
 Customs House, built.

Forcados:—

Semi-detached bungalow, completed.
 Prison extension (including Isolation Hospital), carried out.
 Reclamation and drainage—about 40,000 cubic yards of soil
 have been deposited to fill swamps at Forcados—under-
 taken.

Sapele:—

Extension to prison, completed.
 Native Hospital, completed.
 Mortuary, completed.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

Calabar:—

Extension of drainage, various open brick drains, constructed.
 Embankment river frontage, 148 yards river wall, built.
 Verandahs, clerks' quarters, erected.
 Water supply, new boilers and pumps, fixed.
 Two bungalows, built.
 Quarters for artizans.
 Lines for 12 police, built.
 Improvement Creek Town, screw pile jetty, latrine and well.
 New concrete decking Public Works Department Wharf,
 Fort Stuart.
 Quarters for 20 prison staff, built.
 Solitary cells, Calabar Prison.
 Fumigatorium, Agricultural Department.

Itu:—

Reclamation, carried out.
 Single bungalow, built.
 Public Works Department, workshop and store, built.
 Native Hospital and dispensary.

Ikot Ekpene:—

Bungalow, built.
 District office and strong room, built.

Abakaliki:—

Iron roofing station buildings, built.
 Shed for carriers, erected.

Bonny:—

Sea defence wall, built.
 Isolation Hospital, built.
 Reclamation, carried out.
 Latrine, erected.
 Quarters for marine artizans, built.

Opobo:—

Reclamation, carried out.
 River wall, built.
 Quarters for native staff, built.
 Police office and store, built.
 Public Works Department store, completed,

Degema :—
 Lines for police, built.
 Brass :—
 Reclamation, carried out.
 Bungalow, built.
 Akassa :—
 Quarters for Customs, built.

CLIMATE.

At Lagos Observatory the mean shade temperature was 81·2°; the highest was 98° in November, and the lowest 69° in June.

The greatest rainfall—178·41 inches—was at Bonny (lat. 4° 27' N., long. 7° 10' E.), and the least—27·86 inches—at Ibadan (lat. 7° 24' N., long. 3° 53' E.).

The rainfall at provincial headquarters was :—

Lagos (lat. 6° 27' N., long. 3° 24' E.), 40·50 inches.

Calabar (lat. 4° 58' N., long. 8° 19' E.), 95·10 inches.

Warri (lat. 5° 31' N., long. 5° 44' E.), 110·37 inches.

The "harmattan" winds continued from 18th November, 1912, to 19th February, 1913.

MILITARY.

The Southern Nigeria Regiment of the West African Frontier Force took part during 1912 in the following operations :—

Yaki-Akaju Escort: 26th January to February.

Indem-Befum Boundary Escort: 20th February to 15th March.

Ihitukwa Escort: February.

Onicha-Nzerim Escort: February.

Ogoja-Munshi Patrol: 13th June to 30th November.

Okpoha Patrol: 13th August to 1st September.

Isu Patrol: 25th August to 11th September.

Nyimago Patrol: 8th October to 18th November.

Ikorbu Escort: 27th October to 21st November.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE.

His Excellency Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-chief, left Southern Nigeria on the 27th of February, 1912, to proceed to England on leave of absence preparatory to assuming the government of British Guiana, after which date Mr. F. S. James, C.M.G., acted as Governor until the return of the Colonial Secretary, Mr. A. G. Boyle, C.M.G., on the 26th August, who administered the government from that date until the arrival of Sir F. Lugard.

Sir F. J. D. Lugard, G.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., Governor and Commander-in-chief of Northern Nigeria and Southern Nigeria, arrived at Lagos on the 3rd of October, 1912, to assume the government. Sir Frederick arrived charged with the duty of reporting upon the proposed amalgamation of Northern and Southern Nigeria. The Customs, Railway, and Marine Departments of both Administrations were combined before the close of the year.

With regard to the general condition of the country and people there is little to add to the reports on the Blue Books for 1910 and 1911. The Provincial Commissioner, Central Province, in the course of a report, says: "The year under review has shown a marked improvement in the attitude of the natives towards the Government, as evidenced by their cordial co-operation in public works, more particularly in improved means of communication, designed for their benefit; their increased confidence in and consequent closer intercourse with District Commissioners and the increasing use for the native courts as a means of settling their disputes. A particularly gratifying feature has been the entire absence of the necessity for armed intervention, except in the outlying and more recently opened up districts."

F. S. JAMES,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

15th September, 1913.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE IMPORTATION OF SPIRITS INTO NIGERIA DURING THE FIVE YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1912.

Year.	* Quantity in gallons.	De- clared value.	Revenue derived from duties.		Duty chargeable.	Explanations.
			£	£		
1908	3,235,670 (1,577,760)	332,577	691,190		From 22nd December, 1906, 1s. the imperial gallon, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralle's Alcoholometer, and an additional 1d. for every degree or part of a degree in excess of 50 degrees.	Spirit imports amounted to 7.76 per cent. of whole inward trade.
1909	2,950,111 (1,365,150)	308,770	639,503		From 15th January, 1909, 5s. the imperial gallon, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralle's Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½d. per imperial gallon. For every degree below such strength a reduction of 1½d. per imperial gallon. Minimum duty 4s. per imperial gallon.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 6.22 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1910	4,748,139 (1,973,910)	456,485	999,823		As above	Value of spirit imports amounted to 7.79 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.
1911	4,835,363 (1,839,960)	440,818	976,557		As above	Value of spirit imports amounted to 7.76 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1912	4,450,196 (1,774,856)	440,952	1,013,807		From 4th March, 1912, 5s. 6d. the imperial gallon not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralle's Alcoholometer, and for every degree or part of a degree in excess of such strength an additional duty of 2½d. per imperial gallon. For every degree below, reduction of 1½d. per imperial gallon. Minimum duty 4s. 6d. per imperial gallon.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 6.9 per cent. of the whole inward trade, including specie.

* Imports of spirits at 100° Tralles shown in brackets.

APPENDIX II.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1912 FOR THE COLONY OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Reports on the following subjects were furnished to the Government of Southern Nigeria from the Imperial Institute during 1912 as the result of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts.

Fibres.—A sample of fibre, which was probably obtained from a species of *Hibiscus*, was found to be very similar to jute in chemical behaviour, but was harsher and not so lustrous. The fibre was valued in London at nominally £19 to £21 per ton, with China jute at £17 to £19 per ton.

Rubber.—A sample of Para biscuit rubber from Sapele, Central Province, was satisfactory both in composition and physical properties. The rubber was classed by brokers as of fair average quality and was valued at 4s. 10d. per lb. in London, with fine hard Para at 4s. 10½d. per lb. and smoked plantation sheet at 4s. 8d. to 4s. 11d. per lb.

Beans.—Eleven samples of beans grown by natives in Southern Nigeria were found to be suitable for sale in the United Kingdom for cattle food, and in some cases for human consumption. It was recommended that, if in the future the production of these beans become sufficiently large to permit of their exportation, samples should be forwarded to the Imperial Institute for submission to buyers, together with information as to the quantities available.

Maize.—A sample of maize which had been exposed to a temperature of 140° F. with a view to the destruction of weevils was forwarded for examination in order to determine the effect of the treatment on the market value of the grain. The maize was of fairly good quality, but had unfortunately suffered from insect attack and its value was consequently reduced. It was valued by brokers at 6s. 5d. to 6s. 6d. per 100 lb. ex quay Liverpool, and by a firm of merchants in London at £6 5s. per ton.

Recommendations were made by the Imperial Institute as to further experiments in the heating of maize, which should be conducted in Southern Nigeria with a view to the destruction of weevils in the grain prior to export.

Tea.—Two samples of tea grown and prepared at the Agricultural Station at Onitsha were, on the whole, of very promising character, and were valued by brokers in London at 9d. to 9½d. and 10d. to 10½d. per lb., respectively. A further sample arrived in an unsatisfactory state for valuation, but the brokers expressed the opinion that, if in sound condition, it would have been worth about 9d. per lb. in London.

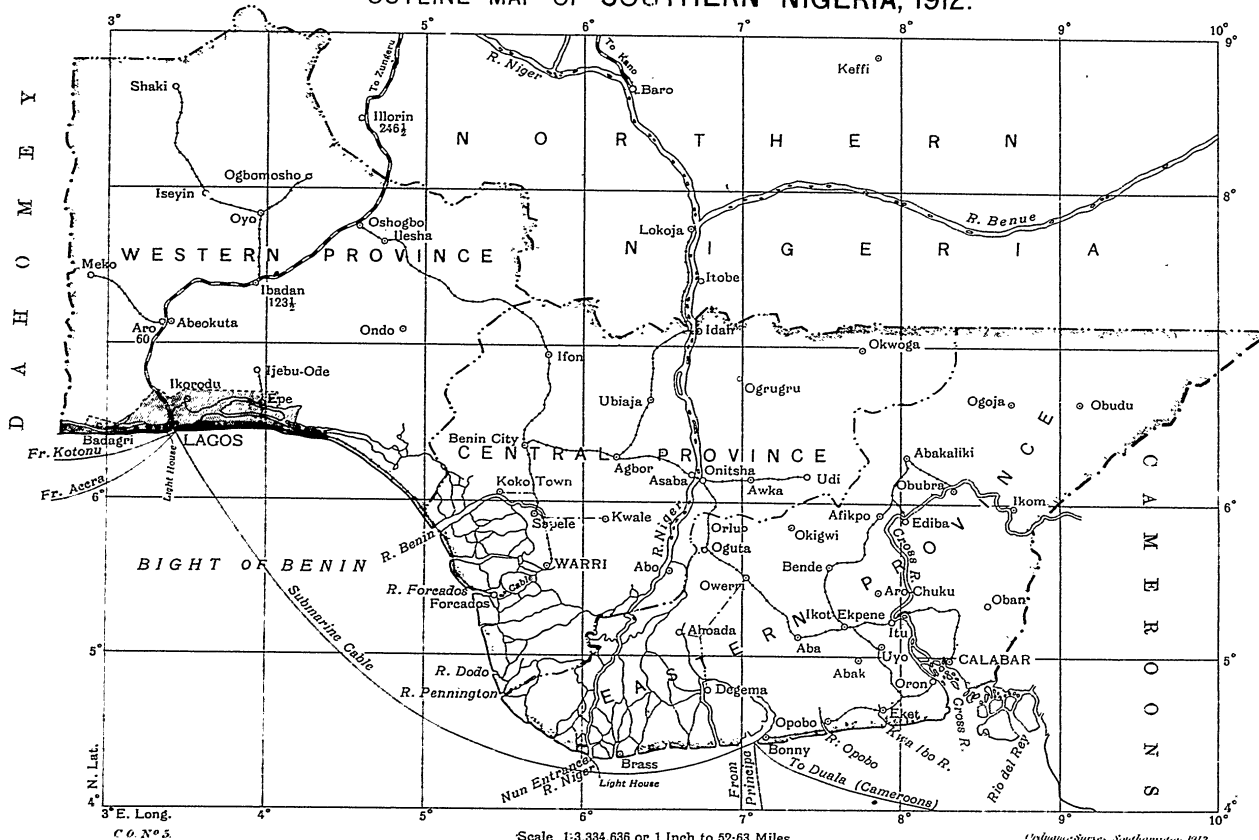
Palm Fruits.—A sample of palm fruits was found to contain 27·2 per cent. of oil in the ordinary pulp adhering to the nuts. The fruits had also a peculiar outer pulpy covering or perianth, which contained 69·9 per cent. of oil, equivalent to 14·8 per cent. calculated on the whole fruits, so that the fruits yielded altogether 42 per cent. of oil. It was suggested that the seed of this palm should be planted experimentally, in order to ascertain whether the type of fruit is permanent.

Oil-seeds.—A sample of *Pentadesma butyraceu* kernels yielded 40 per cent. of a solid yellowish fat. Commercial experts stated that the fat is highly coloured and would need refining before it could be used to advantage in soap making, and that the residual cake would be of no value as a feeding-stuff. In these circumstances they considered that the kernels would probably be worth only £8 to £10 per ton in the United Kingdom.

Mangrove Bark.—Reports were furnished during the year on several samples representing different varieties of mangrove bark, which, however, were not rich enough in tannin to be worth exporting to Europe, but would be suitable for local use in Southern Nigeria.

Minerals.—The examination of specimens collected by the Mineral Surveyors was continued during the year, and a report on the results of the work of the Survey during 1910 was published as No. 83 (Cd. 6425) of the Miscellaneous Series of Colonial Reports. Special reports were furnished on the results of the examination, at the Imperial Institute, of the lignite from Okpanam, and of coal from Udi and other districts. Other minerals examined and reported on included a large number of borings from wells sunk in the course of a search for petroleum in the Colony, and small specimens of lignite, quartz, iron-stone, mica, and sand-stone.

OUTLINE MAP OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA, 1912.



Miscellaneous.—Minor reports were furnished on samples of cocoa beans, pepper, and cinnamon. Botanical specimens of "bitler kola" were submitted to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and identified as *Garcinia conrauana*, Engl., and fruiting specimens of a supposed new species of *Manihot* were found to be derived from *Manihot utilisima* var. *hyptiaphylla*.

Commercial Enquiries.—Information was furnished to firms in the United Kingdom regarding samples of products from Southern Nigeria which they submitted to the Imperial Institute, including Para rubber, mangrove bark, tinstone, phosphate of lime, and silver-lead ore. Enquiries regarding the cultivation of ginger in the Colony and other subjects were also dealt with during the year.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
747	St. Vincent ...	1911-1912
748	Barbados ...	"
749	Leeward Islands ...	"
750	Straits Settlements ...	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate ...	1911-1912
752	St. Lucia ...	"
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands... ..	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica) ...	1911-1912
755	Gibraltar ...	1912
756	St. Helena ...	"
757	Weihaiwei ...	"
758	Ceylon ...	1911-1912
759	Sierra Leone ...	1912
760	Seychelles ...	"
761	Somaliland ...	1912-1913
762	Hong Kong... ..	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands... ..	"
764	Falkland Islands ...	"
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast... ..	"
766	Bahamas ...	"
767	Gambia ...	"
768	Fiji ...	"
769	Basutoland ...	1912-1913
770	Gold Coast ...	1912
771	Asbanti ...	"
772	Nyasaland ...	1912-1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate ...	"
774	British Solomon Islands ...	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee ...	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate ...	1911-1913
777	Swaziland ...	1912-1913
778	Imperial Institute ...	1912
779	Barbados ...	1912-1913
780	British Guiana ...	"
781	Entomological Research Committee ...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
77	St. Vincent ...	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Woihaiwei ...	Consus, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Surveys, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland ...	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute ...	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies ...	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.
85	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1912.