

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1008.

NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 946.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1919.



LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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1919.

[Cmd. 1-31].

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No. 1008.

NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 946.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1917.

FINANCIAL.

Revenue :—The gross total of revenue exceeded that for 1916 by the sum of £549,554 ; while the net total (£3,400,726), that is after deducting repayments from Loan funds and the Cameroons, exceeded the net total for 1916 (£2,816,552) by £584,174. Excluding the Grant in aid in both years the net revenue was £3,325,726 as against £3,362,507 in 1913, the last complete pre-War year. The results are, manifestly, most encouraging.

There was a considerable increase under Licences and Internal Revenue, due to a larger yield from the royalties on tin ore, owing to the high price of the metal and increased production, and to higher returns from Native Court fines. There was also a striking increase under Fees of Court or Office, etc., caused by larger coal sales which accounts for £127,000, repayments from the Cameroons account for officers lent to the administration of the British sphere (£27,000), sale of Military Stores (£8,000), growth in Native Court fees (£8,000), sale of steam yacht "Ivy" (£13,500), and payment by Lagos Municipality for Water Supply (£16,000). Customs receipts show an increase of £65,000 due to the export duties on palm oil, kernels, and cocoa and to a larger yield from the *ad valorem* duties in consequence of the enhanced cost of the goods.

Under Railway an increase of £239,000 is shown—more than 30% on the previous year's figures. This is due to the fact that more steamers were available to take away our produce, to the moderate increase in Railway rates introduced during the year, and, in a small degree, to the receipts from the new Eastern line. Another very important factor was the supply of coal from local sources.

Direct taxes show an increase of £38,000 due to the progressive assessment which is replacing the rough and ready method of earlier times.

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Expenditure:—The gross expenditure was £3,219,957, or £389,681 less than in the previous year, but eliminating the expenditure on the construction of the Eastern Railway, War Costs, and expenditure in the British sphere of the Cameroons, the net recurrent expenditure of 1917 (£3,033,509) exceeded that for 1916 (£2,954,804) by a sum of £78,705. None of the items of expenditure seem to call for special comment except that of the Nigeria Regiment, which shows a decrease of £225,476. The expenditure brought to account in 1916 included large arrears of accounting from the Cameroons Campaign, and provision for part of the force only is included in 1917, the Contingent in East Africa being paid from Imperial funds, towards which Nigeria will later on make a contribution.

The gross revenue for 1917 thus exceeded the gross expenditure by £272,781, and the deficit of £124,411 with which the year opened was converted into a surplus of £148,370 at the end of the year. It is true that there is a deferred programme of public works to be undertaken after the War, and that considerable expenditure must be incurred in restoring the Railway (plant, &c.), to pre-War standards when materials and men can be procured, but it is estimated that there will be ample funds for these purposes as soon as the sum of £1,800,000 advanced from revenue for the construction of the Eastern Railway is repaid. This will be done as soon as a loan can be raised after the War.

The unprovided expenditure incurred in connection with the military operations against the Cameroons amounted to £358,702 at the end of the year, of which £98,456 has been met by grants from Native Treasuries in the Northern Provinces.

There was no change of taxation during 1917.

The Public Debt stood at £8,470,593 on the 31st December, 1917, as in the previous year; and the accumulated Sinking Funds amounted to £473,531 as against £377,066 at the end of 1917.

The surplus funds belonging to the Native Administrations in the Northern Provinces amounted to £228,469 on the 31st December, 1917, as compared with £129,979 at the end of 1916. £56,436 of these balances is invested in England.

The total revenue and expenditure of these Native Administrations for the last two years have been as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1916 ..	393,420	304,721
1917 ..	440,990	329,444
In the Southern Provinces, 1917 ..	65,338 (approx.)	53,249 (approx.)

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of the imports during 1917 (exclusive of specie) was £5,808,592, as compared with £5,174,474 in 1916. As in the previous year, this increase in the values of imports was largely due to enhanced prices of commodities, but in five of the items for which quantities are

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recorded, there were actual increases as shown in the following comparative table of imports in 1916 and 1917:—

Article.	1916.		1917.	
	Quantity	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£
Bread and Biscuits cwt.	12,816	30,025	7,436	18,647
Fish "	4,862	13,339	1,405	2,211
Grain and Flour .. "	84,739	86,101	46,013	67,576
Kola Nuts centals	89,198	134,698	113,344	169,020
Salt cwt.	894,864	234,219	900,985	281,732
Spirits .. gall. at 100°	394,000	219,194	94,000	92,905
Tobacco, Cigars, &c. ..	..	245,921	..	267,826
Kerosene, &c. Imp. gall.	2,300,858	72,775	2,387,906	95,124
Wood and Timber Sup. ft.	1,413,215	23,185	1,069,852	17,916
Apparel "	..	69,532	..	88,678
Coopers' Stores "	..	346,986	..	594,702
Hardware, &c. "	..	100,455	..	121,379
Furniture "	..	24,070	..	50,277
Iron, Steel and Manufac- turers thereof .. ton	5,561	148,467	..	94,550
Machinery "	..	125,058	..	60,891
Soap cwt.	66,216	77,337	72,857	104,246
Cotton Piece Goods ..	..	1,521,258	..	2,098,182
Textile: Silk Manufac- tures "	141,810	43,943	107,574	48,661
do. Woollen do. ..	126,070	19,594	126,820	19,016
Bags and Sacks .. doz.	375,791	167,926	359,211	237,170

There was again in 1917 a marked diminution in the quantities and values of the imported foodstuffs shown in the first three items of the above return. The quantity imported in 1917 was only about 53% of that imported in 1916 and the quantity imported in 1916 was only 53% of that imported in 1915. Of the amount imported in 1917 only 7,574 cwt. came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 86,253 cwt. in 1916. There was an appreciable increase in the importations from the United States of America. In one case, that of rice, 16,184 cwt. were obtained from that source in 1917, while none had been imported from there in 1916.

The outstanding feature in the return is the extraordinary diminution in the importation of spirits. 394,000 gallons were imported in 1916 but only 94,000 gallons in 1917. In 1910 the importation was 1,974,000 gallons. In 1913 the value of spirits imported including duty was over £1,500,000, in 1917 it was £92,905 notwithstanding that the duty on spirits was 50% higher than in the former year.

The value of imports from the British Empire increased from £5,012,000 in 1916 to £6,678,000 in 1917. Foreign goods were valued at £854,000, as against £768,000 in 1916. The United States of America and France show increases of £229,216 and £2,045 respectively.

The total value of the exports (exclusive of specie) amounted to £8,602,486 in 1917, as compared with £6,029,546 in 1916, and was higher than in any previous year in the history of Nigeria. The nearest approach to the 1917 figure was that of 1913, viz., £7,097,646.

The following is a comparative table of the principal items of export:

Article.	1916.		1917.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Benniseed .. tons.	1,581	£ 16,523	273	£ 2,876
Cocoa .. cwts.	179,121	393,101	308,841	499,004
Cotton Lint .. "	66,555	243,949	47,137	234,338
Cotton Seed .. tons.	864	2,526	1,861	38,800
Corn and Maize .. cwts.	19,626	5,064	17,515	4,367
Rubber .. lbs.	886,362	34,192	878,281	32,350
Hides and Skins .. "	..	538,917	..	886,986
Timber .. No. of logs..	6,627	49,361	3,739	21,282
Shea Products .. tons.	3,512	32,529	3,950	40,189
Tin Ore .. "	7,054	859,603	9,966	1,485,887
Palm Oil .. "	67,422	1,402,799	74,619	1,882,997
Palm Kernels .. "	161,439	1,739,706	185,998	2,581,702
Ground-nuts .. "	50,368	473,653	50,334	710,308

Cocoa, tin ore, and hides and skins show considerable increases in quantities while tin ore, palm oil and kernels, and ground-nuts show a very large increase in values. Perhaps the most extraordinary increase in the value of any one export commodity is shown in the case of ground-nuts. In 1915 the value of the export was £72,177 while in 1917 it was £710,308. The other commodity which shows a very large increase is also due to the development of the products of the Northern Provinces. In 1915 the value of the export of hides and skins was £302,420; in 1917 it was £886,986.

There was a decrease of 29% in the quantity of cotton lint exported.

The exports to France and French possessions decreased in value from £532,309 in 1916 to £289,944 in 1917 (£259,046 in 1915). This was due to the restriction of exports due to War measures. The exports to the United States of America on the other hand increased from £619,527 to £1,118,038 (£236,477 in 1915) largely due to increases under the heads of hides and skins and palm oil.

The total Imports and Exports for the last three years inclusive of specie were:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade (deducting specie).
	£	£	£
1915	5,016,951	5,660,796	9,929,956
1916	5,780,118	6,096,586	11,204,020
1917	7,532,735	8,727,870	14,411,078

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

	Imports.	Exports.	Balance remaining.
	£	£	£
1915	33,223	714,568	—
1916	605,644	67,040	538,604
1917	1,724,143	125,384	1,598,759

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From 1900 to 1914 the imports of specie have always exceeded the exports but during 1915 the imports were less than the exports by £681,345. The absorption for the last five years has been £2,505,885.

MINES.

Northern Provinces.—66 Tin Mining Companies continued operations during the year, their nominal capital being £5,717,407 and their working capital £2,678,858. They held at the end of the year—

362 Alluvial Mining Leases	.. ..	79,920½ acres.
46 Exclusive Prospecting Licences	.. ..	114,235 „
Total	.. ..	<u>194,155½ „</u>

In addition to the above 7 Stream Mining Leases and 297 Mining Rights for a total of 15,936 acres, were in force.;

8,314½ tons of tin ore were won in 1917, as compared with 8,186½ tons in 1916, 6,910 tons in 1915, 6,143 tons in 1914, and 5,331 tons in 1913.

The total output for the year gives an average of 1·7 cwt. per acre of land held under Alluvial Leases, Stream Leases, and Mining Rights. The average price of metallic tin in the London market was £220 18s. 9d. per ton.

Gold mining operations have been continued near Minna in the Niger Province and 2,865·7 ounces of gold have been won. This gold is all alluvial from river washings, nothing further having been done on known small gold bearing stringers of quartz.

Legislation.—The only legislation of any importance affecting mining introduced during 1917 was the Safe Mining Regulations. These contain most of the ordinary regulations for the protection of labour which are to be found in all mining laws, and are divided into regulations affecting machinery, the use of explosives, open cast workings and underground mining.

Southern Provinces.—Mining in the Southern Provinces is confined to the Calabar Provinces, and the Nigerian Proprietary Company, Limited, who have been mining on a small scale since 1911, is the only Company operating.

Udi Colliery.—The general development of the Colliery has been rapid during the past year, and two new adits connected by sidings to the main line have been opened; of these the Obwetti adit is merely an addition to the Udi shaft, having an output of 50 to 60 tons per day. The other, the Iva, will eventually be the main working shaft. Since the date of its opening (June, 1917) it has produced 7,771 tons.

General difficulties due to shortage of staff and lack of plant (coal tubs not being yet received) were experienced, and prevented the most economical working of the Colliery; hence the costs were not reduced as anticipated. The output for the year was 83,405 tons and there remained on stack at the Colliery 2,952 tons.

Native labour has been plentiful throughout the year, the rates of pay being as in the previous year. As the output was found to be more than sufficient for Government requirements, coal was sold to private firms, chiefly as bunker coal to Messrs. Elder Dempster's boats.

AGRICULTURE.

Northern Provinces.—The season was a fair one for most crops except cotton. That crop was even less than in the previous year.

The sales of groundnuts for export were slightly below those of the previous year owing to lack of shipping facilities.

The cultivation of the American cotton "Allen long staple" continues to be extended and the price has been raised to 2½*d.* per lb. by the British Cotton Growing Association. 144 tons of cotton seed were distributed in April, the demand being in excess of the supply, as it is bound to be for some years.

The cultivation of the sugar-cane from the pedigree seedling canes obtained from Barbados in 1914 also makes progress on native plantations, and it is estimated that there are now approximately 150 acres under cultivation.

At Ilorin, tobacco of the Virginian type has been under experiment for the third time and encouraging results are being obtained. Sisal hemp is also an important feature of the work on the plantation and the natives are being taught by the Assistant Superintendent of Agriculture modern methods of rope-making.

Southern Provinces.—The year 1917 will be memorable for a serious failure of the cotton crop. Cocoa prices also touched the lowest level, at 15*s.* per cwt. in Lagos and 9*s.* in Ibadan. This however it was possible to foresee and most farmers have sufficient land in reserve which they can turn over to annual food crops, for which the local demand is unlimited, to prevent anything like serious financial difficulties overtaking them. Moreover, so little real care and labour are given to cocoa production that it was still possible at the price to produce cocoa, if not at great profit at any rate without incurring any loss. The fall in prices was, of course, due to the restricted export facilities.

The total rainfall for the year (at the Agricultural Department's Headquarters, Ibadan) was 57·72 inches, the average rainfall for the station being just over 50 inches, so that the season was exceptionally wet. This was rather aggravated by the rains starting later than usual so that general planting of native food crops was delayed till about mid-May instead of middle or late March and early April, as usual. It is possible that this affected the cotton crop which is laid down later in the year (from early to mid July). By this time the bulk of the early crops was still on the land and cotton planting was to some extent delayed. August and September proved to be together months of exceptional wetness, there being only about 3 days in each on which rain did not fall. Such an extraordinary wet spell proved fatal to the young cotton. July was likewise wet enough to cause an unusual amount of rotting of the seed in the ground. The British Cotton Growing Association had exceptional calls made on them for extra seed in consequence and though they were able to supply it, the weather in August and September ruined much of that also. The result was a crop failure.

The Government distributed a quantity of Georgia cotton seed in the Oyo district and the result was again a disappointment which was not entirely due to the unfortunate weather conditions. The weight of seed distributed just about equalled the weight of seed cotton raised

by the natives from which it may be gathered that the encouragement of cotton-growing is very up-hill work.

The only export crops that have suffered no restriction are groundnuts and palm produce but great difficulty was experienced in these industries in getting bags for the export trade.

At the Government Agricultural stations at Calabar and Agege Para rubber-tapping was again carried out with a view to thinning out these plantations, which were originally too closely planted. At Agege trees which were tapped for the first time in 1916 on half their surface, were tapped on the other side in 1917 and yielded rather over 3lb. of cured rubber per tree. The rubber market was rather low but a satisfactory price was obtained. With plantation rubber at a low rate, and shipping facilities uncertain, native lump rubber has found little or no favour in the home market and at the end of the year its purchase here for export was barely profitable. Consequently the trade sank to insignificant proportions. It is not an industry whose demise would be a matter for profound regret, for the methods of getting the rubber are wasteful and thriftless.

Everything that could be done with the seriously reduced staff to promote the increased cultivation of native foodstuffs, was done, and on the whole it cannot be said that there has been any serious rise in prices except in the coast towns.

The Director of Agriculture made an extended tour of the territory traversed by the Eastern Railway and reported on the agricultural possibilities of the district visited. It is believed that great developments are possible in that region in the growth of maize, cotton, and groundnuts. The initial steps were taken at the end of the year when a quantity of maize and groundnut seed, the former a standard American variety of proved value, the groundnut an introduced acclimatised Chinese variety, was distributed for planting in the Onitsha Province. In this province a serious epidemic of coconut bud-rot was found to have broken out, resulting in the destruction of an enormous number of palms, of which every village owns a considerable number. Prompt measures were taken by Government, but owing to shortage of staff it was not possible to do all that was necessary. It is hoped however that the trouble will soon be effectively checked. The Mycologist who visited one of the worst districts and diagnosed the trouble, was able to report that it showed no signs of passing to the oil palms, which would be nothing short of disastrous to the country.

The year closed with one of the most severe harmattans of recent years. Coming on with great suddenness after a dull and wet October and a November which, if not wet, was rather under the normal sunshine record, the effect on the still growing cotton and maize, was in the case of the former to make what was already bad, worse, and in the case of the latter, to make the late crop more or less a failure.

In spite of the greatly reduced staff, the Department's experiment stations, sub-stations and District Model Plots were all maintained though, of necessity, intensive work was hardly possible; yet during the year 49,909 plants were distributed, including 18,967 cocoa, 6,764 kola, and 8,246 rubber, besides 12,236 counted seeds and 338 seed packets of other plants. In addition to the distribution of Georgia cotton seed referred to above, the British Cotton Growing Association distributed 834 tons of ordinary native cotton seed.

FORESTRY.

A good deal of inspection work, as well as the examination of forests with a view to constituting Reserves, was carried out during the year in both the Northern and the Southern Provinces. The examination of the *Acacia* forests in Bornu was continued by Messrs. Gilman and Foster, and proposals for the reservation of large areas in the Ondo, Jebu-Ode, and Calabar districts were submitted by the Conservators concerned as the result of their examinations of the forests.

The protection of forest plantations and reserves situated within the dry zone against fires was, with a few unimportant exceptions, successfully carried out but in the absence of any progress in reservation the wholesale destruction of thousands of square miles of forest for temporary cultivation continues unabated. Some good has however resulted from the application of the new Forestry Regulations (1916) which afford protection against damage from farming, to trees in the first class of the schedule.

The excellent rains experienced during the year improved and encouraged natural regeneration in many parts of the country, more especially in what is known as the intermediate forest zone, which had suffered greatly from previous years of drought.

The teak plantations in the Western circle show excellent growth but this was not so noticeable in case of some other species of valuable trees grown at Olokemeji, which has too uncertain a rainfall for their good development.

A total of 728·90 acres of plantations (mostly teak), was maintained, protected, blanks filled up and extended by some 100 acres at a total cost of £1,140, as compared with £1,115 in the previous years.

Planting has not been very successful in the Northern Provinces. Incessant attacks from wild and tame animals as well as from white ants, grasshoppers, and other insects, make it an uphill and difficult operation.

The number of licensed timber areas exploited during the year was 22, whilst 18 were applied for and 10 abandoned. The Admiralty contracts for mahogany has resulted in a considerable revival of the export timber trade.

In the Northern Provinces increased control of fuel exploitation resulted in fees being paid on 3,041,873 cubic feet (stacked) as compared with 21,500 cubic feet in the previous year.

An oily tar, distilled locally in the Northern Provinces from the seed of *Hibiscus Sabariffu*, was used with great success as a preservative of wood against the attacks of white ants.

In the Southern Provinces, an increase of £4,048 of revenue on the figures of the previous year was realised, the total amounts being £10,240 in 1917 as against £6,192 in 1916. The former sum was made up of £9,501 derived from timber fees, £153 from fuel permits, £451 from minor forest produce and £122 from miscellaneous permits. Royalties, payable to chiefs and owners, amounted to £1,508 as compared with £1,775 in the previous year.

The expenditure for the Southern Provinces was £18,462, as compared with £21,540 in 1916; the previous year's deficit being thus reduced by £7,126. Complete disorganisation of the export timber and rubber trades, on which the revenue of the Forestry Department mainly

depends, is responsible for the poor returns compared with pre-War results. The corresponding figures for the Northern Provinces are—revenue and expenditure in 1917—£962 and £5,912 respectively, as compared with £135 and £5,434 in the previous year : resulting in a reduction of the previous year's deficit by £349.

LANDS.

Southern Provinces.—The Crown leases issued or auctioned in 1917 amounted to 86. The premia payable thereunder amounted to £13,172 and the annual rent to £2,338.

The principal Ordinances affecting land administration passed during the year were the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance and the Native Lands Acquisition Ordinance. These were re-enactments, but make clear certain points left obscure in the previous ordinances.

Northern Provinces.—The establishment of a Central Registry at the Secretariat, Kaduna, for all instruments affecting land in the Northern Provinces was effected as from 1st February, 1917.

SHIPPING.

As in the two previous years, the shortage of tonnage owing to the War was felt throughout the year. There was a slight falling-off in the tonnage entered and cleared from Nigeria during 1917, as compared with 1916. In 1916, 319 steamships and 10 sailing vessels entered (total tonnage, 523,215), and 320 steamships and 12 sailing vessels cleared (total tonnage, 519,167). In 1917, 316 steamships, 11 sailing vessels entered (total tonnage, 474,150), and 318 steamships, 10 sailing vessels cleared (total tonnage, 465,009).

EDUCATION.

Northern Provinces.—The Government school at Dekina was closed in April, and the teachers' training class at Yola was transferred to Bauchi in November, owing to seconding of the Education Officer at Yola for military duties.

Year.	No. of Schools.	No. of Pupils.	Average Attendance.
1916	13	830	733*
1917	11	853	795

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

The staff of the Industrial School at Kano, on 31st December, 1917, consisted of one British and 15 native instructors. There were 75 pupils, as against 93 in 1916.

35 apprentices were in training at the end of the year in the Public Works Department.

The number of Unassisted Mission Schools, of which figures are available, was 122 with an average attendance of 1,876. Native Mohammedan Schools are returned at 24,389, with an average attendance of about 221,700.

The total expenditure from Government Funds was £12,470 and the revenue was £590. (£12,443 and £734 respectively in 1916.) 13 of the Educational staff were seconded for war work and there was 1 vacancy.

Southern Provinces.—The number of schools and of pupils at the end of 1917, as compared with 1916, is given below :—

	1916.			1917.		
	No. of Schools.	Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	No. of Schools.	Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.
Government ..	48	5,045	3,536	45	4,754	3,490
Assisted ..	86	16,410	12,345	167	22,654	17,447
Unassisted ..	963	53,689	31,338	1,442	42,102	23,547
Total ..	1,097	75,144	47,219	1,654	69,510	44,493

The large increase shown in the number of unassisted Schools is due to the fact that returns must under the new Ordinance be submitted to the Department. There is also a remarkable increase both in the number of schools and in the pupils of Assisted Schools, due to many new schools availing themselves of the new Code conditions.

The number of pupils receiving a secondary education was 77 in Government Schools and 305 in Assisted Schools. (88 and 264 in 1916). No returns are available with regard to pupils in secondary classes in Unassisted Schools.

Instruction in manual training and elementary agriculture is given in most Government and Assisted Schools. Carpentry, printing, and tailoring are taught at the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, and carpentry at the C.M.S. Industrial Mission, Onitsha. The number under instruction at these institutions was 12 and 37 respectively.

In Government technical departments, there were at the end of the year, 207 apprentices on the railway, 218 in the Marine Department, 127 in the Public Works Department, and 37 in the Printing Department.

The total expenditure on Education in the Colony and Southern Provinces was £34,914, of which £13,128 was expended on the staff and upkeep of Government Schools, while the grants to Assisted Schools amounted to £12,576. The total expenditure on education in Nigeria during the year was £46,798, being 1·3% of realised revenue, as against £46,312 (1·6%) in 1916.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

Northern Provinces.—European Hospitals.—The Hospital at Kaduna was temporarily located, in November, 1916, in a quarter built as a residential house, pending the erection of the permanent building. The hospital at Lokoja accommodates 12 patients, and the temporary hospital at Kano 6. These have a European nursing staff. The hospital at Zungeru has been almost dismantled.

Native Hospitals and Dispensaries are located at Kaduna, Kano, Lokoja, Zungeru, and Zaria—that at Kaduna is a temporary structure—the permanent building has already been commenced. At Lokoja there are two large buildings, part of one being reserved for women. Kano Native Hospital has 30 beds, Zungeru 40, Zaria 16, and about 10 each at Maiduguri, Sokoto, and Bauchi.

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

				Out-patients.	In-patients.	Invalided.	Died.
Europeans	..	..	{ 1916	749	241	34	14
			{ 1917	1,237	267	54	19
Natives	..	..	{ 1916	18,581	6,265	2	227
			{ 1917	24,343	7,364	1	256

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

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

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

				In-patients.	Out-patients.	Deaths.
Europeans	..	..	{ 1915	411	1,656	12
			{ 1916	450	2,704	13
			{ 1917	434	2,488	11
Native	..	..	{ 1915	9,309	76,872	760
			{ 1916	13,121	105,972	724
			{ 1917	18,353	111,603	880

Total number of attendances at dispensaries 973,582. Number of surgical operations performed 2,122. (In 1916, 380,024 and 1,401 respectively.)

SAVINGS BANK.

The decrease in Savings Bank business which was recorded in 1915 and 1916 continued in 1917, and the withdrawals again exceeded the deposits. The amount to the credit of depositors decreased from £46,840 at the end of 1916 to £41,400 at the end of 1917. The decrease was due in large measure to the higher rate of interest offered by the Commercial Banks on small deposits.

JUDICIAL.

CRIMINAL.

The total number of persons brought before the Magistrates increased from 12,685 in 1916 to 13,311 in 1917, and the number of persons summarily convicted increased from 10,634 to 11,377.

In the Provincial Courts 6,516 persons were brought before the courts in 1917, as compared with 7,533 in 1916, and 4,087 were convicted, as against 5,986 in the previous year.

The number of persons convicted in the Supreme Court fell from 81 in 1916 to 75 in 1917, out of a total of 112 persons brought before the Court.

These include 6 homicide cases resulting in 1 conviction for murder and 2 for manslaughter.

POLICE.

Southern Provinces.—The authorised strength of the force was 24 Europeans and 1,580 native ranks (inclusive of 11 supernumeraries). Owing to the War, however, the actual number of officers available was considerably less, many being seconded for service with the military from time to time. Discipline was well maintained and the health of the force was generally satisfactory.

Northern Provinces.—The Government Police in the Northern Provinces consisted of 20 Europeans and 900 natives at the end of the year.

They are distributed amongst the Provinces, with the exception of Sokoto and Bornu, in addition to detachments at Kaduna and Lokoja. The average strength of each detachment is 75 rank and file.

During the year the police relieved the troops of many guards.

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

Patrols were carried out in four Provinces, *i.e.*, Bauchi, Yola, Nassarawa, Muri. Opposition was encountered and three rank and file were wounded, one dangerously. Good results were obtained.

Uniformed police furnished by the Provinces through which the railway passes, are posted at the stations in their respective Provinces. 64 were thus employed during the year.

The officer in charge of the railway police engages a small staff of detectives for the investigation of the more serious classes of crime. These men are not enlisted in the police force. This special force has done very useful work in suppressing the theft of merchandise from railway wagons, which had reached alarming proportions.

In the Kaduna Township the police formed a small fire brigade which should develop into a useful force. They rendered excellent service at a fire in the native location.

PRISONS.

Northern Provinces.—The number of prisoners admitted to Government Gaols in the Northern Provinces during 1917 was 1,698, as compared with 1,618 during 1916, and the daily average was 823 as against 793 in 1916.

Of those committed 1,645 were males, 49 females, and 4 juveniles. Of these 6 were incarcerated for debt, 192 were placed in safe custody for want of security, and 1,446 were sentenced to penal imprisonment.

There were previous convictions against 58 of the number committed, as follows:—42 once, 13 twice, and 3 thrice or more.

Of the total number of offenders serving sentences of penal imprisonment there were 662 for terms under six months, 232 for terms of six months up to two years, 552 for terms over two years.

The average daily cost of food per prisoner was 1·4 pence; the maximum cost being 2 pence a day at Ilorin and Bassa and the minimum 3 farthings at Bornu.

The discipline of the prisoners has been good; there were 15 cases of corporal punishments. There were 6 escapes.

The total value of prisoners' labour during the year was £4,746 2s. 8d. The actual cash earnings from prison industries was £509 11s. 3d. of which sum £125 2s. 2d. was realised from the sale of farm produce and vegetables.

The health of the prisoners was good.

There were 120 deaths of which 51 were judicial executions.

The Native Administrations maintain 63 gaols at the principal centres, in which prisoners convicted by the Native Courts are confined. The daily average of prisoners was 2,509 as against 2,319 in 1916.

Southern Provinces.—Five convict establishments and 39 local prisons were maintained. There were 5,849 prisoners in confinement on January 1st, 1917, and 31,194 were admitted during the year, as against 29,313 in 1916. The daily average prison population was 7,060, as compared with 5,381 in 1916.

Of those committed, 28,324 were males, 2,848 females, and 22 juveniles. Of these, 98 were incarcerated for debt, 7,725 were placed in safe custody for want of security, and 23,571 were sentenced to penal imprisonment.

Of the total number of offenders serving sentences of penal imprisonment, there were 18,056 for terms of six months and under, 3,245 for terms of over six months but under two years, and 2,070 for terms of two years and over. The total cost of the prison establishments and lock-ups was £72,357 while the total earnings of the prisons amounted to £60,767, of which £1,728 was in cash.

The number of prison days numbered 2,576,900 as against 1,964,065 in 1916 and 1,923,482 in 1915.

The average daily cost per Government prisoner was approximately 6·66d. as against 6·08d. in the previous year, due to increased cost of food and stores. There were 574 deaths amongst the inmates of the various prisons, of which 122 were judicial executions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the Northern Provinces it was estimated that there were about 779 Europeans at the end of 1917 of whom about 343 were officials.

In the Colony and Southern Provinces there were about 2,000 Europeans with about 1,250 officials. The European population of Nigeria may therefore be estimated at about 2,779, of whom about 1,593 are in the employment of the Government.

The native population of the Northern Provinces is estimated at 8,080,793, and of the Southern Provinces and Colony at 7,856,000—a total of about 16 millions. The average density in the Northern Provinces would therefore be about 32 to the square mile and in the Southern Provinces and Colony about 98.

The total estimated population of the Colony and Southern Provinces is based on the census of 1911 and is as follows :—

Africans	7,856,000
East Indians	99
Mixed and Coloured	487
Total	7,856,586

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

Total Births	2,846*
Total Deaths	2,167*
Total Deaths of Infants under 1 year	795*
Total Still Births	141
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births ..	279·3

* Exclusive of 141 still births.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Northern Provinces.—Europeans.—There has been a slight increase of the European population as compared with the previous year ; but not sufficiently great to affect the health statistics.

The longer average duration of tour has made itself felt in an increase in the invaliding rate. This rate must not however be taken at its face value, as under existing arrangements officials may not, except in special cases, proceed on extra-Nigerian leave unless invalidated by a Medical Board. Men are therefore passed to a Board, who would in normal conditions have gone on leave without such a formality.

Although the death-rate shows an increase it is not so great, proportionally, as the invaliding rate.

The cases treated of the five diseases, dysentery, malaria, blackwater fever, yellow fever, and trypanosomiasis, show an increase of some 33% over former years. Yellow fever which had not been observed during the previous year, reappeared.

As before, malaria has been responsible for, roughly, one fourth of the total cases treated.

Of the nineteen deaths recorded, blackwater fever has accounted for five and yellow fever for four.

	1916.	1917.
Average European Population	702	779
Number of deaths	1	19
Death rate per 1,000	18.3	24.3
Number invalided	34	54
Invalidating rates per 1,000	44.6	69.3

Southern Provinces.—The general health as shown by the returns compares rather unfavourably with last year. 132,878 cases were treated, of which 903 died, or a case mortality of 6.8 per 1,000, as compared with 122,217 cases and 737 deaths in 1916, or a case mortality of 6.03 per 1,000. There were 10,631 more cases reported than last year. This fact however can hardly be taken as an indication of an increase in the sick rate among natives but rather as an indication, which has been noted annually in the past, of a greater inclination on the part of the native to avail himself of European methods of treatment. It is interesting to note this large increase in spite of the depletion of the medical staff last year.

With the exception of anæmia general diseases are not frequently seen—2 cases of diabetes, 7 of gout, 12 of exophthalmic goitre, 2 of leucocythæmia, and 3 of lymphadenoma. From these there were 12 deaths, 11 of which were due to anæmia and one to leucocythæmia.

Malaria, as usual, heads the list with 11,804 cases. There were 22 cases of blackwater fever in Europeans with 11 deaths, as against 19 with 4 deaths in 1916 and 11 in 1915 with 2 deaths. Five cases occurred in natives with 2 deaths.

There were 6 cases of trypanosomiasis, 2 of which were in Europeans. No deaths were recorded.

4 cases of yellow fever occurred, of which 2 were in Europeans. One native and one European died.

There occurred 2,695 cases of chicken-pox and 231 of small-pox.

There were severe epidemics of small-pox in the Agbor Ishan district, where the disease is endemic. 12 cases of enteric were reported, 3 of which were in Europeans. 3 natives died of this disease. The incidence of dysentery and the case mortality were approximately the same as last year.

40 European officials and 34 European non-officials were invalided during the year. There were 15 deaths among European officials and 8 among non-officials.

At the Lunatic Asylums at Yaba and Calabar 91 cases were treated with 6 deaths. (107 and 22 in 1916.) 27 lepers were treated at the Asylums at Yaba and Calabar. (80 in 1916.)

SANITATION.

Northern Provinces.—War conditions continued to curtail sanitary activity and hamper it materially. During the rainy season small-pox failed to subside as is usually the case, and as a consequence small-pox

was in epidemic form at the commencement of the dry season instead of beginning with sporadic cases here and there.

A limited outbreak of yellow fever in the region of the river Benue was the prominent feature of the year; and more attention was directed to the possible prevalence of this disease amongst the natives. The outbreak seemed to have made its way along the overland trade routes from the south and not by the waterways.

The usual preventive measures were applied, so far as the inevitable limitations would permit.

The non-official exceeded the official European population in the proportion, roughly, of 100 to 74. This was chiefly accounted for by the large number of official Europeans—civil as well as military—serving out of the country in a military capacity.

Southern Provinces.—Staff and money are the two main sources of sanitary energy. With a shortage in both of these we have at the present phase reluctantly to content ourselves with devoting our energies to maintaining the general sanitary condition by steady routine work and to abstain from launching out on extensive new projects.

The sanitary lay-out of townships and their segregation plans have received special attention.

The first batch of sanitary inspectors-in-training who were sent out to complete their final or third year of training under medical officers at out-stations have been favourably reported on.

The first or highest grade of sanitary inspectors have been regraded, so that the sanitary service offers clever and capable young men equal opportunities of advancement as does the clerical branch of Government service.

The Nigerian Eastern Railway has received considerable sanitary supervision owing to the rapid development of some of the stations on the line where trade centres are now established.

A special tour of inspection was carried out by the Senior Sanitary Officer with a view to investigating the headwaters of the Aba river as a source of water supply for Port Harcourt. This source was found to be favourable and is to be adopted. The water is to be filtered and then piped a distance of 37 miles into Port Harcourt. When accomplished this will be a great asset to a port which promises to become very important commercially.

Meat inspection in Lagos is carried out very thoroughly; the presence of tuberculosis infection has been established definitely in meat and 6% of the total number of animals slaughtered have been found to be infected with tuberculosis.

The teaching of hygiene and sanitation forms part of the curriculum of all Government schools and in some of the Mission schools. Fair progress is being made.

Sanitary officers when on tour give appropriate sanitary lectures to native chiefs and to senior pupils and teachers in the Government schools.

METEOROLOGY.

Complete meteorological observations have only been made at sixteen stations in the Northern Provinces, owing to the lack of medical officers.

The rainfall in 1917 (at the places where it was recorded) was less than that of 1916 by 41 inches.

Exceptional rainfall was recorded in Wamba during August, and the rainfall generally throughout August was excessive.

The following figures are of interest :—

	Reading.	Date.	Station.
Highest Shade Temperature ..	117·00°	16th January	Lokoja.
Lowest Shade Temperature ..	45·00°	28th April	Kano
Highest Mean Monthly Temperature	110·4°	April	Sokoto
Lowest Mean Monthly Temperature	52·8°	December	Nafada
	ins.		
Maximum Total Rainfall	80·84	Jan. to Dec.	Wamba
Minimum Total Rainfall	18·18	Jan. to Dec.	Katagum
Maximum Rainfall in one day ..	9·71	4th August	Wamba
Greatest Range of Temperature ..	62°	April	Sokoto
Highest Mean Monthly Relative Humidity	91°	August	Kaduna
Lowest Mean Monthly Relative Humidity	13·6°	March	Sokoto

Southern Provinces.—Throughout the country the rainfall was much in excess of the average. At Lagos 115"·49 beat all known records. Brass reached 178"·97, the month of August showing 33"·95. The heaviest fall for the day and for the month occurred at Forcados 6"·41 having been registered on the 8th August, during which month no less than 42"·55 fell.

Some of the up-country stations showed heavy increases: Ogbomoso totalled 88"·98 with one fall of 5"·53 on the 24th July. It is not surprising that during that month, August and September, wash-outs on the railway were of frequent occurrence.

The figures for Lagos, Ebuta Metta, Yaba, and Agege, respectively 115"·49, 89"·83, 86"·48, and 63"·55, appear to indicate a remarkable consistency in the behaviour of the thunderstorms that were the principal source of the rainfall in the locality.

The highest shade maximum (100°) was recorded at Abeokuta, the lowest (54°) at Obudu. The maximum in sun at Lagos reached 155°·5 on 1st June and during the month of July 67° was recorded by the minimum on the grass.

Harmattan was fairly severe, the first indications being noted at Ogbomoso, on January 1st.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Department, not including free services, was £42,127, an increase of £1,417 as compared with 1916. The amount transmitted through the post by means of money and postal orders was £210,088, a decrease of £50,000 on the figures for 1916. This decrease is doubtless due in large measure to the introduction of currency notes.

The revenue derived from telegraphs shews an increase of nearly £3,000, or 26%, and from telephones of £280.

The total expenditure of the Department was £97,128 (£85,320 in 1916) which includes £6,988 spent in the Cameroons and £3,850 on the extension of telegraphs and telephones.

MILITARY OPERATIONS.

External (excluding East Africa).—Active assistance was rendered to the French Military authorities in the Territoire du Niger between January and May in connection with the operations for the relief of Agadez. The following personnel from Nigeria took part in these operations :—27 officers and 10 British non-commissioned officers of the Nigeria Regiment, 5 officers and 3 sergeants of the West African Medical Staff, and 425 native rank and file (exclusive of gun carriers and Maxim gun carriers).

These forces operated in two columns, based on Katsina and Sokoto respectively. Reserves of troops and armed police, which are not included in these numbers, were held in readiness at Sokoto, Kano, and other accessible stations. Four companies of the West African Regiment were despatched from Sierra Leone to Lagos, and three of these proceeded to Zaria where they remained in reserve.

Internal.—Eight minor patrols, varying in strength from a section to two companies, took place during 1917, in the Northern Provinces. All of these were in pagan districts.

The most important were :—

(i). The Mada patrol (Nassarawa Province) which lasted for some seven months and necessitated the employment of two infantry companies and a 2·95 gun.

(ii). The Pankshin-Tal patrol (Bauchi Province) which was of some two months' duration and on which two infantry companies (less two sections) were employed.

Fifteen minor patrols, none of them exceeding the strength of one company, took place in the Southern Provinces during the year. All of these took place to the east of the Niger and six of them were in the vicinity of the Okigwi-Udi boundary. There was no patrol of outstanding importance.

The casualties (exclusive of unenlisted carriers) which were suffered on these patrols amounted to 6 killed, 7 wounded, and 1 missing. There were no European casualties.

RAILWAY.

WESTERN DIVISION.

The following Table shows the main features of working during the past year as compared with 1916. The period under review being the first completed year that the whole of the Eastern Division from Port Harcourt to Udi has been opened to traffic, comparison with 1916

working would be valueless, and consequently the results of the two divisions are given independently :—

	1916.	1917.
Mean mileage operated	976	976
Gross Earnings	£786,655	£1,030,711
Working Expenditure	£478,893	£553,855
Proportion of Working Expenditure to Gross Receipts	60·88%	53·73%
Nett Receipts	£307,762	£476,856
Total Capital Expenditure on mileage opened for traffic	£6,885,396	£6,976,288
Percentage of Nett Receipts to Capital Expenditure	4·47%	6·83%
Working Cost	£478,893	£553,855
Debt Charges	344,160	386,957
Total Working Cost and Debt Charges ..	£823,053	£940,812
Total Receipts	786,655	1,030,711
Deficit	£36,398	..
Surplus .. .. .	..	£89,899

The figure for gross receipts exceeded the highest previous total (1916) by £244,050 and the estimate by £264,711, the average monthly revenue being £85,892, as against £65,554 in 1916.

The net receipts were £169,094 in excess of the 1916 figures. Although the passenger train service was reduced the earnings under head of Coaching have increased by £18,037, and the profit per vehicle mile has risen from 2·8*d.* to 6·3*d.*, due partly to coaches being better filled, and to an increase in fares which operated for the last five months of the year over certain sections of the line.

The receipts from goods traffic showed a substantial advance of £221,631. Not only was a larger tonnage hauled, but the average haul increased from 202 miles in 1916 to 234 miles in the year under report, whilst the average freight paid per ton rose from 35·31 shillings to 44·12 shillings. The latter figure is affected by the surcharge which was applied in August to certain commodities.

The increase in Working Expenditure is mainly due to the increased cost of coal and enhanced price of stores.

A further 20% surtax on certain commodities and the extension of its application to articles previously exempt more than covered the excess expenditure on coal and stores.

The capital account was increased by £90,891, of which the main item, £67,148, was for rolling stock. Expenditure under this head was restricted to essentials.

The groundnut traffic from stations in the Kano Province was again exceptionally heavy and showed an increase of 4,438 tons over 1916 figures.

There was also a marked increase in traffic in beans, cocoa, palm kernels, salt, tin, and livestock.

There was a decrease in ginned cotton exported, which was due partly to unfavourable weather conditions, and, in the case of the Zaria

ginnyery, also to more of the crop being used by native weavers owing to the rise in price of imported cotton goods. There was, however, a steady increase in the exotic variety.

From 9,145 tons of gin and other spirits, carried in 1911, the tonnage for 1917 has dropped to 682.

Motor Transport.—The capital entitled to interest on December 31st, 1917, after deducting depreciation, amounted to £7,319, a decrease of £1,431 in comparison with December, 1916.

Revenue.—Earnings amounted to £14,565, an increase of £3,482 over 1916. Earnings per vehicle mile 20·77*d*; this shows an increase of 1·56*d*. per mile.

Motor transport rates on certain commodities were increased on and from the 1st December.

Expenditure.—The total working expenditure amounted to £11,534, or 16·45 pence per mile, which shows a slight increase of ·82 pence per mile in comparison with 1916.

The excess of receipts over working expenditure is £3,031, or 4·32 pence per mile run, and after deducting depreciation of £1,431 the account shows a profit of £1,600. The proportion of working expenditure to gross receipts is 79·19%. This satisfactory result has only been achieved by strict economy and careful training of the native drivers.

EASTERN DIVISION.

	1917.
Mean Mileage operated	151
Gross Earnings	£77,924
Working Expenditure	£85,902
Proportion of Working Expenditure to Gross Receipts ..	110·23%
Nett Loss	£7,977
Total Capital Expenditure on Mileage open for traffic ..	£1,636,654
Working Cost	£85,902
Debt Charge	£70,261
	£156,163
Total Receipts	£77,924
Deficit	£78,239
Nett Surplus, Western and Eastern Division	£11,660

The total Capital Expenditure to the end of 1917 was £1,988,426, of which £1,956,530 was from loan funds, and £31,896 from revenue funds.

The total amount is divided as follows :—

	£
Southern Section	1,321,170
Port Harcourt Wharves	65,042
Central Section	203,388
Benue Bridge Survey	9,345
Northern Section	139,039
Rolling Stock (Open Lines)	173,537
Do. do. Canadian	76,905
	£1,988,426

A new branch line $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles long to the Iva Valley coal outcrop was built during the year and was opened in November for coal traffic only. The track is laid with 45lb rails with one extra sleeper to the rail length. Ballasting will be undertaken in 1918.

The temporary wharf at Port Harcourt was completed during the year and brought into general use.

LAGOS HARBOUR WORKS.

The West Mole was extended to 3,678 feet, of which 233 feet were constructed during 1917. The total weight of stone deposited to the end of the year was 493,108 tons.

The training bank has advanced fairly rapidly and 2,026 feet had been constructed at the end of the year, of which 704 feet were added during 1917. The total weight of stone in the training bank is 171,512 tons.

East Mole—Maintenance and repair work only has been carried out on this section. The total weight of stone used in this Mole up to December, 1917, was 527,234 tons.

138,770 tons of stone were used for these works in 1917, as against 165,414 tons in 1916.

The total cost of these works was originally estimated at £897,000 (provided by loan), the total expenditure to the end of 1917 being £764,834.

The bar draught has improved throughout the year. At the end of 1916 the draught was 19 feet 6 inches, which was increased to 20 feet on the 22nd October, 1917.

MARINE SERVICES.

In spite of the further depletion of the Marine Staff by the death of ten officers, and although vessels remained laid up, and Lagos-Sapele was in abeyance, the provision of coal from Udi enabled a modified service to be maintained on the Cross River and Niger, and an irregular mail service between Forcados and Warri and also between Bonny and Degema similar to those maintained during 1916, and further a fortnightly mail and transport service was started in July, 1917, from Forcados and Warri by creek route to Akassa, Brass, Degema, Port Harcourt, Bonny, and Opobo.

Dredging operations were carried out on the Lagos Bar and outer Harbour in order to keep the official bar draught up as high as possible.

An area of 63 acres was reclaimed, the amount of spoil pumped up from the inner Harbour and then pumped on shore being 1,091,430 tons.

The Elder Dempster Mail Steamer "Dakar," 3,987 tons, which arrived at Forcados in March, 1915, on fire and was beached was, after about a month's preliminary work, raised by the Marine Department in March, 1917. After having been cleaned out and the engines put into running order this vessel steamed round to Lagos, arriving there

in July, 1917, where work was taken in hand to fit the vessel out to carry a cargo of produce to England. This work was not completed at the end of 1917.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Southern Provinces.—Owing to the War necessary works only were undertaken.

Pile driving started in January on the Lagos Customs Wharf extensions, and over 300 feet was driven at the close of the year. The difficulty in obtaining spare parts for the machinery considerably delayed the work.

At Port Harcourt a Post Office, Treasury, Harbour Master's Office, and District Court were built. Excellent progress was made with the European Hospital. At Aba the building of a Post Office, District Office and Native Court was started, but owing to delay in obtaining material these buildings could not be completed.

The Ibadan-Ilesha Road (74 miles) was completed and opened for traffic, and good progress was made with the Ilesha-Ifon Road (100 miles), of which about 65 miles was completed.

The hill road at Enugu connecting the Udi Junction station with the Onitsha Road was finished.

Local tiles were used to roof some of the buildings at Port Harcourt and Lagos. The development of the limestone deposits at Enugu are in progress. Lime will be burnt and used in lieu of cement.

A borehole was put down at Onitsha for supplying the station and town with water, and one was also drilled at Enugu.

Northern Provinces.—At Kaduna : Quarters for two B.N.C.O.'s, four blocks of clerks' quarters, stores for the Medical, Police and Prison Departments, a Hospital extension and outbuildings, the Post and Telegraph Office, and the re-erection of Government House, removed from Zungeru, were completed.

Various buildings were also erected at Bauchi, Jos, and Kano.

The railway bridge over Kaduna River was decked for the use of ordinary vehicular traffic.

Work on the Zaria-Sokoto road was carried forward to mile 58, eleven steel bridges and forty-one pipe culverts being constructed. Altogether a length of 30 miles of this road was bridged and opened up.

GENERAL REPORT.

I.—EFFECT OF THE WAR.

The effect of the World War during the year continued to arrest material development, owing to lack of staff and material, and the paramount necessity of economy. The construction of the Eastern Railway, the transfer of the Railway Headquarters to Kaduna Junction, and the building of the new Southern Capital all remained therefore

in abeyance ; while the programmes of Public Works (including road construction), and of Railway Capital Works, were reduced to the smallest possible dimensions.

The preceding paragraphs of this report have shown the effects of the War in each Department, and I shall only in this summary indicate the general effect in regard to Nigeria, and the share which it has borne.

Six mail steamers were sunk by enemy action during the year and 67 lives were lost, of whom four were ladies, 18 unofficers, and 45 Government servants—together with a large quantity of valuable Government stores which it was almost impossible to replace.

Participation by Nigeria.

(a) *Forces in the Field.*—I recorded in my report for 1916 that a large force had been sent to East Africa, towards the close of that year. It consisted of 194 British and 3,253 native ranks. During the year reinforcements amounting to 133 British (almost all from England) and 3,352 native ranks, were despatched, bringing the total to 327 British and 6,605 rank and file. The training centres, including a Military school for officers and British non-commissioned officers, were successfully maintained, and were busy recruiting and training further detachments. At the end of the year 1,800 were awaiting transport.

In addition 8 companies of carriers—totalling 3,974 souls—were sent, and more were forthcoming had they been required.

The casualties among both British and natives were very heavy, but the gallantry of the Nigerian troops in the field has received repeated recognition. Among the officers and British non-commissioned officers were 112 volunteers from the Civil Service which, including the large number lent to the Admiralty and War Office and the vacancies unfilled on account of the War, was depleted to about one-third of its normal establishment. The remaining staff in order to carry on the administration of the country, willingly undertook prolonged tours of service, and very heavy additional work.

(b) *Financial.*—The total additional expenditure incurred on account of the War up to the end of the year reached a total of £358,700 of which a sum of £8,546 only was contributed during the year,—the amount of Nigeria's financial contribution to the East African campaign being left for decision later. The cost of men and material supplied which was already borne on the Estimates was put at a further sum of £350,000 at the end of the year. The Native Administration of the North had contributed a total of £98,406 up to the end of 1916 towards these war costs.

Voluntary subscriptions to War charities (including the Red Cross) amounted during the year to £49,546, making a total of £90,928 since the War began, of which £4,000 was by Native Administration and the remainder the result of private subscription and effort.

II.—FINANCIAL POSITION AND TRADE.

In the section dealing with Finance, comparisons are made with the pre-War revenue and expenditure in 1913, and with last year (1916).

They show that in spite of the loss of Revenue on spirits (£1,470,000) and the cost of the Cameroon campaign, the adverse balance of £124,411 at the end of 1916 has been converted at the end of 1917 into a surplus of £148,369,—a total recovery of £272,780 during the year.

The revenue for the year was £3,492,738, the highest recorded since the amalgamation of Southern and Northern Nigeria, and exceeding the previous combined revenues of those Administrations. It exceeded the Revenue of 1916 by £549,544 and that of 1913 (pre-War) by £30,231.

The expenditure was £3,219,958, *viz.*, £389,680 less than 1916, but £303,157 in excess of pre-War expenditure. Of this excess £186,467 was due to expenditure on the War, the administration of the Cameroons and advances to Eastern Railway construction (as against £92,000 revenue credits on similar account). The funded debt stood at £8,470,593 while the accumulated sinking fund had grown to £473,531. The whole of the debt charges on the former sum are paid by railway earnings, on which the bulk of it (plus about three millions from Revenue) has been spent. A total sum of £1,809,600 had been advanced by the end of the year for the construction of the Eastern Railway, a sum almost identical with the pre-War Colonial Reserves (£1,821,300).

The Native Treasuries in the Northern Provinces are in a very prosperous condition. Their combined revenues have reached £441,000 and their investments exceed £200,000.

Trade and Development.

Though the shipping inwards and outwards steadily declined from a mean of 869,329 tons in 1913 (pre-War) to 469,580 tons in 1917, the actual tonnage of produce exported from Nigeria in 1917 was only 35,000 tons less in 1917 than in 1913.

Ocean freights were very largely increased when the Shipping Controller assumed control over Elder Dempster's vessels during the year.

The total value of exports in 1917 was £8,600,000, the largest on record. Exports to America increased in value from £236,477 in 1915 to £1,118,000 in 1917, and it would appear that the United States is gradually replacing Germany as an alternative market to the United Kingdom for Nigerian produce.

The value of imports was £5,808,600, and exceeded 1916 by £634,000. The value of that portion which came from the United Kingdom increased by £1,666,000. The average value of tin increased from £179 *ls.* 10*d.* in 1916 to £220 *ls.* 9*d.* and there was a small increase in output.

There was a considerable decline in the quantity of cotton exported, due partly to climatic reasons and partly to local use in consequence of the increased cost of textiles, but the difference in value was comparatively small.

Groundnuts were practically identical in quantity with 1916 but shew an increase in value of £236,600. Palm products increased in quantity by 31,756 tons and in value by £1,322,174.

The year was therefore a prosperous one to the merchant no less than to the Government.

The combined returns of the Eastern and Western Railways shew a net profit of £468,879. The debt charges on the total capital account at the end of 1917 stood at £474,500 shewing a net loss of £5,624.

The permanent Wharf at Port Harcourt was under construction during the year, and the township buildings were practically completed.

The colliery continued to make rapid progress and with an output of 83,405 tons was able to supply all Government requirements and to sell a small quantity of bunker coal. Its revenue appears as £145,448 and its expenditure as £53,592. The siding to the new Iva Valley seam was completed and the cost of winning thus greatly decreased.

Harbour Works and reclamation continue to make slow progress. During the year, a large scheme for the railway terminus, wharves, and docks at Apapa was designed and sent to the Civil Engineers for their views. The Customs Wharf Extension was carried on as rapidly as circumstances permitted of. Its total length will be 1,183 feet.

The continued exploitation of the Oni forest and the conversion of the timber in local sawmills (580,836 feet) enabled Government to carry on without any imported timber. Limestone (to replace cement) was found near the coalfield, where fuel is of course abundant, and the railway passes close to the deposit. Search for other deposits was continued in proximity to navigable waterways and the railway. Progress was made in the production of a cheap and serviceable tile to replace imported roofing material.

III.—PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

In addition to those already described, the principal events of the year were the following :—

(a) The re-enactment of the laws of Northern and Southern Nigeria, with considerable additions—some of which effected far-reaching reforms—was almost completed. Only three remained at the end of the year. Seventy Ordinances were enacted during the year and 107 of Southern Nigeria and 26 of Northern Nigeria were repealed. Among the most important were the "Liquor" and "Native Liquor" laws which introduced a far larger measure of supervision and control over the sale of liquor than had previously existed. The "Townships" and "Public Health" Ordinances consolidated a large number of somewhat confusing Ordinances, and the former embodied those principles of Municipal control and responsibility which, I hope, will gradually develop. A large number of important regulations were made under the laws, consolidating and improving those which already existed.

(b) The Northern Capital was transferred from Zungeru to Kaduna in the last few days of December, 1916, and early in 1917. Owing to its comparatively invigorating climate at an altitude of 2,000 feet, the health of Europeans has benefited greatly and the change has proved very popular. During the year the prison and some other buildings were completed. The accommodation thus set free at Zungeru has been invaluable for the purposes of a training centre.

(c) On the retirement of Mr. C. L. Temple, C.M.G., Mr. H. S. Goldsmith, C.M.G., was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Northern Provinces.

IV.—GENERAL POLITICAL.

The occupied territory of the Cameroons (together with the private plantations) continued to be administered with success.

Southern Provinces.—It was decided with the concurrence of the chiefs and people to introduce the system of direct taxation, which obtains in the Northern Provinces, into the Yoruba, Egba, and Benin Kingdoms, which alone have a central organization under a single acknowledged chief. Arrangements were made for instituting Native Treasuries, and simultaneously for organising the Native Administration under salaried chiefs as District Headmen, with a view to putting an end as far as possible, to extortion, bribery, and forced labour. Half the tax will, as in the North, be paid into General Revenue, and when this system is extended to the whole of the Southern Provinces, there is no reason why the receipts should not equal or even exceed those of the Northern Provinces and replace the duties on spirits, and the export duties. The reforms introduced by the "Native Authority" and the "Native Courts" Ordinances, have been progressive throughout the year. The Yoruba country in particular has been more settled and prosperous, and the authority of the Alafin has been better enforced than at any previous time.

The Colony (proper) has been quiet and prosperous, and I think I see signs of a more helpful spirit, and of less intrigue and discontent among certain sections of the educated community of Lagos. There has been no difficulty in collecting the water rate, and though a section of the local press still continues to harp upon the imaginary injustices of a Criminal Code and of the Provincial Courts, I hope their energies may be gradually diverted into channels of municipal activity. The new Town Council has proved energetic and efficient.

In the *Northern Provinces*, I have to record unbroken prosperity and loyalty during the year. Two or three outbreaks of no importance took place among the pagan tribes in the hill districts. These must be expected to recur for some years, and are due in part to their love of an occasional fight, in part to their drunken orgies (native-made liquor) when murders are frequently committed, but primarily to the depletion of the Civil Staff, whose absence is invariably the signal, whether in the North or South, for inter-tribal warfare, or outrages which call for forcible repression.

F. D. LUGARD,
Governor-General.

12th November, 1918.

NIGERIA, 1917.

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APPENDIX.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE IMPORTATION OF SPIRITS INTO NIGERIA DURING THE SIX YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.*	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Remarks.
1912	4,450,196 (1,791,000)	£ 443,567	£ 1,013,807	From 15th January, 1909, duty on spirits was 5s. per imperial gallon and an additional 2½d. for every degree in excess of 50 degrees and a decrease of 1½d. for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum duty of 4s. the imperial gallon. Brandy, Whisky and Gin not treated as trade spirits 5s. per imperial gallon. From 4th March, 1912, 5s. 6d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees. 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 4s. 6d.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 6.90 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1913	4,635,273 (1,808,000)	456,400	1,133,305	From 25th March, 6s. 3d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees. 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 5s. Sweetened or obscured spirits have been continuously taxed at 10s. the imperial gallon.	6.34 per cent. as above.
1914	3,509,344 (1,427,000)	353,037	923,065	As above	5.12 per cent. as above.
1915	1,972,940 (768,000)	276,614	648,276	From 12th January, 1915, 7s. 6d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees, 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 6s. 6d. Brandy, Whisky and Gin, not treated as trade spirits 7s. 6d. per imperial gallon.	5.51 per cent. as above.
1916	990,034 (394,000)	219,194	372,982	From 1st July, 1916, 8s. 9d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees, 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 7s. 6d. Brandy, Whisky, Rum, and Gin, not treated as trade spirits 7s. 6d. per imperial gallon.	3.79 per cent. as above.
1917	234,161 (94,000)	92,905	88,719	... ..	1.03 per cent. as above.

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

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
975	Malta	1917-1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917-1918
978	Bahamas	"
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917-1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	"
983	Swaziland	1917-1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	"
986	Cyprus	1917-1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
988	East Africa Protectorate	1910-1917
989	Barbados	1917-1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	"
992	Leeward Islands	1917-1918
993	Uganda	"
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917-1918
996	Nyasaland	"
997	Basutoland	"
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	"
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland	1917-1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta	1918-1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	"
1007	Ceylon	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907-8 and 1908-9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908-9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

Printed under the authority of His MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
By Barclay & Fry, Ltd., Southwark, London, S.E. 1.