

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 405.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 381.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November 1903.



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ANNUAL.

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382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901-1902
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ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER PROBYN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Old Calabar,

29th July, 1903.

SIR,

IN accordance with No. 271 of the Colonial Office Regulations, I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book (two copies) for 1902, together with the Report required by the regulation referred to.

I am, &c.,

L. PROBYN,

Acting High Commissioner.

REPORT, 1902.

During the year 1902 the Protectorate was freed for ever from the evils of slave-raiding and slave-dealing on an organised scale. On April 1st, 1901, "The Slave Dealing Proclamation" was published, and on the 26th November, 1901, the provisions of that law, making slave-dealing in all its forms a penal offence, were applied by Order to all parts of the Protectorate, but it was not until the termination, in April, 1902, of the successful military operations in the Aro country, that the system of tribal warfare, for the purpose of making slaves, could be accurately regarded as an evil of the past.

The southern part of the Protectorate is a delta country through the low lands of which the Ossa, Niger, Engenni, Opobo, and Cross rivers force their way through winding sluggish creeks to the sea. At a distance varying from 40 to 70 miles from the coast, higher land is met, the zone on which the oil palm flourishes is passed, and the country, undulating for the most part, but in many places very hilly, stretches northward to the boundary with the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria, which runs east and west at a distance of 180 miles from the sea. Slave-raiding had been repressed for many years previous to 1902 in the delta country and in all the hinterland above described, except that part of the latter which lies between the Niger and the Cross River (a distance of 100 miles), and it was throughout this region that the Aro influence was predominant.

The most noteworthy fact brought to light by the military operations in the last stronghold of slavery above described, was that the Aros were not a military race, and that their influence was due to their relatively great intelligence, as compared with other native tribes. The strength of this influence was such, that not only was it paramount in the Aro country, but was also felt in many places in the delta region between the Niger and the Cross River, and also to the east of the latter. Whenever a tribe attempted to avoid acting in accordance with the Aro policy, it was fought by warlike tribes under the direction of the Aros, who recompensed such mercenaries by allowing them to loot the conquered tribe and to seize and sell as slaves those who survived the conflict. Within the area of the direct Aro influence, no important dispute could be settled save by reference to the oracle in the Juju or sacred grove situated in a ravine near Ibum (Aro Chuku). Each of the contending parties attempted to propitiate this oracle by large offerings, and the party against whom judgment was pronounced, was believed by his tribes to have been destroyed by the hidden power, while, in reality, he was almost invariably sold secretly into slavery. As the tribe supposed to be specially

favoured by this oracle, the Aros were able to gain wealth in the shape both of propitiatory offerings and of slaves. In addition to being a constant source of wealth, the Juju oracle also afforded the Aros a means whereby any one opposing or supposed to be desirous of opposing their authority could be easily removed, as they could at any time contrive that a charge should be made against the rebel, thus forcing him to appeal to the oracle and then, on his arrival at Ibum, he would either be made powerless through parting with all his wealth as an offering, or, if his gifts were insufficient, his doom would be pronounced by Aro priests hidden in a concealed cave in the sacred ravine, and thereafter the Aro opponent became the Aro slave.*

The military operations which were brought to a successful close in 1902, destroyed the system of slave-making above described, and the dreaded Juju oracle ceased for ever to exercise its baneful influence. The Aros themselves, however, were not destroyed, but, on the contrary, immediately gave further proof of their intelligence by adapting themselves to the new conditions of life. It had been their practice to prevent tribes within their influence from attempting to do a direct trade with the delta country, and thus they alone had experience in trade. They at once began to utilise this experience, they readily learnt to appreciate the superior value of English currency, as compared with the native mediums of barter, manillas, brass rods, &c., and, by their activity, showed that for many years they would be probably the principal gainers in any increased trade which might result from their country having been thrown open to the delta traders.

The foregoing facts are referred to thus early in this Report, as it is obvious that they affect the financial and other returns in the Blue Book for 1902. In accordance with the system introduced in 1900, the financial returns (which include the return of monies expended on Public Works) only cover the financial year ending 31st March, 1902, whereas, the departmental returns relate to the calendar year.

* The Aros do not appear to have resorted to trial by ordeal. This mode of testing the truth of witnesses is resorted to largely by the natives in many parts of the Protectorate and is of course of ancient origin. The abuse of this practice was checked by a Proclamation drafted in 1902, viz: the "Ordeal, Witchcraft and Juju Proclamation, 1903" No. 13 of 1903.

FINANCIAL.

The Revenue for the year 1901-1902 amounted to £361,815, and the Expenditure, to £31,396, showing a surplus of Revenue over Expenditure of £30,419.

REVENUE.

The following is a comparative statement of the Revenue during the three years 1899-1900, 1900-1901, and 1901-1902:—

	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
	£	£	£
Customs	156,491	362,472	335,929*
Licences	775	2,050	5,407
Fees (payments for specific services).	3,358	6,513	9,326
Postal Revenue	1,397	2,865	4,341
Miscellaneous	2,085	7,492	6,810
Totals	164,108	380,894	361,815

* Specific duties, £283,782. *Ad valorem* £52,147. These duties were increased from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. on April 1st, 1901. During 1900-1901 the figures were £334,438 and £28,033 respectively.

It will be noted that the Revenue during 1901-1902 continued to be much greater than in 1899-1900, but showed a net decrease (£19,079 7s. 2d.) under the Revenue in 1900-1901.

Early in the quarter ending September, 1901, preparations were commenced in anticipation of it being necessary to undertake an expedition against the Aros, and this fact becoming known, induced importers to restrict their orders, as they feared that all trade with the region under the Aro influence would be stopped. The result was that during that quarter the Customs revenue was £27,000 less than during the same quarter of the previous year. The rapid success attained by the Protectorate Forces in the expedition, prevented continued reduction on the same scale, and the total loss from this cause was partially counter-balanced by the *ad valorem* duties being 10 per cent. instead of 5 per cent. as in the previous year. Thus while the amount collected from specific duties was £50,651 less, the amount from *ad valorem* duties was £24,114 more in 1901-1902 than in 1900-1901.

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The net decline of Revenue in 1901-1902 was, as above stated, only £19,070, there having been considerable increases in "Licences," "Fees," and "Postal Revenue." Proclamation No. 2 of 1901, prohibited the sale of spirits in towns save by licensed persons, and the new source of revenue thus created produced £2,105 during 1901-1902. The sum mentioned, added to an increase in the fees paid in connection with the timber industry, accounts for the larger amount received under "Licences."

Of the increases shown in the comparative statement in "Fees" or "Payments for specific purposes," £1,442 was due to the larger amount of work done for the public in the marine ship-repairing yards, and with respect to the increase in "Postal Revenue," stamp collectors bought stamps to the value of £1,821, as compared with £836 for like purchases in 1900-1901.

EXPENDITURE.

The following is a comparative statement of the Expenditure during the three years 1899-1900, 1900-1901, and 1901-1902:—

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	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.	Increase. 1901-1902.	Decrease. 1901-1902.
—					
ions and Gratuities ...	£ 280	£ 810 0 0	£ 930 12 6	120 12 6	—
Commissioner ...	4,046	4,675 0 4	4,744 3 0	69 2 8	—
etary's Department ...	655	1,170 3 11	2,276 5 2	1,106 1 3	—
ical and Administrative ...	20,327	23,430 11 7	25,005 0 0	1,574 8 5	—
cial and Legal ...	967	2,950 0 7	3,781 9 5	831 8 10	—
ey Department ...	—	4 16 9	1,718 5 1	1,713 8 4	—
ury Department ...	2,352	2,977 15 10	3,275 8 5	297 12 7	—
oms ...	7,251	7,362 3 6	8,299 1 4	936 17 10	—
Office... ..	3,115	3,675 11 8	3,668 18 2	—	6 13 6
ing Department ...	1,328	1,612 2 4	1,964 4 5	352 2 1	—
t ...	769	619 10 0	740 13 10	121 3 10	—
W.A.F. ...	30,196	39,710 17 9	53,043 16 6	13,332 18 9	—
ne Department ...	32,531	67,477 16 11	46,234 1 10	—	21,243 15 1
n ...	7,200	8,894 3 1	10,575 10 3	1,681 7 2	—
stry and Botanical Department	1,171	2,565 11 10	2,757 7 9	191 15 11	—
cal Department ...	9,272	11,967 3 4	13,278 4 7	1,311 1 3	—
ary ...	1,147	1,424 5 7	1,174 16 7	—	249 9 0
sport ...	5,729	10,550 17 8	15,607 7 0	5,056 9 4	—
ignes... ..	8,236	11,345 6 11	9,203 18 3	—	2,141 8 8
ational ...	—	—	1,070 6 5	1,070 6 5	—
allaneous ...	11,006	55,562 7 3	37,205 8 9	—	18,356 18 6
tribution to Northern Nigeria	—	—	33,785 10 0	33,785 10 0	—
ic Works Department ...	3,896	4,881 17 3	5,743 12 1	861 14 10	—
Recurrent ...	5,387	7,822 6 7	5,963 16 3	—	1,858 10 4
Extraordinary ...	19,269	34,702 7 5	39,348 18 9	4,646 11 4	—
Total ...	176,140	306,192 18 1	331,396 16 4	69,060 13 4	43,856 15 1

The large net decrease in the Expenditure of the Marine Department during 1901-1902, is explained by the following comparison with the Expenditure during the previous year:—

	Increases.	Decreases.
	£	£
Personal Emoluments	3,486	—
Purchase and Upkeep of lighters, &c...	—	1,872
Launch Engineering Stores	1,034	—
Coal (fall in value)	—	3,889
Sinking Fund for "Ivy"	1,000	—
Purchase of Steam Launches	—	8,304
Stern Wheeler	1,099	—
Repairs to Yacht "Ivy"	—	14,273
Total	6,619	27,888
Deduct Increases		6,619
		21,219

The net decrease in "Miscellaneous," is accounted for by the "Contribution to Northern Nigeria" being shown, for the first time, under a separate head. But for this transfer there would have been a large increase, as much more money was spent on the subhead "Expenses of Expeditionary Works" (chiefly in connection with the Aro Expedition), and on "Rations," "Stationery," &c.

The increases shown in the Expenditure, 1901-1902, were chiefly due to additions to departmental establishments, rendered necessary by developments in the Administration; for example, the post of Government Secretary was filled, "Survey" and "Education" Departments were formed, and a political and clerical staff for the new districts appointed. Against the new head, "Educational," was debited the "Grants to Missions," an expenditure charged in 1900-1901 against the head "Aborigines."

The increase under "West African Frontier Force" is explained as below:—

	£
Increase on personal emoluments	8,000
New Sub-heads.	
Purchase of new guns, &c.	4,000
Recruiting bounties and outfit allowances to officers	1,000

The following table shows the respective increases under "Personal Emoluments" and "Other Charges" during the three years mentioned:—

Year.			Expenditure on Personal Emoluments.	Expenditure on other Charges.	Total.
			£	£	£
1899-1900	...	...	89,517	86,622	176,139
1900-1901	...	...	116,548	189,644	306,192
1901-1902	...	...	136,534	194,861	331,396

*Legislation Affecting Revenue during the Financial Year
1901-1902.*

Attention has already been drawn to the Spirit Licence Proclamation, 1901 (No. 2 of 1901).

The ad valorem duty was increased from five to ten per cent. by the Amended Customs Tariff Proclamation (No. 10 of 1901), which came into operation on April 1st, 1901 (*see notes and observations on the comparative statement of revenue*).

The Patents Proclamation, 1900 (No. 27 of 1900), under which fees are payable in respect of patents, came into operation on January 1st, 1901.

The General Registry Proclamation, 1901 (No. 6 of 1901), and the Lands Registry Proclamation, 1901 (No. 18 of 1901), came into operation on September 1st, 1901; as fees are payable under these laws for recording documents, they may be regarded as having created a small source of revenue.

The Weights and Measures Proclamation (No. 7 of 1901) and the Merchant Shipping Fees Proclamation, 1902 (No. 5 of 1902), were passed but did not operate within the financial year. Of the latter law it may be pointed out that its effect will not be to increase revenue, as, in the main, it merely legalises those fees, chargeable for ship papers, which were formerly payable under the Consular Jurisdiction.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

As already stated, there was a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £30,419 during the year 1901-1902. This surplus would, however, have been greatly reduced if it had been practicable to bring to account, within the year, all the expenditure actually incurred in connection with the Aro Expedition.

The return of Assets and Liabilities (*see Appendix A*) shows an excess of Assets over Liabilities of £178,517, as compared with £144,177, the corresponding excess shown in the same return for 1900-1901.

Leaving out of the account the deposits due by and advances due to the Protectorate, which practically balance themselves, the excess Asset balance is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
(i.) Cash in chests... ..	56,000	7	11
(ii.) Cash in transit, &c.	19,897	14	3
(iii.) Surplus funds invested by Crown Agents	97,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	167,590	2	1
(iv.) Investments for specific purposes...	11,841	0	6
	<hr/>		
	179,431	3	0
Deduct difference between deposits (and drafts) and advances	913	4	2
	<hr/>		
Excess of Assets over Liabilities ...	£178,517	18	10
	<hr/>		

Of the surplus funds invested by the Crown Agents, £60,000 was thus dealt with during the year.

CURRENCY.

The accepted currency is English. By the Native Currency Proclamation (No. 14 of 1902) brass-rods and manillas were made legal tender in all native markets in which they had previously been current, and, by section 8, brass-rods were made currency, at the rate of four rods to one shilling, in all native markets and other places in which such rods had before been current.

Manillas are, however, only tender in the native markets above specified, and their value in sterling is fixed, by the Proclamation and by Order No. 6 of 1902, at rates varying from four to twenty-four to the shilling according to the species of manilla, there being no less than five of such species.

It may be mentioned that an Order in Council, dated the 19th of November, 1902, made under the Coinage Acts, 1870, and 1891, was passed during the year but was not published until the 31st of January, 1903.

Under clause IX. of Rule No. 2 of 1901, in districts in which it is impracticable to enforce payment of Native Court fees or fines in cash, it is lawful for the person concerned to discharge his obligations by making payment in brass-rods, manillas, cloth, or other "trade goods" (except gin).

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 1902.

Duties.

In the following table the expression "Free Imports" includes only those articles which are exempted from import duty irrespective of the position of the importer; no duty is paid on kerosene oil or on lumber imported by the Government, but the value of such importations is shown in the table under "Specific Imports" and "Ad valorem Imports" respectively, because the exemption from duty is due, in such cases, to the position of the importer. The "Free Imports" include specie; the amount of the latter imported in 1901 was £209,822, as compared with £164,088 in 1902:—

	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Free Imports by the Public	122,553	137,195
Free Imports by Governments of Northern and Southern Nigeria.	231,876	178,239
Specific Imports by the Public	265,171	318,221
Specific Imports by the two Governments	12,633	4,866
Ad valorem Imports by the Public	549,927	520,393
Ad valorem Imports by the two Governments	114,953	87,565
Total Imports on which duties were paid	815,098	838,614
Total Imports	1,297,116	1,246,481

The imports on which duty is paid may be fairly regarded as indicating the condition of trade, and it is therefore important to note, that although the total imports in 1902 were £50,635 less in value than in the previous year, yet that the value of those imports on which duty was paid was £23,516 more in 1902 than in 1901. The progress, to which attention is thus specially drawn, is however less satisfactory when it is also noted that there was a decrease of £29,534 in the value of the "ad valorem" goods imported in 1902, and that the increase was entirely due to the larger amount of "Specific" goods imported, namely, £53,050 more in value in 1902 than in the previous year.

Having dealt with the value of the imports in 1901 and 1902, it is now convenient to refer to the duties collected, which were as follows:—

	1901.	1902.
	£	£
Specific Duties	299,080	355,329
Ad valorem Duties	48,094	51,285
Total	347,174	406,615

The above figures require explanation on two points. The fact that more ad valorem duty was collected in 1902, although the value of the imports subject to that duty was £29,534 less than in 1901, is due to the increase in the duty from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. having only been in operation during the last three quarters of the year 1901.

The value of the goods subject to specific duty and imported in 1902 was only £53,050 more than in 1901; the amount of the increase in the specific duties collected in 1902 was, however, £56,249 more than in 1901; the fact that the increase in the duty collected was more than the increase in the value of the goods, is due to the duty being in certain cases higher than the value of the goods, for example, the value of the increased quantity of gin and gunpowder imported in 1902, as compared with 1901, was £27,521, while the increase in the specific duties paid was £46,176.

The import and export returns of the Protectorate include the imports and exports passing through the Protectorate from or to Northern Nigeria and the Kamerun, and import duties are levied in the Protectorate on all such imports, subject, however, in the case of imports to the Kamerun, to substantial rebates. The Customs arrangements are such that the value of the exports and imports thus passing through the Protectorate is approximately known; according to the departmental returns, the amount of the import duty collected from imports consigned to Northern Nigeria amounted to £12,945 in 1902, as compared with £11,266 in 1901, and £9,359 in 1900. The value of the imports into Kamerun in 1902 was £13,230. The exports from Northern Nigeria and from the Kamerun are shown in detail in Appendix B.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

The following statement shows the imports from the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and Foreign countries respectively during the years mentioned:—

1900.

—	Imports.	Specie.	Imports less Specie.
	£	£	£
From United Kingdom ...	927,905	130,850	797,055
„ Colonies ...	6,256	4,399	1,857
„ Foreign Countries ...	181,421	(Landana.) 60	181,361
Totals ...	1,115,583	135,309	980,274

1901.

—	Imports.	Specie.	Imports less Specie.
	£	£	£
From United Kingdom ...	1,072,962	205,222	867,740
" Colonies ...	4,708	2,700	2,008
" Foreign Countries ...	219,445	(Germany.) 1,900	217,545
Totals ...	1,297,116	209,822	1,087,294

1902.

—	Imports.	Specie.	Imports less Specie.
	£	£	£
From United Kingdom ...	1,004,958	157,775	847,183
" Colonies ...	3,032	900	2,132
" Foreign Countries ...	238,490	5,413 ^o	233,077
Totals ...	1,246,481	164,088	1,082,393

^o Germany £2,207. Kotonou £2,800. Kamerun £406.

The foregoing statement shows a decrease in the importations from the United Kingdom and an increase in the imports from Foreign countries, and the following statement shows how the increase is apportioned between the several countries therein mentioned:—

Imports from (less Specie).

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£
African Ports ...	1,125	7,488	8,344
American, United States...	6,053	4,063	3,986
Belgium ...	14	—	—
France ...	—	2,351	—
Germany ...	87,489	102,108	111,798
Holland ...	83,878	29,565	105,239
Portuguese (Col.)...	88	163	106
Spanish (Col.) ...	3,214	3,027	3,604
Total ...	181,361	217,545	233,077

Having called attention to the general direction of the import trade, it is necessary to give, with respect to those imports which show a variation, such explanation as is practicable, having regard to the fact that there is no Chamber of

Commerce in the Protectorate. The following table should be studied in connection with the subsequent remarks :—

Articles.	Total Values.		United Kingdom.		Germany.		Holland.		Importations from "Other Countries" during 1902.
	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	
Aerated waters ...	£ 5,382	£ 3,860	£ 3,712	£ 3,945	£ 3,182	£ 922	£ 1,318	£ 616	£ 2
Ale, beer, porter, cider, &c. ...	3,962	4,799	2,076	2,273	2,631	2,079	1,689	2,016	9
Bags and sacks ...	11,435	10,396	10,908	10,508	9,304	894	1,127	1,086	4
Beads ...	8,041	8,224	8,963	6,232	6,337	2,380	1,793	1,771	116
Beef and pork ...	8,896	9,946	8,684	8,651	9,177	68	155	768	1
Building materials ...	45,567	50,591	42,337	43,816	48,005	2,809	1,391	1,826	204
Boats and canoes...	4,860	3,513	5,336	4,668	3,000	143	192	409	104
Brandy ...	1,008	787	631	934	734	79	74	50	3
Bread and biscuits	5,159	5,439	5,736	5,159	5,432	—	—	5	2
Chemicals and Drugs	7,358	6,804	6,702	7,338	6,735	31	20	61	8
Coal ...	14,439	24,960	17,114	13,893	23,919	1,292	546	1,031	10
Cooper's stores ...	69,966	82,711	61,581	62,203	75,403	414	814	878	40
Cotton goods ...	263,093	244,023	271,477	256,157	230,619	2,037	4,976	11,571	1,427
Dane Guns	3,369	2,318	4,187	2,599	1,550	641	191	107	21
Earthenware ...	9,199	6,704	8,858	8,856	5,906	1,066	333	608	32
Furniture...	12,876	9,553	5,678	10,575	7,671	1,375	2,297	1,778	75
Gin and Geneva ...	117,597	139,981	1,523	1,834	2,079	30,342	39,632	47,815	3
Gunpowder ...	3,029	8,167	7,029	2,758	7,515	329	271	323	329
Haberdashery ...	2,361	1,546	4,389	2,309	1,285	31	52	133	128
Hardware and cutlery ...	69,536	72,589	36,848	55,333	59,545	10,305	9,215	9,078	161
Kerosene and lamp oil ...	1,046	6,896	167	913	820	40	133	780	5,296

General Direction of the Import Trade—continued.

Articles.	Total Values.		United Kingdom.			Germany.			Holland.			Importations from "Other Countries" during 1902.
	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	
Liqueurs ...	£ 556	£ 233	£ 116	£ 183	£ 146	£ 798	£ 346	£ 87	£ —	£ 19	£ —	£ —
Perfumery ...	1,586	2,338	529	600	1,010	2,062	986	1,235	—	—	89	—
Pipes ...	1,772	2,874	1,372	1,714	2,765	34	16	62	110	42	39	4
Provisions ...	42,263	38,682	28,530	39,376	34,235	2,438	2,802	2,895	44	85	388	8
Rice ...	23,092	19,565	17,122	21,543	18,383	1,689	1,525	1,093	—	24	36	1,164
Bum ...	7,571	7,978	2,502	2,028	1,539	10,083	5,098	4,992	18	445	101	53
Salt ...	26,320	31,806	34,115	26,282	31,740	—	36	63	—	2	—	1,346
Silk goods...	15,374	11,277	17,290	12,681	8,534	3,600	2,693	2,618	—	—	—	3
Soap ...	9,403	11,054	9,251	9,215	10,739	189	188	309	—	—	—	125
Sugar ...	4,500	4,627	3,044	4,451	4,572	3	49	47	—	—	—	6
Tobacco, unmanufactured	62,062	77,880	67,588	62,062	75,302	49	—	2,552	—	—	—	8
Umbrellas...	6,787	6,752	5,747	6,502	6,374	394	285	317	—	—	—	26
Wearing apparel...	37,915	25,517	27,616	36,891	23,609	1,115	945	1,650	88	79	43	41
Whisky ...	5,283	6,501	5,064	5,268	6,482	46	15	15	—	—	—	215
Wines ...	5,501	5,719	5,432	4,760	4,935	264	703	662	—	38	11	4
Woollen goods ...	12,136	10,608	7,592	115,558	10,033	217	335	279	305	245	282	111
Totals ...	930,210	947,198	729,732	755,863	731,247	80,258	82,239	101,586	82,068	92,055	103,262	11,103

It will be noticed that the importation of many articles decreased in 1902. In the following cases this diminution affected the United Kingdom more than Germany:—Provisions, rice, bags and sacks, cotton goods, silk goods, umbrellas, wearing apparel, earthenware, furniture, and, lastly, haberdashery.

The decrease in provisions and rice is due to the larger importation by the Government in 1901 in connection with the supply of troops and carriers for the Aro expedition.

Cotton Goods.—The departmental explanation is, that at the time when the Folded Woven Goods Proclamation, 1900, came into operation, an exceptionally large stock of cotton goods was imported from the United Kingdom, but that the stock, of all such goods imported from Germany, was small. The figures which show a constant decrease in the importations of this article from the United Kingdom since 1900, and a progressive increase in the imports from Germany, are consistent with the theory, that the British goods are being worked off as far as possible; this would account for new goods not being ordered freely until the old stock is exhausted.

Earthenware.—Enamel-ware of cheap manufacture from Germany is superseding earthenware.

In the report on the Blue Book for 1900, attention was drawn to the fact that the only cases in which the imports (referred to in a similar list) from the United Kingdom were exceeded by the imports from other countries, were:—(1) perfumery, (2) gin, and (3) liqueurs. It will be noticed that since 1900 the imports of perfumery and of liqueurs from the United Kingdom have increased favourably as compared with those from Germany.

Of the several imports which showed an increase, the only one in which Germany obtained a larger proportion of the increase than the United Kingdom, was in "ale, beer, &c."

For the most part articles are imported in packages of various sizes (unfortunately this is the case with "cotton goods") so that it is not possible to ascertain whether the variations in the value of the imports is due to changes in price, or to an increase or decrease in quantities.

The following statement shows the quantities imported of the three articles named:—

Unmanufactured tobacco,	1900	...	3,055,950 lbs.
"	"	1901	2,685,548 "
"	"	1902	3,276,520 "
Gin and Geneva	...	1900	913,409 galls.
"	"	1901	1,332,408 "
"	"	1902	1,542,134 "
Coal	...	1900	10,850 tons.
"	...	1901	10,378 "
"	...	1902	17,497 "

In the table the imports from "other countries" are shown but are of no great importance. Provisions and cotton goods came from the Kamerun, rum from Canary, and kerosene from the United States of America.

EXPORTS (DIRECTION OF TRADE).

Although Foreign countries, as has been pointed out, have increased their importations into the Protectorate in a greater proportion than the United Kingdom, the contrary is the case with regard to exports from the Protectorate. The following statement shows the direction of trade during the years mentioned:—

1900.

—	Exports.	Specie.	Exports less Specie.
	£	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	672,900	20	672,880
" Colonies ...	215	—	215
" Foreign Countries ...	460,488	—	460,488
Totals ...	1,133,604	20	1,133,584

1901.

—	Exports.	Specie.	Exports less Specie.
	£	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	798,693	25,601	773,092
" Colonies ...	7,487	7,360	127
" Foreign Countries ...	447,525	—	447,525
Totals ...	1,253,706	32,961	1,220,745

1902.

—	Exports.	Specie.	Exports less Specie.
	£	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	820,057	2,000	818,057
" Colonies ...	146	—	146
" Foreign Countries ...	434,492	—	434,492
Totals ...	1,254,696	2,000	1,252,696

A similar statement to the above has already been given with respect to imports, and, on comparison, it will be noticed that

the exports (less specie) in 1901 were £133,451 in excess of the imports, and that the excess in 1902 was even larger, as it amounted to £170,303. The exports of specie during the three years 1900, 1901, and 1902 were practically *nil*, and it may be assumed that the specie imported has been absorbed by the currency requirements of the Protectorate. Moreover, less specie was imported in 1902 than in 1901, so that the facts point to the trade in the Protectorate having been exceptionally profitable in 1902 to those engaged therein.

The following table shows the direction of trade to countries other than the United Kingdom during the years mentioned therein, and it will be noticed that while the export trade (less specie) to England (see foregoing statement) increased in 1902 by £44,965 (see statement *supra*), that to Germany showed a relatively small increase only, and that to France and Holland, a reduction of £20,949 and £6,644 respectively :—

Exports to (less Specie).

	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£
African Ports	518	408	3,126
America, United States ...	—	—	—
Belgium	—	—	—
France	74,156	43,505	22,556
Germany	385,806	392,795	404,637
Holland	8	10,817	4,173
Portuguese (Col.)	—	—	—
Spanish (Col.)	—	—	—
Total	460,488	447,525	434,492

The table given below shows the destination of the various articles exported during the years mentioned, and in connection with this table it may be convenient to quote the quantities of the two principal articles exported as a check on the values :—

Palm oil ...	1900—value, £491,130. quantity, 9,763,659 gallons.
	1901—value, £606,011. quantity, 12,590,349 gallons.
	1902—value, £625,151. quantity, 12,726,720 gallons.
Palm kernels	1900—value, £430,016. quantity, 37,110 tons.
	1901—value, £437,092. quantity, 56,871 tons.
	1902—value, £453,084. quantity, 57,140 tons.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS AND COUNTRIES TO WHICH EXPORTED.

Articles.	Total Values.		United Kingdom.			Germany.			France.		
	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Cocoa ...	£ 2,138	£ 3,676	£ 2,489	£ 2,740	£ 1,569	£ 220	£ 398	£ 2,081	£ —	£ —	£ —
Coffee ...	300	206	709	272	123	16	27	82	—	—	—
Ebony ...	6,009	3,527	1,558	4,879	1,231	106	1,130	2,296	—	—	—
Fibre ...	3,184	2,845	2,922	3,184	2,814	—	—	30	—	—	—
Ground Nuts ...	—	1,917	3,704	—	1,917	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gum copal ...	115	9,064	1,512	115	9,029	1	—	35	—	—	—
Ivory ...	10,995	9,629	12,872	10,635	9,271	922	359	358	—	—	—
Native timber lumber ...	11,228	13,235	6,792	10,946	9,710	221	282	3,524	—	—	—
Miscellaneous products...	30,629	22,947	33,716	19,395	16,152	66	8,781	5,351	3,276	2,421	1,436
Palm kernels ...	437,092	453,084	83,019	68,552	91,859	346,997	360,605	357,094	—	—	—
Palm kernel shells ...	1,005	3,655	637	1,005	3,655	—	—	—	—	—	—
Palm oil ...	606,011	625,151	392,156	542,111	581,069	28,094	19,928	25,145	70,880	41,084	18,936
Rubber ...	106,924	46,945	128,440	105,818	45,602	8,848	1,094	1,343	—	—	—
Totals ...	1,215,630	1,195,881	670,526	769,652	774,001	385,491	392,604	397,339	74,156	43,505	20,372

It will be noticed that six of the articles in the above list show a decrease in 1902, as compared with the previous year.

The Forestry Laws do not apply to ebony, and the official statistics do not give any clue from which the cause of the decrease can be inferred. The fact that the export of ebony to Germany increased, although that to the United Kingdom decreased is, however, possibly due to market prices, the export to Germany having averaged 77s. per ton of ebony, as compared with 59s. per ton in the case of the United Kingdom.

The decrease in ivory is chiefly due to a decrease in the amount sent forward, through the Protectorate, from Northern Nigeria and Kamerun.

The decrease in the export of "Miscellaneous Products" is undoubtedly due to the decrease in the export of "Shea nuts" sent forward from Northern Nigeria, which shows a falling off of £9,000.

The decrease in the export of rubber has been continuous since 1900. In that year 2,251,315 lbs. was exported, in 1901 the amount was only 1,740,156 lbs., and in 1902 there was a further decrease to 865,834 lbs. It may be mentioned that slightly more rubber, coming from Northern Nigeria, was exported from the Protectorate during 1902 than in the previous year, so that the decline is due to causes operating in the Protectorate.

The timber industry in the Protectorate, which has increased since 1900 in proportions very similar to the decrease in rubber, has attracted many who formerly collected rubber, and the legislation which has stopped the destruction of rubber trees is probably a second cause which accounts for the decline.

The increase in the export of cocoa to Germany and the decrease in the export of that commodity to the United Kingdom, cannot be accounted for by a difference in the market prices, as according to the value given in the export entries, the price in the United Kingdom was slightly in excess of that in Germany.

Groundnuts are chiefly exported from Northern Nigeria through the Protectorate, and the variations in the export of this article are consequently not due to causes operating in the Protectorate.

The non-existence of a Chamber of Commerce makes it difficult to explain the variations in the exports and imports, and of the increase in the export of gum copal. Of the last-mentioned increase, all that can be said, is, that it was not caused by any increase in the quantity exported, through the Protectorate, from the Kamerun or from Northern Nigeria.

The table of exports, set out above, also shows that the increase in the total export trade to the United Kingdom, as compared with the total export trade elsewhere, is due to the increased exports of gum copal and to an increase in the export of the main articles of export, viz., palm oil and palm kernels. With

regard to the decrease in the export of palm oil to France, and the corresponding increase in the export to the United Kingdom, it should be borne in mind, that vessels may have cleared for the United Kingdom and have changed their destination, as they, not infrequently, call at the Canary Islands for orders.

The increase in the export of native timber lumber to Germany, is probably due to German firms having devoted more attention to the timber industry than formerly.

AGRICULTURE.

The chief exports from the Protectorate are, as has already been pointed out, palm oil and palm kernels, and the supply of these is not dependent upon cultivation. The oil palm grows in such profusion throughout the delta portion of the Protectorate that the problem is not how its growth may be improved by cultivation, but how the produce can be collected, prepared, and brought to market in larger quantities. In the higher lands, however, the country becomes agricultural in the proper sense; being extensively cultivated with yam, cassava, maize, and similar crops required for local consumption. The principle of rotation of crops is unknown, it being the custom to clear land, to take one or sometimes two crops therefrom, and then to allow the land to become overgrown and remain in that condition for from five to seven years, when clearing again takes place and the above process is repeated. At present, cocoa cultivation is on a small scale and is not well understood. The same want of knowledge is shown in the cultivation of cotton, although the latter has been long grown in many parts of the Protectorate; for example, the soil is not properly turned or cleaned, there is no banking up and no thinning. At the end of 1902 an expert in cotton cultivation arrived in the Protectorate, and an experiment, originating with the British Cotton Growing Association, was started, aiming at improving and extending the cultivation of cotton with a view to the latter being ultimately exported on a large scale. Earlier in the year experiments had been made in growing cotton from American seed, and although these experiments were inconclusive, they supplied data as to the best time for planting, &c., which were of value to the expert above referred to.

Owing to the low price of coffee, the plantations at Nkissi, which were taken over by the Government from the Niger Company in 1900, did not prove remunerative.

Allusion has already been made to the increase in the export of "Lumber (native timber)," which rose from 123,622 square feet in 1901 to 164,630 square feet in 1902, and which, in view of favourable prices, is likely to continue to increase. In the

districts whence this timber is obtained, there is as little prospect of an advance being made in agriculture as in those parts of the delta where the natives have been long accustomed to regard the oil palm as a sufficient source of wealth. It may therefore be said of a large portion of the Protectorate, that there is no likelihood of, and little to be gained from, an improved system in agriculture, but that, in the remainder, much remains to be done.

SHIPPING.

In most Colonies there is a close relation between the statistics relating to imports and exports and the shipping returns, but this is not the case in Southern Nigeria, as such returns include the small steamers plying between Forcados and Lagos for the purpose of transshipping Lagos cargo, while the statistics of imports and exports do not include such cargo. For the above reason it is necessary to eliminate from the shipping returns the statistics relating to the above-mentioned small steamers (Lagos branch boats), in order that a clear idea may be formed of the relative progress of foreign and British shipping. The table set out below enables this to be done:—

	British Steamers.			Foreign Steamers.			Total.		
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Entered with cargoes	221	203	244	13	28	39	234	231	283
Lagos Branch Boats entered with cargoes	106	81	110	—	—	—	106	81	110
Entered in ballast	12	23	16	0	0	7	12	23	16
Lagos Branch Boats entered in ballast	8	12	14	—	—	—	8	12	14
Total entered	233	226	260	13	28	46	246	254	306
Total Lagos Branch Boats	114	93	124	—	—	—	114	93	124
Cleared with cargoes	205	192	205	12	30	41	217	222	246
Lagos Branch Boats cleared with cargoes	96	70	79	—	—	—	96	70	79
Cleared in ballast	22	26	48	1	0	4	23	26	52
Lagos Branch Boats cleared in ballast	19	19	42	—	—	—	19	19	42
Total cleared	227	218	253	13	30	45	240	248	298
Total Lagos Branch Boats	115	89	121	—	—	—	115	89	121

The above table shows that during the years 1900, 1901, and 1902 the total number of British steamers (excluding the Lagos branch boats), entered and cleared, was 132, 161, 182, and 125, 159 and 177 respectively. The table also shows that the comparatively large number of British steamers which cleared in ballast is in reality due to the Lagos branch boats coming to Lagos with produce and returning in ballast.

The Woermann Line (German) commenced running in 1902, and this fact explains the increase in foreign shipping. The British steamers (excluding the Lagos branch boats) had a greater average tonnage than the German, and the ratio between crew and tonnage was higher in the former steamers than in German.

The shipping returns in the Blue Book show great variations in the tonnage entered and cleared at the different Protectorate ports, and these are due to alterations in the manner in which the steamship companies ran their ships, *e.g.*, vessels for Brass went direct to that port without calling at Forcados.

The total number of steamers entered at the Protectorate ports during 1902 was, as shown in the above table, 306, and the tonnage, 361,528, and crew, 13,085, as compared with 284,986 and 10,650 respectively in the previous year, and 251,615 and 10,025 in 1900.

Referring to the previous part of this Report, it will be remembered that the export of palm oil to France fell from £70,880 in 1900 to £41,084 in 1901, and to £18,936 in 1902, and it was pointed out that the figures quoted did not necessarily indicate correctly the position of the export trade to France. The shipping returns also give no clue to the export trade with that country, as no steamer cleared for France in 1900, and only one cleared in each of the two succeeding years. In 1902 the destination of the 298 steamers which cleared from the Protectorate was:—United Kingdom, 99, Germany, 49, Lagos branch boats, 121, Kamerun, 12 (a large increase due to the vessels of the Woerman Line), Fernando Po, 7, France, 1, Rotterdam, 2, and other ports, 9.

LEGISLATION.

The laws made in 1901 amended those which it was necessary to pass early in 1900 when the Order in Council of 1899, creating the constitution of the Protectorate, came into operation. In 1902 it was decided that it would be convenient to accelerate the publication of a revised edition of the laws, and accordingly the "Reprint of Laws Proclamation, 1902," (No. 10) was enacted, by which it was provided that all proclamations passed during 1900-1901 should be issued in a revised

form. The revision, thus authorised, was carried out during the year 1902, and, in accordance with the law, a notice was issued to the effect that the revised edition should be deemed to contain all the laws passed during the years 1900 and 1901.

The Police Proclamation, 1902 (No. 4), and the Post Office Proclamation, 1902 (No. 8), are laws which may be described as being the foundation on which the two departments concerned are based.

The Mining Regulation Proclamation, 1902 (No. 18), and Rule No. 7 of 1902, made under that law, introduced a system by which mining licences and mining leases may be obtained from the Chiefs, subject to the assent of the High Commissioner. The law provides that a General Licence is not transferable and is granted for one year only, and that an Exclusive Licence can be assigned, with the written consent of the High Commissioner, and may be granted for a period not exceeding three years. Applications for licences may be made by individuals or by limited companies, but, in the latter case, the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company must be attached to the application, and in all cases an address, within the Protectorate, must be given at which notices, &c., can be served. A General Licence confers the right to prospect for minerals in any part of the Protectorate, which is declared by notice in the Gazette to be open to the holders of General Licences, and an Exclusive Licence confers on the licensee the sole and exclusive right to prospect, within stated limits, for the minerals specified in the licence. If the holder of a licence wishes to obtain a lease, the law requires that he shall mark off the area which he desires to lease by placing his initials on trees or posts at intervals of not more than 400 yards, along the boundaries, and the area which can be leased is limited to one square mile if the land applied for is situated within ten miles of a spot at which minerals have been found, and to five square miles in other cases. No rent is reserved in any mining lease, but the lessee is required to render a correct statement of the net profits made during the preceding year, and the lease is held subject to the condition that the lessee shall pay ten per cent. of the net profits made by him during each year, the amount of such profits being assessed by the High Commissioner upon the basis that the expression "profits" means the "gross profits less the actual cost of working, and less interest charged at the rate of ten per cent. on the capital actually expended on the equipment of works for the development of the mines." The lessee is also required to pay £50 for every square mile or part thereof contained in the land leased. The fee payable in respect of a General Licence is £5 on issue, and also on renewal, and the fees payable in respect of Exclusive Licences are at the rate of £50 per annum for every square mile contained in the area named in the licence.

The Native Currency Proclamation, 1902 (No. 14), and the several laws affecting revenue have been already referred to in this Report.

Under the Native Courts Proclamation, 1901 (No. 25), the Native Councils have power, subject to the approval of the High Commissioner, to make rules embodying any native law, or for promoting trade or providing for the good government of the district over which such Council has jurisdiction. In the annual volume of the laws passed during 1902 will be found examples of the local legislation which has been made under this power. The Protectorate is divided into tribal communities, at the head of each of which there is a Chief assisted by headmen, and the wealth of these communities is charged with the maintenance of the sick, infirm, and aged. In 1902 the majority of the Native Councils passed rules by which the contribution of a trading member, belonging to any one of the communities mentioned, towards the tribal revenue, is fixed at a certain percentage (usually 5 per cent.) on all produce sold by him. Space does not permit this Report dealing with the various examples of the local legislation referred to, but the general principles in accordance with which the High Commissioner grants or withholds his assent to any local law were fixed during 1902, and are to the effect that the idiosyncrasy of each race shall be given full freedom in the making of the local laws, provided that such laws create no class privileges, and contain provisions which experience in other countries shows to be necessary.

EDUCATION.

There are 61 Churches or Chapels in the Protectorate belonging to the following Denominations:—

Church of England	...	...	...	...	29
United Free(Presbyterian) Church of Scotland					8
Irish Protestant (undenominational)	...	...	...	...	6
Primitive Methodist	...	...	...	...	4
Roman Catholic...	...	...	...	...	14

For many years past the Mission Schools (now 61 in number) connected with these Churches have only been able to provide elementary education, and even this, at first, was almost entirely confined to teaching the scholars to read the Bible in the vernacular; recently, however, the scope has been extended, and the English language is now taught in nearly all the schools. The assistance given by the Government has been in the shape of grants-in-aid, the latter amounting in 1902 to £1,238.

There are no Government Schools in the Protectorate, but there are two schools, supported by contributions from the Chiefs,

supplemented by Government grants-in-aid, which are not under Mission management. The one is the Primary School opened at Benin City in April, 1901, and now having a roll of 61 scholars, of whom 57 were reported by the Inspector of Schools as having made satisfactory progress during 1902. The second non-Mission school is the Ogugumanga Industrial Institute, for intermediate education, founded in April, 1900, and supported by contributions from the Chiefs supplemented by grants-in-aid from the Government and by large contributions from English merchants interested in the progress of education in the Protectorate. With few exceptions the pupils reside at the Institute, and although the annual inspection in 1902 showed that satisfactory progress had been made, it was felt that an enlargement of the school buildings was needed, and it was decided that the Institute should be moved from its present position and that new buildings, with more ample accommodation, should be built on another site close to Bonny and nearer the sea.

The Hope Waddell Institution at Old Calabar, controlled by the United Free Church Mission, receives no direct support from the Chiefs, and is therefore unlike the schools at Benin City and Ogugumanga. Its curriculum embraces industrial work (printing, tailoring, carpentry, &c.), the scholars, the majority of whom are boarders, also receiving a good secondary education. The Institute received, during 1902, from the Government, a grant of £200 in addition to £236 paid in respect of Government pupils.

The short description above given of the educational establishments existing in the Protectorate in 1902 shows, that although a considerable amount of educational work was being done, yet that further progress demanded the creation of a system under which the primary schools could be relied upon for giving systematic education in the lower standards to a sufficient number of scholars to render it possible to establish and maintain schools for the higher standards large enough to justify the engagement of a thoroughly competent teaching staff. The system decided upon provides, for primary schools, a class which would include the Mission Schools above referred to and also schools similar to that established at Benin. The annual expenditure on these schools would be, under £100 (one teacher, one pupil-teacher, books and upkeep), and at them a commencement would be made in teaching the three "Rs.," especial care being taken to prevent the children learning by rote—a fault to which African children are, by reason of their remarkable memory, specially prone. The system next provides for intermediate schools, within which class would be included the non-Mission School at Ogugumanga. The pupils at these schools would, previous to their arrival, have passed three years at a primary school, and the intention is that at an intermediate school a boy should receive a sound education up to the level of Standard V. under the Scotch Code, and that

then he should, if showing sufficient aptitude, pass on to the High School, or that, if more fitted for life as an artisan, be apprenticed at one of the Government workshops. With a view to finding in which direction a boy's bent lies, manual training in wood work and the use of tools is given as soon as he has passed the two lower classes, but no attempt is made in the direction of industrial training. The staff at an Intermediate School would include a manager, headmaster, two assistants, three pupil-teachers, and a carpenter, and the estimated annual expenditure would be about £1,500, a sum which necessitates a minimum of 150 pupils, the majority of whom would be boarders. The system is completed by provision being made for a High School at which the boys would be given higher education of a general character as well as special instruction in certain branches of industrial work. It was arranged that this High School should be established in connection with the Hope Waddell Institution above referred to, and that the scheme of work should be settled by a Board of Education of which the resident Principal of the Institute would be a member. The High School will receive boarders and day scholars, all of whom will have to attend daily prayers, but none of whom will receive any special religious instruction if the latter is objected to by the parents or guardians. The cost of the necessary buildings was estimated at £15,000, of which £5,000 has already been expended under the authority of the United Free Church Mission, it being arranged that the balance should be granted by the Government. The annual expenditure is estimated at £3,556, and although it was thought that the High School would become self-supporting at an early date after its establishment, it was arranged that the Mission should bear any loss up to £2,000 per annum, the Government undertaking, on its part, to provide funds for any expenditure over and above that amount, whether required for general maintenance, or upkeep, or for building purposes. Having determined the educational system above-mentioned, the High Commissioner also caused steps to be taken for its introduction, and at the date of this report the new buildings for the High School are nearing completion; through the liberality of merchants and others in England, £4,500 has been subscribed towards the cost of the new buildings for the Ogugumanga Intermediate School; and, finally, a comprehensive Education Code has been passed under which attendance and results grants will be earnable by all the schools comprised in the system, and, with this monetary aid, there is reason to hope that the primary schools, whether managed by the Missions or by Committees of the Chiefs, will be able to prepare a certain and sufficient supply of pupils for the higher schools.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

The hospital for Europeans at Old Calabar has six wards each containing one bed, and this accommodation is being increased by building a separate house for the European nurses, thus enabling the whole building to be used for the sick. The hospital at Old Calabar for natives is also being extended by the addition* of a new wing which will increase the number of beds from 26, the present number, to 48. At both hospitals there is ample cubic space, and the arrangements are in every respect up to modern requirements. The two hospitals mentioned and the contagious diseases hospital at Bonny (which latter is exclusively used to relieve "infected" vessels calling at that port) are the only ones which can be regarded as properly established, and are alone referred to in the Blue Book return for 1902. During that year 724 male patients and 63 women were admitted as patients, as compared with 657 and 47 respectively during the previous year. Of the total admitted, 632 patients were cured, 119 were relieved, and 57 died, the remaining 2 being discharged without improvement. Only 1 death resulted from malarial fever, and 2 from blackwater fever, the remainder of the deaths being due to the various diseases described in Appendix C; diseases of the respiratory system (11 deaths), and of the digestive system (15 deaths), being the most fatal.

In addition to the hospitals above described, there are many temporary hospitals, constructed with mat roofs, throughout the Protectorate, none of which can be regarded as established institutions, but all of which are of great value to the district medical officers in connection with their out-patient work amongst the natives. In Appendix C will be found a return showing that the total number of natives who received medical treatment as out-patients during the year amounted to 20,886, of whom 73 died, the most fatal diseases being the same as in the case of the established hospitals. Only 15 cases occurred of small-pox (2 fatal). This small number is to a large extent due to the systematic manner in which vaccinations have, during recent years, been made throughout the Protectorate. The number of successful vaccinations performed at the various stations amounted to 6,258, although there was no epidemic in any district. Experiments have been made with a view to ascertaining whether a supply of lymph can be manufactured locally, and an interesting and hopeful report on this subject has been made by Dr. G. F. Darker. Should the experiments

* The wing is at the date of this report completed and in use.

in this direction prove successful, the great practical difficulty in the way of providing the means for carrying out a system of universal vaccination will be removed, as the wide-spread ravages of specific diseases amongst the natives render arm to arm vaccination inadvisable, unless performed by an expert.

PRISONS.

There is one first class prison (Old Calabar) to which all persons sentenced to imprisonment for more than two years are sent; there are four second class prisons in which are incarcerated those sentenced to periods exceeding six months but not over two years; finally, there are 16 lockups in which are imprisoned those sentenced for six months and under. In addition to the above there are 12 Native Court prisons for the detention of those sentenced by those Courts to terms not exceeding one month.

The returns in the Blue Book do not include the lockups or the Native Court prisons, and as prisoners undergoing short terms of imprisonment are received at the first class and at the second class prisons, it follows that there is no connection between the prison returns and the criminal statistics; for example, the returns mentioned show that the total number of persons committed to penal imprisonment during 1902 was 999 (of these, 83 were sentenced for five years or more, 515 for three months or less, and the remainder for intervening periods), while the criminal statistics show that 1,154 were sentenced to imprisonment after summary conviction in addition to 94 cases in which judgment for the Crown was given in the Superior Courts, and in the majority of which, therefore, it may be fairly presumed that sentence of imprisonment was passed. The prison returns show a considerable increase over the figures in 1901, during which, 885 persons were committed to penal imprisonment, the increase being probably due to the fresh districts which came under direct control.* The prison at Old Calabar is not yet completed; that at Asaba contains 36 solitary cells for males and 8 for females; the other prisons are being reconstructed. Discipline is maintained, both in the prisons and in the lockups, in accordance with a very complete code of prison rules enacted under power given by the Prison Proclamation, 1900 (No. 17 of 1900), but the punishment of flogging, although sanctioned by the Code, is prohibited in the case of lockups. Penal labour in the form of shot drill was abolished in November, 1902, and offences against discipline are now punished by reduced diet, deduction of marks, solitary confinement, and, in serious cases, by flogging. The

* Errors occur in the Criminal Statistics for 1901 which make it impossible to compare the returns with those relating to 1902.

last-mentioned punishment was inflicted during 1902 in 66 cases, one of the other forms of the former punishments being resorted to with respect to the remainder of the offences, which latter numbered 225.

Prison labour for the most part consists in sanitary work, road cleaning, transport of baggage from mail steamers, and other similar outside work; but at Old Calabar and Asaba some industrial work is done, *e.g.*, mat, screen, and brush making, tailoring, &c. Prisoners sentenced for periods exceeding six months can gain, under the mark system, a maximum remission of one-fourth of their sentence in the case of males, and of one-third in the case of females, and, in addition, are entitled to a gratuity of one penny for every 100 marks earned (eight marks per day being the maximum earnable), such gratuity being the only way in which profits on prison labour are granted to the prisoners.

During the year the scale of diet was amended.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of cases reported in 1902 was only 1,294, although the number of persons committed for want of bail or for punishment amounted to 1,523, and this discrepancy is due to there not having been a fully constituted police force in the Protectorate during 1902, the Police Proclamation of 1902 (No. 4 of 1902) not having been brought into full operation during the year, and consequently many summonses and warrants of arrest having been served or carried out by messengers of the Court.

In 25 cases out of the 33 in which a charge of murder was preferred, a verdict for the Crown was given, and out of the total number (118) of cases tried in the Superior Courts, only 24 were in respect of offences against property.

The criminal statistics contained in the Blue Book do not include those criminal cases which were heard and determined by the Native Courts, the latter having a very extensive criminal jurisdiction, being empowered to pass sentences of imprisonment with hard labour up to two years, and to award fines not exceeding £100. The cases heard and determined by the Native Councils averaged 418 per month, but of this number a proportion, probably about one-half, were civil cases, it not being possible to determine the exact proportion owing to the fact that the native laws do not distinguish, as clearly as is done by

the law of England, between criminal and civil causes. It should also be pointed out that as a general rule resort is only had to the District Courts for the trial of cases in which the accused is not a native of the Protectorate, it having been found that, except in cases of serious crime, the Native Courts, acting as they do under the presidency of a European officer, are able to investigate and determine the more ordinary offences in a more expeditious and satisfactory manner than is practicable in District Courts where the judge does not, as a rule, have the benefit of native assessors. Assuming that the average number of criminal cases tried in these Courts equal 200 per month, it necessarily follows that the value of the criminal statistics is limited to the crimes tried in the Superior Courts.

The offence of prædial larceny, so common in the West Indies, does not appear in the statistics. This is partly explained by the supposition that such offences are disposed of by the Native Courts, but probably the chief explanation lies in the fact that an intending thief is deterred, not only by the fear of detection, but also from dread of the vengeance of the outraged "Field god," whose existence is almost universally believed in.*

VITAL STATISTICS.

(See *ante* "Hospitals.")

No data are available from which the number of the native population of the Protectorate can be inferred with reasonable certainty, and the statistics in the Blue Book relating to births and deaths are confined to the European population, which numbered 404 in 1902, as compared with 397 during the previous year. The "death-rate" and "invaliding-rate" for 1901 and 1902 are shown in the following table, from which it will be observed that the "death-rate" both in the case of officials and non-officials was higher during 1901 than during 1902, as is also the case with the "invaliding-rate" for non-officials; the "invaliding-rate" for officials during 1902, however, was considerably higher than that in the preceding year. It is of course impossible to deduce any conclusion from the statistics of two years, but, in the opinion of the Principal Medical Officer, the improvement in the table set out below tends to indicate

* The widespread belief in this god is shown by the propitiatory offerings which are noticeable in every field. These offerings usually consist of old earthenware pots which, if broken, are laid on the ground, or if sufficiently intact, are balanced upside down on a stick. This display is often accentuated by eggs (invariably bad) or bundles of twisted grass or of short faggots, being placed near the earthenware. Another form of offering consists in some fruit of the field being hung up and pierced in several directions by short sticks.

that the health of the Protectorate is greatly improving, partly in consequence of better sanitation, and partly in consequence of more careful methods of living, including the more general use of quinine (*vide* Appendix D).

COMPARATIVE TABLE of VITAL STATISTICS
for 1901 and 1902.

(*vide supra.*)

Class.	Number.	Deaths.	Invalided.	Death rate per 1,000.	Invaliding rate per 1,000.
1901. Officials... ..	121	4	15	33	123·9
1902. Officials... ..	125	8	31	24	248
1901. Non-officials ...	276	13	32	47·1	115·9
1902. Non-officials ...	279	8 [*]	17	28·67	60·93
Total or mean rate, 1901 ...	397	17	47	42·82	118·42
Total or mean rate, 1902 ...	404	11	48	27·22	118·81

* Excluding one case of murder.

METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS.

The rainfall was not quite so heavy as in the previous year, the heaviest fall recorded being that at Opobo, in July, which amounted to 49·90 inches. Complete meteorological records were kept throughout the whole year at Old Calabar only, but meteorological stations were started at Asaba, Benin City, and Sapele, the records from which are not included in the returns as they do not relate to the whole year. As the meteorological returns relate only to Old Calabar they cannot be relied upon when considering the probable connection between the changes in the relative humidity, rainfall, &c., during the year, and the "death-rate" or "invaliding-rate," as these rates are based on figures collected from all parts of the Protectorate. A summary of the meteorological returns at Old Calabar for the year 1902 is given below:—

Meteorological Table.

	Temperature.						Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Solar Minimum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in Inches.	Degree of Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
January	79.5	N.E.	—
February	2.16	78.3	S.W.	—
March	15.30	80.8	S.W.	—
April	14.54	83.3	S.W.	—
May...	18.63	84.5	S.W.	—
June	21.85	85.8	S.W.	—
July...	20.22	88.3	S.W.	—
August	22.53	88.3	S.W.	—
September	10.77	85.6	S.W.	—
October	17.74	85.4	S.W.	—
November	5.21	82.5	N.E.	—
December	7.20	79.7	N.E.	—
	—	—	91	68.83	22.16	81.30	156.15	83.52	S.W.	—

POST OFFICE.

The Postal Revenue during 1902 exceeded the expenditure for the first time. The net revenue was £673, as compared with a deficit of £317 in 1901, and £1,359 in 1900:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
	£	£	£
Total Postal Revenue	1,931	3,577	4,846
Total cost of Postal Service	3,290	3,894	4,173

It will be noticed from the figures given above that the revenue advanced from £1,931 in 1900 to £3,577 in the succeeding year, and to £4,846 in 1902. The increase mentioned is due to the larger amounts received under "Gross Receipts from Letters, Post Cards, Newspapers, Books, and Parcels," under which head of the Postal Revenue is included the sales to collectors of stamps. The knowledge that the Victorian stamps would soon cease to be sold by the Post Office naturally increased the purchases made by stamp collectors, and the amount of purchases of stamps therefore during 1901 and 1902 is probably in excess of the amount which can be relied upon in future years; the stamp sales to dealers amounted to £1,816 in 1901, and £2,819 in 1902; although, therefore, the deficit in 1901 was converted into a profit in 1902, it should be noted that this result is due to a factor which cannot be relied upon in the future. If the purchases by stamp collectors are eliminated from the Postal revenue of 1901 and 1902, it will be found that the revenue shows an increase of £115 during the latter year, and consequently it is incontestable that the Postal revenue shows a progressive increase. The increase of £115 mentioned, would of course have been insufficient to convert the deficit into a profit, but if the sales to collectors continue at a greatly reduced amount, say at the rate of £300 a year only, in future years the Postal Department will pay its way. The actual progress made by the Postal Department is best shown by a comparison of the amount of Postal matter dealt with during the three years 1900, 1901, and 1902; from the following statement it will be seen that the work done by the department has increased progressively during the three years mentioned.

The number of letters and post cards despatched from the Protectorate during the years above-mentioned was as follows:—

(1900) 90,935.

(1901) 98,699.

(1902) 115,853.

Arrangements were made during the year for the entry of the Protectorate into the Postal Union on the 1st October, 1903.

The comparatively large amount of Postal expenditure is due to the cost of conveying mails between the Protectorate Post Offices or to Postal Agents in the remoter districts.

MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

During 1902 the expenditure amounted to £54,929, showing an increase on that of the previous year of £15,219; the increase is accounted for by the cost of re-arming the artillery, the cost of the new guns and ammunition, clothing, and accoutrements, and lastly, by the increase in the establishment noted above. £45,253 13s. 11d. was expended in pay and allowances, and £9,675 6s. 1d. in other charges. The principal items of the latter being:—

	£	s.	d.
New guns and ammunition...	2,174	15	2
Clothing and accoutrements	3,188	4	11
Ammunition purchased and repair of arms	2,571	15	0

During 1902 the Southern Nigeria Regiment of the West African Frontier Force was engaged in military operations in the following districts:—Aro, Awayong, Oza-Akoli, Ibekwe, Afikpo, Nsit, Ngor, and Asaba hinterland. By far the most important of these was the Aro expedition referred to at the beginning of this Report.

In addition to the 900 officers and men of the Southern Nigeria Regiment, 300 from Northern Nigeria, and a similar number from Lagos took part in the Aro expedition, and on the Lower Niger one of the columns brought into action the crew of His Majesty's Gunboat "Thrush," which had been standing by to render assistance if called upon to do so. The main feature in the expedition, from a military point of view, was the use of converging columns—a strategic plan which proved most successful, and resulted in an early submission of the enemy's capital.

The other operations mentioned were all successfully carried out.

Notwithstanding the almost continual fighting, the arduous work, and the unhealthy nature of the country, the casualties

of all ranks have been comparatively few—a result due to the large and systematic use of scouts and flankers. The following figures show the casualties sustained by the Regiment during the year 1902:—

Europeans wounded, 13,
Natives, killed, 41,
Natives, wounded, 167,
Natives, died of disease, 72.

POLICE.

The organisation of the new Police Force has already been mentioned in this Report.

ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.

The returns for 1902 show that 480 officers had given security, under the Public Officers Guarantee Fund Proclamation of 1900 (No. 5), for the performance of their duties.

Mr. H. N. Thompson was transferred from the Indian Forestry Department and appointed to the service of the Protectorate as Conservator of Forests. Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. Gallwey, C.M.G., senior Divisional Commissioner, was transferred on his appointment as Governor of St. Helena.

The work of the Protectorate is performed at headquarters by the various departments usually organised in Colonial Governments; in the districts the departmental work is performed by or under the supervision of District Commissioners, the latter, in addition to such departmental work, are also responsible for the conduct of Native Affairs. The Protectorate is divided into four divisions, each division being under the supervision of a Divisional Commissioner. The Estimates for 1902-1903 sanctioned the appointment of 14 District Commissioners and 34 Assistant District Commissioners; the area of a district is such that the boundaries are usually two days' march (30 miles) from the District Station. The collection of Customs duties, the trial of serious crimes committed by natives, and the trial of civil and criminal cases in which one or more of the parties is not a native of the Protectorate, comprise the

whole of the direct governing powers* of Administration; indirect governing power exists in the control which the Administration has on the Native Courts, which latter are responsible for the good government and order of the country over which their jurisdiction extends, and also, as has been previously pointed out, possess powers of local legislation. A District Commissioner is, subject to the supervision of the Divisional Commissioner, the representative of the Government in native affairs in his districts, and is *ex officio* President of the Native Courts.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The stern-wheeler "Valiant," with good passenger accommodation and considerable cargo capacity, commenced work on the Niger.

Progress was made in building and equipping a saw-mill and construction yard at Nkissi on the Niger, and the construction of new barracks at Old Calabar was begun.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

From the figures quoted in the earlier portions of this Report it will have been noticed that the export trade of the Protectorate is steadily increasing; special attention has been called to the fact that the value of those articles which were imported by the public during 1902, and which are subject to *ad valorem* duty, decreased in spite of the fact that the disturbance in trade, produced by the Aro expedition, ceased to operate during the last three quarters of that year; that the decrease cannot be accounted for by the amount of the *ad valorem* duty is shown by the fact that the heavy "Specific Duties," did not prevent an increase in the articles imported which are subject to the latter form of duty.† The explanation is, that the principal articles liable to specific duty have, from the commencement of trade in the Protectorate, been favourite commodities and are consequently well-known to the natives; in addition to being well-known to the natives, articles, such as gin and

* Describes broadly the practice; the Order in Council gives the High Commissioner all the legislative power of a Crown Colony Government.

† Out of £355,329, the amount collected by means of specific duties £324,000 was collected from gin, rum, unmanufactured tobacco, and gunpowder; the value of the above articles having been declared at £234,006.

tobacco, have long been used as a medium of exchange in consequence of the comparative ease with which they can be conveyed into the interior. Whether the explanation thus suggested is or is not correct, it must be regarded as unsatisfactory that an article such as gin (imported almost exclusively from Holland and Germany) should show an increase, when other articles, all of which are in the *ad valorem* list, show a decline.* Before any substantial increase can be made in the quantity of the many highly useful articles which are subject to *ad valorem* duty, two changes must take place. Firstly, the natives in the interior must be educated into understanding the value of such articles; in some parts of the new districts considerable quantities of palm nuts are allowed to rot merely because the natives are unaware that by collecting such produce and by establishing markets at which it could be sold, they would be able to obtain things (such as the articles in question) which would greatly increase their comfort and improve their health; a movement in this direction has been made by the Niger Company who have established a store at Owerri, but, at the date of this Report, this store is the only one owned by Europeans in the entire districts opened up by the Aro expedition; the native traders in the Delta have not the means, even if they had the will, to properly exploit the districts recently opened up to trade. Secondly, an improvement in the transport system is necessary; if substantial stores are established in the new districts a sufficient amount of produce will be obtained at such stores to make it remunerative to supplement the present system of transport by canoes by running stern-wheelers or launches.†

From the statistics given in this Report it can, I think, be inferred that an increase is probable in all the heads of Revenue; there is nothing, however, to show that this increase will be sensationally large; the best kind of increase (*e.g.*, an increase not due to specific duties on spirits) can only take place with the advance of education, and from the nature of things such advance will be slow. The expansion of a wholesome trade will itself spread cultivation amongst the natives; the natives will also gradually become more cultivated through the influence of the increasing number of those educated in the Protectorate schools; the most widespread, powerful, and rapidly acting influence tending to elevate the natives will,

* The following articles in the *ad valorem* list either show a decline or only a small increase; umbrellas, silk, rice, provisions, paint, beef and pork, brushware, building materials, candles, canvas, drugs, cord and twine, cotton goods, earthenware, fish salted, flour, glassware, haberdashery, leather goods, wearing apparel, and woollen goods.

† The Government have spent considerable sums in removing obstructions in the upper portions of the Delta rivers and it is intended that this work should be continued year by year.

however, be found in the Native Councils, *provided the latter are constantly supervised by European officers.* The number of properly constituted and organised Native Councils is increasing, and this increase will be continuous. The increase in the number of Native Councils will necessarily involve an increase in the number of District Commissioners and Assistant District Commissioners, but the extra expenditure thus incurred will be relatively insignificant when compared with the increase in the Revenue of the Protectorate.

L. PROBYN,

Acting High Commissioner.

28th July, 1903.

APPENDIX A.

STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on the 31st MARCH, 1902.

Assets.			Liabilities.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balances of the undermentioned accounts :—			Deposits due by the Protectorate	16,640	18 9
Local Cash Accounts	41,433	4 0	Drafts on the Crown Agents (not yet paid)...	151	6 11
Crown Agents' Cash Accounts	9,259	3 11			
Advances due to the Protectorate					
Remittances to C. A. (not yet collected)	5	0 0			
Remittances to C. A. (in transit)	18,394	11 11			
Remittances to Coast (in transit)					
Remittances between Chests (in transit)	1,498	2 9			
Investments :—					
Yacht "Ivy" Depreciation Fund					
Yacht "Ivy" Repair Fund	9,518	7 3			
Public Officers' Guarantee Fund	1,004	5 5			
Coin Repatriation Fund	937	8 7			
Surplus Fund	380	19 2			
	97,000	0 0			
Total Assets	195,310	4 6	Total Liabilities	16,792	5 8
Excess of Liabilities over Assets	—		Excess of Assets over Liabilities	178,517	18 10
	195,310	4 6		195,310	4 6

APPENDIX B.

TABLE 1.

EXPORTS from NORTHERN NIGERIA.

Articles.	Value— December 31st, 1900.	Value— December 31st, 1901.	Value— December 31st, 1902.
	£	£	£
Benni seed ...	261	339	778
Beeswax ...	17	67	101
Capiscums ...	274	163	875
Deer skins ...	28	96	7
Dyed skins...	—	—	11
Ebony ...	—	—	19
Gambia pods ...	29	32	55
Groundnuts ...	3,750	1,166	1,959
Gum arabic ...	1,563	3,448	3,410
Gum copal ...	—	—	920
Gum elemi...	—	—	173
Ivory ...	11,815	9,051	8,581
Kino ...	—	—	11
Mandioca ...	243	93	11
Oguru seed...	—	—	705
Palm kernels ...	3,046	3,242	10,482
Rubber ...	11,905	21,331	21,928
Shea butter ...	14,412	6,162	4,181
Shea nuts ...	10,913	26,489	11,024
Tin ...	—	—	79
Wood oil ...	522	1,579	3,132
Igara kernels ...	—	7	—
Indigo ...	—	17	—
Totals ...	58,778	73,282	68,442

TABLE 2.

EXPORTS from KAMERUN passing through SOUTHERN NIGERIA in 1902.

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.	Remarks.
	Tons	£ s. d.	
Ebony ...	249	720 18 2	
	Lbs.		
Ivory...	1,001	162 17 3	
	Tons		
Palm Kernels ...	35	129 4 6	
	Imp. Gallons		
Palm Oil ...	90	3 2 7	
	Lbs.		
Rubber ...	24,676	803 19 5	
	Packages		
Native Curios ...	13	92 13 7	
		1,912 15 6	

APPENDIX C.

NATIVES (EXTERN).

RETURN of DISEASES and DEATHS in 1902 at OLD CALABAR, CROSS RIVER, OPOBO, DEGAMA, BONNY,
OWERRE, BENDE, BRASS, AKASSA, WARRI, SAPELE, BENIN CITY, ASABA, AND AGBERI.

Diseases.	Remaining in Hospital at the end of 1901.	Yearly Total.		Total Cases Treated.	Remaining in Hospital at the end of 1902.	Remarks.
		Admissions.	Deaths.			
Malarial Fever ...	1	781	1	782	3	
Hæmoglobinuric Fever ...	—	1	—	1	—	
Unclassified ...	—	149	—	149	2	
Enteric ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Varicella ...	—	7	2	7	—	
Dysentery ...	—	21	1	21	—	
Beri Beri ...	1	117	8	118	4	
Yaws ...	3	13	—	16	—	
Tetanus ...	—	5	—	5	2	
Tubercle ...	—	—	—	—	—	
Leprosy ...	—	18	—	18	—	
Syphilis ...	—	5	—	5	—	
Gonorrhoea ...	—	70	—	70	5	
Parasitic Diseases ...	3	365	—	368	12	
Guinea Worm ...	1	804	2	805	6	
	—	35	—	35	—	

APPENDIX D.

STATISTICAL TABLE showing AVERAGE EUROPEAN
POPULATION, and DEATH-RATE per cent. from 1894
to 1902.

Year.	Population.	Death-rate, per cent.	Remarks.
1894-1895 ...	214	7·47	Calendar year first time adopted.
1895-1896 ...	215	8·83	
1896-1897 ...	214	9·81	
1897-1898 ...	206	7·2	
1898-1899 ...	227	6·16	
1899-1900 ...	270	7·40	
1900-1901 ...	316	6·32	
1901 ...	397	4·28	
1902 ...	404	2·72	