

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1066.

GOLD COAST.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1029.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

March, 1921.



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I.—GENERAL.

ADMINISTRATION.

The Government of the Colony was administered by Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G., Governor and Commander-in-Chief until the 31st March when he proceeded on leave, being eventually transferred on promotion to be Governor of Nigeria. Mr. A. R. Slater, C.M.G., C.B.E., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government from the 1st April until 8th October when Brigadier-General F. G. Guggisberg, C.M.G., D.S.O., the new Governor and Commander-in-Chief, arrived in the Colony from England and administered the Government for the remainder of the year.

HONOURS.

Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George was conferred by His Majesty the King upon Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. de B. Rose, D.S.O.

The following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire were made by His Majesty :—

Knight Commander :—Mr. F. C. Fuller, C.M.G.

Officers :—
 Mr. C. H. Harper.
 Major C. E. D. O. Rew.
 Lieutenant Colonel C. G. Hornby, M.C.
 Major H. Read.

Members :—
 Mrs. F. C. Fuller.
 Mrs. D. R. A. Bettington.
 Mrs. A. J. E. Bucknor.
 The Honourable J. E. Casely Hayford.
 Captain R. J. McKay, D.S.O., M.C.
 Captain G. A. E. Poole.
 Doctor J. M. O'Brien.

The following Military Honours were awarded to the undermentioned officers of the Gold Coast Regiment, West African Frontier Force :—

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel to Lieutenant Colonel H. Goodwin, D.S.O.
 Brevet Lieutenant Colonel to Major H. B. Potter, D.S.O., M.C.
 Military Cross to Captain E. G. Wheeler.
 do. to Lieutenant S. T. Lamont.

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OBITUARY.

The following deaths occurred during the year :—

Lieutenant Colonel C. G. Hornby, o.B.E., m.c. Gold Coast Regiment.	
Captain R. E. Morehead,	do.
Colour-Sergeant E. S. Barnes,	do.
Colour-Sergeant W. Dwyer,	do.
Doctor A. B. Tighe, Medical Officer.	
Mr. W. Rapson, Platelayer, Railway.	
Mr. F. A. C. C. Robinson, 1st Class Supervisor of Customs.	
Mr. H. A. Hillier, Assistant Government Printer.	
Mr. F. H. Longhurst, General Manager of Railways.	
Mr. Lambert Lloyd Roberts, District Commissioner.	

APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. H. M. Lewis, Chief Assistant Treasurer, was promoted to the vacancy caused by the transfer of Mr. S. S. Davis, Treasurer, to East Africa on 25th April, 1917.

Mr. E. W. Cozens-Hardy, Chief Engineer, was promoted to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. F. H. Longhurst, General Manager of the Government Railway.

Doctor J. A. Pickels was appointed to the office of Principal Medical Officer in succession to Doctor T. E. Rice who was transferred to Nigeria.

Mr. C. W. Pettit, Deputy Director of Public Works, was promoted to the new appointment of Secretary for Works.

Major Lewis Hall, m.c., was re-appointed to the post of Director of Surveys on the resuscitation of the Survey Department in October.

ESTABLISHMENT.

The European Establishment of the Colony and its Dependencies numbered 653 officers. Of this number 25 were seconded for civil duties in Togoland.

THE GOLD COAST REGIMENT.

The Regiment which had been expanded into a Brigade for war purposes resumed its normal functions at the end of 1918; but the actual process of demobilisation extended into the following year. The distribution of the force in 1919 corresponded roughly to the pre-war distribution, namely headquarters at Coomassie, with detachments at Accra and in the Northern Territories, except that a garrison was also provided for the portion of Togoland occupied by the British. The latter garrison consisted of a company with headquarters at Lome, but a considerable reduction was in contemplation at the end of 1919.

In recognition of the services rendered by the rank and file during the campaigns in Togoland, Cameroons and East Africa, a more generous scheme of pensions was approved by the Secretary of State and took effect during the year under review. Arrangements were also made for the erection of houses at Coomassie for twenty wounded pensioners of the Regiment, the cost of erection to be borne by Government and the upkeep by the Disabled Soldiers' Fund.

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GENERAL CONDITIONS IN THE COLONY.

As pointed out in previous reports, the Gold Coast, with its agricultural population, suffered comparatively little from the world-wide catastrophe of 1914—1918, in so far as the personal comfort of the masses was concerned. During the first few years of the war, shipping, though reduced, was sufficient to supply each according to his taste with the luxuries to which he had become accustomed. The same shipping continued to be a source of wealth through the export of cocoa—which was so widespread an industry amongst native farmers—till 1917, when a really serious slump in shipping occurred. Even this occurrence found an accumulated wealth which was able to sustain for two years or so the worst shock of all. Simultaneously the trader had continued his penetrating course, gradually setting up European stores in every village of importance, and in some of no importance at all, throughout the Colony. Nevertheless it may be counted a blessing that the war was not postponed for another decade when the Gold Coast peoples might have been so far weaned from their old dependence on the soil as to make the conditions which existed in the early part of 1919 a source of real hardship. By that time the shipping of the world had been reduced to its lowest ebb, and the European store was no longer able to pander to the new-found tastes of the bush native. Even in the large centres, luxuries, which had become almost necessities to a more sophisticated population, were unobtainable.

The fact that the declaration of peace was not immediately followed by a return of pre-war normal conditions was at once a surprise and a disappointment to the people; while the shortage of silver and the introduction of a paper currency aroused suspicions in the primitive mind which no amount of official explanation could altogether allay. These suspicions were reflected in the hoarding of silver which is undoubtedly practised at the present time and adds to the difficulties of the situation. It would in fact be misleading, in a study of social conditions during 1919, to omit mention of a widespread discontent on account of paper currency and the high price of European goods. A paper currency is, of course, unsuited to the needs of life in the bush where paper is liable to rapid deterioration and indeed to sudden destruction by insects or the elements. For this reason, though the introduction of paper currency as a temporary measure was no doubt inevitable, some discontent was the natural consequence; and it is to be hoped that the alloy tokens which it is proposed to substitute for paper will be forthcoming at an early date. As for the high price of European goods, this condition obtains in all countries at the present time, and the remedy is hard to seek.

The discontent has, moreover, been fostered by a certain improvidence amongst the masses themselves who have failed to make the best use of the soil in cultivating native foodstuffs. Thus the price of the latter has mounted so high, that not only Europeans, but also large sections of the native population itself—such at least who congregate in industrial centres—find the cost of living enormously enhanced.

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Nevertheless, discontent in the Gold Coast is, we believe, merely a surface growth, while the mutual interests, let alone the sentiment, binding this Colony to Great Britain, have left a deep-rooted plant—loyalty—which is not to be undermined by a few years of abnormal conditions. This loyalty was once more reflected in the Peace Celebrations in which all classes participated with the greatest enthusiasm.

The year 1919 also witnessed a remarkable recovery in the cocoa industry. After the first few months the removal of the ban on export of cocoa—a ban due to the fact that cocoa was not directly serviceable for the prosecution of the war—began to tell. Competition by European exporters became acute, and the prices paid to native farmers rose to unprecedented heights. The Colonial revenue too reached a totally unexpected figure, and all classes from the farmer to the labourer who handled the produce benefited in some degree. If this did not tend to a reduction in the price of foodstuffs, but rather to the reverse, the cause is local and remediable, at least in so far as native foodstuffs are concerned. The recuperative power of the Gold Coast peoples is due first and last to the fertility of the soil which by proper development can supply cheap and nutritious foodstuffs, ample for the needs of all, as well as cocoa which is the present obsession.

II.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £2,601,359 being more than double that of 1918, and the highest on record.

The following Table affords a more detailed comparison between 1918 and 1919 :—

Head of Revenue.	1918.	1919.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Customs	619,973	1,672,423	1,052,450	—
2. Light Dues	1,315	1,932	617	—
3. Licences	45,420	41,477	—	3,943
4. Fees of Court, etc. ..	71,621	90,588	18,967	—
5. Railways	453,250	663,976	210,726	—
6. Posts and Telegraphs	32,666	50,057	17,391	—
7. Rent of Govt. Lands	5,833	6,956	1,123	—
8. Interest	28,630	38,615	9,985	—
9. Miscellaneous	39,088	34,903	—	4,185
10. Land Sales	878	432	—	446
	1,298,674	2,601,359	1,311,259	8,574

Net Increase £1,302,685.

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The increased revenue was due to a remarkable revival of trade following the termination of the war, the consequent increase in available shipping and the removal of restrictions on Imports and Exports.

Customs and Railway receipts continued to be the chief source of revenue—that of the Customs greatly exceeding the whole of the revenue for the preceding year. This increase over previous years is attributable to some extent to the increased duties imposed in May 1918, to the very high cost of commodities, (on which ad valorem duty is charged), to the restrictions imposed during 1918 on the export of cocoa, as a result of which large stocks were available for shipping over and above the crop for the year, and lastly to the fact that the export duty on cocoa was raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a lb. to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a lb. in July of the year under review.

The following Table shows the Customs and Railway receipts for the last eight years :—

Year.	Customs.		Railway.		Other Sources.	
	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue.	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue.	Receipts.	Percentage to total revenue
1912 ..	£735,470	60%	£329,399	27%	£165,981	13%
1913 ..	779,593	60%	357,329	27%	164,644	13%
1914 ..	768,829	58%	380,716	28%	182,168	14%
1915 ..	828,015	57%	445,898	30%	182,217	13%
1916 ..	1,132,000	62%	505,665	27%	198,324	11%
1917 ..	893,785	55%	494,338	30%	236,001	15%
1918 ..	619,973	48%	453,250	35%	225,451	17%
1919 ..	1,672,423	64%	663,976	26%	264,960	10%

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year was the highest on record and amounted to £1,777,570 which, compared with the figure for 1918, showed an increase of £408,084.

The following Table gives a comparison of the Expenditure for the years 1918 and 1919 :—

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Head of Expenditure.	1918.	1919.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. The Governor ..	5,853	7,981	2,128	—
2. Supreme Court ..	12,335	12,339	4	—
3. Law Officers ..	3,795	5,064	1,269	—
4. Colonial Secretary's Office etc. ..	12,693	14,395	1,702	—
5. Printing Office ..	11,103	17,179	6,076	—
6. Political Administration	72,541	74,851	2,310	—
7. Treasury	13,907	18,015	4,108	—
8. Audit Department ..	5,540	5,855	315	—
9. Customs	31,035	32,429	1,394	—
10. Customs Preventive Service	12,347	13,093	746	—
11. Marine	2,649	2,941	292	—
12. Accra Harbour Main- tenance	25,797	3,348	—	2,2449
13. Railways	197,522	233,562	36,040	—
14. Posts and Telegraphs	65,368	63,336	—	2,032
15. Transport Depart- ment	5,851	7,125	1,274	—
16. Medical Department	59,886	64,687	4,801	—
17. Sanitation	57,613	55,713	—	1,900
18. Veterinary	842	1,295	453	—
19. Education	43,754	54,442	10,688	—
20. Agriculture	15,891	16,363	472	—
21. Forestry	1,163	1,705	542	—
22. Mines	2,535	2,388	—	147
23. Geological Survey ..	3,554	4,173	619	—
24. Gold Coast Regiment	82,403	107,205	24,802	—
25. Volunteers	1,479	1,713	234	—
26. Police	58,245	65,093	6,848	—
27. Prisons	28,736	30,381	1,645	—
28. Public Cemeteries ..	1,972	1,600	—	372
28a. Survey Department	—	3,314	3,314	—
29. Northern Territories Constabulary ..	12,818	12,967	149	—
30. Miscellaneous Services	37,368	292,600	255,232	—
31. Pensions and Gratui- ties	26,362	32,139	5,777	—
32. Public Debt Charges	142,751	143,721	970	—
Carried forward..	£1,055,708	1,403,012	374,204	26,900

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Head of Expenditure.	1918.	1919.	Increase.	Decrease.
Brought forward ..	1,055,708	1,403,012	374,204	26,900
33. Public Works Dept.	57,563	57,355	—	208
34. Public Works				
Annually Recurrent	64,398	90,651	26,253	—
35. Accra Water Works				
Maintenance ..	9,240	10,335	1,095	—
36. Seccondee Water				
Works Maintenance	—	6,315	6,315	—
37. Public Works Extra-ordinary ..	67,298	28,985	—	38,253
38. Railways—Capital Improvements	40,798	36,200	—	4,598
39. Posts and Telegraphs Extraordinary	2,526	1,115	—	1,411
40. Special Works ..	31,552	138,081	106,529	—
41. Repayment of Loans	20,000	—	—	20,000
42. War Expenses ..	20,463	5,521	—	14,942
	1,369,486	1,777,570	514,396	106,312

The yearly revenue and expenditure for the period 1914 to 1919 is shown below :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1914	£1,331,713	£1,755,850
1915	1,456,130	1,627,015
1916	1,835,989	1,465,946
1917	1,624,124	1,424,279
1918	1,298,674	1,369,486
1919	2,601,360	1,781,170

LOANS WORKS STATEMENT.

There was no expenditure during the year charged to Loan Account as the total amount realized from loans raised to date had already been entirely

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expended. Expenditure, however, was continued on certain works which had not yet been completed and was defrayed from surplus funds. The appended statement shows particulars of this:—

	Provided out of Loan Funds.	Provided out of Revenue (surplus Funds).	Total Ex- penditure to end of 1919.
Seccondee-Coomassie Railway ..	£1,812,556	—	£1,812,556
Accra-Mangoase Railway ..	300,000	95,264	395,264
Tarquah-Prestea-Broomassie Rail- way	135,000	26,837	161,837
Accra Harbour Works	158,000	126,819	284,819
Seccondee Harbour Works ..	168,312	69,542	237,854
Accra Water Works	200,000	58,489	258,489
Seccondee Water Works	156,817	52,954	209,771
	£2,930,685	£429,905	£3,360,590

In addition to the above, and up to the 31st December 1919, £253,640 out of surplus balances has now been expended on the Northern Extension of the Accra-Mangoase Railway and £124,141, on the realignment of the Seccondee-Coomassie Railway.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 1st January 1919, was £791,897. This was increased to £1,612,087 on the 31st December 1919. The difference £820,190 is the excess of revenue over expenditure as shown in the table of yearly revenue and expenditure.

The public debt of the Colony was reduced during the year from £3,389,118 to £3,364,118 by the repayment of £15,000 to the Imperial Government.

The Sinking Fund for the amortization of the funded portion of the Public Debt was increased during the year by £44,405—£31,630 from general revenue and £12,775 from interests on investments—and the amount standing to the credit of the Fund on the 31st December 1919, was £332,537.

Excluding the investments on account of the Sinking Fund, the investments held by Government on the 31st December 1919, amounted to £787,625, of which over £530,000 was on account of surplus funds.

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STAMPS.

The face value of the postage stamps in the custody of the Vault Committee on the 31st December 1919, was £515 as under :—

Balance on 1st January 1919	£32,794
Receipts during the year	188,492
	221,286
Issues during the year	220,771
	£515

CURRENCY.

Silver coin to the face value of £603,350 was received from the West African Currency Board and put into circulation during the year.

This amount, however, proved insufficient to meet the requirements of labour and the huge demand for currency caused by the revival of the cocoa market and the high prices prevailing, and West African Currency Notes, (made legal tender in November 1918), to the face value of £3,721,450, were put into circulation during the year.

One result of the issue of such a large quantity of Paper Currency was that any silver issued, immediately went out of circulation, in so far as the Banks and Treasury were concerned, and was hoarded by the Natives.

In July, 1919, the position as regards silver coin became so acute that Government took over control of the issue of the Currency Board's stocks of silver. It was then decided, in consultation with the Managers of the Banks, that none of the silver sent out by the Currency Board should be issued for the purchase of produce, but should be reserved solely for the payment of labour. It was also decided, in order to insure as far as possible an equal distribution of the small stocks of silver, that payments in silver coin should be limited to 10 per cent. of salaries and 20 per cent. of wages for labour.

On the 31st December 1919, West African Currency Notes to the face value of £3,959,495 were in circulation as follows :—

£5 Notes	£225,000
20/- „	£2,216,995
10/- „	£1,228,250
2/- „	£89,250
1/- „	£100,000

Nickel Bronze Coin to the face value of £45,395 was imported during the year and the amount in circulation on the 31st December 1919, was £55,962.

BANKING.

The usual Government accounts at various branches of the Bank of British West Africa and the Colonial Bank were maintained during the year. The Bank of British West Africa which commenced business in Accra

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on 1st January 1897, has since opened branches at Axim, Secondee, Tarquah, Coomassie, Cape Coast, Saltpond, Winnebah, Bekwai, Koforidua, Nsawam and Dunkwa, and agencies at Obuassi, Prestea, and Half Assinie.

The Colonial Bank established in Accra on 24th February 1917, has now branches at Secondee, Winnebah, Coomassie, Koforidua and Nsawam.

A Government Savings Bank conducted by the Treasury was established in 1888. The business was transferred to the Post Office in 1905 and is rapidly increasing. The amount standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December 1919, was £53,477.

Penny Banks in connexion with the Post Office have also been established in the principal Government Schools.

MUNICIPAL BODIES.

Town Councils are established at Accra, Cape Coast and Secondee. The following Table shows their Revenue and Expenditure for the past six years :—

	1914.		1915.		1916.	
	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accra ..	11,156	11,340	13,108	11,516	13,848	13,403
Secondee	5,521	5,551	5,247	5,223	5,690	5,324
Cape Coast	5,288	3,966	3,335	5,161	4,521	4,223

	1917.		1918.		1919.	
	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Accra ..	13,986	15,766	13,454	13,251	14,046 (a)	13,963
Secondee	5,923	5,564	6,180	6,089	5,981 (b)	6,147
Cape Coast	4,137	4,538	4,346	3,649	4,396 (c)	3,935

(a) Includes Grant-in-aid of £3,600 from Government.

(b) " " " " £1,250 " "

(c) " " " " £1,250 " "

III.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

The total value of all goods imported into the Colony during 1919 (excluding expenses on specie and the value of free goods imported across the inland frontiers) amounted to £7,946,981 as compared with £3,257,591 in 1918—an increase of £4,689,390 or 144%. This total is made up of specie valued at £835,062, goods imported on behalf of the Colonial Government valued at £215,950, and commercial imports valued at £6,895,969.

Imports of specie show an increase of £498,778 or 148%. This was due to the increased need for coin for purchasing cocoa in consequence of the unusually high prices prevailing, especially towards the end of the year. It is also to be noted in this connection that Currency Notes to the value of £3,721,450 were put into circulation during the year. These notes are not included in the value of the Colony's imports.

Government imports increased by £34,014 or 19%. This is probably all due to increased prices.

Commercial imports exhibit an increase of £4,156,590 or 152%. While increased prices had something to do with this large increase, it is chiefly accounted for by the larger importations rendered possible by supplies becoming available on the suspension of hostilities and by the release of shipping.

The values of the various commodities imported during 1919 as compared with the figures for the previous year are recorded in detail in the annexed table "A."

TABLE "A."

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES
OF IMPORT FOR THE YEARS 1918 AND 1919.

Articles.	1918.		1919.		Increase.	Decrease.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			
Ale and Porter	Gls.	58,579	£ 21,675	77,136	£ 28,016	6,341	—
Apparel, Wearing .. .. .	..	—	73,135	—	138,233	65,098	—
Bags and Sacks	Nos.	1,907,066	221,245	6,964,960	724,659	503,414	—
Beads .. .. .	..	—	10,918	—	11,384	466	—
Beef and Pork	lbs.	171,705	4,763	438,808	15,074	10,311	—
Brass and Copperware .. .. .	..	—	3,343	—	9,878	6,535	—
Bread and Biscuits	cwts.	278	814	17,693	60,307	59,493	—
Building Materials .. .. .	..	—	75,530	—	141,767	66,237	—
Coal	Tons,	10,663	55,332	1,771	12,154	—	43,178
Coopers' Stores .. .. .	..	—	26,304	—	60,461	34,157	—
Cordage	cwts.	4,817	52,730	6,409	70,834	18,104	—
Cotton Yarn and Twist	lbs.	128,515	19,760	119,570	21,202	1,442	—
Cotton Goods (Excluding Yarn and Twist ..	lbs.	3,571,871	655,301	7,430,495	1,981,120	1,325,819	—

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TABLE A.—continued.

Articles.	1918.		1919.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
		£		£		£
Earthenware	—	10,302	—	15,181	4,879	—
Flour cwts.	7,975	13,548	73,344	162,339	148,791	—
Furniture	—	16,616	—	34,190	17,574	—
Galvanized Iron and Slates	—	28,030	—	119,200	91,170	—
Gunpowder lbs.	121,892	8,428	336,425	21,160	12,732	—
Guns and Pistols Nos.	1,745	10,461	782	10,153	—	308
Hardware	—	77,867	—	150,919	73,052	—
Lumber Sup Feet	2,544,614	59,861	797,162	18,331	—	41,530
Machinery	—	118,596	—	88,711	—	29,885
Oil—Kerosene Gls.	651,869	42,423	1,432,731	120,077	77,654	—
Oil—Liquid Fuel Gls.	241,737	31,625	1,150,474	147,741	116,116	—
Perfumery	—	24,658	—	63,221	38,563	—
Provisions	—	72,038	—	394,193	322,155	—
Railway Plant and Rolling Stock	—	15,112	—	105,068	89,956	—
Rice cwts.	22,764	49,098	67,888	126,074	76,976	—
Salt cwts.	132,666	53,840	137,876	51,373	—	2,467

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TABLE A.—continued.

Articles.	1918.		1919.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
		£		£	£	£
Silk Goods	—	6,357	—	22,936	16,579	—
Soap cwts.	39,003	88,691	22,409	60,124	—	28,567
Spirits Gls.	438,964	166,812	672,462	245,058	78,246	—
Sugar cwts.	1,683	4,680	21,763	50,646	45,966	—
Tobacco (Including Cigars and Cigarettes)	—	95,331	—	414,047	318,716	—
Vehicles—(Carriages and Carts) Nos.	279	4,055	353	7,886	3,831	—
„ Motor Cars and Lorries Nos.	61	64,059	532	284,445	220,386	—
„ Motor Cycles Nos.	52	3,646	112	13,521	9,875	—
„ Other Cycles Nos.	185	4,468	917	14,526	10,058	—
Woollen Goods	—	5,484	—	13,431	7,947	—
Wines Gls.	13,119	10,941	33,538	36,932	25,991	—
Bullion and Specie	—	337,676	—	847,683	510,007	—
Other Articles (Including Post Parcels)	—	612,038	—	1,032,726	420,688	—
Total value of all Articles	—	3,257,591	—	7,946,981	4,835,325	145,935

Net Increase £4,689,390.

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The principal increases in imports, omitting specie, which has already been referred to, were:—

Cotton Goods (excluding Yarn & Twist)	£1,325,819	or	202%
Bags and Sacks	503,414	„	228%
Provisions	322,155	„	447%
Motor Cars and Lorries	220,386	„	344%
Tobacco (unmanufactured)	202,409	„	498%
Flour (wheaten)	148,791	„	1098%
Oil Fuel	116,116	„	367%
Cigarettes	108,985	„	217%
Rum	92,336	„	112%
Galvanized Iron and Slates	91,178	„	325%
Railway Plant and Rolling Stock	89,956	„	595%
Kerosene	77,654	„	183%
Rice	76,976	„	157%
Hardware	73,052	„	94%
Building Materials (Cement and Lime)	66,237	„	88%
Wearing Apparel	65,098	„	89%
Bread and Biscuits.. .. .	59,493	„	7309%

The above figures show the increases in value as compared with 1918. In endeavouring to explain these, reference will be made, where possible, to quantities as well as values, and, in some instances, to the imports in 1913—the last pre-war year.

Cotton Goods. The increase in quantity is 108% or rather more than half the increase in value, thus showing that the price of these goods has risen almost 50% in a year. The statistics for 1918 give the value but not the quantity. The latter was, however, probably a little more than in 1919.

Bags and Sacks. The increase is entirely accounted for by larger importations, the price per bag being slightly less than in 1918. This large increase was necessitated by the large stocks of cocoa waiting to be bagged for shipment. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining bags in 1918.

Provisions. The increase is due to removal of restrictions on exportation from the United Kingdom coupled with an increase in the available shipping.

Motor Cars and Lorries. The number imported was 532 of which 518 came from America, compared with 61 in 1918 and is an indication of the rapid extension in the use of motor transport in this Colony.

Tobacco (unmanufactured). The increase is accounted for by increased importations, the huge quantity of 2,825,852 lbs. having entered the Colony, chiefly from America.

Flour (wheaten). The increase is accounted for chiefly by larger importations, though the price also increased as compared with 1918.

Nearly all the flour came from America as usual.

Oil Fuel. Practically the whole of the large increase over 1918 is accounted for by the larger quantity imported. There is, of course, an intimate connection between this increase and that in motor vehicles—*vide supra*.

Cigarettes. Most of this increase was accounted for by larger importations, though prices increased slightly. The number imported was 118,469,060 and practically all came from the United Kingdom.

Rum. There was a slight advance in price but the increase is largely due to increased importations. The quantity imported was rather more than half the quantity imported in 1913 and appreciably less than the imports in 1917.

Galvanized Iron and Slates. The increase is due to supplies being obtainable to satisfy the needs of the local market.

Railway Plant and Rolling Stock. The increase is due to much wanted supplies being again available for export from the United Kingdom. It was almost impossible to obtain these articles during the last two years of the war.

Rice. The price was appreciably less than in 1918 and the increase is entirely due to larger importations. The quantity imported was 3,394 tons—less than half that imported in 1913. Nearly all of it came from the United Kingdom; whereas in 1918 more than half came from America.

Hardware. The increase is due to the possibility of obtaining supplies from the United Kingdom and America.

Building Materials. The increase is due to larger importations from the United Kingdom.

Wearing Apparel. The increase is due to supplies from the United Kingdom being available to meet increased local demands. Wearing apparel imported through the Parcels Post is not included in this item.

Bread and Biscuits. While the quantity imported was just about half that in 1913 it is larger than in any year since then and the increase over 1918 is entirely due to the removal of restrictions on exportation from the United Kingdom.

Kerosene. The increase is due chiefly to larger importations (though higher prices also contributed) and was rendered possible by improved shipping facilities between America and the Colony.

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Decreases were few and usually unimportant. The principal ones were:—

Coal	£43,178 or 78%
Lumber	41,530 „ 69%
Machinery	29,885 „ 25%
Soap	28,567 „ 32%
Gin	31,935 „ 74%

Coal. This followed a big decrease in 1918 and the importation was almost negligible, viz.:—1,771 tons as compared with 10,663 tons in 1918 and 51,666 tons in 1913.

The decrease was due to the prohibitive price of coal from the United Kingdom and the difficulty in obtaining supplies. Local firewood largely took the place of coal on the railways and mines. As an indication of the way in which prices have risen it may be noted that the value of a ton of coal landed in the Colony in 1913 was £1. 12s. 8d., in 1918 £5. 3s. 9d., and in 1919 £6. 17s. 3d.

Lumber. The decrease is due to the difficulty in obtaining supplies from America. The quantity imported was 797,162 super feet; in 1913 it was 6,304,397 super feet.

Machinery. The decrease is due to high prices and difficulty in obtaining supplies.

Soap. The decrease was, no doubt, the result of a further rise in prices which are now almost prohibitive to the native consumer. Native-made soap is to some extent taking the place of the imported article.

Gin. Imports of gin from Holland were restricted during the first quarter of the year on account of the lack of shipping, and afterwards by the prohibition of the importation of trade spirits.

The following article shows a decrease in quantity but an increase in value.

	Decrease per cent. in quantity.	Increase per cent. in value.
Cotton yarn and twist ..	7%	7%

The following article shows an increase in quantity but a decrease in value:—

	Increase per cent. in quantity.	Decrease per cent. in value.
Salt	4%	5%

The commercial imports for the six years ending with 1919 were valued as follows:—

1914	£3,158,171
1915	3,116,686
1916	4,881,920
1917	2,964,453
1918	2,739,370
1919	6,895,969

The annexed Table "B" shows the value of imports (exclusive of specie) derived from the principal supplying countries in 1919 and each of the five preceding years, and the percentages arrived at by comparing the several figures with the total imports for the year.

EXPORTS.

The total value of all exports from the Colony during the year amounted to £10,814,175—an increase of £6,341,250 or 142% over 1918 and 82% above the previous record year, 1915, when the exports were valued at £5,943,631. The value of specie was £34,731—a decrease of £411,627 or 92% as compared with 1918. Government exports were valued at £934 as compared with £1,460 in 1918 and commercial exports were worth £10,778,509—an increase of £6,753,402 or 168%.

The various items in the list of exports are analysed in the annexed Table "C" which shews the quantities and the values as compared with those for the previous year.

TABLE "B."

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS (EXCLUSIVE OF SPECIE) DERIVED FROM THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES IN 1919 AND EACH OF THE FIVE PRECEDING YEARS, AND THE PERCENTAGES ARRIVED AT BY COMPARING THE SEVERAL FIGURES WITH THE TOTAL IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR.

Country of Origin.	1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.		1919.	
	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.
	£		£		£		£		£		£	
United Kingdom	2,660,682	74%	2,734,991	79%	3,860,765	75%	2,235,439	69%	2,135,002	73%	5,292,821	74%
Germany	289,288	8%	9,839	—	128	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	32,979	1%	37,285	1%	77,089	2%	56,429	2%	17,517	—	44,735	—
United States of America ..	270,176	8%	349,106	10%	751,225	15%	723,182	22%	615,673	21%	1,513,994	21%
Holland	170,810	5%	199,644	6%	217,976	4%	81,783	3%	47,065	2%	23,133	—
Nigeria	24,312	1%	36,351	1%	75,902	2%	60,413	2%	44,565	2%	67,019	—
Other Foreign Countries ..	121,072	3%	95,588	3%	81,759	2%	56,801	2%	59,636	2%	104,659	2%
Other British Colonies ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,471	—	10,457	—	65,558	—

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TABLE "C."

THE FOLLOWING IS A TABLE OF THE QUANTITIES AND VALUES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES
OF EXPORT FOR THE YEARS 1918 AND 1919.

Articles.	1918.		1919.		Increase in value.	Decrease in value.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
		£		£		
Cocoa (Tons)	66,343	1,796,985	176,176	8,278,554	6,481,569	—
Kola Nuts (lbs.)	13,254,538	262,144	16,319,972	350,249	88,105	—
Copra (Tons)	99	2,772	984	30,091	27,319	—
Auriferous By-Products (lts.)	127,728	19,640	76,337	21,736	2,096	—
Lumber-Native Timber (Sup. Ft.)	14,680,823	137,649	10,432,250	103,238	—	34,411
Palm Kernels (Tons)	8,933	152,921	9,893	253,248	100,327	—
Palm Oil (Gallons)	670,867	83,689	938,595	140,163	56,474	—
Rubber (lbs.)	1,391,097	57,006	721,588	33,637	—	23,369
Specie	—	446,358	—	34,731	—	411,627
Other Articles	—	146,305	—	88,451	—	57,854

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The principal items showing an increase in the value of the quantities exported as compared with the previous year were as follows:—

Cocoa	£6,481,569	or 361%
Palm Kernels	100,327	„ 66%
Kola Nuts	88,105	„ 34%
Palm Oil	56,474	„ 67%
Gold and Gold Dust.. .. .	38,760	„ 3%
Gopra	27,319	„ 985%
Manganese	16,122	„ 29%

These increases are accounted for as follows:—

Cocoa. The shipment of 176,000* tons valued at £8,278,000 constitutes a record in the history of the development of this industry in the Gold Coast. The largest and the most valuable previous shipments were in 1917 and 1916 respectively. In the former year 91,000 tons were exported and in the latter year the value of the cocoa shipped was £3,848,000. As compared with 1918 the increase in quantity was 109,833 tons or 165%. As already stated, the increase in value was 361%. This large discrepancy between quantity and value is due to the fact that the average value of a ton of cocoa, shipped in 1918, was just over £27, while in 1919 it was just under £47. The latter figure would have been even higher had not large quantities of cocoa, purchased at very low prices, remained unshipped at the end of 1918 and thus lowered the value per ton of the 1919 exports. The local price of cocoa, which had, owing to the lack of shipping, dropped as low as 2s. a load before the armistice, rose to about 10s. a load in November, 1918, and continued to rise rapidly until in June, 1919, it touched 34s. a load at Koforidua. A small drop occurred in July and August, but by December the load was fetching the truly astounding price of 40s. Since then even higher prices have ruled, and, as foreshadowed in the last Trade Report, the Colony's staple industry has, after several lean years, apparently entered on another era of prosperity. The increase in the export duty, coming at a time when prices were rising rapidly, was easily borne by the industry. The prevalence of plant disease among the cocoa farms has been a cause of anxiety for several years past, and a Committee was appointed by Government in June, 1919, to investigate and report on this and other aspects of the industry. It is generally understood that there is no immediate cause for alarm, though improved methods of cultivation and farm sanitation are admitted to be necessary if cocoa is to continue to be the staple industry and the main source of the Colony's wealth.

Palm Kernels. The increase in quantity was 960 tons or 11% as compared with a 66% increase in value. The slump in cocoa, the great demand for oleaginous produce, and the priority given to this class of cargo in 1918 created in that year a distinct revival in the palm kernel trade which had declined considerably since 1912. The further increase in 1919 is all the more gratifying

* Cf, however, page 36.

in view of the fact that palm products ceased to enjoy any privileged position. It is hoped that the good prices now prevailing will encourage the natives to continue harvesting this valuable natural product.

The Palm Kernels Export Duty Ordinance (*vide* page 32) came into operation on October 23rd, 1919 only, and it is too soon to judge of its effect on the local trade in the product.

Palm Oil. The increase in quantity is 267,728 gallons or 40% as compared with 1918. Prices advanced appreciably during the year. As in the case of kernels, exports were greater than in any year since 1912.

Kola Nuts. The quantity exported was 16,319,972 lbs. and constitutes a record. It was greater by 3,065,434 lbs. or 23% than in 1918—the previous record year. Most of it went, as usual, to Nigeria, this product of the Gold Coast being in great demand in the Hausa States and among Mahomedans generally in the Northern Provinces of Nigeria. The completion a few years ago of the Nigerian Railway, connecting Lagos with Kano, the great trading centre in the Northern Provinces, gave a great impetus to this trade, which is almost entirely in the hands of natives of West Africa—itinerant Hausa traders. Formerly a considerable proportion of the nuts was carried overland and in view of the perishable nature of the kola nut large quantities must have become spoilt before reaching the Nigerian markets, but the advantages of the short sea voyage and quick transport by rail were soon realized and it is probable that comparatively little kola now leaves the Gold Coast and Ashanti across the inland frontiers.

Copra. The quantity exported was 984 tons—an increase of 885 tons or 894% over 1918. The exports of this product were considerably hampered in 1918 by the difficulty of getting ships to call at Quittah, which accounts for the small export that year. The exports in 1919 were greater by 248 tons than in 1917, and, if the present demand for oleaginous produce continues, future years will, no doubt, show a further advance.

Gold and Gold Dust. The increase in quantity was 5,969 ozs, or a little under 2% as compared with 1918. The total export of 359,846 ozs: has frequently been exceeded.

Manganese. The quantity exported was 33,192 tons—an increase of 1,852 tons or 6% over 1918. This industry promises to become one of considerable importance.

The principal decreases in exports were:—

Lumber	£34,411 or 25%
Rubber	23,369 ,, 41%
Specie	411,627 ,, 92%

Lumber. The decrease in quantity was 4,248,573 superficial feet or 29% as compared with 1918. This trade has suffered considerably since the outbreak of war, the exports in 1913 amounting to 37,391,848 superficial feet whereas in 1919 they were 10,432,250 superficial feet. The lumber consists

of mahogany of various kinds; and before the war more than half of it went to the United Kingdom and most of the balance to the United States of America. From 1916 to 1918 inclusive the latter country took practically the whole of the quantity exported. In 1918 the United Kingdom took absolutely none; and, though she took 2,386,000 superficial feet in 1919, that did not make up for the drop in the exports to America, where the demand seems to have become less keen since the cessation of hostilities. The small ports in the Western Province, from which most of the lumber is shipped, suffered severely in 1918 from the lack of shipping; and, though conditions improved considerably in 1919, there is little doubt that more mahogany would have been exported had the ships been available.

Rubber. The decrease in quantity was 568,709 lbs. or 44% as compared with 1918. From being the most important product of the Colony rubber has sunk to the position of a minor export. Its decline has synchronised with, and may be said to be directly due to, the rise of the cocoa industry.

Specie. The decrease here was due to the keen local demand all through the year for silver currency, of which there was an acute shortage, as the natives have not taken kindly to the paper currency. The whole of the specie exported went to the British sphere in Togoland.

The values of the total exports (exclusive of specie) sent to the principal consuming countries in 1919 and each of the five preceding years are shown in the annexed Table "D."

TABLE "D."

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE VALUE OF EXPORTS (EXCLUSIVE OF SPECIE) SENT TO THE PRINCIPAL CONSUMING COUNTRIES IN 1919 AND EACH OF THE FIVE PRECEDING YEARS, AND THE PERCENTAGES ARRIVED AT BY COMPARING THE SEVERAL FIGURES WITH THE TOTAL IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR.

Country of Origin.	1914.		1915.		1916.		1917.		1918.		1919.	
	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.	Value.	Percentage of Total.
United Kingdom ..	£ 3,028,997	68%	£ 4,370,377	75%	£ 3,453,888	62%	£ 3,588,743	65%	£ 2,628,450	65%	£ 4,951,110	46%
Germany	554,632	12%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
France	528,780	12%	963,634	16%	1,374,815	24%	666,249	12%	67,369	2%	1,607,005	15%
United States of America	93,383	2%	329,466	6%	603,772	12%	1,005,204	18%	971,079	24%	3,465,699	32%
Nigeria	141,968	3%	139,247	2%	130,913	2%	242,736	4%	272,260	7%	378,781	4%
Other British Colonies	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,036	—	36,873	1%	25	—
Other Foreign Countries	—	—	—	—	—	—	25,450	—	60,536	1%	374,734	3%

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TOTAL TRADE.

The total value of the sea-borne trade of the Colony during the year, including expenses on specie, amounted to £18,746,717—an increase of £11,025,505 or 143% over the corresponding figure for 1918. If we add to this the total value of dutiable imports and exports across the inland frontiers (£21,400), we get £18,768,117 as the total value of the trade of the Colony during the year—an increase of £11,032,722 or 143%. Deducting from this the value including expenses of specie imported and exported (£876,754), and the value of imports and exports on behalf of the Colonial Government (£216,884), we get the figure £17,674,479 as representing the total value of the commercial trade of the Colony—an increase of £10,910,002 or 161% as compared with the previous year. Of this sum of £17,674,479, the largest item is the value of our exports of cocoa—£8,278,554.

PORTS.

The following Table gives the value of imports and exports which passed through the principal ports of the Colony during 1919:—

Ports.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.	Remarks.
Accra	3,531,307	4,898,201	8,429,508	
Seccondee	2,580,507	3,462,729	6,043,236	
Winnebah	410,172	781,263	1,191,435	
Saltpond	353,710	705,397	1,059,107	
Cape Coast	319,763	355,867	675,630	
Addah	198,235	202,016	400,251	
Quittah	177,229	143,181	320,410	
Half Assinie	41,728	24,527	66,255	
Elmina	17,561	—	17,561	
Axim	30,179	93,622	123,801	
Appam	4,331	131,368	135,699	
Dixcove	1,682	15,611	17,293	
Atuabo.. .. .	1,557	—	1,557	

The following Table shows the total shipping entering the ports of the Colony during the last six years.

	<i>Steam Vessels.</i>		<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1914	637	1,413,009	1	751
1915	354	818,356	8	7,259
1916	340	766,315	20	16,331
1917	313	705,584	23	16,902
1918	210	488,366	46	50,819
1919	344	831,843	23	16,990

The nationality of the vessels which entered the ports of the Colony during 1917, 1918, and 1919 is shewn in the following Table:—

Nationality.	1917.	
	No.	Tons.
British	262	609,449
French	41	82,781
Spanish	1	1,257
Norwegian	5	5,322
Greek	2	3,989
Danish	3	3,450
Portuguese	3	1,009
U.S.A.	19	15,229
Total	336	722,486

Nationality.	1918.	
	No.	Tons.
British	206	476,377
French	13	25,769
Danish	1	1,100
Portuguese	5	5,113
Spanish	1	1,257
Canadian	1	762
Italian	6	8,950
American	22	18,020
Russian	1	1,837
Total	256	539,185

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Nationality.	1919.	
	No.	Tons.
British	288	712,374
Canadian	1	419
French	20	49,121
American	30	51,927
Belgian	6	6,860
Danish	3	3,455
Dutch	1	838
Japanese	3	7,237
Norwegian	10	9,834
Portuguese	2	3,516
Russian	1	1,993
Spanish	2	1,259
Total	367	848,833

SPIRITS.

Total gallons imported	Gallons	663,200
Total gallons entered for home consumption	"	772,293
Gallons at 100 degrees converted from liquid gallons varying in strength	"	328,738
Declared value	£	234,092
Revenue derived from duties	£	365,342

SUPPLEMENT ON GOLD, BULLION AND SPECIE IMPORTED
AND EXPORTED DURING 1919.

The total value of specie imported during the year amounted to £835,062 as compared with £336,284 in 1918—an increase of £498,778 or 148%.

The total value of bullion imported during the year amounted to £12,621 as compared with £1,392 in 1918—an increase of £11,229 or 807%.

The total value of specie exported during the year amounted to £34,731 as compared with £446,358 in 1918—a decrease of £411,627 or 92%.

The total value of gold and auriferous by-products exported during the year amounted to £1,425,496 as compared with £1,384,640 in 1918—an increase of £40,856 or 3%.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-two Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year under review, of which the following are the principal enactments of general interest:—

No. 2 of 1919.—The Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Ordinance, 1919.

The provisions of this Ordinance correspond, *mutatis mutandis*, with those of the statute of the Imperial Parliament shortly entitled The Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Act, 1918.

No. 3 of 1919.—The Termination of the Present War (Definition) Ordinance, 1919.

This Ordinance makes a local provision following that made by the statute of the Imperial Parliament shortly entitled The Termination of the Present War (Definition) Act, 1918.

No. 7 of 1919.—The Cocoa Export Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 1919.

This Ordinance raises the export duty on cocoa to one half-penny a pound or part thereof. But any cocoa certified on or before the 12th day of July 1919 by the competent customs authority to have been at a port of shipment or (in the case of exportation over-land) at a lawful place of exportation in the Colony and in the possession of the exporter on or before such date is exempted from the incidence of the higher duty.

No. 8 of 1919.—The Former Enemy Aliens (Restriction on Immigration) Ordinance, 1919.

The duration of the operation of this Ordinance is limited to three years.

Section 3 provides that no former enemy alien shall enter the Colony unless he shall first have obtained an immigration permit signed by the Colonial Secretary authorising his entry; and a form of such permit is provided in the Schedule to the Ordinance.

Power is confided to the Colonial Secretary to attach conditions to an immigration permit and to vary the same, as also to cancel immigration permits if such course should appear to him expedient.

Section 9 relates to offences under the Ordinance and to the mode in which such offences are to be tried and punished.

Section 10 makes provision for the deportation of former enemy aliens adjudged guilty of offences under the Ordinance.

No. 10 of 1919.—The Palm Kernels Export Duty Ordinance, 1919.

The purport of this Ordinance, the duration of the operation of which is limited to five years, is to impose a duty of two pounds per ton on all palm-kernels exported from the Colony to places outside the British Empire. Section 3 lays down the procedure, whereunder effect is to be given to the differential incidence of the duty.

Legislation of similar tenor has been enacted elsewhere in British West Africa.

No. 12 of 1919.—The Diamond Export Duty Ordinance, 1919.

The purport of this Ordinance is to make provision for the levy of an export duty of five per centum on the value of rough and uncut diamonds which have been won from the earth within the Gold Coast Colony; and in the preparation of this Ordinance reference has been made to the corresponding Act of the Union Parliament of South Africa, namely the Diamond Export Duty Act, 1917, No. 27 of 1917. Owing however to local conditions some departures have had to be made from the provisions of that Act.

Section 2 defines certain expressions used in the Ordinance.

Section 3 provides for assessment of the value of the exported diamonds by an assessor or assessors approved for the purpose by the Secretary of State; and subsection (4) provides for reference to arbitration in the case of the exporter being dissatisfied with the assessment made by the aforesaid assessor or assessors. The value on which the duty is payable is the selling price of the diamond on the London market on the date of the assessment of such value under subsection (3).

Sections 4 and 5 prescribe the procedure to be adopted in registering diamonds for export and for their exportation through the medium of the Registered Post. In the first instance it is intended that the registration for export and the posting of the diamonds shall take place only at Accra; but provision is made for an extension of facilities in this regard to other places as occasion may require.

Under section 6, the exporter is required to enter into a bond to secure due and punctual payment of the duty when the amount payable on that account has been finally ascertained.

Section 7 imposes a limitation on the export of diamonds into or through Ashanti; the object of this provision being to preclude evasion of the duty by sending diamonds abroad through Ashanti.

Section 8 declares what are offences under the Ordinance, and prescribes penalties therefor.

No. 13 of 1919.—The Criminal Code Amendment Ordinance, 1919.

By this Ordinance the maximum number of strokes which can by law be inflicted on a juvenile offender under sixteen years of age is reduced from twenty strokes to twelve strokes.

No. 18 of 1919.—The Determination of the Time Ordinance, 1919.

The purport of this Ordinance is to advance the time observed locally by the space of twenty minutes during the last four months of each year; the object in view being to extend during those months the period of daylight-time available for evening recreation after office hours.

No. 20 of 1919.—The Vaccination Ordinance, 1919.

The purport of this Ordinance is to repeal the Vaccination Ordinance, 1888, and to substitute therefor an Ordinance more modern in form and better adapted to the present needs of the Gold Coast Colony.

A leading feature of the Ordinance is its great elasticity, which will enable it to be administered as circumstances require.

In section 3 legal recognition is given to the status and functions of native assistant public vaccinators who are not registered medical practitioners. Such officers will have the powers and will perform the duties under the Ordinance which are assigned to them by regulations made under section 6.

Under the provisions of section 4 vaccination will be free; though power is reserved to the Governor under the limitations expressed in section 13, to provide for the payment of fees to public vaccinators.

Under section 5 the Governor in Council is empowered to make Orders with respect to the compulsory vaccination both of children and of adults, and to limit the operation of such Orders as he may see fit.

Section 11 enjoins employers of foreign labour to notify the Medical Officer of Health for the place of the entry of the labourers into the Colony before the disembarkation or entry of the labourers, for the purpose of their inspection, and, if necessary, vaccination.

Under section 12 a person who has been successfully vaccinated, or who is shewn to be insusceptible of successful vaccination is entitled to an official certificate certifying that fact.

Section 14 declares the practice of inoculation to be unlawful, and prescribes a penalty for persons concerned in such practice.

No. 21.—The Loan Ordinance, 1919.

This Ordinance authorises the flotation of a Gold Coast Loan amounting to £6,000,000, to be expended on public works.

ASHANTI.

During the year 1919 fourteen Ordinances were enacted with respect to Ashanti.

No. 6 of 1919.—The Ashanti Administration (Third Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1919.

By this Ordinance the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to Ashanti are exhibited in a Schedule added to the principal Ordinance; and the third column of the Schedule disintegrates and individualises the compendious provision set forth in the first paragraph to the former section 26, thus making the modifications in application more easily ascertainable and intelligible.

No. 9 of 1919.—The Judicature Ordinance, 1919.

This Ordinance constitutes as a permanency the office of a Circuit Judge in Ashanti.

Under this Ordinance the Chief Commissioner is relieved of his criminal jurisdiction in capital cases, while retaining however exclusive jurisdiction in civil causes and matters to or in which native customary law is principally and substantially applicable.

The remaining Ordinances are not such as to call for special comment.

NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

During the year 1919 eleven Ordinances were enacted with respect to the Northern Territories.

No. 3 of 1919.—The Northern Territories Administration (Second Further Amendment) Ordinance, 1919.

By this ordinance the Ordinances of the Gold Coast Colony applied to the Protectorate are exhibited in a Schedule added to the principal Ordinance; and the third column of the Schedule disintegrates and individualises the compendious provision set forth in the first paragraph to the former section 24, thus making the modifications in application more easily ascertainable and intelligible.

No. 6 of 1919.—The Judicature Ordinance, 1919.

This Ordinance constitutes as a permanency the office of a Circuit Judge in the Protectorate.

Under this Ordinance the Chief Commissioner is relieved of his criminal jurisdiction in capital cases, while retaining however exclusive jurisdiction in civil causes and matters to or in which native customary law is principally and substantially applicable.

The remaining Ordinances are not such as to call for special comment.

V.—AGRICULTURE.

Cocoa:—Production is in the hands of peasant proprietors who have developed an industry which,

in 1891 exported 80 lbs. cocoa,

in 1911 " more cocoa than any other country,

in 1919 " more than half the world's supply.

The variety cultivated is one of the common kinds (Amelonado) which is inferior to other varieties in qualities which find favour with manufacturers. This fact does not, however, altogether account for the comparatively low price which is normally obtained for Gold Coast Cocoa. Inferior preparation, which permits a large percentage of defective beans, is practised by native producers and is encouraged by the very active competition for the purchase of quantity rather than of quality.

It is hoped that departmental endeavours to improve preparation may be assisted by :—

- (1) the increasing number of manufacturing firms which are establishing agencies here for direct purchase, and
- (2) the prospect of a movement to foster direct dealing between the producer and the home-market.

In this connection it may be noted that the Aburi Nsawam Cocoa Growers Association shipped its 1918-19 crop to brokers in England and are anxious to repeat the operation when the difference between home and local prices indicate the desirability of so doing. Such direct dealing is much to be advocated on the score that :—

- (1) the middleman's profits would be deleted
- (2) the producer would learn more readily the purchaser's requirements
- (3) the eradication of middlemen, and the closer contact between producer and consumer, should tend to stabilise the market and so induce native cultivators to have a greater regard for the future of the industry.

A committee was appointed to enquire into the industry and the question of improving methods of cultivation by regulation was discussed, but from the report it would appear that the industry has already assumed too big proportions to permit of regulation.

Customs returns (which are subject to slight revision) show that the exports for 1919 (*i.e.*, 176,000 tons) were nearly double in quantity those of the previous maximum (90,964 tons in 1917).

Of this quantity over 97,000 tons were exported during the months January to May; it is therefore apparent that a large proportion of the 1918-19 crop was shipped in 1919, and in comparing annual exports this fact (due to the increased shipping facilities of 1919 over those of 1918) must be taken into account. Probably the fairest method of comparison would be to take the mean of the 1918 and 1919 exports (*i.e.*, 121,000 tons) for comparison with the exports of previous years :—

1914	52,888 tons,
1915	77,278 „
1916	72,123 „
1917	90,964 „
1918	66,343 „
1919	176,151 „

The average monthly declared value rose steadily from £32·59 per ton in January to £78·19 per ton in December, and the average declared value for the total quantity exported during the year was £46·68 per ton. While the average value for the whole year has been exceeded by that of 1916, the average value for the month of December 1919 had not previously been reached.

Palm Products :—The oil palm, from which the kernels and palm-oil of commerce are prepared, is an indigenous plant and has not been cultivated on a large scale by the natives; sufficient oil for local use is prepared in practically all villages throughout the forest area and nothing like the maximum possible quantity of products is prepared from wild palms.

There was an increase in the quantity and value of both the kernels and oil exported during 1919 :—

Kernels	1919	9,986 tons at	£253,241 <i>i.e.</i> ,	£25 per ton
"	1918	8,932 " "	£152,922 <i>i.e.</i> ,	£17 " "
Palm oil	1919	938,595 gallons at	£140,164	
	1918	670,867 " "	£83,689	

It should be noted that these increases have been made simultaneously with the cocoa market.

No reports have been received of the activities of the European Companies engaged in palm products.

Considerable diminution of yield was caused by the attack of a small leaf-beetle in the Western Province and the palms as a result suffered more than usually from the extraordinary dryness of the "wet season."

Kola :—This product is also obtained from an indigenous tree, and on account of the sustaining properties which it contains a constant demand for it in a fresh state is maintained in Northern Nigeria by caravans proceeding on desert journeys. An increased quantity of more than 2,100,000 lbs was exported by sea in 1919, and in view of the fact that the greatest proportion of this trade is in native hands, it is interesting to note that the price of kola has arisen with the increase in the price of commodities generally, thus in 1918 the declared value was approximately 2s. per 5 lbs. in 1919 it was 2s. per 4·3 lbs.

Coconuts :—The amount of copra exported in 1919 exceeded that of any previous year, as did its declared value.

Owing to the fact that no figures are available to show the amount exported via Lome in 1918, a comparison with that year cannot be made.

Nine hundred and eighty tons valued at £30,000 were exported in 1919 and previous maxima were 809 tons valued at £10,451 for 1909

and 736 " " " £19,916 for 1917.

Ten thousand seed-nuts were distributed by the Agricultural Department to various applicants during 1919 with a view to fostering the copra industry.

Rubber :—The exports of rubber have decreased to slightly more than half the quantity shipped in 1918. As the production of plantation rubber has probably increased the decrease in the total amount exported probably represents a slump in the collection of wild rubber owing to the revival of the cocoa market.

Food-Crops :—A shortage, and consequent rise in price, of foodcrops was felt in certain districts, and is largely accounted for by the abnormal drought which occurred in the middle of the wet season and by the reluctance of producers to accept currency notes in payment for foodstuff.

Horticulture :—The usual number of decorative plants and seedlings have been distributed.

Training :—The number of students who attended classes in Agriculture at the five stations of the Department during the year was 172.

One King Edward VII. Scholarship (value £30, tenable for 3 years) was awarded in Agriculture.

The agricultural possibilities of the Gold Coast and its Dependencies are vast, and it is to be regretted that the all absorbing influence of the cocoa industry has masked the potentialities of other agricultural products which are capable of being grown locally. Among such are :—Limes, bananas, cassava, plantains and other starches, maize, rice, guinea grain, coffee, ground nut, oinnamon, camphor, black-pepper, ginger, gingelly, castor oil, shea-butter, sisal and mauritius hemp and many useful fibres, etc.

With the advent of motor tillage and increased transport facilities it is not difficult to foresee a considerable advance in the production of food and annual crops both for local consumption and export.

ROADS.

In the Colony, the main roads are constructed and maintained by the Public Works Department. The mileage of these roads was increased during 1919, the total being about 428 miles, as compared with about 400 miles in 1918. This mileage was made up as follows :—184 miles in the Eastern Province, 190 miles in the Central Province, and 54 miles in the Western Province. The greatly increased traffic over these roads, added to a very dry year, has rendered the task of maintaining them a very difficult one.

The mileage in Ashanti of Public Works Department roads is 110 miles, and, although this was not increased during the year, the continuation of the main trunk road to Tamale through the Northern Territories was taken in hand late in the year, and work was so energetically carried out that by the end of December the road had been extended to Prang, a distance of 40 miles, and by April 1920 Tamale was linked up by a dry season motor road with the Coast. The opening up of the Northern Territories has thus become an accomplished fact, although a large amount of work is still required in the improvement of embankments, bridges, etc. before the road is finally completed.

In addition to Public Works roads, there are 2,260 miles of secondary roads, maintained by Native Chiefs, and placed under the Roads Ordinance (No. 13 of 1894), which provides for the grant to Chiefs of funds for maintenance, and which enables a District Commissioner to fine a Chief for failure to keep his roads properly cleaned. The eagerness of the Chiefs for their roads to be so improved as to permit of light cars passing through their districts has been so great that they have willingly undertaken the construction of light motor roads, to take the place of "Bush" paths and hammock roads. This work has been carried out under the supervision of the Political Officers. Any technical advice or assistance in the matter of bridges and culverts, etc. has been given by the Public Works Department.

The Coastal road has been maintained, and extensive survey work carried out, so that it is hoped that 1920 will see the whole road sufficiently advanced to admit of motor traffic from Accra to Seccondee. Work was also commenced on the section between Seccondee and Axim.

In Ashanti, where during 1918 about 200 miles of pioneer roads were opened to motor traffic, there was only constructed during the year about 52 miles, efforts having been made to improve the roads and bridges already constructed, and maintain them in good order, rather than to open up large lengths of new roads.

VI.—EDUCATION.

Education in the Gold Coast is chiefly in the hands of various Mission Societies, but there are nineteen Government Schools the largest of which are at Accra, Cape Coast and Coomassie. With one or two exceptions all the schools are primary but a scheme is under consideration for the establishment by Government of a large secondary school in the neighbourhood of Accra.

The schools are very unevenly distributed the numbers being greatest in those districts where Missionary work first commenced. Thus in the Western Province there are very few schools, particularly if those on the coast are excluded. In the Northern Territories there are only four schools all of which are directly under the control of Government. Schools are most numerous in the Eastern Province.

The teaching staff consists almost entirely of native teachers, many of whom have been trained in the Seminaries at Akropong and Abetifi, formerly under the Basel Mission, and at the Accra Government Training College. The latter was established in 1909 for the purpose of training teachers for Government Schools as well as for Mission Schools—the Basel Mission (now Scottish Mission) excepted, which has its own Training Institutions or Seminaries. Since 1909 many teachers have been trained at the Accra Government Training College for the Bremen, Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Mission Schools as well as for Government Schools.

With the exception of a few schools under the Scottish Mission and two Wesleyan Girls' Schools all the schools are day schools. Female education is very backward.

The Vernacular is used almost entirely in the infant classes, and English and the Vernacular in the lower standards. In the higher classes, English is the language mainly used.

The schools under the management of Missionary bodies which were subject to inspection by Officers of the Education Department and which received grants-in-aid from public funds numbered at the close of the year 194. This number, with 19 Government Schools already mentioned, gives a total of 213 Government and Assisted Schools. Of this total 29 were open to boys only, six were for girls only, 150 were open to both boys and girls, the remaining 28 being infant schools.

In 1917 and early 1918 the deportation of all Basel Missionaries took place. From the beginning of February, 1918 the Basel Mission Schools were temporarily taken over by the Education Department and were still under the control by that Department at the end of 1919.

The Bremen Mission Schools which were temporarily taken over by Government in July, 1916 on the deportation of the German Missionaries, were still being controlled by the Education Department at the end of 1919. The Department also continued to exercise some supervision over the Church affairs of the Mission which after the deportation of the Germans, were in the hands of the Native Ministers.

The following is a comparative Table showing the number of Government and Assisted schools during the year, and the enrolment of pupils.

Description of Schools...	No. of Schools	Enrolment.		Total.
		Boys.	Girls.	
A. M. E. Zionist Mission	6	850	88	938
* Former Bremen Mission	25	1,546	320	1,866
Church of England Mission	5	643	63	706
Government	19	3,422	569	3,991
Roman Catholic Mission	32	3,190	410	3,600
Scottish Mission (former Basel Mission)	83	6,023	2,134	8,157
Wesleyan Mission	42	6,994	1,016	8,010
Secondary	1	50	—	50
Total	213	2,1718	4,600	27,318

*Including all the Schools which were formerly under the control of the Bremen Mission.

The total number of pupils enrolled upon the registers of schools supported by contributions from the public funds during the year 1918, was 27,318 which exceeds the number on record for any previous year, and which constitutes an increase of 822 over the number for 1918. The average attendance during 1919 shows an increase of 611.

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The grants-in-aid, paid to schools on the Assisted List excluding the salaries of the teachers of the Scottish and former Bremen Missions, amounted to £6,600.

The total estimated expenditure by the Government on Education in the Colony and its Dependencies in 1919 amounted to £57,716, an excess of £19,631 over the expenditure in 1918. This increase arose mainly in respect of the upkeep of the former Basel Mission Schools.

At the Government Training College for Teachers at Accra, there were sixty-six students in residence during the year. At this College, Teachers are trained not only for Government service but also for the Mission Schools. At the Government Technical School 32 pupils were in residence.

In March, 1919 a special Committee was appointed by Sir Hugh Clifford "to report on and make such recommendations as seem desirable on the Educational system of the Gold Coast." The Committee reported on October 8th 1919, and their recommendations were under consideration at the close of the year. It is not considered, however, that they go far enough in view of the backward condition of Education in the Gold Coast, and at the time of writing an extensive re-organization of the Education Department is contemplated.

VII.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUM.

During the year 2,038 Europeans and 56,267 natives were treated in the hospitals and dispensaries of the Colony as compared with 1,903 and 56,724 respectively in the previous year.

The number of patients admitted into the Accra Lunatic Asylum during the year was 46 males and 10 females. The number discharged was 20 males and 2 females. The daily average number of inmates was 127·3 as compared with 130·2 in 1918.

VIII.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The authorized establishment of the Police Force of all ranks on the 31st. of December 1919 was 1386 made up as follows:—

General Police	..	..	..	382
Escort Police	..	..	..	744
Railway Police	..	..	..	97
Marine Police	..	..	..	9
Recruits	..	..	..	60
Disciplinary Staff, etc.	..	..	..	49
Band	..	..	..	45
				1386

This force is distributed in the Colony and Ashanti (separate provision being made for the policing of the Northern Territories by means of the Northern Territories Constabulary, as to which information is contained in the annual report on the Northern Territories).

The total number of recruits enlisted in 1919 was 408 as compared with 303 in 1918, and the casualties from death, desertion, discharge, resignation and dismissals amounted to 193 as against 383 in 1918:

Government specie was escorted during the year as usual, £280 was realised in commissions for the escorting of private specie as compared with £235 in 1918.

The Police dealt with 13,699 cases of crime during the year under review, an increase of 817 as compared with previous year.

Murder shows a serious increase.

The crimes of arson, robbery, housebreaking and larceny were on the increase and the attendant crimes, receiving and unlawful possession rose also. Forgery again showed an increase.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £65,092 12s. 8d. as compared with £68,245 in 1918. The amount paid in gratuities on discharge was £1,323 18s. 11d. as compared with £1,993 6s. 2d. in 1918.

A Committee was appointed by the Government to:—

“Consider Mr. Collins’ scheme for the Reorganisation of the Police Force (Sessional Paper 1, 1917-1918) and to make early recommendations to the Government:—(a) as to the lines on which the Government should proceed with a view to securing an adequate and efficient Police Force for the Colony and Ashanti.

“(b) as to the additions to the force which are necessary to attain this end

and

“(c) as to the additions which should be made *forthwith* as a first instalment.”

The Committee sat in October and November and their report was under consideration at the end of the year. The Committee recommend, *inter alia*, that the personnel of the force, both European and Native, should be largely increased, but that the increase in the rank and file should await the provision of accommodation. They further recommended large increases of pay in the native ranks and these have since been approved by the Secretary of State. A further important recommendation has also been approved, *viz.*, the separation of the Police and Prisons Departments.

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CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of convictions in the Superior Courts of the Colony during 1918 and 1919 was as follows:—

	1918	1919
Offences against the person	86	34
Slave dealing	—	—
Offences against property (other than praedial larceny)	52	45
Other offences	52	25
Total	190	104

There were 100 Acquittals in 1919 as compared with 53 in 1918.
The number of Summary convictions in 1918 and 1919 was as follows:—

	1918	1919
Offences against the person	2,270	1,947
Slave dealing	5	7
Offences against property (other than praedial larceny)	1,807	2,064
Other offences	4,438	4,960
Total ..	8,520	8,978

There were 2,946 acquittals as compared with 2,874 in 1918.

CIVIL ACTIONS.

There were 415 civil actions brought in the Divisional Courts of the Colony during 1919, as compared with 395 in 1918 and 391 in 1917.

Court fees and fines collected during 1919 amounted to £5,469 5s. 8d. as compared with £4,245 6s. in 1918.

The number of writs of Fi: Fa: (*feri facias*) issued by the Courts for execution during the year was 263 involving an amount of £17,632 9s. 2d. of which £6,329 1s. 5d. was collected. These figures shew a decrease as compared with the figures for 1918, when 349 writs of Fi: Fa: issued, involving an amount of £21,625 5s. 6d. of which £9,680 14s. 0d. was collected. The number of writs of Ca: Sa: (*Capias Satisfaciendum*) issued during 1919 was 810 involving an amount of £15,744 13s. 9d. whereof a sum of £9,196 13s. 8d. was collected.

PRISONS.

During 1919 the daily average of the number of prisoners confined in the four central prisons of the Colony for the accommodation of long sentence prisoners as compared with the numbers in 1918 is shewn in the following Table:—

	1918	1919
Accra	362	317
Seccondee	352	358
Cape Coast .. .	65	86
Elmina	43	41

Prisoners whose sentences are for less than six months serve their time in the smaller gaols at Axim, Seccondee, Tarquah, Saltpond, Winnebah Akuse, Addah, Quittah and Dunkwa. In Ashanti, prisoners undergo sentences up to three years at Obuassi or at Coomassie. The daily average of prisoners in these prisons during 1919 was 93 and 155 respectively, as compared with 73 and 144 in 1918. Smaller gaols in Ashanti are at Kintampo Sunyani, Kratchi, Juaso and Ejura.

The number of persons committed to prison in 1919 was 6,567 a decrease of 127 as compared with 1918. The committals during 1919 included 234 women and 61 juveniles. Of the total committals, 66 per cent. were for purposes of penal imprisonment, 6 per cent were for debt, and the remaining 27 per cent. were for purposes of custody pending trial.

The number of persons committed for purposes of penal imprisonment during 1919 was 4,374 as compared with 4,113 in 1918.

The daily average number of inmates in the prisons of the Colony was 1,572 as compared with 592 in 1918. The number of escapes recorded was 72 in the period under review as compared with 79 in the previous year. Three of the escapes were intramural. Thirty-eight re-captures were effected.

There were two executions at Accra and eight at Seccondee, making a total of ten as compared with eleven in 1918.

The general health of the prisoners was good,

The establishment was augmented towards the end of the year by the addition of 36 temporary warders, but was still very inadequate.

The total expenditure on rations amounted to £9,142 an increase of £1,576 on the expenditure in 1918. The average daily cost per prisoner was 5·81d. as compared with 3·31d. in 1918.

Long sentence prisoners are employed intramurally upon various handicrafts including carpentry, tailoring, and bootmaking.

The scheme of extending the benefit of prison industries to the general public, put in operation on the 1st May 1918, was made increased use of, especially in respect of repairs to boots and shoes.

Carpentry slightly decreased at Seccondee, but increased at Accra. A little tailoring was done for private individuals by the prisons at Accra and Seccondee. For the most part, however, the prison tailors were employed in making the usual uniforms for Escort Police and warders, and prisoners' clothing. Basket-making was carried out as usual at Seccondee, where there was a considerable increase in the demand for earth baskets by the railway and Public Works Department.

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Extramural labour was practically limited to work for the Government and Town Councils.

Short sentence prisoners are employed extramurally on general Town improvements and Sanitary labour.

The overcrowding at many of the prisons, and particularly at Accra was still noticeable. Owing to lack of labour, however, the prospect of building the New Central Prison at Accra (the principal item in the programme for overcoming this evil) was still dim at the end of the year.

The total earnings in respect of prison labour and industries amounted to £2,999 as compared with £2,606 in 1918.

The total expenditure for the year was £27,697 an increase of £493 over the amount of the expenditure in 1918.

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

At the census 1911 the population of the Gold Coast and Dependencies was 1,503,386.

The number of Europeans resident in the Colony during 1919 was 3,182.

	1918.	1919.
Officials	515	653
Mercantile	681	1,902
Mining	578	561
Missionary	49	66
Total	1,823	3,182

The increase of nearly 200% in the numbers of the mercantile community is a striking indication of the revival of trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The number of births and deaths registered during the years 1918 and 1919 was :—

	1918.		1919.	
	Europeans	Natives	Europeans	Natives
Births	0	2,045	0	1,927
Deaths	56	5,027	26	2,498
Still births	0	103	0	102

A summary of the chief causes of death at all ages shews that 22% was due to the intestinal group of diseases, 12% to the Pneumonia group, 5% due to Tuberculosis, including Phthisis, while Senility and Prematurity accounted for 11% each.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

As registration is not general all over the Colony no accurate statement of infant mortality can be given.

The Table below is for Accra, and as it shows that 28 out of every 100 deaths registered in Accra are infants one must presume that the proportion of those born in the Colony who fail to reach their first birth-day must be high :—

Year.	1918.	1919.
Number of births	648	709
Number of deaths under one year. . .	313	255
Percentage of total deaths at all ages.	19·3	28
Deaths under one year per 1,000 births.	483	359·6

An analysis of the death and invaliding statistics of the European population is appended.

1919.	Number of Residents.	Deaths.	Invalided.	Death Rate per 1,000.	Invaliding Rate per 1,000.
Officials	653	6	28	9·2	42·8
Merchants	1,902	15	20	7·9	10·5
Mining Companies	561	7	25	12·5	44·6
Missions	66	—	1	—	15·1
Total	3,182	28	74	8·80	23·27

The Death Rate amongst Europeans resident in the Colony during 1919 was 8·8 per 1,000 as compared with 30·7 in 1918 (the year of the Influenza Epidemic) the invaliding rates per 1,000 for the same periods were 23·27 and 55·4 respectively.

Of the six deaths which occurred amongst European officials in the Colony and its Dependencies in 1919, one was due to Influenza, one Yellow Fever, one Blackwater Fever, one Liver Abscess, one Chronic Gastritis and one to Accident (Fracture of Base of Skull).

Of the fifteen deaths of European Non-officials, seven were due to Blackwater Fever, three to Yellow Fever, one to Thermic Fever and the others to Miscellaneous Diseases.

Seven European Non-officials were invalided with Blackwater Fever, one with Kala Azar and one with Yellow Fever.

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The average daily number of European officials on the sick list compared to the average daily number resident in the Colony was 1·69 per cent. as compared with 3·97 per cent. in 1918 and 2·55 per cent. in 1917.

Treatment was given in 3,758 cases of Malaria, 458 cases of Dysentery, nine cases of Yellow Fever, 277 cases of Pneumonia, 269 cases of Tuberculosis and a large number of cases of minor complaints.

16,943 successful vaccinations were performed as compared with 10,726 in 1918.

Fourteen cases of Sleeping Sickness were treated during the year. Of 20 cases of Blackwater Fever treated eight proved fatal, and of nine cases of Yellow Fever 5 proved fatal and four recovered.

SANITATION.

The special features distinguishing the year 1919 were the comparative drought, and a severe epidemic of Cerebro-Spinal Fever in the north-western extremity of the Colony, 94% of the cases being fatal.

The rainfall in Accra was 20 inches as compared with an average of 32 for the previous 10 years.

The usual routine measures of sanitation were carefully carried out, and the drought greatly favoured the efforts at mosquito destruction.

The excess lime treatment of the Accra water supply continued to give satisfaction. During the early part of the year, due no doubt in a great extent to faulty technique, the results were not quite satisfactory. During the second half of the year the results were uniformly satisfactory.

In Secondee experiments on the comparative effect of excess lime and aluminium sulphate in purifying and discolouring the water, and on the sterilizing effect of chlorine, were commenced towards the end of the year. The final results are not yet to hand.

During the year there were 8,448 prosecutions under the Towns and Public Health Ordinances and the Mosquito Ordinance 8,337 convictions and fines amounting to £3,066 collected.

CLIMATE.

The climate, though hot and damp, is cooler than that of most tropical countries situated in the same latitude. It is not in itself unhealthy; but an evil reputation has been earned for it in the past by the prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases, against which all possible precautions have constantly to be taken. The Gold Coast is peculiarly free from many of the discomforts

associated with tropical countries; hot nights and intense heat by day are the exception rather than the rule, while insects are comparatively unobtrusive. The efforts of the sanitary and medical authorities in promoting hygiene and treatment of disease continue to exercise a beneficial effect on the general health of Europeans.

The rainfall varies with the configuration of the country and is highest at Axim and in the mining districts of Tarquah, Upper and Lower Wassaw, etc. The first rains, or rainy season proper, begin in March and end in July; the later rains are spread over the months of September and October. The rainy season is marked by a considerable fall in the temperature, which is found to be refreshing to many Europeans, but proves trying to some. The Harmattan season begins in December and ends in February.

METEOROLOGY.

The rainfall during the year was well below the mean of the previous three years:—

RAINFALL IN INCHES.

Station.	1916	1917	1918	1919
Accra	41.05	44.20	32.37	20.44
Aburi	48.66	73.16	42.24	34.54
Cape Coast	53.62	56.25	35.30	29.19
Seccondee	37.67	56.76	34.53	38.25
Axim	110.67	94.50	47.64	56.05
Tarquah	77.08	92.62	53.80	59.36
Coomassie	60.79	71.40	58.64	37.08
Tamale	45.52	35.76	44.45	38.61

At Accra the mean shade temperature for the year was 77.07 F., one degree lower than that of the previous year which was 78.85 F.

At Coomassie and Seccondee the mean shade temperature was 79.83 F., and 80.49° F. respectively, as compared with 79.12° F., and 77.53° F. in 1918.

The mean daily range of temperature at Accra was 17.70.

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X.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

The business dealt with by the Department during the year as compared with the previous year was as follows:—

	1918.	1919.
	£	£
Sale of stamps for postal purposes	10,940	17,556
Number of Letters and Postcards received and despatched ..	5,274,952	4,476,684
Registered Packets	491,956	501,192
Book Packets	874,824	740,732
Parcels	62,632	89,852
Money Order (Value)	153,531	173,477
Postal Orders (Value)	143,781	186,437
Postal Orders (Number)	189,774	256,214
Inland Telegrams Private	195,749	290,218
Inland Telegrams Official	91,622	95,143

There were 110 offices in the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories open at the end of the year, of which 72 were Postal Agencies.

The total amount of traffic dealt with shows an increase which is in conformity with the increase in the general trade of the Colony in 1919 as compared with the previous year.

The business transacted by the Post Office Savings Bank recovered from the set back which was adversely caused by the prevailing depression in trade during last year. The deposits made during the year were 10,319 in number, an increase of 1,413, the total value, amounting to £41,986 shows an increase of £14,955, as compared with 1918.

Withdrawals decreased from 5,313 in number to 4,964 but shew an increase in value from £33,963 to £40,886. The average value of each deposit was £4 ls. 5d. as against £3 8s. 0d. in 1918, and of each withdrawal £8 4s. 9d. as against £6 7s. 7d. The amount standing to the credit of the 5,806 depositors on the 31st of December 1919, was £54,437 representing a decrease of 10 in the number of depositors as compared with the position on the 31st of December 1918, and an increase of £2,323 in amount.

The number of telegrams transmitted in 1919 shews an increase both as regards official messages (increase ninety-two per cent.) and as regards unofficial messages (increase 67.55 per cent.) over the number transmitted in 1918.

The total number of telegraph offices open to the public in the Colony Ashanti and the Northern Territories at the end of the year was 60 and the length of wire maintained during the year was approximately 2,600 miles. Tornados and tree felling occasioned minor interruptions in the lines.

Cable traffic for 1919 shewed a substantial increase over the return for the previous year.

The total number of private messages received and transmitted by the wireless station at Accra was 604.

The telephone systems at Accra, Secondee, Tarquah and Dodowah and Aburi were maintained throughout the year, as also were the trunk lines connecting Accra-Nsawam-Mangoase-Koforidua, Aburi-Dodowah, Quittah Danoe-Lome, and Addah-Akuse. There was a total of 254 telephones in use, of which 104 were in the hands of private subscribers.

Large extensions of the telephone system were sanctioned and are now being carried out.

XI.—RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

RAILWAYS.

The total length of line open for traffic at the end of 1919 was 269 miles. There are two main railway lines, one starting from the port of Secondee and terminating at Coomassie, a distance of 168 miles, and the other Akwapim railway from Accra to Tafo, a distance of 65 miles. The Secondee-Coomassie railway also has a branch line from Tarquah (39 miles from Secondee) to Prestea (18 miles from Tarquah), while a branch line also runs from Ancobra Junction (one mile from Prestea) to Broomassie, a distance of one mile. These branches were built for the development of the gold-mining industry, while a further short branch has recently been constructed near Tarquah for the development of the manganese.

The total capital expenditure on the 31st December 1919, stood at £3,416,924.

The gross revenue for the year amounted to £672,110, an increase of £215,536 as compared with the gross revenue for 1918; the expenditure incurred to earn the revenue was £234,235, an increase of £36,717 over 1918; the net revenue was £437,875, an increase of £178,819 over 1918. The interest earned on the total capital of £3,416,924 was 12·81 per cent as against 7·95 per cent in 1918 and 9·30 per cent in 1917.

During the year the following important construction works were sanctioned and begun:—

(i) The resumption of work on the joining up of the Accra-Akwapim railway with the Secondee-Coomassie railway, and (ii) the reconstruction (i.e. re-alignment and relaying of many portions) of the Secondee-Coomassie railway.

The number of passengers conveyed during the year was 1,137,478, an increase of 292,008 over 1918. The biggest increase was in third class passengers, though a larger proportionate increase took place in first and second class passengers.

The total tonnage carried during 1919 was 351,538, an increase of 33,799 tons as compared with 1918. There was an increase of approximately 38,000 tons in cocoa and 8,700 tons in manganese and decreases of approximately 13,900 tons in firewood, and 10,600 tons in native produce; generally there was an all round increase in the principal commodities carried. Palm kernels, hitherto merged with native produce, have been separately extracted for the first time, and it was ascertained that some 2,800 tons were conveyed.

XII. PUBLIC WORKS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The approximate expenditure under Public Works extraordinary during the year on new works and other items was £26,265, which was a decrease of £40,553 as compared with the expenditure under this head for 1918. This decrease is due to the fact that when the estimates were drawn up in 1918 strict economy was observed, and later on, when funds were available, the staffs were so depleted that it was impossible suddenly to extend operations until the gaps were filled and materials obtained. Labour troubles also arose late in the year which severely restricted works.

Expenditure under Public Works annually recurrent, which includes, amongst other items, the repair and painting of all Government buildings, increased from £52,527 in 1918 (Blue Book figures) to £77,371 in 1919, an increase of £24,844. Many of the buildings in the Colony had perforce been somewhat neglected during the war, owing to the need for economy, impossibility of obtaining paint, etc., and an effort was made during the year to put in hand as much painting and repair work as possible.

The cost of maintenance of the Accra Water Works was £10,330, as compared with £9,173, in 1918, an increase of £1,157. The excess lime treatment was continued with success.

Experiments in connection with the purification of Secondee water are still being conducted, and the reports as to the treatment by aluminium sulphate are very encouraging. The cost of the maintenance amounted to £6,840, while special expenditure was £1,412.

ACCRA HARBOUR.

The Accra Harbour consists of a breakwater about one thousand four hundred feet long running out obliquely from the shore, sheltering an area of nearly ten acres.

Within the sheltered area a wharf and jetty have been erected; but both have been left high and dry owing to the heavy influx of sand which coincided with the progress of the breakwater. As some compensation there has been formed a valuable reclamation area, upon which considerably more tonnage is handled than at any other port in the Colony.

The jetty and wharf are now being dismantled and a new jetty is to be re-erected on a new site in deep water, thereby considerably increasing the area available for handling surf boat borne cargo, and providing also facilities for handling lighter traffic up to ten-ton lifts. A new layout of the shore area, including the provision of large warehouses and a new Port Office has also been prepared for early execution.

SECONDEE HARBOUR.

The Secondee Harbour is composed of a single breakwater forming a prolongation of a natural reef. It is nine hundred and seventy-six feet long built of fifteen-ton concrete blocks on a closely set random block work foundation.

It is thirteen feet six inches above low water and protected by a parapet seven feet further height. In heavy water the surf strikes the breakwater at an angle of about forty-five degrees and is reflected without breaking.

The sheltered area amounts to about twenty acres, of a depth ranging from fourteen to five feet when completed.

Obviously this can only accommodate lighter and surf boat traffic. This is handled by means of four steel pile jetties averaging two hundred and seventy feet in length equipped with power cranes of three tons capacity although a twenty-ton crane is obtainable at short notice.

There are two twin slipways for the accommodation of lighters up to seventy-five tons in weight.

Lifts up to fifteen tons are immediately dealt with at the breakwater barge berth.

A retaining wall nearly four hundred feet long has been built along the foreshore between jetties three and four, which forms on its face a flight of steps thus facilitating the easy landing of head borne traffic from surf boats which can moor close together normal to the wall and swell thus occupying a minimum amount of space.

A somewhat steeper and shorter wall of similar construction lies between jetties Nos. I and II.

To the north of jetty No. I there is a quay wall one thousand feet long for the shipping of mahogany logs which are brought down from the interior to be stacked and tipped into the sea and towed to the ship when freight is available.

An area of four acres has been reclaimed for the erection of Customs sheds which as yet has been partially utilized.

There is thirty feet of water under two thousand feet from the breakwater so that traffic can be expeditiously handled from ship to shore, but further warehouse accommodation is urgently required.

During the year a Committee, which had been appointed in 1918 to report on improvements required in the port of Seccondee, submitted an important report in which the chief recommendation was the immediate creation of a staff to make investigations with a view to drawing up a scheme for a deep water harbour at Seccondee. This proposal took practical shape in December when, at the instance of the new Governor, a party of Engineers arrived to make a survey of likely places on the Coast for this purpose.

XIII.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1919.

An interesting discovery of alluvial *diamonds* was made on 4th February by the Director of the Geological Survey. The gems occur in the shallow, gold-bearing gravels of the Abome, a small tributary of the Birrim River, in the district of Eastern Akim, some 65 miles to the north-west of Accra. Later, they were found more sparingly in several other tributaries of the same stream.

Some investigations were made to test the extent of their distribution and modes of occurrence and origin, but nothing definite was obtained regarding their original source. During these investigations upwards of 600 diamonds were found. All of them are small; the largest, a clear, colourless crystal, an octahedron, weighs about one sixth of a Metric carat (3·174 grains Troy). It has been valued at about £1.

Many of the stones are perfect crystals, colourless and transparent; others are of pale yellow, blue, green, grey and brown colours. There are also numbers of fragments and cleavage plates of octahedra.

The economic character of the deposit has yet to be proved. No further work has been done by the Geological Survey in the locality, as a concession over the district has been obtained by a Company.

Two small diamonds were found near the Volta River, in a tributary of the Obosum River, some 75 miles to the north-east of Abomoso. This is interesting, as it shows the wide, though not provedly connected, dispersion of the gems.

The Director made a personal examination of all the shafts sunk through the *bauxite* deposits on Mount Ejuanama, Kwahu, and collected upwards of 600 samples of ore from them. Analyses are being made of a representative selection from these samples. The general quality of the material is good, similar to that of the ore heretofore obtained.

As disclosed by the shafts the average thickness of massive and rubbly *bauxite* on the top of the mountain is 20½ feet: the total quantity there may be taken as approximately 3,000,000 tons.

The average thickness of surface soil overlying the *bauxite* on the top of the mountain is 2½ feet. Judging by such analyses as have been made already most of this is firmly granular *bauxite*. Should the analyses now in hand confirm this quality the total quantity of good *bauxite* will be materially increased.

No comprehensive examination has yet been practicable of the available water-power in the adjacent districts, with a view to its utilization for the development of the deposits. But there is every reason to believe that ample power exists for the conversion of the bauxite to alumina, while the Volta River can supply a great amount of power for the electric smelting of the ore and the extraction of aluminium should it be found advisable to utilize it for that purpose.

The occurrence of pebbles of good *bauxite* and several patches of massive bauxite was proved over considerable areas on the foot-ridges of the Atiwa Range, Eastern Akim, and in the stream flowing therefrom. Nothing of economic importance, however, was noticed along the route traversed, but deposits of value may occur in the district.

Small quantities of low-grade *Manganese-cobalt* ore were found near Osenase in the same district,

Several outcrops of what appears to be good *limestone* were observed along the Volta River, between Obosumanu and Nkami, and limestone of poorer quality on Kade Mountains, Western Akim, their extent remains to be proved. A handsome ornament building stone, of volcanic origin, was noted in large quantities in the former district; similarly one suitable for general building and road purposes in Southern Kwahu.

A large extent of new country was examined in the Afram-Obosum plains from Kwahu to the Volta, and in Northern Ashanti between Ejura, the Puru and Tankaw rivers and the Coomassie-Kintampo road. Much useful information was obtained regarding the physical and geological character of these districts, and numbers of good springs of pure water were found in the latter area.

XIV—SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

The steps taken early in the year to re-open the Survey Department resulted in Major H. A. L. Hall, M.C., R.E. being appointed Director of Surveys on the 25th June 1919. He arrived at Accra on the 9th October, the intermediate period having been spent in purchasing stores and collecting staff, and took over the survey branch of the Public Works Department.

At the close of the year the department was some fifty Europeans short of the establishment contemplated. The Assistant Directors of Cadastral and Topographical Surveys, one Surveyor 1st grade and two Surveyors 3rd grade arrived, but so late that it was only possible to complete some 30 miles of traverse of the 1st order, and some 20 miles of levelling of the 2nd order, in connection with the framework for the Topographical Survey being undertaken to locate an extension of the railway northwards from Coomassie.

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MINING.

The value of the minerals produced was £1,305,043 made up as follows:—

Gold	£1,254,258
Manganese Ore	50,785
	1,305,043

Gold—The value of the gold produced was £83,279 less than the value of the amount produced in 1918. From the mines 532,034 tons were treated with a recovery of 11·07 dwts per ton, and producing 294,507 ounces. Of the total tonnage treated by the Mining Companies 255,760 tons were mined from the conglomerate reef in the Tarquah District, and 276,264 tons from quartz reefs situated in various parts of the Colony and Ashanti. River Dredging Companies treated 164,290 cubic yards of alluvium for a recovery of 719 ounces, an extraction of 2·10 grains per cubic yard treated.

The following statement shows the value of the gold produced by various Mining Companies during the year, as compared with the years 1917 and 1918.

NAME OF COMPANY	1917	1918	1919
GOLD COAST COLONY.	£	£	£
Abbontiakoon Mine, Limited	221,978	208,791	187,380
A'bosso Gold Mining Co., Ltd.,	159,705	137,092	147,459
Adam Bissoe (Fura River)	—	123	—
Acquah W. E. D. (Fura River)	1,464	56	—
Akoko Main Reef, Limited	11,192	12,977	9,016
Ancobra Exp: & Dredging Co., Ltd.,	3,619	1,882	2,108
Broomassie Mine, Limited	2,378	—	—
Cinnamon Bippo Co., Limited	95,088	49,099	—
Kayiankor Limited	1,713	653	94
Prestea Block A., Limited	383,860	322,303	297,244
Tarquah Mining & Exp: Co., Limited	172,643	176,730	159,892
Wassau (Gold Coast) Mining Co., Limited.. ..	—	6,090	29,368
Western Frontier Goldfields	929	—	—
Total for Gold Coast	1,054,569	915,801	832,561

NAME OF COMPANY.	1917	1918	1919
	£	£	£
ASHANTI.			
Ashanti Goldfields Corp., Ltd.,	486,134	420,421	411,489
Ashanti Development Co., Ltd.,	—	491	—
Bellinger F. R.	—	412	—
Obbuassi Mines, Limited	—	—	9,114
Offin River Gold Estates, Limited	8,572	412	1,094
Total for Ashanti	494,706	421,736	421,697
Total for Gold Coast Colony and Ashanti	1,549,275	1,337,537	1,254,258

Manganese.—The number of tons of manganese ore exported from the Dagwin and Dagwin Extension Concessions was 35,189 as compared with 30,291 shipped in 1918, but the value was £52,000 less than the previous year.

Tin Mining.—In the Central Province near Mankwadi prospecting has been continued on the tin deposits found there but no exports of tin ore have been made.

Diamonds.—Concessions have taken up near Kyebi for diamonds, which were discovered in this district by the Director of the Geological Survey.

Labour.—The average amount of labour employed daily was 12,304 as compared with 13,918 employed in 1918. There is a great shortage of labour at present in the mining districts and 3,000 or 4,000 more labourers would be employed if they could be obtained.

Accident.—The fatal accident rate per 1,000 labourers employed was 2·08, as compared with 2·95 in 1918.

Certificates of validity.—No certificates of validity were gazetted during the year.

Prospecting Licences.—Three prospecting licences were issued in the Colony and Ashanti.

XV.—TRANSPORT.

During the year the Transport Department was partly re-organised and attached to the Public Works Department. The re-organization is still in hand, and the scope of the Department's activities is being widened by

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the adoption of mechanical transport for the conveyance of officers and their loads, Public Works Department material, mails, etc.

The resources of the department have been severely strained during the year to cope with the greatly increased traffic, owing to the large number of officers coming to the Colony, increase in shipments of materials, etc. and this difficulty has been enhanced owing to the worn out condition of most of the cars and lorries, with their consequent break downs, and the difficulty experienced in replacing them or of obtaining spare parts.

Now that the main road north to Tamale has been made motorable the full journey of 240 miles can be accomplished in three days, which formerly took from 10 to 14 days. This will permit of the disbandment of the greater part of the present gangs of permanent carriers.

XVI.—IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

SOUTH KENSINGTON, LONDON, S.W. 7.

WORK CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1919, FOR THE COLONY OF THE GOLD COAST.

Economic Investigations and Enquiries.—Reports on a number of products forwarded by Government Officers were furnished to the Government of the Gold Coast during the year as a result of investigations carried out in the scientific and technical department, supplemented when necessary by reference to commercial experts. In addition, information relating to a variety of Gold Coast products was supplied to enquirers.

Cinnamon Bark.—In continuation of the previous enquiry on this subject three further samples of cinnamon bark, forwarded by the Director of Agriculture, were examined and found to be of very good quality. Like the earlier sample they furnished a high yield of oil, which was superior in certain respects to that obtained from Ceylon cinnamon bark.

As the result of the publication by the Imperial Institute of an account of this investigation an enquiry was received from a firm of manufacturing chemists in the United Kingdom as to the possibilities of obtaining supplies of bark from the Gold Coast, and a large consignment of the bark was requested for commercial trials.

Palm Oil "Skimmings."—A sample of palm oil skimmings, obtained in the process of refining the oil, was forwarded from the British Zone, Togoland, by the Controlling Officer, Enemy Property, in order that the possible commercial utilisation of the material might be investigated. The "skimmings" were found to contain over 14 per cent of palm oil, but the extraction of this oil would necessitate the use of solvents and require special

plant. It would not be worth while to consider the installation of such plant unless large quantities of the "skimmings" are available at a convenient centre at a low price.

Cassava Roots.—Samples of dried cassava root forwarded by the Director of Agriculture were found to be of satisfactory composition and to contain no injurious constituents. In view of the large demand for cassava flour and starch in the United Kingdom, it was suggested by the Imperial Institute that the possibility of establishing an export trade in these products from the Gold Coast might be investigated.

Strophanthus hispidus seed.—In continuation of a previous investigation of *Strophanthus hispidus* seed from the Gold Coast, a trial consignment of the seed was forwarded to the Imperial Institute for disposal. Owing to market conditions a price of 3s. 6d. per lb. was obtained for the seed, which is much higher than the usual value.

Hats and Hat-making Materials.—A collection of hats and other articles made by natives from local straws and grasses was forwarded by the Commissioner of the Northern Territories, with a view to ascertaining whether there would be a market in the United Kingdom for such articles, or from the raw materials from which they are made. The hats were submitted to manufacturers who reported that they would not be suitable for sale in the United Kingdom, as they were too heavy, but that the workmanship was excellent. At the request of the Imperial Institute a set of sample hats, hoods and plaits was supplied by the manufacturers and was transmitted to the Commissioner of the Northern Territories to serve as a guide to the natives in the production of similar materials for export. It was pointed out to the Commissioner that, in the first instance, attention should be devoted to the manufacture and export of the plait, as a trade in the hats would involve more difficulty, especially in connection with transport.

Effia Seed.—An enquiry on the subject of Effia seeds (*Tephrosia Vogelii*) was received from a firm of West African merchants who had been informed that the seeds were of commercial value for the manufacture of insecticides. Information was supplied as to the poisonous constituents of these seeds and as to the action which has previously been taken by the Imperial Institute to bring the seeds to the notice of makers of insecticides.

Miscellaneous Enquiries.—Particulars were furnished to a firm of produce brokers regarding the market for guinea pepper, together with statistics of the export of this product from the Gold Coast; and assistance in obtaining seed of cinchona trees was afforded to a firm opening up an agricultural property in the Gold Coast. Other subjects relating to the Gold Coast which were dealt with included the composition and quality of "Accra paste" rubber; the preparation of hides; insect pests affecting cocoa; the coconut industry; sugar-cane cultivation; mahogany and other timbers; and vegetable fibres.

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Publications.—The following articles relating to products from the Gold Coast or to subjects of special interest to that country were published in the “Bulletin of the Imperial Institute” for 1919:—

Cocoa Production in the British Empire.

The Trade and Agriculture of the Gold Coast.

Further Investigations on the Value of Cinnamon Bark from the Gold Coast.

During the year separate publications were issued on Manganese Ores and on Tin Ores (published by Mr. John Murray in the Series of Imperial Institute Monographs on Mineral Resources), in which are described deposits occurring in the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Court.—As mentioned in the report for 1918, the Public Exhibition Galleries were taken over by His Majesty's Government for war purposes, including the Gold Coast Court in the North Gallery. It has now been arranged that the War Office shall vacate the North Gallery, and thus allow of the Gold Coast Collections being reinstated.

G. C. B. PARISH,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

