

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 920.

NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 878.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

March, 1917.



LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ABINGDON STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from the Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LTD., LONDON, W.C. 2.

1917.

[Cd. 8434-7.]

Price 3d. Net.

CONTENTS.

FINANCIAL POSITION—	PAGE
REVENUE	4
EXPENDITURE	4
ASSETS AND PUBLIC DEBT.. .. .	5
FINANCES OF THE NATIVE ADMINISTRATIONS	5
TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES—	
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS	6
MINING	9
AGRICULTURE	10
FORESTRY	12
LANDS	13
SHIPPING	14
LEGISLATION	16
ELUCATION	16
GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS	17
SAVINGS BANK.. .. .	18
JUDICIAL STATISTICS	18
PRISONS	19
VITAL STATISTICS	19
PUBLIC HEALTH	19
SANITATION	20
VETERINARY	21
METEOROLOGY	21
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	22
MILITARY OPERATIONS	23
RAILWAY	23
LAGOS HARBOUR WORKS	25
MARINE SERVICES	26
PUBLIC WORKS	26
GENERAL—	
GENERAL EFFECT OF THE WAR	27
OTHER EVENTS	29
POLITICAL	31
APPENDIX—	
TABLE SHOWING THE IMPORTATION OF SPIRITS, 1911-1915 ..	33

No. 920.

NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 878.)

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Nigeria,

6th January, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith my report on the Blue Book for the year 1915. I regret the delay which has occurred in furnishing this report.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

F. D. LUGARD,

Governor-General.

The Right Honourable

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

Secretary of State for the Colonies,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1915.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for 1915 as compared with that for 1914 is shown in the table below:—

	1914.	1915.
	£	£
1. Licences and Internal Revenue ..	78,483	83,541
2. Fees of Court, &c.	109,237	105,106
3. Customs	1,505,712	1,383,467
4. Marine	68,344	37,000
5. Railway	695,502	586,981
6. Interest	72,200	31,499
7. Direct Taxes	299,002	305,134
8. Posts and Telegraphs	42,899	34,302
9. Rent of Government Properties ..	6,477	11,560
10. Miscellaneous	20,815	16,666
11. Non-recurrent	49,710	—
12. Imperial Grant-in-Aid	100,000	100,000
13. Land Sales	—	8,001
Total	£3,048,381	£2,703,257

The revenue for 1915 thus fell short of that collected in the previous year by a sum of £345,124, or, omitting a "windfall" of £49,710 in 1914, by £295,414. Customs duties decreased by £122,245 owing to dislocation of trade attributable to the War, and the railway receipts fell by £108,521 for the same reason.

The revenue of the Marine Department realised only £37,000 as against £68,344 in 1914 owing to a falling off in the Lagos Harbour Dues and a shortage in the receipts from the transport services; the former being due to the silting up of the bar in consequence of a shortage of coal for the dredgers, and the latter being caused by the absence of a large number of our vessels, with their crews and marine personnel, in the Cameroons with the Expeditionary Forces under Sir Charles Dobell. The sum received as interest in 1915 was short by £40,701 as compared with the previous year, owing to the gradual dwindling of our reserve funds, which are being utilised for the construction of the Eastern Railway. The shortage of £8,597 in postal and telegraph revenue has been caused, for the most part, by a striking shrinkage in the amount spent by stamp dealers in 1915 in the purchase of stamps from Nigeria.

The revenue returns in 1915 were therefore disappointing, but as more than two-thirds of the revenue is contributed by import duties and the railway, a shrinkage of revenue in times of acute trade dislocation such as the present is to be expected.

The gross expenditure during 1915 was £3,434,215 as compared with £3,596,764 in 1914. Two extraordinary items of expenditure appear in 1915: Eastern Railway Construction (£632,168) and War Costs (£155,981). The Public Debt charges increased in 1915 by £44,593 owing to new sinking fund provision on the 1911 Loan being

shown for the full year, and the charges on account of Pensions increased by £9,250, owing chiefly to the pensions and gratuities granted to the wives and children of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Nigeria Regiment killed in the war in the Cameroons, and of civil and military officers who met their death in the "Falaba." The only other increases of any importance are those of £14,911 under Medical, due mainly to the improvements in the emoluments of medical officers generally, and of £8,521 under Mines for the opening up of the colliery at Udi.

In addition to the votes for the West African Frontier Force the sum of £201,291 was spent by Nigeria up to the end of 1915, on War Services for which no provision was contained in the estimates. The money was expended in keeping the large force in the field under Brigadier-General Cunliffe, and in connection with the contingent sent by Nigeria to the Cameroons Expeditionary Force operating under Sir Charles Dobell. The contingent consisted of officers and men from the West African Frontier Force, vessels and personnel from the Nigerian Marine, and civilian officers employed with the force in military or other capacity. Towards this expenditure the native treasuries of the Northern Provinces contributed a sum of £45,310 and the balance of £155,981 fell as a charge against the revenues of Nigeria. The sum of £632,168 brought to account during 1915 on the construction of the Eastern Railway was met from surplus balances in accordance with the sanctioned policy followed in previous years.* Omitting this extraordinary expenditure of £632,168 on the Eastern Railway and War Costs £155,981, the year closed with a surplus of £57,191. The expenditure on War costs (still omitting the Eastern Railway charged to surplus balances) converted this into a deficit of £98,790, which was also met from surplus balances.

The balance required for completing the Eastern Railway to the coal fields (about £1,500,000) will, if necessary, be lent to Nigeria by the Imperial Treasury. A sum of £230,785 had been advanced on this account by the Crown Agents at the end of 1915.

There was no important change in taxation during the year, except an increase of the import duty on trade spirits from 6s. 3d. to 7s. 6d. the imperial gallon. The Government share of the direct taxes in the Northern Provinces yielded £305,134 against £299,002 in 1914.

The year began with an excess of assets over liabilities amounting to £1,273,000. It closed with an excess of £542,042; the reduction, as explained above, being due to the expenditure on War costs and Eastern Railway construction.

The public debt was not increased during 1915 and stood at £8,267,593 at the close of the year, the accumulated sinking fund being £274,249 at that date.

On the 31st December the Native Administrations in the Northern Provinces had at their credit surplus funds amounting to £121,449 as compared with £72,224 at the end of 1914, notwithstanding the fact that they contributed a sum of £45,000 towards the War expenditure of Nigeria, as explained above; £56,445 on account of these surpluses was invested in England at the end of the year, as against £54,650 at the end of 1914: the balance being on deposit in

* A total of £1,305,894 was so provided up to the end of 1915.

the Protectorate Treasury at the end of 1915, at interest. The approval of the Secretary of State was obtained for this course as it was not considered a wise policy to continue investing the surplus funds in England at a time when the Protectorate Government was about to borrow money from the Imperial Government for the completion of the Eastern Railway.

The total revenue and expenditure of the Native Administrations has been as follows :—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1911-12	197,296	116,560
*1912	146,101	132,761
1913	325,652	252,085
1914	326,508	319,940
1915	324,155	289,675

As I stated last year, the accounting for these funds is to a large extent performed by the native officials themselves with increasingly satisfactory results.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The principal articles imported during 1915 compared with similar articles imported during 1914 were :—

Article.	1914.	1915.
	f.o.b.	c.i.f.
	£	£
Bread and Biscuits	48,534	31,849
Fish	109,625	81,456
Grain and Flour	131,527	111,166
Kola Nuts	155,144	139,046
Salt	60,398	152,626
Spirits	347,796	276,614
Tobacco, Cigars, &c.	192,473	248,352
Kerosene, &c.	76,129	70,075
Wood and Timber	66,390	57,785
Apparel	88,028	61,787
Coopers' Stores	138,423	183,923
Hardware, &c.	153,211	83,267
Furniture	26,825	20,044
Iron, Steel and Manufactures thereof	601,211	346,048
Machinery	209,610	140,447
Soap	72,898	88,734
Cotton Piece Goods	1,392,654	1,507,429
Textile : Silk Manufactures	64,802	48,980
,, Woollen ,, 	24,794	17,816
Bags and Sacks	69,170	78,345

* April to December only.

The basis of valuation is, however, entirely different. The values given during 1914 are values f.o.b. (Free on board at port of export.) The values given during 1915 are values c.i.f. (Cost including insurance, freight, &c.). This change was made at the request of the Board of Trade. If it had not been made the decrease in the value of the principal articles imported would have been even more marked.

True increases are shown in the case of four articles only: salt, tobacco, coopers' stores, and cotton goods.

The increase in salt appears to be due to a genuine growth in the trade in imported salt. It will be remembered that the surtax of £1 a ton which was formerly imposed in Northern Nigeria was abolished on 1st January, 1914, and also the duties hitherto collected on native salt imported on the northern frontiers. 38,981 tons of salt were imported into Nigeria in 1915 as against 33,112 in the previous year. The figures of the rail-borne traffic are very interesting in this connection: salt carried into the Northern Provinces by rail—

1913.	1914.	1915.
5,969	8,773	13,846 tons.

The increase in tobacco (58,210 centals (100 lb) from 49,236 centals in 1914) is due to heavier importations of unmanufactured tobacco caused by a larger demand in the produce markets, where tobacco has to some extent taken the place of trade spirits as an article of barter. The demand has since declined somewhat, leaving large stocks—which may affect the importations during 1916. The increase in coopers' stores was due to larger importations to meet anticipated shipping difficulties, a large quantity of produce in casks remaining in Nigeria at the end of the year awaiting shipment. Large shipments of shooks came from the United States of America. The increase in values in the case of cotton goods is primarily due to the change in valuation explained above.

In reviewing the import statistics for 1915, however, due consideration must be given to the fact that in 1914 are included seven months of pre-war conditions: seven months, moreover, of booming trade and brilliant prospects. To arrive at truer values it is necessary to contrast the trade of 1915 with the trade of the last five months of 1914, after War was declared, due regard being had to the fact that the months immediately succeeding the outbreak of War were, naturally, very bad trade months. From this point of view trade recovered substantially during the middle of the year under review, but it appears to have received a considerable set-back towards the end of 1915 (a set-back which continues in the present year).

The import trade is in a weak condition and this may be attributed to several causes. The purchasing power of the people has no doubt been diminished owing to the much lower prices paid locally for produce, and, added to this, the price of imported articles has so increased, for many obvious reasons, that the native in many instances is unwilling to buy.

The principal exports were :- -

Article.	1914.	1915.
	£	£
Cocoa	171,751	313,946
Cotton Lint	150,791	56,351
Cotton Seed	12,918	5,013
Corn and Maize	5,803	941
Rubber	38,854	38,113
Hides	505,785	302,420
Timber	86,522	54,559
Shea Product	52,843	69,823
Tin Ore	706,988	723,480
	(6,175 tons)	(6,535 tons)
Gold, raw	—	5,097
	—	(1,409 oz.)
Palm Oil	1,571,691	1,462,162
Palm Kernels	2,541,150	1,692,712
Ground Nuts	179,219	72,177

It is interesting to note that 1,409 oz. of gold won in Nigeria, valued at £5,097, were shipped during 1915.

The values are f.o.b. for both 1914 and 1915.

The only increase of importance when compared with 1914 is in the case of cocoa. This increase is due to increased production and is likely to extend in the future. 182,000 cwt. of cocoa were exported in 1915 as against 99,000 cwt. in 1914. In addition to the quantity exported in 1915 over 2,000 tons were awaiting shipment from Lagos at the end of the year.

Although the value of palm oil shipped during 1915 declined as compared with 1914 the quantity was slightly more—1,459,879 cwt. as against 1,450,622 in 1914.

Palm kernels declined in quantity from 162,452 tons to 153,319 tons, and in value from £2,541,150 to £1,692,712. There is a marked disparity between the prices paid locally by merchants for produce and the prices quoted in England, which the merchants, it is understood, claim to be "spot" prices only. This is due to a variety of causes all more or less connected with the lack of ocean tonnage and other war conditions:—Not only is the marketing price of kernels *alleged* to have risen to about £10 a ton, due to cost of chartered freight, insurance, deterioration of produce held in store for lack of shipping, interest on capital thus locked up, cost of castage and bags, &c., but the uncertainty of the future especially as regards freights debars the merchants from buying for a forward market. Moreover, the restrictions on exports elsewhere than to the United Kingdom have limited the markets, as also the restrictions on the export of oil, &c., which are in force in the United Kingdom.

It is interesting to note that several native traders have now entered the field as shippers of produce.

Produce exported to the United Kingdom during the year under review amounted to £4,388,000 in value, as compared with £4,008,000 in the previous year, and £3,616,000 in 1913.

The exports to the United States were £236,000 as against nothing in 1914. Exports to France and French Colonies show an increase of £187,000.

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

	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade (deducting specie).
	£	£	£
1911	5,680,980	5,391,467	10,588,974
1912	6,430,601	6,089,706	11,725,371
1913	7,201,819	7,452,377	13,429,397
1914	6,901,072	6,610,046	12,697,417
1915	5,016,951	5,660,796	9,929,956

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

	Imports.	Exports.	Balance remaining.
	£	£	£
1911	446,106	37,367	408,739
1912	478,718	316,218	162,500
1913	870,068	254,731	615,337
1914	624,115	189,585	434,530
1915	33,223	714,568	—

From 1900 to 1914 the imports of specie have always exceeded the exports, but during 1915 the imports were less than the exports by £681,345. The absorption for the last five years has been £939,761.

MINES.

Northern Provinces.—During 1915 there were 68 tin mining companies operating in the Northern Provinces with a nominal capital of £6,359,907 and a working capital of £2,594,658. The companies held at the end of the year :—

261 alluvial mining leases	71,444 acres.
165 exclusive licences to prospect	459,423 ..
Total	530,867 acres.

In addition to the above there were 14 stream mining leases for a total of 22,336 yards (about 856 acres).

The amount of tin ore won was 6,910 tons as compared with 6,143 tons in 1914, 5,331 tons in 1913 and 2,885 tons in 1912. The total output for the year gives an average of 1.92 hundredweights per acre of land held under alluvial and stream mining lease. The average price of a ton of metallic tin, taken from the market prices on which royalties were based, was £160 5s. 7d. Royalty was collected during the year at the port of shipment on 6,535 tons, valued at £723,480.

The average number of persons employed by the mining companies

during the year was 161 Europeans and 14,316 natives, and of the latter about 1,000 were employed on prospecting work. The number employed in actual mining shows a decrease as compared with the preceding year, although the output of tin ore shows a considerable increase. This was largely due to the introduction of machinery and hydraulic plant, and to more economical methods of working.

There was a decrease of nearly 2,000 natives employed. This is due to difficulty in obtaining European staff to supervise them.

Gold mining operations have been undertaken near Minna in the Niger Province and 1,409 ounces of gold have been won. This was all alluvial gold, work on quartz reefs having, so far, proved disappointing.

The remaining and greater portion of the minefield which had been closed to prospecting since 1st November, 1912, for the purpose of a complete survey, was thrown open on February 20th; and had it not been for the state of affairs in Europe this would probably have resulted in a greater increase in applications for leases and exclusive prospecting licences than actually took place.

Prospecting operations for tin were carried out on a small scale in the Southern Provinces. These operations were confined to the Calabar Province. Only one application has been received for the grant of a mining lease.

Work has progressed in opening up the Udi Colliery, and on the 31st December, 1915, the main drift was 130 yards in from the mouth.

The output of coal steadily increased until the maximum daily output reached 89½ tons on the 15th November. The total output to the 31st December was 7,182 tons. The output was restricted by lack of space for stacking pending the arrival of the railway.

No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining all the labour required, the local natives, though of a primitive type, having taken well to the work. The average number of labourers employed daily was 237 underground and 329 on surface work. Experiments have shown that the coal possesses about 80% of the value of Welsh coal.

AGRICULTURE.

Southern Provinces.—After three comparatively dry seasons, a season with a normal rainfall resulted in increased yields from both permanent and annual crops.

The efforts which have been made to develop the cocoa-growing industry are beginning to bear fruit and, as already shown, the exports in 1915 showed a material increase. To foster this cultivation in the Benin district, 32 sites for plantations were selected and the owners were shown how to lay them out. Increased attention was given to the instruction of farmers in the preparation of this product, curing demonstrations being given at several centres. Merchants again assisted this work by paying a higher price for cocoa cured under the Department's auspices. Samples of cocoa cured in the "Hamel Smith" rotary drier and in the sun were respectively valued (in July) at from 76s. to 78s. and 77s. to 79s. per cwt. when Saint Thomé and Cameroons cocoa was selling at 74s. to 77s. 6d. per cwt. The cost of

preparing machine-dried and sun-dried cocoa was at the rate of 5s. 5d. and 1s. 6d. per cwt., respectively. Brokers and cocoa and chocolate manufacturers expressed very favourable opinions as to the quality of both products, but they considered the sun-dried product to be superior. It is fortunate that in Nigeria the principal cocoa harvest coincides with the dry season, when it is very rarely necessary to resort to artificial means to cure the crop. To encourage farmers to lay out their farms in a proper manner, a planting competition has been organised. Prizes will be given for the best farms of 250 cocoa trees provided with the necessary shade trees. The requisite plants were supplied by the Department, and agricultural officers assisted the competitors by selecting suitable sites and explaining the objects and conditions of the competition.

On two Para rubber estates in the Sapele district, 94,413 lb. of dry rubber were harvested.

The cultivation of the Kola tree continues to extend and the Department was unable to comply with all the demands for plants. Some of the farmers find this crop to be even more profitable than cocoa.

Owing to the low price of cotton less seed was planted than in 1914. The production of lint only amounted to 6,161 bales, of 400 lb. weight, as compared with 13,547 bales in 1914. This is a matter for regret as the yield was above the average. After conducting cultural experiments with cotton for six years, it has been decided to encourage the planting of Georgia cotton, and 9,000 lb. of seed of this variety have been raised for distribution to growers.

The four agricultural stations and the various model plots and nurseries were maintained. Five new plots and nurseries were established. The large distribution of planting material from these establishments is a clear indication of the interest that has been aroused in the cultivation of permanent crops, such as cocoa, kola and Para rubber. This distribution included more than 60,000 plants and 160,000 seeds. At the Experiment Station, Ibadan, plots of ground-nuts, maize, and American cotton gave yields higher than any previously recorded; they amounted, respectively, to 1,736 lb. of undecorticated nuts, 1,210 lb. of grain, and over 800 lb. of seed cotton per acre.

Northern Provinces.—The season generally speaking, has been an exceptionally good one. The rains were plentiful. They began somewhat earlier than usual in most provinces and were all distributed, thus providing an abundant harvest. During the year the local market for raw cotton for native manufacture practically disappeared, and at the end of 1915 cotton was being brought in to the British Cotton Growing Association for sale in unprecedented quantities. The chief reasons were absence of French buyers, opening up of trade routes to Sokoto, fall in price of other competing products, and ousting of local cotton goods by Manchester. The quantity of cotton piece goods of English manufacture taken by rail into the Northern Provinces is rapidly increasing and it is believed that the more expensive native cloth is being displaced.

Ground-nuts have been purchased at Kano on a scale surpassing all previous years. The limit of output is nevertheless not yet in sight, the purchasing power of trading firms having been seriously hampered by lack of shipping facilities.

The work started at the Maigana experimental station near Zaria in 1913, with the object of raising an improved type of cotton seed, has met with considerable success, and last year provided seven tons of seed of the Allen variety for local distribution. The whole of this amount was readily taken up and was sown under the supervision of native instructors. The resulting crop has been purchased by the British Cotton Growing Association at 1½d. per lb.—a price which has given universal satisfaction to the growers.

The prospects of cotton growing in the district have, indeed, never been brighter.

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

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

In the Niger and Bassa Provinces considerable progress has been made in the establishments of "Lajoji" kola plantations. In both places the work is carried on by the natives themselves though encouragement is given by arranging for a supply of good seed. In the former, where the work has now been in progress for four years, a native instructor visits the various villages and gives advice as to the choice of suitable sites for planting and the subsequent treatment of the trees. As a result of this work young plantations are springing up on all sides, which in a few years will add much to the prosperity of the district.

Choice fruit trees, imported from the West Indies, are being successfully propagated by budding and grafting. These will supply a long-felt want in the Northern Provinces, where fruit has hitherto been most difficult to obtain.

FORESTRY.

The continuation of hostilities in Europe reacted very unfavourably on the export timber trade; despite this fact, however, 21 timber licences were applied for and 10 granted during the year, and 64 licensed areas were more or less exploited against 35 that were left unworked.

Permits to fell 5,011 trees for export and 9,087 for local sales were issued realising £4,455 and £2,729 revenue, respectively, whilst the royalties on the same were paid to the grantors. 599 logs and 45 piles valued at £2,941 were extracted from Akilla by Government agency, for use in the Government Saw Mills at Lagos.

There was a satisfactory revival in the rubber trade, 150 licences being issued as against 21 in the previous year. In addition to these, 370 licences to collect other minor forest produce such as palm nuts, fibres, &c., chiefly in reserves, were granted. The total revenue

realised for minor forest products was £158 and the royalties to native grantors was £125.

The forest revenue for 1915 amounted to £7,664 to which should be added the value, £2,941, of the timber exploited from Akilla, making a total of £10,605 as compared with £11,000 for the previous year.

Northern Provinces.—The Forestry Department of the Northern Provinces was reorganised at the beginning of 1915 and placed under the Chief Conservator of Forests. An extended series of journeys were made by the chief and senior Conservators through parts of the Sokoto, Kano, Zaria, and Bauchi Provinces with a view to acquiring a general idea of the types of forest prevailing in the North. Some small reserves in the Godabawa and Gobir districts of the Sokoto Province were visited and a flying visit paid to Jemaa in the Nassarawa Province. A large percentage of the tree and scrub vegetation in the northern parts of the Sokoto Province and north-western portions of the Katsina Emirate was found to have succumbed to successive years of drought. The rest of the forests examined were of the usual "dry zone" type with narrow belts of "fringing" moist forest along the more important streams. The richest forests were met with at the foot of the Kagora hills, Nassarawa Province, and were of the mixed deciduous formation. More detailed examinations of something like 2,447 square miles of forest were carried out in the Sokoto, Kano and Zaria Provinces by Forestry Officers.

No new reserves were gazetted during the year, but proposals for the reservation of six areas aggregating 228 square miles were submitted, and, pending approval, the areas were treated by the Sarkin Musulmi as reserves. The demarcation of 86 miles of reserve boundaries in the Sokoto Province was carried out at a cost of 10s. 8d. per mile and 1.5 miles in Zaria at 8s. 4d. per mile.

The protection from fire of 49,340 acres of reserve forests and of forests proposed for reservation was attempted in the Sokoto Province and of this ninety-nine per cent. was successfully protected.

Some 178 acres of plantations were made in the reserves and proposed reserves of the Godabawa and Gobir districts of the Sokoto Province. Considerable damage, however, was done to the young plants by grasshoppers and white ants with the result that only a small acreage was established at the end of the year.

The number of licences issued to cut scheduled timber was 24, and that for fuel 255, realising in all a revenue of £136, including a small sum obtained from the sale of fuel extracted by Government agency at Sokoto. Licences to export and buy rubber brought in a revenue of £12 10s. The total revenue for the year thus amounted to £148.

LANDS.

Southern Provinces.—Auction on the basis of premium was introduced during the year in respect of the sites at Port Harcourt upon the preparations of which very large sums had been expended by Government. Eight plots of two acres each were sold at a premium of £500 per acre. Fifty-eight leases were issued by Government in 1915 and the revenue from land amounted to £2,384.

A new Land Registration Ordinance (to come into force on January 1st, 1916), was passed during the course of the year. It assimilates the enactments previously in force in the Northern and Southern Provinces and introduces certain changes in the system which was in vogue in the latter. The registration officers already established at Lagos, Warri, and Calabar will be maintained, but all transfers to and from the Crown will now be registered by the Registrar in Lagos only. The law also provides that all instruments executed after January 1st, 1916, and the wills of persons dying after that date shall be registered within a certain period; but, except in the case of Crown grants or titles deriving from Crown grants, they may be registered at any time after the expiration of that period on the payment of supplementary fees. Until it is registered, however, it will not be possible for any instrument to be produced before a Civil Court.

Northern Provinces.—There were 88 certificates of occupancy issued during the year throughout the Northern Provinces.

Auctions based on the rental value were held during the year and the highest bid was obtained at Kano, where a plot was knocked down to the bidder at a rent of £104 per annum.

The African Ranches, Ltd., acquired a right of occupancy over two areas for ranching purposes, one in Bornu Province consisting of 16,000 acres and the other in Zaria Province consisting of 9,000 acres. The rental fixed upon these areas is at twopence per acre.

SHIPPING.

The following statement shows the steamers and sailing ships entered and cleared in 1915 as compared with the previous year:—

Steamers and Sailing Vessels entered and cleared:—

Nationality.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1914.		1915.		1914.		1915.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
STEAM :—								
British ..	293	504,724	263	530,138	272	467,074	270	536,690
German ..	113	199,419	..	..	119	198,890	..	..
French ..	74	18,402	56	9,560	81	21,315	56	9,560
Norwegian ..	8	8,105	5	3,435	6	5,228	5	3,435
Spanish ..	2	242	3	1,224	2	242	3	1,224
Belgian ..	..	..	3	14,373	..	..	3	14,373
	490	730,892	330	558,730	480	692,749	337	565,291
SAIL :—								
British ..	..	..	3	744	..	..	2	449
American ..	..	..	3	2,297	..	..	2	1,852
Total ..	..	..	6	3,041	..	..	4	2,301
	490	730,892	336	561,771	480	692,749	341	567,592

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

	Direct.				Transit.			
	1914.		1915.		1914.		1915.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.
Entered ..	£ 6,194,657	£ 706,414	£ 4,874,800	£ 142,151	£ 50,490	£ 24,974	£ 68,655	£ 40,584
Cleared ..	5,338,851	1,271,195	5,560,042	100,754	125,466	74,040	58,677	..
Total ..	11,533,508	1,977,609	10,434,842	242,905	175,956	99,014	127,332	40,584

LEGISLATION.

With the exception of the Jurisdiction of the Courts Extension Ordinance, the Assessment Ordinance, the Waterworks Ordinance, and the Railway Provident Fund Ordinance, the Legislation was confined to the repeal and re-enactment with amendments of the laws of Southern and Northern Nigeria.

EDUCATION.

Northern Provinces.

No. of Provincial schools.	Number of pupils on roll Dec. 31.	Average attendance.
12	781	750

Good progress has been made.

The number of native teachers in the Government Primary Schools is 53 (with 1 pupil teacher) exclusive of teachers of religion only.

The Industrial School at Kano contained on December 31, 1915, two British and seven native instructors, with 52 pupils. This school was placed under the Native Administration on July 1st.

The number of unassisted Mission schools is 46, with 1,643 pupils and the number of Moslem Schools is estimated at 24,278, with 221,668 pupils.

The total expenditure from Government funds was £12,792.

Six European superintendents were seconded for military service during the greater part of the year, while the Director of Education was employed by the Army Council throughout the whole year.

Southern Provinces.—The number of schools and of pupils at the end of 1915, as compared with 1914, is given below:—

	1914.			1915.		
	No. of Schools.	Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.	No. of Schools.	Pupils on Roll.	Average Attendance.
Government ..	54	5,757	4,175	51	4,784	3,681
Assisted ..	85	15,211	11,814	82	15,171	11,550
Unassisted ..	714	43,791	33,154	587	35,819	24,092
Total ..	853	64,759	49,143	720	55,574	39,323

The large decrease shown in the case of the unassisted schools is due to the failure of many of them to send in their returns to the Education Department.

The number of pupils receiving a secondary education during the year under review was 391—in Government schools 64, and 327 in assisted schools.

The total expenditure in the Southern Provinces was £33,511; of which £11,367 was expended on the staff and upkeep of Government Schools, while the grants to assisted schools amounted to £11,679. The total expenditure on education in Nigeria during the year was £46,303, being 1·7% of realised revenue as against £47,900 (1·5%) in 1914.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

Northern Provinces.—The principal hospitals and dispensaries are at Zungeru, Lokoja, Kaduna, and Kano.

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

	Out- patients.	In- patients.	Invalided.	Died.
Europeans ..	812	325	20	14
Natives	15,887	4,364	3	200
Total ..	16,699	4,689	23	214

Southern Provinces.—The principal hospitals and dispensaries are at Lagos, Warri, Calabar, Ibadan, and Onitsha.

The European wards in the Lagos Hospital contain 13 beds; the whole building is mosquito-proof and there is a portion specially proofed for yellow fever cases. 125 European Government officials were treated, with 1 death, 13 European non-officials, with no deaths. Comparatively few European non-officials are now admitted to the Lagos Hospital as a private hospital has been established by a European private practitioner.

There is a thoroughly up-to-date X-ray apparatus which proves a valuable aid to diagnosis.

313 surgical operations were performed in the Lagos hospital.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital is situated on Ikoyi Plain about two miles from Lagos. There are separate wards for small pox, chicken pox, yellow fever, measles and tuberculosis. 38 cases were treated as in-patients.

21,370 cases were treated at the various dispensaries in Lagos and Ebute Metta during the year.

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

	Out- Patients.	In- Patients.	Invalided.	Died.
Europeans ..	411	1,656	*36	*12
Natives ..	76,872	9,309	20	760
Total ..	77,283	10,965	56	772

* Not including those who were invalided or died while on active service.

The Lunatic Asylum at Yaba (near Lagos) had a daily average of 47 inmates during the year. The Calabar Asylum had a daily average of 18 inmates.

The Leper Asylum at Yaba and the leper settlements at Ibusa, Onitsha, Okpanam, and Illah had 20, 133, 49, 65 and 32 inmates, respectively, during the year.

SAVINGS BANK.

For the first time the withdrawals exceeded the deposits, and the amount at credit of depositors had decreased from £48,171 at the end of 1914 to £46,720 at the end of 1915. This is, without doubt, due to the depression in trade.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the Police increased from 13,824 in 1914 to 14,159 in 1915, but the total number of cases brought before the magistrates decreased from 14,307 to 10,817, and the number of summary convictions from 11,758 to 9,294.

In the Provincial Courts 8,249 cases were investigated in 1915, with 4,680 convictions. As the Provincial Courts only came into being on the 1st October, 1914, in the Southern Provinces, comparison with the previous year would be valueless.

The number of convictions in the Supreme Court fell from 239 in 1914 to 163 in 1915, the decrease in the number of offences against property being especially noticeable.

POLICE.

Northern Provinces.—The Government Police consisted of twenty Europeans and nine hundred and sixty-two natives; this number included thirty-nine special constables supernumerary to the establishment posted to those provinces denuded of troops owing to the Cameroons expedition.

The force was distributed amongst thirteen detachments each averaging about seventy men. Their principal duties were the prevention, investigation, and detection of crime, the arrest and prosecution of offenders, escort duty, gaol and treasury guards, serving summonses, executing warrants, suppression of slavery, and prevention of illicit liquor traffic.

In addition they relieved the troops of various garrison duties and rendered considerable assistance to the military authorities on the Cameroons border.

They have been reported on favourably by residents and military officers and are efficient as far as semi-military and constabulary work is concerned, but as regards real police work their want of education is a serious drawback, as it is impossible to procure a more educated and intelligent type of recruit under present conditions.

Southern Provinces and Colony.—In addition to the work common to all police forces, duties of a quasi-military nature were performed. There were no serious disturbances and only one patrol was engaged in dealing with a purely inter-tribal quarrel over a land question which resulted in the arrest of the principal ringleaders and confiscation of cap guns. The force consisted of 24 Europeans and 1,569 native ranks, an increase of 104 on the previous year.

Discipline was well maintained and the health of the force generally very satisfactory.

PRISONS.

Northern Provinces.—The number of prisoners admitted to Government gaols during 1915 was 1,790, as compared with 2,093 during 1914, and the daily average was 879 against 876 in 1914.

The prison farms have been of great assistance in providing food.

The health of the prisoners was good.

The Native Administrations maintain 82 gaols at the principal centres, in which prisoners convicted by the native courts are confined.

The daily average of prisoners was 2,439 as against 2,427 in 1914.

Southern Provinces.—Five convict establishments and 37 local prisons were maintained. There were 5,340 prisoners in prison on January 1st, 1915, and 23,632 were admitted during the year as against 31,255 in 1914. The daily average prison population was 5,211 as compared with 4,439 in 1914.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

In the Northern Provinces it was estimated that there were about 700 Europeans at the end of 1915, of whom about 300 were officials.

In the Southern Provinces there were about 2,000 Europeans, with about 800 officials. The European population of Nigeria may therefore be estimated at about 2,700 in round figures, of whom about 1,100 are in the employment of the Government.

The native population of the Northern Provinces is roughly estimated at 9½ millions and that of the Southern Provinces at 7,806,000, a total of about 17½ millions. The average density in the Northern Provinces is about 37 to the square mile and in the Southern Provinces about 106.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the population of Nigeria has been normal during the year. Compulsory registration of births and deaths only obtains in Lagos and Ebute Metta and even in these places statistics are unreliable.

The most prevalent general diseases are rheumatism and anæmia. Malaria is the commonest insect-borne disease, but small outbreaks

of yellow fever have occurred on four occasions at different places in the Southern Provinces amongst the native population only, and one European contracted this disease in the Northern Provinces.

A mild form of sleeping sickness is endemic in certain parts of the Niger Delta. The same disease is also found along the banks of the River Benue.

Blackwater fever has shown a steady decline since 1910—this follows very closely the malarial fever curve. Considering the largely increased European population the decline of malaria and blackwater fever is significant.

Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were observed more frequently than in former years. Although confined for the most part to the humid Southern Provinces a few cases have also been seen amongst the natives in the drier Northern Provinces. In the opinion of the medical and sanitary officers, this disease is on the increase and often assumes a very virulent form.

There were no cases of beri-beri seen in the prisons during the year. Among the natives of the Cross River the disease is not unknown.

The returns do not in any way represent the true incidence of venereal diseases in the community. Syphilis and gonorrhœa are common diseases all over Nigeria except in the pagan districts of the North, where the natives are reputed not to intermarry with those of other tribes.

Helminthic infections are so prevalent that it would be difficult to find a native who does not harbour one at least of the three most common parasites. The percentage of the population infected with ankylostomiasis is very high—probably over eighty per cent. in certain areas—but unfortunately the infection seldom produces clinical symptoms. It is believed to be often associated with severe cases of diarrhœa and dysentery.

SANITATION.

Northern Provinces.—The limitations which the advent of War had imposed upon sanitary activity in the course of the second half of 1914 remained throughout the whole of 1915. Under the circumstances the Northern Provinces should be accounted fortunate, as visitations of epidemic disease were few.

There occurred during the year the second case of yellow fever recorded in the history of the Northern Provinces. The case occurred at the new capital at Kaduna, the victim was a European, and the case was a fatal one. No light could be thrown on the origin of the infection, but drastic measures were at once taken to prevent the spreading of it; and either those measures, or the early advent of the cold harmattan, or both combined, stamped out the irruption and no other case, not even a suspicious one, was observed, although such cases were carefully sought after. The most unfortunate sanitary legacy bequeathed by 1915 was the fact that it had become necessary to recognise enteric fever and tuberculosis as naturalised members of the community of endemic diseases.

A European—a member of the medical staff—succumbed to the former, while the latter was observed in several indigenous natives.

Enteric fever and tuberculosis are much more difficult to stamp out than is yellow fever ; and the advent of all three is one of the penalties which have to be paid for easier communication with the outer world.

The tsetse-fly-infested Benue received considerable attention during the year, the preventive measures—clearing of bush and the rendering of all travelling barges fly-proof—which had been recommended by the Sanitary Officer, being carried out, so far as the means available would permit. Although the river had been used for passenger traffic much more extensively than usual, no case of trypanosomiasis in a European was reported during the year.

The most important event of the year was undoubtedly the opening of the new water supply for Lagos. The water is obtained from the rivers Iju and Adiyari and, after purification by sedimentation and sand filtration, is conducted by gravitation along a line of pipes for a distance of fifteen miles. This is certain to have a most beneficial effect on the health of the population.

Anti-mosquito work and other measures for the prevention of infectious disease were carried out systematically at all important centres and although yellow fever had appeared on various occasions during the previous two years no case was observed in 1915. Small-pox, which formerly broke out in epidemic form at frequent intervals, only showed itself as sporadic cases. This may, to a considerable extent at any rate, be attributed to the large amount of vaccination work carried on during the last few years by which so many of the rising generation have acquired artificial protection.

Considerable attention was given to the important question of segregation of the European population at many of the more important political and commercial centres. Definite areas were arranged, and, although immediate results cannot be obtained in all instances, progress is gradually being made as opportunity arises and means become available. Sanitary measures generally have been systematically carried out wherever possible and special work initiated as opportunity arose and occasion demanded.

Short addresses to the native chiefs and their followers in the various local courts are given by medical officers and others, and considerable interest is frequently evinced.

VETERINARY.

The two veterinary officers who were appointed to the Northern Provinces in 1914 have been engaged chiefly in touring the provinces, collecting information and, where possible, advising as to the treatment of cattle diseases, of which there were several outbreaks though none of a serious character or great virulence.

METEOROLOGY.

The meteorology records in the Northern Provinces are incomplete and observations have only been made at sixteen stations, owing to the withdrawal of medical officers for duty on the Cameroons Expedition.

Except at Yola and Birnin Kebbi the rainfall during 1915 was considerably in excess of that in 1914 at all other stations.

The following are figures of interest :—

	Reading.	Date.	Station.
Highest Shade Temperature ..	114	April	Maiduguri.
Lowest Shade Temperature ..	46	December	Zaria.
Highest Mean Temperature ..	98·1	„	Birnin Kebbi.
Lowest Mean Temperature ..	53·1	„	Naraguta.
Maximum Total Rainfall ..	61·91	„	Naraguta.
Minimum Total Rainfall ..	14·46	„	Birnin Kebbi.
Maximum Rainfall on one day ..	4·40	„	Zungeru.
Greatest Range of Temperature	55	„	Kano.
Highest Mean Relative Humidity	90	July	Zungeru.
Lowest Mean Relative Humidity	22	November	Kano.

Southern Provinces.—The rainfall over the Southern Provinces generally was above the average, amounting to 90·44" at Lagos, 136·66" at Calabar, 81·33" at Onitsha, 104·21" at Port Harcourt, and 55·20" at Ibadan.

The temperature of Lagos is very uniform. The absolute maximum of 97° occurred in March while the minimum of 67° was registered in January. March and July are the warmest and coolest months respectively.

Five new observation stations were established.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Owing to the War the steamship service was curtailed and for the greater part of the year there was a fortnightly service only. Difficulty was experienced in organising the inland mail services so that correspondence to and from Europe would not be delayed.

The revenue of the department was £43,109, a decrease of £7,600 on the revenue in 1914. This decrease, as already pointed out, is accounted for by the falling off of sales of stamps to philatelists. The amount transmitted through the post by means of money and postal orders fell from £340,000 in 1914 to £290,000 in 1915, and the revenue derived from this service decreased by £400. It is interesting to note that for the first time the money remitted between the Gold Coast and Nigeria through the medium of the money order system, showed a large balance against Nigeria. The flow of money had always been in the other direction. No reason for this change has at present been manifested. The revenue derived from the telegraphs and telephones shows a decrease of £600 and the number of private telegrams transmitted shows a decrease of 9%; this decrease is almost exclusively confined to the telegraphs in the Northern Provinces and is due to the curtailment of business on the mines and to the closing of a few of the small branches of the trading firms. All other sources of revenue show a satisfactory increase. The telephone service con-

tinues to be popular and, in spite of the loss of some 30 subscribers by the closing of the German firms, the total number of instruments rented increased by 10.

The recurrent expenditure of the department amounted to £78,237 and £1,907 was expended on small construction work.

The number of postal packets dealt with showed an increase of 3·2% and the number of parcels a decrease of 11%.

The European staff of the department was seriously depleted; twelve vacancies existed throughout the year and eleven Europeans and thirty natives served with the Allied Forces in the Cameroons.

MILITARY OPERATIONS.

During the year 1915 nine minor patrols took place in the Northern Provinces, being necessitated by the unrest caused by the war in the Cameroons and by disturbances and inter-tribal war in many pagan districts, which could not be regularly visited owing to the paucity of political officers. The escort was in five cases furnished by the police and in four by the Nigeria Regiment.

In the Southern Provinces eleven patrols were furnished by the police or the military. Of these, three only were of any importance or considerable duration: (1) Ezza, (2) Okigwi, and (3) Okwoga. All were brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The majority of these petty risings were due to unrest caused by the War and rumours of the withdrawal of the Government.

RAILWAY.

(OPEN LINES.)

The following table shows the main features of working during the past year, as compared with the preceding twelve months:—

	1914.	1915.
Mean mileage operated	950	978
Gross Receipts	£763,913	£622,469
Working Expenditure	£448,979	£436,198
Proportion of Working Expenditure to Gross Receipts	58·77%	70·08%
Net Receipts	£314,934	£186,271
Total Capital Expenditure on mileage open for traffic	£6,656,476	£6,803,102
Percentage of Net Receipts to Capital Expenditure	4·73%	2·74%

These figures show clearly the depression in trade owing to the War, the average monthly revenue being only £51,872 as against £72,500 in 1914 prior to the War, but there is nothing which should be regarded

as indicating any permanent impairment of the earning capacity of the line. It is thought that traffic will quickly revive as soon as normal conditions are restored, especially as soon as more ocean tonnage is available to carry away the exports.

The increase in the proportion of working expenditure to gross receipts is, as explained last year, due to the impossibility of cutting down the normal standing charges, the only practical saving, speaking generally, being in running staff, consumable stores, and fuel. The price of all stores and material has, moreover, advanced anything between ten and one hundred per cent. and the average price of coal by seventeen per cent. The railway was also greatly handicapped by a serious shortage of coal and consequent disorganisation of service.

The capital account was increased by £146,626, chiefly incurred on completion of works in progress before the outbreak of war. The expenditure from loan funds is now finally closed.

The heavy burden of increased expenditure incurred by the railway, as explained above, necessitated a careful consideration of the advisability of raising the rates (as has been done more or less generally on other railways and on the only line of steamships now serving Nigeria), but it was finally decided not to raise the general basis of rating during the year.*

The rates on fuel oil and kerosene for use in power plants were reduced during the year, for the benefit of the minefields.

The revival of the ground-nut trade is a particularly satisfactory feature of the year's transactions and the season 1915-16 will constitute a record.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

The construction of the southern portion (151 miles) of the Eastern Railway from Port Harcourt to the coalfield was pushed on throughout the year notwithstanding the heavy rainfall (108 inches), on account of the urgent necessity for coal, which is hardly obtainable, even at excessive prices.

The principal feature in the construction has been the heavy character of the earthwork, which in places is the heaviest in Africa. The work during the year amounted to three million cubic yards, making a total of four and a half million cubic yards to the end of 1915. The track, which is laid with 60-lb. rails, had reached mile 106, leaving 45 miles to complete to the coalfields (which were reached in May, 1916).

The survey of the remainder of the railway from Udi north to Kakuri has made good progress. This includes the negotiation of a difficult escarpment, 700 feet in height, at the foot of the Bauchi plateau.

The borings in connection with the investigation for a bridge across the Benue River, which crosses the middle of the system, continue to make good progress. A site for a bridge has practically been decided upon at the "Munshi Narrows" and the length of the bridge at this site will be just half a mile.

* A War surcharge of 10 per cent. on certain goods was imposed from 10th March, 1916.

The terminal station at Port Harcourt has been laid out to include the European station, merchants' residential and trading sites, and a native town, while the materials have been ordered for a large temporary wharf, pending the construction of the first portion (500 ft.) of a concrete quay wall. Materials are awaited for a coal tip, as well as a kerosene wharf.

The health of the European staff and the native labourers has been, on the whole, good, though the work, especially in the rains, has been of a very trying nature. A gratifying feature has been the readiness of labourers to come in as soon as they found they received regular pay and good treatment, while the improvement in their work when they were employed in tribal gangs on piecework, involving payment by result, has been very marked.

Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining rolling-stock from England and certain orders have been duplicated in Canada.

The European staff averaged 124 through the year, with an average of 17,687 native labourers, and an average of 809 artisans, gangers, interpreters, etc.

NIGER BRIDGE.

The Niger South Channel Bridge consists of seven spans of one hundred and eighty-three feet between centres of bearings, with a viaduct of three concrete arches at each end. The total length is five hundred and nine yards, and total weight of girders about one thousand and twenty tons. There are six piers in the river, of which four were sunk in sand to seventy-seven feet below low water level; one was built on bare rock twelve feet under water at low river, and the other was sunk through sand until it rested near one end on a ridge of rock twenty-five feet below level of river bed.

Preliminary borings had given an erroneous idea of the lie of the rock, which was found actually to descend in steps to a depth of fifty-seven feet below river bed. Steel sheet piling was driven to rock all round the pier.

The space under the pier was divided by steel shuttering into three sections, to which access was obtained through the dredging holes in the pier. Sand was excavated down to rock and concrete filled in to underside of caisson; each section having to be completed before the next was begun. All this difficult work connected with the underpinning was done by divers and occupied two years. The total time occupied in building the bridge will have been a little under five years.

The bridge has been opened for traffic. The total cost will be about £130,000, the original estimate, including approaches, being £92,158.

LAGOS HARBOUR WORKS.

During 1915 the progress made with these works compares badly with that recorded in previous years, chiefly on account of the scarcity of coal. The very unfavourable conditions experienced throughout

the "bad bar season" also seriously hindered the progress of the work on the West Mole. This mole was extended to 3,018 feet, 382 feet having been constructed during the twelve months, on December 31st. The total weight of stone used in this mole to the end of 1915 was 347,189 tons. The construction of the West Training Bank was taken in hand in June and by December 31st 413 feet had been completed. 23,664 tons of stone were required in this length.

Work on the East Mole was confined to that essential for maintenance and repairs. The total weight of stone used in this mole up to December 31st was 511,870 tons.

The total tonnage of stone used during the year in connection with the moles and training works was 124,127 tons, while 7,541 tons were supplied to other departments. The total cost of these works is estimated at £897,000 (provided by loan), the total expenditure to the end of 1915 being £618,622.

The extension of Apapa Wharf by a length of 180 feet was well advanced during the year. 911 tons 4 cwt. of stone were used as rubble backing up to December 31st.

The bar draught, which was maintained at 17 feet till April 19th, was reduced to 13 feet on June 25th, but again increased to 15 feet on September 6th, at which depth it was maintained to the end of the year. This fall in the bar draught was caused by the cessation of dredging owing to want of coal and the absence of officers in the Cameroons.

MARINE SERVICES.

This department has had to work under exceptionally difficult conditions during the year, owing to the shortage of coal and the absence of so many officers and vessels with their crews on service with the Cameroons Expeditionary Force.

The absence of so many craft, coupled with the irregular arrival and departure of the ocean mail steamers, rendered it difficult to maintain the usual launch services. In spite of this the only service entirely discontinued was that between Lagos and Sapele.

The reclamation plant was laid up throughout the year to conserve the supply of coal.

A floating dock was completed at Apapa and towed to Bonny in December. Practically no waterway clearing was done.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Southern Provinces.—Only those works which were considered absolutely necessary were undertaken.

The extension of the Customs Wharf by 400', and the building of the foundation for a Customs shed 300' × 60' on the wharf were commenced, all the work being in ferro-concrete.

During the year the use of local timber was developed from a forest area on the Lagos Lagoon, a large saw mill being erected at Apapa.

The logs are floated down to Lagos during the rains and it is estimated that 2,500 logs will be required, yielding 150,000 cubic feet of sawn timber, to meet the annual requirements of Nigeria. The sawn timber is stacked in drying sheds, of which four have been

built, each having a capacity of 25,000 cubic feet. Additions to the sawing plant are contemplated and when these are carried out the mill will be very complete.

The use of imported timber is now largely a matter of the past, as the different varieties of local woods will supply all that is required, at an immense saving to the Government.

In Lagos a large central carpentry and joinery shop has been installed with woodworking machinery electrically driven from the power station. In this shop all classes of furniture are made, with the exception of beds. The saving due to the manufacture of furniture for Nigeria in this shop will be very considerable. Apart from this all wrought woodwork required for buildings in the Southern Provinces, and later, possibly, the Northern Provinces also, will be prepared and sent out ready for fixing. This will effect considerable economy, especially in European supervision.

Adjoining the carpentry shop is an apprentices' carpentry school. This has accommodation for 100 boys, who are instructed by a European carpenter. Rough work of all description is turned out and as the boys improve a much better class of work will be undertaken. The instruction is entirely practical and the school is an unqualified success.

The manufacture of roofing and floor tiles is contemplated, and from experiments made it has been proved that excellent tiles can be produced.

There are very large deposits of limestone in the country and the conversion of this into lime for building purposes is proposed. The lime will be used in lieu of cement for all buildings and will effect a saving of a very handsome sum annually.

There is good prospect, therefore, that Nigeria will shortly be independent of outside help in regard to the greater part of the materials required for building purposes and furniture for bungalows, offices, etc.

The dismantling of the Akassa Lighthouse and its re-erection on Palm Point on the mouth of the Nun branch of the Niger was begun.

No extensive roadwork has been carried out during the year. In consequence of the cost of steel-work, timber trestles have been used for bridge work at one-fifth the cost of steel.

Northern Provinces.—At Kaduna, by the end of the year, 40 bungalows with the necessary out-houses and military offices had been completed. Quarters for 300 soldiers, 64 native clerks, 16 warders and 20 artisans, in addition to two blocks of prison cells and a prison kitchen, were also completed during the year.

On the Zaria-Maska road work was continued and bridges and culverts were taken in hand and completed on the first section (20 miles).

I.—GENERAL REPORT.

GENERAL EFFECT OF THE WAR IN 1915.

The year 1915 has been overshadowed by the continuance of the Great War, which has affected Nigeria both directly and indirectly. Our direct share during the year was confined to the operations in the Cameroons, in which, as described in my last report, large forces

of Nigerian troops operated under Major-General Dobell, in the south, and Brigadier-General Cunliffe (Commandant of the Nigerian Regiment), in the north, and along our eastern frontiers. By the end of the year the troops so employed, including British volunteers, aggregated nearly 350 British and 4,000 Native rank and file, in addition to a marine flotilla of 18 specially fitted vessels with 40 British and 250 native ratings.

Indirectly, the lack of tonnage, the restrictions on exports, and the high price of imports, resulted in a serious set-back to trade, which, however, did not make itself seriously felt in loss of revenue from Customs and railways until towards the close of the year. The decrease in revenue was more than met by economy in expenditure, but the Cameroons expenditure and the cost of railway construction fell on the reserve funds, and reduced these by about £700,000. In consequence of the uncertain financial outlook, and the difficulty of raising loans at the present time, the construction of the Northern and Central Sections of the Eastern Railway was temporarily postponed, except in so far as the completion of the surveys and estimates, and the borings for the great Benue Bridge were concerned. The southernmost section (above a quarter of the total length) between the coalfields and the sea, which it is anticipated will be immediately remunerative, has been continued. The move of the headquarters of the Administration and of the Railway to the new capital at Kaduna, and of the headquarters of the Administration of the Southern Provinces to Yaba have been postponed for the same reason, and because of the excessive cost of building material at the present time.

CAMEROONS OPERATIONS.

In March, 1915, Brigadier-General Cunliffe (who had succeeded Colonel Carter as Commandant Nigeria Regiment) took command of the forces at Yola, and after a thorough reorganisation, assisted by Major Wright, V.C., Staff officer, he captured Garua with the Allied troops on June 30th, and occupied Ngaundere, Tingere, Konsha, and Gashaka, so that the whole of the Cameroons north of Lat. 7 degrees was wrested from the enemy with the exception of a small garrison which still held out in the impregnable "crow's nest," on Mount Mora.

At the end of October he pushed southwards to co-operate with the Southern Allied Forces, and after very hard fighting, captured the stronghold at Banyo, situated at the summit of a seemingly impregnable mountain where it appears that the Germans had expected to hold out indefinitely. Capturing position after position, and crossing rivers now swollen by the rains, he drove the enemy in front of him, though his own line of communications had extended to a length of 400 miles. His troops were thus able to participate in the final advance on Yaunde, which terminated the campaign early in the present year. In these actions the Nigerian troops behaved with great gallantry, and earned many decorations for individual valour. The casualties among the Nigerian contingents to the end of the year were:—British 78 (30 killed) and rank and file 916 (217 killed).

ASSISTANCE TO THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

Nigeria may claim to have fully recognised that at this time it is the first duty of every Colony to render all the assistance which may be in its power to the Imperial Government. Apart from her predominant share in the Cameroons campaign, involving heavy pecuniary burdens and large loss of life, several officers have been lent to the naval and military forces, and at the annual meeting of the Nigerian Council, which took place at the end of the year, a remarkable resolution was passed unanimously and supported individually by every unofficial member.

It was resolved that, subject to His Majesty's approval, the revenues of Nigeria should pay annually to the Imperial Treasury (beginning six months after the War) a sum equal to the annual interest and a sinking fund of one per cent. on three millions of the war debt and on a further three millions beginning two years after the War, until the whole sum of six millions should be liquidated by means of the sinking fund. In other words, Nigeria offered to take over six millions of the war debt as her own liability. The total sum which in these circumstances would be paid before liquidation was completed would be in the neighbourhood of thirteen millions. This is to lay a heavy burden on the country, but one which, in the opinion of the Council, is not heavier than it can reasonably bear in the future, looking to the enormous possibilities of wealth and development which may justly be anticipated when the War is over, and the smallness of the existing unremunerative public debt.

Private subscriptions to various War funds reached the large total of £16,412, to which Europeans and natives from all parts of Nigeria contributed. The enthusiastic loyalty of the Mohammedan states in the north continued to bear testimony to the soundness of the principles upon which the native policy had been built up.

The sporadic outbreaks among the more primitive tribes to which I referred in my last report continued in the early part of the year, and are referred to under the head "Military Operations." They were due to unrest caused by the withdrawal of the troops, and the paucity of political officers, very many of whom were employed on service in the Cameroons. These occasions gave rise to the chronic rumour that the British were about to abandon the country, and that it was safe to indulge in inter-tribal quarrels. It is notable, however, that the tribes nearer to the German frontier, who could appreciate the contrast between British and German rule, gave loyal and ungrudging assistance.

II.—OTHER EVENTS.

AMALGAMATION.

There were no other events of any considerable importance during the year. The energies of Government were devoted to making what progress was possible in the unification of the Laws, Regulations, and General Orders of the north and south.

For the rest, schemes which had already been foreshadowed before the War, having for their object the utilisation of the natural resources

of the country to replace the costly importations from Europe, found new motives in the prodigious increase in the cost of the chief necessities.

COAL.

The development of the colliery, which will supply Nigeria with its own coal, was energetically pushed forward, not merely as regards the immediate output of coal—which depended for its transport on the advent of the railway—but also with a view to preparing a well-considered scheme of development on the most approved principles for the future. These schemes were not finally matured at the end of the year. Work at the colliery continued to be popular with the local natives, and no difficulty was experienced in obtaining the labour required. The adit was extended to a length of 400 feet, and it was found necessary to timber the whole at unexpected cost, owing to the loose nature of the overlying strata and the large amount of water met with. A platform for stacking coal was cut in the hill side, and 8,000 tons were stacked ready for export at the end of the year.

LIME.

In order to replace the bulk of the very large quantities of cement annually imported into Nigeria at great cost—which is now more than doubled—it is proposed to work a rich lime deposit close to the Niger, about 20 miles below Lokoja, and to burn there lime which, with locally made bricks, will supply the material for building.

Finally, it is proposed to burn tiles locally, which will replace imported corrugated iron sheeting for roofing (now doubled in cost) and its various costly substitutes (slates, uralites, etc.), and at the same time render the houses cooler and more healthy.

Nothing but the iron-work and a modicum of cement should thus remain for importation for house and bridge building, etc. The complete realisation of these projects belongs to a later date than the year under review, but there is no doubt that when they are successfully realised an enormous saving should accrue.

HARBOUR WORKS.

The work on the moles made but slow progress, and the lack of coal and depletion of the Marine Department resulted in the closing of the bar from April to the end of the year to large ships, with a consequent heavy loss to revenue in harbour dues.

The Apapa Wharf extension was practically completed, and adds 180 feet, making a total of 345 feet. The Customs Wharf extension of 100 feet upstream in ferro-concrete was commenced, and work was also started on the piles for the 400-foot extension downstream. The total length on completion will be 1,185 feet. Two hundred and thirty feet were added to Iddo Wharf, making a total length of 1,633, with a lighter and canoe wharf, and the railway yard at Iddo was completed at a cost of £84,000. Reclamation work on the new channel was again postponed for the reasons given, but over a million tons of spoil were lifted by the dredgers, and in the early part of the year 119 vessels varying in size from 2,000 to 4,000 tons entered the harbour.

EASTERN RAILWAY.

Construction was successfully carried on in spite of greater difficulties than had been anticipated. Not less than three million cubic yards of earthwork were moved during the year. The labour improved in quality and was not difficult to obtain. By the end of the year the first forty miles were ready to be declared open, while the next sixty-five were open to construction traffic. Good progress was made in the works at the terminal, Port Harcourt, and after a very careful and prolonged investigation of the set of the currents, the processes of erosion and sedimentation which are in operation, the designs for the wharves were finally settled. Work on the township continued, and several two-acre plots were purchased by merchants at a premium of £1,000 each.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

The financial position and the state of trade has been very fully dealt with in the appropriate sections of this report. It is sufficient to emphasise here the two salient facts which emerge from the data recorded. First, that Nigeria was able to carry on with only a loan of £250,000 (for railway construction) during this second year of the War, and to supply the largest share of the men, material, and money, required for the prosecution of the War in the Cameroons—albeit with considerably depleted reserve funds; secondly, that had it not been for the increasing lack of adequate shipping, the trade of the country would have shown excellent results in spite of the dislocation due to the War, both in Europe and on our own frontiers, and the disappearance of so large a factor in the trade of the country as was constituted by the enemy firms. The duty was again raised on spirits. The good prices obtained for tin in the home markets were a great assistance to the mining industry, and the export of ore was again larger than in the preceding year. New areas were opened up to the south and east of the field, and 15,000 labourers were employed at the end of the year.

A marked and unfortunate by-product of the War is the great increase in the cost of living, which Europeans experience in Nigeria equally with those at home. The native population, however, who suffered from an acute famine in many districts in the north in 1914, enjoyed an abundant harvest and rainfall in 1915.

Cotton prospects were never brighter in Zaria, where 368 tons were purchased by the British Cotton Growing Association, together with 685 tons in Illorin.

III.—GENERAL POLITICAL.

SOUTHERN PROVINCES.

I regret to say that in the town of Lagos profuse protestations of loyalty were accompanied throughout the year by a continuance of agitation—manifested in the form of petitions to the Secretary of State, and of public meetings engineered by a few members of the better educated classes. The chief cause of complaint was the small water rate charged for the inestimable benefit of a pure and abundant supply of water. The subject of the establishment of Provincial

Courts, and the proposed enactment of a criminal code were additional matters on which the agitators endeavoured to mislead the ignorant.

The completion of the water works, which were described in my last report, and the inauguration of the supply to the city were formally announced on July 1st, but no rate was collected during the year, as the assessment had not been completed. This was pushed forward with energy.

The new provincial courts continued to work in complete harmony with the Supreme Court and to the entire satisfaction of the people for whom they had been constituted. The various Commissioners of Provinces and the Lieutenant-Governor report that, both in regard to the avoidance of delays, and in saving of expense to litigants, they are much appreciated.

The reorganisation of the native courts under the Ordinance of 1916 is also reported to be a success, and 236 courts have been instituted, but much remains to be done in the education of the native chiefs who preside in these courts.

The boundaries of the nine new provinces were in some cases re-adjusted for the convenience of administration and in order to avoid dislocation of native authority. Jebu was incorporated in the Egba province and Ondo became a separate province.

A religious revival manifested itself in the neighbourhood of Opobo where one Gabriel Braid declared himself to be the Prophet Elijah II. No occasion for Government interference arose until his followers took to wrecking the fetish idols of those who did not adhere to his propaganda. This led to trouble, and Government intervention became necessary.

NORTHERN PROVINCES.

Though the political atmosphere was much disturbed in the pagan districts in the early part of the year by the withdrawal of so large a number of political officers and troops for service in the Cameroons, the situation soon became more normal. The stability of the system in the Moslem states was illustrated by the fact that although the Sultan of Sokoto, head of the Moslems, the next senior Emir (of Gando) and the Emir of Argungu, the three great chiefs in the Sokoto province, all died during the year, their successors were appointed without any excitement whatever, and there was no semblance of unrest or suspicion.

The revenue of the Native Treasuries amounted to £324,155 in 1915 and the amount of the reserve funds reached a total of £121,500. The expenditure included £24,477 on the 399 native courts and £25,627 on the native police (dogarai). There were 82 prisons maintained by the Native Administration, with a daily average of 2,439 prisoners. 4,723 slaves were liberated by the native courts, and 47 by the provincial courts, bringing up the total (recorded) to 42,768, of whom 38,511 were freed by the native courts.

There was a shortage of currency due to the cessation or diminution of Government works, and of mining enterprise at the beginning of the year, and to slackness of trade. The province of Kabba was absorbed in that of Illorin.

F. D. LUGARD,
Governor-General.

16th November, 1916.

APPENDIX.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE IMPORTATION OF SPIRITS INTO NIGERIA DURING THE FIVE YEARS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1915.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.*	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Remarks.
1911	4,835,363 (1,839,960)	£ 440,818	£ 975,557	From 15th January, 1909, duty on spirits was 5s. per imperial gallon and an additional 2½d. for every degree in excess of 50 degrees and a decrease of 1½d. for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum duty of 4s. the imperial gallon. Brandy, Whisky and Gin not treated as trade spirits 5s. per imperial gallon.	Value of spirit imports amounted to 7.76 per cent. of whole inward trade, including specie.
1912	4,450,196 (1,774,856)	440,952	1,013,807	From 4th March, 5s. 6d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees. 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 4s. 6d.	6.90 per cent. as above.
1913	4,635,273 (1,853,750)	452,939	1,138,305	From 25th March, 6s. 3d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees. 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 5s. Sweetened or obscured spirit have been continuously taxed at 10s. the imperial gallon.	6.28 per cent. as above.
1914	3,509,344 (1,384,968)	344,926	923,065	As above	5 per cent. as above
1915	1,972,940 (785,443)	276,614	648,276	From 12th January, 1915, 7s. 6d. the imperial gallon and 2½d. additional for every degree above 50 degrees, 1½d. reduction for every degree below 50 degrees, with a minimum of 6s. 6d. Brandy, Whisky and Gin, not treated as trade spirits 7s. 6d. per imperial gallon.	5.51 per cent. as above.

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

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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

ANNUAL.						
No.	Colony, &c.					Year.
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	..	..	..	..	1914-1915
885	Weihaiwei	..	..	..	..	1915
886	Zanzibar	..	..	..	..	"
887	Fiji	..	..	..	..	"
888	Sierra Leone	..	..	..	..	"
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	..	..	..	..	"
890	Gambia	..	..	..	..	"
891	Trinidad and Tobago	..	..	..	..	"
892	Hong Kong	..	..	..	..	"
893	Ashanti	..	..	..	..	"
894	Gold Coast	..	..	..	..	"
895	Malta	..	..	..	..	1915-1916
896	St. Helena	..	..	..	..	1915
897	Seychelles	..	..	..	..	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	..	..	..	..	1915-1916
899	Gibraltar	..	..	..	..	1915
900	Bahamas	..	..	..	..	1915-1916
901	Swaziland	..	..	..	..	"
902	Somaliland	..	..	..	..	"
903	Cyprus	..	..	..	..	"
904	Ceylon	..	..	..	..	1915
905	Straits Settlements	..	..	..	..	"
906	Grenada	..	..	..	..	1915-1916
907	Falkland Islands	..	..	..	..	1915
908	Bermuda	..	..	..	..	"
909	Jamaica	..	..	..	..	1915-1916
910	British Guiana	..	..	..	..	1915
911	Basutoland	..	..	..	..	1915-1916
912	Barbados	..	..	..	..	"
913	Leeward Islands	..	..	..	..	"
914	Uganda	..	..	..	..	"
915	British Honduras	..	..	..	..	1915
916	Mauritius	..	..	..	..	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	..	..	..	..	"
918	St. Lucia	..	..	..	..	1915-1916
919	Nyasaland	..	..	..	..	"

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