

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 315.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1899-1900.

(For Report for 1898-99, see No. 289.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty,
January, 1901.



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ANNUAL.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

**SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1899-1900**

(For Report for 1898-99, see No. 289).

MAJOR GALLWEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Old Calabar,
25th September, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria for the year 1899-1900.

I am, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY

Acting High Commissioner.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1899-1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

A. GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The Revenue received for the year from all sources amounted to £164,108 1s. 8½*d.*, which exceeded the amount estimated by £8,418 1s. 8½*d.*, and is less than the revenue for the previous year by £5,459 17s. 2½*d.*

There was a balance brought forward from the previous year of £19,198 12s. 10*d.*, and a Parliamentary Grant made on the 29th March, 1900, of £18,470 (for purchase of vessels and buildings in the new territories), which, added to the revenue for the year, made in all £201,776 14s. 6½*d.* available for expenditure. As, however, the Parliamentary Grant was made only two days before the completion of the year, the amount of that grant was not practically available for expenditure.

Customs duties contributed £156,491 19s. 6½*d.* of the total revenue.

Attached are two statements, marked K and L. respectively, the former being a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1898-99 and 1899-1900, in which the different heads are shown. The latter is a return of the total Revenue and Expenditure for the five years ending 31st March, 1900.

The excess of the actual revenue over the amount estimated, amounting to £8,418 1s. 8½*d.*, was chiefly due to the introduction on the 29th December of a revised Customs Tariff, in which was included an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. on all goods (with a few exceptions, and other than those chargeable with specific duties). The duty on salt was raised from 4*s.* to 20*s.* per ton, wines from 6*d.* per dozen quarts to 1*s.*, 2*s.*, and 3*s.* per gallon according to kind, and unmanufactured tobacco from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb.; the excess in Customs duties alone being £6,491 19s. 6½*d.* Another reason for the excess was that on the 16th June, 1899, an additional duty of 1*s.* per gallon was imposed on all spirits. The excess is also due to the fact of the Royal Niger Company's Territories being taken over by the Government on the 1st January, 1900; although during the months of January, February, and March the water in the Niger is very low, and consequently the imports during that period are not considerable.

B. EXPENDITURE.

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The total expenditure for the year was £176,140 8s. 7d., against £146,751 17s. 1½d. for the year 1898-99. The actual expenditure was less than the estimated expenditure by £33,188 4s. 2d.

The only excess of expenditure over the estimates was under the head of "miscellaneous" to the extent of £1,764 9s. 2½d., the principal subheads under which this excess occurred being "rations to native staff," "telegrams," and "stationery."

With the exception of pensions all other heads of expenditure showed savings on the estimated amounts. The savings were chiefly due to works and buildings estimated for but not completed, also launches requisitioned for by the Marine Department not being built at the close of the year. In addition to these, various orders sent home were not executed before the end of the financial year.

C. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Attached is a statement, marked M, of assets and liabilities, which shows an excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st March, 1900, of £67,089 8s. 6½d., as compared with £58,469 2s. 8d. at the close of the previous year.

In the liabilities, under deposits due by the Protectorate, the following amounts appear:—£6,900 16s. 2d. was paid by the Royal Niger Company for the deferred pay of the troops taken over from them by this Government on the 1st January, 1900. This amount is being withdrawn from time to time. £2,225 19s. 0½d. was received on account of money orders drawn on United Kingdom and the Colonies.

The sum of £2,935 paid by the Admiralty on account of naval expenses in connection with the Benin City Expedition, 1897, had not been adjusted; and further, £5,865 deposited on account of Customs duties by the agents trading at Old Calabar remained unadjusted at the end of the year.

The assets of the Protectorate on the 31st March, 1900, consisted of—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----|----|
| (1.) Cash balances | 17,905 | 15 | 2½ |
| (2.) Cash on deposit | 18,470 | 0 | 0 |
| (3.) Cash lent at interest | 27,500 | 0 | 0 |
| (4.) Cash in transit | 16,854 | 5 | 2 |

Carried forward £80,730 0 4½

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| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---------|----|----|
| Brought forward ... | 80,730 | 0 | 4½ |
| (5.) Advances due to the Protectorate | 4,086 | 1 | 11 |
| (6.) "Ivy" depreciation fund ... | 5,340 | 18 | 1 |
| Total assets ... | £90,157 | 0 | 4½ |

Against this the Protectorate is liable for—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------|---------|----|----|
| (1.) Deposits | 22,940 | 7 | 6 |
| (2.) Drafts drawn and unpaid ... | 127 | 4 | 4 |
| Total liabilities ... | £23,067 | 11 | 10 |

The above figures show an excess of assets over liabilities of £67,089 8s. 6½d.

D. CURRENCY.

No change in this respect has taken place during the year under review; and now that the importation of brass rods has ceased, owing to the fact that the price of brass and copper has risen, the natives in the Old Calabar and Cross River Districts appear more anxious than ever to obtain the old currency, and it is very difficult indeed to make them understand the many advantages that cash currency has over their brass rods.

In other districts, however, the cash currency is being circulated, although slowly.

Although it looked as if a bank would be established at Old Calabar early in the year 1900, the matter at present appears to have been dropped.

A uniform standard of weights and measures will be introduced during the year 1900-1901.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

A. TRADE.

Under this head I would point out that the revenue shown is the amount of the actual sums collected by the Customs Department without regard to rebates, and is consequently slightly in excess of the net revenue shown in the figures given under "Section I., Financial."

I attach a return, marked N, showing the value of imports and exports for the year under review, as compared with the

corresponding period 1898-1899; and another, marked O, showing the value of imports and exports for the last five years, including the year under review.

From these returns will be seen that the imports show a decrease of £6,841 16s. 8d., whereas the exports show an increase of £114,306 19s. 5d.; or showing a net increase in the total trade of the Protectorate, as compared with the previous year, of £107,465 2s. 9d.

The total duty collected amounted to £156,578 3s. 0½d., being less than that of the previous year by £4,174 12s. 6½d.

The Collector of Customs in his Annual Report points out that the fall in imports and duty was chiefly owing to a considerable falling off in the import of spirits.

It is interesting to note that 980,944 gallons of gin and geneva and 324,161 gallons of rum were imported into the Protectorate during the year 1898-1899, whereas for the year under review these figures were 614,298 gallons and 165,208 gallons respectively. These figures alone will account for a considerable part of the falling off in imports and duty.

I have mentioned before under the head of "Finance" that on the 16th June, 1899, an additional duty was imposed of 1s. per gallon on spirits, which duty was levied on the stock in hand on that date.

Salt and tobacco show an increase of 10 per cent. and slightly over 23 per cent. respectively on the results of last year. In value, however, salt showed an increase of over 100 per cent., which was owing to the prices quoted in certain districts being inaccurate consequent on the want of original invoices.

The total Customs revenue derived from spirits, salt, and tobacco, amounted to £142,777 2s. 9d., out of a total specific duty of £150,923 16s. 0d., or about 94 per cent. of the whole.

The *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. was not introduced until the 29th December, 1899, and yielded to the revenue a sum of £5,654 7s. 0½d. The principal articles contributing to this amount were cotton goods, the duty on which collected amounted to £2,703 15s. 1½d.; hardware and cutlery, £488 12s. 3d.; wearing apparel, £306 13s. 6½d.; and provisions, £300 11s. 4½d. No other goods coming under this head paid duty exceeding £220.

The export trade during the year, which amounted to £888,954 19s. 2d., consisted chiefly of native or indigenous produce, the value of which amounted to £880,762 in round numbers, being an increase of £119,696 over that for the corresponding period 1898-1899.

The value of foreign produce and manufactures amounted to £8,193, as against £5,382 in the preceding year.

The principal exports continued to be palm kernels, 43,569 tons valued at £340,218 4s. 0d., as compared with 40,528 tons valued

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at £305,791 for the year 1898-1899; and of palm oil, amounting to 8,650,226 imperial gallons valued at £420,680 8s. 10d., as against 8,113,820 gallons valued at £397,869 10s. 10d. for the preceding year.

The export of rubber rose more than 65 per cent., and amounted to 1,450,567 lbs. valued at £105,116 14s. 10d. as compared with 874,298 lbs. of the value of £60,607 17s. 9d. for the previous year. The cocoa exported also showed an increase of 23 per cent. over last year. Coffee and ebony showed a falling off, the latter by more than 74 per cent.

The falling off in ebony has been apparent every year, as the following figures of the amount exported will show:—1895-1896, 1,218 tons; 1896-1897, 1,075 tons; 1897-1898, 637 tons; 1898-1899, 250 tons; and for the year under review the figures fell to 64 tons. The explanation of this unsatisfactory state of affairs is, I understand, that the usual size of the billets has been altered, and that in order to pay the exporter the wood must be cut larger. The natives, however, are very conservative, and it takes a long time to educate them in such matters.

The exportation of timber from the Protectorate is a new feature, and I trust it will continue to develop; and although the industry only started to any extent in August, 1899, 23,983 superficial feet were exported.

The principal foreign articles of export during the year under review consisted of brass and copper wire, chiefly from Old Calabar and Opobo, and showed a value of £4,815 3s. 0d.

It is not possible in this report to make any comparison as to the difference caused by the addition of the territories which were taken over by the Government from the Royal Niger Company, as for only three months of the year under review were duties collected in those territories. The import and export trade in the Niger territories is principally carried on during the rains, when the water rises; whereas the three months referred to above fell in the dry weather, when the water was at its lowest, and consequently there was a minimum of both import and export trade. The increase in trade derived from these new territories can only begin to be estimated when next year's annual report is written.

Trade with the United Kingdom continued on the increase. The following figures are interesting as showing the total trade with the United Kingdom for three years:—1897-1898, £1,002,391 13s. 4d.; 1898-1899, £1,083,435 0s. 1d.; 1899-1900, £1,129,087 4s. 0d. Trade with the United Kingdom formed more than 69 per cent. of the total trade of the Protectorate, whereas last year the figures were roughly 72 per cent. I attach hereto a return marked "N," shewing the value of imports from and exports to the United Kingdom and other countries during the years 1899-1900 and 1898-1899, from which it will be seen that trade with Germany is decidedly on the increase.

During the year a direct trade was carried on with the United States, two vessels having arrived from that country with kerosene oil. As the Collector of Customs points out, this was a new feature.

B. AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

During the year under review a Forestry Department was formed. The first matter that required dealing with by this department was the preservation of the extensive rubber forests in the Benin territories. In my opinion great credit is due to Mr. Hitchens, the Forestry Inspector, for the very energetic manner in which he carried out this work, and for the successful efforts he made to educate the Binis to safeguard the rubber trees. The wholesale destruction of yielding trees and vines in both the Lagos and Gold Coast Colonies pointed to the necessity there was for immediately framing regulations laying down the manner in which the rubber should be worked, and the seasons when it was permitted to work it. Sir Ralph Moor met the case by drawing up certain regulations which were duly enacted and made law in the Benin territories. The duty of seeing that these regulations were carried out as far as possible lay with the Forestry Inspector, and I consider that the regulations proved most effective, as the following extract from the Forestry Inspector's Annual Report will show.

Referring to these regulations, the report states: "I endeavoured to make them preventively operative by personally inspecting and assessing the value of rubber forests belonging to nearly 100 Bini towns and villages; by creating, in accordance with the extent of forest, staffs of *ex-officio* rubber inspectors in each of them; by instructing the inhabitants of all of them in the only safe regulated way of tapping suited to local circumstances; by explaining in detail the rubber regulations prohibiting tapping during the dry season; and by constituting every Bini an *ex-officio* policeman to bring to justice any rubber gatherer infringing the regulations. . . . Fortunately the Binis, whose eyes I have opened on every possible occasion to the value of their rubber forests, responded with alacrity, and to-day exercise such restraining influence on prohibited rubber-tapping and adulterated rubber-producing that not a single rubber gatherer is free from close 'shadowing,' and not a single ball of rubber and prohibited root rubber could work its undetected way to Lagos or our own trading factories. Even though gathered out of this Protectorate, it could not work its way down unchallenged, provided it had to pass any portion of the Benin City territories. This is so in every part of the territories—even in the newly acquired districts stretching eastward."

It is only in the Benin territories that such regulations are in force, as the other rubber forests in the Protectorate lie in those parts where native councils do not exist, and consequently it is not possible to enact native laws by which the regulations can be

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brought into force. It will probably be found advisable to issue a Proclamation dealing with rubber forests throughout the Protectorate.

During the year nurseries were established in a few centres of districts. The object of these nurseries is to form plantations close to villages for seed-producing purposes. This will eventually allow every village to collect its own seed in order to sow in the bush at the commencement of the rainy season.

It is also interesting to note that during the year, out of an approximate length of roadway in the Benin territories of 450 miles, the Forestry Inspector planted 250 miles of road with rubber seed, four deep on each side of the main roads and bush paths. Probably before very long it will be found wise to establish Government rubber reservations in different parts of the Protectorate.

Rules and regulations governing timber concessions were promulgated during the year, with the result that several concessions were taken up and work commenced on two or three of them; this industry should thrive, as there is, no doubt, a large quantity of mahogany and other valuable timber in the Protectorate. The greatest difficulty to be contended with is where the timber exists at some distance from the water-ways. The concessions in which timber was worked were situated on the banks of the rivers and creeks, and consequently a minimum amount of land transport was necessary before the logs were floated in the river.

With the exception of rubber, the working of which will increase every year, the only industry carried on to any extent by the natives is the working of the oil palm. The natives on the banks of the Qua Ibo river do a certain amount of trade in piassava, but the quantity exported is not very considerable.

The Forestry Inspector in his report draws attention to many valuable products as yet unworked in the Protectorate. Thinking it might be useful for the European firms trading in this country, I sent an extract from the report in which these products were referred to to the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, and I trust that the result may be that the agents of the firms out here will make every effort to start trade in, at least, a few of the products mentioned.

When the Imperial Government took over the Niger Company's territories on the 1st January, 1900, this Government became possessed of three or four coffee plantations which had formerly belonged to the Royal Niger Company. I am afraid, however, that unless a considerable rise takes place in price, the cultivation of coffee out here will always be run at a loss. Not only is the price of that article low, but the cost of labour is certainly not cheap, especially when compared with labour in the East. The Curator of the Botanical Department distributed many thousands of plants during the year to the chiefs and other

people who were anxious to have them. The Curator's energies were chiefly directed to experimenting in the growing of plants suitable for exporting as produce, and met with a fair amount of success. I do not consider, however, that the funds spent on the upkeep of the Botanical station at Old Calabar, and the coffee plantations mentioned above, bring in a satisfactory return.

C. SHIPPING.

I attach two returns marked Q and Q 1, the former showing the number and tonnage of vessels, both sail and steam, distinguishing nationalities, which entered and cleared with cargo and in ballast in the Protectorate during the period comprised in this report and the corresponding period 1898-1899.

The latter return shows the aggregate number and tonnage of steam and sailing vessels, distinguishing nationalities, which entered and cleared in the Protectorate for the years 1895-1896, 1896-1897, 1897-1898, 1898-1899 and 1899-1900.

Included in these returns are the branch boats which entered and cleared at Forcados during the last three months of the year, that port having been made an entering and clearing station from 1st January, 1900. These branch boats are used almost entirely for working Lagos cargo, both inwards and outwards, the Lagos bar not allowing large steamers to enter that port.

The total volume of trade carried in all vessels (not including branch boats) amounted to a value of £1,614,753 0s. 11d., of which no less than £1,554,396 11s. 7d. was carried in British vessels, leaving only a value of £60,356 9s. 4d. carried in vessels of other nationalities.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Legislation during the year was confined to the following:—

Constables' Wills and Property Distribution Ordinance, 1899.

Proclamation No. 1 of 1900, relating to transfer of interest in lands.

Proclamation No. 2 of 1900, Customs Tariff.

The first-mentioned enactment was an introduction, under the authority of the "Africa Order in Council, 1889," of an Ordinance which had been in operation in Lagos for many years, and is intended to facilitate the distribution of the property of deceased members of the military forces of the Protectorate. The procedure laid down in dealing with the "estates" is simplified, and enables the matter to be dealt with promptly and, to a large extent, departmentally.

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The repeal of the "Africa Order in Council, 1889," and the changes proposed by the Southern Nigeria Order in Council, 1899, necessitated legislation under the latter order. Legislative enactments will in future take the form of Proclamations, two of which were promulgated during the year.

Proclamation No. 1 of 1900 provides that no interests in land shall be acquired from the natives without the approval of the High Commissioner. This chiefly affects the Niger territories, where it is highly essential in the interest of the native owners as well as of the Protectorate generally that new concessions and grants should be acquired under Government sanction.

Proclamation No. 2 of 1900 introduced a new Customs Tariff on the lines of the tariff in use in the Colony of Lagos. There were, however, a few differences in the two tariffs as regards certain specific duties, which differences have since been rectified.

IV.—EDUCATION.

A. PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The remarks under this head, as to progress made, by Sir Ralph Moor in his report for the year 1898-1899 apply to the year under review. The question of improving the provision for education, especially for secondary education, has been thoroughly gone into, but the attention required by more pressing matters prevented any practical progress being made.

Through the courtesy of Sir William McGregor, Mr. Henry Carr, Inspector of Schools for the Colony of Lagos, made an inspection of the schools at Old Calabar and Bonny, and generally enquired into the condition of education existing in this Protectorate. Mr. Carr furnished a very lucid report on the result of his inspection. In his report Mr. Carr states that he heard it generally remarked that the result yet produced in actual school-learning by the missionaries in this Protectorate is very small; and he goes on to point out that the reason for this is, "the missionaries look upon schools as the instruments for making converts, other men view them as instruments for making good and useful citizens." Mr. Carr, however, pays a tribute to the work performed by the missions, and remarks, "it is to be remembered that at the initial stage of mission work the first duty is to create new social conditions; the first battle is with superstition and the old order of things. School-learning, even if possible, is worse than useless at this stage for the simple reason that there is no demand for numbers and convinced that small as is the actual result in school-learning produced by the missions, the result which they have produced on the temper, intelligence, and social conditions of the people

has not been unimportant, and this is the work which it has as yet been possible to achieve." Mr. Carr concludes his report by urging the great necessity there is for Government control over schools—a necessity which Sir Ralph Moor has from time to time pointed out as the only sound system under which education can be carried on satisfactorily. To quote the report further: "when schools are without Government inspection the tendency is to under-staff them, to under-pay the teachers, and to ambition a multiplicity of subjects without a thorough grounding in the elementary matters of instruction."

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It was hoped that during the year under review it would have been possible to start an Educational Institute at Bonny under Government supervision, primary education and industrial instruction only being attempted as a start. Owing to the difficulty connected with securing a satisfactory staff of teachers, the school was not started until the first week of April, 1900, and consequently it does not come within the period comprised in this report.

The grants to missions during the year amounted to £1,085 12s. 4d.

B. SECONDARY EDUCATION.

There is no provision yet made for secondary education in this Protectorate. Sir Ralph Moor has, however, been giving the matter his earnest attention whilst on leave; and, should funds permit, I trust that before very long a start may be made by which boys who have completed their primary education will be enabled to receive secondary education without having to go to schools outside the Protectorate.

C. HIGHER EDUCATION.

In Mr. Carr's report, already referred to, he points out that there is unfortunately no institution on the West Coast of Africa where school teachers can be trained.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

A. HOSPITALS.

European Hospital.

The number of cases treated at this hospital during the year amounted to 83, an increase of nine over that of the previous year.

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As all the deaths (two) in the Old Calabar district occurred in the hospital, the mortality of those treated was at the rate of 2·40 per cent., which, on comparing with the figures of the previous year, shows a decrease of 4·30 per cent. in the death rate.

The nursing staff, as usual, gave the greatest satisfaction by the excellent manner in which they carried out their duties.

Native Hospital.

5,984 cases were treated at St. Margaret's Native Hospital during the year, as against 5,520 in 1898-1899, showing an increase of 464 cases.

The death rate during the period under review was ·50 per cent. as against ·14 per cent. in 1898-1899, an increase of ·36 per cent. This increase may be accounted for by the fact that 735 pauper cases were treated during the year, a considerable number of whom were in the last stages of disease when admitted.

It is hard to exaggerate how great a boon has been conferred on the native population of Old Calabar by the establishment of this hospital; and I consider that the greatest credit is due to Dr. Allman and his staff for the very excellent manner in which the work in connection with the hospital has been organised, and for the equally zealous and efficient manner in which the work is carried on.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Owing to the fact that the "Africa Order in Council, 1889," was repealed in December, 1899, and that the necessary legislation for re-establishing courts could not be published until 1st May, 1900, no judicial reports for January to March, 1900, were possible; consequently the figures shown under this section are made up to 31st December, 1899.

A. CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The criminal statistics for the year present no unusual features, offences having varied very slightly in character and number as compared with those of the previous year.

The total number of cases dealt with by the eight Consular Courts amounted to 404, the corresponding total for 1898-1899 being 486. The cases mentioned were all dealt with summarily, there being no recorded instance of an appeal from a District Commissioner's decision, and no application for review of sentence.

Offences against property preponderate as compared with offences against the person. The actual figures are 168 and 87 respectively. Of the former class of offences practically all charges would fall under the head of simple larceny, no cases of malicious injuries to property or praedial larceny having been recorded. There were 66 convictions for other offences.

Mr. Menendez, the Acting Chief Justice, points out that in his opinion the civil returns may be considered satisfactory. Claims for debt during the period mentioned amounted to 220, whilst judgment debtors were brought before the courts on only 19 occasions. These claims arose in most cases out of ordinary trading and "trust" transactions, and, with the exception of those associated with long standing "trust" accounts, were easily settled.

The total number of civil cases dealt with, amounting to 251, compared favourably with the total for 1898-99, viz., 388.

B. NATIVE COURTS.

The native courts of the Protectorate have, to a great extent, been reorganized during the past year, having been brought more directly under the control and supervision of the District Commissioners, whose interests in the administration of justice through native channels, and whose tact in adapting native tribunals to local requirements, deserves mentioning. The Acting Chief Justice in his report points out that in settled districts the courts have shown marked improvements in their regard for regular procedure, prompt attention to charges and civil matters, and systematic control of court funds.

Reports from outstations vary as to the efficiency of the members of the various courts; but the Acting Chief Justice reports that native administration under the supervision of the District Commissioners has worked exceedingly well, and he particularly refers to the outstations of Warri and Sapele, where the gradual extension of this system has brought within the control of the Government numerous outlying villages whose previous attitude had been far from friendly.

I would particularly refer to the excellent work done by the native court at Akwete in the Opobo District, which is almost entirely due to the energy and tact displayed by Mr. Travelling Commissioner James. The extent to which the European courts have been assisted by these tribunals is especially marked at Warri, in which district 729 cases were heard. Great difficulty is found in providing these courts with efficient clerks.

The following figures may be of interest in showing the native and minor courts in existence in the Protectorate during the year 1899-1900,

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- Old Calabar District—1 High Court, 15 Minor Courts.
 Opobo District—1 Native Council, 3 Minor Courts.
 Akwette Sub-District—2 Minor Courts.
 Bonny District—2 Native Councils (Bonny and Okrika),
 1 Minor Court.
 New Calabar District—1 Native Council, 3 Minor Courts.
 Brass District—1 Native Council.
 Warri District—1 Native Council, 3 Minor Courts.
 Sapele District—1 Native Council.
 Benin City District—1 Native Council.

C. PRISONS.

The prisons in the Protectorate during the year were increased by one, viz., that at Asaba. This prison is used almost entirely for the accommodation of prisoners from the new Niger territories and from Northern Nigeria. In order to ensure the efficient working of the prison it was found necessary to appoint a complete staff on the same lines as that at Old Calabar.

The building of the new prison at Old Calabar made fairly satisfactory progress during the year.

The following statistics only include the returns from the prisons at Old Calabar, Degema, Sapele, and Benin city. The Asaba prison was not in full working order during the year under review.

The number of prisoners in the various prisons on the 1st April, 1899, was 354 convicted and four awaiting trial. The number of prisoners received into the prisons during the year was 1,316, which included four Europeans and one Maltese. The number discharged during the year amounted to 857. No fewer than 516 prisoners were discharged as unconvicted.

Twenty-two escapes from the prisons took place during the year, of which ten were recaptured. These escapes chiefly occurred at Benin city whilst the prisoners were employed in road-making through the forests; and consequently the chances of a prisoner escaping were greater than on ordinary occasions. The number of prisoners remaining in the prisons on the 31st March, 1900, was 246 convicted and two awaiting trial.

The terms of imprisonment of the several prisoners sentenced during the year were as follows:—Under three months 175, over three months and under one year 302, over one year 184. There were five executions during the year. The value of prison labour as calculated by the several officers in charge of the different prisons amounted to £2,847 10s. 3d.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

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A. POPULATION.

The average resident European population during the year was, approximately, 270, showing an increase of 43 on the previous year.

It is not possible to form any estimate of the native population of the Protectorate.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH.

As the majority of the European inhabitants only stay in the Protectorate for one or two years at a time, there is a constant change going on, and consequently a percentage of deaths estimated on a fixed population cannot be quite accurate for purposes of comparison with former years. This system is, however, followed, and is, I think, sufficient for general information. Calculated on this basis, the total European death-rate for the year under review was 7·40 per cent., and shows an increase of 1·24 per cent. over that of the preceding year. If, however, two deaths from respiratory diseases, one from digestive trouble, and one from drowning are excluded, the death-rate from purely climatic causes amounts to 5·92 per cent.

Taking the death percentage in certain details, the death-rate in Old Calabar district was 2·04 per cent., showing a decrease of 5·25 per cent. on that of the previous year. On the other hand, Opobo, Warri, and Benin River districts, which were considered the most healthy in the Protectorate, show for the year under review an increase in the mortality of 14·5 for Opobo, 13·15 for Warri, and 40 per cent. for Benin River. Sapele, which for the last five years has been notoriously unhealthy, compares favourably with the most healthy districts, and shows a decrease in the death-rate of 14·28 per cent. on that of the previous year, which decrease was anticipated by Sir Ralph Moor in his report for 1898-1899.

The number of European patients treated by the Medical Staff in the Protectorate during the year under review amounted to 1,205, of whom 48 were invalided and 16 died. There were in addition 4 deaths, which occurred where medical aid was not obtainable or was not called in in time. Of the 1,205 cases treated, 15 were still under treatment on the 1st April, 1900. Of the total cases treated, 605 were suffering from climatic fevers.

The number of native patients treated during the same period amounted to 13,757, of whom 23 died and 88 were invalided. 65 of this number remained under treatment on the 1st April,

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1900. Of the total 13,757, no fewer than 3,049 were treated for digestive diseases, 1,783 for injuries, and 1,632 for diseases of the respiratory system, 1,546 were suffering from rheumatism, 1,233 from skin diseases, and 858 from climatic fevers.

The Acting Principal Medical Officer in his report for the year points out that the highest sick-rate, both among natives and Europeans, was during the rainy season, though the majority of the severe cases among Europeans occurred during the dry season.

The highest death-rate among the white population was reached in the dry season, half the deaths in the Protectorate having occurred during the months of January, February, and March. Among the natives the greatest number of deaths occurred during the rains.

During the rainy season, which usually lasts from the beginning of May until the end of October, the natives suffer extremely from diseases of the respiratory system and from rheumatism, brought on by exposure and comparative cold.

C. SANITARY.

Owing to the exertions of the Medical Staff, the sanitary condition generally of the European premises may be considered satisfactory, and in a great many cases decided improvement was shown during the year.

Owing to the increase in the number of troops at Old Calabar, more extensive provision for the disposal of excreta has become necessary; and it is proposed that, should funds admit, Moule's dry earth system, modified to a certain degree, shall be adopted to meet local requirements during the year 1900-1901.

The old custom of burying chiefs underneath the houses, which has existed in Old Calabar from time immemorial, has now been finally done away with, and special cemeteries have been laid out for the chiefs outside their towns.

The water supply for the Europeans throughout the whole Protectorate is derived from covered tanks in which rain water is collected from the corrugated iron roofs of the houses. Consequently there is a minimum of danger as regards contamination occurring. The native population derive their supply almost entirely from shallow wells, or from the rivers and creeks when the villages are situated above the tide limit.

During the year under review 2,323 vaccinations were performed by the Medical Staff, and there is no doubt that the number of cases of small-pox is decreasing year by year.

D. CLIMATE.

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The only meteorological station in the Protectorate which furnishes returns regularly is at Old Calabar, and is under the superintendence of the Principal Medical Officer. Attached to this report is a return marked "R" showing the temperature, rainfall, and prevalent wind at Old Calabar. The rainfall for the year amounted to 105·55 inches, being about 24 inches less than the previous year. A heavier rainfall than this takes place at Opobo and Bonny. In fact, I think it will be found that the rainfall at Old Calabar is less than in most other stations. I do not, however, include Benin City and the country in the upper reaches of the Niger and Cross Rivers, where the rainfall is certainly much less than on the coast.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

A. POSTAL.

A marked progress was shown during the year in every branch of the postal system of the Protectorate. The principal events of the year in connection with the postal department were the establishment on 1st January of four post offices in the Niger Territories; the extension of the money order system to Akassa and Asaba; and the inauguration of *ad valorem* duties on the contents of parcels received by parcel post. The working of the department was carried out at fifteen offices, viz.: the General Post Office, Old Calabar, eight district post and money order offices, four sub-post offices (performing only postal work), and two postal agencies (one at Bakana and one at Buguma).

It was found necessary to augment the staff of the department as compared with the year 1898-1899, in order to meet the extra work caused by the increase of territory which took place on 1st January, 1900.

During the year under review 351,385 letters, postcards, newspapers, book-packets, and parcels were dealt with, showing an increase compared with the previous year of 108,761.

The revenue realised by the sale of postage stamps during the year amounted to £1,300 0s. 6½*d.* In addition to this a sum of £9 12s. 11½*d.* was raised on taxed correspondence, &c. The commission collected on money orders issued during the year amounted to £91 19s. 7*d.*

The postal revenue for the year shows a decrease as compared with the previous year of £251 17s. 2*d.*, the figures being £1,401 15s. 1*d.*, as compared with £1,653 12s. 3*d.* for the

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year 1898-1899. This decrease is accounted for by the introduction in January, 1899, of the penny postage. The Postmaster-General in his report states that, considering the large increase in postal matter treated since the reduction of postage, the decrease mentioned above will be considerably reduced as time goes on.

The expenditure in this department during the year amounted to £3,115 4s. 9½d.

The transmission of parcels at the reduced rate of postage has substantially increased the business in that branch of the postal system; and, notwithstanding the introduction on the 29th December, 1899, of an *ad valorem* duty on the contents of parcel post packages, no diminution of the quantity of parcels passing through the post is observable.

The Postmaster-General particularly points out that it is a source of special gratification to report the entire immunity from loss in the registered articles which passed through the several post offices; and he attributes this fact to an effective checking system having been introduced to safeguard the service.

There was a considerable increase in the money order branch of the department, especially as between the different West African Colonies, and the Postmaster-General looks for a further increase.

The total amount of foreign and inter-Colonial orders together with inland issues amounted to £6,975 6s. 9d., as compared with £5,867 2s. 3d. during the preceding year. The total amount of orders received was £883 3s. 4d., as against £787 4s. 8d. during 1898-1899.

The inter-riverine mail service, which is carried on almost entirely by canoes, is of the greatest convenience, and gave satisfaction. From the 1st January, 1900, it was found necessary to run a postal launch between Forcados and Idah simultaneous with the arrival and departure of the fortnightly mail steamers. This service is not run without great difficulties having to be contended with. During certain weeks of the year, owing to the lowness of the water in the Niger, the launch cannot proceed beyond Asaba and the mails consequently have to be conveyed from that place to Idah in canoes. This naturally causes great delay, and delays are continually occurring on account of the launch grounding on sand banks; otherwise the service was regularly maintained.

During the last few months of the year considerable additional labour was thrown on the Forcados Post Office owing to the whole of the mails for the Western and Central Divisions and Northern Nigeria having to be sorted there. Since then arrangements have been made for the mails to be made up in separate bags.

A fast twin-screw launch is shortly expected to arrive in the Protectorate, when it will be used entirely to carry out the postal service between Forcados and Idah.

B. TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

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—

There is no Protectorate telegraph system in existence, but it is hoped that before long the line from Lokoja will be extended to Asaba with a view to its eventually being taken across country to Old Calabar, where it is sadly needed. As matters stand now the only way in which telegrams can be despatched from Bonny (the telegraph head) to Old Calabar is by means of the mail steamers which call at Bonny once a fortnight. Telegrams can also be sent *viâ* Opobo and Eket, but this method is not at all satisfactory. The telegrams have first to be sent from Bonny to Opobo, and from Opobo to Eket, by canoe. This takes at least 36 hours. From Eket they are sent by land to Jamestown on the right bank of the Cross River, a distance of about 30 miles, the journey taking as a rule from one-and-a-half days to two days. The messenger then proceeds by canoe to Old Calabar, and very often, especially in the rains, the water at the mouth of the river is too rough to allow a canoe to be navigated, and consequently there is sometimes a delay of two or three days at Jamestown. This last stage of the journey takes about eight hours to cover. I have given these details to show the very unsatisfactory system in existence as regards telegraphic communication between the headquarters of the Protectorate and England.

The only telephone service in existence is established between the Medical Officers' quarters and the European hospital at Old Calabar, and, needless to say, is of the greatest use.

IX.-MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

On the 1st January, 1900, the Niger Coast Protectorate Force, with an establishment then consisting of 15 European officers, two native officers, and 533 non-commissioned officers and men, was, on the taking over of the Royal Niger Company's territories, renamed the 3rd Niger Battalion West African Frontier Force, in accordance with the scheme for the amalgamation of the Colonial military forces in West Africa.

In view of the large increase in territory the establishment was increased to the following, viz. :—

27 European officers,
2 native officers,
1,008 non-commissioned officers and men.

Two European officers and 434 non-commissioned officers and men were transferred to the force from the Royal Niger Constabulary on the 1st January, 1900.

The most important work undertaken by the force during the period with which this report deals was the operations which ended in the capture of the rebel chiefs Ologbosiri, Abohun, and

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Oviaware. The operations commenced in the middle of April, 1899, and lasted for about three weeks. The expedition consisted of 16 white officers, several of whom belonged to the political and other departments, 1 native officer, and 250 non-commissioned officers and men, and was commanded by Major Carter. A full report of these operations was published in the *London Gazette* in October, 1899, and therefore, I do not consider it necessary to enter into details. I might, however, mention that the operations were carried out with the greatest success in every detail, for which great credit is due to Major Carter and the officers and men under his command. The capture, trial, and execution of Ologbosiri, who, it will be remembered, was the instigator and master hand in the massacre of Mr. Acting Consul-General Phillips and several officers of the Protectorate in January, 1897, may be considered to be the closing scene of the events which commenced with the tragedy of January 4th, 1897. The Benin Territories, with the exception of a very small area to the north-east of Benin City, may now be considered to be completely under Government control. The natives in the area referred to can easily be dealt with when it is convenient for the Government to take the matter up.

The force was unfortunate during these operations in losing the services of Captain Norman Uniacke, of the 19th Hussars, who was killed in action at Okemue on the 29th April, 1899. Major Carter in his annual report states that this officer's death was greatly to be deplored, as he was an exceptionally keen and intelligent officer.

Owing to the work in connection with the taking over of the Royal Niger Company's Territories in January, 1900, and the increase of the strength of the force, which necessitated a complete reorganization, very little expeditionary work could be undertaken during the dry season. However, towards the end of January, 1900, an expedition consisting of 3 officers and 216 non-commissioned officers and men, under the command of Captain H. P. Gordon, proceeded to the upper reaches of the Cross River, owing to the very disturbed state in which that country then was. No actual hostilities took place but it was found necessary to considerably strengthen the Cross River garrisons for several months afterwards; and, in fact, it will be always necessary to have strong garrisons at the different posts on the Cross River until the Aro, Abam, and Ikwe tribes are dealt with. Further, in order effectually to garrison the Cross River districts during the latter part of 1899, and the first half of 1900, Brigadier-General Lugard was good enough to assist to the extent of 3 officers, and 150 non-commissioned officers and men of the 2nd Battalion West African Frontier Force.

During the year Chuplies, purchased in Cashmere, were issued to the men for expeditionary work only, which have proved to be the most excellent covering for the men's feet when marching along bad paths.

There were only eight desertions in the force during the period under review. These were mostly from Benin City, where the men (Yorubas) are not far from their own country. The remainder of the desertions were by men when on furlough.

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It is shortly intended to supply the force with a new equipment of a similar pattern to that supplied to the Lagos constabulary. This will include a small brown canvas valise, bound with leather, and two leather pouches capable of holding 120 rounds of ball ammunition.

It is further proposed to supply the men with a long cape reaching to the knee, which will be carried in marching order. The majority of the men in the force suffer very much from rheumatism during the rains, and are thus incapacitated from duty. If these capes were adopted, the blanket would not necessarily be carried in marching order; and, as Major Carter points out in his annual report, the men have a rooted objection to the blanket, and on expeditions always complain when they are forced to carry it.

The expenditure in connection with the force during the year amounted to £30,196 2s. 2d., as compared with £21,372 11s. 2d. in the preceding year.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

A. IMPORTANT EVENTS DURING THE YEAR.

The most important event worthy of note which occurred during the year under review was the cancelling of the Royal Niger Company's charter and the taking over on the 1st January, 1900, of the Royal Niger Company's territories by the Imperial Government. A part of these territories as far north as Idah was added to this Protectorate, and the name "Niger Coast Protectorate" was abolished and "Southern Nigeria" substituted.

This considerable addition of territory required that the staff generally in the political and almost every other department should be increased; but, as it was only during the last three months of the period included in this report that the general reorganisation necessary on the extension of the territories was taken in hand, I do not propose to enter into detail as the matter will best be dealt with in next year's report.

I might mention that an accelerated mail and passenger service was established during the year by Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., by which the journey from Plymouth to Old Calabar was reduced to 22 days: an improvement on the very slow service which existed formerly, and which is very much appreciated by both the Government and the commercial communities.

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B. RAILWAYS, ROADS, AND CANALS.

No attempt has yet been made to establish railways.

There is a perfect system of canals throughout the Protectorate, with the exception of the country between the Qua Ibo and Cross Rivers. These canals form a perfect net-work of creeks by which launches can travel from Opobo to Sapele without going out to sea. The creeks between Qua Ibo River and Opobo River only allow for navigation by canoes.

Considerable progress has been made in different parts of the Protectorate, especially in the Qua Ibo district, in constructing new roads and keeping them in good repair. It is very difficult, however, during the rainy season, on account of the nature of the soil, to keep the roads in a very satisfactory state of repair.

C. PUBLIC WORKS OF IMPORTANCE CARRIED OUT IN PART OR IN WHOLE DURING THE YEAR.

The most important work commenced during the year was the building of the quay wall at Old Calabar, the cost of which it is calculated will amount to about £43,000. The Public Works Department were busy during the year.

The Residency at Benin City, built entirely of bricks made on the spot and of timber cut in the surrounding forest, made satisfactory progress, and should be ready for occupation before very long.

A new brick-field was established on the left bank of the Cross River at a place called Etetim, and steam brick-making gear was erected. When this brick-field is in full working order it will be possible for the Public Works Department to turn out bricks at a little over half the cost which is now paid for them in England (including freight and charges).

Several other buildings were in course of erection during the year, including the prison at Old Calabar and the Judicial House. Progress in the latter was not as satisfactory as one could wish, owing to the long delay there was in certain requisitions being executed, which was due to the very considerable rise in price that took place in timber and all material after the war in South Africa had broken out.

D. CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PROTECTORATE.

The administration of the Protectorate, which had been in the hands of the Foreign Office for eight years, was transferred to the Colonial Office on the 1st April, 1899.

On the 1st January, 1900, the "Southern Nigeria Order in Council, 1899," was promulgated. The title "High Commissioner" was substituted for that of "Commissioner and

Consul-General," and the titles "Consul," "Vice-Consul," and "Deputy Commissioner" were also abolished, and "Divisional Commissioner" substituted in their place. These alterations in the constitution of the Protectorate necessitated the appointment of a Chief Justice, a Puisne Judge, and an Attorney-General.

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E. IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

As remarked under the head of A, an increase of staff was necessary in almost all the departments, consequent on the taking over of the new territories on the 1st January, 1900, but on this I do not propose entering into detail in this report.

F. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

The prospects of future trade may be considered bright, especially in the development of the rubber and timber industries. In fact, the possibilities of trade in these two industries are enormous; and that the European firms are conscious of this fact is apparent by the energy which is being displayed, particularly by one firm, in the direction of taking out timber concessions and the making of arrangements to work them with as little delay as possible. Under the head section II., "Trade, &c.," paragraph B, I have already pointed out the possibilities there are for trade in many yet unworked products.

G. SUITABILITY OF CLIMATE FOR EUROPEANS AND OPENINGS FOR WHITE LABOUR.

I would not for a moment suggest that the climate of West Africa has improved of late years, but there is no doubt that Europeans have improved their knowledge as to the proper mode of living; and, in addition to this, the attention paid to sanitary conditions increases year by year. Further, it is apparent that the European firms at home are being more careful in the selection of the young men they send out as assistants to their factories; and the term of service by which these men are bound has been considerably reduced of late years. In addition to this, these assistants are given more leisure, and are treated in every way with more consideration for their health and comfort in comparison with what was the old order of things not very many years ago. All this tends to lower the death rate.

The openings for white labour in West Africa are limited, and are confined to appointments in which the salary permits the individual to live well; *i.e.*, not having to stint himself in the necessaries of life. Further, the manual labour which a European has to perform out here should be limited. His exertions should chiefly be confined to superintendence. I do not here refer to

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marching, in which, of course, all officers, particularly those in the political and military departments, in West Africa, are expected to do their full share if called upon. In fact, with a fair experience of this country, I find that men keep much fitter when on the march, and with plenty to do, than they do if they spend most of their time in an office. The manual work I refer to as not being suitable to this climate is that of actual labour, such as is connected with road-making, house-building, &c. All such labour is best left to natives as much as possible.

H. RATES OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The rates of wages as far as Europeans are concerned vary considerably. The wage of local labourers is somewhat high when compared with the East, and is roughly at the rate of about ninepence to one shilling a day. This rate is excessive, more particularly because the native of the Protectorate, with very few exceptions, is not very fond of work, and it is very difficult to get out of him anything like the worth of the money paid. The labour chiefly employed by the Public Works and Marine Departments and by the commercial firms is Kroo labour. The Kroo boy also figures largely as a domestic servant. It is difficult to know how we could get along without this Kroo labour. The Kroo boy is an excellent workman and his wage varies, except in very few exceptional cases, from 30s. (as a headman) to 10s. per month; he is, of course, in addition to this, supplied with rations of rice and beef. The Kroo boy as a rule does an honest day's work and is always cheerful over it. The great drawbacks to Kroo labour are, first of all, the expense of bringing him into the Protectorate—his passage costing 25s. each way—and secondly, the boys are very much averse to remaining away from their country for more than a year at a time.

Cooks, washermen, &c., are generally procured from Lagos and the Gold Coast, and a very much higher wage is paid to them. It is probable that the wages paid in the Protectorate are far too high as regards these people, but it must be remembered that the scale of wages was started many years ago and it was found difficult to get good men unless the same scale was kept up, and in consequence a man who is very well paid at 30s. a month as a cook or washerman in Accra will, on coming to the Protectorate, receive wages varying from £3 to £4 10s. per month. His passages to and fro have also to be met. Other wages: Native clerks £24 to £250 per annum; engineers £36 to £96 per annum; artificers £36 to £150 per annum; tailors £30 to £70 per annum; carpenters £30 to £50 per annum; &c., &c.

The expense of living varies with the individual. In this Protectorate messes were established from the start; and putting aside a man's wine bill, which is of course optional, it

costs a man, including servant and washing, about £12 a month to live. Consequently £15 a month might be put down as the expenses of a man under ordinary conditions. Whilst on this subject, I strongly advocate that (especially in the case of foremen of works and assistant engineers) when officers are appointed to this Protectorate they should be informed that their living expenses will probably amount to about £180 a year, that is, allowing a reasonable figure for a man's drink bill. I make this suggestion because it has continually been brought to my notice by heads of departments, especially as regards the two classes mentioned, that men come out here being perfectly unaware that they will belong to a mess, and some consider that they have a grievance in having to pay mess charges and, in fact, in having to belong to a mess at all.

On the subject of messes I fully concur in what I know are Sir R. Moor's views, and that is, that they are very essential to the well-being of officers in the Protectorate. It prevents cliques and keeps men together, and further it prevents men from getting slack and untidy in their dress and way of living. It probably costs a man considerably more living in a mess than it would if he catered for himself in his own room, but I consider that the extra cost is well made up for in the general result and comfort attained therefrom.

I. DEPARTMENTS.

Under other heads I have already referred in this report to the following departments:—Public Works, Military, Forestry and Botanical, Judicial, Medical and Sanitary, Prison, Treasury, Customs, and Post Office; but no mention has yet been made of the Marine and Printing Departments.

Considerable changes took place in the Marine Department during the year, which were chiefly connected with the taking over of the Niger territories. An immense addition to the length of water-ways, by which communication has to be kept up, transport arranged for and maintained, and possibly portions patrolled (for all of which the Marine Department is responsible), was made on the taking over of these territories, which includes the lower portion of the River Niger as far north as Idah, Oguta Lake and its connections with the Niger, and the Anambara, Ase, and other creeks connecting the Nun and Warri branches of that river. Captain Child, the Marine Superintendent, in his annual report, states that this large increase in the length of water-ways to be controlled means considerable increase of responsibility thrown on his department. He goes on to say: "It means that many more launches and other river craft will be required than heretofore, which again entails provision being made in the way of slip-ways, repairing yards, and store depôts for their proper upkeep and maintenance; and it means large

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additions to the European and native staff ashore and afloat. Shortly, it means an almost complete reorganisation of the department generally, and it necessitates a very large increase in expenditure." This was foreseen and the necessary provision made in the estimates.

The marine store depôt and engineering yard of the Royal Niger Company was taken over by the Government at a cost of £115,000. The taking over of the Akassa yard is an accomplished fact, and the best use must be made of it under the circumstances although the yard could not well be situated in a more ill-chosen spot. There is no satisfactory creek communication between that place and the Western Division; water communication with the Eastern Division is equally unsatisfactory. The Akassa bar is the shallowest and the worst in the Protectorate. Mail steamers have almost given up calling at the place, the quickest route for the English mails being by launch from Forcados to Agberi, and from there by canoe to Akassa. The most serious point, however, is the isolation of Akassa from headquarters. There is no regular steamer communication, and it is entirely dependent on an occasional Hamburg steamer, whose cargo necessitates a call at both Old Calabar and Akassa. Eventually it will, I think, be found necessary, when funds permit, to run a regular launch service between Bonny and Forcados, *via* Degema, Brass, and Akassa. The most important addition to the steamcraft of the department during the year was the taking over of the gun-boat "Jackdaw" from the Government of Northern Nigeria.

The work of the Marine Department was carried out satisfactorily, reflecting credit on Captain Child and his staff, and at an expenditure of £32,531 5s. 4d. Details as to the work of reorganisation in the department necessary on the taking over of the Niger territories will be better left to next year's report.

The work in connection with the Printing Department increases every year, and it will be necessary before long to increase both the staff and the plant. The work done by the department was in every way satisfactory, thanks chiefly to the zeal and energy of Mr. Wright, the Superintendent.

The political staff proved most efficient, and some valuable work in opening up new country was performed by Captain Roupell, and Messrs. Fosbery, James, and Whitehouse.

A Survey Department was provided for in the Estimates, but no appointments were made thereto.

J. GENERAL CONDITION OF THE PROTECTORATE.

The general condition of the Protectorate, both as regards finances and prospects of future development, may be considered very satisfactory. In a climate like this, where for more than

half the year any real efforts towards opening up country are defeated by the heavy rains, progress must necessarily be slow, although it is probably very sure. The very low type of native which inhabits the greater part of the Protectorate is also a factor which has to be considered when taking account of the actual progress made. The natives of the Protectorate, without exception, are conservative to a degree, especially among the older chiefs, and it is with the greatest difficulty that improvements of any kind can be introduced amongst them, and the only way by which this has been achieved has been by the use of the greatest patience, energy, and tact. It is needless to say that from time to time punitive action has had to be taken in order to put down wholesale massacres, cannibalism, and closing of trade routes, but such punitive means are never resorted to unless all efforts of a pacific nature have utterly failed. This factor, the conservatism of the people, must also be considered when the work which has been performed in this Protectorate during the nine years of its existence is looked into. The work of opening up inland from the coast has been slow, and must always be so, for if done in a hurry and with no thought for the welfare and improvement of the people, it would take a very short time for the country to fall back again into its former state.

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H. L. GALLWEY,

Acting High Commissioner.

Government House,

Old Calabar,

25th September, 1900.

L.

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1899-1900.

STATEMENT showing the total REVENUE and EXPENDITURE
for five YEARS ending 31st March, 1900.

| Year. | Revenue. | Expenditure. |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 1895-96 | 155,518 9 2 | 145,044 8 4 |
| 1896-97 | 112,440 11 10½ | 128,411 8 0½ |
| 1897-98 | 153,181 8 0½ | 121,900 19 2 |
| 1898-99 | 169,567 18 11 | 146,751 17 1½ |
| 1899-1900 | 164,108 1 8½ | 176,140 8 7 |
| Total | 754,811 9 8½ | 718,249 1 3 |

M.
STATEMENT OF ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st MARCH, 1900.

| Assets. | Amount. | Liabilities. | Amount. |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| Balance of the under-mentioned Accounts:— | £ s. d. | | £ s. d. |
| Local Cash Account ... | 10,027 16 7½ | Deposits due by the Protectorate ... | 22,940 7 6 |
| Crown Agents' Cash Account ... | 7,877 18 7 | Drafts drawn on the Crown Agents (not yet paid) | 127 4 4 |
| Advances due to the Protectorate | ... | | |
| Remittances to Crown Agents | 16,654 5 2 | | |
| (in transit). | | | |
| " between Cheats (in transit) ... | 200 0 0 | | |
| | | | |
| Investments:— | 16,854 5 2 | | |
| Yacht "Ivy" Depreciation Fund ... | 5,340 18 1 | | |
| Amount deposited by Crown Agents at 7 days' notice. | 18,470 0 0 | | |
| Amount lent at Interest by Crown Agents ... | 27,500 0 0 | | |
| Total Assets ... | 90,157 0 4½ | Total Liabilities ... | 23,067 11 10 |
| Excess of Liabilities over Assets ... | — | Excess of Assets over Liabilities ... | 67,089 8 6½ |
| | | | |
| | 90,157 0 4½ | | 90,157 0 4½ |

N.
 RETURN shewing the VALUE of IMPORTS from, and EXPORTS to, the undermentioned countries from APRIL 1, 1899, to MARCH 31, 1900, compared with the corresponding period of 1898-99.

| Countries. | Imports. | | Exports. | | Total Trade. | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------|----------|-------|--------------|-------|---------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| | 1899-1900. | | 1898-99. | | 1899-1900. | | | | | | | |
| | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | | | | | | |
| United Kingdom... | 597,998 | 9 4 | 583,067 | 4 5 | 531,088 | 14 8 | 500,367 | 15 8 | 1,129,087 | 4 0 | 1,083,435 | 0 1 |
| France ... | — | ... | — | — | 47,136 | 3 5 | 21,487 | 3 10 | 47,136 | 3 5 | 21,487 | 3 10 |
| Germany ... | 59,043 | 0 0 | 51,330 | 16 8 | 308,180 | 1 11 | 251,003 | 8 3 | 367,223 | 1 11 | 302,354 | 4 11 |
| Holland ... | 50,458 | 4 2 | 77,260 | 14 7 | 8 | 0 0 | — | — | 50,466 | 4 2 | 77,260 | 14 7 |
| Other countries ... | 18,298 | 8 3 | 20,981 | 2 9 | 2,541 | 19 2 | 1,789 | 12 0 | 20,840 | 7 5 | 22,770 | 14 9 |
| TOTAL £ | 725,798 | 1 9 | 732,639 | 18 5 | 888,954 | 19 2 | 774,647 | 19 9 | 1,614,753 | 0 11 | 1,507,287 | 18 2 |

SOUTHERN NIGERIA, 1899-1900.

SOUTHERN
NIGERIA,
1899-1900.

O.

RETURN shewing the VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS for FIVE YEARS:—viz. 1895-6, 1896-7, 1897-8, 1898-9, 1899-1900.

| Financial Years. | Imports. | | | Exports. | | | Total. | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----|----|----------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| April 1, 1895, to March 31, 1896 | 750,975 | 0 | 4 | 844,333 | 2 | 9 | 1,595,308 | 3 | 1 |
| " 1896 | 555,977 | 18 | 4 | 785,605 | 5 | 3 | 1,441,583 | 3 | 7 |
| " 1897 | 639,698 | 12 | 7 | 750,223 | 8 | 11 | 1,389,922 | 1 | 6 |
| " 1898 | 732,639 | 18 | 5 | 774,647 | 19 | 9 | 1,507,287 | 18 | 2 |
| " 1899 | 725,798 | 1 | 9 | 888,954 | 19 | 2 | 1,614,753 | 0 | 11 |

Q.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

RETURN shewing NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS (sailing and steam) of each Nation which ENTERED and CLEARED with CARGO and in BALLAST in the PROTECTORATE of SOUTHERN NIGERIA from April 1, 1899, to March 31, 1900, and the corresponding period of 1898-1899.

| Nationality of vessels. | 1899-1900. | | | | 1898-1899. | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Entered. | | Cleared. | | Entered. | | Cleared. | |
| | No. | Tonnage. | No. | Tonnage. | No. | Tonnage. | No. | Tonnage. |
| British | 140 | 199,640 | 140 | 199,848 | 132 | 176,277 | 133 | 176,570 |
| German | 11 | 15,604 | 11 | 15,604 | 12 | 15,697 | 12 | 15,697 |
| Spanish | 2 | 314 | 2 | 314 | — | — | — | — |
| Swedish | — | — | — | — | 1 | 293 | — | — |
| Total... | 153 | 215,558 | 153 | 215,766 | 145 | 192,267 | 145 | 192,267 |

SOUTHERN NIGERIA, 1899-1900.

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