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No. 437.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 409.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Maj

November, 1904.

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No. 437.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 409.)

ANNUAL REPORT, 1903.

My report for the year 1902 carried the general history of events in the Protectorate up to the end of April, 1903, since it was impossible to break off in the midst of the narration of the Kano-Sokoto campaign and other matters consequential upon events which I had described and dealt with at some length and which reached a certain stage of completion with the commencement of the rains. The report was unfortunately long delayed by causes which were beyond control, and this enabled me to add a footnote (on page 39) explaining the causes which led to the ex-Sultan of Sokoto's flight and to the subsequent severe fighting around Burmi. This brought the narrative to the end of July 1903. I had myself left the country on leave of absence early in May, returning on December 1st. During this period—the rainy season—there was little else of interest to chronicle. I propose, therefore, after glancing at the state of the newly constituted provinces, to confine my report for the year 1903 to a mere record of such statistical information as is available, and to hold over the full report on the scheme of taxation which I have instituted for my report on the current year (1904). I shall be able to deal with this very interesting and vital question in a fuller manner on my way home than I can possibly do at the present time in the pressure of local work; and I shall also be able to refer to the results as shown by the returns of the financial year which ended 31st March, 1904, and probably to a large extent to the further results in the present financial year ending 31st March, 1905.

KANO.

2. It is noteworthy that, after the fall of Kano and Sokoto, the Fulani Chiefs of many or most of the cities owed their

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restoration to power entirely to the British. Dr. Cargill reports that, after I had left Kano en route to Sokoto (prior to the fight there), most of the chiefs of the big towns came and made their submission, and that, when the Fulani Chiefs who had accompanied Alieu of Kano to fight against us returned to their towns, the people refused them admittance, and their opposition was only withdrawn by the good offices of the Resident.

3. At first there was considerable lawlessness in the country districts; the Fulani faction were driven out, and the people refused to pay any taxes, while the slaves of the Fulani deserted them in large numbers. This caused some resentment towards the new Government on the part of the country Fulani, for the peasantry showed a desire to throw off the yoke, and attacked the tax-collectors, and even attacked Captain Phillips when he went to arrest the perpetrators of one of these outrages. The slight ebullition, however, subsided almost immediately when the people realised that the Government was both able and ready to enforce just taxes and obedience to the law. It is probable that it had been caused by a few malcontents, who proposed to obey neither the Fulani nor the British, and whose cry was "no more taxes, no more slaves, no laws, and each to do as he pleases." Dr. Cargill's prompt action nipped this tendency in the bud.

4. The Fulani rule, in fact, had never (says Dr. Cargill) been fully accepted, even in the Kano Province, the very heart of Hausa-land, and the Emir stated that the peasantry had always been truculent and rebellious, and that it had been necessary for the Emirs to tour round their country annually, with all their forces, to ensure the payment of taxes.

5. The Emir himself, however, and the chiefs of high standing at Kano, were not slow to appreciate the magnanimity and justice with which they had been treated. Dr. Cargill reported that when the ex-Sultan of Sokoto traversed the Kano Province, the Emir had sent a circular to all his towns to say that all who left to follow Attahiru would be punished on their return. He, moreover, refused any longer to pay the annual tribute to Sokoto, saying that it now belonged, of right, to the Government.

6. Later in the year the Resident was able to assure me of "the very complete confidence" he had in the present Emir, and of the very high opinion he had formed of his personal character. "He was the first" (he adds) "to warn me of the danger of the ex-Sultan Attahiru's crusade, and to urge me to take immediate action. He has always exerted himself to make his chiefs accept the situation created by our occupation in the proper spirit. He is imbued with no arrogant notions or false pride. 'The country is yours,' he is fond of saying, 'you have put me to shepherd it.'"

7. Writing of a tour he had made round the province, Dr. Cargill says:—"What has impressed me most in the course of this tour round the boundaries is the amazing fertility of the soil, the extent to which it is cultivated, and the number of important markets—in short, the prosperity of the country." By the end of the year a marked improvement was noticeable among all classes. "The month of Ramadan ended on December 19th, the new moon was seen on the 20th, and the 'Salla' celebrated on the 21st. Both at Kano and Katsena the thanksgiving processions made gorgeous pageants. Kano was 'en fête' three days. The horse-racing at the foot of Dalo, with the gaily-attired crowd lining the course and standing in tiers on the hill, might have been some old Roman festival. Living inside the town, and walking freely unattended among the crowds, I saw no trace of resentment, much less fanaticism. The people were simply a good-humoured holiday crowd. It was difficult to realise that on the occasion of the last 'Sallan Azumi' Alieu was still at Kano, and preparing to resist our advance."

Sokoto.

8. The process of restoring order in the Sokoto Province was even more rapid. The fight took place on March 19th, and I left on March 23rd. By the end of the month Major Burdon was able to report that "everything is settling down peacefully, the fugitives are returning, Sokoto and the surrounding villages are filling up, traders are beginning to come in, and the market gradually is regaining its normal condition. I believe nearly all the important members of the ruling family have returned, coming first to me to make their submission. Their guns are mostly in their towns and have to be sent for; so far about 120 have been given in, but more are coming every day." The Sultan and chiefs gave willing assistance in every way, and the former showed the genuineness of his intentions by constantly referring to the Resident for sanction and advice. In April, less than a month after the battle, "an officer away shooting, practically without an escort, found a friendly welcome everywhere." The chiefs of surrounding towns came in to pay homage and acknowledge the new Sultan, and to "salute" the Resident. "The representatives," says Major Burdon, "of the original Hausa rulers are very pleased with us for having avenged their defeat on the Fulani, but they show no signs of wanting to assert their independence."

9. Writing later in the year (September) Major Burdon was able to report that the satisfactory progress was maintained. "It is of interest," he writes "to note that all men speak of Abdurrahman (the late Emir) as an unjust, unconstitutional tyrant. His native nickname "Dainyan' Kwosko," —Anglice, "unbaked potsherd" (a pot that won't hold water,

i.e., "the untrustworthy")—shows the estimation in which he was held throughout Hausa-land. The people, rulers and ruled alike, look on their conquest by us as the just punishment of God for their sins, especially for the injustice and oppression of Abdu's reign. Another factor towards content is the already apparent increase of prosperity. This is largely due to the Pax Britannica. A much larger extent of country is under cultivation this year, both towards Argungu and Maradi, than has been possible for years; all the old "broken" towns are being rebuilt, and slaves and retainers, no longer kept at Sokoto in readiness for war, have been sent out to farm or trade. Also traders from other parts, formerly kept out of Sokoto by Abdu on the charge of being the white man's spies, are now gradually re-opening their trade. But we have also the season to thank. This is the first season for five years that there has been a sufficient rainfall (*see* paragraph 45) and consequent rise of the river to flood the marshes and allow of a good rice crop: while both corn and millet are well above the average. With deeply religious Mohammedans it is easy to see how the above prosperity tells in our favour."

10. At the beginning of the present year (1904) the Acting Resident reported that "the Sultan's conduct and general attitude appear beyond praise, whatever is asked of him he does with alacrity, and I find it a pleasure to work with and through him."

Gando and Argungu.

11. It will be remembered that the Emir of Gando did not offer any active resistance to our troops; though, in spite of his treaty with the Royal Niger Company, his country had been closed to Europeans. The Resident reports as follows:—"I had a long talk with Mohammadu, and explained to him most carefully the conditions of his appointment, following exactly the lines of His Excellency's address on the appointment of Attahiru at Sokoto. I was able also to claim his loyalty to Government on the score of gratitude for benefits received, namely, the relief of Gando and the surrounding country from the constant raids by Argungu. Throughout the whole distance from Shagari to Ambrusa all round Gando and N.E. to within 20 miles of Sokoto, I was much impressed by the devastation wrought by the Kebbawa (the Argungu people), much of it within the last eight years. The country is strewn with the ruins of towns: all existing towns are strongly fortified, mostly with double ditches in addition to walls: in many cases, including Gando itself, cultivation only extends about a mile out on the Argungu side, and is protected by a circle of correctly constructed "cavalry obstacle pits": and large stretches of land formerly cultivated have now reverted to bush. The people appear to have lived in constant dread, and to have been utterly unable to defend themselves; and I can't help thinking that, had we not appeared, Gando

itself would have ceased to exist in a few years' time. Needless to state the above condition of affairs is rapidly being altered, cultivation is being largely extended, bush is being cleared, and nearly every old ruin has a cluster of new huts, showing the return of its former inhabitants, and the people are perfectly frank in their gratitude, acknowledging of their own accord that it is the white man who has given them peace and the power to return to their houses and farms."

12. At a later date I was informed that one of the first roads to be opened in the province was a good 20-foot road from Argungu to Gando, which previously did not exist, owing to the constant state of war between those two powers. Major Burdon made a tour through these western districts bordering on the Niger and on French territory, and reports as follows:—

Population.

"All this stretch of fertile valley is densely populated. Every available spot, every knoll in the marsh, bears its closely built and crowded village. On each side of Argungu, to Silame on the north-east, and to Ambrusa on the south-west, the valley has been the constant battlefield between the Fulanis and the Kebbawa; consequently, except for the Kebbi fortress-towns of Gulma and Sonwa, this part has been deserted. But, with the assurance of peace, both races are now flocking back, and the old villages, every few hundred yards, are being rebuilt."

Health.

"The Kebbi and Gindi valleys swarm with mosquitoes. They were worse there than in any part known either to myself or my native staff. They were nearly as bad by day as by night. The natural result is that Europeans, coming by that road to Sokoto, either go down with fever on the way, or get it after arriving here. Mr. Hillary had a bad attack at Kaura Aliu Wanta, the worst place on the river; Dr. Twomey went down on reaching Sokoto; and I had to pay for my tour with three weeks of fever, luckily after my return. Curiously enough the inhabitants do not mind the mosquitoes in the least. They use no protection, and know of no deterrent, and the Jogwadawa Fulanis are credited with being the healthiest people in the country. I made particular enquiries about child mortality, and was assured that it was less amongst them and the nomad herdsmen than amongst any other people. The reason assigned was their milk diet."

Some little lawlessness showed itself among the pagan tribes on the borders between Sokoto and Kano, and, of course, all the peasantry were profoundly moved by the exodus of the ex-Sultan and his following to the east.

The Ex-Sultan's Pilgrimage—Burmi.

13. I have already in my last report (page 39, footnote) described in brief the genesis and the final overthrow of this movement, and further enquiry has only substantiated the accuracy of what I then wrote. The two main factors (according to Dr. Cargill, who had on the spot every opportunity of forming a sound diagnosis) which gave rise to unrest were the hatred of the Hausa peasantry towards the Fulani and that of the Fulani peasantry to ourselves. The Hausa peasantry are not all "intelligent traders"; many are of a low and brutal stamp, while many of the Fulanis of the same class are fanatical. Slaves deserted their masters, and, with many of the idle or criminal classes, went about personating soldiers and looting and robbing. They did not desire our rule or Fulani rule, but no rule at all. The Ex-Sultan sent emissaries over the country, telling the people not to sit in peace under the infidel, but to join him, not in a war against us, but in a pilgrimage to Mecca or to Adamawa (whence the Mahdi is expected). He was joined by the few Fulani chiefs of Sokoto and Kano, &c., who had remained irreconcilable, and by all this body of the lawless elements of the lower classes. As he proceeded eastwards and his following increased, a madness seized the peasantry even of the better class, and they flocked to him with their families and chattels, even the blind and the lame joining in the belief that he would lead them to the Mahdi. But the rulers whom I had installed remained loyal. The cities of Kano and Sokoto remained tranquil, and there was no serious disaffection in Zaria (though several of the chiefs did join the movement). The Emir of Kano patrolled his eastern frontiers to prevent his people from joining the pilgrimage, and Hadeija did the same. Katagum did not join, and the posts of those who followed the ex-Sultan were at once filled by new men, which acted as a deterrent. The movement was not in any way directed against the Government, but was (so far as the bulk of its adherents were concerned) a blind scare, combined with a religious enthusiasm prompting an exodus. Owing to lack of telegraphic communication (which I am now making every possible effort to remedy), it was difficult for our troops to co-operate, or even to be warned. The ex-Sultan's following was, however, continually hustled eastwards, and this led to the desertion of great numbers from his adherents. This lack of communication is a source of great danger, as well as of almost inconceivable difficulty in administration. During the short time since the administration of Northern Nigeria was taken over, I can recall at least four separate Mahdis, and rumours say that another has now arisen in Adamawa.

14. The ex-Sultan and his starving mass of people reached the Gongola, where their camp at Gwoni was surprised and completely routed by Captain Hamilton Browne from Gujba

(in Bornu) with 50 men only. The whole movement would doubtless have collapsed had it not been for the strange chance that the fugitives took refuge in a place called Burmi, which was occupied by the fanatical Tejani sect (probably of Tuareg origin) who had elected a Mahdi to succeed Jibrella, after the defeat of the latter by Colonel Morland in February, 1902. These people had no sympathy with the Sokoto dynasty—to whose influence indeed their creed was opposed—but they adroitly seized the opportunity given them, and by detaining the ex-Sultan against his will, reinforced their fighting strength by the accession of the irreconcilable chiefs and their following who had joined him. The final battle on July 27th crushed the opposition, and the ex-Sultan and the Magaji of Keffi (who had killed Captain Moloney) with many other leaders were among the killed. Belo of Kontagora, who had for so long refused my overtures, was allowed to go back to his country. Abubekr, ex-Emir of Bida, who had already been re-instated once (by the Royal Niger Company), together with his powerful lieutenant, the Lapenni, could not be allowed to return to Bida, as they would have made the rule of the present loyal and intellectual Emir impossible. Abubekr therefore was allowed to live on a small subsidy in Lokoja, and the Lapenni to join his relatives in Illorin.

Thus ended an affair which at one time appeared to be one of the most serious that have occurred in Northern Nigeria, and which caused great anxiety to the Acting High-Commissioner, Mr. Wallace, C.M.G., who thoroughly realised its importance, and to whom great credit is due for its successful issue.

With regard to the so-called sacred banner of Othman-Dan-Fodio, which was stated by the press to have been used as the signal for a rising, I am informed that it was lost in a fight with the Kebbawa some 10 years ago.

Other Provinces.

15. From Bornu Mr. Hewby and the Hon. O. Howard report a great increase of population, due largely to immigration from foreign territory—an immigration which is likewise reported from the provinces of Muri and Yola. Kuka, the ancient capital of Bornu, has been rebuilt and reoccupied, and a new era appears to be opening for this much harassed country. The Resident of Nassarawa reports that the hostile and intractable Munshis have intimated their desire for friendship and trade; and the Resident at Yola reports the same of the lawless pagan Battas, who, for the first time, have actually visited the capital to make submission and friendship. Bauchi had been much disorganised by the Burmi operations, but appeared to be settling down again quietly. In Kontagora, Nupe, Illorin, Borgu, and Kabba, there was nothing of special interest to record, except the question of taxation, which I will deal with in my next report. Steady progress

was made, especially in Nupe and Illorin. Most of the Residents in permanent charge of these provinces were absent on leave during the rainy season. Mr. Goldsmith, Resident of Nupe, reports that the annexation of Kano and Sokoto has had a very quieting effect in his province; the relations between he ruling Fulani caste and the common people have immensely improved with the cessation of raiding and extortion on the part of the former, with the result that fugitives are returning and rebuilding their towns, and extending the area of cultivation. Much progress has been made in the tribute assessment and the settlement of the country, especially in the Lapai District to the east.

Disaster in Bassa.

16. In Bassa alone an event occurred, late in the year, which was attended by sad results. During my absence Captain O'Riordan, an officer of long experience in Southern Nigeria, had been appointed to the charge of this province, which is occupied by a number of warlike pagan tribes in proximity to the Southern Nigeria border, viz., the Okpotos, Bassas, Bassa-Komos, Igbiras, Munshis, and others. The province is a small one, but contains much sylvan wealth in rubber, timber, and other forest products. The people are mere savages, and I had as yet made no effort to coerce them, hoping that our influence would gradually extend by peaceable means. On December 8th, a few days after my arrival in the country, and before I had yet reached headquarters, Captain O'Riordan, accompanied by a newly-appointed police officer, Mr. Amyatt-Burney, with 15 soldiers and 38 police, proceeded to the south of the province to instal a chief of the Okpoto tribe, and became involved in hostilities in the dense jungle which covers the greater part of the country. Mr. Burney was shot at the commencement of the fighting and Captain O'Riordan was first wounded and afterwards killed. The soldiers, police, and carriers, numbering in all 93, were either killed or captured and sold as slaves, some few only escaping. On hearing this disastrous and wholly unexpected news, I at once organised an expedition to recover the bodies and effects of the Europeans, if they were really dead, as well as to liberate the captives and inflict reprisals on the Okpotos. The account of this expedition belongs to the year 1904, and it is sufficient to say here that it was in every way successful under the able leadership of Major Merrick, R.A.; that 56 in all of the missing soldiers, police, and carriers, were liberated or escaped; and that the remains of the two unfortunate officers were recovered and conveyed to Lokoja, where they were buried in the cemetery.

Exploration of the Gongola River.

17. At the end of August Lieutenant Moran ascended the Gongola River in a steam canoe. He reported it as being

navigable for launches (drawing not more than 3 feet) from the middle of September to the end of October, up to and beyond the bend which the river makes to the south from the most northerly latitude to which it reaches—about 150 miles from its confluence with the Benue. If this is the case, it will be possible to effect a great saving of transport expenses in the conveyance of telegraph and building material and stores for the stations in Bauchi and Bornu. The wild pagan tribes on the river bank appeared unfriendly, but all hostilities were avoided.

SLAVERY.

18. The policy and practice of the Administration is becoming better known and, I think, better understood by the people. The rulers of Sokoto and Kano and the other great towns appeared to acquiesce without much difficulty in the prohibition of the sale of slaves. From Sokoto it was reported that, in consequence of the stipulations which I had made at the time of his installation, the Sultan had, on his own initiative, sent word by messengers to every town under his rule, informing them of the new order, and urging them not to disregard it. At Jega, near Gando, the Resident was able to close the public slave market (probably one of the largest which there had been in the Protectorate), and the chief, by repeated proclamation of the orders, has put an end to it for good.

19. The number of slaves liberated by the Courts was 779, consisting of either domestic slaves (liberated on account of cruelty or removal for purpose of sale) or newly enslaved persons.

20. Since raiding is now stopped throughout the Protectorate, almost the whole of the slave-caravans are from German Adamawa; very large numbers of these unfortunate people, whom it is impossible to repatriate, and who speak no language known here, have been released by the Hon. O. Howard and Mr. Hewby in Bornu—many also by the Residents in Yola and Muri. The returns from Bornu for less than four months show 274 released. "The mortality" (says Mr. Hewby) "among the children is great in spite of any treatment. The hardships they have undergone before reaching Bornu, and in many cases the absence of the particular article of food they were brought up on, seem to undermine their constitutions. It is reported to me that the Germans allow both slave-raiding and slave-trading; and that Fulani had been heard to say that, in this respect, their rule is better than ours." Mr. Howard in fact reports that Hausa traders, when prosecuted for importing slaves, have alleged that, having sold their goods to German soldiers, they are forced to takes slaves in payment. The traffic in children (for Southern Nigeria) on the Benue seems to have decreased; at any rate fewer instances have come to light.

Freed Slaves Home.

21. The new buildings for the Freed Slaves Home at Zungeru consist of two large dormitories—divided into various rooms for inmates of different age and sex, a laundry, store, native Matron's house, and an office for the Lady Superintendent, with dispensary and hospital. They were completed in November, 1903, and the inmates were transferred from Lokoja in October. The children are now well housed and cared for. The staff consists of a Lady Superintendent and two native Matrons. The number on January 1st, 1903, was 75. There were 269 admitted, and a total decrease of 160 (made up as follows—apprenticed, 30; died, 53; left by their own desire, 67; married, 10; total, 160), leaving 184 in the Home on December 31st, 1903.

22. The death rate, though still terribly high among the emaciated and diseased children received into the Home, has fallen from 27·3 per cent. to 15·4 per cent. In consequence of this very high death rate, I have been compelled to discontinue the transport of freed slave children from Bornu, and to adopt other measures, which will be reported in due course in the report for 1904. Laundry work, gardening, and the routine duties of the establishment—together with sewing and educational classes—form the daily curriculum of the Home.

Trade.

23. The statistics collected under the operation of the Caravan Proclamation show that the local trade, conducted by natives, has been in a flourishing condition; and that the tolls, collected by the Administration in return for the protection of the roads, have been well received and have not checked or interfered with trade. The Resident of Nupe estimates a total value of £48,484 as having passed through the town of Bida, and reports that all the caravan-leaders appear to be perfectly contented and keener than ever to trade, and state that the five per cent. *ad valorem* levied in each province does not bear hardly upon them. "In order to recoup themselves, they have slightly increased the values of the merchandise, but the competition nowadays is very keen, and values generally are regulated by supply and demand." The Resident of Yola remarks:—"No dissatisfaction with the tax was expressed by any of the traders, whom I encouraged to give their views of it. Some volunteered the statement that the amount was much less than they would have been called upon to pay under the old régime." The Resident of Illorin reports in the same sense, and estimates the value of local trade passing through Illorin alone (apart from imports of British origin) as £73,734. The Resident of Kano gives the same report as to the satisfaction of the traders and adds:—"Two Syrian traders have arrived from

the coast and started business in the town in European imported goods. Major Johnstone has suggested to the Arabs that they should do likewise and buy from European firms out here. He, like me, considers that it would be unfortunate if the Arabs were to leave Kano. They introduce a kind of civilisation adapted to the character of the people, and add prestige to the town. He further reports that an increasing quantity of English salt arrives, which is considered superior to all but the best quality of Asben salt. The number of caravans bringing imported manufactured articles from the south shows a steady monthly increase; these consist for the most part of cloth, together with small quantities of matches, beads, and dyed thread, all of which command a ready sale. Some English cloths are now imported which are in imitation of, and hardly to be distinguished from, those made by the natives. I have no doubt that, as traders realise the profit to be made, those goods will continue to be brought in in ever increasing numbers."

24. In consequence of reports which had reached me that the traders from Tripoli were wrongly informed as regards the tolls and taxes in Northern Nigeria, I wrote to His Majesty's Consul-General at Tripoli, enclosing copies of the "Caravan" and the "Customs" Proclamations, &c. Mr. Jago replied that he had lost no time in bringing this information to the knowledge of merchants engaged in the caravan trade between Tripoli and Northern Nigeria. "It is true" (he added) "that shortly after the British occupation of Kano false reports as to customs dues were current here; but these have long since been corrected by the arrival here of traders from Kano, who are loud in their praises of the Administration, and notably of the great security of life and property throughout the Protectorate."

25. In a later report from Kano the Hon. A. Bailey, Acting Resident, writes:—"The King of Asben sent me a letter and a present of four cones of sugar and one bag of dates. He said he heard that the white man was taxing caravans, but that all his people were pleased, as now they were treated well, no one was allowed to take their animals, and the roads in our territory were safe. What pleases the caravan people very much is that now they have not to pay any tolls at the towns where they camp, as formerly."

26. Reports from other provinces are all much in the same sense. From Sokoto Major Burdon reports on the trade at Jega:—"The importance of this market (Jega) is, I believe, little less than that of Kano. It is the meeting place for caravans from Kano to Gambaga and south to Lagos. The market-place is full of Accra and Yoruba traders; and it collects and distributes all the commerce of Adar, Asben, Kebbi, and Samfara.

"The principal articles of trade are:—from the south, English cloth (mostly from Lagos) in exchange for leather, live-stock, horses, &c.; from the west, kolas from Gwanja (Ashanti), and salt from the Rafin Foga (French territory), in exchange for Kano cloth, &c.; from the east, Kano goods in exchange for kolas; and from the northern parts of this province come the livestock and horses required for the south."

27. On the other hand, the "untutored savages" of Bassa show much ingenuity in smuggling gin from Southern Nigeria, and it is reported to me that bottles are found (1) tied in a bundle of bags and trailing under a canoe with string, (2) in the centre of bags of salt, and (3) buried under ashes of the fire used for cooking in the canoe.

28. A tabular statement of the Niger Company's trade in Northern Nigeria was included in the report for 1902, but no similar statement for 1903 is available. The general figures of the import and export trade of the Protectorate passing through Southern Nigeria and Lagos are included in the returns issued by the Government of the latter, but are not given separately.

29. I regret that the Niger Company have not opened a trading depôt at Zaria. The Chairman informed me that "as a pioneer Company, it is our business to make the experiment (of interior depôts), and we shall do so." The opening up of the Gongola River, which provides an easy means for exporting the produce of Bauchi and Bornu, would, I had hoped, have been eagerly seized by the trading firms; but the Company, in reply to my invitation to take advantage of this new market, say that they do not feel justified in going there.

River Transport.

30. I remarked in my last report (page 65) that I was considering "how far Government might be able to assist all merchants alike by conveying a limited quantity of merchandise up river in Government vessels," in order to overcome the present monopoly of river transport which excludes all competition and progress in trade in the country. In pursuance of this policy, it has been notified in the Gazette that Government vessels will carry passengers, and consignments of cargo up to 20 tons, whenever space is available, at the following rates:—

Up.—Burutu to Lokoja.

Passengers (by class)—£4, £2, and £1.
Cargo (per ton)—in wet season, 30*s.*; dry season, £2.

Down.—Lokoja to Burutu.

Cargo (per ton)—in wet season, 15*s.*; dry season, £1. The amount of down-cargo is not limited to 20 tons.

Proportionate rates for stations higher up the Niger and Benue and special rates for livestock, with scales for intermediate stations, are given. The rates are about one-half what the Niger Company used to charge to Government. So soon as applications come in for freight under these rules in excess of the present available Government accommodation, and it is proved that merchants desire to take advantage of them, I propose to extend the scheme by the addition of a vessel to the flotilla, and to offer transport for considerable amounts of cargo, and thus to throw open the trade of the country to all comers. This can be done without adding to the supervising staff of the Marine Department.

Land Transport.

31. The question of inland transport, on which I laid much stress in my last report, had not reached any further stage of solution at the end of 1903. The institution of animal and mechanical transport is a question of the current year (1904), and will be dealt with fully in my next report.

32. The party sent out to make a railway survey from Baro (on the Niger), *viâ* Bida, to Zungeru, and thence to Kano, under the very able conduct of Mr. Weir, arrived on the 10th November, 1903; and, at the beginning of 1904, the two assistants were surveying the River Bako near Bida, while Mr. Weir was making a reconnaissance from Zungeru to Zaria. The survey work extended till the end of June, 1904. Mr Weir's report is not yet issued; but as regards the portion completed in 1903, it is understood that a very easy and cheap route was found with easy gradients—the bridging of the Bako being the only obstacle, but not presenting any serious engineering difficulty.

Coinage.

33. Importation of specie from the Royal Mint, as contrasted with previous years, is as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
Gold	3,000	—	1,000	From Lagos Bank.
Silver	90,000	145,000*	184,000	
Bronze	350	—	—	
Total ...	93,350	145,000*	185,000	

* (Amended from report for 1902, paragraph 122.)

In 1901 the Government accepted £2,110 from the Niger Company, in 1902, £11,426, and in 1903, £18,206.

34. During the year the importation of Maria Theresa dollars was prohibited (as also in Southern Nigeria and Lagos). This step will, I anticipate, ultimately result in the gradual disappearance of this coin and its replacement by British silver. A factor which greatly militates against my efforts to promote the circulation of coinage—which would promote and facilitate trade, and would very greatly assist the Administration in the collection of taxes and duties—is the refusal of the sole European firm, which has any large connection in the country, to purchase any produce except with barter goods, and their unwillingness to accept cash when tendered by natives (or anything but produce) for their goods. Presumably they thus hope to make a double profit (first on the goods sold, and secondly on the produce bought); but I am myself unable to see how, by eliminating a medium of exchange, they can either increase the amount of produce for sale, or the demand for imported goods. On the contrary, by refusing the cash tendered, they force the possessor to send it where it will be accepted, and I have known a native trader send £1,000 in a single order to Lagos.

Taxation and Revenue.

35. As the new taxation was only instituted at the close of the year under review, I propose to reserve my observations upon it for my next annual report. The old regulation of the Royal Niger Company, imposing an additional duty of 1*s.* per cwt. on salt passing above Idah, was revived; and in order to give effect to the Proclamation establishing this duty (*see* paragraph 38 (4)), and to enable the necessary supervision to be exercised over goods in transit under the Berlin Act, a small Customs Department was established in April, 1903.

The actual local revenue collected each year is as follows:—

1899–1900 (one quarter only).	1900–01.	1901–02.	1902–03.
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
38 9 10	2,179 14 1	4,424 0 0	16,315 11 11

I anticipate a large increase in the current year from the new scheme of taxation and licences.

Receipts and Expenditure.

36. The tables in Appendix I. show the estimated receipts and expenditure for the last completed financial year, together with the actual figures of previous years.

JUDICIAL.

37. The legal staff, which had hitherto consisted of a Chief Justice and Attorney-General only, was increased by the appointment of a Solicitor-General. Owing to the operation of the leave rules this admits of an average of two legal officers in residence, viz., a Chief Justice (or Acting Chief Justice) and an Attorney-General (or Acting Attorney-General). I regret to say that, in spite of heavy sentences and every effort on the part of the Administration, the crime of extortion (in the name of Government) and of personation (of Government officials) is still the commonest crime in the country.

LEGISLATION.

38. The following is the list of laws enacted during the year 1903:—

1. *Canoe Registration*, making it compulsory to take out a licence for a canoe. (*See* last report, paragraph 86 (2).)
2. *French Prisoners Surrender* (*Amendment*), relating to the case of the prisoners on trial for the murder of Captain Keyes.
3. *Non-Natives Registration*, repealing and amending the Proclamation of 1900.
4. *Customs Tariff Amendment*, reviving the old regulation of the Royal Niger Company, under which salt entering Northern Nigeria was liable to a duty of 1*s*. per cwt. (*See* last report, paragraph 86 (3).)
5. *Master and Servant* (*Amendment*), excluding the crews of vessels from the operation of the "foreign contract" definition, and making other minor alterations.
6. *Caravan and Hawkers*, instituting a system of tolls or duties on trading caravans in the Protectorate and licences for hawkers, for revenue purposes. (*See* last report, paragraph 86 (1).)
7. *Native Liquor*, instituting licences for manufacture and sale. (*See* last report, paragraph 86 (3).)
8. *Stamp* (*duties*), imposing stamp duties on various instruments.
9. *Roads*, enacting that (with the special approval of the High Commissioner in each case) chiefs and people may be called upon to construct or repair roads passing through their districts, on certain terms of remuneration.
10. *Police* (*Amendment*), making a few minor alterations in the principal Proclamation.

11. *Supreme Court*, constituting the Chief Justices of Lagos and Southern Nigeria Judges of Northern Nigeria to form a full bench.

12. *Criminal Procedure*, laying down a code of procedure in criminal cases in Northern Nigeria courts of law.

13. *Supreme Court (Amendment)*, constituting the Commissioner of Police as Sheriff, and District Superintendents of Police as Deputy Sheriffs, of the Protectorate.

A few minor regulations under the Wild Animals Preservation Proclamation, the Minerals, the Caravan, and the Native Liquor, Proclamations were also enacted. Two Orders of the King in Council, dated August 10th, 1903, were promulgated, having reference to navigation and transit on the Niger; they were brought into force simultaneously in Northern and Southern Nigeria on January 5th, 1904. Their provisions are identical with the Northern Nigeria Proclamations 18 and 20 of 1902, except that they abolish the territorial distinction between Southern and Northern Nigeria, for the purposes of navigation and transit by foreign vessels or goods.

Missions.

39. The Church Missionary Society, in addition to their stations at Ghirku and Lokoja and in the Bassa country, opened a mission at Bida, with the concurrence of the Emir and Mohammedan Chiefs. The Roman Catholic mission, which was to have settled among the pagans at Ibi, obtained sanction while I was on leave to open a mission in Bassa, alongside the Church Missionary Society. The Toronto mission has stations at Pateji and Bida. The number of European or American missionaries in the Protectorate on December 31st, 1903, was as follows:—Church Missionary Society, 7; Toronto mission, 8; Roman Catholic, 3. The Resident reports that the missions at Bida have been doing excellent work of a practical kind.

Foreign Goods in Transit.

40. The usual annual flotilla with goods in transit to French territory arrived in September under Captain Fourneau, and the last consignment of 20 boats with 273 canoemen was cleared over the frontier on February 18th, 1904.

A large consignment of German goods in transit to German territory passed up the Niger and Benue in September and December.

Boundary Commissions.

41. The Anglo-French Boundary Commission reached Illo and met the French Boundary Commissioner on December 25th, 1902. During the whole of 1903 they have been engaged in

delimiting the northern frontier, and by the end of the year they had almost reached Lake Chad. The Government of Northern Nigeria furnished an escort of 3 officers and 1 British non-commissioned officer with 103 rank and file from April. This escort was later increased by 23 rank and file and a Maxim, and for eleven months one of the Medical Staff of the Protectorate was attached to the Commission. A political officer of each province met them, and remained with them as long as they were in the province, in order to make all necessary arrangements for supplies and to ensure a good reception by the local chiefs. I am glad to be able to report that throughout the whole length of their survey, extending for nearly 1,000 miles (which, three months before they started work, had for the most part been unexplored and hostile territory), no single case of trouble with the natives occurred, and the Administration was able to forward their mails and supplies from time to time to meet them at various points on their route. It is difficult to see how this delimitation, to which the British Government stood pledged, could have been carried out, had not these northern provinces been first included under the administration.

42. The Anglo-German Boundary Commission also arrived at the beginning of 1903 to delimit the frontier from Yola to Lake Chad. A strong escort for this Commission was also furnished from the Protectorate troops, and arrangements were made for transport, &c. The Commission had completed a triangulation around Yola, and thence as far as the vicinity of Kuka by the end of the year. Though the German section had trouble with the natives on their side of the frontier, I am glad to report that the British Commission had no trouble of any sort whatever during the time they traversed some 300 miles of frontier.

MEDICAL.

43. The cost of the Medical Department for the financial year 1902-1903 (deducting recoveries for hospital charges, &c.), was £19,573, being £3,463 more than in the preceding year.

The staff was as follows:—

—	Establishment.			Should be in Africa.			Average actually present in 1903–04.
	1901–02.	1902–03.	1903–04.	1901–02.	1902–03.	1903–04.	
Doctors	21	24	27	14	16	18	17
Male Subordinates	27	14	13	18	9	9	6
Nurses	12	12	12	8	8	8	7
Native Assistants and Servants.	19	16	23	19	16	23	21

Full statistics regarding health are given in the attached Medical Report (Appendix II.), which contains comparative tables of deaths, invalidings, and cases treated, for previous years. Progress in sanitation, drainage, &c., has been made in both cantonments (Lokoja and Zungeru). I look for a great improvement in these matters from the appointment of two special officers as Cantonment Magistrates, but the results had hardly time to become apparent in 1903. The number of deaths among Europeans (official and non-official) was 9 out of 290, viz., 31 per 1,000 in 1902; and 18 out of 309, or 58.25 per 1,000 in 1903. It will be seen from the statistics in the Medical Report that the average is greatly increased by non-officials, the death rate of these being 170.45 per 1,000, as against 43.82 per 1,000 among officials.

EUROPEANS.

44. The number of Europeans (including Canadians) in the service of Government is as follows:—

—	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Civil	104	155	163	231
Military	200	163	157	186
Total ...	304	318	320	417
Should be in Africa	202	212	214	278

The increase shown in 1903-1904 is due chiefly to the raising of a third (Mounted Infantry) Battalion (see paragraph 63, West African Frontier Force), the creation of a small Revenue Department, and a small increase in the administrative or "Political" Department for the collection of taxes, &c. A great number of these officers, however, both civil and military, were appointed at intervals during the year. The number of non-official European residents remained about the same as in 1902, averaging about 30.

METEOROLOGICAL.

45. From the statistics attached to the Medical Report (Appendix II.) it will be seen that the rainfall in 1903 was extremely scanty throughout the greater part of the Protectorate, probably about half the normal. The crops were therefore very poor, and the staple food of the people, guinea-corn, was, moreover, attacked by a blight, which was said to have been hitherto unknown. A famine resulted, which was, however, of course, more felt in the following year. The Acting High Commissioner reported that the rivers had consequently never been

so low, and that the first heavy rain did not fall until the middle of August (instead of in early July). Abnormally heavy rains were, however, reported from Bornu in the east, and from the Gendi district, bordering on the Niger in the extreme north-west.

Economic.

46. I hope to have some information of interest to give in my next annual report; but nothing of special interest was done in 1903. The exploration of the Gongola River, and the demonstration of its navigability, throws open a fertile country reported to be rich in rubber and gum which at present are wastefully collected at much enhanced cost for transport by Hausa traders. The neglect of European firms to take advantage of these openings until the rubber supply is killed by wasteful methods, or the market is diverted elsewhere, is much to be deplored. From Nassarawa province I have also reports of good rubber districts; and Bassa (recently opened up) is known to be especially rich in rubber and other forest produce. Nupe promises well as a cotton-producing centre, being surrounded by navigable waterways for the transport of produce to the sea. From the eastern part of this province Mr. Duff reports timber, shea butter, palm oil, ground nuts, kolas, tobacco, cotton, and various grasses, as among the native products.

Public Works.

47. The year 1903 saw the completion of most of the urgent buildings required at the two cantonments of Zungeru and Lokoja, but the dwelling houses at the former are still insufficient for the needs, and an occasional house will need to be erected to accommodate increasing staff. The base hospital for Lokoja and the last public office for Zungeru will be undertaken in 1904, together with houses for native clerks. A few blocks of barracks for soldiers are completed, and these will be gradually proceeded with in future years. They effect a very great improvement in sanitation, and the constant and destructive fires, to which grass huts are inevitably exposed, cease as the grass huts are replaced by the brick structures.

48. The principal works at Zungeru were the fourth public office (double storey), a suspension bridge across the Dago, the Court House, one new dwelling house, the British non-commissioned officers' mess, the Freed Slaves' Home buildings, and the completion of a number of small buildings, stabling, outhouses, clerks' houses, gaol wards, &c., together with a good deal of road making, and reclamation in the new cantonment.

At Lokoja, four dwelling houses for civilians, and six for military officers, and one for British non-commissioned officers, together with the large masonry station mess, were built. The wharf and two bridges were finished, and a number of out-houses,

clerks' houses, arms-rooms, military offices, servants' quarters, and similar minor works, were completed.

At Burutu the new wharf was finished, and a large coal-shed; while at out-stations, one dwelling house was erected at Bida and two at Yola, and the construction of the road between Zungeru and Zaria was commenced.

49. In my last report I observed that dwelling houses for Europeans at out-stations (who are still living in native huts), together with the necessary offices, store rooms, lock-up, clerks' quarters, &c., were most urgently needed; and that in the cantonments of Lokoja and Zungeru, minor buildings, such as clerks' houses, stables, and out-houses, were most urgently needed in the interests of health and sanitation. Towards the latter a great deal has been done in 1903, but for the former—on which depends the health and comfort of a very large number of officers—practically nothing has as yet been done, for lack of funds. The question of road making and of transport (for materials, &c., to the headquarters of each out-station) is one which is yearly becoming more difficult, and demands solution, and I hope to deal with it during the year 1904. A serious difficulty in regard to this matter of housing at out-stations is that the sites selected as headquarters have, in many or most cases, been ill-chosen from the point of view of health, sanitation, and other requirements. I hope to visit most of these out-stations during 1904, accompanied by the Director of Public Works and a Senior Medical Officer, and to finally select the best site at each place, after which, brickmaking and other preparations for building can gradually be pushed on *in situ* without the fear that, owing to a change of site, the materials may have to be abandoned or additional cost of transport to a new place incurred.

TELEGRAPHS.

50. The telegraph system of the Protectorate at the end of 1903, extended between the following places:—

Places.	Miles.	Remarks.
Illorin—Lokoja	275	Now all iron poles.
Lokoja—Sinkai	314	Do.
Pateji—Zungeru	95	Do.
Zungeru—Zaria	150	Last 30 miles on wooden poles.
Zungeru—Tegyna	19	Second wire on existing iron poles.
Zungeru—Barijuko ...	22	Do. do.
Total	875	
Increase on 1902	218	

Materials were ordered, and to a great extent delivered at Burutu, for further construction in 1904.

POLICE.

51. During the year the establishment of the police has been increased from 150 to 1,000 non-commissioned officers and constables, with 29 officers, and entirely reorganised. Recruiting began in June, and by 31st December 20 officers had been appointed and 745 constables enlisted, armed, equipped, provided with uniform, and partially trained. A good many time-expired native soldiers, including several ex-sergeants and corporals, of satisfactory character, were accepted as recruits. They are armed with Lee-Enfield carbines, and their equipment is similar to that of the West African Frontier Force. The non-commissioned officers and constables are paid at the same rates as the latter. Each of the 16 provinces has an establishment of one District Superintendent and 56 non-commissioned officers and constables. The cantonments of Lokoja and Zungeru have respectively 36 and 68 men.

52. Major Bain, R.E., Commissioner of Police, reports as follows:—"The military part of the training is the same as that of the West African Frontier Force, with a slightly modified musketry course. The training in police duties includes instruction in the laws of the Protectorate and Government Orders which the police have to enforce, in the prevention and detection of crime, the preservation of the peace, the execution of warrants, the serving of summonses, and generally in the powers and duties of a constable. Progress in this direction, however, has necessarily been small in the short period available. Their training fits them for, and the conditions of their enlistment renders them liable to, military service, if required, as part of the armed forces of the Protectorate.

"The principal duties upon which the police have been employed are:—

"(*a*) Furnishing guards for the gaols, and convict gangs when at work outside;

"(*b*) Escorting Residents, revenue officers, and other officials when on tour in the provinces;

"(*c*) Preventing smuggling and revenue offences;

"(*d*) Enforcing the criminal laws of the Protectorate, and making offenders amenable to justice;

"(*e*) Executing the decrees and sentences of the Courts. In this connection it may be mentioned that each District Superintendent has been appointed Deputy Sheriff for his province—the Commissioner of Police is Sheriff of the Protectorate—and with the police under his command is thus responsible for the performance of this onerous duty. This arrangement obviates the costly alternative of a separate Sheriff's establishment with undisciplined and most likely corrupt native bailiffs.

53. "Some aptitude in the detection of crime has been shown and in several cases considerable resource. Stealing in the various forms known to the law, and slave-dealing and other offences against the laws for the suppression of slavery, are the most prevalent offences. A large number of offences of a serious nature under the Protection of Natives Proclamation, such as robbery and extortion while wearing the uniform of soldiers or pretending to be Government officials, were brought to light. Human life is held cheap in some parts of the Protectorate; but, as 63 persons were brought to trial during the year for murder, some improvement in this respect may take place. Several roving gangs of armed robbers, almost invariably wearing portions of uniform and pretending to have authority from the 'whiteman' for their actions, were broken up, and a large number brought to justice.

54. "1,133 persons were tried in the Supreme or Provincial Courts during the year. Of these 115 were found not guilty and discharged."

The following is a classified list of all criminal cases tried:—

High treason	1
Murder	63
Manslaughter	11
Attempt to murder	3
Inciting to rebellion	1
Offences against the laws for the suppression of slavery	171
Burglary	4
Arson	4
Robbery with violence	50
Robbery	33
Impersonation and robbery (Protection of Natives Proclamation)	23
Rape	3
Attempted arson	3
Attempted burglary	2
Accessory after the fact to murder	3
Housebreaking	8
Impersonation and extortion (Protection of Natives Proclamation)	52
Sedition	1
Perjury	8
Cattle stealing	12
Extortion (Protection of Natives Proclamation)	29
Impersonation (Protection of Natives Proclamation)	21
Intimidation (Protection of Natives Proclamation)	8
Bribery	4
Subornation of perjury	3

Larceny from a dwelling house	16
Other larcenies	200
Assault occasioning grievous bodily harm...	5
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm ...	5
Indecent assault	5
Receiving stolen property, knowing same to have been stolen	22
Obtaining money, &c., by false pretences ...	32
Embezzlement	7
Riot	8
Assaulting police while in execution of duty	13
Prison breach	4
Assault	54
Smuggling	7
Firearms Proclamation offences	25
Escape from lawful custody	8
Revenue offences	18
Liquor Law offences	64
Uniform Proclamation offences	11
Protection of Trees Proclamation offences	8
Protection of Wild Animals, &c., Proclamation offences	7
Drunk and disorderly	9
Cantonment Regulations, breaches of ...	37
Other minor offences	47.

Prisons.

55. With the opening up of the new provinces and the adver of the newly organised police under a European police office in each province, there has been a large increase in the numbe of crimes brought to light. During the year 1,133 persons wer tried for criminal offences, as against 497 during the previou year.

The health of the prisoners has been fairly good during th year. All long-sentence prisoners, with the exception of thos in Bornu, are sent to the convict prisons at Zungeru or Lokoj These prisons are in charge of Europeans with a native prisc staff. Arrangements have been made for the provision, durin the ensuing year, of suitable buildings and more efficient orga isation of the provincial gaols. The prisoners are employed i road making, carrying bricks, sand, &c., for building, and c other suitable labour. Those who show any aptitude are taugh where possible, a useful trade and employed as tailor carpenters, or bricklayers, &c.

The growing tendency on the part of the native populatic to bring their complaints relative to injuries to their persons c property to the "white man" for investigation, shows their beli in the impartiality and justice of the Courts and the power c the latter to protect them from oppression and punish offender

Sentences are confirmed or modified by the High Commissioner, with the advice of his legal adviser, after perusal and consideration of the full notes of the evidence taken at the trial; all sentences over six months are subject to confirmation.

The following sentences were imposed during the year:—

I.

Number of persons sentenced to

Death	47
Penal servitude or imprisonment for more than two years	84
Imprisonment for more than six months, but not more than two years	129
Imprisonment not exceeding six months ...	328

II.

Number of persons

Executed	11
Imprisoned and fined	116
Imprisoned (including 36 whose sentences of death were commuted or quashed, &c.)...	461
Fined	400

III.

Number of persons

—	1902.	1903.
Convicted by Supreme Court...	44	79
Convicted by Provincial Courts	362	652
Convicted by Cantonment Courts	91	257
Total	497	988

VESSELS.

56. The twin-screw vessel "Corona" (the new boat for the High Commissioner) arrived during the year, and her fittings were completed at Lokoja in time to permit of her meeting me at Burutu on December 1st. She is a fine vessel, 160 feet long, and fitted with electric light and a refrigerator. The stern-wheel launch "Kapelli" was brought out in sections in December, and was put together by the marine staff. Three

steam canoes and three poling canoes were also added to the flotilla, and the engines, boilers, and deck-fittings of the former were undertaken at Lokoja during January and February, 1904. This type (of steam canoe) promises to be extremely useful, indeed, invaluable, for navigating the Kaduna and Upper Benue in the dry season. The vessels only draw about one foot of water with two tons of cargo on board, and it has thus been possible to maintain communication on the Kaduna, even at the driest time of the year.

57. A regular weekly service between Burutu and Mureji (at the junction of the Kaduna) has been maintained throughout the whole year for cargo, passengers and mails, and all vessels have been employed to their fullest capacity.

58. The stern-wheel launch "Kampala" (75 feet) struck a sand-bank heavily in the lower delta, and sprang a leak, which was not discovered until she sank at anchor in eight feet of water. She was refloated in nine days, practically undamaged. No other serious accident has occurred, which reflects great credit on the Marine Department. The "Empire" was placed on the Niger Company's slip, and her hull plates were thoroughly overhauled, and minor repairs made to her decks, at a total cost of £1,177. No other extensive repairs were undertaken. The little pinnace "Frances," which was taken over from the Royal Niger Company in 1900, was condemned in August, and broken up. She had been frequently under repair, and was no longer worth the cost.

The workshops are now well equipped, and are able to carry out all repairs likely to be required by the flotilla, as well as other departmental work. They successfully undertook the fitting of the "Corona," and the erection of the "Kapelli," and steam canoes. The stores have been rearranged in a systematic way.

Clearing Rocks.

59. The river between Lokoja and the southern limit of the Protectorate at Idah is contained in a rocky bed, but, as the channels are well-known, there is little danger up to within two miles of Lokoja, where the "Sacrifice Rocks" form a very serious obstacle to navigation. These were surveyed at low water by the Marine Superintendent, and a good channel was found, with 10 feet at lowest water, and has since been kept buoyed. It has every appearance of keeping open for years, and the buoying of the channel has greatly decreased the former dangers of this section of the river, where many steamers have become total wrecks. A dangerous rock in the fairway of the Government wharf has been removed by gun-cotton, and a second near the Niger Company's wharf; while buoys have been placed on three isolated and dangerous rocks, which have in past years been constant sources of danger to naviga-

tion. The remainder of the navigable Niger and Kaduna is reported clear of dangerous rocks and snags.

Post Office.

60. There is a fortnightly distribution of mails to the head-quarters of every province; involving, as I showed in my last report, an approximate mileage of 1,523 miles by land and 1,000 by water.

The expenditure and revenue of this Department are as follows:—

—	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.
	£	£	£
Expenditure (Postal and Telegraphs)...	5,530	5,726	6,201
Revenue	641	1,283	2,051

The large increase in revenue in the last two years is chiefly due to large orders for the new stamps by collectors. There is, however, a satisfactory increase of revenue due to the proper organisation under Mr. Somerville, who arrived at the end of 1902.

The total amount paid by Government to the Cable Company (exclusive of private and commercial cables) in the financial year 1902-1903 was £1,002, compared with £1,262 in 1901-1902. The high rate (6*s.* 3*d.* per word) is still maintained. The numbers of letters, telegrams, and parcels received and sent from the General Post Office, Lokoja, were as follows:—

—	Internal.	External.		Totals.
		Inwards.	Outwards.	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Letters (private)	5,234	36,036	13,148	54,418
Do. (official)	82,433	239	673	83,345
Post Cards	55	1,092	112	1,259
Newspapers, book-packets, samples, &c.	215	51,788	206	52,209
Parcels	201	3,689	611	4,504
Telegrams	7,164	55	93	7,312
Do. (official)	35,460	190	134	35,784

Banks.

61. There is no new extension. The Anglo-African Bank is still maintained at Lokoja.

Northern Nigeria Regiment, West African Frontier Force.

62. The Commandant reports that the efficiency of the force has been well maintained, and that a great improvement in the shooting of the troops is noticeable. The majority of the trained soldiers are marksmen; this is largely due to the re-armament of the troops with the Martini-Enfield rifle in place of the carbine. A signalling class has been established with good results. Colonel Morland reports that the force is fairly popular, and the men on the whole contented and the discipline good, but I regret to say that cases of outrage by soldiers upon natives still continue; they have been dealt with severely.

63. In addition to the re-armament, the force has been increased by the addition of two depôt-companies (100 rank and file each), and a mounted infantry battalion on the following establishment:—1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Adjutant, 2 Quartermasters, 7 Company Commanders, 20 Subalterns, 2 Veterinary Surgeons, 24 British non-commissioned officers (including 2 Armourers and 3 Farriers), 15 non-combatants (6 clerks, 4 interpreters, 2 tailors, 3 leather workers), 700 rank and file, and 96 grass-cutters. This increase was necessitated on account of the extended area taken under administrative control, which now includes the whole Protectorate. It will, however, be seen from the statement of expenditure (Appendix I.) that the proportion of purely military expenditure to civil and administrative has steadily decreased. The progress made with the raising of the new battalion showed the following as the actual strength at the end of 1903:—22 officers, 18 British non-commissioned officers, 9 non-combatants, 174 rank and file, 256 horses.

64. Three officers and one British non-commissioned officer died during the year, viz., Major Marsh (killed in action), Lieutenants Wilcox and Mackenzie, and Sergeant Macnamara. The number of detachments increased from 18 to 25, owing to the inclusion of the new provinces; these will be garrisoned by the additions to the strength of the regiment.

65. The new officers' mess at Lokoja was not quite completed at the end of 1903. It will effect a very great improvement in the comfort of all and will become a Station mess. The new officers' quarters were very greatly needed, since the small wooden houses, erected in 1898, had perished, and were neither waterproof nor even safe.

66. The following is the return of operations undertaken in 1903 by the regiment:—

Important Operations.

The Kano-Sokoto campaign was described in the last annual report. Honours were awarded as follows: Brigadier-General

Kemball, R.A., D.S.O., to be C.B.; Colonel Morland, D.S.O., to be C.B.; Dr. Langley and Captain Abadie (Political Officer) to be C.M.G.; Major Cubitt and Lieutenant Dyer to be D.S.O.; Captain Wallbach to be an Honorary Captain in the Army; Sergeant King, R.A.M.C., and Sergeant Robinson (Dublin Fusiliers) awarded D.C.M. The D.C.M. was also awarded to seven native non-commissioned officers and men.

67. The Burmi Expedition (*vide* paragraph 14) commenced on April 15th and ended on July 27th. 600 men were engaged at different times under Majors Marsh and Barlow and Captain Sword (485 infantry, 100 mounted infantry, and 15 artillery), with 20 officers, 4 British non-commissioned officers, 1 gun and 4 Maxims.

Our total casualties throughout the operations were 158; Major Marsh, 6 rank and file, and 6 carriers were killed; 7 officers, 1 British non-commissioned officer, 127 rank and file, and 10 carriers were wounded. Two political officers accompanied the troops.

The strength of the force engaged in the final attack on Burmi was 18 officers, 3 British non-commissioned officers, 2 political officers, 2 medical officers, 520 native rank and file with four Maxims, and one 75 millimetre gun.

Minor Operations.

68. There were seven minor operations, mostly of a trivial nature arising out of some disturbance or the necessity for the arrest of some person. The total casualties in these minor operations were 1 officer and 1 British non-commissioned officer slightly wounded, 2 soldiers and 3 carriers killed, and 28 soldiers wounded.

F. D. Lugard.

18th September, 1904.

APPENDIX I.

(See paragraph 36.)

ABSTRACT of REVENUE for the years 1899–1900 to 1903–4.

—	1899–1900. (One Quarter), Actual.	1900–01, Actual.	1901–2, Actual.	1902–3, Actual.	1903–4, (Estimate).
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Local Revenue :—					
Licenses, excise, fines, &c.	13 17 10	332 5 5	631 0 8	7,826 4 2	25,300 0 0
Fees of Court, specific services, &c.	24 12 0	415 19 3	1,393 14 10	2,579 18 10	3,675 0 0
Post Office and Telegraphs	—	641 3 0	1,283 11 1	2,051 5 10	2,000 0 0
Interest	—	28 14 9	29 11 9	35 12 3	—
Rents of Government property	—	—	1 0 0	255 2 0	1,000 0 0
Customs	—	—	—	—	7,000 0 0
Miscellaneous	—	761 11 8	1,085 1 10	3,567 8 10	500 0 0
Total	38 9 10	2,179 14 1	4,424 0 2	16,315 11 11	39,475 0 0
Parliamentary grant	*56,530 0 0	*88,800 0 0	280,000 0 0	290,000 0 0	†405,000 0 0
Contribution from Southern Nigeria	—	44,750 0 0	34,000 0 0	34,000 0 0	50,000 0 0
Contribution from Lagos	—	—	—	—	—
Deferred pay and reward Fund, W.A.F.F. ...	—	—	—	16,693 13 6	—
Total Receipts ... ... £	56,568 9 10	135,729 14 1	318,424 0 2	357,009 5 5	494,475 0 0

* Not inclusive of grant for the West African Frontier Force. † Including additional grant of £25,000 for telegraph construction.

APPENDIX I. (*continued*).

Abstract of Expenditure for the Years 1899–1900 to 1903–4.

Heads of Expenditure.	1899–1900. Civil Expenditure only. (One quarter.) Actual.	1900–1. Civil Expenditure only. Actual.	1901–2. Actual.	1902–3. Actual.	1903–4. (Estimate.)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. High Commissioner's Office	758 11 8	3,858 3 2	3,848 18 0	4,297 12 8	5,752 10 0
2. Secretariat	310 9 8	1,901 8 0	2,145 3 7	2,145 7 3	2,654 0 0
3. Political (and Slave Home)...	491 13 11	7,470 11 6	11,413 14 4	24,263 14 2	38,259 17 0
4. Stipends to Chiefs	15 0 0	125 5 0	—	—	—
5. Judicial and Cantonment Magistrates ...	438 3 11	1,719 17 9	1,786 0 7	2,562 0 10	3,982 10 0
6. Treasury	545 14 2	2,986 16 1	3,733 12 8	5,745 7 7	6,737 0 0
7. Postal and Telegraphs	426 2 5	5,530 2 8	5,726 2 3	6,201 5 3	7,917 10 0
8. Medical	1,255 15 6	6,744 17 8	16,360 2 7	20,327 18 1	24,550 0 0
9. Printing	71 0 10	361 4 11	956 1 11	1,105 4 1	1,321 0 0
10. Audit	—	506 12 8	832 7 4	859 3 6	1,197 0 0
11. Police	—	—	—	—	24,638 17 0
12. Prisons...	—	—	—	—	3,450 0 0
13. Police and Prisons	159 3 0	1,522 18 3	3,596 12 11	5,422 13 6	—
14. Storekeepers and Transport...	374 16 0	2,591 0 9	4,197 5 8	4,278 8 1	5,327 10 0
15. West African Frontier Force	—	—	132,583 1 8	139,132 2 9	167,591 10 0

16. West African Frontier Force, 3rd Battalion	—	—	—	3,283 18 10	—
17. Marine and Workshops	1,774 6 9	15,756 19 1	29,103 2 8	23,897 5 0	28,709 0 0
18. Customs	—	—	—	—	1,200 0 0
19. Botanical and Forestry	—	—	—	—	1,041 10 0
20. Revenue	—	—	—	—	5,534 0 0
21. Miscellaneous	1,190 12 4	5,439 12 2	27,840 10 11	40,885 11 3	36,635 0 0
22. Miscellaneous Passages, Europeans 3rd Battalion.	—	—	—	720 0 0	—
23. Public Works Department (and Recurrent)	28 6 10	6,153 2 11	10,014 16 10	12,647 5 1	—
24. Public Works Department	—	—	—	—	11,370 5 0
25. Public Works Recurrent	—	—	—	—	5,020 0 0
26. Public Works Extraordinary	30,198 5 4	22,686 15 4	42,998 5 2	78,665 15 10	72,550 0 0
27. New Steamers...	7 8 2	11,191 12 1	*—	—	—
28. Railway Survey	—	—	1,383 6 11	—	—
29. Burutu Works	—	—	—	6,406 11 5	—
30. Telegraph Construction, Zaria Extension, Lagos-Jebba Reconstruction unprovided for.	—	—	—	6,543 16 6	—
31. Telegraph Construction (Additional) ...	—	—	—	—	25,000 0 0
Total	38,045 10 6	96,457 0 0	298,519 6 0	389,391 1 8	480,438 19 0
West African Frontier Force Expenditure, March, 1901 not brought to account in 1900–1.	—	—	54,567 4 6	—	—

* Included under Marine.

APPENDIX II.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1903.

Estimated Population for the Year 1903.

The average European population resident in Northern Nigeria during the year was 309. This includes both officials (civil and military), and non-officials (traders, missionaries, &c.).

Deaths.

There were 18 deaths during the year, 12 amongst officials, and 6 amongst non-officials. Of the total deaths 3 occurred in action, and 1 from ptomaine poison, leaving altogether 14 deaths which were attributable to the effects of the climate.

Death-Rate per 1,000.

This gives a total death-rate of 58·25 per thousand calculated on the average resident population, or, excluding the four deaths above referred to, of 45·3 per 1,000.

Comparison with last year.

Last year the average resident population was 290, and the number of deaths nine, a death-rate of 31·03 per thousand. There has been an increase of population over last year therefore of 19, and in the total death-rate of 27·2 per thousand. Comparisons made between statistics of mortality based on such a relatively small population as that of Northern Nigeria, which has been occupied by Europeans for so short a time, are, however, obviously fallacious, and until records of a number of years are available it cannot be stated that the death-rate of one year is above or below the normal rate.

Prevalence of Sickness in the different Seasons of the Year, and character as to Mildness or Severity of Diseases prevailing.

The months of September, October, November, and December, show the greatest amount of sickness, and March, April, May and June, the least, the rainy season having been the most unhealthy part of the year.

The character of the various diseases met with has not changed, with the exception that blackwater fever has assumed a more severe form, the cases having been more serious and the death-rate higher.

Relative Mortality in the different Seasons.

The greatest number of deaths in any one month occurred in September. There were no deaths in February, June, and August.

Meteorological conditions of the Seasons.

The rainfall during the year was 32·88 inches at Zungeru, and 59·85 at Lokoja—the greatest recorded having been at Lokoja in September, when it amounted to 13·97 inches in the month. The average at the two stations at which complete records were kept was 46·36 inches for the

year. The maximum shade temperature in Lokoja was 101° in March, the minimum 56° in January. The highest mean temperature was 84·4° in March, and the lowest 78·4° in August. Last year the maximum shade temperature was 102° in June, and the minimum 51° in December. The highest mean temperature was 85° in April, and the lowest 72° in November. The rainfall at Lokoja in 1902 was 53·61 inches. In Zungeru the maximum shade temperature was 107°, which was recorded in March, and the minimum 60° in November. The highest mean temperature was 89·7° in March, and the lowest 78·4° in August. The highest mean relative humidity was 86·6° in August, and the lowest in December, 55·4°. Hygrometrical observations were not taken, however, until May. The general direction of the wind was S.W. for the greater part of the year both at Zungeru and Lokoja. I append a chart which shows graphically the seasonal variations of mean temperature, relative humidity, rainfall, and sickness rate.

New meteorological stations have now been established in all provinces, and returns will be available for the next annual report, which will give more representative records of the different degrees of temperature, rainfall, and relative humidity met with throughout the Protectorate.

Particular Diseases during the Year.

The prevalent diseases among Europeans have been malarial fevers and dysentery. Of the former (excluding blackwater) there were 384 admissions with 2 deaths, and of the latter 41 admissions with no deaths. Sixteen cases of blackwater fever occurred throughout the Protectorate during the year, with 6 deaths, a case mortality of 37·5 per cent. There were three cases of small-pox amongst Europeans, with no deaths.

General Sanitary Condition of the Protectorate.

The general sanitary condition of the stations occupied by Europeans is being improved gradually, but much yet remains to be done. The Government premises are kept clean, and are well drained, but the water supply in most out-stations is poor, and the houses merely temporary mud and grass structures. The native towns, with the exception of those in the vicinity of the European settlements, are practically in their primitive condition.

Zungeru.

Sanitary State of the Principal Stations with reference to Water-supply, Drainage, &c.

Average European population, 50.

Deaths during the year, 5.

The general sanitary condition of Zungeru is good, the cantonment is kept clean, and is well supplied with surface drains running down to the Dago river, which effectually carry off all surface water. The general health of Europeans throughout the year has been good.

Water Supply.

The water supply is derived from the Dago river, which flows through the cantonment; it has not proved satisfactory during the dry season, owing to the extreme drought, drinking water having had to be carried a long distance from the Kaduna river. A scheme is now in progress for damming the stream, which it is hoped will keep it running in future. Tanks are also being fitted round the bungalows to collect rain-water. A pumping station on the Kaduna would solve the problem of obtaining a good supply the year round.